

Minutes, Moonee Creek Co-operative – 4 July 2009

Present: Tilman, Graham, Julia, Shaun, Nobuko, Charlotte, John, Rhona, Glyn

Facilitator: Graham

Minutes: Julia

Timekeeper: Rhona

Apologies: Peter, Penny, Charles and Garry

Minutes of last meeting (4 April 2009)

Shaun requested that the wording of his comment in item 9 Glyn's house site be changed to more accurately reflect his point of view. The paragraph should read "...Shaun spoke of the **relevance** of bringing some **city** values to the farm and that they are not necessarily **appropriate** on the farm..."

The meeting agreed to this alteration.
Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Rhona reported little activity in the farm accounts. The savings account balance is \$4142.92 and there is a closing balance of \$17,433.83 in the investment account.

Rhona will provided a copy of the Treasurer's Report to be attached to the minutes (attached).

Co-operative

Rhona asked that considering the expensive audit the Co-operative is required to undertake each year, what is the value of being a co-operative and why continue?

Various people responded that:

- the legal structure of a co-operative allowed common ownership, and easier transfer of ownership when members sold and new members came in.
- a co-operative was more suited to shared goals and a community of common interest than any other legal structure.

House sites

Glyn's house site

Graham advised the meeting that Glyn, Julia and Graham had agreed on the specific location of Glyn's house site.

Tilman requested clarification of the exact location of the back corner of the house to avoid misunderstandings later on.

Members discussed the exact location of the site and agreed on the following position with "...the south-east (back -assuming the house has a northly orientation) corner of the house starting 5 meters to the west of the post at the North East corner of the tractor paddock and with the garage to be somewhere near the track along the creek.."

Moved : Tilman

Seconded: Shaun

House Permits/Response to Council

The meeting thanked Graham for his research and proposals arising from the Benalla City Council's refusal/ inability to reinstate our previous planning status. The draft letter to Justin Madden drafted by Graham was then discussed.

Graham discussed the options as outlined in his memo to Co-operative members (9 June 2009) and it was decided that Graham will hand deliver the letter to Justin Madden and discuss the contents with the Minister.

Moved: Rhona

Seconded: John

The Tree

Shaun said we have two options concerning the dying Peppermint Tree close to the track between Roses and Murphy's:

- to leave it as a habitat tree and clean up fallen debris around it's base or
- remove the tree because it is a danger to farm members.

Rhona pointed out that the tree is a fire risk as well.

Further discussion on the tree's value as a habitat tree especially for birds

Action: to remove the tree tomorrow morning

Trees.

Tilman said there was an area along the creek bank below the Roses, between the bridge and the earlier conservation plantings, that still needed a 5-10 metres wide band of trees/natural revegetation as part of our watercourse conservation activities.

Rhona said that prior to the February '09 fires she would have agreed with Tilman but now she feels this would increase the fire risk to her house and would prefer not to plant any more trees in this area.

Shaun suggested we look at this zone tomorrow.

It was agreed to look at this zone tomorrow

Work for tomorrow

Remove large peppermint tree.

It is now too late to spread gravel to upgrade roads, this could possibly be done in the Spring.

Working bees at members houses

John said that following the successful working bee at the Murphy's in January, we have more working bees at members' houses in the future.

Action: Farm members to propose similar activities.

Fire bunkers

Shaun introduced a general discussion on the styles and uses of fire bunkers for protection of members on the farm.

Rhona reported that the cost of ready-made bunkers on the Web varied from \$7000.00 to \$20,000.00 incl.installation

Locally, Ian Herbert was constructing his own bunker which we could consider looking at.

Charlotte would discuss the construction of fire bunkers with Paul Haar.

Members felt this issue needs further discussion including whether we need a communal bunker and/or individual bunkers close to houses.

Farm Insurance

Rhona reported that the cost of our current insurance is \$590.00 per annum but it is unclear what specifically is covered.

The second quote obtained from Elders is more detailed.

Action: Rhona will get a more detailed quote from our current insurer to allow us to compare the items covered by each policy at our next meeting.

Next Meeting (AGM)

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 31 October, 5.30pm at Tilman and Charlotte's.

Facilitator: Julia

Minutes: Rhona

Timekeeper: John

Workday starts at 1.30pm Saturday 31 October at the machine shed

Treasurer's Report for Moonee Creek Co-operative 3.7.09

Date	Transaction	Debit	Credit	Balance
	S1 on call savings account			
03 Apr 09	Balance brought forward...			\$4,230.92
06 Apr 09	Chq no. 139508	\$88.00		\$4,142.92
03.Jul.09	Closing balance			\$4,142.92
	I 4, (3-5 months investment account)			
03 Apr 09	Opening Balance			\$17,257.10
21 May 09	Comp. int #41762 4.2 %		\$176.73	\$17,433.83
	Closing balance			\$17,433.83

Opening Balance S1 on call savings account \$4,230.92

Total Debits \$88

Total Credits \$0

Closing Balance \$4,230.92

Opening Balance I 4 investment account \$17,257.10

Total Debits \$0

Total Credits \$176.73

Closing Balance \$17,433.83

On 4.7.09 Glyn Howells paid \$600 for current levies

On 4.7.09 Shaun and Nobuko Murphy paid \$100 for outstanding levies.

Nil levies are currently outstanding.