



MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 12 May 2014

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5.06pm by Lynton Bond, President, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, John Bridge, Tom Baker, Carol Billett, Bernie Bugden, Linda Beveridge, Don Fraser and Maryke Booth.

Apologies were received from Margaret Piper and Mel Hillery. As Margaret is recovering from surgery the Committee requested that Tom convey to her everyone's best wishes for a return to good health.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Karen proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 14 April 2014 be accepted but requested that the first dot point under Oaks Estate be amended from "all is quite" to "all is quiet". The motion was seconded by John.

Linda requested that her abbreviation be amended from "LiB" to "LJB" to avoid confusion with Lynton.

3. Business Arising

The Records Officer for membership is to be Carol. John will reconcile the membership list then liaise with Carol who will send out the renewal notices.

Bernie has written to the Local Landcare Services and is awaiting a response.

Lynton will write to Alan Jones (ASoC) recognising his contribution to the recent Art Exhibition.

Action: Tom will draft the letter.

Queanbeyan Landcare Submission – the trustees have agreed to make \$1,000 available. Tom has the invoice and will email it to Lynton.

Credit Cards – After further investigation, Lynton proposed that we use debit cards rather than credit cards. The following proposal was distributed out of session by email and ratified by the meeting:

- We open a separate community solutions transaction account, which any authorised user can sign. This account is to be maintained with an acceptable balance of no more than \$2000 except under circumstances approved by at least 3 committee members (to allow for larger transactions such as when purchasing several items of equipment).
- We ask the bank to issue debit cards linked to that account to Bernie, as Catchment Coordinator, with a limit of \$2000; and to me, as President as primary cardholder, which is limited to balance of the linked account.

4. Correspondence

Please see attached list which was circulated by email.

The Committee agreed that no action was required for the Sustainable Cities Awards.

Tom suggested making up a table for the Conservation Council ACT's World Environment Day dinner. Unfortunately, not enough Committee members were available.

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – Lynton Bond

See report circulated by email.

Bernie, Mel and Lynton attended ArcGIS training on 2 May and shortly should be able to prepare maps in the office.

5.2 Vice President's Report – Karen Williams

Karen is working on grant applications with Bernie. She is preparing ACT Heritage Grant application for a series of "Walks and Talks"; one will definitely be held during ACT Heritage Week. An ACT Environment Grant application is being proposed for Block 2 Section 128 adjacent to Stirling Park; and another one for the NSW Environmental Trust's "Protecting our Places" program.

5.3 Treasurer's Report – John Bridge

See financial statements circulated by email. John advised that the Job Profit and Loss statement was incorrect and has now been amended. He is still working on adjustments to the Profit and Loss balance sheet with Dianne and documentation from the auditors. He should have resolution by the end of the financial year. Dianne produced a MYOB statement for the base statement, which John has checked. GST of \$12,020 has been paid.

5.4 Coordinator's Report – Bernie Bugden

See combined Coordinator and Catchment Officer's report circulated by email.

Bernie advised that we are behind on the Catchment Strategy and Mel will be working on it tomorrow.

Funding applications – we have support funding from the Regional Landcare Facilitator Program and SELLS for a reprint of the Pest Animal Info pack. Bernie has prepared an application for an ACT Heritage Grant and Mel is working on an ACT Rural grant application for Majura Valley. Bernie has had discussions with Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura about grant applications which are due Friday fortnight. He has written to Greening Australia and CVA for support for a joint application for Green Army sponsorship. The proposal is for autumn/winter/spring next year.

Lynton remarked that the NSW grants will open in August and we should be ready with a list of projects.

Bernie is looking at an erosion problem on Michael Wilson's property at Burra and will follow up regarding options. We have a credit of \$4,000 for trees from Greening Australia for revegetation works in ACTEW's water supply catchment.

Lynton mentioned an email from Murrumbidgee Landcare about a National Commission of Audit recommendation halving money available. Every state except NSW has signed a contract with the Commonwealth for the next 5 years. Another recommendation from the National commission of Audit is to scrap the Grants for Voluntary Environmental, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations, one of the few grant programs specifically for administration, which will affect the Conservation Council. Bernie suggested that aligning goals to the EPBC Act may change things.

5.5 Committee Members

Friends of Black Mountain – Linda Beveridge

The walk and talk led by Karen had been very successful. 30 people turned up on the day. People also became members of FoBM and requested more walks.

Three weedings had to be cancelled because of wet weather so another weeding session has been scheduled for 24 May.

Two years ago Linda wrote to Telstra about mounting an exhibition/display in the Tower about the natural environment of Black Mountain. The Tower manager has now requested that FoBM go ahead with the display but Telstra won't provide any funding for it. Linda is now applying for a grant to cover the cost.

Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

David Tongway wrote a book on landscape function analysis and looked at erosion problems in Swainsona Reserve. The council covered the sheep dip site and there is now an eroding pool and all types of erosion occurring. There are problems from the top of the area to Jerrabomberra Creek and tons of soil have been lost. There are issues further along the creek where the council has put culverts in the road which have added to the erosion. David suggested proper soil testing to determine how unstable the soil is.

Royalla Landcare is doing a workshop with Burra Landcare about improving the value of property.

Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker

On Saturday 3 May AM, Friends of Grassland joined members of Queanbeyan Landcare to remove woody weeds on the high conservation woodlands and grasslands of the privately owned Poplars property. 16 people were in attendance.

Kosciuszko to the Coast: The next Partners' Forum is on 20 June, and is to be followed by a workshop for the participants in the well supported Landscape Links for Small Birds project. K2C is grappling with a Policy on charging an administrative fee on projects it is managing, to cover overheads and set aside dwindling facilitation services.

Queanbeyan Landcare and Queanbeyan City Council are planning a further tree, shrub and grass planting on Buttles Creek site in Waniassa Street on the morning of Sunday, 27 July, National Tree Day. A bike path is currently being constructed next to the planting along Buttles Creek and it is anticipated that native grasses and lilies (*Lomandra*, *Dianella*) will be planted along the track also.

Tom has been contacted by Queanbeyan Arts Society about the Along the Molonglo exhibition as they have lost two sponsors. Tom proposed that the Committee provide \$300 as a prize. Karen has been invited to judge the exhibition again. Lynton moved that we provide \$300. The motion was seconded by Linda. Lynton suggested that we could possibly display any unsold paintings in the shopfront window for sale. **Tom will liaise with Barry Cranston (QAS) about this option.**

Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

The tree planting and irrigation in Burra Park have been completed and there will be a grand opening in spring.

Burra Landcare will be doing a workshop in August in conjunction with Royalla Landcare. Don and Maryke will liaise about the event.

The Rural Fire Service presented a “Hotspots” workshop about using fire from an environmental point of view. It was very well attended and very interesting.

Oaks Estate – Karen Williams

Not much is going on about the master plans. Karen attended a meeting last week with Senator Kate Lundy about a submission to the Community Resilience Project and recovery from natural disasters. The submission is about having a Community Development Officer and restoration of the river corridor after flood or fire.

6. Other Business

6.1 Basin Priorities Project

Lynton has been invited to represent MCG at an Advisory Group that will meet every second month. He will promote Waterwatch. The first meeting will be in July. If Lynton is unable to attend a meeting he is able to send a proxy.

6.2 Prospectus

The prospectus will be sent out via email to prospective investors when it has been updated. Lynton asked the Committee to advise him if they think of any other projects or hear of any opportunities for funding. We need to attract more volunteers to work in the office. For example, we need someone to catalogue/index the 64 gigabytes of photos on the network drive.

6.3 ACT NRM Council

Bernie has been nominated to attend the ACT NRM Council and asked to give a presentation. He asked the Committee for any “burning issues” to include (eg, Waterwatch and the need to fund it). Linda said that she would like to ensure funding for biodiversity monitoring/Vegwatch. Bernie mentioned that another issue is that the catchment straddles the ACT and NSW but there are no linkages for funding. He would like to be able to align cross-border projects.

Tom reminded everyone that the opening of the Along the Molonglo art exhibition is at 2pm on 1 June.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Monday 16 June 2014.

8. Meeting Close

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

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President

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Date