

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting

14 July 2014

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened at 5.01pm by Lynton Bond, President, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

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

Apologies were received from Jim Arnold.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16 June 2014 were circulated by email prior to this meeting. No amendments were tabled and Linda proposed that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by John.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Correspondence

In:

Date	Source	Subject	From
27/6/14	Email	National Landcare Conference	Landcare Australia
1/7/14	Email	Regional Achievement Awards	Erika Hanratty, Awards Australia
2/7/14	Email	SE Landcare Landcare Muster	Peter Piggott, Regional Landcare Facilitator, SELLS
4/7/14	Email	Environmental Offsets Policy	Shane Rattenbury MLA, ACT Greens
5/7/14	Email	Cat Containment	Clare Henderson, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT

Out:

Date	Source	Subject	To
10/7/14	Email	MCG RIS non-financial report for 2013/14	Mardie Kearns, MERI Officer, E&SD ACT
10/7/14	Email	Molonglo Catchment Education Initiative 2015	Environmental Trust
14/7/14	Email	Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning and Development Strategy Submission	Land Development Agency

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – Lynton Bond

The President's full report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Lynton attended the Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) meeting on 25 June. The BWG reviewed its priorities for the next 12 months.

The ACT Basin Priorities Project is supposed to have another meeting this month but no date has been put forward yet.

MCG now has funding for a Waterwatch Coordinator, working 3 days per week. Last Monday Lynton contacted the next preferred candidate from the February/March recruitment exercise but that person advised today that she has taken another job. Lynton will seek another preferred candidate from the shortlist.

The website now has been upgraded to Drupal 7 but there is still some work to do to bring it up to an acceptable standard.

5.2 Vice-President's Report – Karen Williams

The final version of the Brickworks submission was submitted today. Thanks to all who provided feedback. The base draft document that Karen prepared also formed part of the Inner South Canberra Community Council submission. She suggested that it may be possible to link the ACT Basin Priority Project with the Canberra Brickworks Development project.

Karen convened the Bush on the Boundary Molonglo meeting. The next meeting will be a public meeting regarding the walking trail for the Molonglo development. Ros Ransome, ESDD, arranged a site visit to the research plots TAMS has established in partnership with ANU for the Pink Tailed Worm Lizard. The plots were created with specially sized local rocks to form habitats for the lizards and planted with appropriate tussocks, etc. The researchers are working out how to monitor the Lizards and also how to bridge the habitat sites. They also plan to develop a park/boardwalks, etc near the river to encourage people to stay out of the habitat sites.

On Sunday (6 July) Karen undertook a pre-walk for the Ngunawal Perspective series walk and talk. The next walk will be on the 20 July, at London Bridge. Facilitators are Wally and Tyronne Bell (Ngunawal community), Fiona Dyer (Fresh Water Scientist), Ken McQueen (Earth Sciences) and Karen Williams (Landscape Interpretation). The walk will start at 11:00am and should finish about 3:00pm.

The Oaks Estate master plan has been released. Comments are due by 10 August.

Karen gave a talk at ANBG on connectivity.

There has been a final flurry on the Molonglo Catchment Group application to the ACT Environment Grants for Block 2 Section 128. All final requests from the ACT Environment were met.

5.3 Treasurer's Report – John Bridge

The financial reports were circulated by email prior to the meeting.

The End of Financial Year Reports have been provided without adjustments. The auditors will review them on 24-25 July. Dianne is working on accruals. There will be adjustments for the trailer. Assets are in good shape.

The BAS return is due on 28 July.

Dianne came up about 10 days ago and she and John worked on adjustments. Everything should be ready for the auditors and then the AGM will be in September.

There then followed discussion about what the Committee would like to see in terms of reports. It was agreed that we need two levels of information: a more detailed report for project managers and a higher level for the Committee. A short narrative might be required to keep everyone informed and an alert system would also be needed.

5.4 Coordinator and Project Officer's Report – Bernie Bugden

The full report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Work on the Catchment Strategy has been delayed because of the priority given to RIS work. The draft report on the non-financial part was sent to Mardie Kearns last Friday. In some areas targets have been deferred from last year into this year.

It has been a busy month for grant applications. In all cases additional information was sought after the initial assessment process. We are now awaiting final determinations.

Great Eastern Ranges Landcare Grant – the MC Officer worked with Queanbeyan and Fernleigh Landcare Groups to submit two linked applications for establishing stepping stone revegetation plots. The application is awaiting assessment.

Green Army – a joint partnership between ACT Catchment Groups (MCG, GCG and SACG) together with Greening Australia and Bush Heritage has applied to be an Australian Government Green Army sponsor. Greening Australia has applied on behalf of the consortium for a Green Army team to operate in autumn, winter and spring.

The Restoration and Revegetation grant is on the horizon. Bernie has a couple of projects in mind, including a riparian project.

Erosion Control – designing an erosion control program at Burra.

Bernie and Mel met with Conservation Volunteers Australia about a work health and safety audit. We need to formalise our WH&S policy and determine how to manage liability regarding volunteers.

Planting of 21,000 trees at Molonglo River Park will commence in early August.

Feral Pig Project – traps are needed. A workshop/meeting is scheduled for 10 August at Burra.

5.5 Committee Members

Friends of Black Mountain – Linda Beveridge

The next weeding party is on Saturday, 2 August. A summary of the last 15 months has shown that 38 people have removed more than 4,000 weeds.

The Bird Survey Project is going well. The CIT student is doing three sites on Black Mountain and Linda is doing others near the Vegwatch sites. The student is being mentored by another member of FoBM who is also a very experienced bird observer. They have seen birds of concern such as the spotted pardalote and scarlet robin. Linda has sighted a pair of Common Bronze Wing close to one of the Vegwatch sites.

The last record in the Canberra Ornithologists Group database of this species on Black Mountain was in 2009.

Vegwatch – did not include fallen timber last November but have now caught up.

Jamison Display – Jean Geue is coordinating the Friends' Groups for the display at the Jamison Centre in September, which will coincide with Landcare Week. Linda is willing to include material that MCG would like to promote.

Parkcare Coordination arrangements are becoming more formal as work plans and management plans are required. PCS also expect us to work towards the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan (1999). The Volunteer Agreement is yet to be signed. Several FoBM committee members would like to see a point about the priority of conservation to be included in the agreement for both parties. FoBM will be meeting with PCS in August.

There has been a follow up meeting on the ACT Draft Trails Strategy and the focus on conservation has been put back in. The assessment table has been revamped but FoBM has not seen it yet. Rangers are trialling it in various nature reserves and have been happier with the way it is more consistent with assessing requirements for new trails and the closure of old or illegal trails in line with conservation requirements. The draft version that was released in January virtually discounted the priority of conservation in nature reserves and nature parks.

Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

The newsletter was sent out two weeks ago. 300 copies were printed but it was not enough. The Glossy Black Cockatoo Project was advertised.

Bernie is going to come out in the next two weeks to look at erosion, etc.

The workshop with Burra is coming up. No replies have been received yet so may have to do a letterbox drop. The office part of the workshop will be held at Burra hall and the field part at Swainsona Reserve.

Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

Burra has multiple community associations that produce an approximately monthly newsletter, the Burra Intermittent, with one page for Landcare. There is no editor at present so it is not possible to advertise the workshop and Don agrees with Maryke about arranging a letter box drop.

The Feral Pig workshop has been deferred until 10 August.

The Rural Fire Service conducted a Hotspots event with two presentations in Burra Hall followed by a burn-off demonstration on a property.

Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker

Still planning National Tree Day. The bicycle track has gone through and the engineers have forbidden the planting of lomandras and dianella along it. However, these lilies can be grown just inside the fence. Tree planting will be from 9.30am – noon on 27 July, followed by a free barbecue.

Queanbeyan Council, in conjunction with Queanbeyan Landcare, will hold the official opening ceremony for Mount Jerrabomberra platform on 9 August at 10:30am with short Summit walk inspections from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Buses will be provided to get to the opening as no cars are allowed.

K2C manages one portion of a \$3m Program funded by the Myer Foundation for improving native grassland across South East Australia. Greening Australia and Friends of Grasslands will launch a new website as a repository of information and advice on native grasslands.

Art Exhibition – ACTEW Water have always been generous with sponsorship for the art prize grant; however, the application for funding is becoming more complex. Alan Jones, President of the Artists Society of Canberra, has suggested a joint application from the arts societies and catchment groups. Tom will contact Alan Jones and discuss the matter further.

Oaks Estate – Karen Williams

Queanbeyan Art Show are seeking a theme for next year so we need to think about it.

Karen is working on a submission for the Oaks Estate master plan.

6. Other Business

6.1 Waterwatch

Already discussed (See 5.1 President's Report).

6.2 RIS Funding

RIS funding will decrease by 25% in 2015 so we need to start thinking now about how to address the situation and consider whether we reduce staffing. We need to think about opportunities and an approach to fundraising, rather than just applying for grants. The Environmental Trust has informed Bernie in relation to the Pest Animal Initiative, that they do not want hard copy documents, just electronic so Lynton suggested that we develop a mobile application for recording dead animals on the road, etc. We could also subscribe to Yarramine which will alert us to funding/grants available. Lynton thought we should align MCG with an organisation that is good at fundraising and seek mentoring. Linda suggested a workshop to discuss ideas and the Committee agreed. The Committee also agreed that the workshop should be limited to the Committee to start with and should be held on a Monday evening in the near future.

6.3 National Landcare Conference

The National Landcare Conference will be held soon in Melbourne. Award winners will go, but only for the awards ceremony and not the conference. RLF is looking at making places available for the conference and Lynton wondered whether MCG should offer sponsorship (of 50% of travel and accommodation costs) for someone to attend and represent MCG. Tom remarked that the conference is a tremendous experience as the state finalists present interesting case studies at workshops. Lynton will seek more information as the conference is a good networking opportunity.

6.4 Dog Exercise Areas

Linda expressed concern about changes to dog on-leash and off-leash exercise areas. It is important that Black Mountain Nature Reserve remain a prohibited area for dogs because of conservation needs. FoBM will make that point in response to the call for comment. Linda would like other Parkcare and Landcare groups to also respond.

6.5 Friends of Grasslands Forum

The Forum will be held on 30 October – 1 November.

7. Next Meeting

The next Executive and General meeting will be held at 5:00pm on Monday, 11 August 2014 at the MCG Office, Unit 13, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan.

8. Meeting Close

As all business was concluded, the meeting closed at 7:15pm.



~~President~~ VICE PRESIDENT

11/8/2014
Date