

# MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



**MCG Executive and General Meeting**  
Monday, 9 February 2015

**MCG Office: Unit 21, Cassidy Arcade, 72-76 Monaro Street, Queanbeyan**

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Karen opened the meeting at 5:00pm and welcomed everyone present.

In attendance were Karen Williams (President), Lynton Bond, Jim Arnold, John Bridge (Treasurer), Maryke Booth, Don Fraser, Bernie Bugden (Molonglo Catchment Coordinator), Tom Baker and Carol Billett (Secretary).

Apologies were received from Linda Beveridge.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of 10 November 2014 and 8 December 2014 were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

Lynton proposed that the minutes of the meeting 10 November 2014 be accepted. Maryke seconded the motion.

Carol proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2014 be accepted. John seconded the motion.

## 3. Business Arising

In January 2015 Molonglo Catchment group had moved to new premises at Unit 21, Cassidy Arcade. The ACT Property Register has not yet been updated.

## 4. Correspondence

Reporting period: 12 December 2014 – 5 February 2015

### In

Date	Source	Subject	From
12/12/14	Letter	Molonglo Catchment Education Initiative/Environmental Trust Application	Peter Dixon NSW Environmental Trust
16/12/14	Letter	Acknowledgement of submission – DCP South Jerrabomberra	Arthean McBride Queanbeyan City Council
19/12/14	Letter	Greening Australia – Year in Review	Brendan Foran CEO, Greening Australia
12/1/15	Email	Communiqué from National Landcare Advisory Council	Glenys Patulny
2/2/15	Email	Land for Wildlife private Conservation Grants	John Asquith Chairman, NSW LFW
5/2/15	Email	National Landcare Survey	Alison McLeod

### Out

There was no outwards correspondence for the period.

## 5. Reports

### 5.1 President's Report – Karen Williams

- Catchment and Landcare Association
  - the working group for the Landcare Peak Body is planning to add additional questions to the survey by the Regional Landcare Facilitator.
  - RIS Funding – the Commonwealth was to sign off on changes by the end of January but, as of today, are still negotiating. Targets, however, are on track. There will be a new level of funding with effect from July.
  - Chair of the ACT NRM Council, Paul Davies, indicated that their last meeting had a workshop format, which although successful for the NRM Council, was unsuitable for attendance by a CLA delegate making a presentation. The next meeting should be a more general council type meeting. There is no longer a schedule for meetings; they will be called as necessary.
  - National Landcare Network – the new CEO lives in Queanbeyan and although working from home much of the time, will be offered a hot desk at SACTCG
  - Ginninderra Catchment Group – Celina Smith, one of the co-convenors of GCG, resigned at the end of last year so Kat Ng is now the sole convenor.
  - Southern ACT Catchment Group – have found a new treasurer through the Institute of Company Directors. Erosion Control Workshops will be starting up shortly and Martine is working with other Catchment Groups on heritage walks and talks.
  - The RLF is to work 4 days per week this year and Alison is reducing to one day per week until she goes on maternity leave in April. Sally and Alison are working on the Canberra Show and also a Groundcover / biomass workshop.
  - Waterwatch – Woo O'Reilly gave a presentation on the revised Catchment Health Indicator Program. She also spoke on the launch of the feral fish scan project on FeralScan, focussing on the Upper Murrumbidgee. The Waterwatch database on the Atlas of Living Australia still needs tweaking and has to be manually updated.
- Biodiversity Working Group – Linda had circulated the draft minutes of the January BWG meeting via email prior to the meeting. A copy is attached for information.
- Bob-Molonglo – the first meeting of the year, scheduled for 10 February, has been postponed until (tentatively) the end of February. This later date will allow LDA to conduct a site visit to what should be the newly finished boardwalk at Holden's Creek Hill.
- BoB-Googong – (Bernie) the group is made up of the developer, council and community representatives and MCG. At the last meeting the developers gave an update on the statutory management works. At the next meeting they will table the draft water management plan. Rain on 15 January caused some of the structures to overflow. As a result, they had to report back to EPA. The Council is undertaking an investigation and, hopefully, will report to the BoB meeting in March. Issues raised at the meeting were feral animals (pigs), biodiversity and best practice water management. Deb has advised that water quality around Queanbeyan is very good, so linking Deb's strategy will help.
- Basin Priorities Project – (Lynton) at the last meeting there was a willingness by the consultants to talk to the community. Suggest we should invite them to a walk and talk. There will be a preliminary sketch plan for consultation by November 2015. They have undertaken to provide quarterly updates, target community groups and catchment groups. Water quality monitoring will be publicly available so we will be able to compare it with ours. Management options should include behaviour expectations and community engagement.
- Office Accommodation – we still need a compactus. Lynton obtained a quote from Brownbilt for \$5K and from Dexion for \$10K. Dexion's compactus is taller than Brownbilt's. Maryke suggested SSO Handling and Storage. Lynton will contact them. We also need shelves for Deb's storage and a projector screen for the wall in the meeting room. The electricity bill has been received and is

\$140 for January so should be around \$200 per month in future. Lynton was thinking of going with Origin but ACTEWAGL have said they will beat their price by 3%. Lynton will follow up.

- Website – Marion has asked what is needed to get MCG live so Lynton has sent her a list.

## **5.2 Vice-President's Report**

(Not applicable)

## **5.3 Treasurer's Report – John Bridge**

The financial statements are attached for information.

- The operating profit for the period of \$146K could be misleading as the expenditure has not caught up yet.
- Balance Sheet – interest rates have gone down but there is not much point in moving things around.
- The BAS is due on 3 March.
- Diane has sent two reports but they have not been circulated to all.

## **5.4 Staff Report**

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

- RIS is renegotiating strategy in terms of targets and they hope to resolve it soon. The negotiated figures are not sorted out yet but we are ahead of targets on all projects as listed.
- Pest Animal project – received \$5K from LLS for pig traps and now working with landowners on the project.
- Woody Weed Removal at Captains Flat – weather has hampered the removal but the contractor is almost finished.
- Weed control at Block 2, Yarralumla begins tomorrow.
- Great Eastern Ranges Landcare grant – tree ripping and replanting is planned for May.
- Waterwatch – two new Waterwatchers have been recruited. A lot of work has been done on the database; however, it has highlighted the issue that every year the data has been collected and analysed differently, making trend analysis difficult.

## **5.5 Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth**

- A meeting was held to discuss issues regarding rabbits. The cost of a workshop is \$33 per head. Pindone is considered the best option as the Calici virus is hit and miss.
- Issues with feral pigs.
- The Glossy Black cockatoo project is finishing.
- Arrangements have been made to have Indian mynah nests removed.
- Royalla Roundup is being held on 29 March. Royalla Landcare will have a stall and MCG is welcome to join them there.

## **5.6 Burra Landcare – Don Fraser**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. The new Chair of Burra Landcare is Cath Boyd who is very keen and active.
- There was a very successful excursion into the Tinderry Ranges, led by two rangers. They were excited to find koala scratch marks on a tree and have now got funding to carry out a survey.

## **5.7 Queanbeyan Landcare – Tom Baker**

- The Queanbeyan Sustainability Group and Queanbeyan Landcare Group have prepared submissions to Queanbeyan City Council about the proposed 4.5km Ellerton Road Extension. The QSG was very active in promoting this issue to the community, including organising a successful survey and petition.

- Queanbeyan Landcare and Molonglo Catchment group (Mel Hillery) have been very busy organising four community plantings (one very large) in Fernleigh Park, south of Queanbeyan, and the adjoining Environa property. Great Eastern Ranges funding is for fenced enclosures, ripping, etc for planting and seeding stepping stones for small birds.
- The ACT Catchment Art Exhibition for 2015 has been organised for early April as part of the ACT Heritage Festival. Fortunately, ACTEW Water/ACTEWAGL have agreed to the exhibition/competition being held in the ACTEWAGL display premises in Bunda Street, Civic. The exhibition is likely to also involve other art pieces along the same theme of native grasslands. The 3 year Myer-funded Grasslands Management Project is winding up shortly and, as part of this, varied art forms have been sought to mark the finalisation of this major project exploring the future management of native grasslands in south eastern Australia. A web site is being developed with Greening Australia that will display outcomes for the project and also have links to many other sources of information on the management of native grasslands.

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

- December-January work parties were held weekly (early and brief), mainly to pull St John's Wort in the forbs area of the Snow Gums Paddock (where spraying is taboo). Mainly spot spraying it elsewhere, including west of its boundary. Patterson's Curse has been vanquished therein, but is still rampant outside.
- St John's Wort is resurgent generally, dictating another spray round in a month or so.

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

- Another successful weeding working party was held on 7 February. The next weeding working party will be held on Saturday, 7 March 2015.
- A guided walk entitled *Ants on Black Mountain* will be held on Sunday, 22 February. Ajay Narendra, ANU, will lead the walk.
- A display featuring Black Mountain's natural heritage and "*Ngunnawal Plant Use: a traditional Aboriginal plant use guide for the ACT Region*", a field guide recently published by the ACT Government, will be held on the lower ground floor of Black Mountain Tower from 11 April 2015.

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Landcare Peak Body**

A Community Update was circulated by email prior to the meeting. We need to respond by 15 February regarding the preferred name: Landcare ACT would be consistent with other states' peak bodies.

### **6.2 Draft Business Plan**

Prior to the meeting Karen circulated by email a draft business plan formulated from a workshop with the other Catchment Groups and the overlay of a template. Karen asked for comments from the Committee and would like to have them by 16 February. She will prepare a draft to circulate by 23 February and the final draft ready by 27 February. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 16 March from 3:00-5:00pm and that will be a workshop for the Business Plan.

### **6.3 MCG Working Groups**

Karen would like to see a re-structure of the management of the organisation. She would like to see an executive committee made up of the MCG executive positions, sub-committee Chairs, the catchment co-ordinator and other co-opted individual members with relevant expertise including to oversee the implementation of MCG business plan and its integration with the MC catchment strategy. There would then be three sub-committees to management different aspects of MCG business. The sub-committees will be:

- Finance, Audit and Risk Management (F.A.R.M) chaired by John and looking at banking and customising our charter; Corporate and Operational Plan – dealing with internal and external tactics and strategies;
- Communications; The current management committee, which is made up of various landcare groups would continue as a sub-committee, would become a communications committee responsible for co-ordinating a collaboration strategy. The committee would be expanded with other landcare/parkcare groups and relevant skilled corporate and individual members. Mel would be involved with this subcommittee to help provide a tighter connection to our strategy objectives and develop our project partnership potential. This would also help rejuvenate our membership.
- Records Management chaired by Carol and looking at archives management, recording of documents, sorting out the library, formalising procedures, manuals, etc and keeping them current. Membership records etc. We also need a record of lead times and deadlines for reporting purposes and we need to make better use of our volunteer labour. Overall, this should empower the organisation to achieve what we want to do.

#### 6.4 Debit Card

Lynton advised that Karen needs more access to funds and proposed the following four motions to simplify banking matters (and which arose from the finance meeting attended by Diane):

- Agreement from the Committee for Karen to have a debit card. Lynton is currently the primary cardholder, which gives him unlimited access to all funds. Bernie is the secondary cardholder and has access up to \$2K. Lynton proposed that Karen be a primary cardholder.
- That Karen be a signatory to all accounts, as are John and Maryke.
- Maryke is the administrator of all accounts and can request tokens. We should now make John an administrator as well.
- And to save Lynton having to do set up transactions, we should make Diane a non-value access user so she can upload and draft transactions and download transaction lists.

The four motions were seconded by John and agreed by all present.

#### 6.5 Small Grants Assessment

Bernie, Lynton and Karen formed the panel to assess the small grants applications. They assessed all applications as worthwhile and recommended that the MCG Executive approve the total Small Grants allocation of \$4,282, as per attached list with stated requirements.

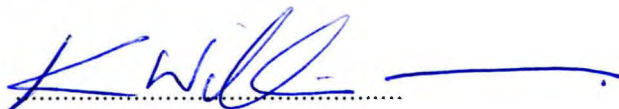
The Executive agreed and approved the total amount.

#### 7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 16 March at the new time of 3:00-5:00pm

#### 8. Meeting Close

As there was no further business Karen declared the meeting closed at 7:15pm.



President

16-3-2015

Date