



AGM and General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 10th November 2021 9:30am-12:30pm

Online, Zoom

Present online:	Claire Sives	UMCN		
Angela Calliess	Ginniderry Conservation Trust		Woo O'Reilly	ACT Gov
Rebecca Widdows	Yass Valley Council		Tim Chaseling	Icon Water
Antia Brademann	Cooma Waterwatch/ UMDR		Jed Pearson	Molongolo Waterwatch
Glenys Patulny	SACTCG		Martin Lind	SACTCG Waterwatch
Michael Harrison	Icon Water		Graham Fifield	Greening Australia
Martine Franco	SACTCG		Kathryn McGilp	G'derry Catchment Group
Fiona Dyer	Community/ UC		David Barratt	Alluvium Consulting
Karissa Preuss	ACTRCMCG/ ACT Landcare		John Ive	Farmer: Talaheni
Jeni De Landre	RALF, ACT Gov		Tom Baker	Community/ Landcare
Katie Ryan	Alluvium Consulting		Michael Wrathall	Community/ C'wealth Gov
Patrick Lucas	Community/ UNSW		(22)	

Apologies:

Georgeanna Story	Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare	Ben Bryant	Icon Water
Plaxy McCulloch	ACT Gov	Yvette Bertoli	Snowy Monaro Reg'l Coun'l
Michele Rogers	Snowy Monaro Reg'l Coun'l		

Minutes: Claire Sives

Chair: Ange Calliess

UMCN 2020 AGM Minutes

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country: Ange Calliess, UMCN Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance

Minutes from Previous AGM: Minutes from the previous AGM were distributed prior to the meeting and discussed. No actions were outstanding.

Accepted by Glenys Patulny and seconded by Tim Chaseling

UMCN Annual Report (see Annual Report document for full details)

Chair Ange Calliess presented the Annual Report. Outlined points:

- Strategic Planning has been very productive, we will continue with its development. Thanks to Claire for keeping this going.
- Capacity building, accessibility, the silver lining of covid is that we have all become accustomed to online meetings, our membership and participation has increased over the last 12 months.
- Website is looking good, and we have a YouTube channel.
- We held two mini-forums in 2021, last mini-forum to be held in early 2022.
- We have funding for another big forum in 2022, hopefully can go ahead face to face.
- We've been talking to MDBA about facilitating community engagement in the UMC.
- And we've been included in a case study for the MDB Plan.
- We've got 25 member organisations and individuals which equals 58 individual representatives.

Claire:

- We have broadcast Strategic Plan and have received some feedback. We welcome more feedback and will consider feedback at the next executive meeting in February 2022.

Annual Report was accepted by David Barratt and seconded by Antia Brademann

Treasurer's Report (see Treasurer's Report document for full details)

Fiona Dyer presented the Treasurer's Report. Outlined points:

- UMCN are in a more comfortable financial position, than in the past.
- Fiona's final treasurer's report, pleased to hand over when we are in a good position to operate for the next two years.
- Thanks Claire, for driving the process and thanks to ACTRCMCG, who provide funding.
- ACTRCMCG funding was received in August, with another round due in the first half of 2022.
- Membership is at a record high at 25 members, reflects the increased profile that we have.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by Ange Calliess and seconded by Tim Chaselng.

Election of the Executive Committee Returning Officer: Kat McGilp

All positions were declared vacant. Motion to fill eleven (11) executive committee seats accepted by Kat McGilp and seconded by David Barratt. UMCN Executive Committee for 2021 is:

Chair – Michael Wrathall Nom: Antia Brademann Second: Karissa Preuss

Treasurer – Vacant To be discussed at the first executive meeting of 2022.

Secretary – Vacant Same again.

Committee Members

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Jenilee De Landre | Nom: Martine Franco | Second: Glenys Patulny |
| • Jed Pearson | Nom: Jenilee De Landre | Second: Tom Baker |
| • Glenys Patulny | Nom: Fiona Dyer | Second: Tom Baker |
| • Antia Brademann | Nom: Glenys Patulny | Second: Tim Chaselng |
| • Martine Franco | Nom: Glenys Patulny | Second: Fiona Dyer |
| • Karissa Preuss | Nom: Fiona Dyer | Second: Martine Franco |
| • Tom Baker | Nom: Martine Franco | Second: Karissa Preuss |
| • Katie Ryan | Nom: David Barratt | Second: Fiona Dyer |
| • Michael Harrison | Nom: Tim Chaselng | Second: Antia Brademann |
| • Rebecca Widdows | Nom: Karissa Preuss | Second: Martine Franco |

Appointment of Public Officer:

Public Officer: - Rebecca Widdows

Nom: Glenys Patulny

Second: Jenilee De Landre

All were in favour of all nominations.

Karissa: Thank you the outgoing executive members, particularly Fiona and Ange who have both been in the Chair role over the years.

Michael W: Introduced himself, acknowledge Ange as the previous Chair. Impressed with the organisation: "there's a real power in networks like this, please to be involved, hope to continue Ange's good work."

Tom: Wondering who Michael is representing?

Michael W: I work for the C'wealth Environmental Water Office, brief background, from Sydney originally, worked in water whole career, management of water ways important, first exposure was through UMDR, through their forum saw the importance of environmental flows and understanding the challenges in this catchment. My wife suggested I apply for the role. Background in state and C'wealth government. Don't necessarily fly the C'wealth EWO flag, we don't hold water in this catchment. Does that give you a sense Tom?

Tom: Water office, is that in the department of Environment?

Michael W: Department of Agriculture Water and Environment

Tom: I worked there in 1994 when the National Water Reform Framework was first devised.

Michael W: I'm responsible for North-west, including Macquarie River and north into QLD, also responsible for Ramsar listed wetlands around the country, including offshore reef areas.

UMCN November 2020 General Meeting Minutes

Chair and Minutes: Claire Sives

Minutes from the last General meeting: Minutes from the previous General Meeting in August were distributed prior to the meeting and discussed. There were no actions from last General Meeting.

Accepted by Tim Chaseling and seconded Michael Harrison

General Meeting Dates UMCN 2021

- 16 February 2021
- 18 May 2021
- 3 August 2021
- 2 November 2021 (and AGM)

Virtual Tour of Talaheni with farmer, John Ive

The virtual tour is a follow up to a face-to-face farm tour held by UMCCC (the previous iteration of UMCN) in 2006. Thank you to John and Robyn Ive for their warm welcome to us into their property, Talaheni, in the Yass Valley. And thanks to Jeni De Landre for interviewing John on the day. The tour was held on Monday the 25th of October and was recorded and edited by our videographer/ story teller Andrew Scarano of [Instant Andy](#). John Ive joined us online at the meeting to respond to questions from the meeting. Here are some links to some resources that were mentioned in the QandA session:

Water banking

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/content/archive/agriculture-today-stories/ag-today-archives/december-2009/more-time-at-or-below-wilting-point>

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Carbon trading

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/426984/AgToday-March-2012.pdf

Some more information about Talaheni and the Ive's journey

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/7038111/john-ive-restores-native-pastures/>

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/from-moonscape-to-emission-offsets-the-farmers-breaking-new-ground-20210212-p571xk.html>

<https://www.gunningdistrictlandcare.org.au/images/Talaheni-2.pdf>

<https://www.climatekelpie.com.au/index.php/farmer-john-ive/>

Landcare farm tours

<https://vimeo.com/landcareact/videos>

Member Reports

Graham Fifield

Greening Australia

- Dr Christine Allen, who attended a few meetings of the UMCN on behalf of GA, has sadly finished up with us, so I wanted to jump in (to this meeting).
- Caterpillar Foundation project, that is partnering with ARRC, ROC and UMDR (eg Antia, Siwan, Lori) to address point source erosion in the Bumbalong valley, improve habitat for Macca Perch through strategic willow removal and replanting and some fish hotel installation.

Antia Brademan

UMDR/ Cooma Waterwatch (see Annual Report for updates)

- Native Fish Webinars - [register for Zoom link here](#)
 - Native fish recovery in the Upper Murrumbidgee – Wednesday 17th November 10am
 - Murray cod in the Upper Murrumbidgee – Thursday 25th November 7.30pm
- Cooma Waterwatch is partnering with NSW Fisheries and National Parks to help them monitor macroinvertebrates at their Stocky Galaxia site, established at Eucumbene Dam. Stocky Galaxias are tiny native fish only found in UMC. There were some rescue missions during the fires, Fisheries established a captive breeding site on Eucumbene Dam. Macroinvertebrate sampling day on 24th November- postponed until further notice.

Ange Calliess

Gindinderry Conservation Trust

- We are just about to finish our first walking track, goes from The Link in Ginninderry to Shepherds Lookout.
- ACT parks have done a lot of restoration work on the path.
- EDNA sampling, second round, sampling dams, rivers, gives an indication of terrestrial and aquatic species using the water sources, partnering with ANU to do the analysis.

Jed Pearson

Molonglo Waterwatch

- Jed has taken over from Deb Kellock as Waterwatch coordinator.

Karissa Preuss ACTRCMCG/ ACT Landcare

- Karissa is the community representative
- Water security is one issue on the agenda
- Queanbeyan sewage plant, high on the agenda
- ACTR Catchment Strategy and the Implementation Plan, UMCN will be involved in provide feedback.

- Landcare held an online weeds forum recently, had over 80 participants
- Feedback will be available on our website
- Feedback used to write a paper
- New Wellbeing Project Officer started this week
- New website up in the next few weeks
- New members council- 25 people, meeting next week
- National Landcare Project II in the process of review, so members have been involved in workshops, next version starting next year

David Barratt Alluvium (see Annual Report for update)

- David stepping down from UMCN executive and handing over to Katie Ryan from Alluvium
- Molonglo River riparian rehabilitation project (next to Queanbeyan) now handed over to ACT Parks and Conservation. Very trying project impacted by both drought and flood (in Australia, who'd have thought!) but hopefully the future of that reach of the Molonglo is relatively bright. Bit more info here <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/water/act-healthy-waterways/healthy-waterways/sites/waterway-restoration-oaks-estate>

Katie Ryan Alluvium

- Background in Murray cray fish and Macquarie perch, work with ACT conservation, a lot of local fishy work, MDBA monitoring work

Tom Baker Community/ Landcare

- Been involved in a number of organisations, currently in Queanbeyan Landcare
- Currently creating a history of Landcare in Queanbeyan, draws in the social history of the area
- Will be a short report on our history- looking for funding
- Local gov elections, trying to get onto council about cat containment

Tim Chaseling Icon Water (see Annual Report for update)

- Massive year, a lot of complications due to Covid
- Williamsdale offset property is looking good
- Bushfire ops plans well underway for summer, smashed by grass growth at the moment, now competing for contractors, as are many orgs
- Eflows promising, looking good, Mac perch breeding in the last few years good, post-Cotter Dam building
- Catchment Sanitary Survey about to be finalised
- Rainfall puts a huge pressure on sewage service, very difficult to manage, it's not a 100% sealed system
- Mike Harrison taking over from me

Michael Harrison Icon Water

- Great to be nominated, thank you, looking forward to carrying on good work.

- Previously from parks and conservation, with Icon for one year, manage aquatic monitoring programs, c'wealth and state compliance requirement for us to take water
- Recent sanitary survey for Cotter, Googong and Murrumbidgee Catchment. Murrumbidgee remains category 4- poorer water quality, to be expected in urban and agricultural area, detected about 30 pesticides in the Murrumbidgee catchments

Kathryn McGilp Ginninderra Catchment Group (see Annual Report for update)

- Working with new community groups in Gungahlin, good coverage in Belconnen, but less in new suburbs.
- Doing some work with Icon Water, on community engagement for Belconnen sewage upgrade.

Woo O'Reilly Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch

- Anke Maria and I were out at Mount Clear, on the Nace River, lots of Stoney Creek frogs, 16 males sitting on a rock, I have not seen in numbers like that in this part of the world before.
- Waterwatch spring surveys, finding stoneflies where never seen before, indication that waterways are going well this year
- Citizen Science data analyst position going ATM, due 24th November
<https://www.jobs.act.gov.au/jobs/environment-and-planning/temporary/47792>
- Working with Richard Snashall making a video about valuing the UMC, if people are interested in giving input, stories of different people along the river.

Martine Franco Southern ACT Catchment Group

- Wrapped up bushfire recovery project, Landcare Grant, community engagement in burnt areas, new project officer, Jeff Butler
- Large contract for weeds management in the Gudgenby Valley
- Some more communication events, within the park, excited to get into
- Working with ACT NRM, 4 years funding, finalising plans now, community education, mostly around urban waterways
- Steam weeding machine, developing a plan to get it into urban areas, if anyone is interested please contact us 😊

Patrick Lucas PhD Candidate UNSW, Economics

- Recently moved from Melbourne to Canberra
- Researching how we value nature on private agricultural land
- Trying to figure out what the issues are, understand the organisations that are involved

Rebecca Widdows Yass Valley Council

- Currently working on biodiversity on council owned and managed land, to understand what is there, best use of the land, what management does it need, any biodiversity stewardship opportunities, never been done before, very exciting
- Climate change risk assessment drafted, to council this month
- Ecochamps project has kicked off- promoting local business that are engaging in sustainability practices, if you know of any business, tell them to call us
- Sustainability Sundays on Facebook
- Starting on road revegetation strategy

Glenys Patulny SACTCG

- Tuggeranong Lake Clean up this Sunday, making some great connections with different groups

Martin Lind Waterwatch SACTCG

- It's been wet, all rivers well up, Murrumbidgee has had a good flush out, seeing a return of species that we haven't seen in two years
- Waterwatch had a big gap for a couple of months, a bit of a struggle to catch up
- Training coming in December to test and certify
- Some people have stood down due to covid, some have stepped up
- A few online education things, but not much due to covid
- As well as steam weeder, we have quick spray unit- we may sell to Gundagai, if it doesn't get enough use

Jeni De Landre ACT NRM

- A difficult year, somehow, we have all managed to deliver
- In particular NLP2 projects are on track
- Protecting and Connecting Woodlands, collaborating with Greening Australia, looking for more ACT landowners to engage
- Future Drought Fund fully committed, more workshops and community engagement next year
- Third time lucky for the ACT Grazing Group in December- postponed twice already
- Grant applications going in through the Murray-Darling Healthy River Program, would be great if we could get them across
- ACT NRM Plan delayed due to covid, public display won't happen until next year
- EPSDD team working on capital food and fibre strategy, stakeholder engagement coming up, would be great to have some members from UMCN
- Farm day on 26th November

Michael Wrathall Community/ C'wealth Gov

- Protection of flows out of Tantangara Dam, had a discussion with NSW Gov staff recently, the water sharing plan for UM isn't going to be reviewed for a couple of years, but its good to get in early
- Reasonably confident we can explore how that might operate
- One major licence holder in this area, touches on Patrick's thesis, water for productive use vs in stream needs, would be interesting to know if there is some understanding about the needs of that business
- Strategic planning document was useful, see where the organisation sees itself in 5 years, change in committee an opportunity to build on the momentum

Meeting closed: 12.45pm

The next general meeting will be on Wednesday the 16th February 2022.