



## Executive and General Meeting.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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

### 1. Opening.

The meeting was opened at 5:02 pm by Lynton Bond, (President), in the Chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

### 2 Attendance / Apologies.

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

Apologies were received from Sandra Lloyd, Tom Baker and Bruce Taloni.

### 3 Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Motion:** Karen Williams/John Bruggeman

**“That the minutes be accepted”.**

**Carried.**

### 4 Business Arising. Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

- (a) The minutes for August were held over from the last meeting, as they were incomplete.
- (b) Correspondence and Actions weren't updated. Correspondence to go to this meeting, as marked on minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> August by Lynton. Actions update printout handed out and signed by Lynton.

### 5 Business Arising. Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

- (a) Alexi Williams got back to us regarding her project. Lynton will forward email to all. We recommend she work with WaterWatch. Her supervisor recommended she pick 3 groups, FOTPIN, Royalla LC and Lynton suggested Queanbeyan LC, which has recently joined with the Fernleigh Park group.
- (b) MAW: Andy linked this group up with GA. Revegetation project now underway.
- (c) WaterWatch equipment has not yet arrived.
- (d) Chinese Elm Planting, Trinculo Place Queanbeyan: Council appeared to have listened to Stephen but there's nothing they can do at this point. Jo Beth will use this as an example of the effects of Chinese Elm on riverbanks.

### 6 Correspondence List.

#### In

- (a) 26<sup>th</sup> September: Semi finalist in RACA.
- (b) 27<sup>th</sup> September: Invitation to RAC Awards.
- (c) 29<sup>th</sup> September: Unsuccessful heritage grant and environment grant.
- (d) Community Cabinet: Proposed meeting with local NSW member.
- (e) Notification of receipt of Community Partnerships application.
- (f) Murrumbidgee CMA: ACWA Plan.

- (g) IACRC Feral Flyer and rabbit books.

**Out**

- (a) MCMA Community partnerships application.
- (b) Floriade Acceptance.

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

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Accept report as read. Discuss in business.

**8 Vice President's Report – Tom Baker.**

- (a) Absent overseas.

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

- (a) Accounts sent out by email.
- (b) \$181,477.82 in the bank.
- (c) Lynton commented: A GVESH0 grant (Commonwealth Govt.) has been applied for. We must acknowledge we've received their funding in the past – GVESH0 must appear as a separate line item in the accounts. We've applied for more funding this year: \$10,000 as a regional group; if successful this will help defray the expense of bookkeeping, electricity and other unforeseen administrative costs. Apart from GVESH0, we've received all monies successfully applied for and due but have missed out on several grants.

**10 MCG Coordinator's Report – Andrew Westcott.**

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Deb Saunders has started work on Horse Field Days project. Alison Elvin will be unavailable for the first one, which will enable Equiculture to deliver their full seminar session, rather than the shortened version run in the past.
- (c) Deb has also started work on the Biodiversity project. One objective is to work out ways to involve other groups in this project. Deb will organise a workshop with 8 LC groups and individuals who will be involved in the first round of monitoring as a trial run before real monitoring starts.
- (d) Friends of Glenburn missed out on their ACT Heritage grant, as it appears that ACT Government has responsibility for this property and has to take responsibility for assets under their control.
- (e) Majura Valley Project has no promotional material and excess funds remaining may be used for a planting day with the newly formed Majura Valley LC Group.
- (f) Andy has been working with the Peter Cullen Trust Leadership group looking at the Coal Seam Gas industry and how current policy is affecting water management.

**11 Waterwatch Coordinator's Report – Dr. Stephen Skinner.**

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) M-CHiP program 6 monthly report Jan-June 2011 is now up on the website.
- (c) Cassie Hancock presented her survey of the environmental health of Weston Creek and lower Molonglo River area sub-catchment. She felt the work was only partially completed. She did include a series of recommendations. Stephen has completed and returned the University of Western Sydney client survey on behalf of the MCG committee as it was required before it could be presented to this meeting.
- (d) A new volunteer from Queanbeyan LC will be doing water quality testing at two sites on Buttle's Creek in Queanbeyan.

## **12 Members Report – Maryke Booth.**

- (a) The annual spring wildflower walk is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October this year starting at Burra and then on to Royalla with Royalla LC, Burra LC and Friends of Grasslands.
- (b) Glossy Black Cockatoo project: 540 Casuarinas will be planted using a GA team. Haydn and Stephen will come out to access the site.

## **13 Members Report – Sandy Lloyd, presented by Lynton in Sandy’s absence.**

- (a) Burra Park: Palerang Council has condemned the old pine trees around the park and when the RFB heard this they abandoned Burra Park as an evacuation centre. Community consultation is progressing re. Replanting.

## **14 Members Report – Jim Arnold.**

- (a) FOAB: Last work party concentrated on Patterson’s Curse and St. John’s Wort. Last weekend the group held a display at the Jamison Centre (over 3 days) to raise consciousness and promotion of the rabbit problem and the Mt. Painter project etc.
- (b) NSA: An open day is planned for Mulloon Creek on 5<sup>th</sup> November and a planting day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the President’s property at Bredbo.

## **15 Members Report – Karen Williams.**

- (a) Video and still photo recording of the river channel at Oaks Estate has begun. Sally Hooper is working on setting up a web page for OEPA to feature some of this work. The contact list of interested volunteers is steadily growing. A meeting is happening soon between TAMS, PCS, MCG, OEPA, and interested individuals. With Karen’s involvement with South Side Community Services social projects could potentially be brought into the environment project. RARC to also be used with other documentation.

## **16 Members Report – Lynton Bond.**

- (a) UMCCC Field Day, Whole of Paddock Rehabilitation (WOPR): Lynton attended this field day on 12<sup>th</sup> October at a property called Weilora, near Binalong which formed the concept for WOPR: 10 acre paddocks are direct seeded with native plant species and the landholder is paid to keep stock out. The owner of Weilora had found that stock could be cycled through for three and a half hour periods only. In that time they graze on pasture but aren’t in the paddock long enough to start picking on native seedlings. Very clever technique to achieve native habitat regeneration and still produce income from grazing. Grazing animals only go for the grasses when they first enter a fresh paddock.

## **17 Business.**

- (a) Floriade Briefing: Distributed 1,150 fliers and booklets during the week. The last public holiday was the busiest, with many locals present. It would be good if we could be there again next year on the same public holiday. Frogs were popular, as was Lynton’s map and the water presentation with the 3D model. The notes below the sample jars worked well. We should include tap and filtered water samples next year, as this is the water people use and know. Location in the tent was good. The scheduled talk format wasn’t successful. We need to work through talk format, subject, speaker’s ability, plants, frogs, macros, fish, biodiversity, that is, speak about the whole topic and lead into the importance and relevance of Waterwatch. Also orient map to North/South, have a “We are here” banner on it and make it clearer with its detail.
- (b) Update on Community Hub: Lynton attended a meeting that was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September with community groups and interested people to discuss the establishment of a Community Hub/City Farm for Canberra. ACT NRM Council is talking to the Regional Development Authority which would require matching ACT funding \$ for \$. ACT Govt. could allocate land on a 99 Year lease, Commonwealth to provide infrastructure. Potential

for more shared resources, manager, administration, shared equipment, networking. The complex to house NRM type groups in office space with wetlands and community farm examples in the grounds to show what people can achieve at home. Potential to network existing community farms in the region and be an education resource. Groups included could be NRM groups, sustainable farming groups, and groups like STEP. The aim is to promote sustainable lifestyles. Next problem is how to get funding and sustain momentum. CERES in Melbourne could be a template to follow. Good potential for school groups from around Australia who pass through Canberra each year to visit and revenue could be raised charging public admission to the complex. Potentially there could be up to \$5 million available from the Federal Government.

- (c) Along the Molonglo: A potential stand-alone show in April next year was raised by Tim Hardy at this years debrief after the last show. Lynton is to meet him on Saturday to discuss options. A theme will be required and Andy will check out potential dates for environment events to be held during April 2012.
- (d) African Love Grass field day to be held at Scottsdale on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**18 Next Meeting.**

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.  
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**19 Closure.**

The meeting was closed at 6:35 pm.

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.	21/03/11	11/7/11	In Progress
AW	Review MCG Small Grants Project Funding process	11/04/11	11/07/11	In Progress
AW	Assess environment events in April 2012	17/10/11	ASAP	Completed

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(Chairman)

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(Date)