



## MCG Executive and General Meeting.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

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

### 1. Opening.

The meeting was opened at 5:12 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, Karen Williams, Jim Arnold, Tom Baker, Margaret Piper, Anna See and Dr. Stephen Skinner.

Apologies were received from Maryke Booth and Don Fraser.

### 3 Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**Motion:** Karen Williams / John Bruggeman  
"That the minutes be accepted."

**Carried.**

### 4 Business Arising.

(a) 17(b) Tom is happy to represent MCG on the K2C Inc. Executive Committee.

**Motion:** Lynton Bond / John Bruggeman

"That Tom will represent MCG on the K2C Inc. Executive Committee."

**Carried.**

(b) 17(d) OCSE Eco-tourism submission: K2C did provide information for Cooma-Monaro Shire's submission (regarding an iPhone and Android app. to provide information about sites in the area).

### 5 Action Table.

(a) Preliminary review of Molonglo Catchment Strategy: Anna will be looking into this.

(b) VOIP telephony: Purchased new ADSL modem/router with built in VOIP and a new phone system, which works properly. Should save us money. Lynton has had no time to further this as yet.

(c) Small Grants Funding: No action yet.

(d) Effects of Starane on frogs, no information available at this point.

(e) Canberra Lake Care: Bill Phillips is looking to raise funds as he sees a need to engage in weed management on Canberra lakes (% to go to him). NCA, GA and RiverSmart have been working with the sailing club on weed removal on Spinnaker Island (willows).

### 6 Correspondence List.

**In**

(a) Aust. Govt. Land and Coasts: Sustainable farming in the Majura Valley final reports accepted and approved.

(b) New Bluedale website advert, native grasses and Myrtle rust free trees.

- (c) Invite to NSW Community meetings to develop regional action plans.
- (d) STEP Brochure: Garden of the Southern Tablelands, for our assessment.
- (e) Telstra bill.

**Out**

- (a) GVESH0: Acceptance of grant agreement emailed and posted 21-3-12.

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

- (a) See report sent out by email.
- (b) Accept report as read.
- (c) Project Officer: Mary Appleby started with us last Saturday (1-2 days per week, paid hourly, recommended by Sarah Sharp). She is working on the Rabbits, Biodiversity Monitoring, and Horse Management on Small Properties projects. NSW OH&S laws have changed (Jan., Workplace Health & Safety) which require more diligence in ensuring WHS conditions are satisfied when working from home. Lynton has developed a policy and checklist based on University of Sydney's documents.
- (d) Bookkeeping: One quote so far but more will be sought. Bookkeepers charge at \$65/hour. There is some concern about the estimate of hours required to undertake the work.
- (e) K2C: Lynton and Anna attended the Partners Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The emphasis was on connectivity corridors. G Howling presented information on potential connectivity corridors at a local level. Michael Mulvaney and Tim Wong (TAMS) are doing a cost analysis and Rainer recommended a detailed analysis. K2C's structure suits this project, which will give partners scientific support for on-ground project applications.
- (f) CLA: Lynton prepared a submission on the Centenary Trail project for CLA: an EIS should be drawn up for this project, due to impact of increased visitation rates.

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

- (a) K2C: The Myer Foundation has given K2C \$200,000 over 3 years to set up Conservation Management Networks in the K2C region, concentrating on grasslands in conjunction with Victorian networks. This will be a joint venture with K2C Partners and also with equivalent organisations in Victoria, who will get their own funds. With the K2C Atlas, the "plants, fish, and mammals" sections are now being worked on. The MCMA, under the Community Partnerships Program, is writing up and testing indigenous practices and methods of land management using the knowledge of Rod Mason (Ngarigo Elder) as a guide. The K2C newsletter is now available.
- (b) Along the Molonglo: Canberra Show, CSIRO Discovery Centre, opens 24<sup>th</sup> April (during Heritage Week), 5:30 for a 6:00 pm start. Dr. John Williams will open the exhibition. 3 prizes, 30 entries. Queanbeyan Show, Trinculo Place Gallery, opens 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1:30 pm for 2:00 pm start. The show will dovetail with a promotion and training on platypus and water rat monitoring, and a workshop to be held on the following Tuesday (6:00 pm) in the Council Chambers, Crawford Street. Two walks have also been organised.

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

- (a) Some financials provided.
- (b) Lynton viewed first audit and isn't sure our numbers are right.
- (c) \$171,000 in the bank.
- (d) After some bills have been paid there will be \$96,000 left.
- (e) Horse Management project, more invoices are in and we appear to be not so underspent.
- (f) \$4,800 covers Mary's salary doing feedback and financial analysis.
- (g) Biodiversity project is underspent at present, but Mary's pay will take up the slack.

**10 MCG Coordinator's Report – Anna See.**

- (a) See report sent out by email.

- (b) Rural Land Health and Biodiversity: Hydrology in the Majura Valley, landholders are concerned since the Majura Parkway plans release.
- (c) PlaceStories: Training day on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, with a few people attending.
- (d) BoB: Meet tomorrow. Cons. Council has appealed the development application for Coombs as lizard habitats haven't been fully taken into consideration. Some houses have been removed from the plan as a result because of concerns about the bush fire outer asset protection zone located in lizard habitat, hence conflicting land uses and management, and the recreation reserve, etc. Formation of BoB groups for Googong and the East Lake development are dependent on the Cons. Council pursuing conservation issues ("BoB Principles") with the developers.
- (e) Molonglo Catchment Strategy: Anna will meet with Matt de Jongh from MCMA in early May to discuss their Action Plan review and our Strategy review.
- (f) UMCCC: Anna, Lynton and Stephen attended the UMCCC field day (11<sup>th</sup> April) at Taliesin Hill, beyond the end of Wanna Wanna Road, an excellent site to gauge connectivity across the landscape, close by and further out. Anna took video images from there in preparation for the UMCCC Forum in October, which will be about landscape connectivity.
- (g) Waterwatch: Anna is supporting Stephen with WW stuff at present.
- (h) Horse Workshops: Anna will discuss follow on workshops with Lara Odell from ACTEW shortly.
- (i) Reedy Creek LC: Assisted RCLC with their WONS application.
- (j) Attended Majura Valley Parkway Stakeholder reference group meeting. Investigating the possible heritage structure found on Ette Southwell's property.
- (k) Attended Sustainable Tracks Workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Reedy Creek LC are keen to work with us, re Kowen and sustainable tracks management.
- (l) Rabbits Workshops: Two held so far with 50 people attending, each receiving 20 kg of carrots for free feeding. Last workshop is to be at Burra this weekend with 34 people registered to attend so far. More than 1.75 tonnes of carrots will be distributed for free feeding of rabbits.

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

- (a) See report circulated at meeting.
- (b) Platypus and Water Rat: A public walk will be held 2 weeks before 3<sup>rd</sup> June for training re platypus and water rats.
- (c) World Wetland Day BBQ: Held at Dickson Wetlands, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Stephen was the only one from the department who attended (the others were sick or elsewhere).
- (d) Bermagui Bioblitz: 30-31<sup>st</sup> March. The Bermagui Bioblitz was a survey event in association with the Atlas of Living Australia held over a weekend to assess all living things in and around Bermagui, engaging local naturalist with support from scientists. A fun event.
- (e) Clean Energy Public Forum: Queanbeyan, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. If the political will was there we could all be using clean energy right now.
- (f) Highs and Lows of River and Wetland Health: CSIRO Discovery Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. If river flows are maintained then riparian vegetation adapts and survives, low flows are deadly.
- (g) Palerang Council: 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Review of water allocation in Western Palerang sub-catchments into the future. Ground water extraction on small blocks can really damage the water regime!
- (h) ERG Burra Monitoring Subcommittee: Stephen met with Chris Pulkinen and Norm Mueller for some useful general discussion of findings, in plain English on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

## 12 Members Report – Margaret Piper.

- (a) A commercial diving company are pressure cleaning the pillars of the Monaro Street Bridge over the Queanbeyan River on the Eastern side near the art gallery. They are taking the water for their machines straight out of the river, which is platypus habitat. They're checking once cleaning is completed for cracks in the concrete. Media, the last program in the e-Squared series is being screened on ABC TV on Wednesday at 1:30 pm. This is a series of programs on sustainable projects in various cities around the world.

## 13 Members Report – Jim Arnold.

- (a) Friends of Aranda Bushland: The Bushland Forest Walking Track has been reopened after rejuvenation. Radford College kids have been fulfilling social obligations doing track maintenance. An official complaint has been made about the neighbour's weeds.
- (b) NSA: There is to be a field visit to Nanima Gold property on the Yass River, which suffered from erosion and where leaky weirs have been used to remedy the problem. Major-General Jeffries will attend.

## 14 Members Report – Karen Williams.

- (a) Oaks Estate River Project: Tree and debris removal has been completed and the next stage of the project, replanting, is about to begin. Community input is now required, in conjunction with leadership and education from GA. Karen, Terry, Megan and John will meet with Haydn and Angela from GA to discuss community expectations and organise a public planting day. MCG can help with a BBQ on planting days, etc.

## 15 Members Report – Tom Baker.

- (a) QLC: Anna will be invited to attend a QLC meeting in either May or July to address the meeting for half an hour or so. QLC is to sponsor a platypus and water rat conservancy seminar on World Environment Day, 5<sup>th</sup> June, at the Crawford Street Centre. QLC will design a mosaic for the Crawford Street redevelopment around the theme of "River and Environment". An update for the QLC web page is currently being drafted. QLC will actively support the Fernleigh Group's planting day on National Tree Day, 29<sup>th</sup> July. QLC will submit a reply to the QCC Draft Vision Statement. There will be a mulch spreading working bee at the Railway Public Gardens on 7<sup>th</sup> April at 9:00 am. An urgent letter will be drafted for QCC re. cut down fences allowing 4 wheel drives and motor bikes access into the Edwin Land Parkway site, and the need for erosion control. The annual Cuumbeun Nature Reserve walk is to be held on 6 May, 9:30 am to noon.

## 16 Members Report – John Bruggeman.

- (a) FOG: A working bee is to be held at Stirling Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> April for weed removal in preparation for a burning regime to remove some of biomass in the area.
- (b) John is about to do the fourth round of photo monitoring for the Oaks Estate River Project.

## 17 Business.

- (a) Queanbeyan Art Show: Tom has suggested that MCG support the annual art show with a small cash prize. The prize will be known as "The Platypus Prize".

**Motion:** Karen Williams / Lynton Bond

**"That MCG contribute \$200 special prize for the Queanbeyan Art Show."**

**Carried.**

- (b) Conservation Council Biodiversity Working Group: Discussion about what is desirable to see as promises for the environment with the up-coming ACT elections in October.

**18 Next Meeting.**

Exec. & General Meeting: Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 5:00 – 6:30 pm.  
MCG Office: Unit 13 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro St Queanbeyan.

**19 Closure.**

The meeting was closed at 6:45 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	11/07/11	In Progress
AW	Review MCG Small Grants Project Funding process	11/04/11	11/07/11	In Progress
JA	Investigate effects of Starane on frogs, Jim to write to Dow Chemicals for info. Progress report at next meeting.	13/02/12	ASAP	In Progress
LB	Research Austcover Associations Liability Insurance and report back	19/03/12	ASAP	In Progress

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(Chairman)

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(Date)