



## **MCG Executive and General Meeting**

Monday, 10 February 2014

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

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

The meeting was opened at 5:02pm by Lynton Bond, President. Lynton extended a warm welcome to all present and introduced John Bridge who is considering taking up the Treasurer's position.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, Anna See, Stephen Skinner, Jim Arnold, Don Fraser, Maryke Booth, Tom Baker, Carol Billett and John Bridge (possible future Treasurer).

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge.

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The meeting on 13 January 2014 had been informal and no minutes were taken. The minutes of the last formal meeting on 9 December 2013 had been circulated via email. Karen proposed that the minutes of 9 December 2013 be accepted. The motion was seconded by Don.

### **3. Business Arising**

The meeting on 13 January 2014 had been a walk led by Karen, followed by a barbecue. Lynton thanked Karen for an interesting and informative walk that had been enjoyed by all who attended.

### **4. Correspondence**

#### **In:**

- 10 December 2013 – STEP membership form;
- 13 November 2013 – Friends of Grasslands (FOG) membership form;
- 24 December 2013 – Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-2023 brochure;
- 23 January 2014 – Pest Smart information.

The Committee discussed whether to become members of STEP and FOG. STEP are members of MCG. The fee for STEP is \$50 and the fee for FOG is \$20. The Committee agreed to accept membership of both.

#### **Out:**

- 9 January 2014 – EoI about using the office space at Jerrabomberra Wetlands in conjunction with Conservation Volunteers and City Farm;
- 3 February 2014 – Comments on Green Army.

### **5. Reports**

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

See report circulated by email.

Lynton advised that one of the main issues was recruitment for the Catchment Officer position. 50 applications had been received and there were a lot of people looking for a 3 days per week role. People had also applied for the Coordinator's position, which closed today. The applications were of a very high calibre. Lynton and Karen will form the selection panel together with a third person.

Still waiting for GVESHO funding. We have applied for \$6,000 per year for 3 years which could potentially fund our bookkeeper, plus an upgrade of one computer this year and another two computers in the third year. Our bookkeeper is moving to Albury (Jindera) today but has offered to continue on a voluntary basis. The Catchment Officer and Coordinator should be able to produce their own reports monitoring the progress of each project.

Land for Wildlife is ramping up. Greg Stone of Woodland Environmental Services has won the contract, signed on 4 February, to run the planning workshops in Wamboin, Bywong and Burra and Royalla.

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

Karen noted that nothing much has changed since the last meeting. The Bush on the Boundary meeting has been deferred until March and there is no agenda yet.

Karen is working on the next 3 Ngunawal Perspective walks. There will definitely be one in Heritage Week with Friends of Black Mountain; she is waiting on Tyrone to finalise the second, which will be in Oaks Estate. The fourth is unconfirmed but may be at 'Riverview', overlooking the junction of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers. There is a National subcommittee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) that has asked for a walk on Oaks Estate featuring the cultural landscape and cultural routes. That walk will be held on 9 March; Karen will represent the MCG when she promotes all the Ngunawal walks on 8 March at the Arboretum celebrations.

#### **c. Treasurer's Report – Lynton Bond (in the absence of a Treasurer).**

See reports circulated by email.

The financial report has been done up to the end of January, although there are still some outstanding transactions to be entered. A Job Profit and Loss document has been prepared for expenditure since the beginning of the Financial Year. Wages and Salaries are yet to be reallocated into 0014 Coord Project. Stephen is about to do a schools project and we will charge his time against a separate school education project.

The balance sheet shows where we are to date and we are about to invoice for the third instalment on the Coord Project at the end of March (which is always paid in arrears).

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

See report circulated by email.

Anna advised that Stephen will talk about Woolshed Creek.

Anna will meet with a Burra landholder to look at severe erosion on his property.

Linda has prepared notes (attached) on the biodiversity monitoring project. Simon Corbell, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development will launch the VegWatch Manual on 20 February. A quote of \$8 per head for catering has been received from Floresco at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The project is not funded so Anna cannot approve it. She suggested it could be paid by MCG funds. ANBG is providing the venue at no cost to the organisation so Maryke suggested that the Committee authorise expenditure up to \$300 for the catering and all agreed.

Funds had been left over from the Burra Spray Safe and Save workshops so Anna had circulated an Expression of Interest form to Burra residents for subsidy applications to install/purchase electric fencing. This will support them in implementing the suggestions made by Alison Elvin to better manage their grazing. 4 applications have been received.

The Canberra Show will be held on 21-23 February. MCG will share a stall with the Regional Landcare Facilitator and the other catchment groups. There are still some gaps for people to manage the stall and Anna was seeking volunteers.

There is a new reporting system (MERIT) for Caring for our Country. Anna has encountered a few problems so far which she is trying to sort out. She is currently entering information to report on the last 6 months.

Small grant applications have been sought from member groups. One application has been received so far.

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

See report circulated by email.

Woolshed Creek is going really well. Revegetation is scheduled for 25 March but we need some rain before then.

A complaint had been received about the woody debris load in parts of Reedy Creek. Stephen and Lori Gould (Greening Australia) carried out an assessment on 7 January. Timber removal will be managed by Lori through the Rivers of Carbon program while MCG will facilitate revegetation of the lower creek line to meet connectivity and RIS objectives.

There have been reports of feral pigs and deer in Wickerslack Lane properties. LLS are to lend us traps but there has been difficulty in getting the parties together to agree to a program.

Next week Stephen is giving a presentation for Canberra College and also conducting a field day at ANU with NRM students.

#### **f. Queanbeyan Landcare - Tom Baker**

Tom remarked that things are quiet at present. He reminded everyone about the art exhibition to be held 7-14 April at Canberra Grammar School. The launch will be on 7 April. MCG has donated \$600 for the Molonglo Art Prize. The focus this year is on connectivity.

\$5,000 is needed to spray St John's Wort and serrated tussock at the Poplars. \$1,000 has been provided by Friends of Grasslands and \$1,000 by MCG, possibly through the Land for Wildlife project. The owners are to match the amounts and QLC will make herbicide available, however the lack of rain is a problem.

Lynton commented that the spray for serrated tussock is residual so that could be done, but no St John's Wort unless there is some rain.

#### **g. Friends of Black Mountain – Carol Billett**

See attached note.

Linda had provided a note which Carol read out in her absence. The highlights were that Friends of Black Mountain has now been officially recognised as a parkcare group, FoBM has made a submission in response to the Draft ACT Trails Strategy and the weeding program is continuing with approximately 3,400 weeds removed in the last 12 months.

#### **h. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold**

The January work party was cancelled because of the heat. Jim scythed part of one paddock for saffron thistle then PCL finished the job.

FoAB's AGM will be held next Thursday. Jim is returning to the committee.

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

There have been no meetings since last year and the meeting is scheduled for March.

Dripline pipes have been installed around the trees planted in Burra Park and the trees are thriving as there is a constant water supply from the bore. There will be a working bee in approximately one month to plant the rest of the trees.

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

Maryke has been trying to set a meeting date but it has been deferred as various members are to undergo surgery.

Royalla Landcare will take part in Clean Up Australia Day.

Maryke has submitted an application for a Landkeepers grant of \$30,000 as suggested by Greening Australia. It will be used to buy trees which will assist with the Glossy Black Cockatoo project. If the application is successful, Maryke will ask Greening Australia to grow the tubestock. It will also be used to do work on the erosion at Swainsona Reserve.

Lynton mentioned that a Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) grant is available for fixing community halls, etc., but it may also be used for weeding. Applications close in mid-March. Maryke added that they also need to do remediation work on the block.

Maryke has spoken to the site manager at Royalla solar farm which is due for completion in April. They have been sensitive to the use of the area, planting yellow box, apple box, wattles (but not local wattles) and grevilleas. The site manager was very receptive about talking to Landcare groups.

#### **k. Oaks Estate – Karen Williams**

Karen advised that it was time to do further planting along the river. The wattles are doing well, the casuarinas and gums aren't doing too badly, but other plants are struggling a bit and there are lots of weeds.

### **6. Other Business**

- a. Expanding the Library** – Stephen is leaving at the end of March and will take his books with him. He has recommended some useful books to be replaced. Lynton proposed a budget of \$200 to be used for the replacement books. Maryke commented that \$200 was not much and we should increase it to \$500. The Committee agreed. Lynton proposed a motion to spend up to \$500 on books. Karen seconded the motion. Agreed unanimously.
- b. Dairy Flat** – Molonglo Catchment Group has put in a submission, along with Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greening Australia and Canberra City Farm, to occupy classrooms at Dairy Flat. It is likely we will have to leave the current premises as Geoff Pryor is being moved out and

we are running out of space. There are issues with asbestos (buried rubbish) at Dairy Flat but these are being dealt with.

- c. **Banking Access** – a problem occurred at Westpac regarding the password for tokens and in the course of being fixed, highlighted that former members of MCG were still listed as signatories to the account. Lynton stated that we need to update and rationalise the records and organise new tokens. We will also have to arrange new credit cards when Anna leaves. This can be done when the new Treasurer and Coordinator commence. In the meantime, Maryke will tidy things up.
  
- d. **Arc GIS** – Lynton advised that we can purchase Arc GIS without support for \$250 per annum. The new Coordinator is to be able to use GIS. We are currently paying \$150 pa for GIS software that has some benefits that Arc GIS does not have but it does not do everything we need. Lynton proposed that we buy one copy and install it then consider buying another copy when the new staff are on board. The motion was seconded by Tom and agreed by all.
  
- e. **Art Exhibition** – Tom reminded everyone about the opening of the Art Exhibition on 7 April.

### **7. Treasurer’s Position**

Lynton asked John if he would like to say anything. John replied that he is interested in the Treasurer’s role, that he has a family farm near Bredbo and that his previous experience is relevant. The main issue for him is the upcoming changes in staff. He will consider further taking on the Treasurer’s position and advise Lynton later.

### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 17 March 2014.

Carol advised that she will be overseas on holiday then and tendered her apologies.

### **9. Meeting Close**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.37pm.

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President

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Date