

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting
Monday, 17 June 2013

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

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 5.02pm 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, Karen Williams, Linda Beveridge, Stephen Skinner, Don Fraser, Carol Billett, Margaret Piper and Maryke Booth.

Apologies were received from Tom Baker, Jim Arnold and John Bruggeman.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 13 May 2013

No minutes were recorded for 13 May 2013 as an executive meeting was not held and no decisions were made. Instead, the committee took part in an extended meeting to develop the Catchment strategic plan under the guidance of Mel Hillery. Lynton had received an email from Mel this afternoon. She was initially engaged for 200 hours and has used 170. She needs approximately 24 to put the strategy together. She has sent a large part of it to Lynton and Anna already, including Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics regarding demographics.

4. Correspondence

In:

- a. Notification from Landcare Australia seeking nominations for the 2013 State and Territory Landcare Awards;
- b. Brochure from All Stake Supply;
- c. Landcare coordinator Burra requesting contact details;
- d. Email of thanks from Kate De Smeth;
- e. Letter from EDO seeking support and/or funding.

Out: Nil

5. Reports

a. President's Report – Lynton Bond

See full report circulated by email.

Lynton advised that he and Ro McFarlane had, in effect, two days to put together an application for funding for the next 5 years. The UMCCC is not to be funded into the future. Also, our bid for a continuation of the Biodiversity Monitoring Project, including the BioBlitz, was not supported by the ACT NRM Council. Waterwatch will no longer be directly funded and will have to continue on a

volunteer basis. The Commonwealth does not want to fund waterways, other than coastal waterways. Lynton does not want to see the Waterwatch program lose momentum so we must continue to support them. We are likely to get Murray-Darling Basin funding but not for another 12-18 months. Money is tight and we have to be careful what sort of support we give to member groups. There is no funding to continue to employ Rachel (Marks) and she will finish up on 30 June. As a result, sadly, she will no longer be involved in BioBlitz, which had been regarded as “her” project. Thanks are due to Rachel. Maryke has sent an email to the committee about Crowdfunding Creativity as a possible way of fundraising. Maryke mentioned that fees were involved, however the site had had some success.

b. Coordinator’s Report – Anna See

See report circulated by email.

400 trees were planted at Ette Southwell’s property. Rachel and Stephen ran an Autumn Wander. Horse property visits were going well. Two Year 11 students from Karrabar High School successfully undertook work experience with MCG from 20-24 May. They wrote a Placestory and helped engage with local Aboriginal groups. Woolshed Creek is going ahead. There were issues with the springs near Ette Southwell’s property.

c. Vice-President’s Report – Karen Williams

An application has been made to ACT Heritage for a grant for 4 Walks-and-Talks at locations in the catchment. Karen opened and judged the entries for the *Along the Molonglo* prize at the Queanbeyan Art Society Gallery. There was a good attendance at the exhibition. Karen had convened an initial meeting at Oaks Estate about the community garden and was looking to arrange a meeting with a higher level of stakeholders and broader involvement. She was considering changing the management of the garden to a market garden model. She thought it would be beneficial, from an education aspect, to have MCG involvement and Lynton stated that MCG would definitely want to be involved. Karen was also considering arranging a meeting with City Farm and Lynton commented that City Farm is focussed on training the community in community and home vegetable gardening. He also mentioned that Mel Hillery is on the Palerang FuturePLANS committee for developing community sustainability.

d. Treasurer’s Report – Maryke Booth

See report circulated by email.

Maryke had produced spreadsheets with details of all projects. Lynton advised that an account had been set up for the administration of projects and funding. We should be comparing the actuals with the budget as it is close to the end of the financial year. Net operating shows an underspend of \$23K. The Waterwatch project is pretty much on budget. The Biodiversity Monitoring project is underspent, even though the project is not continuing. The money will be used to continue to support groups. The Rabbit Control project is overspent by \$17K in salary and office costs and will be recovered from the Biodiversity monitoring project. Accounts have been set up as there will be a much tighter rein on the budget next year. Lynton is meeting with the auditors this Thursday and will ask if the proposed methodology is acceptable. Maryke suggested we should employ someone as a direct employee to do the bookkeeping.

e. Waterwatch Coordinator’s Report – Stephen Skinner

See report circulated by email.

Stephen advised that there are 54 volunteers for 24 sites and community engagement is already happening. He had dug out 5 boxes of reeds from the cut-off reach of Woolshed Creek to save and replant when the new channel has been completed. Areas of the new creek line will be ready for re-planting when the engineers are ready to take out the drains. Stephen is in negotiations with an environmental survey company. At Googong, CIC want the river below Montgomery Creek surveyed and rang Stephen as the expert. That has now gone silent; however, as long as we are not making a profit, we can charge for his expertise and use it to fund MCG. Stephen attended the AWA conference and gave a synopsis of discussions/presentations. He also mentioned that Professor Ross Thompson from the Australian Society of Limnology is talking about urban wetlands at the Union in the University of Canberra this week and it would be well worth hearing.

f. Member's Report – Linda Beveridge (Friends of Black Mountain)

The Black Mountain heritage Walk on 28 April was attended by 20 people and was led by Karen Williams, John Bruggeman and Rosemary Purdie. 50% of the group had not been to a heritage event before and 50% were not members of FoBM so were able to increase membership. The display trailer was open and people took brochures. Thanks to Karen Williams, John Bruggeman and Rosemary Purdie for their involvement and expertise. On 4 May FoBM carried out weeding in the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) and again on 4 June when FoBM was joined by Friends of ANBG. 10 people attended that session. Linda organised the MCG display at the launch of *Labour of Love*. FoBM has received an invitation from Frogwatch to take part in the revegetation project. FoBM is interested in getting a website up and running. The next biodiversity monitoring will occur on 9 July. There has been interest from schools about biodiversity monitoring. The next weeding day is 6 July. Linda has had informal conversations with Parks and Conservation Services and they are happy for FoBM to do things on Black mountain as long as it does not involve work or them providing us with equipment. The hazard reduction burn on Black mountain covered about 20 hectares and Linda is chasing an updated map of the fire history on Black mountain. Rosemary Purdie has produced a detailed map of woody weeds.

g. Member's Report – Maryke Booth (Royalla)

Royalla has got funding for biological weed control but it is not sufficient to do a lot of properties. Maryke would like to put out an information kit.

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

The plants are growing, thanks to the rain. The River Rehabilitation project management team has gone quiet.

i. Member's Report – Don Fraser (Burra)

The Palerang Director of Works came to a meeting about the trees in the park. 14 100 years old pine trees are to be removed. Tenders were called for their removal and the job has been awarded to the lowest tenderer at \$20K, which is ACTEW's donation. The removed trees are to be mulched. A local person, Juliet Ramsey, who is a landscape architect and also on the Palerang Heritage Committee, has taken on the whole project as a volunteer. A public meeting was held to discuss her plans and one has been chosen. Advice has been sought from Max Burke at the Arboretum who recommended planting tubestock. Lynton said that he also recommended tubestock except for casuarinas which can be planted at 8ft and still be successful. Don advised they are planting a mix of trees including snow gums.

k. Member's Report – Tom Baker (Queanbeyan Landcare)

Report forwarded by email:

Queanbeyan Landcare was successful with a Highly Commended in Murrumbidgee Landcare Awards under Urban Landcare. Queanbeyan Landcare was successful in obtaining a Community Landcare Grant of \$10K, to breed and promulgate the mite *Aculus hyperici* as a hopeful bio control of St Johns Wort. Working with councils, DPI, landcare, etc to determine how and where this is needed. We are preparing submissions sought by QCC on the Species Impact Statement and design for the proposed Ellerton Drive Extension, which will travel through a significant length of intact bushland to the east of Greenleigh.

6. Business

MCG CFoC Funding

Lynton suggested forming a fundraising committee. He has found a service that tells what funding is available and will subscribe to it again. Anna has sent out an email about membership numbers. The drop in funding is \$30K. Stephen currently visits schools to talk about Waterwatch. If we are not funded for Waterwatch we may have to charge the schools: we will charge a fee to people who wish to use Stephen's services. We need to look at ways to raise money. Maryke suggested that the quickest way to raise money is through grant applications. Lynton asked again if we wanted to start a fundraising committee, but no motion was put. He mentioned that Queanbeyan currently has grants open for community groups and he has suggested to Stephen that he apply for funding for platypus watch.

7. Other Business.

There was no other business.

8. Next Meeting

The next Executive and General Meeting will be held on Monday, 8 July 2013 at 5.00-6.30pm at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

9. Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 6.41pm.

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Chairman

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(Date)