



General Meeting

Wednesday 11th August 2021 9:30am-12:30pm

Jerrabomberra Community Centre - 2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway

Present:

Ange Calliess, Gininderry Conservation Trust – **Chair**

Tom Baker, Queanbeyan Landcare

Anna Van Dugteren, ACT NRM

Plaxy McCulloch, ACT NRM

Woo O'Reilly, UM Waterwatch

Glenys Patulny, SACTCG

Michael Harrison, Icon Water

Elizabeth Goodfellow, YAN

John Davison-Mowle, Curtin micro MCG Forest

Jed Pearson, MCG Waterwatch

Jeannine Fromholtz, Molonglo Conservation Group

Martine Franco, SACTCG

Jenilee De Landre, ACT NRM

(13)

Online:

Deb Kellock

Karissa Preuss, Landcare ACT

Max Pouwer, Friends of Mount Majura

Julia Raine, Parkcare

Simon Holloway, ACT NRM

Michele Rogers, Snowy- Monaro Council

Rebecca Widdows, YVC

Christine Allen, Greening Australia

Max Pouwer, FoMM

(9)

Apologies:

Graham Fifield, Greening Australia

Fiona Dyer, Canberra Uni

Ben Bryant, Icon Water

Sally McIntosh, ACT Gov

David Winfield, Alluvium Consulting

Ann Milligan

Catherine Keirnan, Rural Landholders Assoc

Darren Roso, ACT Gov

Luke Pope, Local Land Services

Martin Lind, SACTCG

Sally McIntosh, ACT Gov

Kat McGilp, CGC

Frank Garofalow, ACT Gov

Minutes: Claire Sives, Executive Officer UMCN (online)

Videographer/ IT Support: Andrew Scarano

Welcome and Treasurers Report

Ange welcomed everyone and did an Acknowledgement of Country. Treasurer's report attached with these minutes.

Mini-forum update

The second mini-forum was a success, ~~next forum is on the 15th of September~~. The next forum has been postponed due to Covid lockdowns, currently looking at sometime early in 2022.

Building fill Extraordinary meeting

Due to interest from members, we held an online Extraordinary Meeting on the issue of Cross-border Building fill on the 9th of June. A powerpoint presentation from Julie Rogers, the meeting minutes and other related documents can be found on our news page: umcn.org.au/news.

Executive committee

This month we say a fond farewell to Deb Kellock, long time UMCN supporter and Executive Committee Member, who is moving out of the area. We wish Deb the best for the future and will miss her terribly!

UMCN will soon be advertising for new executive committee, including Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in nominating, please contact Claire for more information: contact@umcn.org.au. Nominations and voting will take place at the UMCN AGM on 3rd of November.

Presentation

Climate-ready Revegetation, Elizabeth Goodfellow, Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups- a recording of this presentation is on the UMCN YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1MEHg4folo>

Link to Hancock et al. Climate-ready revegetation guide, mentioned by Elizabeth:

https://www.mq.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/807666/Climate-Reveg-Guide-v2-2018.pdf

Member Updates

Martine Franco, SACTCG

All catchment groups (Southern ACT-, Molonglo-, and Ginderra- Catchment Groups) have been given a four-year funding package from the ACT government. Don't know what's in it yet, but will keep everyone posted. Mostly to deliver core services to current members.

SACTCG has just received a large grant from the Landcare Recovery Program, we will be employing a project officer to deliver bush fire recovery work the Namadgi and surrounding rural lands, advertised on NRM jobs and Ethical Jobs. To be delivered by April. Position sitting part time with SACTCG and Namadgi depot.

Jeannine Fromholtz, Molonglo Conservation Group

MCG has "started again".

Jeannine, 6 months with MCG, is part of the ACT Healthy Waterways Program as Coordinator, and other duties with MCG. Obtained Land for Wildlife and Habitat for Wildlife Licences in NSW, looking for organisations to partnership with, the program run by community environment network, based in Gosford and throughout NSW, we are hoping to bring the project into our area. Looking to work with nurseries, and engaging with urban spaces. Currently updating website, with info about what people can do to connect with community.

Elizabeth Goodfellow, YAN

Next Grazing Day 20th August, Bowning-Bookham Landcare. Also field days in September and October for community groups and landholders, first week of November starting field days for Habitats Hops project with Sue MacIntyre and Alison Elvin, start looking turning gardens into revegetation.

Karissa Preuss, ACTRCMCG and Landcare ACT

ACTRCMCG

Karissa is the independent community representation on the committee. Notes from last meeting:

Last agenda focussed on the NSW Water Resources and Water Sharing Plan, Peter Hyde, Director of Inland Water Planning, gave a presentation about water resources sharing and the impact on the ACT, UMCN will distribute info. Also had a presentation from Fiona Dyer about Lake Burley Griffin and Lake Tuggeranong based on her recent research.

A few of us will be meeting with the minister about the Queanbeyen sewage treatment plant, happy to pass on community feedback.

Update on water governance that Ian Walkers team is looking at- info available, get in touch.

We briefly touched on illegal fill dumping, advised that further issues on the matter should be brought up to David Clapman ACT Chief Ministers Office or Chris Berry Yass Valley Council- can provide these contacts.

Landcare

Had national Landcare awards, [two national award winners from ACT: Dhani Gilbert, and Red Hill Bush Regenerators](#). Amazing representation. Nominations for ACT 2021 Landcare Awards are open, winners go towards next year's National Awards.

Landcare is in the process of recruitment, looking forward to introducing our broader team at next meeting.

Rebecca Widdows, Yass Valley Council

Draft Internal Climate Change Risk Assessment going to manager level this week, to council next month.

Put in a heap of crown land management grant applications for weed control, waiting to hear results.

For the last three years we've managed to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, great considering that the population is growing.

Christine Allen, Greening Australia

Rain has postponed a lot of planting including International Tree Day planting, a lot of work will be extended to later in the year.

We've been working with Rivers of Carbon in the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach, including installing fish hotels, and other hard infrastructure going in, some videos coming out of that for media.

Busy with nursery and volunteers.

Michele Rogers, Snowy-Monaro Council

A lot of work happening at the moment, upgrade sewage treatment plant works in Bombala, Looking after regulatory team, three new staff working hard to improve STP discharges to reduce the amount of nutrients going into watershed.

Biosecurity working hard, new staff starting soon to help.

Not sure how many Landcare groups there are in the region (questions about landcare groups from Glenys).

Woo O'Reilly, Waterwatch Upper Murrumbidgee

Platypus month August. We are doing 34 surveys across 8 sites- 4 in NSW 4 in ACT- lots of participation. Jed Pearson and I led the first guided walk along the Queanbeyan River, lots of community and some Platypus sightings, more walks coming up.

Opened the [Platy Ratty Portal](#) map with sightings, public can add sightings, portal will feed across to Canberra Nature map, great record for the region. Three unconfirmed sightings in Ginninderra Creek. We are particularly interested in sightings from fire affected areas, it's good to have some evidence of sightings if we are to plan surveys in an area.

We'd like to encourage people from the Yass River area to input sightings, want to plug the knowledge gaps.

Would like feedback on film project- making film with [Richard Snashall](#), over next 6 months on Upper Murrumbidgee. Aim is to raise awareness and help people to value the area. Highlight flow issues due to Snowy-Hydro. We will journey up the river from Burrunjuck, talking to a range of people- farmers, recreational users, scientists, waterwatchers, people who value the river 98% flow gets diverted as Tantangara Dam, hope to get some feedback and ideas, looking for people or properties to showcase.

John Davison-Mowle, Curtin Microforest

Working together with two schools to plant microforest, putting signage up, in consultation with Indigenous elders. We want to increase biodiversity in urban areas, to outcompete African lovegrass. Getting ready to plant soon. Communities in other areas have been in contact to get advice about similar projects, people are using unused grass spaces. Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) are helping, turning guerrilla gardeners into responsible (gardeners), and we are helping to turn TCCS into facilitators for this work. Funding being given to these types of groups, engaging with school children and their parents to enjoy and restore nature in spaces around them, building community and biodiversity.

Jenilee De Landre, ACT NRM

A lot happening in ACT and region and NRM!

ACT [Protecting and Connecting Endangered Woodlands](#) with Christine Allen from Greening Australia, on its third year. 14 landowners have been engaged to undertake on the ground works, 195 ha of protected vegetation, 250 ha of revegetation established, 195 ha of weed control, massive effort so far and more opportunity for landholders to get involved, so let us know.

Through Australia government [Future Drought Fund](#), a couple of new projects to make our water sources more resilient:

- Naas River protection- erosion control
- Improving farm dams- vegetation, improve stock access

Launching [ACT Grazing Group](#), (grazing group: peer to peer support groups) there are a lot in NSW, so trying to establish in ACT, a bunch of landowners involved.

Tom Baker, Queanbeyan Landcare

ACT Gov has released its Urban Forest Strategy, QPRC doing the same. I represent Queanbeyan Landcare on the steering committee, draft for public comment: [Climate Change Action Plan](#).

National Tree Day, big planting at Fernleigh Park, residential area west of Googong. We've had a 15 year project going there recreating stepping stones along Jerrabomberra Creek, to link it to other areas of bushland.

Lori Gould (Australian Restoration Centre) mentioned they are about to release for public comment a Green Plan for Jerrabomberra Creek.

We have been engaged with a tussle with QPRC about plans to create a botanic gardens, abattoir, nursery and commemoration plantings below Morisset low level crossing, right next to the Queanbeyan River, which is a floodway. We think is a bad idea because it is a floodway, also Molonglo Conservation Group just helped plant 4,000 trees shrubs and lilies in the area, the trees are growing phenomenally. If you are concerned, contact the QPRC CEO Peter Tegart. We have recommended that we should do an onsite inspection where community can ask questions.

We are talking about putting on a photo competition, either this year or next year, theme: community involvement, TBC. If interested contact Tom.

Karissa: Landcare awards for this year includes a photo competition.

Glenys Patulny, SACTCG

The four-year funding for the three catchment groups is highly significant, because for the last number of year Karissa, Martine and Maxine (ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group) have been lobbying, trying to get funding. Thank you, Karissa, Martine and Maxine.

Anna van Dugteren, ACT NRM

Five rural projects under the national landcare program to finish in 2023

Better Land Management

- Focussed on soils, carbon, pH, ground cover
- We have established ten trials and demonstrations on ten farms in the ACT, different rates of liming etc, need to do five more in this financial year.
- Communications about this will be coming soon

Resilient Farms Project

- Supporting Farmwewers to adapt to climate change.
- We have done forums over the last 12 months, now planning final two years.
- Received funding through Landcare Australia grants to do erosion works on farms

[Future Drought Fund](#)

- Preparing farmers for extreme climate events and biosecurity
- Two projects in the ACT in early stages of development
 - o Drought Plan for the ACT- being developed by water policy team
 - o Education and capacity building project, aims to mentor farmers to produce farm resilience plans, to take into account the shocked ahead- extreme events

ACT NRM Plan- Draft coming out for public comment soon.

Michael Harrison - Icon Water

Business and usual at the moment, dams are full, Cotter River has been returned to unregulated river. We've seen some good results for Macquarie Perch, going through a good spawning season.

Contract renewal for monitoring contracts, gone through a review.

Catchment Sanitary Survey Report- health of each catchment, report goes into informing catchment health, informs treatment plants.

Jed Pearson, Waterwatch Molongolo Conservation Group, ACT NRM

Jed is the new Deb.

Look forward to working with everybody.

Next Meeting: AGM 3rd November 2021