



Coordinators AGM Report 1st July 2008 – 30 June 2009

This report includes some information from before I took up my role with the MCG in October of 2008. This has been pieced together from previous coordinator reports.

Significant Highlights

- The partnerships established during the reporting period are wide and varied and demonstrate that the MCG is extending its profile within the catchment community. We have established projects or working relationships with the Queanbeyan Indigenous River Rehab Team, National Capital Authority, Queanbeyan Men's Shed, Jerrabomberra Residents Association, Booz and Co, numerous schools in the area and maintained partnerships with Canberra Artists Society, QCC, worked closely with PCL and ACT NRM council along with the other NRM bodies in the catchment.
- MCG nominee Waltraud Pix taking out the NRMA ACT Volunteer of the year award.
- The level of interest in the numerous MCG displays held throughout the reporting period at events such as Floriade, Corinbank Festival, Queanbeyan Family Fun Day, Festival of the Forests and Queanbeyan Environment Expo was a highlight. The Queanbeyan Regatta held in February was a particularly successful event with an enormous amount of interest from locals in the MCG stall. These events successfully attracted new volunteers to our group and also to GCG and SACTCG, the Waterwatch program was a particularly popular program thanks to Stephens's fantastic displays.
- Displaying at Floriade 2008 for 4 days in collaboration with a number of partners. This event enabled us to engage a new audience and also offered us the opportunity to partner with Waterwatch, Ginninderra Catchment Group, Kosciusko to the Coast and Friends of Grasslands in a broader environmental display. Highlights included sustainability talks from Sarah Ryan and Jeff Knowles, Frogwatch presentations from Beth Mantle and daily presentations on the Molonglo Catchments water quality by the MCG.
- The continued growth of the 'Along the Molonglo' Art Prize was a highlight. The contest was held in September 2008 in conjunction with the Artist Society of Canberra and attracted 80 entries in the Queanbeyan Art Prize and 40 in the Canberra Art Prize. Through the relationship with the Artists Society of Canberra, we have been able to hold some of the Canberra event at Floriade and engage a broader audience.
- A successful weeds field day was held in conjunction with Burra Landcare and Palerang Council in November. More than 30 people attended with the majority of attendees being non-landcare members and new residents. We were able to engage a new audience and spread knowledge on weed identification and control. The Jerrabomberra Weed Field day was also held in the reporting period. This event was an attempt to engage the urban residents of our catchment in a weeds field day. While the day did not attract a large crowd it did allow the MCG to gain an understanding of how to target this audience.
- Launched our Indigenous Planting Lists for Burra Creek and the Queanbeyan and Molonglo Rivers. The guides were launched at the Landcare forum 'Tending the Grassroots' to an audience of approximately 60. The planting guides have been very popular. The guides have now been turned into posters which are ideal for displays within the catchment.

- Launched our Weeds information pack which includes the top 20 weeds in the catchment and a control calendar. The pack was developed in partnership with the Federal Government, ACT NRM Council, ACT Government, Murrumbidgee CMA, Queanbeyan and Cooma-Monaro City Councils, Australia Post and Landcare Australia.
- Held a planting day with World Youth Day Pilgrims on July 11th, this was held in partnership with Queanbeyan City Council, Queanbeyan Landcare and Saint Gregory's Parish. The MCG were also approached by a local corporation looking for an opportunity for a team building exercise. We were able to link the group with the Queanbeyan Rivers Indigenous team to conduct a tree planting session and run a BBQ for the team.
- Development of the Frog Brochure, this project was developed due to a high level of interest from the community in GCG's frog posters. These guides have been a huge success and demonstrate the ability of the group to develop valuable educational material to suit demand from the community.
- Assisted the FoMM, Mount Ainslie Weeders and Watson Woodland Working Group with their rabbit-mapping project. The MCG initially assisted by providing GPS units to the groups to use during the project. With the project expanding the MCG partnered with Parks Conservation and Lands to develop a GPS training program for volunteers. The training program began after the reporting period.

General Progress

- Macroinvertebrate sampling was added to the Waterwatch program.
- Acquisition of a range of resources to support our member groups. GPS units were a key resource purchased (via funding from the ACT Small Projects grants) that is now being used widely by our member groups.
- The profile of the group within the community appears to be growing thanks largely to a range of projects partnering various groups and attendance at numerous community events.
- The group demonstrated an ability to respond to Environmental Impact Statements/Project proposals with a high level of scientific expertise, local knowledge and with a focus on the communities concerns that was highly impressive.
- The group demonstrated an ability to quickly develop educational material and training to suit community needs. The two examples of this are the Frog Field Guide and the GPS training courses designed during the reporting period.
- Developed strong working relationships with PCL Community Programs Officer, ACT Landcare Facilitator and GCG Coordinator. This has enabled development of projects that support broad range of community groups.

Media Summary:

1. July 10, 2008- City News, Weed Pack Launch.
2. May 2009, Queanbeyan Art Society Newsletter-Along the Molonglo.
3. May 2009, Burra Intermittent, Planting guide promo.
4. March 6th 2009, Queanbeyan Age, Jerra weed field day.
5. March 24th 2009- Queanbeyan Chronicle, Jerra weed field day.
6. March 31st 2009, Queanbeyan Chronicle, Jerra weed field day follow up report.
7. April 28th 2009, Queanbeyan Chronicle, Burra Creek walk promotion.
8. May 3rd 2009, Canberra Times, Burra Creek walk promotion.
9. April 22nd 2009, Bungendore Mirror, Burra Creek walk promotion.
10. May 2009, Isabella News, PlatypusWatch.
11. March 2009, Isabella News, Waterwatch visit to school.
12. March 25th 2009, Bungendore Mirror, Bungendore Scout group Waterwatch day.
13. May 8th 2009, Queanbeyan Age, Burra Creek walk follow up report.

14. May 25th 2009, Canberra Times, PlatypusWatch.
15. December 2008, Upper Murrumbidgee Network Landcare Newsletter, Planting guide Launch.
16. Numerous appearances on Radio Landcare by Terry Korodaj, Stephen Skinner, Hugo Bowman and myself.

Involvement in regional NRM issues:

- The role of the MCG, particularly our Waterwatch Coordinator, in the Murrumbidgee to Googong EIS and community consultation phases was significant. The MCG contributed to submissions from the UMCCC focusing on impacts to the creek itself though Stephens report and also entered our own based on terrestrial impacts.
- Working with FoMM during their submission regarding the Majura Parkway.
- Comments on proposed cycle way for Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

Education:

- Indigenous Planting Guide Posters.
- Development of Pest Animal Guide (not printed during reporting period).
- Weeds field days in Carwoola, Burra and Jerrabomberra.
- PlatypusWatch sessions.
- Lecture on rabbit control by Brian Cooke of Invasive Animals CRC.
- Displays at Floriade, Corinbank Festival, Queanbeyan Regatta, Queanbeyan Environmental Fair, Festival of the Forests, Queanbeyan Family Fun Day and tending the grass roots Landcare forum.
- Frog Field Guide for the ACT and Surrounds.

Closing comments and the year ahead:

I would like to thank the group for a very enjoyable year, this is by far the most rewarding position I have held. The dedication of all the committee members to the group and their catchment is to be commended. At some point this year every member of the committee had been involved in driving a project or bringing an issue to the notice of the entire committee. It is through this dedication and enthusiasm that the group was able to respond so decisively to issues such as the Murrumbidgee to Burra water transfer, be involved with organisations outside the NRM field via projects such as Along the Molonglo and deliver targeted training to the landholders of the Molonglo catchment. The contributions of our President, Lynton Bond, in guiding the group and ensuring we continue to receive funding from various sources and build partnerships to benefit the Molonglo catchment environment deserve a special acknowledgement. As to does the role of Maryke in managing the group's funds and Tom Bakers unequalled enthusiasm and energy for Landcare in the region.

The year ahead will pose many challenges and just as many opportunities. I am confident that we will continue to negotiate these challenges and identify the opportunities to provide the Molonglo catchment community with outstanding environmental education via printed material, field days and subsidised training and also opportunities to contribute to the improvement of the local environment by volunteering. I believe that continuing to raise the profile of the group is essential to our efforts to fund raise; the challenge will be to ensure our efforts to raise funds do not come at the detriment of our core business. I am confident that we have the systems in place to meet this challenge.