



## Executive and General Meeting

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**MCG Meeting Room: Unit 10 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St. Queanbeyan.**

### 1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5:08 pm by Tom Baker (Vice President), in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present. Lynton was stuck in a traffic jam and arrived at 5:15 pm when he took over the chair.

### 2 Attendance / Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, John Bruggeman, Maryke Booth, Tom Baker, Jim Arnold, Karen Williams, and Dr. Stephen Skinner.

Apologies were received from Sandra Lloyd, Bruce Taloni, and Andrew Westcott.

### 3 Minutes of 15th November 2010.

**Motion:** Karen Williams / Maryke Booth  
**“That the minutes be accepted”.**

**Carried.**

### 4 Business Arising.

- (a) 5 f. Hawker College, has Thank You letter been written. When Lynton arrived he was asked this and replied “not yet” but certificates of appreciation were being organised.
- (b) 13 b. Jim has stepped down as President of NSA (at their AGM) and is now Vice President.

### 5 Correspondence List.

#### In

- (a) GA: Annual report (as a calendar) and membership form
- (b) Minister Sartor MP, NSW Govt.: *Sustainable Horse Property Management on Small Farms*, notice of successful Environment Trust grant application, \$23,000
- (c) NSW Environment Trust: Notice of unsuccessful grant application for *Upper Murrumbidgee FrogWatch*
- (d) Yarramine Environmental: Special offer for the 2011 National Environment Grants Guide
- (e) NSW Environment Trust: Notice of acquittal of *Molonglo Catchment Feral Animal Education Initiative*
- (f) Took delivery of reprinted *Weed Education Pack* and *Glove Box Guide to Frogs of the ACT and Region*
- (g) ACTEW and ActewAGL: Notice of open day at the Cotter Dam construction site
- (h) STEP: November newsletter

#### Out

- (a) Order for 2011 National Environment Grants Guide
- (b) Weed Pack and LAYNA to Tim Bloomfield at Burra
- (c) Signed BoB contract to the Conservation Council ACT Region

- (d) Eastern Broadacre Discussion Paper submission

**6 President's Reports - Lynton Bond.** New and outstanding business.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) K2C: Moving onward.
- (c) CLA: National Landcare Facilitator Brett De Hayr was to discuss *Building the Landcare Knowledge Base* but was unable to attend at the last minute. ACT NRM Council started advertising in late November for the position of Regional Landcare Facilitator.
- (d) MLM: Only 2 people turned up for the last meeting at Bruce.
- (e) UMCCC: Palerang Council was approached by a Wamboin land holder who is seeking support for *Land for Wildlife* on his property. Cost is \$300 for assessment, a gate sign and a follow up that can provide a management plan, all of which Palerang can't fund.
- (f) Molonglo BoB: Meets tomorrow 14-12-10. Anna See, Molonglo Project Officer with the Conservation Council, will coordinate the Molonglo BoB Reference Group with funding from an ACT Environment Grant.
- (g) Molonglo Stage II Community and Industry Reference group (CIRG): Lynton and Andy are attending meetings. The main issue is the commitment to release 3,000 blocks in Coombs and Wright by 2013-14 on the steepest land so far developed in the ACT .
- (h) MLi: Now talking with CMA, slowly. The Draft MOU with the CMA has been sent for discussion at their board meeting this week. 2 part time RLF hosts have been announced, possibly at Wagga Wagga or Leeton. The Regional Landcare Awards are being planned with an announcement due shortly. The CMA and LC have been blamed for flooding at Adelong although the willow piles are still in place. SkyMining has proposed to share some profits from photovoltaic systems with Landcare if Landcare promotes their product through LC networks.
- (i) Eastern Broadacre submission lodged on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Palerang LEP coming up.
- (j) Googong Township Water Cycle Project: Concerns about sewerage used on ovals washing downstream to other local users.
- (k) Zoe and Vanessa have both contacted Lynton for references. Vanessa completed the *Molonglo Catchment Sustainability Snapshot* as part of her course work and received a high distinction for her efforts. Both are doing well.

**7 Treasurer's Report – Maryke Booth.**

- (a) Accounts sent out by email.
- (b) \$169,933 in the bank, \$39,737 in General Expenses.
- (c) Accounts are with the auditors, with some queries. Helen has gone through them.
- (d) Lots going on, in and out.
- (e) Molonglo Environmental Heritage Fund Financial Report completed by auditor.
- (f) Reporting period for coordinator finished end of November.
- (g) Our own BPay code would cost \$15 per month plus other charges.
- (h) Payway.net, Westpac, what are their ongoing charges?

**8 Coordinators Report – Andrew Westcott.**

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Activities Andy has been working on are:
- Weeds: Local weeds expert Alison Elvin attended and participated in our last horse seminar. Carwoola weeds field day held over the weekend.
  - Information Dissemination: 38 Weed packs, 8 Pest Animal packs, 1 LAYNA booklet by post, 2 Glove Box Guides to Frogs, 1 UMCCC Wetlands, 1 UMCCC Groundwater, 3 Grow Me Instead, 1 Guide to Private Conservation, 2 Burra Planting Guides, 1 About the MCG flyer, 1 Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch and 41 Jane Myers Property Planning booklets.

- Sustainable Farm Practices: Potential topics from SSF workshop feedback include soil compaction, pasture management and controlling weeds with biological controls. A Vegetation Monitoring workshop with Sarah Sharp was held at Majura on 14<sup>th</sup> November with funding from the Regional Landcare Facilitator. 13 people attended. Assisted landholders at Burra with a range of contacts and information.
- Landcare: Investigating feasibility of increasing maximum amount available through MCG project funding in the future (no change). Provided membership details to the Friends of Glenburn on Majura Lane. There are potential heritage project options available on this property during Heritage week (7-20<sup>th</sup> April 2011) next year. Attended QCC Environment Expo steering committee meeting. Arranged for payment from Landcare Australia for Jemena volunteer planting day at Royalla. This project worked well and we will do it again when an opportunity arises.
- Sustainability On Small Farms: Plans for indigenous workshop with Rod Mason have been shelved due to illness. A Jane Myers field day was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November with 15 people attending. All are managers of small properties. The day went well and Alison Elvin's attendance really boosted the day's value for participants. Planning to offer a subsidy towards David Tongway's new book for SSF participants. Also liaising with DAFF to see if this can be extended to all LC groups under SSF funding (no change).
- Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring Feasibility Study: Rainer Rehwinkel is writing the final report and it should be completed by the end of December.
- Majura Valley: Site visits completed. Next step is to hire a consultant to prepare the report while Sherry focuses on the field days involved in the project.
- ACT Environment Grants: The *Weed Packs* and the *Frog Guides* have been printed. The *Guide to Aquatic Plants of the ACT* is currently Stephen and Graphic Ark's focus. It is coming along well. Molonglo BoB will meet on 14<sup>th</sup> December.
- Other Grants: Successful application for a NSW Environment Trust grant for *Sustainable Horse Property Management for Small Farms*. Underspent on the ActewAGL horse seminar at Burra. Now organising with Miranda from ActewAGL to hold another field day with these funds.

## 9 Waterwatch Coordinator – Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Activities Stephen has been to working on are:
  - Publications and Website, Waterwatch: *November in our Catchment* is on the website and has been sent out to the network. The green algal bloom at Lake Jerrabomberra is the focus this month. 3 articles in the Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Bulletin for December. On-going consultation with Graphic Ark re. the *Aquatic Plants Glove-box Guide*.
  - Catchment Health Indicators data collection: In October 21 groups submitted data on 40 sites across the catchment.
  - Seasonal Indicator Species program: Attended Australasian Society for Limnology Congress at Thredbo on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and showed the power point presentation *A Technique for Field Characterising Conspicuous Algal Growth in Urban and Rural Waterways*. It went well and interest in it was shown from other parts of Australia.
  - Public Events and Websites: Visited Jumping Creek to inspect rehabilitation work on the hillside on 17<sup>th</sup> November.
  - Field Days: Inspected the Valley Ponds for plant rescue techniques with Edwina Robertson from Urban Wetlands and Angela Calliess and a bloke (?) from Greening Australia. Burgmann School and Gungahlin College will also be involved with the project.

- Volunteer Training, Groups: There will be Conspicuous Algae, RARC and Macro-invertebrate refreshers in the new year for all Waterwatchers.
- Volunteer Training, Individuals: Plenty of email enquiries and requests associated with results. Supplied new batteries, calibration fluids and replacement kit parts to those requiring them.
- School Visits: Year 3-4, Turner Primary School at Banksia Street Wetlands, 75 students for 1.5 hours.
- Technical Support and Administration: We now have the equipment for 6 new kits and spares and refills for most things, and fresh calibration fluids. There will be an Oxygen muster for the La Motte Oxygen Kits in February. Visited Lake Jerrabomberra on 16<sup>th</sup> November to report on green algal bloom for QCC.
- Googong Township Water Cycle Project: A surprisingly well put together report. Submissions are due 20<sup>th</sup> December (NSW Legal website). A minimal input development. Googong Creek is recoverable. The Wickerslack Lane people had a grizzle about runoff. Stephen will contact CIC and has drafted an email for them. We have no alternative data to offer so Stephen feels it would be better to discuss our ideas with them rather than do a submission. A BoB group has to be set up for the development.

#### 10 **Members Report – Maryke Booth**

- (a) Jemena volunteers field day has been held.
- (b) Submission to CFOC re. rabbit project.
- (c) The David Tongway book: MCG will take 100 if available (also for SSF project participants) and we'll work out finances later. 17 have to go to last years field day participants as they paid for the course.

#### 11 **Members Report – Jim Arnold**

- (a) FOAB: Weeds are invading from surrounding lease-holder's properties and growth is exploding now. St. John's Wort and Patterson's Curse are the battle, although they are easy to pull out at the moment with the dampness in the soil.
- (b) NSA: Field day and working bee planned for Bredbo was washed out and will be held at a later date.

#### 12 **Members Report – Karen Williams**

- (a) Karen mentioned the changes to the river channel after the floods and thinks a push should be made now on weeds to assist what nature has already started. Can the Government do something? Kerrin Styles and Steve Taylor will be approached regarding this question.

#### 13 **Members Report – Tom Baker**

- (a) Tom suggests that cutting the seeding flower heads of Aaron's Rod is an effective eradication method over time, and it's passive. Also effective for some other weeds, too.

#### 14 **Business**

- (a) Molonglo Environmental Heritage Fund: Maryke distributed the Audited Financial Statement with \$681 in the account. Lynton moved that committee accept the following statement from the Financial Report.

**Motion:** Lynton Bond / Tom Baker

**“The Committee has determined that the Organisation is not a reporting entity and this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements”.**

**Carried.**

- (b) January meeting: It has been decided to have a more informal meeting and BBQ at Molonglo Gorge in January. We will meet there after 5:00 pm for a 6:00 pm start.
- (c) Glossy Black Cockatoo Project Support: The bird has now been declared endangered in the ACT. There is ACT Government money available now to encourage planting of Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) as this is the birds' preferred food. The project should be developed as a catchment wide project and corporate partners could be sought.
- (d) Queanbeyan Environment Expo Sponsorship: Will we sponsor next year? The expo has a higher profile than the Regatta had. The 3D model could possibly be displayed in the plaza the week prior. More email discussion required here.
- (e) Catchment Strategy to 2014: Review of our actions to 2010, what hasn't been done yet and what needs to be done. Lynton will start the review with Andy's input. A planning session to be planned on the expectation that ACT NRM Council will want to continue to fund us. What do we want to do beyond July 2011?

**15 Next Meeting**

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

We will meet at Molonglo Gorge for an informal meeting starting around 5:00 pm for a 6:00 pm BBQ.

**16 Closure.**

The meeting was closed at 6:56 pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
MB	Make allocations in accounts for agreed commitments.	9/3/10	12/4/10	

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(Chairman)

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(Date)