



# AGM AND GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016: 9:30am-12:30pm**

**Jerrabomberra Community Centre**

**2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway**

**Present:** Fiona Dyer, Lynton Bond, Karen Williams, Martine Franco, Martin Lind, Woo O'Reilly, Alex Mond, Ian Falconer, Joan-Mariee Crouch, Angela Calliess, Glenys Patulny, Anna van Dugteren, Rebecca Widdows

**Apologies:** Karissa Preuss, Anne Milligan, Tony Robinson, Peter Smith, Helen King, Luke Pope, Antia Brademann

**Minutes:** Fiona Spier

**Welcome:** Fiona Dyer, UMCCC Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Minutes from the previous AGM were distributed prior to the meeting and discussed. There were no outstanding actions from the previous AGM.

Minutes were accepted: Motion moved by Fiona Dyer, seconded by Karissa Preuss

## **Chairs Report**

Fiona provided the Chairs report for the previous year.

It was a year of delivery.

- The committee and Fiona Spier delivered the forum. The film is being edited and finalized.
- Finalisation of the strategic plan in August. Thanks to Kym Nixon for her work on this. Now beginning to implement parts of the document.
- Formally took a seat on the ACT and Region Coordination Group. The UMCCC have provided a great deal of effort and time to the strategy.
- During 2016 there were 3 general meetings, which were well attended by members. Member reports highlight the work going on across the region.
- In regards to the management of the UMCCC, the committee have employed Fiona Spier on a small contract to undertake the administration role. Lynton is missed as Treasurer. Thank you to Martin and Anne for stepping into the Treasurer's position.
- Fiona Dyer will be stepping down as chair and the committee are currently looking for a new chair. A different structure will be in place until a new chair is found.

The Chairs report was accepted by all, who then thanked Fiona for her hard work.

### **Treasurers Report (report attached)**

Martin Lind provided the Treasurers report in the absence of Anne Milligan. He outlined:

- The annual financial statements are not audited as the turnover is less than that needed for audit.
- Have moved our accounts to the Bendigo Bank. The term deposit will remain with the Commonwealth bank until it matures in March 2017.
- We are behind with BAS because of the change of address Fiona D has been in discussion with the ATO about this and we will not be penalised for being late.
- As at 30 June 2016 there was \$47,805.63 in the UMCCC's accounts.
- It was suggested that a Business Plan for the UMCCC be developed.
- Grant for the forum is still to be finished.

The Treasurer's report was accepted: Motion moved by Glenys Patulny, seconded by Angela Calliess

### **Election of the Executive Committee**

Fiona vacated the Chair and Lynton assumed the returning officer position. All positions were declared vacant.

UMCCC Executive Committee for 2016/2017 is:

Chair – no nomination declared vacant

Deputy Chair – no nominations declared vacant

Treasurer – Anne Milligan

Nominated: Martin Lind, Seconded Glenys Patulny

Secretary: - Anna van Dugteren

Nominated: Anna van Dugteren, Seconded Fiona Dyer

General Members:

- Angela Calliess
- Glenys Patulny
- Anne Milligan
- Rebecca Widdows
- Woo O'Reilly
- Fiona Dyer

As Lara was absent it was agreed to follow up if she wishes to continue as a committee member.

Fiona retook position of Chair in meeting and will continue as chair in the absence of a suitable replacement.

### **Appointment of Public Officer and Auditor:**

Public Officer: - Luke Pope

Nominated: Fiona Dyer, Seconded Glenys Patulny

It was agreed the naming of an auditor was not required due to the organisation holding less than \$250,000 in assets.

### **UMCCC Vote on Resolutions as outlined to members prior to the AGM**

Vote on resolutions A and B to add the following changes to the Constitution.

- For Resolution A to change the name from the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc (UMCCC) to the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network Inc (UMCN) as stated in the Strategic Plan.
- For Resolutions B, the addition of a winding up clause. This is required in the event of the association being closed, and it states what happens to any monies of the association in the event of winding up.

Motion: Fiona Dyer; Seconded Lynton Bond.

Both resolutions were agreed by all present. Motions Carried.

It was agreed for the first 6 – 12 months to use UMCN (formally UMCCC) for people to become familiar with the change.

## **November General Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes from the last General meeting:** There were no outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

### **Update from Professor Ian Falconer – ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group**

Ian thanked the UMCCC for a wonderful forum in March. The Coordinating Group will look forward to future activities with the UMCCC, including the funding of more forums in the future.

Thanks to Fiona Dyer for her work on the Coordinating Group and in developing a strategic plan to develop a 30 year plan for the coordinating group.

The UMCCC now has a formal seat on the Coordinating group. Currently the statute states that Fiona Dyer is the representative for the UMCCC, whereas other positions are listed rather than the person, such as CEO of Icon. Need to investigate whether this can be changed to the chair of the UMCCC.

Ian has been in discussions with NSW ministers and representatives who are currently developing a NSW strategic plan about the need to focus on integration of the NSW and ACT in regards to catchment issues.

The coordinating group will be rolling out a big stormwater education program over the coming months.

The Healthy Waterways project is in its final discussions in regards to technical details and the sites to focus activities on

The Queanbeyan/ Fyshwick treatment works will be replaced due to a need to improve the quality of water entering Lake Burley Griffin.

## **The Cost Effectiveness of Biological Connectivity in Agricultural Landscapes Dean Ansell, Fenner School, ANU**

Dean's project was to compare different forms of revegetation projects in terms of cost benefit effectiveness and conservation benefit.

As the dominant land use in Australia (>50%) and overseas (40%) agricultural land has a key role in biological conservation. With agricultural expansion it is projected that there could be a 70% biodiversity loss.

Costs of conservation projects can be high, depending on the project, complexity of actions, and loss of productive farm land in agricultural areas. An example is rainforest revegetation programmes in Australia cost between \$2000 - \$65,000 per hectare.

Less money is available for conservation so cost effectiveness is essential. Conservation budget is inadequate – estimated \$4 billion annually needed. There have been many studies looking at success of projects but there is poor integration of economics with conservation programs – key knowledge gap.

Looked at cost effectiveness of Agri-Environmental Schemes (AES);

- Farms need to be part of solution
- Incentive based vs regulatory mechanism
- Environmental stewardship schemes vs WOPR

The WOPR project uses existing fence lines and included a 10 year management agreement with fixed incentive payments to the farmer. Currently there are 80 WOPR fields, with 20,000 hectares and 1300km of direct seeding.

The studies showed that WOPR was 50% more effective per hectare than planting traditional windbreaks: block planting was cheaper but 2x the opportunity loss of a WOPR paddock.

- Scheme and site design is critical (needs to consider existing farm configuration, low transaction costs and integration of agricultural production)
- Biodiversity benefits
- Economics explain landscape patterns
- Potential efficiency improvements

Need to remember when designing AES schemes;

- Select appropriate mechanisms (e.g. fixed rate vs auction)
- Robust prioritisation (metric selection critical, value for money)
- Additionality (extra benefits)

Are we measuring the cost effectiveness of AES adequately? Only 48% of 239 studies refer to cost, and <15% measured cost effectiveness.

Reason for poor integration include

- Availability of cost data
- Lack of tertiary training
- Lack of cross disciplinary collaboration
- Ethical aversion

Dean compared alternative conservation actions to see what type provided better returns for public money:

1. Restoration plantings (Landcare style projects; in NSW 171,300ha p/y)
2. Remnant protection (lower cost, focus on stock exclusion, facilitate natural regeneration; in NSW 242,350ha p/y)

Looked at 32 restoration plantings and 10 remnant protection areas, of various sizes, shapes, and landscape complexity. Compared gains in richness of all species, focussing on bird species.

A measure of biodiversity gain should be included when measuring effectiveness.

Study found no difference in richness across restoration types, but there were greater gains in restoration revegetation projects. A gain of 60x across all species found, and 8x in woodland species.

#### *Drivers of cost effectiveness*

1/ restoration planting - Compactness, smaller site, less elongated planting, more expensive

2/ remnant protection- larger sites, fencing can be expensive, costs compound shape effects for woodland birds.

Need to understand time scale, as some species will not utilise plantings until they are more established.

#### *Implications for conservation*

Remnant protection- a low return, high risk investment *where the counterfactual (added on benefit) is not loss* – improve effectiveness of remnant protection

- Plantings are a safer bet
- site design critical for cost effectiveness
- compact plantings are more effective

#### Management and research implications

- Simple, versatile tools and techniques
- Think about public and private costs
- Collect & integrate economic data
- Collaborate

- Appropriate measures of effectiveness
- Gain vs absolute values
- Counterfactual contrasts
- Conservation effectiveness and efficiency
- Cost is a numerator not an indicator
- Prioritise to maximize additionality and cost-effectiveness

Ansell, D. et al (2016) The cost effectiveness of agri-environment schemes for biodiversity conservation: a quantitative review. *Agriculture, Ecosystem and Environment*: 225 (2016) 184-191

Ansell, D. et al (2016) Softening the agricultural matrix: a novel agri-environment scheme that balances habitat restoration and livestock grazing. *Restoration Ecology*; Vol 24, No 2: 159-164

Ansell, D., Gibson, F. and Salt, D. (2016) Learning from agri-environment schemes in Australia: Investing in biodiversity and other ecosystem services on farms. ANU Press

## Members Reports

### Glenys Patulny - SACTCG

Katherine Rhook has been employed as the Stormwater education officer working with John Feint.

### Martin Lind - Water watch

- CHiP report has been released during Water Week.
- Martin has been busy working on the Icon Water education portal which is now online.

### Martine Franco – SACTCG

- Have a Heritage grant to erect a sign at the Theodore Grinding grooves site.
- Will be running an indigenous Green Army team in March with GCG and MCG. Wally Bell will be employed as a mentor for this project. Over the next few weeks will begin recruitment for the supervisor.
- Environment grants to control Lovegrass at Amberly Farm and Westwood Farm in Kambah, woody weed control at the National Equestrian Centre, and woody weed control along the Gudgenby River.
- At the last AGM Miranda Gardner was elected our new chair. Glenys is now vice chair, and we also have a new Treasurer and secretary. The SACTCG thank Glenys for all of her hard work over the last 12 years as the chair.
- Damien Wall has been working with the catchment groups to develop our strategic plans.

### Woo O'Reilly – ACT and Region Water watch

Woo has been pleased with the media coverage of the CHiP report. There seems to have been a mind shift in that the data now appears to be seen as quite solid.

The report includes:

- 96 report cards
- 1,973 water quality surveys
- 196 riparian surveys

- 208 bug surveys
- 200 volunteers

Thanks to Dan, Martin, Antia, Deb, Damon and Kat for a terrific job.

The Carp Loves 20c campaign is currently up and running. Not a great deal of response yet due to the weather. Last year spawning was occurring mid September, but this year it started mid October, in smaller tributaries.

Hope that more publicity will teach people what to look for.

### **Alex Mond**

AGMs are coming up soon both for the UMCL and K2C.

### **Rebecca Widdows – Yass Valley Council**

- Rebecca has filled the role left by Kym Nixon.
- A Green Army team is about to start in the Yass Gorge.
- Bird Identification course about to start.
- Yass Council is making changes to the delivery of weed management, due to the amalgamation of Palerang, Goulburn - Mulwaree and Queanbeyan Councils.
- An 'important biodiversity' layer has been added to the LEP mapping system.
- Council is improving information on biodiversity assets availability for developers.

### **Angela Calliess - Greening Australia**

- Due to the weather 4/ 6 community planting events have been cancelled. Direct seeding in Crookwell is continuing.
- Have applied for an OEH Save our Species grant.
- GA ACT region may develop a proposal for a cultural/ environmental program to be run in schools in conjunction with GA Sydney.
- Honours student beginning in January looking at grassland restoration.
- Currently moving into propagation season.
- Starting a heritage trees program with Adam Shipp.

### **Joan-Marie Crouch - Queanbeyan/ Palerang Regional Council**

- Still finding feet, haven't amalgamated teams yet.
- Council has set up water monitoring sites in the Queanbeyan River. SMEC is also starting water monitoring at the new plant in Googong.

### **Anna Van Dugteren – ACT NRM**

- Sally is back from maternity leave.
- The regional body organised tours with the NRM Council and the Department of Environment to look at some of the projects undertaken by partners under the regional delivery funding project.
- Biosecurity program with the SACTCG looking at African Lovegrass. A meeting was held last week with mowing contractors at Tharwa.
- Sally and the SACTCG are developing a Chilean Needle grass ID drop in session for farmers. Will be at multiple sites.

- Rabbit program, monitoring and mapping will begin soon. Possible Rabbitscan training at Callum Brae.
- Small farms network will be holding a weeds ID day in Majura this month.
- Carly Freeman is developing a program for indigenous kids using cultural education and NRM to keep kids in school.

**Karen Williams – MCG**

- MCG is changing to a program management organisation.
- Postponed presentation on new structure to February.
- Finished business strategy.
- At upcoming AGM will vote on new constitution.
- 2 flagship projects. The Burra project has a rural focus, and the last workshop had 45 local landholders attend. The ACT Environment/ Urban project includes indigenous NRM management with Wally and Karen Bell

**Fiona Dyer**

No update

**Meeting closed: 12.45pm**



## Notes for 2015-16

1. The term deposit is running at 2.35% interest during March 2016 – March 2017.  
Interest 2015-16 amounted to \$588.20. Opening balance (1 July 2015) was \$22,561.23, and closing balance was \$23,149.43 at 30 June 2016.
2. During the 2015-16 financial year, the group ran a successful forum (18-19 March), and its accounts are detailed in the UMCN forum costs and income file.  
The forum was supported by a grant from the ACT Government (\$16,445), and ticket sales amounted to \$2164.18.  
Total costs so far (not including video production) = \$16,327.55.  
  
The grant runs for 12 months from the date of payment (early April). Work remaining to be done under this grant is the editing and production of the six 3-minute videos. The committee will be selecting footage for those during the summer, aiming for completion of production before April 2017.
3. During the financial year, Treasurer Lynton Bond handed the role over to Martin Lind. Martin continues as Assistant Treasurer, having relinquished the role to another member, Ann Milligan, who is new to the role and its intricacies.
4. During 2016, the Committee has appointed Fiona Spier to help with the administration and bookkeeping. Fiona will be invoicing for her hours during 2016-17.
5. In September 2016 the committee moved the UMCCC accounts (Business Online Saver and Cheque Account) to Bendigo Bank, for convenience of access for Fiona and Martin. Fiona Dyer, Martin Lind and Ann Milligan are registered for authorisation, and Fiona Spier is authorised to set up payments for online banking. Bendigo Bank balances are not included in the 2015-16 accounts presented here. The Term deposit will be transferred across when it matures in March 2017.
6. Summary of accounts:  

Cheque account:	Opening balance \$ 5,497.59
	Closing balance <u>\$13,806.87</u>
Business Online Saver:	Opening balance \$17,494.64
	Closing balance <u>\$10,849.33</u>
Term Deposit:	Opening balance \$22,561.23
	Closing balance <u>\$23,149.43</u>

  

Totals at 1 July 2015:	\$45,553.46
Totals at 30 June 2016:	<u>\$47,805.63</u>