



## MCG Executive and General Meeting.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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

### 1. Opening.

The meeting was opened at 5:05 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, Tom Baker, Karen Williams, Jim Arnold, Margaret Piper, Andrew Westcott and Dr. Stephen Skinner.  
Apologies were received from Sandra Lloyd and Bruce Taloni.

### 3 Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The following changes were required. Not carried.

- (a) 10(b): Alison Elvin is unavailable for one day.
- (b) 10(e): Majura Valley Project has no promotional material.
- (c) 11(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) 14(b): 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.
- (e) 15(a): With Karen's involvement with South Side Community Services social projects could potentially be brought into the environment project.

### 4 Business Arising. Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

- (a) Andy assessed environment events in April 2012 and forwarded them to committee and Tim Hardy from ASOC for consideration. Thank you Andy.

### 5 Correspondence List.

#### In

- (a) Frogwatch: 2011 Newsletter.
- (b) ESDD: Overview of Ainslie PS Fete. Heather Tomlinson thanked Stephen for his attendance.
- (c) ACTNRM Council: Darlene Glyde advised of a change to reporting deadlines to 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- (d) Capital Storage: Documents for storage unit.
- (e) Oaks Estate Progress Association: Membership to MCG.
- (f) Queanbeyan Council: Draft Plan of Management for the Queanbeyan River Corridor.
- (g) Prime Regional Achievements: Certificate of Achievement.
- (h) Katy Gallagher: Thankyou re. Oaks Estate Project correspondence.

## **Out**

- (a) Nil.

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

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Accept report as read.
- (c) MLI AGM: Held last Friday. Lynton was elected Treasurer again.

### **7 Vice President's Report – Tom Baker.**

- (a) Artists Society of Canberra: The Molonglo Catchment Group has now negotiated with the ASOC for a stand-alone exhibition, the 8<sup>th</sup> 'Along the Molonglo' Art Exhibition and Competition, to be held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 2012.

There will be a \$20 entry fee and a picture size limit to ensure the paintings can be accommodated on the walls. A 20% commission should cover costs such as publicity, and printing of a catalogue.

The title will be headed with "*The 8<sup>th</sup> Along the Molonglo Exhibition and Competition*" with the Theme: "Water = Life?" appearing under the broader title. The MGC has been asked to seek a suitable judge/judges and someone appropriate to open the Exhibition. Andy will investigate the likelihood of enlisting a member of the Peter Cullen Trust to open the Exhibition. The theme is drawing on the obvious link between water and life within and beside streams/wetlands and also many of our human activities and emotions. This includes the 'good' and the 'bad' impacts of occasional flooding. The rationale of the question mark is to reflect the evolution of our ecosystems in a relatively dry catchment, where the typical sequence of wetting and drying has created our biodiversity, soils etc over millions of years. The sort of works we might expect could range from creatures and plants and landscapes that live and grow in the water and beside the water, people interacting with rivers, lakes and ponds, and, by way of stark contrast, what happens when there is insufficient water for life, so there might be images alluding to drought, as a natural part of the cycle (or man induced?).

The ASOC are agreeable to the possibility of opening up entry to future exhibitions beyond ASOC membership, but this will rely upon us jointly finding a more suitable venue.

### **8 Treasurer's Report – Maryke Booth.**

- (a) Accounts sent out by email.
- (b) \$155,000 in the bank. General Expenses approx. \$13,500.
- (c) Maryke will step back from her Treasurer work, as her bookkeeper Helen needs to slow down and relax. We will have to hire a bookkeeper at some point, possibly in the next few months. Limited services for the MCG will continue, such as the payroll/wages. She is happy to remain as Treasurer though. Lynton commented that if we can get another bookkeeper the pressure on Maryke would be reduced. All agreed.

### **9 MCG Coordinator's Report – Andrew Westcott.**

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Deb Saunders has received a research grant and will be leaving us at the end of the year. She will continue to work on the Horses Field Days and the Biodiversity project until then. Horses Field Days attendance numbers are good.
- (c) Community Partnership with MCMA: Notification has been delayed due to health issues and one death on the board.
- (d) Andy is working with SACTCG on a Landcare book titled "Labour of Love"

- (e) Majura Valley Project: Approval has been given for the balance of \$5,303.64 can be spent on a Woolshed Creek shelterbelt, and printing more reports.
- (f) Andy is now a Fellow of the Peter Cullen Trust. Lynton indicated that the MCG should be proud of Andy's achievement.

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

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Thin report, not a lot happening.
- (c) Stephen reports a strong response from Waterwatchers again this month.
- (d) The 6 monthly QA/QC session held at Molonglo Gorge recently had 18 people attending. A good day was had.
- (e) Karen Butler is too busy and will pull out of WW at Scabbing Flat Creek and Weetalabah. Stephen will monitor Scabbing Flat Creek at the Kings Highway instead of within Weetalabah.
- (f) M2G Environmental Review Group: Tour of construction sites. Notes an interesting approach to revegetation and offsets and wonders if they plan to do anything at all.
- (g) Tom commented that the last Waterwatch report made good reading, re. frogs.

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

- (a) The annual spring wildflower walk was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October starting at Burra and then on to Royalla with Royalla LC, Burra LC and Friends of Grasslands. Swainsona recta sighted on the Burra common, but few were visible at Royalla. Lunch was had at the yurt, which met with the attendant's approval. 22 people attended.
- (b) Glossy Black Cockatoo project: Half a bucket of seed of the Allo casuarina verticillata was collected from the hilltop in preparation for autumn planting. Bulbine glauca (Rock Lily) was found amongst the Allo casuarina. Tube stock is to be looked after by local landholders.

#### **12 Members Report – Margaret Piper.**

- (a) Margaret reported on an article in New Scientist Magazine (Nov 5<sup>th</sup>) about beetles decimating pine forests in North America. The beetles are similar to Auger Beetles in Australia. Nothing works to exterminate the beetles.

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

- (a) FOAB: Jim is putting the scythe to good use at present on St. John's Wort. Asks if there are any grants available at present, as he needs a new blade for the scythe (ACT NRM Council CfoC grants for Weeds of National Significance). Chilean Needle Grass is everywhere at present. Margaret Ning did a CNG survey several years ago.
- (b) NSA: The planting day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the President's property at Bredbo didn't happen.

#### **14 Members Report – Tom Baker.**

- (a) QLC is conducting a walk at The Poplars this Sunday, starting at 9:30 am for a couple of hours.

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

- (a) Oaks Estate River Project: Work is about to start (debris removal by ACT Roads). The meeting between partners and the community was successful with 23 people attending. The project team was impressed with the turnout and a contact list was created (Beck Dawson). A further meeting was held with Tristan (weeds), John McRae (TAMS), Lynton, Karen, Terry and myself to survey weeds present. There is a strong political atmosphere around this project with keen support from the government (re thankyou letter from the Chief Minister). John McRae worries about funding disappearing elsewhere. An

application will be made for recurrent funding but we won't know the outcome until May next year. OEPA has rejoined the MCG. Karen and John B's photo and video documentation has been completed for the scope of the current project.

#### **16 Members Report – John Bruggeman.**

- (a) I attended the Royalla LC Wildflower Walk at Burra and Royalla recently. I was impressed with the numbers of Yam Daisy and the significant amount of Aboriginal cultural heritage visible on the Burra common. I also found more Aboriginal artefacts on Maryke's property. The yurt is impressive. African Lovegrass was sighted on the roadside verges at both Burra and Royalla.
- (b) Oaks Estate River Project: I completed GPS plotting, photo monitoring and RARC at eight sites (4 on each side of the river, opposite each other) along the stretch of river within the scope of the project. I found a large patch of African Lovegrass (400 metres long by up to 8 metres wide) along the original extension of River Street up to Oaks Estate Road, which has been reported to Sarah Sharp and Steve Taylor. In the 8 RARC transects I found only one native, a Casuarina planted in the early 1990s.

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

- (a) Carwoola LC Wildflower Walk was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Matt and Elise's place with 15 people attending. Lynton found it impressive, but depressing, as parts of the property are Grassy Box Woodland but the lawn at the house is African Lovegrass. Next Sunday there is to be held a Weeds Fields Day with Palerang Council.

#### **18 Business.**

- (a) Corporate Credit Cards: Lynton met with Westpac Bank people last week and we now pay no fees (mostly). He learned about Social Sector Banking, some details; Corporate Credit Cards, smarter credit, no annual fees, up to 10 card holders etc. He proposes that he further investigate this option and suggests it makes sense to have CCC's at no fees at this point. We've decided that Lynton, Maryke and Andy should have access to these cards, due to their positions in the organization. The cards will be like a petty cash system based on credit, but covered by available petty cash funds.

**Motion:** Lynton Bond/Maryke Booth

**“That Lynton investigate further into Corporate Credit Cards for the MCG, 3 cards (Lynton, Andy and Maryke), each carrying a limit of \$2,000 in any one month with a restriction on what can be purchased with the cards (MCG purposes only). Further, that ‘one day settlements’ be investigated”.**

**Carried.**

- (b) Letter to ACT Environment Minister re ACT Environment Grants: A letter will be sent to Simon Corbell putting on record our dissatisfaction with the ACT Environment Grants Program. In the past we've received their funding which benefits the ACT and which is not available through any other grant process. Lynton will send the letter off.
- (c) Variation to reporting deadline for Coordinator/Waterwatch: the ACTNRM Council is being held over a barrel by being required to report by the 7<sup>th</sup> December for the period to the 30<sup>th</sup> November by the Commonwealth. This leaves very little time to get reporting done (Milestones etc). We'll have to do retrospective corrections in the next report if necessary. We can only do what we can do!
- (d) Next meeting and AGM: The next meeting and AGM are to be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. It will be conducted with no audited reports, and will be followed with a dinner at the Indian restaurant.

#### **19 Next Meeting.**

Exec. & General Meeting and AGM: Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.

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

**20 Closure.**

The meeting was closed at 6:28 pm.

<b>Action By</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Completed</b>
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
LB	Investigate Corporate Credit Cards	14/11/11	ASAP	Completed

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(Chairman)

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(Date)