



Executive and General Meeting

Monday 21st March 2011

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

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5:00 pm by Lynton Bond (President) in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

2 Attendance / Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, John Bruggeman, Maryke Booth, Tom Baker, Karen Williams, Jim Arnold, Sandra Lloyd, and Andrew Westcott.

Apologies were received from Dr. Stephen Skinner and Bruce Taloni.

3 Minutes of 14th February 2011.

Motion: Sandra Lloyd / John Bruggeman
“That the minutes be accepted”.

Carried.

4 Business Arising.

- (a) 16(c) Shirts and jumpers update. Andy has a new shirt because he needed it. No further action taken so far.

5 Correspondence List.

In

- (a) ACTPLA: Advice of community forum for Molonglo Stage 2
- (b) Blue Dale landscaping catalogue
- (c) UMCCC: Peter Cullen Trust information
- (d) Email: Several requests for *Glove box guide Waterplants of the ACT region*
- (e) STEP Newsletter
- (f) Telstra phone bill

Out

- (a) 10 Waterplants Glove Box Guides to the Botanic Gardens and ANPC
- (b) SSF final report and attachments to DAFF
- (c) Waterplants Glove Box Guide to Joan Overeem
- (d) Three EOI's to the 1st round of Regional Investment Strategy

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

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) The completed budget for Regional Investment Strategy 2011-2013 EoIs for Catchment and Waterwatch Coordinator funding and for a Biodiversity Monitoring project have been submitted. The EoIs have been accepted and are progressing through to the next round.
- (c) Kosciuszko to Coast: Executive committee met today. An EoI for funding through the ACT NRM Council's RIS was submitted but unsuccessful.

- (d) Catchment and Landcare Association: Sally Macintosh began her job as Regional Landcare Facilitator on 7th February. Brett De Hayr attended the meeting on the 17th March to talk about the *Sharing the Knowledge Database* project.
- (e) UMCCC: Lynton attended the field trip to the enlarged Cotter Dam site but was disappointed with the tour.
- (f) Bush on the Boundary: Andy attended the meeting of the Molonglo Stage 2 Community and Industry Reference Group meeting on the 3rd March and provided a brief report. Community consultation for Molonglo Stage 2 is planned for 24th March. Molonglo River Park Concept Plan meeting was held on 15th March (Lynton and Andy attended) with a field trip planned for the 19th. The concept plan people seem to have a clue and are listening to concerns presently. They are asking questions and appear to have no foregone conclusions.
- (g) Murrumbidgee Landcare: Committee met on 3rd March at Wagga Wagga, with a Regional Landcare Facilitator Steering Committee meeting following.
- (h) Website: Normal maintenance. The new website isn't available yet.
- (i) Telephone: Lynton spoke to the rep. from Engin who informed him that they still work with Telstra and to use them we would have to get a new phone number again. Lynton notified Telstra that we are a charitable organisation. This will result in a reduction in our monthly telephone rental of \$20-\$27. Sandy suggested we investigate costs of call forwarding in order to effectively retain our existing phone number.

7 Vice President's Report – Tom Baker.

- (a) Along the Molonglo: There will be two shows this year, the first (QAS) opening in Queanbeyan on Sunday 5th June (World Environment Day and the Queanbeyan Enviro Expo). ACTEW is happy with the current arrangement and is putting up \$1,000 again, with other sponsorship from Village Building Co. \$1,500 and MCS \$300. Can Holcim Quarry also sponsor? The Canberra show will be at the Wesley Centre on 9th to 11th September, combined with the main ASOC exhibition. The theme this year is *The Untold Riches of our Native Grasslands*. Prize money, ACTEW \$2,000, MCG \$500 again. Can Friends of Grasslands also sponsor?

Motion: Lynton Bond/ Sandra Lloyd

“That MCG sponsor the Canberra art exhibition to the value of \$500”.

Carried.

8 Treasurer's Report – Maryke Booth.

- (a) Accounts sent out by email.
- (b) Just under \$180,000 in the bank, \$22,000 in General Expenses.
- (c) Accounts have gone off to the auditors. Aged Receivables have been removed. Some adjustments are required here and there.
- (d) Insurance quotes pending.
- (e) Membership renewals not sent out; Helen has altered last year's forms, can they be sent? Andy to send out, but needs updated list from Maryke.

9 MCG Coordinator's Report – Andrew Westcott.

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Sue Crickmore, a photographic student has contacted us looking for a suitable community group to use as a subject for her work. She has been placed with Queanbeyan Landcare.
- (c) Activities Andy has been working on are:
 - Weeds: Contacted Bunnings in Fyshwick to enquire about including our Weed Information Pack in the nursery and garden tools section of their store. They say NO as any literature has to be placed in all Australian stores or none at all. There is no store-by-store discretion. Workshops for their staff are acceptable. Do we want to put in an application for a BBQ

day there? Through BoB Molonglo we are looking into working with Yarralumla Nursery to ensure that new residents in the area purchase suitable plants. Made initial contact with the nursery at the Festival of the Forests. We'll look into ways we can assist Friends of the Pinnacle who are currently running a series of Grassland trials (no update). Our *Seeing Grasslands* project may meet this target also.

- Information Dissemination: 40 Weed packs, 40 Pest Animal packs, 1 Burra Planting guide, 50 Waterplants of the ACT Region guides, 1 Isabella Ponds Regatta.
- Sustainable Farm Practices: Potential topics from SSF workshop feedback include soil compaction, pasture management and controlling weeds with biological controls. Andy intends to combine soil and knowledge/skills into one field day, combining soil compaction and pasture management/grazing. Potentially a David Tongway field day (no update). Field day on grazing management and riparian protection with Alison Elvin to be held at Little Burra/Fernleigh on the 3rd April.
- Landcare: MCG project funding has been advertised. 2 applications to date from FOTPIN and FoMM. Friends of Glenburn consulted about potential for ACT Heritage Grants. Attended the Queanbeyan Regatta on 12th March and Festival of the Forests on 20th March. Met with the Regional Landcare Facilitator, and Stephen Hughes and Paul Cairns of PCL, and representatives of Parkcare to discuss volunteer training to undertake rabbit control using aluminium phosphide. Attended meetings on the Molonglo Valley Development. Prepared a list of funding opportunities for groups in the ACT and region with Steve Welch (list is currently on SACTCG website).
- Indigenous Projects: Assisting the Indigenous Facilitator in development of projects where possible. Contacted Jo Donovan re. a heritage walk with Adrian Brown (no update). Worked on ideas with Geoff Robertson for *Indigenous Values Workshops* being planned for March and April. The workshops will feature Rod Mason.
- Sustainability On Small Farms: Milestones have been met for the project and Andy has completed and submitted the report. The report will be reviewed while the audit is undertaken.
- Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring Feasibility Study: Final report completed. Indications are that the manual is suitable for community monitoring programs. Rainer has recommended some minor modifications which Sarah Sharp has accepted and is willing to incorporate into the manual. Next step is to secure funding for implementation of a monitoring program for Landcare. A presentation of the project to the NRM Council Board is planned.
- Majura Valley: Consultant and mapping stage has begun. Spoke to the chairs of the NRM regions about the project during their visit to Canberra.
- ACT Environment Grants: The *Glove Box Guide Waterplants of the ACT Region* has been printed and feedback is very positive. Molonglo BoB meetings are going well with a wide range of groups now represented. Next round of funding expected to be open in late March.
- Other Grants: Successful application for a NSW Environment Trust grant for *Sustainable Horse Property Management for Small Farms*, \$23,409. Working with Equiculture on potential dates. Planning to run 2 sessions for Braidwood on 7th and 9th April with Southern Rivers CMA (an evening seminar with a follow up field day). A second day is to be held at Sutton on 10th April with Jane and Alison. Underspent on the ActewAGL horse seminar at Burra. Now organising with Miranda from ActewAGL to hold another field day at Burra/Fernleigh on the 3rd April. A lot of time consumed doing the RIS applications for the Catchment Coordinator, Waterwatch Coordinator and Community Based Biodiversity survey projects.

10 Waterwatch Coordinator's Report – Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- (a) See report sent out by email (Stephen was absent on annual leave).

- (b) Activities Stephen has been to working on are:
- Publications and Website, Waterwatch: *February in our Catchment* and M-CHiP July-December 2010 Report are now on the website. *Glove Box Guide Waterplants of the ACT Region* arrived from the printers on 23rd February. There is a move from Simon Corbell's office and DECCEW publicity to have a "Ministerial Launch", possibly in April, of the guide.
 - Catchment Health Indicators data collection: In February 18 groups submitted data on 38 sites across the catchment, as well as 7 sites in the South Lake George sub-catchment for Palerang Shire as part of their Snapshot.
 - Seasonal Indicator Species program: With Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Facilitator, doing collections in wetlands and urban lakes to construct a local list for Macro-invertebrate counts.
 - Urban Habitat Corridors: Consulting with Edwina Robinson re. planting lists and plant propagation for The Valley Wetlands.
 - Public Events and Websites: Attended the Lake Users Group meeting, 2nd March. Spoke with Jared Dorrington of NOWUC News about cyanobacteria. Lake Burley Griffin and swimmers, 7th March. Helped set up for the Queanbeyan Regatta, 12th March.
 - Field Days: ANU Celebrate Sustainability Day, 24th February (36 follow-up requests).
 - Technical Support and Administration: Kit for Simon Holloway, Palerang Shire Council, and field training.
 - Volunteer Training, Individuals: Replacement of equipment for 3 volunteers, 8 queries and confirmation by email.
 - Volunteer Training, Groups: Gave a Conspicuous Algal Assessment course, Crosby Morrison Centre, National Botanic Gardens, 12th March.
 - School Visits: Canberra College, year 11, 17 students, 22nd February; Majura Public School, year 2, 4 x 20 students, 7th and 9th March.

11 Members Report – Maryke Booth

- (a) Royalla LC: Participated in Clean Up Australia Day, targeting Old Cooma Road and Royalla Drive. Some new members have joined the group recently.
- (b) Maryke asked if anyone could recommend any weeds contractors and Tom suggested John Buma and Dan Grant as reliable contractors.

12 Members Report – Jim Arnold

- (a) FOAB: There is a profusion of growth this year. Including weeds. There's a big invasion of Saffron Thistle in the Snowgum Paddock, which PCL has slashed. Jim made good headway with Bathurst Burr last year and things are looking good this year.
- (b) NSA: The field day was held at Bredbo and Dalgety on the 12th February. The Bredbo day included good advice on contouring. *Gorgeous Gullies* is the next day coming up, to be held on two properties at Murrumbateman.

13 Members Report – Karen Williams

- (a) Meeting with Gary Bayles from TAMS to discuss the state of the river corridor and the after effects of the recent flooding. There's no budget at present to maintain the corridor (Canberra is the priority). The plan is to get Oaks Estate into a future budget or seek alternate funding. Flood damage needs to be cleaned up. There are a number of local people who are interested in being involved in this environmental work, possibly through the Progress Association, as a community project. MCG involvement is possible.

14 Members Report – Tom Baker

- (a) Queanbeyan LC will conduct a walk in the Cuumbeun Nature Reserve on 3rd April.

15 Business

- (a) ACT NRM Regional Investment Strategy 2011-2013 EOI: Community Based Biodiversity Monitoring; Based on Sarah Sharp’s manual. Would incorporate a central reporting data base on the website which will show what Parkcare volunteers are actually achieving, identify threatened species habitat, etc. Data can be linked and used across sites. The project could be moved around the different groups involved. QA/QC can be built into the project, with 2 survey periods in spring and autumn. Coordinators should present reports to the ACT NRM Council so that they are aware of what is actually happening on the ground.
- (b) Molonglo Catchment Group Project Funding: 2 applications so far, closes 8th April. Applications have to be evaluated by a panel of 3 or by MCG committee.

16 Next Meeting

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 11th April 2011, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.
MCG Meeting Room: Unit 10 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St Queanbeyan.

17 Closure.

The meeting was closed at 6:35 pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
MB	Make allocations in accounts for agreed commitments.	9/3/10	12/4/10	
LB/AW	Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy	13/12/10		
LB	Investigate call forwarding as an option in order to implement VOIP phone system.	21/3/11	11/4/11	
AW	Send out membership renewal notices	21/3/11	11/4/11	
All	Review and assess small grant applications	8/4/11	11/4/11	

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(Chairman)

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(Date)