



Executive and General Meeting

Monday 11th July 2011

MCG Office: Unit 13 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St. Queanbeyan

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5:04pm with Lynton Bond (President) in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

2. Attendance/Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Tom Baker, Maryke Booth, Karen Williams, Margaret Piper, Jim Arnold, Dr. Stephen Skinner, Andy Westcott.

Apologies were received from Bruce Taloni, Sandy Lloyd and John Bruggeman.

3. Minutes of General Meeting, 20th June 2011.

Motion: "That the Minutes be accepted" Maryke Booth.

Seconded: Jim Arnold

Carried.

4. Business Arising

- a) 4a: Karen Williams recommended changing 'this area' to 'Oaks estate area' as this was not clear.
- b) Karen Williams recommended trying Brett McNamara instead of Stephen Hughes in an effort to get organise meeting with Gary Byles. Karen also suggested contacting Gary's Personal Assistant instead and committed to passing on the details to Andy.

5. Actions Arising

- a) Karen to send details of Gary Byles Personal Assistant to Andy.

6. Correspondence List

In

- a) Lawler and Partners audit for SSF
- b) TAFE NSW change of billing address
- c) Telstra-Phone Bill
- d) Google-Junk Mail
- e) Variation for CAG notification
- f) Feral Flyer

- g) Woodland wanderings

Out

- a) Letter to Government landowners in the Majura Valley to discuss the CAG
- b) Email: Tammie Spackman; various drafts of deeds for Waterwatch, Catchment Coordination and Biodiversity Monitoring.
- c) Catchment Coordinator signed deed and invoice for 1st quarter payment.
- d) Waterplants guide to 8 people.

7. Presidents Report – Lynton Bond

See report sent out by email

- a) Future Funding: Continued frustration this month. During the first call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to the ACT Government for projects community science was highlighted as a priority. In response to this we entered EOIs for the Catchment Coordinator, Waterwatch Coordinator and the Biodiversity Monitoring Project. The second round of EOIs again highlighted community science as a priority. We entered the Biodiversity Monitoring with a strong emphasis on community science, community engagement and collaboration/partnerships. These were accepted unchanged other than a budget down grade for the biodiversity project. Then the third stage of the process began and our funding templates were sent out minus community science which was no longer a priority. Furthermore despite comments that the projects had been accepted as is we had also received a budget downgrade of 1%. We then received a second template which was also missing community engagement.
- b) Kosciuszko to Coast: Lynton formally resigned from the K2C committee due to other commitments.
- c) CLA: The new web network was discussed along with the annual fee of \$1,350. Landcare groups can use this as their own front page but with MCG branding at the top.
- d) UMCCC: Reallocation of project funds approved subject to a risk assessment from the Commonwealth.
- e) Bush on the Boundary: Progressing slowly. At this stage we do not have full engagement from the PCS Rangers but this is understandable due to their workload. Conservation Councils letter to Katy Gallagher regarding the planning process for Molonglo resulted in a meeting with ACTPLA. ACTPLA informed the Cons Council that all the issues highlighted in the letter have been accepted and changes have been made to the concept plan to reflect the comments. This includes the removal of cycles paths which dissected the Aprasia habitat.
- f) Murrumbidgee LC: Geoff Control pointed out to the committee that voting for the Landcare Awards public choice category was open and people were able to vote for him. You can also vote for Lynton in this category.

- g) Murrumbidgee to Googong Environment Reference Group-The process is very open at present. The reference group recommended that Lynton and Stephen alternate as MCG representatives.
- h) BP Vouchers: The vouchers for volunteers program is open again but is not as restrictive as last time. Minimum amount is \$1,000, applied on behalf of all Waterwatch volunteers and the Committee.

8. Vice President's Report-Tom Baker

- a) Along the Molonglo: Queanbeyan is all finished for another year, will need to improve the publicity next year. Selections of the paintings are now on display at the Riverside Plaza. The Artists Society of Canberra is coming up: from the 9th to 11th of September at the Wesley Centre as part of the Spring Exhibition. There will not be a speaker this time, to minimise the formalities, still waiting on an invoice for the prize money from ASOC.
- b) Lake Burley Griffin Investigation: We need to refer to the Molonglo River Rescue Action Plan and raise awareness of the MCG and what we do.

9. Treasurer's Report-Maryke Booth

- a) See accounts distributed by email.
- b) \$132,700.98 cash on hand, all but \$13,000 of this is allocated.
- c) Still waiting on invoices from Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated.

10. MCG Coordinators Report-Andy Westcott

See report sent out by email

11. Waterwatch Coordinator's Report- Dr. Stephen Skinner.

- a) Slight drop in numbers this month, probably due to cold weather.
- b) Platypus Walk was very good, 40 walkers in attendance and letters of thanks received. Platypus and water rates were both sited.
- c) Attended the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Master Planning session, if the meeting is anything to go by, there could be a good outcome for the Wetlands.

12. Members Report

- a) **Jim Arnold: Natural Sequence Association** field day held at Brindabella with advice given to the land owner on how to slow down the water passing through the property and fencing off dams. Another field day was held which involved the planting of natives along with 3 willows along erosion gullies. This session was hosted by Peter Marshall. **FOAB** helped Mount Painter with a tree planting along tracks to the summit. Advice about appropriate equipment use after an injury to a volunteer in the ACT sustained while using a brush cutter, was passed on to the group.
- b) **Maryke Booth: Royalla Landcare**, lots of dead rabbits reported! The impact was slow but reports of people who regularly sited 20 rabbits a night now not seeing any were received. The fox traps have been purchased and are available for loan. There are some

reports that the rabbits are already bouncing back in some areas, possibly young rabbits that survived or new rabbits moving in. Details of a licensed shooter have been passed on to local landowners; he is registered with the Game Council. Regulations exclude him from shooting Kangaroos on properties less than 25ha.

c) **Karen Williams (Oaks Estate)**

- i. A lot of activity along the river in Oaks Estate. \$400,000 was made available for works from Oaks Estate Rd Bridge to the junction. As a result of clearing of fallen trees and debris there is now improved access to the river. The removed trees were chipped on site. A lot was cleared at the junction on the eastern side of the bridge. The opportunity to engage the community was missed though due to the lack of coordination.

d) **Margaret Piper:** Passed on a news article from 'The Farm' magazine.

13. Business

- a) **K2C:** When K2C was not incorporated it needed other organisations to sponsor funding applications. To address this K2C Incorporated was established; however this is requiring K2C to have 2 committees which is demanding on volunteer time. K2C has written to all partner organisations, including the MCG, to ask for agreement on the merging of the two committees meaning only 1 committee will be needed. Partners would need to attend AGM.

Motion: "To support amalgamation of committees" Tom Baker.

Seconded: Maryke Booth

Carried.

Motion: "That the MCG become members but decline representation on the committee"
Tom Baker.

Seconded: Lynton Bond

Carried.

- b) **Seeing Grasslands:** David Wong and Chris Holly have developed a book using the images from the project, David has suggested we sell the book as 'print on demand' for \$80 each. Lynton has sought a quote on doing a print run of 1,000 to gauge the costs and what we could sell the book for. The book was taken to the Botanic Gardens book shop to get their opinion on price and if it would sell. It seems \$40 is the price that those consulted would be willing to pay. Lynton has suggested a map highlighting project sites, like the one at the exhibition, should be incorporated. Karen Williams indicated that images from the community taken as part of the project need to be included or the goodwill the project created could be lost. Also recommended reducing the print quality to lower the price, eg paper back not hard cover.

It was recommended that if the Seeing Woodlands project is funded we need to ensure non-exclusive rights for the use of images is negotiated to avoid some of the issues that have arisen in this project.

Tom has been in touch with David Wong who is busy with Science Week but will get back to us soon regarding Floriade exhibition.

- c) **Murrumbidgee Web Network:** Work continuing on migration of websites.
- d) **Community Action Grants-Rabbit Control:** Carwoola Landcare had a small grant from MLI to run a rabbit control project using Pindone. The project was widely advertised but no land holders took up the offer. Carwoola Landcare decided to change from Pindone to Calicivirus to attract those that missed out on the Royalla project. It is early days and 15 landholders have already come forward. It is apparent that the training involved with Pindone was the barrier to participation.

Lynton advocated an MCG application to the Community Action Grants program for a rabbit control project to cover the Carwoola, Royalla, Burra and Fernleigh areas.

Action: Develop CAG application for a rabbit control project.

14. Next Meeting

Exec & General Meeting: Monday, 12th September 2011, 5:00-6:30pm.

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

15. Closure.

The meeting was closed at 6:55pm.

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
LB/AW	Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy	13/12/10		In Progress
LB	Investigate call forwarding as an option in order to implement VOIP phone system.	21/3/11	11/07/11	In Progress
AW	Contact Stephen Hughes to arrange meeting with Gary Byles from TAMS, re. common ground on MRR	06/06/11	11/07/11	
AW	Review MCG Project Funding Small Grants process	11/4/11	11/07/11	
TB	Chase up invoices from ASC for prize money	12/07/11	08/08/11	
LB	Submission to the LBG investigation	12/07/11	08/08/11	
AW	Develop and submit CAG application	12/07/11	01/08/11	

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(Chairman)

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(Date)