



# GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018: 9:30am-12:30pm**

**Jerrabomberra Community Centre**

**2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway**

**Present:** Martine Franco, Alex Mond, Rebecca Widdows, Lara Odell, Bruno Ferronato, Janelle Dennis, David Barratt, Deb Kellock, Tony Robinson, Karissa Preuss, Karen Williams, Kerry Olsson, Antia Brademann,

**Apologies:** Angela Calliess, Ann Milligan, Simon Holloway, Ben Bryant, Martin Lind, Woo O'Reilly, Gina McGonkey,

**Minutes:** Fiona Spier

**Welcome:** In the absence of a chair, Fiona Spier opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

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

Minutes were accepted by all.

## **Chairs Report**

There was no chairs report.

An update on funding discussions was requested, and a brief update will be circulated by email.

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

Ann Milligan stepped down as treasurer in December.

Fiona Spier will provide financial reports for meetings. Very little has happened during this period.

- The total in the accounts at 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 was \$36975.62
- The only expenditure for the period was the submission of the required paperwork after the AGM of \$45.20.
- Income consisted of a BAS refund of \$272 and membership from SELLS. Currently there are of 19 financial members; 8 corporate, 7 organisations and 4 individual.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by all.

# Improving River Health and Fish Habitat to the Upper Murrumbidgee

## Antia Brademann, Cooma Waterwatch/ UMDR

The Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach (UMDR) was established in 2010 as an action of the Native Fish Strategy. The project area runs along the Murrumbidgee River from the Bredbo confluence to Casuarina Sands. This includes Scottsdale reserve. Luke Johnston was the coordinator until 2012.

The overall purpose was to restore fish habitat by 60% by 2020 – the program is on target. Other benefits include connectivity recreation, water quality, biodiversity etc.

The Native Fish Strategy was underpinned by science and is still just as relevant as when it was written in 2003. It was written in such a way that the leveled improvement by following one course of action, say riparian restoration, can be quantified.

As this strategy is now out of date, it is vital to divert the focus and strengths the UMDR have achieved into instream river health and focus on where the need is; the community and social needs and issues affecting the reach from upstream.

One really important aspect of the program is the strength and number of partnerships, as there are so many links with the UMDR with other projects. Engagement with the community is a cornerstone of the program. The UMDR doesn't want to duplicate anything that partners are doing so as to get the best outcomes for the Murrumbidgee.

The UMDR has a great deal of good quality patches, largely due to difficulties with access, and much work has been done in removing willows and restoring native vegetation so as to reconnect patches. Over the last 4 years, \$400,000 has been raised to assist 28 landowners to plant 16,000 native trees and shrubs on their land and to connect 6km of river frontage from the Bredbo Gorge to Colington Gorge.

The UMCCC Willow Strategy, which identified this stretch of the Murrumbidgee River as a priority for removal, is a guiding document that much of the UMDR willow removal program has been based on. Recently the UMDR was provided with funding for another 30 days of willow removal.

After 2012 when there was a bit of a hiatus, Lisa Evans from ACT Government kept the UMDR project going. Scottsdale reserve was bought in 2013 to protect the grassy Box Gum woodland which is on the site, and with that the UMDR was reinvigorated. Found along the reach are Murray Cod (which appears to be expanding its range), Macquarie Perch, and Trout Cod (which has been recorded breeding here).

A future priority of the program need to focus on sedimentation in the Tharwa reach. Originally a slow moving river at this point dominated by Ribbon Gums, due to land use changes upstream, sediment is now being deposited at a greater rate than naturally. This was a priority identified in the AQWA plan, which also guides much of the UMDR, and there are many opportunities for partnerships.

To date a lot of work has been done in the NSW stretch of the reach due to funding sources.

The UMDR has partnered a lot with Rivers of Carbon, due to their common view of respect for all partners, valuing people, sharing knowledge while managing for multiple benefits, and always asking WHY. The communication and educational material from Siwan and Lori has been vital to the successes of the UMDR.

Bush Heritage have supported the UMDR to develop a strategic planning over the last eight months. The steering committee is about to review the existing planning documents with the view to then develop a 10 year management plan. This will be available for comment mid-year.

Part of this process is looking at the data the UMDR has collected, what we have done with it and if it can address our questions. We need to identify the gaps in the monitoring and look at ways of filling them through funding opportunities or further partnership to see just how successful the program has been.

The UMDR put in a Smart farm application to restore habitat while focusing on land use practice change, with a particular emphasis on catchment wide erosion control. The UMCN would be a delivery partner for this project.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> February there will be an information session on the carp control program at Ainslie football club. An EIS will be developed by June.

## Members Reports

### Karen Williams - MCG

- Looking at new partnerships
- Using the last 6 months of RIS to set up for future.
- Have been speaking to Icon about the AQWA for Googong Dam and MCG are on the steering committee.
- 20 Million Trees grant for Googong to Royalla.
- Heritage Cool burn workshop coming up. Regional approach to do a regional burn with participants coming up from Cooma Shoalhaven. Looking to do a couple of coordinated burns in different areas.

### Martine Franco – SACTCG

- Environment grants - Willow removal project along Tharwa to Point Hut, developing relationships there with landholders is very important. Also have a grant for some revegetation at Urambi Hills.
- Heritage grant to remove graffiti from the Canoe tree at Lanyon

### Karissa Preuss - GCG

- New executive was voted in at AGM in December. Sandy is still the chair with Ken as Deputy.
- Very successful Christmas party
- After June there is no funding for the catchment groups. Waterwatch is funded for another 12 months. Executive is looking at other funding options.
- Erosion control workshop coming up.
- Were successful in Environment Grants for
  - Blackberry removal
  - Frogphone
  - Removal of adult poplars
- Four corporate volunteering days coming up over the next five months.
- Anke Maria is looking at funding for Frogwatch. Will possibly get funding for the census, but that is only for a six week period.

### Rebecca Widdows – Yass Valley Council

- Yass Gorge project is ongoing. There was a fish death event below the weir – a lot of carp and cod. A syphon has been put in for this year as a temporary measure, but need a long term solution for next year.
- Friends of the Yass Gorge are running a planting day with Greening Australia.
- Yass Landcare nursery is now up and running.
- Have a small crown lands grant
- Some water mains are being replaced near the reserve , but not near the temperate grasslands site
- Feeling Fishy Field day coming up with Siwan Lovett.
- Clean Up day coming up 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- Project on Crown land at McCallum’s creek to remove Willows and plant some trees with the Sutto9n Landcare group and Greening Australia.
- Weed legislation changes are still causing issues and staff are still getting their heads around it.

### **Bruno Ferronato - GCG**

- Recruiting new volunteers in Ginninderra creek – all sites are now covered. Now focusing in increasing volunteers in Yass.
- Looking at two more sites at Brooks Creek and Yass River in the Sutton area. Next week doing a talk about Waterwatch in Sutton.
- Upcoming Clean Up Australia day with Icon

### **Lara Odell – Icon Water**

- Icon are funding an AQWA for the Googong Dam (and everything upstream of it). Have been talking to stakeholders, and discussions have focussed on sediment and turbidity. Looking for interested parties for a steering committee to drive the project. A contractor will be employed to run the project.

### **Deb Kellock – Waterwatch MCG**

- Have been busy recruiting new volunteers.
- There will be a more formal education component to Waterwatch this year working with schools and scouts, more details to come.
- World Wetlands Open Day was held at Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Lots of people attended.
- Canberra Show coming up, Waterwatch and Landcare will have a stall.
- Martin is putting together education material for primary and high school students.

### **Antia – Cooma Waterwatch**

- Will be holding a Clean-up Australia day.
- Workshop with LLS later in the year - will possibly be on erosion control with Cam Wilson.
- Will be holding workshops looking at erosion caused by farm tracks and roads, and paddock plant/ riparian plant identification.

### **Kerry Olsson – Landcare ACT**

- Finishing up a few reports for the peri-urban and climate change grants - need to look at what behaviour change has come from the forums which were held.

### **David Barratt - Alluvium**

- Currently as part of the Healthy Waterways project Alluvium are undertaking the riparian revegetation component.
- At Oaks Estate and Molonglo Gorge Alluvium is helping the ACT Government develop a plan for the control of silt leading into the reach. Part of this plan may include revegetation of the river banks. MCG have been doing some work in that area as well and if the project goes ahead, will be discussing further with stakeholders.
- Some of the original 27 sites have been altered or dropped, so have been placed on a list of 'reserve bench' projects.

### **Tony Robinson**

#### **K2C**

- LLS CILF Land for Wildlife grant. Lesley Peden will be with us until May this year when the NLP funding through LLS runs out. She will be running one event and preparing 8 case studies up until that time.
- Yass Gorge "Being a good Neighbour to the Bush". Ryl Parker is currently contracted to do this. It is only 2.5 days a month. It is due to finish in March this year but there are still some outstanding tasks to be finished, in particular an explanatory booklet. We will be applying to the Environmental Trust for an extension.

- Save our Species - Scarlet Robin. This project, being run by Lesley Peden, is for four events a year, two in the Michelago/ Bredbo area and two in the Delegate area. The first of the two events at each location is to raise community awareness and identification of eight threatened woodland bird species of which the Scarlet Robin is one. The second of the two events is to increase awareness of their habitat requirements
- Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife - Lesley will be running one workshop a year over three years on a Land for Wildlife theme.
- ACT Government Environment Grant - K2C is acting as a sponsor for Michael Mulvaney which will be using the grant to enhance the Canberra Nature Map.
- Mini Forum on Wetland Diversity by Donna Hazel, SE LLS, 10:45 am, 16 February NSW Government Offices, 11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan. This is a free event with morning tea. You will need to register your intention to attend with Geoff Robertson 02 6241 4065. Meet in the foyer of the Government Offices by 10.40 am.

#### **UMLC**

- LLS CILF Coordinator. - Georgeanna Story will be with us until May this year when the NLP funding through LLS runs out. She will be running a few events up until that time and will continue to assist Landcare Groups with their activities.
- South East Landcare Support Grant - This grant bring hosted by UMLC provides funding for both UMLC and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council, will fund a number of workshops and a networking dinner.

#### **Michelago Landcare**

- The Group has secured an Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation grant and a SELLS SOS grant to increase the habitat for woodland bird species across the Michelago valley. There are 12 landholders engaged in the project which involves fencing and tree and shrub plantings. Conservation Volunteers Australia will be providing planting assistance and Nick Taws is doing pre-planting bird surveys.

**Meeting closed: 12.30pm**

**Next meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>By When</b>
An update on funding discussions was requested, and a brief update will be circulated by email.	FS	
Send out to membership information on 19 Feb Carp Control plan	FS	

## Treasurer's report, February 2018

Very little has happened since the previous meeting.

<i>Previous Balance:</i>	\$36975.62
<i>Expenditure:</i>	\$45.20 (submission of AGM papers)
<i>Income:</i>	\$397 ( SELLS membership, ATO )
<i>Balance as at 6/2/2018:</i>	<b>\$37327.42</b>

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### Memberships Paid during this period

- SELLS 29 Nov

**Total paid memberships to date : 19**