



## MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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

### 1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5.04pm by Lynton Bond, President, in the chair. A warm welcome was extended to all present.

### 2. Attendance/Apologies

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Anna See, Margaret Piper, John Bruggeman, Karen Williams, Tom Baker, Maryke Booth and Stephen Skinner.

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge and Jim Arnold.

### 3. Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Karen requested that paragraph 17 of the minutes be amended by inserting "Environmental" before "Management Action Plan". This was agreed.

The minutes were circulated and accepted.

### 4. Business Arising

Lynton will approach ACT Property Group regarding new office accommodation.

### 5. Action Table

See table at end of minutes.

### 6. Correspondence List

#### In:

- a. 2 January, Australian Government – information about Outlook Conference (future food/farming);
- b. 29 January, Australian Government (addressed to Tom Baker) – MCG charity has been transferred from the Australian Taxation Office to Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC);
- c. 4 February, NSW Government Environmental Trust – horse project has been acquitted.

#### Out:

- a. 9 January, ACTEW Water – Burra Spray Safe and Save and Weed ID workshops grant application;
- b. 4 February, Mark Attiwill, CIC Developers – letter regarding breach of the silt retention dam at Googong;

- c. 6 February, Media contacts – Media Release “Platypus in trouble due to muddy water from Googong”.

## **7. President’s Report – Lynton Bond**

See report sent out by email.

Lynton and Anna visited Palerang Council to discuss the possibility of some research projects. Lynton also had discussions with Dr Sara Beavis and has put forward some possible projects for third year students.

The NSW Environmental Trust Research Grant initially included all flora and fauna surveys in Palerang. It was similar to the Rainer Rehwinkel project. The project with Palerang involved a social aspect to enhance connectivity but K2C have taken the running on this. Rainer is applying for a grant of \$50K for one year instead of \$150K for 3 years.

Lynton had discussions with Mel Hillery of Palerang Local Action Network for sustainability about Land for Wildlife – another arrow in the quiver of informing people of land connectivity. The project could extend to the broader area. It was taken up by 32 people in the Burra-Wamboin area. Land for Wildlife is a formal assessment to conserve flora and fauna.

## **8. Vice President’s Report – Karen Williams**

The Unmade Edges lunch was held on 20 January. 10-15 organisations were represented and Gai Brodtman attended. The meeting was successful and Karen undertook to arrange another meeting in February. There were lots of creative conversations regarding common causes that got all talking. ESDD planners had attended. Queanbeyan Landcare were very complimentary about the letter that Anna sent out about the dam wash out.

Karen has sent a covering letter and her thesis to Darren Chong, exploring whether it could be turned into some sort of project.

## **9. Treasurer’s Report – Maryke Booth**

The new bookkeeper, Dianne, has had 3 or 4 sessions and is getting a handle on things. The finance report is now in a new format. It takes the data out of MYOB and puts it in CALXA.

Discussion focussed on the format of the finance report and the committee agreed that the new format contained too much detail. The report should be an overview of the budget of the whole organisation and there is no need to show specific project details. These would only be needed if something was going wrong with the project.

**Action:** Maryke to provide next month’s report at organisational level.

## **10. Coordinator’s Report – Anna See**

See report sent out by email.

The new reporting period is to 23 June. Some items from the last period have been carried forward: meeting CIC, BoB and MCG Strategy.

Anna provided Pindone training for 11 Carwoola residents on 9 February and is talking with Burra regarding a grant application.

Anna has held discussions with Darren Chong, NRM Indigenous Facilitator, about potential indigenous engagement opportunities and is meeting with Darren Chong and Michael Weir, ISIC, on Wednesday.

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

See report circulated by email.

Stephen advised that Waterwatch has moved into a new reporting period.

Stephen remarked that we seem to get involved in wetlands in and outside ACT and are being used as consultants. John asked if we could charge for these services and Lynton advised that we may have to. Stephen is running very close to budget and if people want his advice we may have to charge for it. Stephen does not think Planning or AECON will object to paying, the issue is how we go about it and the risk is what is expected of Stephen in his position.

Karen asked what other things Stephen, who is funded as Waterwatch coordinator, is expected to be involved in. Stephen replied that government planners or AECON or Greening Australia ask his advice on setting up wetlands and what plants are suitable.

Stephen commented that strange looking wetlands have appeared at Hume near Isabella Drive. He does not know anything about it and where it fits into the scheme of things. It appears to have been built in isolation, at the site of the next lot of factories.

Stephen has done a draft report on frogs based on figures from Anke-Maria who has money to employ someone to do the statistics and write her report.

Tom asked if artificial wetlands had been proposed for Jerrabomberra Creek. Stephen replied that there had been discussions about what was to be done. AECON had come up with a beautifully drawn plan but it won't catch water and plants won't grow, etc.

#### **12. Project Report – Anna See on behalf of Rachel Marks**

See report circulated by email.

Rabbit Control Program – Rachel is conducting Pindone training. Most participants were concerned about eagles. The training is confronting regarding the risks to other animals.

Biodiversity Monitoring – Rachel is training several groups including Friends of Black Mountain.

Don advised that he had the key for Burra hall for Pindone training and asked if people had to book. Lynton advised that we have to pay \$22 per head for the training so we should really ask people to RSVP. Anna stated that Rachel has had approximately 24 responses. Once a person has done the training they get certified. We are paying for course material and Phil McGrath's time.

**13. Member's Report – Margaret Piper**

Margaret recommended that everyone read Tim Flannery's Quarterly Essay, especially the section on a new way forward, about what to do regarding the huge extinction of wildlife in Australia.

**14. Member's Report – John Bruggeman**

John advised that the axe grinding grooves around Ginninderra Creek were not visible any more.

On 3 February John took part in the woody weed removal on Capitol Hill with Friends of Grasslands.

John went to Black Mountain with Karen and Linda to show them the Aboriginal stone circle.

John will attend a hearing on Friday regarding the building up of land in Stirling Park for diplomatic missions. The new Prime Minister's lodge is going on Attunga Point. Karen commented that button wrinklewort is found there and John replied that the Canberra and District Historical Society is meeting about the issue tomorrow. The NCA report states that there are two aboriginal sites in Stirling Park but the whole park is an aboriginal site.

**15. Member's Report – Karen Williams**

Oaks Estate – stage 2 of the clearing has been done. The willows have been cleared and you can now see the cobbles of the old crossing. In spite of the massive machinery used the riverbed is still the same and you can recognise the cobbles. It was a remarkable job, ripping out the willows without destroying the riverbed, and there are now lots of baby water dragons.

**16. Member's Report – Tom Baker**

Tom presented the committee with invitations to the "Along the Molonglo" exhibition and suggested it would be nice if as many as possible could attend. There are 3 competitions in one: one for the Artists Society of Canberra, one for high schools and colleges of the Queanbeyan/Canberra Region and one for individuals, anyone affiliated with us.

Queanbeyan has an annual art exhibition of "Along the Molonglo". This year it will be held on 2 June. Margaret suggested that this year it could be called "175 Years Strong".

The Canberra Regional Fishing Alliance has a NSW DPI Habitat Action Grant to re-snap the river and do some planting just down from Dane St.

QCC have finished clearing the woody weeds from riverside between the low level crossing and the railway bridge. Expect there to be a planting working bee on National Tree Day in June.

Tom advised that QCC would be holding a Sustainability Expo, this year 6-7 September, with workshops.

QLC is also pestering QCC about removing *Acacia baileyana* on Mt Jerrabomberra.

**17. Member's Report – Maryke Booth**

Royalla - a solar farm is to be constructed in the ACT. A Residents' Group has been formed. Stephen advised that Guises Creek is to be remediated and the ground cleared and levelled out to put a solar farm there. Maryke said there were concerns about disturbing wildlife, the type of grass to be planted, etc. Another property is proposed to be subdivided into 30 blocks of 2.5 acres and a special dispensation has been proposed to do it. In the LEP (still in draft), it is proposed to resume a section of reserve land off Booth Road instead of putting a crossing over the railway. Royalla Landcare has concerns about destroying grassy box woodland during development.

The 355 Committee wants to plant more heritage elm trees. Maryke has the casuarina project.

Royalla is "doing the rabbit thing". Maryke will remind people.

Maryke proposed a project for MCG: education for landholders. She has noticed lots of trees dying, possibly 30-40 trees. This is not due to people bulldozing but to water courses, etc, being changed. The problem will be featured in a newsletter and Anna will provide brochures on paddock trees.

**18. Member's Report – Don Fraser**

At the Landcare meeting last Monday, money from ACTEW may have been paid into Council for replacing trees. There was a grant of \$300 from MCG through Sandy some time ago. Does MCG want the money back or can Burra Landcare use it. Lynton advised him to just use it.

**19. Member's Report – Carol Billett**

Friends of Black Mountain: a weeding day was held on 2 February. 9 people attended and a considerable amount of Sollya and other weeds was removed.

Shane Rattenbury is meeting with FoBM on site on 23 February.

FoBM's next General Meeting is on 28 February.

Linda and Carol will attend the Conservation Council forum on 20 February.

FoBM's next weeding day is on 2 March.

**20. Member's Report - Lynton Bond**

Carwoola Landcare: a Pindone workshop was held last Saturday.

Lynton is working on the Glossy Black Cockatoo project at two sites.

**21. Business**

Small grants – there is a chance that we won't have funding beyond the end of June. We may have to reduce in size. Had the last round of grants been acquitted?

Maryke said she may not be able to acquit but could transfer it to a newsletter project. She did not see a problem in carrying it forward.

Anna stated that grants had been given to 7 groups and asked if the money should be spent before the end of the financial year. Lynton advised that nominally it was discretionary money but it can also fit into support for community groups and so could be RIS funding in which case it is not discretionary, and has to be acquitted.

Lynton proposed that we offer grants again this year and set a limit of \$800. The committee agreed.

Anna advised that we have credit in Greening Australia for trees. Maryke, John and Karen can use it.

**22. Other Business**

Margaret mentioned that there had been a huge flood at the railway station. It had created a dam that actually came into the historic ticket office. Landcare had cleaned up.

**23. Next Meeting**

Executive and General Meeting: Monday, 18 March 2013, 5:00-6:30pm.  
MCG Office: Unit 13 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

**24. Meeting Closed**

The meeting was closed at 6:58pm

Action By	Details	Start Date	Due Date	Completed
MB	Financial report at organisational level	11/2/13	18/3/13	In progress

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(Chairman)

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(Date)