



## GENERAL MEETING 11.05.2016

Meeting		
5.11.2016	9:30-12:30	Jerrabomberra Community Centre
Note taker	Fiona Dyer	
Attendees	Fiona Dyer (University of Canberra), Karissa Preuss (Ginninderra Catchment Group), Deb Kellock (Molonglo Catchment Group/Waterwatch), Janelle Dennis (ACT NRM), Anna van Dugteren (ACT Government), Alex Mond (Gossoon, Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Group), Peter Smith (Cooma Shire Council), Lynton Bond (Molonglo Catchment Group), Woo O'Reilly (Waterwatch), Luke Pope (South East LLS), Ann Milligan (Friends of Grassland), Martin Lind (Southern ACT Catchment Group), Kym Nixon (Yass Valley Council), Angela Calliess (Greening Australia), Miranda Gardner (Southern ACT Catchment Group)	
Guest Speaker	Ian Falconer (ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group) & Chris Glennon (Environment Protection Directorate, ACT Government) Klaus Joehnk (CSIRO)	
Apologies	Glenys Patulny, Lara Odell, Tony Robinson, Rebecca Bradley,	

### 1. WELCOME TO UMCCC MEMBERS AND GUESTS

FD Welcomed all to the May UMCCC General meeting. Guests Ian Falconer and Chris Glennon were welcomed as was Klaus Joehnk from CSIRO.

### 2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- UMCCC Forum
  - The March forum was a very successful event with around 70 people attending over the two days
  - The first day of the forum was held at Murrumbateman at which a diversity of speakers talked about climate change projections for the region, the impact of various projections on livestock, fire regimes and local businesses. The afternoon

field trip was to a Whole of Paddock Restoration site where the benefits of revegetation was most apparent in its role in providing shelter from the windy conditions!

- The second day of the forum was held at Jerrabomberra at which the talks were about resilience and adaptation. Speakers talked about pollination, native pastures, wetlands and the ways in which landholders are adapting to and can adapt to a changing climate. The afternoon field trip was a presentation from Luke Pope and Antia Brademan demonstrating the pathways from paddock to stream.
- Fiona Spier is to be congratulated on the work that she put in to the forum to make it a success.
- FD thanked the executive for their hard work and efforts also.
- The funding from the ACT Government through the ACT & Region Catchment Management Group was gratefully acknowledged.
- Strategic Planning ○ Strategic Planning for UMCCC was put on hold while the forum was being run and will be finalised for the next general meeting
- ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group ○ FD has participate in the developed of the Regional Catchment Strategy which is currently open for public comment
  - IF & CG will talk more about the Strategy in the guest presentation session.
- UMCCC and the M2G Environmental Reference Group ○ UMCCC have been a member of the M2G ERG
  - Icon Water have recently decided to cease meetings of the ERG
  - Burra Landcare and the MCG wrote to Icon water to request a meeting to discuss the ongoing activities of the ERG and UMCCC were signatory to the letter that was provided to Icon Water.

### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

ML tabled the financial report (attached).

- Income from exceeded outgoings thanks to the grant from the ACT Government for the forum.
- ML thanked LB for his support during the treasurer transition
- ML noted that invoices for membership fees have yet to be sent. Several requests from the floor were received for invoices before the end of financial year.

MOTION: "That the Treasurer's report be accepted"

Moved Lynton Bond; Seconded Anna van Dugteren; Passed

### 4. PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT ACT & REGION CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

IF introduced the ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group and provided background to the group and the strategy.

CG worked through a series of slides on the strategy (refer attached) and the following points were noted:

- The ACT & Region Catchment Management Coordination Group is statutory within the ACT under the ACT Water Resources legislation.
- The strategy that has been developed does not have regulatory status, but provides a road map for collaboration and coordination in catchment management
- The area of influence for the strategy covers slightly more than the catchment boundaries to take in the extent of the LGA's in the region
- There are 5 themes to the strategy and are aimed at helping the region deliver coordinated catchment management over the next 30 years.
- CG and IF Recently met with the NSW minister and is water advisor and there is support from the NSW government
- There is currently a memo between the ACT and NSW and the local councils on regional collaboration and the strategy exists as an action under the memo
- The Strategy is on exhibition until the 18<sup>th</sup> May and comments so far have been generally positive
  - Requests for clarification have been sought
    - Focus on extension, engagement and educations is of interest
    - General support for UMCCC under the strategy
    - Need to understand how it all fits together
- Comments from the floor of the UMCCC meeting
  - Is there funding available to enable the delivery of the strategy?
  - What are the NRM links with the Land and Biodiversity Theme (currently unclear)
  - Disconnect between general high level of the strategy and some of the actions which are very specific
    - The issue of environmental flows in the Upper Murrumbidgee is missing from the strategy
    - There has not been engagement with Snowy Hydro who should be engaged
- Members encouraged to contribute online to the feedback on the strategy

## 5. KLAUS JOEHNK: CSIRO

KJ gave a short talk on the development of a tool for predicting harmful algal blooms currently being developed by CSIRO and for which future options are being sought.

- Currently developing predictive model for harmful algal blooms in Lake Burley Griffin, which uses a combination of nutrient loads, weather forecasts, currently lake status to make both short and longer term predictions about the occurrence of harmful algal blooms.
- Model has broader application and CSIRO team are interested in those who could/would use it
- Other ways of tackling the modelling task are to use remote sensing technologies and there is the possibility to combine both modelling systems to obtain greater power of prediction.
- The CSIRO team are looking for interested end users – please contact Klaus if you are interested.
- There will be a workshop on the 23/24<sup>th</sup> June on the predictive tools – contact Klaus for more details.
- Questions:
  - LP: If an algal bloom is predicted is it possible to identify interventions to stop it?
  - KJ – not really, once the water body is on a certain trajectory, it is very difficult to stop it.

## 6. MEMBER REPORTS

Kym Nixon: Yass Valley Shire Council

- Kym advised that she is leaving Council to move with her family to QLD. Her position is being advertised.
- She is currently wrapping up projects including
  - Yass Gorge - currently a plan of management being prepared & the friends group is active and ongoing

#### Martine Franco: Southern ACT Catchment Group

- Currently working through strategic planning process with the other catchment groups.
- Planning process is being supported by ACT NRM Council and the Act Government
- Lots of planting projects currently underway
- Successful in a bid for sustainable agriculture grants to the value of \$55,000 with the grants directed towards capacity building

#### Green Army

- Six green army teams have been doing well with considerable demand for their assistance
- Conservation Volunteers Australia are the service providers
- Being used to support park care and Landcare groups
- One of the upcoming teams will have a focus on Indigenous land management. A mentor is being sought for this group

#### Deb Kellock: Waterwatch

- QA/QC weekend coming up for Waterwatch
- Autumn macroinvertebrate sampling has been completed. Currently preparing for this year's CHIP.

#### Molonglo Catchment Group

- NCA approached with regard to helium balloons and the environmental impact of them. Resulted in change in practise around LBG
- General awareness raising of helium balloon damage has had some good publicity

#### Luke Pope: South East Local Land Services

- Matt de Jongh has left LLS to take up a position with the Commonwealth department for Forestry
- Luke is currently acting in Matt's role
- LLS is undergoing a further restructure which should result in the alignment with LLS overarching objectives, with more local autonomy expected to be an outcome.
  - Positions for staff are generally considered to be safe in the upcoming restructure ○ Locally there will be 6 SE LLS offices ○ Alice has moved to the Yass office
- Ongoing activities ○ Catchment actions undertaken as part of the NSW business plan
  - Funding is being prioritised and is expected to have a focus on threatened species ○ For the local region there is likely to be a focus on threatened fish including Macquarie Perch

#### Lynton Bond: Molonglo Catchment Group

- Five projects currently active ○ Block 2/128 Yarralumla is proving to be an exciting project involving local indigenous people and it looks like it has kicked off an Indigenous women's group partnering with Friends of Grassland (FOG) in the area
  - Revegetation of Lower Molonglo occurring with Parks and Conservation
  - Upper Molonglo woody weed removal
  - Jerrabomberra Verona connectivity project with Queanbeyan Landcare working on exclusion islands (based on previous work of K2C) □ Upcoming projects:

- Burra project demonstrating erosion control involving LLS and the hydrogeological mapping of the region. MCG will lead the community engagement side of it.
- Two heritage grants in the pipeline. One for Black Mountain building on the successful walks and talks series.
- News:
  - Bernie is back two days per week

Lynton was requested to on behalf of UMCCC to send our best wishes to Bernie and we are pleased to hear that he is back.

- Bush on the Boundary group at Googong Township has been involved in establishing a reserve for pink tailed worm lizard and it looks as though a Landcare group may form.

Woo O'Reilly: Waterwatch

- Autumn bug blitz was a success this year
- Dan Starrs is currently looking at redistributing the scoring for the bugs to align with the CHiP
  - This is not expected to make significant differences to the scores but will require back calculating previous scores to ensure that trends are accurately tracked
    - The changes have been 'ground truthed' and those familiar with the sites are happy they are an accurate reflection of condition.
- Planning for upcoming events
- Looking at site distribution of monitoring sites and identifying priority sites for volunteers and linking with key partners to have the priority sites monitored.

Woo O'Reilly: reporting on behalf of Antia Brademann

- Halfway through the Rivers of Carbon project with the removal of woody weeds at key sites undertaken
  - About to launch into two rounds of planting with 10,000 trees to be planted

Cooma waterwatch
 

- River Paddock field days

Alex Mond: Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare

- A new coordinator has been appointed – Georgeanna Story

Anna van Dugteren: ACT NRM

- Funding has been received to address pests and it is likely that rabbits will be the focus for investment
  - Working with landcare groups to control rabbits
- Better graze, better grow project ongoing
- Focus on biosecurity
  - With the Southern ACT Catchment Group
- Senior weeds officer has identified a nasty tussocky weed (name??) in the ACT and region and asks that people keep an eye out for it.

Regional Landcare facilitation

- Looking into an online property planning tool and considering two options (NRM spatial hub and NRM farm). It is likely that the Commonwealth will invest in NRM Spatial Hub.
- Facilitators attended the Landcare conference and found it to be a great meeting
- Landcare singles are currently in need of two Blokes

Ann Milligan: Friends of Grassland

- David Tongway is going to meet with FOG on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1:30 - 4:00pm to discuss the Landscape Functional Analysis (LFA). Let Ann know if you'd like to go along.
- There will be another event at Scottsdale on the 5<sup>th</sup> June from 9-12. See Ann if you are interested

#### Karissa Preuss: Ginninderra Catchment Group

- Current focus on grassland restoration
  - Working party established on restoration
    - Looking at fire trials in NTG (native tussock grasslands); autumn burns seem to be most effective from the trial data.
- Spot a blackberry project
- Working with Riverview
  - Recently identified Rosenberg's goanna at the Riverview site. This species is listed in NSW but not in the ACT and they are working with the Riverview team to consider its protection
    - It is possible that a Bush on the Boundary group will be established
- There will be a reconciliation planting day in early June
- Frogwatch report recently out well received
  - Great example of citizen science
    - Making use of habitat surveys

#### Landcare ACT

- Landcare ACT has been established as a company with a board made up of the 3 catchment groups, the ACT Rural Landholders group and an Indigenous Representative □ Likely to hold an event in late June as part of strategy planning

#### Ian Falconer: Conservation Council

- The Conservation council have been developing their 'wish list' for the election campaigning and it will be distributed widely soon

#### Peter Smith: Cooma Monaro Shire Council

- Council merger between Cooma Monaro, Bombala and Snowy Shire Council is underway but unlikely to meet the expected proclamation date of 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- For UMCCC this means that there is unlikely to be a change in representation with one LGA for the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee and Peter hopes to continue to represent them
- NSW Government biodiversity Act is out for public exhibition
- A collaborative activity underway between ACT Government and the councils around illegal dumping
- Compost project
  - Using further trials
    - Some compost now being taken to Griffith and Bungendore
    - Investigating different application methods
      - Would make an excellent field tour at some point
- Autumn aerial spraying of serrated tussock has been underway
- Numeralla re-snagging has been going ahead
- Clean up Australia Day was used for a Keep Cooma Creek clean day also.

#### Fiona Dyer: University of Canberra

- ARC Linkage grant successful with Ben Kefford and Sue Nichols on River Health assessment
- Toni Furlonge who has been working on wetland bioassessment and the development of Ausrivas models for wetland assessment will give her final PhD seminar on Friday at the

- University of Canberra. Contact Fiona if you want more information about Toni's project
- Fiona, Jacki Schirmer and Lain Dare submitted a grant EOI to the NSW Environment Trust on engaging rural residential landholders in pro environmental behaviours.

Angela Callies: Greening Australia

- Upcoming Community Plantings
  - 17 May – Landcare for Singles planting with ACT Regional Landcare Facilitator  
(details provided by Anna)
  - 5 June – World Environment Day planting at Bredbo TSR, our first planting as part of the large-scale 20MT project, partnering with Crown Lands and LLS
  - 31 July – National Tree Day on Sullivan’s Creek at Mulligans/Goorooyaroo NR, partnering with Woodlands and Wetlands Trust
- The ‘Social Inclusion Tuesday’ project with Alzheimer’s ACT won the Arts and Environment Groups category at the recent Volunteering ACT - Volunteer of the Year Awards

**1. KEY ACTIONS ARISING:**

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

