

# **MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.**

**ABN 78 210 867 987**



## **MCG Executive and General Meeting**

Monday, 12 August 2013

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

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The meeting was opened at 5.04pm by Lynton Bond, President, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, Anna See, Margaret Piper, Tom Baker, Don Fraser, Maryke Booth, Linda Beveridge, Carol Billett, Stephen Skinner, Woo O'Reilly and Joslyn Van Der Moolen, ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator.

Apologies were received from John Bruggeman

Lynton introduced Joslyn Van Der Moolen, ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator.

### **2. Minutes of Meeting of 8 July 2013**

The minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Karen had forwarded amendments, which had been incorporated, and the minutes were accepted (proposed by Karen and seconded by Tom).

### **3. Business Arising**

As agreed at the meeting of 8 July 2013, a letter had been sent to the ACT Government expressing concern at the proposed sale of land for development at Watson.

### **4. Correspondence**

#### **In:**

- a. 11 July: NSW Environmental Trust, unsuccessful "Go for Green and Gold" grant application (weed management on the Molonglo River downstream from Captains Flat);
- b. 26 July: Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan;
- c. 6 August: 2013 ACT Landcare Awards invitations;
- d. 9 August: ACT Water Report;
- e. 9 August: Simon Corbell media release - \$6 million over 5 years awarded to ACT (ACT NRM funding).

#### **Out:**

- a. 18 July: Submission regarding Watson development.

## **5. Reports**

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

See full report circulated by email.

Karen will attend the Catchment and Landcare Association meeting at Stromlo Depot on 15 August.

There will be a presentation at the Conservation Council on 28 August by R. Ransome, as arranged by Territory and Municipal Services, on NES for the Stage 2 of Molonglo Development and the Management Plan for the River Corridor. Karen may possibly attend.

### **b. K2C Report – Tom Baker**

Rainer Rehwinkel, OEH, has taken over as Chair of K2C. The current K2C Facilitator, Lauren Van Dyke, is leaving after serving since the inception of K2C. K2C is working through a strategic planning process involving its 11 partners. This planning process will feed into re-negotiated MOU with the Partners. K2C and several Partners have recently participated in consultations for the Myer Foundation funded Native Grassland Project. This component is part of the preparation of best practice management manuals for native grasslands in south east Australia.

### **c. Vice-President's Report – Karen Williams**

Karen submitted the nomination of TAMS and the Oaks Estate community (Queanbeyan Landcare, MCG, Oaks Estate/Queanbeyan residents) to the Partnerships in Landcare Award and will attend the awards ceremony on 5 September.

Karen has volunteered to replace Anna as the Bush on the Boundary convenor from September 2013.

Karen attended the Molonglo2 Urban Edge Master Plan – Community and Industry Reference Group information session.

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

See financial reports circulated by email.

Maryke thanked Lynton for stepping in for her at the last meeting. She advised that Dianne is almost on top of everything and thinks that she will not have to work as many hours in future. She has completed some audits and the rabbit project audit was finished today. Lynton noted that the Profit and Loss statement went only to the end of the year so it looked as though some projects had run out of money.

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

See report circulated by email.

Final reports for the Coordinator, Waterwatch and Biodiversity projects have been completed and submitted.

Anna is currently working on increasing attendance at the Burra Spray Safe and Save course which will be funded through ACTEW Source Water. It comprises a two day workshop to be held on 21-22 September with the option to attend an alternative weed management evening on 25 September.

Anna has been assisting Rachel with the organisation of BioBlitz to be held from 25-27 October and they continue to work with CSIRO Discovery and the ACT Government on this.

#### **f. Molonglo Catchment Officer Report – Stephen Skinner**

See report circulated by email.

Stephen advised that there is a meeting later this week about the state of wetlands. On 5 August he attended the Conservation Council's Water Group meeting and on 6 August attended *Water for the Future – Striking a Balance* public meeting. He is currently working on Woolshed Creek and the Majura Parkway.

Stephen reminded everyone that August is platypus month and has arranged a walk on Sunday, 18 August. The Committee then discussed the lack of platypus "counters" and how to encourage participation. Maryke suggested that the Wednesday Walking Group take it on. Tom advised that the group has been approached and is going to get back to him. Stephen was interviewed by WIN TV regarding the incident last week at Kambah Pool where a dead platypus and some crayfish were found in an illegal fish trap. Woo said she would talk to Waterwatch and try to encourage some action regarding the incident. There is a lack of enforcement and low fines for illegal fish traps. Lynton referred to a Canberra Times article and comment that anglers are not being checked for licences. Karen suggested a letter to the editor of the Canberra Times.

#### **g. Member's Report – Linda Beveridge (Friends of Black Mountain)**

Linda thanked Lynton for his assistance with the FoBM website. She advised that the August weeding party had included Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. A report has been produced on the weeding for the last 6 months and she will forward a copy to MCG. Further biodiversity monitoring was carried out in July and more will be carried out in the spring. Dates will be advised later.

Linda said that FoBM membership of the Conservation Council had been renewed, a Birds Group meeting was held in July and a couple of the weeders attended the Chilean Needlegrass workshop. FoBM has been invited to a meeting about the Centenary Trail signage. The next weeding day is 7 September and FoBM are participating in a parkcare display at Jamison on 6-8 September.

#### **h. Member's report – Maryke Booth (Royalla)**

Maryke advised that almost all the casuarinas have been planted. She is running a biological weed control workshop on 24 August with approximately 12 attendees so far. It will be held at Jerrabomberra Creek Fireshed and will target St John's Wort, Patterson's Curse and Vipers Bugloss.

Royalla now has a community website which includes committee information and a Landcare section.

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

Don advised that they are still soldiering on with tree removal and replanting. They have received a large grant from ACTEW to replace the trees in Burra Park and the money has been given to Palerang Council. A quote for \$20,000 was obtained for the removal only of the trees; however, nothing has been done because of the wet weather. The landscape architect has produced a plan for replanting and they will do that themselves, hopefully in the spring. They asked for donations to sponsor trees and have had a huge response.

Don also mentioned that Anna had kindly given them bait stations to protect a spot on the ground to poison rabbits, using pindone, but nothing else can get in.

Anna said that she would organise distribution of pindone with LHPA.

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

Tom reported that Queanbeyan Landcare worked with Queanbeyan City Council to hold a very successful community planting on the degraded section of Buttles Creek in Waniassa Street on 28 July, National Tree Day. Landcare members also removed 3 truckloads of woody weeds from the bed of the creek, which has in the past added much sediment to Queanbeyan River, just downstream. Rehabilitation of Buttles Creek has now been proceeding for 14 years, with good results.

Queanbeyan Landcare is also continuing its consultations and planning to help introduce a promising biological control agent, the microscopic mite, *Aculus hyperici*, for controlling St John's Wort, into areas where the mite has not yet spread. As part of this CFoC Community Landcare Grant funded project, 15 workshops will be held across the region, in consultation with local councils, the ACT Government and others to check specimens of St John's Wort plants for the mite's presence and for distributing infected plants to properties not holding the mite.

Queanbeyan Landcare also entered a nomination for the Environment category of the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement Award.

#### **k. Member's Report – Margaret Piper**

Margaret noted that the Queanbeyan Enviro Expo is being held on 7 September, the same day as the general election.

### **6. Business Arising**

#### **a. Art Show**

Tom had circulated an email update about the next "Along the Molonglo" art exhibition. It will be held from 6-13 April 2014 and the theme will be connectivity epitomised by the scarlet robin. It will also be the tenth anniversary of the exhibition.

Linda congratulated Tom on the success of the previous exhibition.

#### **b. Enviro Expo Roster**

Maryke advised that she is no longer available as she is having surgery and will be out of action for several weeks. Tom advised that QLC will be doing landcare and may be able to help out.

Action: Anna will send round the roster for nominations.

#### **c. Weed Information Packs**

Anna mentioned that the Ginninderra Catchment Group had a weed project at Wallaroo and she was going to provide them with weed information packs, but they were questioning whether a reprint was required as they would like to see the "Molonglo Catchment" removed from the cover. The committee agreed that the packs should be reprinted but minus the heading as other groups were paying for them.

The committee also agreed that the logos should be retained and we should now be promoting integrated weed control.

Action: Lynton to check to see how many weed packs are in storage

#### **d. Andrew Clive – Request for Funding**

Anna advised that last year MCG awarded Andrew Clive a small grant for woody weed control and he had requested it again. The amount was approximately \$400-\$500. Lynton replied that we are running on our own money now and have enough to last until the end of September. If Commonwealth funding is not received in September, we may have to stand down staff. He recommended that we respond that “no money is available yet”. Karen stated that the consensus was that Andrew is doing good work and Anna added that he is largely working on his own. Maryke suggested that we should support Andrew when finances become available and everyone agreed. Tom mentioned that MCG had previously had a working bee with Andrew at Captains Flat and we could do so again. Anna said she would consider having a meeting there.

#### **e. Draft Strategy**

Lynton advised that Mel had done as much as she can with the draft strategy and he will circulate it by email. He also mentioned that it is 6 megabytes and asked if everyone is able to receive it. He suggested that the committee have two weeks to look at it and make comments, then it should be sent to a wider audience including the Conservation Council, other catchment groups, councils, Friends’ groups and members. Margaret suggested that it also be sent to developers.

### **7. Other Business**

Lynton welcomed Joslyn Van Der Moolen, Regional Landcare Facilitator. He explained that her position is funded through CFoC and her position is hosted by the ACT Government. Joslyn advised that she is currently working full time on the Landcare Awards and winners will be advertised in the media. She gave a run down on her role and advised that Landcare Week is the first week in September and Bush Care’s Major Day Out will be held on 8 September. She encourages groups to list their activities on websites and will raise the profile of catchment groups. Joslyn is currently working on a volunteering brochure for catchment groups.

### **8. Next Meeting**

The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 9 September at 5.00-6.30pm at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

### **9. Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 6.36pm.

.....  
**Chairman**

.....  
**Date**