



## Coordinators AGM Report July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009- June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

### Significant Highlights

- As with last year the Groups profile continues to grow within the catchment and surrounding areas. We are now finding more and more project partners coming to us with proposals rather than us having to chase them. Of particular note is the amount of funding we raised for the reprint of our educational material, through my chats with Jason Robinson we were able to secure a small amount of funding, from here we drew up a list of contacts and Vanessa did a fantastic job in raising the majority of the money. I feel this is a reflection of the NRM community's confidence in the MCG and a credit to the committee.

It is also very encouraging to receive phone calls from the Queanbeyan Age and Sarina Locke on a regular basis to get comments for their stories or to ask what we are up to that might be worth reporting on. It is no longer a struggle to get media releases for our field days printed in the local papers which is boasting the attendance at our events. Groups from outside the catchment are also approaching the MCG for assistance with field days and workshops, in most cases after attending an MCG event, which is a great indication that we are having an impact.

- After three Molonglo River Rescue Project Officers we finally managed to launch the very well received and highly impressive "Molonglo River Rescue Action Plan". We continue to explore opportunities to implement the action plans targets.
- Thanks to Bonnie from the GCG we have managed to tap into the horse community with our series of talks and field days on Managing Horses on Small Properties as part of our Sustainability on Small Farms Project. Attendance at these events has exceeded our expectations. We have also been able to identify local people with the skills to run these workshops in the future, these being Alison Elvin and Sue Wilmington.
- The SSF project has been, in my view, very successful in engaging the target audience, during the reporting period we engaged close to 100 people through the projects field days with 60% of these managing, or planning to own, a small farm. This figure may well have been higher but unfortunately 20% of attendees did not fill out feedback forms which included questions on if they managed, or hoped to own, a small farm.
- The number of field days, workshops and public events we have attended over the last year is impressive and has certainly helped not only our profile but managed to get our message out to a large number of people. By my count we have held or been involved with:
  - 10 field days
  - 8 Workshops
  - Attended 9 public events

Most of these events have been held on weekends, often with the support of volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has helped out over the year and particularly Stephen for picking up events that I have been unable to attend.

- The MCG Project Funding is beginning to build momentum, this year we have assisted 5 groups (up from 1 in 2009) with tools and chemicals to support volunteering opportunities. The groups assisted are the Friends of Aranda Bushland (FOAB) with equipment for weed control, Friend of Mount Majura (FoMM) with resources for their National Tree Day planting, Mount Ainslie

Weeders (MAW) and Captains Flat Landcare with resources for weed control and Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park with first aid equipment and tools. It is encouraging to see two new groups, STEP and FOAB, pop up on our membership list thanks in part to the MCG project funding.

- The partnership with Sally McIntosh from PCL to run a series of GPS training workshops (5 in total) has been great. It has demonstrated the strength of the catchment group to identify a need in the volunteering community and quickly respond with training to assist them.
- Engaged with Disability ACT and placed a young person with the Mount Ainslie Weeders group, this was a great success and encouraged Nadine of Disability ACT to engage with all the catchment groups in an effort to get disabled volunteers into the Parckacre scene.
- Launched our Pest Animal Education Pack with a workshop last December. The packs have been well received with approximately 550 distributed to date.

### **General Progress**

- We continue to develop the communities knowledge and skills to identify and deal with NRM issues. This is demonstrated through the various workshops and field days held on topics including operating a GPS, pest animal management, weed identification, promoting biodiversity on farms, sustainable agriculture, walks through the Molonglo Valley along with the range a Waterwatch related days and workshops.
- The Pest Animal Education Initiative was completed.
- Continued to develop partnership with CIT through two projects, one with their environmental students and a second with students undertaking GIS studies.
- As stated earlier the groups profile is continuing to grow thanks to attendance at a range of events and a good relationship with the Queanbeyan Age.
- Continued to work closely with PCL Community Programs Officer, ACT Landcare Facilitator and GCG Coordinator. This resulted in the successful funding applications for the Community Action Grant in Majura, the very well received GPS training and the highly successful lectures with Jane Myers and Alison Elvin. Working in collaboration with these contacts is a real key to getting across to a broad audience.
- We continue to struggle for an extra committee member, despite some interest from a few people over the year this is yet to translate into a new committee member.

### **Media Summary:**

1. July 29, 2009-Bungendore Mirror, Molonglo River Rescue
2. July 31, 2009- Queanbeyan Age, Molonglo River rescue.
3. August 21, 2009-Queanbeyan Age-Molonglo River Rescue.
4. November 11, 2009- Queanbeyan Age-Bird field day.
5. November 23, 2009-Captains Flat Telegraph, Environment Markets.
6. December 18, 2009- Queanbeyan Age, Pest Animal Pack Launch.
7. January 19, 2010-The Chronicle, Community Action Grant.
8. January 26, 2010- The Chronicle, Rabbit control
9. January, 2010-Upper Murrumbidgee Network Newsletter, Pest Animal Pack.
10. February, 2010-Landnews, Pest Animal Pack
11. March, 2010- Stoney Creek Gazette, Horse Management.
12. June 1, 2010, 2010-The Chronicle, World Environment Day.
13. June 2, 2010-Bungendore Mirror, Burra Landcare.
14. June 26, 2010-The Canberra Times, Platypus Watch.
15. Numerous appearances on Radio Landcare by Vanessa, Stephen and myself.

### **Involvement in regional NRM issues:**

- Due to our wide range of commitments we scaled back our involvement in written submissions and instead supported those put forward by groups better equipped to prepare them such as the Conservation Council ACT and Region.
- Continued involvement with K2C, UMDR, MLI and the UMCCC.

### **Education:**

- Printing and distribution of Pest Animal Guide including a workshop/launch.
- Printing and distribution of the Patience of the Water Scorpion.
- Reprinting of a range of educational material.
- Weeds field days in Carwoola and Burra.
- Sustainable agriculture and soil carbon field days.
- Promoting biodiversity on farms field days.
- Support of Royalla Landcare's Reading the Landscape field day.
- PlatypusWatch and FrogWatch sessions.
- GPS Training workshops.
- Managing horses on small properties seminars.
- Support of FoMM National Tree Day.
- Displays at Floriade, Queanbeyan Regatta, Banksia Street Wetland Fair, Inner North Wetland Fair, Festival of the Forests and the Carp Out.
- Developed the Guide to Water Plants of the ACT and Region.

### **Closing comments and the year ahead:**

Once again I would like to thank the group for a very enjoyable year, I reiterate my comments from last year that this is by far the most rewarding position I have held.

Thanks to everyone on the committee for their input throughout the year into the projects I am running, your input has helped to make this another successful year for the MCG. I would like to thank you all for your help engaging your local communities in a range of projects and for your assistance at the numerous field days held over the reporting period. A special thanks to Maryke for the day to day help with office administration and her efforts with the MCG financial management, to John for his efforts in preparing the minutes for our meetings, Tom for his seemingly boundless enthusiasm for Landcare and his continued work with Radio Landcare and finally to Lynton for his involvement with all MCG projects big and small, for his assistance with planning for future projects and ensuring we continue to deliver a great service to the Molonglo catchment community.

The year ahead will be another exciting one for the MCG, with large projects such as Sustainability on Small Farms and Sustainability in the Majura Valley coming to a close we will have the opportunity to develop new projects for the Molonglo catchment. With our Molonglo River Rescue Action Plan now developed we will have the opportunity to seek funding for a range of exciting projects to meet the targets set out in the plan. Meanwhile the development of the Molonglo Valley along with the East Lake Urban renewal and the Googong development will no doubt command plenty of attention which will need to be balanced with our base funding milestones. The successful funding for a BoB coordinator for the Molonglo valley will alleviate the strains on our resources to some extent, however the extension of the BoB concept to other developments in the catchment will be a target for us and other groups over the next year. One thing is certain; we will continue to develop projects to engage our community in NRM with the vision of a healthy and diverse Molonglo catchment.