



MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 14 April 2014

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5:09pm by Lynton Bond, President. Lynton extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond [LB]; Karen Williams[KW]; John Bridge[JB]; Jim Arnold[JA]; Tom Baker[TB]; Maryke Booth[MB] (arrived 5:14pm); and Bernie Bugden[BB].

Apologies were received from Carol Billett [CB]; Don Fraser[DF] and Linda Beveridge[LJB] ([by email at 5:11pm)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2014 had been circulated via email.

No Matters of Corrections/Amendments were recorded.

KW proposed that the minutes of 17 March 2014 be accepted. The motion was seconded by TB. Minutes accepted.

3. Business Arising

- LB noted that a *draft in confidence* investment prospectus was circulated to the Executive yesterday for discussion at item 6.1
- LB advised he had sent the Canberra Times article to Chris Schwob
- LB, KW and BB met with Tyronne Bell to discuss potential projects.

.4. Correspondence

A Correspondence report was emailed on 9 April 2014 with the list and correspondence tabled at the meeting.

No business was discussed from correspondence reported

5. Reports

a. President's Report – Lynton Bond

President's report was circulated by email on 13 April 2014 and tabled at the meeting.

LB highlighted the following points:

- LB attended the Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc AGM and advised that he had resigned from their Executive Committee and as a result the MCG should consider whether to remain as a member and whether they should send a delegate. The committee discussed this point and its position was to remain a member.
- LB advised there remains a problem placing the Vegwatch manual on the website. Chanty has completed his work which is ready to go live soon.

MB joined meeting at 5:14pm

b. Vice-President's Report – Karen Williams

KW noted that

- KW met with Tyronne Bell, Lesley Peden, LB &BB following the Environmental Trust grants workshop. Tyronne Bell endorses a project proposal concept to identify and protect culturally and environmental significant places as a partnership between Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal

Corporation and Thunderstone Aboriginal Cultural and Land Management Services, MCG, Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C), and others.

- KW, LB & BB met on 7 April 2014 with ACT Environment & Sustainable Development Directorate /Strategic City Planning & Design representatives to provide MCG input into the Draft Oaks Estate Master-plan. Our input highlighted the need to address:
 - Cross border water and stormwater management
 - Wetlands construction below development
 - River corridor management including a river path connecting Queanbeyan to Lake Burley Griffin
 - Management of soil conservation in the plan
 - Oaks Estate as a gateway to the National Capital
- The Ngunawal perspective cultural walk held at Black Mountain last weekend was a great success with 26 attendees. KW was interviewed on the ABC Radio. Will be working up an ACT Heritage Grant to continue and expand these walks. There is potential to develop & run a series of master classes for professionals [teachers/planners etc] & Environmental Science students. This is another potential ACT Heritage Grant application. TB suggested could also fit with Canberra Institute of Technology course content.

c. Treasurer's Report – John Bridge

JB tabled financial reports at meeting and advised that he now had access to MYOB
JB reported on financials up to the end of March:

- In terms of *Profit & Loss Statement* still some minor adjustments to do relating to miss postings in expenses. JB will be working on this with Diane Kalina. In terms of overall financial situation there is nothing of major concern with net profit healthy. However costs for office website & IT seem high which needs addressing.
- In terms of *Balance Sheet* staff comings and goings should have impacted provisions. Needs to be fully brought to account. Bank accounts balance is healthy. Accounting treatment of minor assets should be kept simple and written off as a period expense [to reflect low risk profile].
- In terms of *Job Profit & Loss Statement* JB is happy to take on any concerns from Executive. We need to follow up on receivables

JB is looking at developing a *Financial Procedures* component as a supplement to the existing *MCG Procedures Manual*.

Discussion was held regarding who should follow up on MCG Membership receivables. JB offered but it was thought CB had carriage.

Action: JB to check minutes records regarding previous decisions around who is the Records Officer.

d. Coordinator's Report – Bernie Bugden

Catchment Coordinator's [combined with Project Officer] report circulated by email with papers.

- Executive where asked to consider any potential projects to be developed as MCG applications in current round of grant applications for ACT[Rural, Heritage & Environment] and NSW Environment Trust.
- BB identified key actions requiring committee consideration as per meeting business items.
 1. The executive considered a *draft SELLS local areas map* and feedback request in terms of proposed SELLS operational areas. The Executive's response was that given the multiple relationships that exist across the proposed local areas boundaries it would be more effective to operate across these areas as fuzzy borders.
Action: BB to advise SELLS of Executive position.
 2. The Executive considered a SELLS *proposed regional collaboration & communication discussion paper* for Landcare. The Executive explored the 3 Options presented including an Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc perspective. The Executive's response was that Option 2 was preferred but as this was limited in that it effectively only reports to SELLS. A

mechanism for direct communications to and from the peak state Landcare body should also be incorporated in Option 2.

Action: BB to advise SELLS of Executive position

- Progress on the RIS implementation was highlighted.

e. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold.

- Group has been focused on its weed management program using a knapsack sprayer
- A rate of some 60 litres of herbicide is being applied per week. Progress has been slow currently half way through the snow gum paddock.
- Future focus will be on rehabilitating degraded roll over banks on tracks.

f. Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

- Glossy Black Cockatoo Grant of \$30K has been received last week. GA will be engaged to implement with EOs opened to landholders.
- Maryke reported outcomes of Canberra Show with 1 landholder being directed to Greening Australia resulting in a potential project. Ian Rayner from GA inspected.
- The solar farm development has organised a quote for a revegetation project using advanced trees.
- David Tongway, a landscape function analysis specialist will be providing soil erosion advice using the Landscape Function Analysis approach. A Jerrabomberra Creek chain of ponds demo project will be developed.
- The RLF is looking at funding a rabbit control workshop.

g. Queanbeyan Landcare-Tom Baker

- Members of Queanbeyan Landcare led a guided walk on the 13 hectare grasslands and bushlands of Bicentennial Park, which lies on a prominent ridge straddling West Queanbeyan. This park is one of a series of 'stepping stones' of remnant native vegetation across west Queanbeyan. Queanbeyan Landcare is accelerating activity on the Buttles Creek restoration site in Wanniasa Street, opposite fast food shops, installing bollards, gravel to stop vehicular sediment, suppressing weeds and conducting a series of native plantings including an interpretation walk with clusters of similar plants.
- *Art Exhibition and Competition.* City News Article on the ACT Region Art Exhibition and Competition at the Canberra Boys Grammar School was circulated. Agreed to forward a letter of thanks to Alan Jones, President of Artists Society of Canberra for the huge amount of work he carried out over the last 8-9 months to make this a success, including bringing in all 3 catchment groups as sponsors this year. The Molonglo Prize of \$10,000, donated by MCG, went to John Hatton for 'Sediment, Silt, Sand and Erosion' **Action: LB to write to Alan Jones recognising his contributions**

h. Oaks Estate – Karen Williams

- KW advised that all is quiet on the community gardens project
- A 3 cornerstones walk of the Oaks Estate was held on 19 April 14.

6. Other Business

6.1 Investment Prospectus.

LB tabled a draft Investment Prospectus and sought the Executive's out of session consideration and feedback by 26 April 14

6.2 Jerrabomberra office proposal

LB updated the meeting on progress with the proposal.

Whilst office rental is around 1/3 of that for like Government accommodation the proposal is problematic in regard to other costs such as maintenance and IT. The proposal could fit within budget providing we have limited exposure on other costs.

LB suggested he could try to negotiate down from \$55/m² to around \$30/m².

CVA has concerns regarding site limitations as compared to their current accommodation.

Action: LB to continue investigations.

6.3 Queanbeyan Office clean up.

LB briefed the meeting on a proposal to clean and rearrange set up in the meeting room of the Queanbeyan office.

TB and KW offered to assist staff as required.

6.4 Molonglo Catchment Strategy

The Molonglo Catchment Strategy was emailed to the executive with meeting papers at the previous meeting. Executive feedback was provided from KW and JA.

Comments have been addressed and there has been structural change to address the resilience framework, description of catchment, cross scale interactions, evolution of the planning and governance section and methods of review.

Also there will be a more positive perspective around the narrative of what has been achieved as well as a revamped Executive summary to reflect the above.

It is anticipated that MH will provide the modified redraft to the Executive by 28 April 14.

6.5 Queanbeyan Landcare submission –Control of St Johns Wort on the Poplars

TB followed up on his submission on behalf of Queanbeyan Landcare, to seek \$1,000 from the Molonglo Catchment Group to help pay for the \$3,400 cost of spraying St Johns Wort on the privately owned Poplars property on Lanyon Drive. This ongoing, cooperative project is assisting the owners to manage serious weeds threatening the 110 hectares of this property, recently rezoned Environmental Protection. THE 110 hectares includes threatened ecosystems and several fauna and flora species, either threatened or endangered.

The meeting agreed to recommend to the MEHF trustees that \$1,000 be allocated from the Fund for the weed control at the Poplars.

6.6 Credit Cards

LB briefed the meeting regarding new Westpac Bank credit card policy and its implications. Previously use of our 3 credit cards was free with 1 day for settlement. The new fee charge will be \$60 per annum per card.

The meeting agreed to retain operate only 2 credit cards [1 each for President and Coordinator] and to raise card limit to \$2K per card.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12 May 2014.

8. Meeting Close

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:07pm.

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President

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Date