

# **MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.**

**ABN 78 210 867 987**



**MCG Executive and General Meeting**  
Monday, 18 March 2013

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

## **1. Opening**

The meeting was opened at 5.05pm by Lynton Bond, President, in the chair, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

## **2. Attendance/Apologies**

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Anna See, Stephen Skinner, Karen Williams, Margaret Piper, Jim Arnold, Linda Beveridge, Tom Baker, Maryke Booth, Carol Billett.

Apologies were received from Don Fraser and John Bruggeman.

## **3. Minutes of 11 February 2013**

Karen requested that the last sentence of paragraph 8 of the minutes be amended to “ESDD planners had attended. Queanbeyan Landcare were very complimentary about the letter that Anna sent out about the dam wash out”.

The minutes were circulated and accepted, subject to the above amendment (proposed by Karen, seconded by Maryke).

## **4. Business Arising**

Discussion arose regarding new office accommodation. Margaret asked if McKeahnie Street would be suitable and Lynton advised that it was not appropriate. Linda asked if there was any accommodation available in Queanbeyan and Lynton replied that there was none. Tom suggested Dairy Flats and Lynton advised that it was no longer an education centre and not available.

## **5. Action Table**

See table at end of minutes.

## **6. Correspondence List**

### **In:**

- a. Email dated 18 March 2013 from The NSW Environmental Trust inviting grant applications;
- b. Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards.

### **Out:**

- a. submission to Palerang re draft LEP;
- b. Letter of support, Greening Australia Environmental Centre;

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

See report circulated by email.

There was some discussion on use of our website and the use of RSS. At present we cannot tell how many people are using it and Lynton had discontinued its maintenance, but after the social media webinar that Rachel had logged in to, restarted it. Lynton has subscribed to many other feeds to help keep up on news for the MCG website and advised that not all are useful - the NCA RSS feed for example has not been updated since December.

Tom asked what was the biological control for cape broom and Lynton there are three organisms and suggested he Google "biological control broom" to access a list.

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

Karen advised that she is forming a seed-project idea and is convening a meeting with MCG and non-government social services organisations working in Oaks Estate and Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS), focussing on the community garden and moving towards a market garden model. She would seek ministerial support and address some of the issues that have emerged during the Oaks Estate master plan consultation process. Discussion arose regarding the kind of MCG involvement required and Karen advised that this is still "just a thought" but the project would address both broader and local environmental issues (Oaks Estate in its peri-urban river corridor context integrated with the community garden as a potential example of sustainable urban agriculture. The project will also have a social inclusion focus) and she is having discussions with the President of COGS Walter Steensby and COGS Gardens co-ordinator Bob McAllister, and social services currently working in Oaks Estate.

## **9. Coordinator's Report – Anna See**

See report circulated by email.

Anna is working on a rabbit control program.

Coordinator funding has been released to pay Rachel.

Marion got back to Anna regarding another Placestory training session.

Anna met with Googong people and set up a Bush on the Boundary group.

Greening Australia is providing trees for planting and these will go to Oaks Estate.

Anna commented that MCG's participation at Canberra Show was more successful than at Floriade, which she thought was likely due to the fact that more locals and regional farmers and property owners attended the Show than Floriade. She was able to talk to a lot more relevant people.

Mel Hillery has been employed as a project officer for updating the Molonglo Catchment Strategy, using Coordinator funding. Mel will consult about the approach and Anna will provide more information at the next meeting.

Anna reported that the Bioblitz is still happening in October.

Anna is trying to obtain funding to carry out a survey of spotted-tail quolls.

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

See report circulated by email.

Stephen is still working on indigenous engagement.

Following a Sustainability Fair at ANU, he may have some undergraduates who can assist. ANU is just as interested as Canberra University in undergraduates being active.

Participation at Canberra Show was successful. Material on display and the people who were interested meshed quite well.

Stephen attended an M2G ERG at Guises Creek Fire Station; things seemed to be running well. The general consensus is that the community is involved so it holds together well.

Stephen is working on his 6 monthly report for the end of last year and will get it out when possible.

Karen asked Stephen about his walk with schoolchildren. Stephen replied that it was a good walk and the children enjoyed it. There was a good view of the river from Pine Island promontory.

Stephen advised that there has been an influx of elm leaf beetles (*Xanthogaleruca (Pyrrhalta) luteola*) all along the river. The beetle is quite small, about the size of a ladybug. Friends of Elms (FoE) in Victoria is raising money for its eradication. Linda asked if CSIRO were involved. Stephen responded that FoE is trying to engage them.

Margaret referred to Stephen's previous comments on the engagement of undergraduates and asked if he had any ideas regarding projects. Stephen replied that he had had requests from CIT, etc, for 3<sup>rd</sup> year and post-graduate students to be involved in projects such as looking at water in new suburbs. One student who is doing Yarralumla golf course for us wants to do plankton research. Stephen has the expertise and equipment so is supporting him.

Margaret mentioned an article in *Gardening Australia* about soil microbes and noted that a number of groups had been set up and wondered if we could do something similar here. Stephen said that it was a possibility.

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

The new bookkeeper is working out well. There is a lot involved in transferring the information to CALXA and she has other tasks as well so is not as advanced as they hoped to be.

The auditors report is to be tabled at this meeting and signed by Lynton and Carol. Maryke will then send it back to the auditors to add their bit. All we are agreeing to now is the report.

Maryke sought the committee's approval to sign off on the financial statements and for it to be recorded in the minutes. The financial statements were perused by the Committee. Acceptance was proposed by Maryke and seconded by Linda.

## **12. Member's Report – Tom Baker (Queanbeyan Landcare)**

Tom attended the K2C Partners' meeting with Lynton. Summaries of the meeting are in the newsletters.

Entries are starting to dribble in for the “Along the Molonglo” exhibitions. The first exhibition opens on 22 April. The second exhibition opens in Queanbeyan on 2 June. MCG has contributed \$400 towards the prize money for the latter.

The mosaic project is continuing. The next session will be on Sunday at Tom’s. The mosaic will go into the new precinct in Crawford Street.

There will be a neighbourhood planting on Sunday with people involved in digging holes and planting trees for the Glossy Black-Cockatoo project.

### **13. Member’s Report – Linda Beveridge (Friends of Black Mountain)**

FoBM carried out weeding on 2 February. 9 people attended and pulled out 16 cubic metres of sollya. More weeding was carried out on 2 March on the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) side of the fence. 14 people attended and removed more Sollya (*Billardiera heterophylla*) as well as approximately 100 *Acacia baileyana*.

Linda mentioned that a member of FoBM is a basket maker and had taken some of the sollya on 2 February to weave into baskets for an exhibition of baskets using native plants which will be held in April. The member had told her friends about it and consequently more basket weavers came to help with the weeding on 2 March.

Further weeding on the ANBG side of the fence will be carried out on 6 April. Linda has a meeting with ANBG on 17 April to formalise a policy regarding weeding.

FoBM Coord Group met with the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury, on 23 February. Issues raised included becoming a park care group and signs for trails (walking and cycling) including the Centenary Trail. The group also canvassed the idea of a bush etiquette brochure and the Telstra Tower displays. The bush etiquette brochure is still in the embryonic phase, and Rosemary Blemings has drafted the key principles and is our key contact. We request that MCG support this idea if it arises at Catchment Group and/or Landcarer meetings.

A biodiversity monitoring workshop was held on 26 February. Special thanks is due to Rachel, Sarah Sharpe and Rosemary Purdie. The next workshop is planned for June.

Gunghalin College ecology students are doing great work with Michael Doherty of CSIRO. Their teacher is very pleased with the progress.

FoBM, in conjunction with MCG, are mounting a display at the ANBG Family Picnic day on 7 April from 11am – 3pm. If anyone can assist, please let Linda or Carol know.

On 28 April there will be a heritage walk on the Forest Loop as part of the Heritage Festival. Linda has arranged for various speakers – Karen to talk about landscapes, John on aboriginal heritage and a person to talk about plants. She will also have brochures for sale and might use “Our Patch”. The meeting point is the car park three quarters of the way up Black Mountain Drive, before the main car park. On last October’s walk a participant found a spider which had not seen before and appears to be unique to the leaf litter on Black mountain. The man received accreditation for discovering the spider so Linda is sending notes to ParkCare Coord, etc regarding advance notice of hazard reduction burns. Anna reminded everyone that as FoBM is still not recognised as a ParkCare group they have to go through MCG for insurance purposes. Rangers cannot approve “work”. Linda advised that she is trying to work with Parks and Conservation towards shared goals. Lynton commented that the main issue is that there are not enough rangers for ParkCare groups.

**14. Member's Report – Maryke Booth (Royalla)**

10 people attended for Clean Up Australia Day. 20 bags of recycling and piles of rubbish were collected.

Maryke is about to start poisoning rabbits. She is not sure how many residents are taking it up and will send out a letter.

Maryke went to Darren Le Roux's bat presentation. Darren wrote an article for the Molonglo e-newsletter.

Maryke is attending a biological weed control day in April at Scottsdale.

**15. Member's report – Jim Arnold**

Jim attended the Upper Murrumbidgee chapter of the Natural Sequence Association AGM where it was agreed to wind up the association.

Jim is continuing to help with the rabbit project for Friends of Aranda Bushland, with the contractors starting next week. The rabbit population has doubled and Jim will monitor the burrows he knows. Fumigating, not using Pindone, will be carried out in early April.

**16. Member's Report – Karen Williams (Oaks Estate)**

Stage 2 of the river project is progressing and is about to lose the weeds. Follow up tree planting will occur in May. There will be approximately 300 plants, grasses and trees to be planted. Lynton asked if we could support with a barbecue. Karen agreed and will provide details later.

**17. Member's Report – Lynton Bond (Carwoola)**

Yesterday was a weeding day. Five people showed up, including 3 new people.

13 bags of recycling and 57 bags of rubbish were collected on Clean Up Australia Day as well as a half ton truck that had been dumped.

**18. Business**

Mugga Tip Expansion - there was discussion on whether we should write a submission. Stephen advised that the offset is not as good as first thought. The dump will take what was previously pasture with grassy box woodlands. Canberra rubbish has dropped by 67% but will still need a tip for a number of years. Anna advised that MCG will write a letter voicing concerns.

Coombs Molonglo Riverside Park - Anna went to a meeting about Coombs. The meeting seemed to address our concerns. The area does look manicured but still very weedy with a protected area for pink-tailed worm lizards. Lynton stated if that is the case then he has no concerns. If there were an issue then it may be putting in paths which may fragment the worm lizards' habitat. Anna advised that a worm lizard expert said that paths will not affect them.

ANBG Family Picnic Day - Lynton asked for volunteers to help at the Family Day. Stephen, Lynton and Karen volunteered.

Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Awards 2013 – Lynton, as Treasurer of Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc, is trying to get more people involved and said that if anyone knows of any local Landcare heroes then please let him know. The awards are funded by Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority so would apply to NSW residents.

**19. Other Business**

Linda had received expressions of interest from the Canberra Centre and Woden Plaza about having the display trailer in the shopping centres. She and Anna will talk to the contact officers. Lynton commented that the trailer is looking very tired and may have to be refurbished.

**20. Next Meeting**

The next Executive and General Meeting will be held on Monday, 8 April 2013, 5:00-6.30pm at the MCG Office at Unit 13 Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

**21. Meeting Closed**

The meeting was closed at 6:53pm.

**22. Action Table**

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

.....  
(Chairman)

.....  
(Date)