



MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 16 June 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, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, John Bridge, Tom Baker, Bernie Bugden, Linda Beveridge, Jim Arnold, Maryke Booth, Carol Billett and Patrick Paynter.

Apologies were received from Don Fraser and Margaret Piper.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Linda requested that the last sentence in paragraph 2 be amended from “....LB to LJB” to “....LiB to LJB”. Karen requested that the final sentence of the Vice President’s Report be amended to “An ACT Environment Grant application is being proposed for Block 2 Section 128 adjacent to Stirling Park”, etc.

Subject to the above amendments Linda proposed a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Maryke.

3. Business Arising

Tom advised that he has not yet received a response from Barry Cranston of Queanbeyan Arts Society about the possible display of paintings in the MCG shopfront window.

Bernie advised that Local Landcare Services have responded today about sending a representative to the meeting at Braidwood on 24 June.

4. Correspondence

Please see attached list.

5. Reports

5.1 President’s Report – Lynton Bond

See report circulated by email.

- UMCCC – the meeting on 14 May did not have a guest speaker so each member gave an update on their activities.
- Bush on the Boundary – the Molonglo meeting was not very well attended except by ACTPLA. There was vigorous discussion, especially about the need for an EIS to look at the western edge of the proposed Denham Prospect development. The Googong second meeting was held on 12 June with a presentation about the revised Integrated Water Cycle, which required an additional failsafe to Googong Creek. There is reliance on Queanbeyan Council and the EPA for compliance.
- ACT Basin Priorities Project – Karen attended the meeting and sent an email about it.
- ArcGIS has been installed on the laptop and is available for member groups to use.

- A planting guide has been developed by Greening Australia for Molonglo Bush on the Boundary. Copies are available from MCG and also on-line. The guide is applicable to more than just the Molonglo Valley.

5.2 Vice President's Report – Karen Williams

- Last month spent a lot of time thinking about a number of grant applications, resulting in preparation of two applications - ACT Environment and ACT Heritage.
- The ACT Environment grant application involves Block 2, Section 128 Yarralumla between Stirling Park and near the Chinese Embassy. The idea is restoration and rehabilitation. The group will incorporate indigenous land management strategies partnering with the Ngunawal Aboriginal community (via Wally Bell (Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation) and Tyrone Bell (Thunderstone)). Letters of support have been received from Friends of Grasslands, Yarralumla Residents Association Save Stirling Ridge forming a mix of environment/conservation, Aboriginal and residents' groups in the project. There is some threatened remnant gum forest and some endangered Button Wrinklewort on the block, which is the site of an old deep creek. The creek is not visible as it has been filled with debris from State Circle. Don Bell, Wally and Tyrone's father, camped on the creek as a child with his family during the construction era of Canberra.
- Judged and opened the Queanbeyan Art Show. The paintings were good quality and promoted landscape and environmental values.
- Organising the next Bush on the Boundary in July and awaiting replies.
- Attended the ACT Basin Priority Project for Inner South Canberra Community Council and also attended a meeting about the Brickworks development Project. There is crossover of ISCCC and MCG interests from both meetings. Currently doing background research on the Brickworks Project for MCG comment for the public consultation process.

5.3 Treasurer's Report – John Bridge

See reports circulated by email.

John is continuing what has been done before but would like the Committee to look at the reports in depth and decide what is useful. Lynton has done Calxa reports, which are very detailed, but John queried who would be the user. He asked the Committee to think about it for the next financial year. Karen liked the Calxa reports and asked if John could do it for the entire organisation but compress it to A4 size and show meaningful information. Lynton thought it could be done but would require discussion first. John advised that similar information can be obtained from MYOB.

There is still a lot of carry over issues in the Profit and Loss Statement from last financial year for projects that have not been acquitted although they are finished.

Lynton advised that we need to have the Committee sign off on the reports so we will have to have the AGM at the beginning of September.

John advised that the balance sheets are healthy and there is \$165K in the bank accounts. He will phase in cash management. Current liabilities are \$4,600.

The Committee is to peruse the Job Profit and Loss Statement at leisure. The most recent round of projects has been endorsed but there is no income cycle.

5.4 Coordinator and Catchment Officer Report – Bernie Bugden

See report circulated by email.

- Not much progress on Molonglo Catchment Strategy as efforts have been concentrated on grant applications.
- There was a useful meeting on 3 June about the RIS. The three catchment groups and other groups should be working collectively and cooperating to make it more meaningful.
- Effort has been expended on funding applications. \$3k has been received from Regional Landcare for a pest animal information pack; \$3K from the SELLS as in-kind support for an Environmental Trust (Environment Education) application which has been shortlisted from 94 applications. Awaiting advice regarding an ACT Environment Grant valued at \$43,835 (Managing threats to Biodiversity, Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura); and an ACT Heritage Grant of \$8,940 (Ngunawal Walks and Talks); Mel worked with Steve Pickard, Majura Road, on an ACT Rural Grant and Queanbeyan Landcare on a Great Eastern Ranges Landcare Grant.
- New projects for next month are focussed on NSW Environmental Trust (Restoration and Rehabilitation) grants for Captain's Flat River Recovery and Queanbeyan River Googong to Rob Roy Biodiversity enhancement and developing a proposal for erosion control at Burra for potential ACTEW funding.
- Working with SELLS and ACT Parks and Conservation Service on feral pig control project over winter.
- There is a pest management workshop at Queanbeyan this Sunday.
- There is an ACT, LLS and PCS workshop on feral pigs being held at Burra hall on 20 July.
- Vegetation protection and restoration is priority for the next month.
- A Land for Wildlife workshop is planned for Royalla and Burra in Spring.
- A big external risk is unfunded liability for out-years 2015-16 onwards, which presents an issue on how we deal with funding shortfalls.

5.5 Committee Members' Reports

Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker

- Funding applications under the Great Eastern Ranges Landcare program have been prepared, one by Molonglo Catchment Group and one by Queanbeyan Landcare. These related projects will improve connectivity south west of Queanbeyan, linking bushland remnants in Fernleigh Park rural residential development, extending into the Environa property and following Jerrabomberra Creek. Mel has provided incredible help.
- QLC still planning for a community planting on Buttles Creek, Wanniasa Street and Queanbeyan Council will provide a free barbecue at noon on National Tree Day, 27 July.
- K2C Partners forum is on the morning of 20 June; the afternoon will be a workshop following the successful Landscape Links for Small Bush Birds project, which comprised erecting enclosures for small bush birds, linking remnant bushland.

Oaks Estate – Karen Williams

- Release of the draft Master Plan is imminent; Karen was interviewed by *The Chronicle* about it on Friday.
- Brickworks Project – there is about 6 weeks in which to respond. Karen is still working on it. Some of the Oaks Estate ideas about catchment can be extended.

Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold

- Yesterday was spent cutting briars. A significant amount was removed.

Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

- There are reserve and erosion issues to be resolved.
- A Land for Wildlife workshop is planned but have yet to decide which properties to use.

Patrick Paynter

- Attended a Water Matters conference at CSIRO Discovery Centre which included the basin Priority Project, water quality, etc.

Friends of Black Mountain – Linda Beveridge

- Last weeding party was on 7 June which completed the round at ANBG and its North and South Annexes. More than 4,000 weeds have been removed during the equivalent of 52 days over the last 14 months. Now focussing on Black Mountain Reserve and the next weeding party will be on 5 July.
- The Gang-gang survey was the catalyst for a student from CIT to do a survey with us of birds in selected sites on Black Mountain.
- Also, some Friends at ANBG were interested in participating in the Gang-gang survey Muster Week in May. Several days had nil records for the time selected. However, at one time a flock of 24 gang-gangs was observed.
- The ACT Trails Strategy has been revised as a result of submissions by FoBM and others. The table for the assessment of trails has been revised. Linda has not seen it yet but some Rangers have commented that it is a much better table.
- Attended a consultation meeting at the Southern Cross Club Jamison about the Bushfire Management Strategic Plan. It is planned that new buildings in high risk areas will now have constraints; similarly for extensions and renovations to existing buildings in high risk areas. Approximately 80% of attendees asked conservation questions.

6. Other Business

- Mugga Lane Solar Farm – the Committee agreed with Lynton’s proposal to not make any further submission.
- Letter from Peter Cullen Trust – Lynton advised that the Trust had previously been sponsored and provided funds by UMCCC. He was not suggesting that MCG provide funding, but that there was an opportunity for someone from the community, usually sponsored by their employer, to participate. Lynton will make further inquiries.
- Ellerton Drive Extension – Tom advised that the EIS will be issued next month, with one month in which to comment. He believed that the noise impact was not being considered adequately. He will send an email to the MCG Committee members to help decide whether we get involved.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 5.00pm on Monday, 7 July 2014.

8. Meeting Close

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.29pm.

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President

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Date