



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24 November 2022

“Local Food, No Waste”

Time: 7pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Present: Ruby Carrodus, Mandy Fields, Eliza Jane Gilchrist, Jane Mallick, Grace Nicol, Carol Henderson, Nicola Stampa

Apologies: Ruby Everett

Chairperson: Ruby Carrodus

Notetaker: Grace Nicol

ITEM

- 1. Acknowledgement of Country**
- 2. Minutes of previous AGM**
Motion: Acceptance of previous AGM minutes
Moved: Grace **Seconded:** Mandy
Passed unanimously
- 3. Chairperson's Report**
Presented by Ruby (attached)
Moved: Eliza **Seconded:** Mandy
Passed unanimously
- 4. Treasurer's Report (Attached)**
Presented by Ruby
Moved: Mandy **Seconded:** Grace
Passed unanimously

5. General Business

Update on the Strategic Plan (developed September 2022) presented by Jane. The Strategic Plan is available on the Growing Abundance Website

6. Election of Committee Of Management (CoM)

Chair: Ruby Carrodus

Nominated: Mandy **Seconded:** Grace

Passed unanimously

Secretary: Grace Nicol

Nominated: Ruby **Seconded:** Mandy

Passed unanimously

Treasurer: To be determined

Further discussion on this role to be held at the meeting on 10 December 2022

Ordinary Members:

- Mandy Field
- Eliza Jane Gilchrist
- Carol Henderson
- Nicola Stampa is considering joining the committee and will let the group know

Election of Public Officer

Grace Nicol – as part of the Secretary Role

Passed unanimously

7. Next Steps

First Committee meeting and visioning session to be held on 10 December 2022
10am -12noon at The Hub backyard (233 Barker St Castlemaine) – enter the backyard via Templeton Street

8. Committee Meeting

Time and day of the monthly committee meetings to be determined on 10 December

The Growing Abundance Project

AGM 2022

Chairperson's Report

JAARA COUNTRY - Sovereign land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Date: Thursday 24th November, 2022

Time: 7:00pm

It has been an exciting year to be part of the Growing Abundance Committee which started off with a successful FRRR grant. This was a fantastic achievement for Growing Abundance which had a quiet couple of years prior. The grant allowed us to hire two wonderful staff, who we would like to thank for the commitment, dedication, patience and enthusiasm that they have brought to their individual roles.

Jane Mallick was appointed Development and Fundraising Role; which saw her achieve the following;

- Printed 500 the very popular "Grow what when around Castlemaine" wall charts. Thanks to the Barratts, and the Hub Foundation for a grant to print these.
- Partnership discussions with Maldon and District Community Bank, Community Impact Foundation and FRRR providing input into the Strategic Plan.
- Researched the options for DGR status for GA.
- Held a Strategic planning day with GA Committee and Staff
- Created Strategic Plan 2022-2028
- Procured a philanthropic grant of 16,000, awaiting the transfer of funds

Ruby Everett was appointed the Harvest Coordinator, which saw her achieve the following;

- Harvested and distributed approximately 705 kg of fruit from five backyard houses in the Mt Alexander Shire region with the help of at least 20 local volunteers.
- Donated approximately 390 kg to local organisations: Castlemaine Community House, Community Lunch, Food Links, Food Bank Bendigo, CHIRP, Castlemaine Health (Maldon Hospital), Castlemaine Salvation Army and Food Share Bendigo.
- Donated approximately 315kg of fruit to volunteers.
- Developed a network of volunteer and created a volunteer list with 22 contacts.
- Partnered with the Orchard Keepers at Harcourt Organic Farming Cooperative to deliver a pruning workshop.
- Coordinated and organised a pruning workshop at a fruit orchard in Harcourt.
- Updated Fruit Tree register.
- Published six newsletters.
- Contributed to update of website.
- Managed Growing Abundance social media platform.

2022 has seen ongoing challenges as a committee especially once again navigating COVID-19 and restrictions in the first half of the year. Despite these challenges we have been able to work through them and hold a number of events which have been very rewarding.

We are very proud to have held a strategic planning day which saw the Growing Abundance team work so well together and bond over our shared goal of food sovereignty. Through this day we developed an important strategic plan for 2022 – 2028 which will support the sustainability of Growing Abundance. Please refer to our website where we have uploaded our strategic plan.

I would like to personally thank our current committee Grace Nichol as Secretary, Mandy Field as our coms wiz and Eliza Gilchrist who does an amazing job running the seed library

which Growing Abundance is so proud to be affiliated with. We are a small group including our two staff Jane & Ruby, which has seen us pushed at times but we've all continued to work so well together, make decisions effectively & work towards our goals all while having a laugh when needed. I would also like to thank & acknowledge past committee members Ian Lillinton, Marita Zen & Madeline Hudson who were pivotal in our success in the FRRR grant we received. The committee would like to give a very special shout out to Keppel Cassidy who has so graciously continued to support us with some treasurer duties in the absence of having a treasurer. We are very appreciative of his ongoing support.

Thank you again to FRRR for the grant that we received which made this year possible allowing us to hire our two staff members and to the Barratts, and the Hub Foundation who continue to generously support Growing Abundance. Thank you to everyone who attended harvest and pruning events!

We are excited for 2023 and hope to continue to build on our goals of; harvesting & distributing excess fruit/produce, continue to educate and create partners in our community focusing on food sovereignty & be a sustainable organization.

Thankyou all so much for joining.
Ruby Carrodus
The Growing Abundance Project Chair

The Growing Abundance Project Inc.

2021 – 2022 Annual General Meeting Treasurer's Report

Date: 24 November 2022

In absence of Growing Abundance having a treasurer at present I will be presenting the Treasurer's report. Growing Abundance would like to thank Stuart Vaskess who patiently assisted us to put together our financial reports this year.

2021-22 saw Growing Abundance acquire a grant which allowed for the employment of our two staff members. Majority of the costs are associated with their wages. Please refer to the financial reports for details, including comparison with last year's report.

Total income for the year was \$13,737.42

The bulk of this income came in the form of grants which accounted for \$12,985.40. Coolroom usage income generated \$225.00 and the sale for the Growing Abundance Calendars is \$525.00

The majority of ongoing costs are associated with wages totalling \$4,514.98, the others cost were insurance, including public liability, voluntary workers' insurance and insurance on our major asset (the coolroom).

End of Financial Year Profit and Loss statement shows a net income profit of \$5,941.99

The profit is reflective of the grant money that we have received which is allocated to ongoing wages. After the wages are paid from the remaining calendar year we will have a small amount of funds left to pay for our ongoing operational costs such as insurance.

End of Financial Year Balance Sheet shows total equity of \$24,344.07

Growing Abundance's equity is broken into two main sections. We have cool room, cage trailer and cooking material assets valued at \$13,261.00

All listed items are still in good working order and either available to be used by Growing Abundance for future public programs or by our affiliates and friends such as the Harcourt Organic Food Co-operative, who currently pay a usage fee for use of the mobile coolroom. Additionally at the end of the financial year we had \$11,083.07 in our bank accounts however once Seed Library-related funds are taken out and the remaining wages for staff for 2022 are deducted Growing Abundance's cash position only has funds for critical operational costs.

On a positive note we have secured a private philanthropic donation for 2023 which Growing Abundance is in the process of formalising. This should cover ongoing running cost, and supports Growing Abundances growth within our community.

Ruby Carrodus
The Growing Abundance Project Chair