



AGM AND GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8th November 2017: 9:30am-12:30pm

**Jerrabomberra Community Centre
2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway**

Present: Fiona Dyer, Martine Franco, Martin Lind, Woo O'Reilly, Alex Mond, Rebecca Widdows, Luke Pope, Ann Milligan, Simon Holloway, Ben Bryant, Lara Odell, Bruno Ferronato, Janelle Dennis, David Barratt, Deb Kellock, Kate Rhook

Apologies: Karissa Preuss, Helen King, Karen Williams, Angela Calliess, Glenys Patulny, Ian Falconer, Tony Robinson

Minutes: Fiona Spier

Welcome: Lara Odell, 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.

One correction was noted. Minutes were accepted: Motion moved by Fiona Dyer, seconded by Rebecca Widdows

Chairs Report

Lara noted that the actions from the strategic plan are on the back wall for members to look at.

Thank you to the current executive for their time and efforts in keeping things moving over the past year. Thank you to Fiona Spier who has kept the paperwork and administration, meeting notifications and supplying the executive with the resources they needed for each meeting.

The UMCN is a unique gathering of community, employees, volunteers, industry, academia and government all with a common interest in a forum where we all hold equal standing.

As a network we take this time to celebrate our collective regional achievements. With a special acknowledgement of the breadth, depth and spatial extent of activities carried out by our member networks in education, restoration, conservation and heritage management; in growing our collective knowledge and sharing our struggles, successes and progress.

This past year we've seen a changes of faces in roles, and we take this time to acknowledge and welcome the new people and send our appreciation of effort when farewellling those moving on to other pursuits.

UMCN Progress

The UMCN executive have focused on Governance issues such as the membership policy and the terms of reference We've progressed constitutional changes such as the change of name to UMCN to better reflect the organisation. But many of the activities in the strategic plan are static without progress due to constrained resources.

The UMCN has attended each of the ACT & Region Catchment Group Meetings. And have provided feedback on the ACT & Region Catchment Group strategy

We have held and hosted four UMCN member meetings here at the Jerrabomberra Community Centre. At each of those meetings bringing guest speakers on NRM or contemporary issues.

Terry Korodaj and Paul Packard, Office of Environment and Heritage - Environmental Water in the Upper Murrumbidgee - what environmental water is and what it means for the Murrumbidgee River.

Brett Howland, ACT NRM - Kangaroos, Grass and Biodiversity. ACT Government trialling different burning regimes to manage herbivores and diversity

Kate Rhook, ACT Water Policy Unit - Stormwater Education and Behaviour Change Program

Professor Ian Falconer - An update on the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group

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

Regional Achievements across the NRM network

- We've seen a shift in adoption of terms recognising weed management as a biosecurity risks. Groups have targeted the most pervasive and troublesome weeds both established and emerging such as Love Grass and Chilean needle grass.
- Actors in the region tackle feral pest species and also the converse of releasing threatened species such as Bettongs and Quolls.
- Groups continue the valiant efforts of restoration plantings
- The progression of an Indigenous focus on training in NRM and protection of significant heritage items and places.
- We've undertaken education and capacity building.
- 2017 saw the delivery of another Waterwatch CHIP report, on waterway condition.
- A continuation of the Carp 20C campaign.
- Investments have been made in information mapping, sharing and access such as the Yass Valley Councils biodiversity layer and the Canberra nature map.
- We've begun to turn attention to the impact of waste – including BGA, fishing tackle, and illegal dumping all as contributors to catchment condition.
- We've witnessed the largest scale recycled water program across the region – the Googong Township, a private initiative. And the ACT Government re-focusing on water sustainable urban design. The lessons from both these experiences will inform us on reducing the damage from floods as well as drive Water Quality improvements from stormwater.
- And as always, lots of efforts in social inclusion and building activism

This past year the UMCN has witnessed in others and experienced in ourselves an identity crisis in response to adjusting to external changes. The test is to re-focus the resolve, adapt and build resilience in our organisations. Because, although the external context is changing the funds and the resourcing, the community expectation remains and the environmental restoration still has a long way to go.

There is progress afoot which will result in big changes to localised areas; the settlement plans to accommodate future urban growth across the region. The actors in NRM have already been caught-up in defending ecological patches at risk of urban growth.

How do we focus and gear up for the long term commitments to tackle the persistent problems rather than being reactive to funding sources or just picking the low hanging fruit. The focus will be on how these are met into the future. The resourcefulness and creativity to continue the good things and the courage to drop the least productive outcomes.

Treasurers Report (report attached)

Ann Milligan provided the Treasurers report. The Treasurers report for the general meeting is included here. She outlined:

- The total in the accounts at 30 June 2017 was \$38,735.02
- Spending is based on insurance, admin, BAS and the website.
- Membership is only income which was \$1908.81, and consists of 17 financial members; 7 corporate, 6 organisations and 4 individual.
- Lack of paid resources and time is the reason why the strategic plan hasn't moved forward. Maybe we need to be more creative in how we move forward with these objectives.

The Treasurer's report was accepted: Motion moved by Ann Milligan, seconded by Martine Franco

Election of the Executive Committee

Lara vacated the Chair and Luke Pope assumed the returning officer position. All positions were declared vacant.

UMCCC Executive Committee for 2017/2018 is:

Chair – no nomination declared vacant

Deputy Chair – no nominations declared vacant

Treasurer – Ann Milligan

Nominated: Ann Milligan Seconded Martin Lind

Secretary: - Anna van Dugteren

Nominated: Martine Franco, Seconded Janelle Dennis

General Members:

- Angela Calliess
- Ben Bryant
- David Barrett
- Rebecca Widdows
- Woo O'Reilly
- Fiona Dyer
- Kate Rhook
- Janelle Dennis
- Luke Pope

Lara retook position of Chair in meeting and a suitable replacement for the chair will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

Appointment of Public Officer and Auditor:

Public Officer: - Luke Pope

Nominated: Lara Odell Seconded Woo O'Reilly

Biology and Conservation of the Long Necked Turtle Along a Natural – Urban Gradient

Bruno Ferronato, Ginninderra Catchment Group

Bruno's earlier work on turtles was along the Piracicamirin Creek, Piracicaba City in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Urbanisation is known to lead to biodiversity loss and extinction, but climate and rainfall interaction has never been included in studies.

PhD was done on Eastern Long Necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*). These creatures migrate overland, have terrestrial aestivation (up to a year is possible), and have a slow rate of desiccation. Study site was looking at the movement between Mulligans Flat and sites along Ginninderra Creek

A previous study in 2006-2007, during a dry period (464mm/year) and less urban development, found that in the suburbs (where water levels are stable) there were abundant healthy turtles, whereas in reserve area (where ponds dried out regularly), animals were found to be less healthy and many seemed to have moved into the suburbs where they could. Both groups had similar rate of survival. So it is clear that turtles move between permanent and ephemeral sites depending on the conditions.

The purpose of Bruno's study was to evaluate behavioral and population responses brought about by increasing urbanization and rainfall. This one was during a wetter period (602mm/year) with more urban development (70% increase in traffic) around Mulligans Flat. The predator proof fence was also erected in 2009.

Found that in wetter years there was no prolonged terrestrial aestivation and that turtles in nature reserves had better survival rates than ones found in the suburbs. Population numbers are more stable in suburbs than in the reserve due to the availability of water. A lot are killed by traffic though.

Turtles appear to be resilient to urbanization, if there is sufficient connectivity for long distance movements. There is a lot of movement between Yerrabee Ponds and Mulligans Flat, which is now impacted by the fence.

The data from Bruno's study show that 75% of animal deaths along the fence are turtles, so some sort of mitigation is needed.

Volunteer Turtle Patrols were set up in response to this issue, and focus on the hot spots along the fence at Mulligans Flat to move any turtles. Between October 2015 and April 16 249 individuals were relocated.

There is further role for citizen science in recording turtle sightings in the suburbs. If people can record sightings of turtles on Canberra Nature Map Bruno can begin to identify hotspots of turtle migration and these sorts of barriers can begin to be addressed.

Sightings of Murray River Turtles in the region have raised questions as to whether they have been introduced to these localities or whether, due to climate changes, they are migrating into new areas.

November General Meeting Minutes

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

The Future of the UMCN

As mentioned in Lara's' Chairs Report the executive feels that with the current financial restrictions they need to hear from the membership as to whether they see an future for the UMCN and if there is a different direction that they feel that the UMCN should take.

Observation by the executive is that after four years without external funding the UMCN has been limping along, unable to deliver on the objectives in the strategic plan without some operational funds.

The executive, and the members present, felt that the UMCN continues to have a role to fill, particularly with networking and as a forum for sharing of information and ideas.

Question of how we go forward?

One suggestion put forward was to place more emphasis on the networking values of the general meetings, maybe have six meetings rather than four, and focus on an issue where members can have a valuable group discussion about that particular issue. In terms of the objectives laid out in the strategic plan, review what is achievable in the absence of funds. The Strategic Plan was written with the view that the value of the UMCN was in networking not ground works.

It was also suggested that UMCN could leverage its engaging with the ACT and Regional Catchment Management Coordinating Group. The critical aspect of the UMCN is that it crosses jurisdictions; because of this there are six of the 19 actions identified in Coordinating Groups' strategic plan where a partnership with the UMCN could be beneficial. The Coordinating Group is keen to have a whole of catchment view of what is happening, ideas from member groups could be provided through the UMCN.

The UMCN could use some existing funds to build a business case to seek funding from other potential avenues.

At present no funding has been identified to keep the three ACT based Catchment Groups functioning from July 2018, and with their focus primarily on project delivery, synergies need to be found rather than organisations feeling competing against each other for a limited funding pool. The UMCN could use its networking ability to look at regional issues and work with member groups/ project partners to focus on their strengths in delivering beneficial outcomes.

As an example the ACWA report could be used to bring partners together and find ways to deliver some of those outcomes.

Members Reports

Martin Lind - Water watch

- No update

Martine Franco – SACTCG

- Looking at Smart Farms partnerships and grants
- Regional partnerships bids
- ACT NRM will be putting out EOI for an EOI soon

- Member consultation about the strategic plan just finished
- Valuable grasslands have Grants been identified in the south. Veg survey will be undertaken, also at a few Aboriginal sites.
- Lanyon homestead scar trees project through ACT Heritage
- Put in applications for 2 Environment Grants - for willow control at Tharwa between bridge and Point Hut and revegetation of shrub layer at Urambi Hills.
- Went to Albury for the NSW Landcare Muster which was great. Used 'champion' not 'winner' which was well received.

Woo O'Reilly – ACT and Region Water watch

CHiP report released, and has received good media coverage.

Carp Loves 2c still going.

Alex Mond

No update

Rebecca Widdows – Yass Valley Council

- New Biodiversity Conservation Act is now in place – currently making sure that we have skills we need to do administer it properly.
- Review of cemetery management plans, with a focus on biodiversity at each and ensuring that management is equal across sites.

Simon Holloway - Queanbeyan/ Palerang Regional Council

- Still understanding restructure after merger of the councils
- Single local government environment plan- a lot of focus on getting heads around biodiversity act and changes to crown land,
- Oxe-eye daisy control project across region.
- Currently have three grants working with road side management – weeds revegetation, and threatened species. Trials being run on roadside revegetation methods.

Deb Kellock - MCG

- QAQC coming up 2nd December, will include focus on algae

Bruno Ferronato - GCG

- Award from Conservation Council for member Group of the Year.
- Erosion control workshop 2nd December in Hall/ Wallaroo area.
- Climate change Frogwatch project is finished
- Grassland restoration project is continuing at 13 sites.

Ben Bryant – Icon Water

- Source Water Protection Strategy updated in September. Updates included a stronger focus on monitoring, risk assessment, and more effective communications with stakeholder

Ann Milligan - FoG

- Monaro Golden Daisy field day 23 November at Cooma Hilltop, reserve

Janelle Dennis – MCG

- RIS targets to be completed by July 2018 - due to the lack of staff for some months MCG are behind. An agreement with ACT NRM will allow some revegetation targets be met by weeds.
- There will be a cool burn workshops next week with Wally Bell. People from wider region coming along, will be looking at cultural burns.
- Burra and Royalla erosion workshop coming up with cam Wilson
- Field day in Burra on the 2nd Dec
- Footprints on Royalla workshop coming up.
- Looking at smart farms and NLP application

Fiona Dyer

No update

Luke Pope - LLS

- Focus on NLP2. Catching up with ACT Government people to build projects across border.
- SE LLS putting together the bid not LLS NSW.

David Barratt - Alluvium

- Alluvium is currently investigating a proposal in the Murrumbidgee River to reduce extractions for irrigation during flow event peaks to improve environmental outcomes and offsetting this reduced 'supplementary extraction' through the transfer of general security water allocations.
- Alluvium is currently facilitating the development of a Murray-Darling Basin Science Strategy by and for Basin States to assist with the implementation of the Basin Plan. Its objectives are to foster collaboration in the framing of science needs and the carrying out of investigations, promote a shared understanding of Basin science among decision-makers and stakeholders, and ensure that quality, cost-effective science is accessible and integrated into decision making.

Meeting closed: 12.30pm

Future meetings would like to discuss workshops that people have attended so that there can learn new ideas.

The next general meeting will be on the 7th February 2018.

Treasurer's report, November 2017

2016-17 Financial year

During the 2016-17 financial year, the three CBA accounts were wound up and transferred (thanks to LyntonBond) to a single UMCCC non-interest-bearing account at Bendigo Bank.

Opening total 1 July 2016	\$47,805.63* ¹ (three CBA accounts)
Closing total 30 June 2017	\$38,735.02 (one Bendigo Bank account)

Total expenditure during 2016-17 **\$10,976.92**

Comprising mostly: \$7,704.92 for admin support, and the remainder covering other administrative costs (website, BAS payments, a report on the 2016 Forum, insurance, Chair advertisement, etc.).

Total income during 2016-17 **\$1908.81**

Derived from CBA bank interest (\$582.04), Membership subscriptions (\$950), ATO credits and a small refund (insurance overpayment) (\$309.42) and donations (\$67.35).

2017-18 Financial year so far

Opening balance 1 July 2017	\$38,735.02
Current balance 7 November 2017	\$36,975.62

Total expenditure 1 July – 7 November **\$3,342.40**

Comprising mainly admin support.

Total income 1 July – 7 November **\$1,583.00**

Derived from membership subscriptions (\$1250), ATO credit (\$308) and a donation (\$25).

¹ At 1 July 2016 the three UMCCC accounts at CBA totalled \$47,805.63 as below.

Term deposit a/c 1 Jul 2016	\$23,149.43
Savings a/c 1 Jul 2016	\$10,849.33
Cheque a/c 1 Jul 2016	\$13,806.87

2016-17 Financial year. UMCN Inc. Registered for GST.

Bank reconciliation, **1 July 2016 – 30 December 2016, 1 January – 30 June 2017**

CBA ONLINE SAVER ACCOUNT 06 2904 10216099 (\$0 bank fees)

Item	Date	Costs/outgo	GST on outgo	Income/input	GST on income	Balance
1 July – 31 December 2016						
Opening	1 July					10,849.33
Interest	1 July			9.36	0	
Interest	1 Aug			9.39	0	
Interest	1 Sep			7.80	0	
Interest	1 Oct			6.26	0	10,882.14
Transfer to CBA Chq ac	26 Oct	-10,881.14	0			1.00
Interest	1 Nov			5.22	0	6.22
Subtotals		0 costs	0	38.03 interest	0 GST	
1 January – 31 March 2017						
Fee for statement	1 Mar	-2.50	0			3.72
Close ac. Transfer to CBA chq act	13 Mar	-3.72	0			0.00

CBA CHEQUE ACCOUNT 06 2904 10216099 (\$0 bank fees)

Item	Date	Costs/outgo	GST on outgo	Income/input	GST on income	Balance
1 July – 31 December 2016						
Opening balance	1 July					13,806.87
Membership M2016-10 (=YAN)	1 July			25.00	2.27	13,831.87
Membership Icon water	5 July			125.00	11.36	13,956.87
Membership ESDD	7 July			25.00	2.27	13,981.87
Membership Helen King	13 July			25.00	2.27	14,006.87
Membership Palerang Council	14 July			125.00	11.36	14,131.87
Membership UMCCC 2016	16 Aug			25.00	2.27	14,156.87
Deposit from Online Saver	26 Oct			10,881.14	0	25,038.01
Transfer to Bendigo Bank	26 Oct	-20,000.00				5,038.01
Subtotals		0 costs	0	350.00 income	31.80 GST	
1 January – 31 March 2017						
ATO Credit for Oct-Dec 2016 GST	13 Jan			15.00	0	5,053.01
Deposit from mature Term Deposit	13 Mar			23,693.44	0	28,746.45
Deposit from closing Online Saver	13 Mar			See above 3.72	0	28,750.17
Transfer to Bendigo Bank	13 Mar	-20,000.00				8,750.17
Close Cheque Ac. Move to B.Bank	14 Mar	-8,750.17				0.00
Subtotals		0 costs	0	15.00 income	0 GST	

CBA TERM DEPOSIT

Opening balance 1 July 2016 \$ 23,149.43
 Interest paid on maturity, 13 March 2017 \$ 544.01

2017-18 financial year. UMCN Inc. Registered for GST. As at 7 November 2017

BENDIGO BANK STATEMENT ACCOUNT 158222588
 (\$0 bank fees) (No Commonwealth Bank accounts now)

Item	Date	Costs/outgo	GST on outgo	Income/inputs	GST on income	Balance
1 July – 30 September 2017						
Opening	1 July					\$38,735.02
Membership A Milligan 2017-18	4 July			25.00	2.27	38,760.02
Membership Alluvium 2016-17	4 July			125.00	11.36	38,885.02
Membership UMLC 2017-18	11 July			25.00	2.27	38,910.02
Membership LACT 2017-18	11 July			25.00	2.27	38,935.02
Membership GCG 2017-18	11 July			25.00	2.27	38,960.02
Membership MCG 2017-18	17 July			25.00	2.27	38,985.02
Membership Alluvium 2017-18	21 July			125.00	11.36	39,110.02
Membership SACTCG 2017-18	24 July			25.00	2.27	39,135.02
Membership F.Dyer 2017-18	26 July			25.00	2.27	
Donation, F.Dyer	26 July			25.00	0	39,185.02
ATO payment (from BAS)	31 July			308.00	0	39,493.02
Membership ACT EPD	1 Aug			125.00	11.36	39,618.02
Membership Queanbeyan-Palerang RC	3 Aug			125.00	11.36	39,743.02
Membership Yass Valley Council	3 Aug			125.00	11.36	39,743.02
Membership Helen King	4 Aug			25.00	2.27	39,893.02
Membership Ian Falconer	9 Aug			25.00	2.27	39,918.02
Membership Cooma-Monaro SC	14 Aug			125.00	11.36	40,043.02
Membership Greening Australia	28 Sep			25.00	2.27	40,068.02
Membership Icon Water	28 Sep			125.00	11.36	40,193.02
Current totals (30 September)		Costs 0.00	0.00 GST	1458.00	102.22	40,193.02
1 October – 7 November 2017						
Membership EPD (Waterwatch)	24 Oct			125.00	11.36	40,318.02
Conservation council membership	25 Oct	70.00	7.00			
Aust Taxation Office BAS payment	25 Oct	104.00	0			40,144.02
Admin support	3 Nov	3168.40	288.04			36,975.62
Current totals (1 July – 7 Nov)		Costs 3342.40	295.04	1583.00	113.58	36,975.62

Notes 7 November:

28 membership invoices sent out by Fiona S in early July for 2017-18 financial year. 17 payments received. (18 entries above include one for 2016-17 from Alluvium.)

17 members are financial and ok to vote at AGM

Membership payment records, 1 July 2016 – 7 November 2017

Membership paid	When	How much	Totals
Invoiced for 2015-16 (April 2016) and for 2016-17 (April 2017)			
Icon water	5 July 2016	125	
Palerang Council	14 July 2016	125	
Icon Water	24 – 26 April 2017	125	
NCA	4 May 2017	125	
Yass Valley council	4 May 2017	125	
M2016-10 (=YAN)	1 July 2016	25	
ESDD	7 July 2016	25	
Helen King	13 July 2016	25	
UMCCC 2016	16 Aug 2016	25	
Ann M	18 Aug 2016	25	
K2C	24 – 26 April 2017	25	
UMLC	24 – 26 April 2017	25	
H King	4 May 2017	25	
A VanDugteren	11 May 2017	25	
SACTCG	22 & 30 May 2017	25	
Greening Australia	22 & 30 May 2017	25	
MCG	1&8 June 2017	25	
F Dyer	1&8 June 2017	25	\$ 950
End of 2016-17 finyear			
Invoice for 2017-18 fin year sent in July 2017 with some follow ups.			
Alluvium 2016-17	4 July	125	
Alluvium 2017-18	21 July	125	
ACT EPD	1 Aug	125	
Queanbeyan-Palerang RC	3 Aug	125	
Yass Valley Council	3 Aug	125	
Cooma-Monaro SC	14 Aug	125	
Icon Water	28 Sep	125	
EPD (Waterwatch)	24 Oct	125	
UMLC 2017-18	11 July	25	
LACT 2017-18	11 July	25	
GCG 2017-18	11 July	25	
MCG 2017-18	17 July	25	
SACTCG 2017-18	24 July	25	
Greening Australia	28 Sep	25	
A Milligan 2017-18	4 July	25	
F.Dyer 2017-18	26 July	25	
Helen King	4 Aug	25	
Ian Falconer	9 Aug	25	\$ 1250