

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2012, ANDY McNEILL ROOM

PRESENT: Councillor Steve Brown (Chair)
Mr Alan Whyte – PWC
Mr Jimmy Cocking – A.L.E.C
Mr Peter Somerville – Manager, Planning & Development – Dept. Lands & Planning
Mr David Koch – Community representative
Mr Rod Cramer – Rural Area Association
Mr Sam Latz – Solar Cities

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Rex Mooney – ASTC CEO
Mr Greg Buxton – Director Technical Services ASTC
Mr Reinier Laan – Environment Officer ASTC

APOLOGIES: Mr Rob Gobbey- D.P.I.F.R. – Regional Director
Mr Ian Fox - N.R.E.T.A.
Mayor Damien Ryan – ASTC
Mr Mark Pierson – Manager Development ASTC

The meeting opened at 5.30pm

1. **WELCOME**
Councillor Brown welcomed all present.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 7 AUGUST 2012**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 7 August 2012 be accepted as a true and correct recording of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.1 **Business Arising**

- 4.1.1 The Chief Executive Officer advised he had arranged for Mike Gillam to attend the EAC meeting however Mr Gillam has since forwarded an apology.
- 4.1.2 Cleaning of the river has commenced with 1300 tons being removed.
- 4.1.3 Ray Smith to provide feedback on reduction of fuel loads around Todd River

5. CLIMATE CHANGE

Report tabled by Sam Latz

Residential program

- The residential program had a spike in activity during Aug-Oct, in response to communication of the end of the incentive program, with 75 new customers in August. Interest dropped off substantially after the end of August deadline with 9 new customers in Sep and Oct combined.
- Total household registrations now at 2871 and 2661 home energy surveys undertaken to date.
- It was a busy period for SHW, with total of 876 solar hot water systems now installed to date. Expecting to surpass the target of 900.

Commercial program

- Commercial program new activity has been slow. Existing projects are expected to fully expend remaining funding, with the focus now on evaluation and transition planning.

Marketing and Community Engagement

- The "Year of Energy Champions" campaign has been progressing well, with ads appearing in the Advocate weekly.

Succession

- Succession planning is now a major area of activity, with discussions with key stakeholders and with Alice Water Smart.
- A detailed business case has been prepared to be submitted to the NT government in early November.

6. COMMUNITY GARDENS - Jimmy Cocking

Report tabled by Jimmy Cocking
Refer Community Garden Annual report attached.

7. RURAL ROADS SAFETY PROJECT

- 7.1 Rural Lighting – Mark Pierson
Deferred to next meeting

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Reinier Laan provided overviewed.

- The town kerbside collection contract has been awarded to Cleanaway from October 2012.
- The total waste collected at the landfill for the period 1st July to the 30th October 2012 was 14478.66 tonnes
- The total waste recycled for the same period was 3258.98 tonnes.
- The high recycling total is due to the total estimated concrete recycled in October 2012.
- Firebreaks was created around the landfill by Correctional service and inside the landfill fence by Council.

Wine & Spirit Glass container collections commenced at Territory Recycling centre on Monday 1st October 2012. A 10¢ refund is offered per container to residence of Alice Springs.

The following figures indicate container collection and refunds provided:-

1.10.12 – 6.10.12	8143 containers	\$814.30 refunded
8.10.12 – 13.10.12	7509 containers	\$750.90 refunded
15.10.12 – 20.10.12	<u>7218</u> containers	\$721.80 refunded.
TOTAL	22,870	

As a comparison glass, including beer and soft drink bottles, collected for a similar period last year was 77,782.

9. WATER

9.1 Alice Water Resource Strategy

Deferred pending liaison with Ian Fox

Action

Contact to be made with Neil Phillips

9.2 Water Smart

Overview by Greg Buxton

- 64 parks now has been completed with irrigation
- Schools will be added to the system
- Monitoring start June 2013

Overview provided by Jimmy Cocking

Alice Water Smart Homes and Business has had a really busy and productive first 16 months. Key achievements to date have been:

- 650 homes have had Water Efficiency Consultations, so are well on the way to meet the target of 1000 consults by mid next year. These consults have identified saving of more than 320 million litres annually, primarily by adjusting and updating irrigation systems and by fixing leaks.

- The Business project is so far working with 31 local businesses and organisations and has also identified another 300 million litres that can be saved in Alice Springs. These organisations are provided with cost benefit analysis for these changes and the majority (again irrigation and fixing leaks) have short payback periods.
- The Community Water Rules concept has been launched with a presentation by Professor Tony Wong, the Chief Executive of the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities. The first of three public workshops was well attended with 60 or so members of the community coming to express their views and the second workshop is scheduled for the 12th of November. Print, Radio and Television ads have been rolled out to inform and inspire the public to contribute to the rules.
- A Citizens Advisory Panel has been formed to help shape the Community Water Rules and will have its first meeting just prior to the second workshop

Overview provided by Alan Whyte – PWC

A detailed report to be provided to the Environment Advisory Committee members with these minutes

10. SOIL CONSERVATION – CHANGE TO LAND MANAGEMENT as of next meeting

10.1 Soil Conservation – update – Ian Fox

Deferred to next meeting

10.2 Bushfire overview – update – Ian Fox

Deferred to next meeting.

11. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

Nil

12. CORRESPONDENCE

IN Nil

OUT Nil

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Management of Todd River

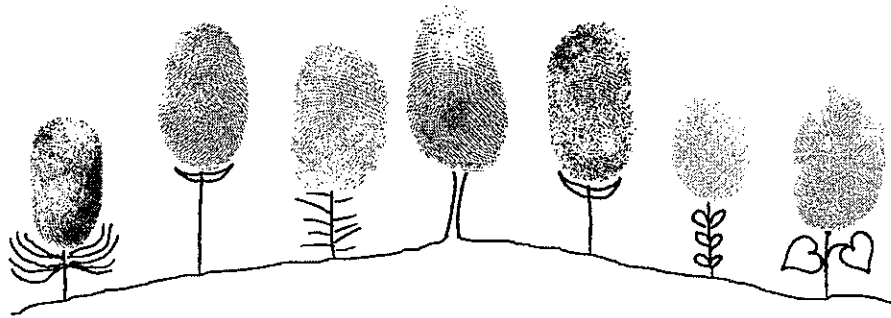
ALEC wish to put forward a motion "that Council takes leadership in the management of the Todd River."

The Chief Executive Officer provided background on Council's former management of the Todd River.

The Todd River is crown land and should be managed by the NT Government? Council will put forward suggestion to Council in regards the Todd River?

14. Next Meeting ----- **MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2013**

Meeting closed 7.00pm.



ALICE SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN

frances smith park

Annual Garden Report 2011-2012
Compiled by Kim Hopper (Project Officer for the ASCG) with
contributions from XXX

Introduction

The Alice Springs Community Garden was originally championed by a group of individuals in 2007. Since that time the Arid Lands Environment Centre has supported the community interest in developing a community garden by auspicing the project and providing support in the form of advocacy for grant monies and by securing a lease on the community garden site at Frnace Smith Park in 2010.

In March 2011 project officers were employed by ALEC to progress the development of the community garden in accordance with the Alice Springs Community Garden Project Plan (2010).

This Annual Garden Report doubles as a project officers report and summarises the activities and progress of the community garden project since March 2011. The report addresses the operational outcomes as defined in the 2010 Project Plan with specific reference to the most recent goals and Vision as defined by the Alice Springs Community Garden Reference Group (2012).

Growing Healthy Gardens

It is important to recognise that the Alice Springs Community Garden is situated on Arrente land and is closely located to a sacred site that holds significance to the traditional owners of this land.

The aspiration of the garden has been to develop a site of education and resource that enhance the resilience and connectedness of the local community.

One of the key approaches to developing a garden site that can provide for the communities needs was to imbed permaculture principles in the design and operation of the community garden. In 2009 Jen Clarsen (landscape architect) was engaged to develop the original design of the garden. The design has since evolved to reflect water harvesting earthworks that were undertaken in 2011 and new inputs from the local community and permaculture designers.

Learning Together

The ASCG aims to bring together people from all walks of life and to create an environment where the community is learning and sharing together.

The events associated with setting up the community garden from consultations to informal working bees to structured workshops have been forums for sharing of ideas, knowledge and specialised skills. Now that there are plots established at the garden we can safely assume that this precious space for shared learning will continue to grow.

Some areas that we have been promoting learning in is:

- Arid zone food production
- Indigenous bushfoods and medicine plants
- Recycling and use of local materials

Community Workshops/events 2011:

- Sod Mulching
- Peace Tree Planting
- Bodhi Tree Planting
- Water harvesting and Swale Building
- Soil and Water Testing
- 'Ask the Experts' garden forum
- Tree planting and irrigation
- World Environment Day

Community Workshops/events 2012:

- Water Smart Gardening
- Mandala Garden Design
- Harmony Day
- Fruit Tree Planting and Care
- Pizza Oven building
- Recycled Rubbish Seats
- Compost workshops

Some things that we have learnt about gardening:

- Minimising waste, composting onsite
- How to construct swales/ponding banks
- The advantages of 'Crop and drop' mulching
- Seed saving
- Local threatened/rare species
- Weed identification and management
- Water management
- Bushfoods garden propagation

Valuing safe Friendly Environments

The community garden aspires to be an inclusive, best-practice, relaxing, abundant environment among other things.

The garden is achieving this through promotion and presence in the community and by designing the garden activities to be reflective of these goals.

The garden has adopted a No smoking, no drugs, no alcohol policy that ensures the space is recognised as one that supports healthy activities that are safe for families and the broader community.

The garden is working with special needs groups to ensure the site suits their needs and has hosted a variety of workshops for these groups to ensure they can receive full advantage of being involved in the community garden project (see 'Network' for more detail)

The community garden hosted a Harmony Day event in March 2011 which attracted XX people representing more than XX cultural groups. This coming together of people represents a great strength for the garden and has reflected the need in the community for space and activities that appeal to the diversity of cultures in our community.

It has also been important to incorporate art and diverse expression into the garden and this has been achieved by encouraging individual expression and

actively seeking funding for Arts related projects. The 'Gateway to Sustainability' project which included a sculptural archway and artwork on the fence is one example of a public arts proposal that received developmental funding. It is due for submission in early 2013.

Creating Useful resources

It is a goal of the community garden to increase community resilience by increasing local food production and associated skills through education and the provision of useful resources.

In October 2011 the community garden was awarded a \$46000 grant from the Ian Potter foundation to setup the community garden as an educational 'living classroom' site. This was instrumental in getting the garden site established and connecting the community to the project. The grant monies were used to implement a series of workshops and events that established the infrastructure and garden facilities (see workshops/events below). These activities provided educational opportunities for the community and initiated a resource base for the garden. The Ian Potter grant assisted the garden in attracting other in-kind support from the community. The workshop program engaged 70 participants with many of these returning for working bees and garden events.

From these workshops the garden has compiled educational resources that are available to the community online and have been drawn upon to develop infrastructure by our members and Network gardens.

New infrastructure..

- Boundary Fence (Bowerbird, ALEC, ASCG, Hardy Fencing)
- Independent main water connection (Power and Water, Wayne Tregear, ASCG)
- Cob BBQ
- Large communal garden
- 17 private garden plots
- 23? Fruit trees
- composting bays

Inspiring effective leadership

A goal of the community garden is to operate with a sustainable funding and management model and provide opportunities to incubate social enterprise. It has been apparent that since the infrastructure of the garden has been established many ideas of management and enterprise opportunities have naturally arisen.

To effectively support the development of the garden it has been important to establish a governance model that is representative of the community's focus, abilities and needs.

There has been a consistent contribution in the garden's management by the local community that has taken various forms over the past 18 months. In 2011 there was an 'interim structure' that reflected the new component of the garden 'Network' and the employment of community garden project officers. In 2012/13 the garden hopes to move to a more formal committee that will manage

affairs of the garden in the absence of these project officers with support of the local community and ALEC.

In March 2011 the community gardens reference group championed and ran two 9 Spaces Visioning sessions to help establish the identity and direction of the garden leadership. These sessions were invaluable in creating a framework of aspirations and a vision for the garden to work towards.

Our fantastic volunteers and community garden reference group raised the profile of the gardens significantly in the past 18 months and contributed to raising over \$10k for the development of the garden.

Recently the community garden reference group have developed a User Guide to help induct new plot holders to the garden and a draft constitution to aid in the transferance of the garden to an incorporated organisation should this occur towards the first term of the lease expiring (2015).

Membership Model

Currently the ASCG operates under ALEC membership. This membership system is currently being refined and trialed to best suit the business systems of ALEC and the functionality of the community gardens administration. Currently any member of ALEC is considered a member of the community garden and is entitled to the benefits including access to workshops, online forums, e-newsletters, and XX

Our Supporters

The community garden has received a range of grants, in-kind support and volunteer contributions from the community that has established the garden as it is today. A non exhaustive list of these contributors is as follows with grant providers listed separately (see 'Financials')

Arid Zone Research Institute
Geoff Miers
Wayne Tregea
Alice Water Smart
Alice Springs Nursery
Brad Sawyer
J9 Stanton
Mick the Mulch Man
CMS
Red Kangaroo Books
Mad Tree Services

Financial Report

The community garden would not be established as it is today without the following valuable grant support.

Grants awarded to the ASCG and ASCGN in 2011/12:

- NRETAS Compost trials (\$10K)
- ARTS NT, proposal development with Watch this Space (\$6K)
- Ian Potter Foundation, 'live, learn, grow', (\$45k)
- Office of Multicultural Affairs, Harmony Day grant (\$1k)
- NRETAS Network Membership Drive (\$10K)
- NRETAS Workshop series 2 'How to, Arid Zone Gardening' (awaiting receipt)

Sponsorship

The Alice Springs Community Garden has been made possible by the generous contribution of local business, the Alice Springs Town Council, The Arid Lands Environment Centre and all of the individuals who have given their time, enthusiasm and resources to progressing the establishment of the community garden.

Major supporters

Alice Springs Town Council , Arid Lands Environment Centre,

Our Gold Level sponsors (6-9K)

Power and Water

Centre Landscaping Supplies

Our Silver Sponsors (3-5,999)

Tangentyere Nursery

Billette

Our Bronze Sponsors (500-2,999)

Reece Plumbing

Centralian Middle School

DuYu Coffee

The Centralian Advocate

Wayne Tregea Irrigation

Flavell Plumbing

Tina Tilhard Designs

Alice Springs Nursery

Alice Water Smart

Home Hardware

Stratco

Fundraising events

2011:

- Desert Festival Cabaret Night and Hip Hop
- ASTC Night Markets
- Wide Open Space

2012:

- Wide Open Space
- Eco Fair

The Network - Community Engagement

In June 2011 the first grant was received by ALEC to expand the community gardens business to include building a 'network' of community gardens in Alice Springs. The first opportunity to develop this Network was via the relationship with Centralian Middle School and most recently with ASYASS Ampe Akweke housing program. The Network project officer has also presented workshops on food security and was instrumental in the 2012 Regional Food Summit at Ecofair. This Network has been guided informally by ALEC management and a variety of peers including DesertsMart Coolmob, Regional Indigenous Gardens Network, Red Cross, and representatives of the Alice Springs Community Garden to support the education and expansion of community food gardening in Alice Springs.

Some organisation that the Network has engaged with include:

Centralian Middle School

- Youth Hub
- White Gate community
- Ampe Akweke
- Pink Palace (Tennant Creek)
- Gap Youth Centre
- Rona Glynn Pre-school
- Alice Springs Desert Park
- Olive Pink Botanic Gardens'

Network Workshops/Events

2011/12:

- CMS Garden Open Day and Tree Planting
- Garden For Food Workshop Series at CMS (composting, fruit tree planting and care, raised garden beds)
- Garden workshop at the Youth Hub
- Tassie Forrests Fundraiser
- D.E.T Transition from Schools tree planting workshop
- ECOFair – Schools Day, 'Food Miles' workshop
- Fruit Tree Planting with Rona Glynn Pre-school
- Garden workshop, Gap Youth Centre 'Strong Women's Group'