

# MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



**MCG Executive and General Meeting**  
Monday, 11 November 2013

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

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5.03pm by Lynton Bond, President, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, Anna See, Stephen Skinner, Linda Beveridge, Don Fraser, Tom Baker, John Bruggeman, Alan Cole (Landcare Support Officer, Murrumbidgee), Maryke Booth and Carol Billett.

Apologies were received from Jim Arnold.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Three minor amendments were tabled from the previous minutes:

- a. that in paragraph 4b Carissa should be spelt Karissa;
- b. in paragraph 4j Marke should be amended to Maryke; and
- c. Karen advised that cattle are no longer a problem as reported in paragraph 4f.

Subject to the above amendments, Karen proposed the minutes be accepted and Linda seconded the motion.

## 3. Correspondence

### In:

- a. 31 October – from TAMS – an invitation to the Parkcare and Landcare Christmas party;
- b. 31 October – from TAMS – a call for expressions of interest for the position of Reserve Condition Assessment and Monitoring project Officer;
- c. 30 October – from Darren Chong – an invitation to attend an Aboriginal Heritage Workshop on 27 November;
- d. 1 November – an invitation to the West Belconnen Stakeholders Planning and Design Forum;
- e. 8 November – Murrumbidgee Landcare – National Landcare Program urgent update.

### Out:

- a. 31 October – MCG NSW Environment Trust applications *Healthy Horses, Healthy Land* and *Woody Weed Removal along the Upper Molonglo River*.

## 4. Reports

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

See report circulated by email.

There is a UMCCC meeting this week which will be the first meeting without a Coordinator. The meeting will be addressed by Peter Brenton from the Atlas of Living Australia on the ACT & Southern Tablelands Weedspotter portal and a prototype of the mobile app. Lynton had used the app to map weeds on his property and found there were still a couple of issues to be sorted out.

Lynton attended a meeting of Landcare Networks in what will be the South East Local Landcare Services region this morning. There were about 90 attendees. South East Local Landcare Services is the organisation that will take over from the CMAs and LHPA on 1 January 2014 and covers the area from the Victorian border to Wingecarribee Shire and over to Booroowa. It does not include the ACT.

Lynton was unable to attend the Biodiversity Working Group meeting on 23 October. The Conservation Council is lobbying regarding the ACT Nature Conservation Bill.

A training session for the Website will go ahead when the upgrade is completed.

Oaks Estate draft master plan has been deferred until February.

Anna attended another MERI planning session of the Regional Investment Strategy.

The BioBlitz went well.

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

As advised by Lynton, the Oaks Estate Master Plan has been deferred until February. The Heritage Report has been held back until February too.

Karen is designing Ngunawal Heritage Walks. The first one is planned for 30 November and will begin in the paddocks opposite Oaks Estate and will move to the Molonglo Gorge. Dr Fiona Dyer will also be involved, as well as representatives from the Ngunawal people.

Karen will consider a walk on Black Mountain during the Heritage Festival next year.

Karen will attend the Aboriginal Heritage Workshop.

Karen will attend Bush on the Boundary “principles” – *Living Next to Nature* – at ANU tomorrow.

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

See Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement circulated by email.

The auditors were happy with the report. Funding is always tight. Diane gives a lot of volunteer hours and is very generous with her time. Accounts are now in the black and Lynton advised that the auditors identified money left in some projects. There is approximately \$3K which could be used for a small grants program. Lynton will discuss the matter under “Business”.

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

See report circulated by email.

Lower Woolshed Creek was planted on 15 October and Upper Woolshed Creek is now being done and Roads ACT have agreed to assist removal of blackberry as well.

Anna met with Matt de Jongh about applying for a Community Partnership Grant to run integrated Rabbit Management Workshops. The Calicivirus will not be available until next year and the workshops cover various methods of dealing with the problem.

The BioBlitz went well. It required a lot of work but gave a good idea of what was needed.

Anna met with Darren Roso to scope out the work for the planting and reseeded project.

Anna needs to do some more work on the Vegwatch Manual before launching it.

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

See report circulated by email.

Only 33 reports for Waterwatch this month.

Getting teams to assess sites for macroinvertebrates. The upper Queanbeyan River is in good condition but the upper Molonglo below Captains Flat is not very healthy; we need a site or two above Captains Flat.

Stephen assisted Anke Maria Hoefer (ACT Frogwatch Coordinator) during Frogwatch. There were new sightings of Rocky Stream Frogs and Chinese spirogyra in Bradley's Creek.

#### **f. Friends of Black Mountain – Linda Beveridge**

The Burbidge-Chippendale Walk on 12 October was very successful with 50 participants. People made comments about the degradation caused by mountain bikes.

The weeding party on 2 November was successful.

Vegwatch took place on 5 and 9 November for Sites A and C on Black Mountain. Gungahlin College monitored Site B.

FoBM members have expressed concerns about the decision to construct a slipway on Black Mountain Peninsula.

FoBM's next General Meeting is on 28 November at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison.

#### **g. Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth**

The AGM was held yesterday and 12 people attended. The meeting went well. The year was reviewed and now need to write a management plan. The plan for next year is to develop management plans for other areas. Still want to deal with erosion in the Swainsona Reserve.

#### **h. Burra Landcare – Don Fraser**

A Heritage Afternoon will be held in Burra Hall on 24 November.

Roger Farrow is leading a walk in the Tinderry Range on 30 November. The walk is only 5km long but is quite difficult and not likely to reach the peaks.

The tree project is ongoing. An irrigation pipe has been put into the park where the trees will be planted.

### **i. Landcare Support Officer – Alan Cole**

Alan attended the South East Local Landcare Services meeting.

Cross property planning in Tarcutta and Junee is going very well.

An application has been submitted for a NSW Environment Grant for regeneration of eucalypts in the Bookham area.

### **j. Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker**

Queanbeyan City Council Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee agreed to take three matters raised by Queanbeyan Landcare, to Council.

- I. A recommendation to approach the *Poplars* owners to share the cost of fencing this high conservation grassland/woodland along Kinlyside Street, Jerrabomberra Heights, as a one off project.
- II. To survey the full catchment of Buttles Creek to identify all remaining erosion hotspots and try to prioritise these for action. Council has made an application to the NSW Environmental Trust for funds to carry out urgent erosion mitigation works in the lower parts of the creek near Waniassa Street.
- III. To ramp up Council management of the Fairlane Flora Reserve in River Drive, the prime habitat of the threatened reptile, the pink-tailed worm-lizard, *Aprasia parapulchella*, in view of the gross disturbance of rocks over the reserve.

Queanbeyan Landcare is also joining with Carwoola Landcare Group to host the Weeds Workshop at 3.30pm on 30 November, at the Carwoola Community Centre, Douglas Close. Queanbeyan Landcare will be checking sample St Johns Wort plants for the presence of microscopic predatory mite, *Aculus hyperici*.

Queanbeyan Landcare is hosting a 1.5 hour walk on the *Poplars* grassland and woodland on 23 November, to meet on the West section of Kinlyside Street, Jerrabomberra Heights, at 9.30am. For those interested, there will be a walk up Mt Jerrabomberra for lunch.

### **k. Carwoola Landcare – Lynton Bond**

Carwoola has a Weed Identification day with Palerang Council and Queanbeyan Landcare on 30 November.

## **5. Business**

### **a. Art Prize**

Tom advised that ACTEW Water is providing \$2K for the first prize in the 2014 ACT *Along the Molonglo* Exhibition and the three catchment groups have been asked to donate a prize. He proposed that MCG donate \$600. John seconded the motion.

### **b. Mountain Bike Riders in Reserves**

Linda sought advice on strategy to address the issue of bike riders making illegal tracks and causing degradation in areas that need to be rehabilitated. Lynton recommended Linda speak to Friends of Mount Majura who have had a successful campaign. He also suggested that she talk to the representatives of

Canberra Off-road Cyclists and Bruce Ridge Parkcare Group. Rangers, employees of TAMS and ESDD are empowered to issue on the spot fines. Lynton further suggested that Linda contact Stephen Hughes.

**c. AGM**

Maryke has indicated that she will stand down as Treasurer so we need to find a replacement. Lynton suggested that we need “new blood” on the Committee and should contact Volunteering ACT to see if there is anyone suitable who would be interested.

The next meeting will be the AGM, for which we need to give 28 days notice.

**d. Catchment Officer**

Stephen has advised that he will retire in April next year so we need to find a replacement for him. Lynton intends to start the recruitment process shortly.

**e. Landcare Funding**

Senator Barnaby Joyce, Minister for Agriculture, has removed \$10 million from Landcare funding for drought relief in Northern Australia. Lynton will forward an email about it and suggested everyone write to their local members in protest.

**f. Small Grants**

Maryke advised that there was approximately \$3K available for small grants and we could allocate an additional \$2K. Lynton proposed that the money be made available for small grants. Carol seconded the motion.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 9 December 2013, following the AGM, at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

**7. Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 6.54pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**