



## MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 14 October 2013

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

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5.07pm by Lynton Bond, President, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, John Bruggeman, Stephen Skinner, Jim Arnold, Wendy Minato (RLF Murrumbidgee), Alan Cole (Landcare Support Officer, Murrumbidgee), Don Fraser, Tom Baker, Maryke Booth and Carol Billett.

Apologies were received from Anna See and Linda Beveridge.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 12 August 2013 were unable to be accepted at the meeting of 9 September 2013 as there were not enough committee members present to form a quorum. Karen proposed that these minutes now be accepted and the motion was seconded by John.

No decisions were made at the meeting of 9 September 2013 as the Committee worked on the Catchment Strategy. Karen proposed that the minutes be accepted and the motion was seconded by John.

### 3. Correspondence

#### In:

- a. 23 September – Regional Achievement and Community Awards, invitation to Gala Presentation Dinner;
- b. 1 October – Conservation Council, invitation to Spring Mingle on 25 October and booklet launch on 30 November.

#### Out:

- a. 3 October – Deed for Heritage grants, Mary Gleeson, ACT Heritage;
- b. 8 October – Final MERI Plan, Tim Wong, ESDD.

### 4. Reports

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

See report circulated by email.

The main project had been the MERI Plan. Once the plan is accepted an invoice for funding will be submitted.

The first meeting of Googong Bush on the Boundary was held on 19 September and was reasonably successful.

Lynton has been working on functionality of the new MCG website.

**b. Vice President's Report – Karen Williams**

Karen attended her first Molonglo Bush on the Boundary meeting on behalf of MCG. She also attended the ACT Heritage grants announcement and is working with Karissa Preuss (GCG) to discuss working together on heritage grant walks-and-talks.

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

See Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statements circulated by email.

Lynton referred to the Profit and Loss Statement which is showing a \$17K loss so far this year. This is because only 20% funding has been paid so far for Stephen's and Anna's positions and we are 33% through the year. This should be rectified when the MERI plan is accepted.

Lynton mentioned that the auditors had found an error in last year's report. Maryke is working with the auditors to rectify it. Apart from that, all is fine and the auditors are pleased, especially with Diane and the way the accounts are reported.

**d. Coordinator's Report – Anna See**

See report circulated by email.

Lynton mentioned that Carwoola Landcare was not keen on more pindone baiting and asked Don about Burra. Don replied that he had sent out an email but received only one reply.

**e. Catchment Officer's Report – Stephen Skinner**

See report circulated by email.

Marist College did the woodland mapping and it was well done. 52 sites reported for water quality last month. Stephen assisted at the Frogwatch seminar on 1 October and with the refresher field evening on 11 October.

Tomorrow the planting in the bays along Woolshed Creek will commence and there are 6 or so volunteers for the project.

There was a platypus and water rat walk on 13 October. There were no platypuses but a couple of water rats were seen.

Today Stephen, Woo and a couple of volunteers did the upper catchment for water bugs for spring.

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

The Oaks Estate Master Plan has reportedly been made and may be released for comment in November.

Karen had occasion to comment on an application to Queanbeyan Council for extras an extension to the Queanbeyan Sewage Treatment plant. Most of the development is within the existing development area. The only issue is short term noise, etc.

Cattle are no longer a problem after Karen sent emails to the EPA.

**g. Member's Report – Jim Arnold (Friends of Aranda Bushland)**

Jim has been assisting Coord by mapping rabbit burrows. 27 were recorded but 8 were missed by the fumigators.

FoAB has been tackling Patterson's Curse with Brush-off. There are also problems with St John's Wort and cape weed.

FoAB is poised to take over managing weeds on a rural lease. It is not official yet but Jim thinks it will eventually be incorporated into Aranda Bushland.

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

Burra Landcare held its AGM with a quorum of 10 people. Mike Nixon has been an excellent Chair for the past 2 years and will stay on for another year. Don has been elected Secretary and the Treasurer is remaining.

A very good Spray Safe and Save course was run by Craig Day from Cowra. The following Wednesday Alison Elvin gave an excellent presentation.

Burra Landcare have started tree planting at Burra Park. The Council felled and mulched pine trees in the park. So far, 15 trees have been planted but there is no good irrigation yet.

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

Groundcover, the K2C Newsletter, is now out and can be viewed on [K2C.org.au](http://K2C.org.au). The K2C Strategic Plan is close to completion, and should be released by the next Partners Forum on Friday 15 November. Once the Plan is finalized a revised Memorandum of Understanding between partners can start to be negotiated.

The Partners Forum will also feature three guest speakers presenting on the general topic of spatial planning and mapping for connectivity. The new K2C Facilitator has been selected and will commence shortly once a contract and work plan is finalized. The Partners Forum will also include the launch of the K2C Species Atlas and the Forum will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Tom also mentioned that the Queanbeyan Landcare has two walks coming up:

A Walk over Gale Precinct woodland on 27 October, meeting at 9.30am at the top of rise along Wickerslack Lane, off Cooma Road which runs south of Queanbeyan; and

The Poplars grassland walk with Friends of Grasslands, (to be followed by walk up Mt Jerrabomberra & lunch for those keen) will be held on 23 November. Meet 9.30am on west section of Kinlyside Avenue facing woodland.

**j. Member's report – Maryke Booth (Royalla Landcare)**

Royalla held a bio-control workshop about a month ago which went very well. Almost all the St John's Wort had mites already.

Royalla's AGM is on Sunday, 10 November.

### **k. Member's Report – Carol Billett (Friends of Black Mountain)**

The weeding working party scheduled for 5 October had to be cancelled as all the usual team leaders were away. The next weeding working party will be on 2 November.

### **l. Member's Report – Lynton Bond (Carwoola Landcare)**

28 people attended yesterday's Wild Flower Walk. For the first time ever, sun orchids were seen.

Once the members' reports were concluded Lynton invited Wendy Minato and Alan Cole to address the group.

Wendy advised that she has only been in the job for 5 weeks and will produce a bio for the RLF so that we know what she does and can assist with. She mentioned that Landcare NSW is running a Hothouse Workshop which is a one day workshop about running a group and will be held on 25 October in Holbrook.

Alan is working on a cross-property project in the Junee-Tarcutta area carrying out basic surveys of flora and fauna. Alan met with Greening Australia and with networks in the Murrumbidgee catchment and the Riverina.

## **5. Business**

### **a. Weed Mapping Training**

The Atlas of Living Australia portal is nearing finalisation. Not many people have registered for training yet but the moderator training needs to be done first, which should change that. An app will be available for smartphones. The first level helps identify new and emerging weeds and a photo image can be uploaded to the website. If the image is of a weed of interest, the application will notify the relevant weed officer. The second level records the area by using the phone as a GPS and also allows records intensity of the infestation. The third level records areas which have been treated. Anna will be trained first and will then train landcare and parkcare groups. The application is a joint effort by NSW councils from the Victorian border to Booroowa and to the coast so includes the ACT.

### **b. ACNC Annual Information Statement**

MCG is registered as incorporated in ACT. When registering for an ABN it is picked up by the ATO. The idea is that we should only be providing information to Government once, which should make registering for grants, etc, simpler. Lynton is now looking after the ABN registration. We are required to submit the annual information statement by 31 December and are just waiting for the auditors' report and AGM in order to do so.

### **c. ACT Heritage Grant**

Karen advised that the grant had been awarded for four "walks and talks". There will be one walk each season in various areas around the ACT. As it was one of two applications that were accepted as indigenous projects Karen is preparing for a walk during the Heritage Festival. She has to apply to the ACT Government for approval 30 days before each walk and will probably start in late November.

### **d. ACT Environment Grant**

Lynton is not aware of what stage this is at.

**e. Website**

Lynton and Marion Benjamin have been working on the upgrade to the website to make it “snappier”. Marion now has exams and will not be available until 21 October so work will continue after that and training should commence in November.

**f. Other Business (Not on Agenda)**

Lynton had received an email from Mallika Robinson who is designing the Questabird Adventure Game Application. Mallika needs to raise \$3.5K and is using crowd-sourcing to fund it. Pledges are due by 19 October and will only be taken up if the target is reached. Mallika has asked MCG for a minimum sponsorship of \$40. The committee discussed the request and were all in favour fo supporting the project. Maryke proposed providing an amount of \$500 which was seconded by Tom.

Lynton will circulate Mallika’s email in case anyone wants to make a personal donation.

John Bruggeman will be leaving the Committee in approximately two months. Lynton stated that we will be sad to see him go.

**6. Next Meeting**

Maryke asked if the next meeting would be the AGM. Lynton replied that we are awaiting the auditors’ report.

The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 11 November 2013 at 5.00-6.30pm at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

**7. Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**