



General Meeting

Wednesday 5th May 2021 9:30am-12:30pm

Jerrabomberra Community Centre - 2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway

Present:

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

Tom Baker, Queanbeyan Landcare

Helen Hadobas, Queanbeyan Landcare

Plaxy McCulloch, ACT Gov

Karissa Preuss, Landcare ACT

Neville Plumb, QPRC

Michael Harrison, Icon Water

Tim Chaseling, Icon Water

Steve Taylor, ACT PCS

Tony Robinson, UMLC

Max Pouwer, Friends of Mount Majura

Woo O'Reilly, UM Waterwatch

(12)

Online:

Deb Kellock, MCG Waterwatch

Antia Brademann, UMDR, Cooma WW

Reynaldo Lopez, CIT

Jane Ryan, Landcare ACT

(4)

Apologies:

Graham Fifield, Greening Australia

Glenys Patulny, SACTCG

Anna Van Dugteren, ACT NRM

Paul Want, Parkcare

Jenilee DeLandre, ACT NRM

Fiona Dyer, Canberra Uni

Christine Allen, Greening Australia

Ben Bryant, Icon Water

Bruno Ferranto, Ginninderra WW

David Winfield, Alluvium Consulting

Minutes:

Claire Sives, Executive Officer UMCN

Welcome and Treasurers Report

Ange welcomed everyone and read out treasurer's report. Fiona Dyer will be stepping down as treasurer at the end of this year. Ange stepping down as chair as well.

Mini-forum update

The first mini-forum was a success, next mini-forum is on the 16th of June.

Strategic Planning Half-Day

Executive Committee met in February and had a successful planning day, the strategic “plan on a page” was displayed.

Building fill Extraordinary meeting

If there is interest in an extraordinary meeting, we will go ahead with this an online meeting.

Presentation

The ACT Government Invasive Plants Plan 2020-25, Steve Taylor, Program Leader ACT NRM- a recording of this presentation is on the UMCN YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwTXLI3sud4&t=372s>

Member Updates

Karissa Preuss – ACTRCMCG and Landcare ACT

ACTRCMCG

- Karissa is the independent community representation on the committee
- Some of the key issues are:
 - o Building fill issue
 - o Water security
 - UMCN will hold a meeting on this later in the year
 - o Water quality
 - always important
 - feedback welcome on whether phosphorus sediment in lakes is an issue worth pursuing
 - o Queanbeyan STP, still progressing, a lot of discussion around this, concern about Molongolo nitrogen and Phosphorus
 - o Waterway governance
 - Sophie Lewis Commissioner for Environment developing a report on ACT lakes and waterways
 - First step is a review of water governance
 - Maxine Cooper, chair of ACTRCMCG, has been asked to input
 - Governance defined as within Government, but Maxine has been very clear that there is strong governance within the community which should be considered
 - o Innovative ways to fund environmental works
 - Many local councils

Antia Brademann – Cooma WW, UMDR, Rivers of Carbon

Cooma Waterwatch (Antia Brademann Cooma Region Waterwatch Coordinator)

- It is good to see much more flow in our waterways. Interestingly due to the patchy nature of the rainfall sections of Cooma and Rock Flat Creeks have been dry for most of the last year!
- Our bug survey season is in full swing. Local schools are getting involved. If people want to come along please contact Waterwatch.

- We are doing a follow up video to the Roads and tracks field day held earlier in the year with UMDR, Iconwater, Rivers of Carbon, NSW Soil Con, the Soil Knowledge Network and ACT NRM. This will be a technical video to show how to do specific drainage works on roads including roll overs which often cause drainage to fail if not done properly. I shall share link when done. It will be available on the Rivers of Carbon website.

Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach (Antia Brademann UMDR Facilitator)

- We are pleased to have received two year funding from the MDBA under the Native Fish Recovery Strategy and so the Upper Murrumbidgee River is one of four Native Fish Recovery Reaches in the UMC.
- The project will fund our adventurous volunteer program for the next two years to engage the community in looking after the bidgee. We have been mapping weeds especially box elder which is an emerging problem. Sad to report in some areas the box elders are outnumbering willows and are invading our instream shrublands which have been previously relatively weed free. We are recruiting over winter if anyone is interested in coming 'on board'.
- Bushfire recovery projects continue in the heavily impacted Bumbalong valley (on the upper Murrumbidgee downstream of Bredbo) including erosion and blackberry control. Projects are being documented. Blackberry control project is producing a video and online blackberry control guide- which will be available soon! Watch this space....I shall share the links when they are up.
- The UMDR is looking at fish and flow issues and aim to hold a stakeholder workshop to discuss issues for the Upper Murrumbidgee in late May/early June.

Rivers of Carbon(Antia Brademann RoC project officer)

- Two projects running well in the upper Murrumbidgee Catchment (RoC Bidgee and RoC Maccas), managed by the Australian River Restoration Centre.
- The RoC Bidgee works to reconnect the Bredbo and Colinton Gorges is run by Antia Brademann and links in with the work discussed in the UMDR update.
- The RoC Macca project is funded under the LLS Reaching for Recovery- Macquarie perch project and run by Lori Gould. A highlight has been a recent planting at Murrells Crossing with Greening Australia and Omni executives and their families to restore riparian habitat for Macquarie perch. 960 Plants were planted on the day. The story and more project info can be seen on the rivers of carbon website.

Deb Kellock - Waterwatch Molongolo Conservation Group, ACT NRM

- Autumn waterbugs being surveyed
- Blue-green algae a big issue
- Concerns around the Queanbeyan STP upgrade
 - A lot more nitrate into Molongolo, Lake B-G and downstream
- Deb is moving on from Waterwatch 😞 We will miss you, Deb!!!

Reynaldo Lopez- CIT

- Student at CIT studying fine arts, environment and technology

Jane Ryan- ACT Landcare, Communications Officer

- Landcare ACT facilitating engagement for the ACT NRM Plan

- Calling for input, environmental volunteers and more broadly
- Written submissions and events
- Catchment groups (SACT, Molongolo and Gininderra) hosting forums
- Discussion paper online: <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/NRM-plan>
 - Good outline of input sought by ACT NRM
- ACT Landcare secured the Bracher Fund Grant
 - Using it to focus on young people in the landcare movement
 - How, why and when landcarers engage with schools young people
 - To teach about environment and landcare movement
 - Survey being distributed
 - How are people going about environmental education
 - If you would like to tell ACT Landcare about successful engagement, please contact Jane: communications@landcareact.org.au

Tom Baker - Queanbeyan Landcare

- Had a good presentation from Fernleigh Park Group
 - What they have achieved over 15-18 years
 - Revegetation effort- all bushland pockets starting to link up
 - Very dedicated group, getting funding

Tony Robinson - UMLC

As I mentioned at the previous meeting UMLC has a number of contracts running and at times it is a bit hard to keep track of them all.

- LLS Save our Scarlet Robin – fencing weed control and water supplies on two private properties and a Bredbo Community project – planting native tussocks and direct seeding. Bredbo Landcare has a subcontract with GA for the latter work.
- LLS/Fisheries Regional Land Partnerships Program – baseline survey of community knowledge of Macquarie perch April 2020 and a follow up survey in 2023
- LLS Emergency Pest Mitigation and Habitat protection (Bushfire recovery funds) – weed control at Bredbo and Dromore for improved Macquarie perch habitat.
- LLS – A helping hand – Upper Bidgee Landcare Wildlife and Farming Recovery Project – a survey to landholders to see what exotic pests are giving them grief. Based on that information, two sub-contracts have been entered into, one for a shooter for pigs, deer, goats and rabbits and another for a trapper trapping foxes and cats.
- A property planting seminar in Michelago
- A talk on cats and a talk and demonstration of cat and fox trapping methods at a property on Calabash Rd in the Tinderries.
- UMLC is gearing up for its 25-year anniversary scheduled to be held on the 12th of September this year.

Georgeanna Story is organising and managing these projects on behalf of UMLC under her NSW Landcare Coordinator Program which funds her from 2019 to 2023.

Tim Chaseling - Icon Water

- All dams full
- Working with parks on hazard reduction burns
- Michael working on catchment survey
 - Every 3 years, report on state of catchment
 - Informs water treatment plants

Plaxy McCulloch - ACT NRM

- Focus on cyanobacteria problem
 - o Big community concern
 - o Community education and behaviour change
 - o H2OK program- ACT healthy waterways
 - o Halfway through pilot to encourage residence to manage leaf litter
 - o Report by August, hopefully some good results
 - o Already thinking about next focus
 - o Possibly a pilot regrading Eucalyptus leaf litter

Max Pouwer- Friends of Mt Majura

- FoMM 15 years, Max has been there for 5 years
- Works in Watson-Hackett, main project called The Fair- in Watson
- The Fair was a motocross- severely degraded, less than 5% native veg
- Very successful, despite degradation on the site
- Battling major weed problems- St John's Wart the biggest headache
- Core group of 6-10 people

Woo O'Reilly - Waterwatch Upper Murrumbidgee, ACT NRM

- 2020 CHIP report was released in March <https://www.act.waterwatch.org.au/data/chip-reports>
 - o Had a good launch event with Minister Rattenbury
 - o Some water quality issues in the catchment post-fire
 - o On going support from ACT Gov and Icon Water
- Volunteer workshop on the weekend
 - o Honours Student looking at where nutrient sources
 - Through until July
 - Monitoring run off around the catchment
- Platypus, flagship species for bush-fire recovery
 - o EDNA mapping
 - o Co-funding a PhD position with UC
 - o Validating methods we have been using to better interpret data
- Frogwatch, working closely with water watch
 - o 20th year, 7000 frog surveys
 - o Great example of collaboration
 - o Peri-urban vs urban, connectivity
 - o Baby turtles
- Deb will leave a massive hole in the team!!!

Next General Meeting 11th August 2021