



## MCG Executive and General Meeting

Monday, 8 September 2014

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

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was declared open at 5:02pm by Lynton Bond, President. Lynton extended a warm welcome to all present.

In attendance were Lynton Bond, Bernie Bugden, Carol Billett, Jim Arnold, Karen Williams, Maryke Booth, Tom Baker and Don Fraser.

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Because of Carol's absence from Canberra due to a recent family bereavement the minutes of the meeting of 11 August 2014 had not been completed. Carol will complete them and circulate them out of session before the next meeting.

On behalf of the Executive Lynton extended condolences to Carol on her recent bereavement.

### 3. Business Arising

- Conservation Volunteers' *In Safe Hands* Workshop – Mel will prepare a report for the Committee on the recent workshop.
- Bernie has prepared a report and circulated it via email recommending that the workshop for MCG and other partners to develop a more structured business plan be deferred until November 2014.
- Membership Register – we need to respond to John's email.

### 4. Correspondence

In:

Date	Source	Subject	From
13/8/14	Email	ACT Environment Grant ( <i>Managing Threats to Biodiversity across Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura and Enhancing the Biodiversity Value of Block 2 Section 128 Yarralumla.</i> )	Tim Wong, Acting Manager, Natural Resource Management, Environment and Planning Directorate ACT
3/9/14	Email	Native Vegetation Act Information Tools	Sue-Anne Nicol, SELLS
3/9/14	Email	National Landcare Program – funding and proposed Landcare ACT	Glenys Patulny, Southern ACT Catchment Group
4/9/14	Email	Googong Township Integrated Water Cycle project, BoB meeting 2	Craig Harris, Assistant Project Director,

			Googong Township Pty Ltd
4/9/14	Email	NRC review of weed management in NSW	AnnMaree Shipley, Natural Resources Commission, L10, 15 Castlereagh Street, Sydney
4/9/14	Email	Advice to representor after decision – DA No 201324521 (Mugga Lane Solar Farm proposal)	EPD Customer Services, Natural Resource Management, Environment and Planning Directorate ACT

#### Out:

Date	Source	Subject	To
15/8/14	Email	National Landcare Program	Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
24/8/14	Email	Membership Register	MCG Executive
26/8/14	Email	Director and Officers Professional Indemnity Insurance – details of any Board positions held	MCG Executive and Staff
5/9/14	Email	MCG Audit – Fraud Risk Assessment	MCG Executive

## 5. Reports

### 5.1 President's Report – Lynton Bond

The report was circulated via email prior to the meeting.

- Lynton attended the Catchment and Landcare Association meeting on 21 August.
- The website is almost ready to go public.
- The Waterwatch position has been advertised. There were 18 applicants. Interviews will be held tomorrow and there appear to be four really outstanding candidates.
- We have engaged one of our volunteers, Ellen Eckhardt, is organising a Land for Wildlife workshop at Carwoola to be held probably in late October. The funding for this was received over 12 months ago.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grant is likely to be announced at the conference during 17-19 September.
- There has been no further development regarding the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Office.

### 5.2 Vice President's Report – Karen Williams

- Karen is participating as a panel member in the interviews to be held tomorrow for the Waterwatch Coordinator position.
- Karen has finalised the Heritage Grant report and it is with Lynton for budget matters.
- Karen has produced a brochure (Word document) about Ngunawal walks and talks, including a Placestory page, for the final ACT Heritage Grant acquittal report.

### 5.3 Treasurer's Report

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

In John's absence Lynton advised the Committee that he had expected the auditors' report for the meeting but has not yet received it. When it arrives he will circulate it to the Committee. He does not anticipate any problems.

We are about to go to periodical payments for staff.

#### **5.4 Coordinator's and Project Officer's Report – Bernie Bugden**

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

- Mel has progressed the Catchment Strategy but has been delayed by working on funding applications. We are using a volunteer to assist and Mel is training her.
- RIS – awaiting the ACT to review and transfer funds.
- Business Planning – recommend deferring the workshop until November (see comment at paragraph 3, *Business Arising*, above) until a peak workload of funding applications and project implementations has passed.
- Funding applications – a few are due now for new projects. Mel has circulated "*From Stringybark to Envirova*" and Bernie is working on another for Captains Flat.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grants are expected to open in mid-September. The total amount is \$2 million nationally.
- A funding application has been approved for Captains Flat, with work to start in October/November.
- ACT Environment Grant – trees have been delivered and Bernie is meeting with FoBM on 30 September.
- ACT Rural Grant – has been approved for fencing to manage kangaroos and links with Mt Majura.
- Great Eastern Ranges Landcare Grants have been approved for four erosion control projects. It is high-risk work and has highlighted that Bernie should perhaps not do it without professional indemnity insurance.
- Bernie attended the South East Landcare Muster at Braidwood on 2 September.
- RIS actions – we have finished last year's performance and are now into implementation for this year's. We are close to achieving our two year area target for fencing installed to reduce grazing but have under achieved in terms of the fencing target as there is not a great demand for it.

#### **5.5 Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker**

- Queanbeyan Landcare and its Fernleigh Park sub group are working with MCG to implement two connectivity projects, involving fencing and plantings south west of Queanbeyan from Fernleigh Park Rural Residential Area to the Envirova private farm. The projects were funded through Great Eastern Ranges.
- Queanbeyan City Council carried out excellent rock placement and aquatic planting works on Buttles Creek just north west of the Bungendore Road/Yass Road roundabout, to counter severe erosion. These are worth checking out. This is part of the long running rehabilitation of Buttles Creek and is adjacent to the very successful and award winning 1999-2000 plantings.
- Tom and Mel have been talking to Queanbeyan Council and local property owners about possible applications under the Saving our Species program.

#### **5.6 Friends of Black Mountain – Carol Billett**

- A General Meeting was held at Black Mountain Tower on 28 August (as Carol was interstate at the time and Linda left on an overseas holiday the following morning there has been no opportunity for feedback).

- The weeding working party scheduled for 6 September had to be cancelled because all the usual team leaders were interstate or overseas.

### **5.7 Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold**

- The July work party was in two parts, starting with weeding in the newly-acquired bushland, mostly honeysuckle, followed by a kangaroo sweep through the paddocks, which scored 186.
- Patterson's Curse has almost been eliminated in the snow gums area.
- Jim taking part in the Parkcare display at Jamison Plaza later this month.
- Jim attended an erosion control workshop but it was not too specific regarding cures.

### **5.8 Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth**

- Moving ahead with planting casuarinas.
- Working on a grant to make a chain of ponds near Jerrabomberra Creek
- A workshop was held about grasses. The theory part took place at Burra and the practical at Swainsona Reserve.

### **5.9 Burra Landcare – Don Fraser**

- Not many local residents attended the workshop on "Improving the Value of Your Property", in spite of the letterbox drop. It was a good workshop, presented by Alison Elvin.
- Have received emails and phone calls from Queanbeyan Landcare about mites for St John's Wort. It is not ready yet – could be dormant.

### **5.10 Oaks Estate – Karen Williams**

- Karen is now considering producing a Placestory page for Oaks Estate.
- Still waiting feedback on final Master Plan and preparing submission on Precinct Code. Heritage assessment still incomplete.

### **5.11 Carwoola Landcare – Lynton Bond**

- Queanbeyan Landcare has organised to release mites; other areas have been deferred because of limited growth but Carwoola St John's Wort rosettes are shooting vigorously.
- Organized a rabbit workshop (pindone) for 28 September (second generation of rabbits already seen this year).

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Landcare ACT Proposal**

The three catchment groups are working together under Caring for our Country and National Landcare is working with the Commonwealth to get funding for landcare bodies. The Commonwealth agreed to the National Landcare Network (NLN) proposals but instead of giving the grant to NLN, the Commonwealth wanted to deal directly with the landcare bodies and has developed a proposal for raising the profile of landcare and improving membership, etc.

The Catchment and Landcare Association membership is made up of the three catchment groups, Greening Australia, the Conservation Council, UMCCC and Conservation volunteers. The only organisations not nationally represented are UMCCC and the three catchment groups. There is potential for overlap with the RLF funded by the Commonwealth and the peak body needs to work in collaboration to ensure there is no duplication. The purpose of the meeting last week was to consolidate. From MCG's point of view there is very little change. We will become a member of the Landcare peak body.

The Landcare peak body is expected to employ someone to take minutes, etc. and also someone to work on increasing membership and developing a marketing strategy, etc. Funding from the Commonwealth

will be provided for four years with \$60K available in the first year. The body being proposed will ensure organisations are working together.

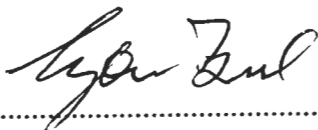
After some discussion the Committee agreed to support the formation of a peak community Landcare body.

**7. Next Meeting**

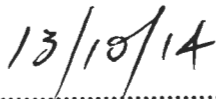
The next Executive and General meeting will be held on Monday, 13 October 2014 at 5:00pm.

**8. Meeting Close**

As there was no further business to discuss Lynton declared the meeting closed at 7:00pm.



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**President**



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**Date**