



MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 17 March 2014

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5:00pm by Lynton Bond, President. Lynton extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond [LB], Karen Williams[KW], Don Frazer[DF], Linda Beveridge[LiB], Jim Arnold[JA], Don Fraser[DF], Maryke Booth[MB], Tom Baker[TB], John Bridge[JB], Stephen Skinner[SS] and Bernie Bugden[BB].

Apologies were received from Carol Billett and Mel Hillery

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2014 had been circulated via email.

Matters of Corrections/Amendments included:

- Coordinators Report Para 3. LiB recommended an increase in authorised expenditure from \$240 to \$300
- Friends of Aranda Bushland Report Para 2. JA noted "Jim is returning to" the committee.

TB proposed that the minutes of 10 February 2014 be accepted. The motion was seconded by LB. Minutes accepted.

3. Business Arising

- LB noted that MCG is a member of both STEP and FOG.
- MCG Small Grants program. LB advised member applications had been sought, 8 applications received and to be discussed at item 6.3
- LB advised that there had been no action to date regarding the expansion of library but SS is preparing a library list with MH undertaking a restructuring of library.

4. Correspondence

A Correspondence report was emailed on the 20 February 2014 with an updated list and correspondence tabled at the meeting. The updated list attached as **Tag A**.

The Committee discussed MCG and member group insurance. LB advised that Territory and Municipal Services ACT are covering the MCG at a cost of \$380 for 14/15 including public liability [\$20M], products liability and voluntary workers insurance.

Our policy will cover MCG and our sub groups. TAMS will cover public liability of \$20M for MCG sub groups under 10 members as covered in MCG policy and \$10M for sub groups over 10 members requiring individual cover.

LB recommended MCG cover small group insurance such as Captains Flat LC [2 members.]

5. Reports

a. President's Report – Lynton Bond

President's report was circulated by email.

LB highlighted the following points:

- The key outcome of the UMCCC meeting held on 12 February 2014 being the ACT Basin Priority Project and he understood that following UMCCC feedback provided to Stuart Chapman. We continue to be optimistic about support for the Waterwatch program.
- Advice received from ACT Surveyor-General that the Molonglo BoB proposal to name the hill currently known as Misery Hill, "Barrer Hill" after Dr Peter Barrer was approved.

Action: Send Canberra Times article to Chris Schwob.

- Report corrections identified:
 - Projects/ Biodiversity Monitoring. Should read "we want to see"
 - ACT Heritage Grants. Should be "12 April". LB promoted KW's next walk to the Executive
- MCG Bookkeeper [Diane] has moved to Jindera. Under new arrangements systems working well including the use of Dropbox for accounting purposes. Moving to a paperless office for bookkeeping

b. Vice-President's Report – Karen Williams

KW noted that

- She attended the Arboretum celebrations on the 8 March with Tyrone Bell and it was quite successful. There was a strong interest in the integration of cultural and environmental matters including the Molonglo Catchment Strategy. Particular interest from teachers and family day care attendees.
- The Ngunawal walk held at the Oaks Estate on 15 March was a great success and 20 interested parties had to be turned away to ensure a workable group. A group of overseas students with environmental and cultural interest attended. Will be looking into working up Environmental Trust [Protecting Our Place] application around this work and may need to look whether a paid position is required. Potential for a profit making business. Potential to broaden scope of project such as cultural, heritage and environmental presentations on lake cruises.

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 February, although there are still some minor adjustments to do relating to the end of year roll over.
- Overall financial situation is OK but financials are showing grants in advance.
- A departure from normal salary expenditure identified as a result of BB commencing, Anna being paid out from reserves and an overlap in project officer salary expenditure to ensure handover.
- LB welcomed John Bridge as a new member applicant and a nominee for Treasurer. JB's application for membership:
Moved by LB. Seconded by MB. Accepted.
JB's nomination for Treasurer
Moved by LB. Seconded by MB. Accepted.
LB welcomed JB as Treasurer.
- LB highlighted his work in developing an investment prospectus for MCG.
Action: LB to circulate draft prospectus to executive.
Action: LB, KW and BB to meet with Wally and Tyrone Bell to discuss potential projects under the prospectus.

d. Coordinator's Report – Bernie Bugden

Catchment Coordinator's report circulated by email with papers.

- Progress on the RIS implementation was identified.
- BB identified key actions requiring committee consideration as per meeting business items.

- Under CC report item 1.5.4 BB sought the committee's position on working through the UMCCC and Conservation Council for specific input into the Nature Conservation Bill. This was accepted and it was noted that the Bill ignores some matters identified in the NC strategy such as connectivity. The lack of organisational structures to support the implementation of the Bill was also noted.

e. Catchment Officer's Report – Stephen Skinner

See report circulated by email.

- On 6 March 14 attended the LUG meeting where mention was made of the presence of alligator weed in the western end of Lake Burley Griffin. It has not been in Lake for some 15 years. Most likely infested as a result of transfer from the south coast recreational boat use.
- Woolshed Creek planting day proposed to go ahead in early April.
- Waterwatch site sampling by volunteers getting back to normal volumes following the January holidays.
- SS gave an update of UMCCC discussions regarding the ACT Basin Priority Project and potential to resource Waterwatch.

h. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold

- In Aranda area of lands to be managed as bushland has been expanded.
- Patterson's Curse regeneration and its management a serious issue at the moment.
- Group using a knapsack sprayer and brush off to manage. A lent 1000 litre water tank has been stolen during operations.

i. Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

- First meeting for the year to be held next Monday.
- Wildlife Habitat Workshop to be held on 22 March at the Burra Hall
- Phil Pattison from the RFS will run a Burra Hotspots Program on 12 April 14 with further talks and demo burns on 3 May 14.
- Burra Hall is a "safe place of last resort" in terms of fire management. As a result works are being undertaken to install a 100K litre water tank and an associated sprinkler system.

j. Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

- Maryke reported on a mail drop to around 60 landholders seeking support for Royalla Landcare Clean Up Australia Day. Attendees mainly the core Landcare committee and bush fire brigade members. Clean Up Australia Day kit did not arrive on time.
- Members are looking forward to upcoming Vegwatch training as well as "Wildlife habitat in Burra and Royalla - Challenges and solutions" workshop to be held on Saturday 22nd March 2014 by Greg Stone.
- In terms of projects there is a strong interest by residents in controlling rabbits.
- Royalla common tree planting was monitored using GPS, taking some 3.5 hours and council will now plot on the master-plan. The solar farm contractors will plant grass and advice has been given to them on native grass seeding.

k. Oaks Estate – Karen Williams

- KW advised that following the recent ABC news profile of the "Weed Spotter tool" demonstration she has received comment about concerns around the use of spraying of chemicals along waterways.

6. Other Business

6.1 Signatories for MCG accounts/ delegations and corp cards.

- LB sought approval from the Committee for a proposal to establish new account signatories. Proposed signatories were:
 - JB, LB and MB [with delegated authority of minimum 2 signatories]
- LB sought approval to cancel Anna See’s corp card, and establish a new corp card for BB. Approved expenditure delegations for MCG corp card use to be set at:
 - LB [\$1200]; BB [\$1200] and MB [\$600]
 - Treasurer (JB) to have authority for approved electronic transactions.

Moved by MB. Seconded by LB. Accepted.

6.2 Molonglo Catchment Strategy

The Molonglo Catchment Strategy was emailed to the executive with meeting papers. An executive summary was tabled at the meeting

Action: All executive members to review and provide feedback by 24 March 14 prior to public consultation.

Action: Circulate for public consultation marked as a draft document.

6.3 Small Projects

- LB reported that 8 small project applications had been received valued at around \$4K. The committee previously approved a total expenditure limit of \$5K and a notional project limit of \$600
- All small project applications have been recommended for approval based on an assessment panel review held today by LB, SS and BB. Approval conditional in some cases to follow up with applicants and land managers

Moved by MB. Seconded by TB. Accepted.

6.4 Vegwatch

- LB advised that due to Vegwatch training needs more training kits are required. Estimated needs valued at \$ 4K [8-10 kits valued at \$400 each]
- LB overviewed program:
 - 25/3/14 Information session
 - Spring training to be held on October 14
- Committee decided to take on notice with in principle support and to explore external funding options in the meantime.

6.5 Stephen Skinner Farewell

LB advised that it was SS’s last meeting after over 5years with the MCG. He will leave the MCG on 26 March 14.

LB proposed a farewell for SS at the Molonglo Gorge on 25 March 14 at 1pm. Committee accepted the proposal.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 April 2014.

9. Meeting Close

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.30pm.

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President

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Date