

MOLONGLO CATCHMENT GROUP Inc.

ABN 78 210 867 987



MCG Executive and General Meeting
Monday, 11 May 2015

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

Karen opened the meeting at 3:02pm and welcomed everyone present.

In attendance were Karen Williams (President), Lynton Bond, Jim Arnold, Bernie Bugden, Carol Billett (Secretary), Don Fraser, Bill Willis and Tom Baker.

Apologies were received from Maryke Booth, Linda Beveridge (Public Officer) and John Bridge (Treasurer).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2015 were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Carol proposed that those minutes be accepted; Lynton seconded the motion and all agreed.

3. Business Arising

- **Strategic Plan** – is on track and should be finalised this week. Good feedback has been received from the Committee and stakeholders.
- **BoB Molonglo** – Karen has emailed Anke Maria Hoefler who is interested in talking to them about Frogwatch sites. No word yet from TAMS on the status of the boardwalk at Holden's Creek Hill.
- **Basin Priorities Project** – MCG to provide feedback to BPP on the community engagement strategy before the survey. Karen is involved through ISCCC and will get feedback through that.

4. Correspondence

Reporting Period – 8/4/15 to 8/5/15

Inwards

Date	Source	Subject	From
14/4/15	Letter	Environmental Trust grant certificate – “Stringybark to Environa Landscape Link for Small Bush Birds”	Rob Stokes, Minister for the Environment
15/4/15	Email	New Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations	Parliament of Australia (House of Representatives)
24/4/15	Email	Eastern Broadacre Planning Project Fact Sheet	Sanzida Akhter Environment and Planning, ACT Government
4/5/15	Email	Environmental Trust grant agreement – “Stringybark to Environa Landscape Link for Small Bush Birds”	Karen Wakely, NSW Environmental Trust
6/5/15	Email	Update on RIS Funding	Tim Wong, Manager, NRM Programs Section Environment & Planning Directorate
8/5/15	Email	LLS Community Industry and Landscape Fund	Peter Piggott, Regional Landcare Facilitator, SELLS

Outwards

Date	Source	Subject	To
23/4/15	Email	Eastern Broadacre Planning Project	Sanzida Akhter, Environment & Planning, ACT Government

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report – Karen Williams

CLA – Lynton had circulated the draft minutes of the last CLA meeting prior to MCG's meeting. Woo O'Reilly has set up a Twitter Account. On 22 April there was a facilitated workshop for Landcare ACT and there will be a public launch on 13 June. Pressure was put on Tim Wong regarding funding as none had been received at that stage.

BoB Molonglo – see comments at paragraph 3 above.

BoB Googong – Bernie advised that the last meeting was two weeks ago. A critical issue was an update on the water management plan: an interim licence was issued in 2013 and now a full plan of the area is required. The full draft is due at the end of May. Discussion also centred on the flood incident on 15 January when one of the structures toppled over. The structure meets EPA requirements so the Council is to carry out an audit to find out why. The discussion was open and productive and Googong is willing to work with MCG to improve practices.

Compactus – is now installed. Lynton will organise a working bee to move the boxes out of the storeroom. The task should take 4-5 hours.

Website – Lynton is unable to update projects or minutes. The new website still has glitches. Lynton is part of a working group with Karissa Preuss and Sally McIntosh to work out what can be done. They are now preparing a couple of manuals on etiquette and use. Lynton wants the website to be responsive.

Peak Body – Bernie is working with Glenys Patulny and Anne Duncan on the constitution. A workshop on 22 April provided more clarity regarding the structure. Karen also attended that workshop and remarked that there was much discussion about issues of "power" versus "empowerment".

Green Army – Bernie is coordinating the roster. There are still 18 days of access left. Groups are now lining up for Green Army assistance. An application has been submitted on behalf of the three catchment groups to fund 4 x 6months' projects for Green Army teams for next financial year.

MCG Business Plan – Carol to provide an update on MERI committee at next meeting. A chair for the Collaboration and Communication committee is still to be found.

MCG Strategic Plan – is about to be released.

Collaboration – "Native Grasslands" exhibition opened on 22 April. MCG was strongly promoted at the launch. The fourth Ngunawal walk and talks to be rescheduled.

5.2 Vice-President's Report (not in office)

5.3 Treasurer's Report

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

Lynton was concerned that the balance in the account may not be sufficient to cover the cost of the compactus. The statement only covered to the end of April and Bernie advised that credits had been deposited in May.

Jobs List - Bernie advised that funds have been acquitted on some jobs but they are still in credit. The list is being reviewed.

5.4 Staff Report – Bernie Bugden

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

- Catchment Strategy – Mel hopes to have it finished by Wednesday.
- RIS – Tim Wong has advised that funds are now available and we should receive the last milestone payment shortly.
- Grants – Bernie and Mel are looking at projects for small grants and pursuing SELLS for grants or funding for small animals and to follow on Mel's corridor work as well as riparian fencing.
- All existing projects are on track or coming to conclusion.
- Seeking a Heritage Grant for a project between the three catchment groups and Wally and Tyrone Bell regarding Aboriginal sites and building local knowledge.
- Mel got approval from the Committee some time ago for Land for Wildlife funding but is now seeking money for administration. She will submit a separate brief.
- RIS outcomes are on track except for fencing. The priority now is to bring current projects to account before 30 June. Bernie will also submit a proposal to the Committee for the use of unspent funds.
- Googong BoB – this is another area of effort but Bernie needs guidance from the Committee about the level of involvement. It is quite important work but we are not paid for it.

5.5 Committee Members

a. Friends of Aranda Bushland – Jim Arnold

A. Activities:

Monthly workparties advancing to 1st Sunday caused two since last report.

Poisoning (dabbing/spraying) of PC & SJW still, plus erosion-control (logs into gullies), cut-dab of honeysuckle in newly acquired SE bushland, and routine step-point monitoring (as per next).

B. Groundcover analysis;

Decade monitoring Autumn/Spring in Snow gums paddock (mainly of its prime weeds: St John's Wort, Patterson's Curse, Mustard) in perspective, showed:

1. the weeds varied more;
2. their suppression inconclusive;
3. Dry conditions advantage SJW.

Shall circulate the analysis-proper soon.

b. Royalla Landcare – Maryke Booth

Maryke was unable to attend the meeting so submitted the following report via email:

- We are about to plant the rest of our allocasurinas 1000 odd up on ridge.
- I have attached copy of our latest newsletter.
- We are keen to do some rabbit control.

c. K2C – Tom Baker

Kosciuszko to the Coast's new Chairperson is Alice Taylor for the next 3 months. The Chairship is being rotated among K2C Partner organisations. Alice is with the Southern Local Land Services. Kosciuszko to the Coast has been urged by GER's Gary to apply for two funding applications under the new Bush

Connect funding program, which is providing funding for up to 6 years of a 10 year projects addressing connectivity within the GER. K2C was preparing a matrix of target species/systems, threats and actions to forward to Partners. This matrix may also provide a framework for the forthcoming *Save Our Species* (SOS) funding program, to be announced later in 2015.

The launch of the 2015 Catchment Art Exhibition and Competition was held on 13 April in the ACT Agl Foyer, as part of the ACT Heritage Festival. The theme was Native Grasslands, to mark the completion of the 3 year Grasslands Project funded through the Myer Foundation. K2C managed the NSW element of this project. The exhibition was opened by John Knox, Chief Exec officer of Icon Water (previously ACTEW Water). The major prize of \$2,000, sponsored by Icon Water, was won by Angharad Dean, 'In Search of lost time'. The Molonglo prize sponsored by Molonglo Catchment Group for \$500 was won by Ruth Dodd, 'Spring Grasses, Birradilli'.

The Myer funded project completion will also be marked by the Native Grasslands Sustainability Symposium to be held at the ANBG on Thursday 21 May, including the launch of the new Grasslands management website and the comprehensive grassland management compendium, *Land of the Sweeping Plains*.

Queanbeyan City Council's successful Green Army project is to be followed by one or possibly two more teams.

Queanbeyan Landcare ran a successful woody weeds control day on 2 May on environmental protection zoned land on the privately owned Poplars property near Jerrabomberra Heights.

d. Friends of Black Mountain – Carol Billett

Three members of the Coord Group met with Craig Wainwright and Nadia Rhodes from PCS and the contractor, Darren Stewart, who is working on the Summit Trail. FoBM had raised concerns about the work being done. Darren explained that he was using smaller stones coated with bitumen which would have minimum impact on the environment and would be embedded by walkers. Working with Craig and Nadia, he has specifically designed a trail that will closely follow the existing trail but is also designed to keep walkers on the trail and prevent "trail braiding" by them taking short cuts. He commented that walkers usually take the "path of least resistance" so he has used the terrain and natural flow of the land as best he can and avoided using stairs. Another problem has been that some of the "roll overs" on the existing trail were too high and were diverting water run off to the sides of the trail and causing silting so this problem is also being addressed by the re-design of the trail. Darren also considered that revegetation and "tidying up" the path edges is not necessary as the existing earth is full of seeds that should sprout in the spring, which avoids the problem of possibly introducing weed species. Nadia advised that they are developing a maintenance plan for the Centenary Trail which includes this segment. Darren thought that because of the design the trail would require minimal maintenance anyway.

e. Burra Landcare – Don Fraser

- Still involved with Icon Water. Sandy Lloyd is going to ERG. Before any construction, a survey is to be done of box gum woodlands but still need someone to do the second part of the survey.
- Have received a grant to fence off the creek and plant trees. The fencing has been done and the land prepared for planting – approximately 150 eucalypts and natives.

f. Queanbeyan Landcare – Bill Willis

1. **The Jerrabomberra Creek Stepping Stones for Birds at Fernleigh Park Project.** In association with the Molonglo Catchment Group and Fernleigh Park landholders through the Great Eastern Ranges and NSW Environmental Trust, Queanbeyan Landcare is currently fencing and planting 1200 native plants within large animal exclosures at Fernleigh Park Estate, Googong

- to encourage the movement of native birds between the Queanbeyan escarpment and the Bullen, Tidbinbilla and Brindabella Ranges.
- 2. QLc is weeding natural temperate native grassland on private rural land to control Serrated Tussock, African Love Grass, St John's wort and other invasive woody weeds and to ensure the survival of threatened plants such as *Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*. We are proud of the practical support and collaboration of the Friends of the Grasslands (FOG).
- 3. QLc supports the Bi-centennial Park Group that undertook to weed this unique 11 hectare urban park with strong elements temperate native grasslands, themed grasslands and undisturbed woodland. The QLc Bi-centennial Park Group has developed positive relations with QCC, the University of Canberra Landscape Architect Students and their teachers who use this park as a landscape design project as well as gaining a grant from a commercial source.
- 4. QLc clean and maintain the grounds and gardens of Queanbeyan Railway Station.
- 5. QLc is restoring the native plant integrity of a section of the Buttle's Creek, an urban creek in Queanbeyan close to the CBD.
- 6. QLc weed and maintain to ensure the native plant integrity Fairlane Nature Reserve, as well as monitoring the welfare of the Legless Lizard, *Aprasia parapulchella*
- 7. Queanbeyan Landcare has an ongoing grant project to breed the eriophyid mite *Aculus hyperici* for distribution to landholders and Local Government Authorities for bio-control of *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's wort). The mite breeding program has prompted QLc investigations into 'best practice' of bio-control of St John's wort in the region.
- 8. QLc supports members actively managing regional weeds such as *Acacia baileyana* invading wood-lands of high native vegetation integrity, such as Mount Jerrabomberra.
- 9. QLc supports members actively replanting urban parklets with local native plants and participating in the landscaping of their local parklets to reflect the native landscape values of their community. The QLc Candlebark Parklet Group received a \$250 grant from MCG to landscape their parklet.
- 10. QLc is concerned with the prospect of a decline of water quality in the Queanbeyan River and the Jerrabomberra Creek due to urban growth. We seek to bring to the attention of the Basin Priority Project and the NSW Office of Water, the need to address issues of urban development catchment management in relation to sedimentation, storm, grey and black-water control and the impact on the quality of water in the Queanbeyan River and the Jerrabomberra Creek. To this end QLc is also seeking to work with Queanbeyan City Council to have an active role in maintaining water quality through policies, practices, essential infrastructure and best monitoring practice of the local waterways and their catchments.

6. Other Business

Nil.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 15 June 2015 from 3:00 – 5:00pm.

8. Meeting Close

Karen declared the meeting closed at 5:00pm.

K. Will

President

15-6-2015

Date