

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting
Monday, 13 April 2015

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Karen opened the meeting at 3.14pm and welcomed everyone present.

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

Apologies were received from Maryke Booth and Tom Baker.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting of 16 March 2015 were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Carol proposed that those minutes be accepted; Lynton seconded the motion.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Correspondence

Reporting Period 13/3/15 to 8/4/15

Inwards:

Date	Source	Subject	From
2/4/15	Email	Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning and Development Strategy – acknowledgement of submission receipt	Land Development Agency

Outwards:

Date	Source	Subject	To
31/3/15	Email	SolarShare Proposal – Majura	Lawrence McIntosh, SolarShare
2/4/15	Email	Canberra Brickworks and Environs Planning and Development Strategy	Land Development Agency

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – Karen Williams

The report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Catchment and Landcare Association - Karen asked Lynton to give an update on the Catchment and Landcare Association meeting held on 16 April (CLA).

Lynton also talked about the fledgeling ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group (ACT RCMCG) which is made up of representatives from ACT agencies, NSW agencies, GMs of local councils and a UMCCC representative, also representing the community. Under that group will be several working groups. The aim of the group is to stay out of the action and determine where the government should come in. It will have input into projects such as the Basin Priority Project. The ACT RCMCG is still a confused area and trying to define itself.

ACT RIS program is still running on its own funds as the contract is with the Federal Government, which has not paid the ACT Government yet. The catchment groups (who are contracted through the ACT Government's RIS program to carry out natural resource management activities) are not in financial difficulty yet but the amount owed to them is getting quite large. Invoices have been raised and sent by catchment groups, but the ACT Government is waiting for funds from the Federal Government before it will pay the catchment groups.

Website - Lynton gave a short report on the website and mentioned that Marion Benson is stepping down in the next 12 months. There is a need to find someone to take over. At present we have a shared website and Lynton is able to add items. Eventually it will become 'live'. In the last 12 months the Murrumbidgee RLF has paid for all shared websites so no one has seen a bill yet. There was prior agreement that maintenance costs would be approximately \$1,000 - \$1,500.

Canberra Nature Park - Karen advised that the Department of Environment and Planning have given an update on Canberra Nature Park (CNP). They are currently working from a 16 year old plan for CNP, which they are now reviewing and developing a 10 year plan. Martine Franco, the Coordinator from the Southern Catchment Group, attended a community consultation meeting last week and was concerned that the proposal to divide the park into zones may be an opening for parts of the park being used for building. There was no consideration given to the work done by Park Care groups.

Green Army – the team has commenced. Bernie advised that the current project is running and there are six others in the pipeline. This is a partnership between the three catchment groups and Greening Australia and Volunteers Australia. There has been some resistance from Friends' groups, which have been asked to nominate projects. The Green Army team members are of a good standard but are unable to use chainsaws and are limited in the use of chemicals, although the supervisors are qualified. The teams are best used for heavy labour.

Insurance - this is the last year that Park Care groups will be insured through ACT Landcare. From April next year they will be insured through Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS). 'Key' volunteers are to be registered with TAMS. There will be implications for urban Landcare groups managed through City Services.

Bush on the Boundary – Molonglo - is still awaiting a response from LDA regarding a site visit.

Bush on the Boundary – Googong - (update provided by Bernie) the next meeting is scheduled for 4 May and will consider the proposed implementation of the water management plan. Mel will give a presentation on land recovery management projects.

Basin Priorities Project (BPP) – a community survey is about to go out. The consultants have addressed a range of potential projects. Since then project consultants have approached MCG and for a list of ideas. MCG has tried to identify where those projects could be put into place. There has been community concern about the nature of consultations – not much community engagement to date. BPP identified the ACT RCMCG as a feed-in group. MCG has been approached by Queanbeyan Landcare (QLC) to discuss holding a forum about cross-border water management issues that it feels BPP should be addressing). Karen will meet with QLC and Fiona Dyer (UMCCC acting as community voice on ACT RCMCG) on

21 April to talk about the issues. This fits in with work that Mel is doing with QLC on connectivity projects.

Office Relocation – the compactus is to be installed on 17 April so the storage room will have to be emptied by 16 April.

Peak Body – see attached notes. Lighthouse project could have feed in to the CNP review aims. Karen has been meeting with ACT Government Natural Resource Managers (interest indicated from upper-middle management down) and will be attending the National Landcare Conference in Perth at the end of May.

MCG Business Plan – the Executive committee is still to be determined. Skill requirements will dictate new membership. MERI committee has begun work on records management with a new volunteer, Jeanette Regan, working with Mel. Carol is to provide an update at the next meeting.

Strategic Plan – is a little behind schedule. Mel is currently on leave.

Collaboration – on 31 March Karen gave a talk to the Artists Society of Canberra on interpreting grasslands and woodlands landscape in the local region prior to their exhibition, “*Native Grasslands*” opening on 13 April.

5.2 Vice President’s Report

Vacant Office Position.

5.3 Treasurer’s Report – John Bridge

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

Although the balance was negative for March, we are still in profit.

There are some minor anomalies and minor concern about the cash reserve and interest rates in that the cash reserves are not invested as this provides the funds for the MCG small grants program. Cash flows will be investigated over the next few months to consider if it is worthwhile to undertake a more proactive investment program. However, since the interest rates are so low, the effort may not be worthwhile.

The BAS is due at the end of this month.

Diane is doing a tremendous job but running over hours. An increase in her hours may be warranted.

We need to introduce some processes and accountability for project costs to ensure that Diane can process the accounts more efficiently. The next big grant project commences in August and we should seek to have more efficient processes in place for that project.

5.4 Staff Report – Bernie Bugden

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

Projects - now looking at a range of new projects as Rural and Heritage grants have been released. Some projects are nearing completion. An application has been lodged with the NSW Environmental Trust for a research grant as well as an application to support Vegwatch. Discussions have been held with ACTEW about a clean water project near Burra.

Waterwatch – Deb has been very busy and has six new Waterwatchers.

5.5 Committee Members

a. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold

Since the last reported workparty, individual efforts have been spraying weeds (St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse) bordering the Snow Gums Paddock and removing barbed wire from fences.

b. Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

The main focus is the trees in the park and we have set aside \$800 for maintenance. Now checking moisture content. Have obtained a Drought Index from the Bureau of Meteorology that works out when the next watering should be.

National Parks have offered training for a koala survey.

c. Friends of Black Mountain – Carol Billett

A weeding workparty was held on 4 April at the Pryor Notable Snowgums in the Glenloch Interchange. More than 150 woody weeds were removed from there and near the Cork plantation. Another weeding workparty was held on 11 April removing woody weeds between the Powerline Trail and Belconnen Way. The next weeding party will be held on 2 May.

The exhibition *Black Mountain: a Special Place* was officially opened by Minister Mick Gentleman on 10 April. The exhibition, which is located in the Telstra Tower, was developed with the aid of a Heritage grant and was a joint venture between FoBM and MCG. The launch was very successful.

d. Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

Maryke was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded the following information by email (copy attached).

The first Royalla Roundup country fair was held on 29 March. It was attended by about 2,300 people and raised \$15K for the community hall. The Landcare stand was manned by three people all day who signed up two new members for Landcare and five people for the Glossy Black Cockatoo project as well as raising \$245 from book sales. A very big thankyou to MCG for the loan of the trailer and to Mel for attending, presenting certificates and giving a talk.

A newsletter has been sent out calling for expressions of interest for a rabbit workshop. There have been three responses as well as the committee.

e. Queanbeyan Landcare – Bill Willis (new President)

(Bill arrived late as he was not aware that the meeting times had been changed from 5:00pm to 3:00pm).

Bill sought advice on whether he could retrospectively seek reimbursement of the GST component of a grant that QLC had received. Lynton advised him that it was unlikely that the GST component had not been included. Bill was invited to attend future MCG committee meetings so that he could provide further updates of QLC activities.

QLC has a number of small projects running at present. Queanbeyan City Council has given \$2.5K to work with UC in developing a site in Bicentennial Park. A lot more work is being done on urban parklets and on eradicating *acacia baileyana*.

6. Other Business

6.1 Financial Management and Administration

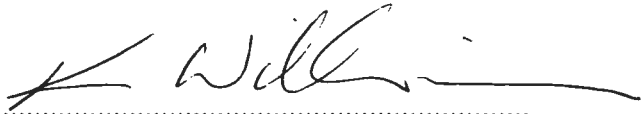
This was covered by the Treasurer's report and subsequent discussion.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 11 May 2015 from 3:00-5:00pm.

8. Meeting Close

Karen declared the meeting closed at 5:03pm.



.....
President

11/5/2015

.....
Date