



GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 10th May 2017: 9:30am-12:30pm

**Jerrabomberra Community Centre
2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway**

Present: Phil Selmes, Martine Franco, Woo O'Reilly, Glenys Patulny, Anna van Dugteren, Karissa Preuss, Rebecca Widdows, Lara Odell, John Feint, Ann Milligan, Brett Howland, Clarissa Barbosa, Martin Lind, Deb Kellock,

Apologies: Antia Brademan, Helen King, Fiona Dyer

Minutes: Fiona Spier

Welcome: Woo O'Reilly, rotating UMCCC Chair, 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: Motion moved by Rebecca, seconded by Ann

Chairs Report

- **Outstanding costs of the forum**

The video has not been edited and the committee are in discussions with John Feint about how we can better use these funds to benefit the Coordination Group.

- **Coordination Group Meeting**

Glenys attended the Coordination Groups meeting last month. She suggested the group could renew interest in the AQWA report and focus on areas in that report which weren't seen as priorities at the time, such as erosion. The Coordination Group said that they would look further into this suggestion.

Increased environmental flows into the Murrumbidgee river were also suggested and more money to environmental education.

- **Membership**

Recently there has been confusion about membership of the UMCN. Clarity is required over the difference between an individual membership and a corporate and community group membership. In the UMCN constitution it states that a corporate member has 1 vote. Need to confirm what defines a corporate member.

There has been a question of suitability of potential members and the possibility for perceived potential conflict of interest. The committee don't feel that this is a big issue as the UMCN is a network of people sharing ideas and commercial in confidence issues are not relevant.

David Barratt, who is an individual member would also like a corporate membership for his company Alluvium. The constitution allows that but needs to be agreed by the committee with the support of the wider membership.

The committee believe that he brings a different set of skills and views, and they accept the membership.

The membership agreed, but there were concerns raised if a corporate member was to be the chair or a representative of the UMCN on other panels, as an issue of perception.

The representative of the UMCN is a conduit, and does not represent the views of all members. There needs to be further discussion about the role of the representative to other meetings. An email to the membership asking their views is needed, and there needs to be declared conflict of interest.

Need to be clear about the purpose of the UMCN. Need to have good process written about how to garner views from the members.

Action: to develop a procedure to garner views from the members.

Motion: Accept Alluvium as a member - all approved.

The Chairs report was accepted by all.

Treasurers Report (report attached)

Anne Milligan provided the Treasurers report. She outlined:

- To date only 6 members have renewed, and a reminder to others to also renew their membership.
- The constitution says that our membership year is July to June, not the calendar year. For the AGM members are required to be paid up before they can vote.
- Currently have \$39,000 in the account after a recent payment is cleared.

The Treasurer's report was accepted: Motion moved by Ann, seconded by Martin

General Business

Reminder that Woo has the UMCN document library, which members are welcome to look through.

Kangaroos, Grass and Biodiversity. Brett Howland, ACT NRM

Grasslands and savannah covers 20% of the planets land. Grasslands require large grazing animals, ecosystem engineers, to maintain them.

In the ACT 1% of natural temperate grasslands remain, and 5% of Box Gum woodland is left. Considered the best remaining patch in Australia.

In recent times this regime has changed as patterns of migration have been altered and megafauna have disappeared. Loss of megafauna such as Diprotodonts', 3,000 years ago was biggest impact. Estimated 23% of these species lost through Aboriginal hunting. These species have been replaced with horses and cattle. Now there are mainly only 3 smaller species that graze these grasslands.

In a natural environment kangaroo numbers are reduced by predation by dingoes, now they are regulated by food availability (bottom up regulation). A system regulated like this means that kangaroos can maintain the grass very low – resulting in erosion and decline in grassland species.

The base of a large tussock grass can be 10^c cooler than the top. This means that different species may use different parts of the tussock.

Legless lizards responded well to a mix of long and short tussocks, 3 toed skinks liked longer grass and earless dragons like short pastures. Similar story with bird species. Smaller ground foraging birds liked low grass and decreased as tussocks increased in size, and aerial insectivore birds preferred denser tussocks. This complicates management for threatened species, so a mix of grass structures is required for optimum species management.

Fire is a useful management tool, as it moves herbivores across landscapes, and keeps grass tussocks lower, which increased nutrition, and attracts herbivores.

ACT Government is now beginning to trial a fire regime to management grasslands at West Jerrabomberra Reserve in a 20 hectare paddock over the next few years.

Native grass and forb species decreased with tussock size.

Studies have showed a 30% increase in species after a spring burn which is not considered the best time to burn generally. Will assess annually to look for further change.

In areas of lower diversity, after burning, diversity increased. GCG found the same in there trials. Areas of high diversity before the burn didn't change much afterwards. After autumn burns GCG has found Themeda smothering ALG.

Food web analysis being done by the offsets team at ACT Government.

Members Reports

Glenys Patulny - SACTCG

Tonight a meeting of the original stakeholders of West Greenway is being held to discuss having the area set up as an environmental/sporting precinct.

Martine Franco – SACTCG

- Theodore Grinding Grooves signage was installed as part of the heritage festival. This project has highlighted some issues with the processes between PCS and the Heritage Unit.
- Submitted a heritage grant for protection of a canoe tree at Lanyon.
- Want to develop more heritage conservation plans for Tuggeranong.
- Finished project at Kerrabee, 88 hectares of weeds.
- Gudenby slash buster project finished – more money put in by ACT NRM to complete the other side of the river.
- Under LACT with MCG and GCG have a sustainable agriculture grant to run workshops (15 local and 2 regional) for rural landholders. Did a survey of which 33% were returned. So far priority issues seem to be Farmers and the Law, weeds, and managing peri urban areas.
- The Green Army team will finish mid June, and have been doing some great work. The Aboriginal Green Army has been working at cultural sites, the Carp Out at Isabella Ponds and erosion control at Amberley farm.

Rebecca Widdows – Yass Valley Council

- Settlement Strategy currently open for comment.
- Sutton and Gundaroo master plans being released.
- Mother's Day walk at Yass Gorge coming up.
- Crown land environment grant for weed removal at Yass Gorge.
- 2 years of environmental education grant to reduce land fill rates.
- Aiming to get plan of management for cemeteries and cultural management plan.

Deb Kellock - MCG

- Advertised for possible 3 positions.
- Busy as moving towards CHIP.
- Welcome to Klarissa Barbosa, new water watch scientific officer
- 7000 people attended the Majura Festival. MCG ran 5 workshops that were well received.

Anna Van Dugteren – ACT NRM

- Rebecca Palmer-Brodie was successful in filling the RLF position 2 days a week.
- Landcare for Singles is coming up.
- 'Volunteering for the Environment' booklet is being revised and updated.
- Sally is working on a PCS and Greening Australia project at Clear range tackling Serrated Tussock. This project includes workshops on native bees and dieback and discussing opportunities in regards to climate change and providence issues.
- Landcare Awards are open.
- Lori Gould has been contracted to consult with stakeholders about the investment plan/prospectus that ACT NRM are developing.
- RLF tour on the 16th May as part of the RLF Regional Conference.
- Next year there will be an indigenous fire forum.
- Soon there will be rural training and spotlight monitoring for rabbits - 10 properties are involved.

Phil Selmes – PCS

- NPA forum in June/ July will discuss Fire management in Namadgi
- 'Garden Plants Going Bush' pamphlet is going to be updated.
- The LLS is having their State Muster in Albury in September/ October - the ParkCare coordinator will have a budget to send some people.
- Phil has a budget to buy things for ParkCare - on the list are shade houses, tools, trailer, Sentree, tree guards. Other ideas to Phil.
- Many burns haven't happened this season due to bad weather.
- The Values Officer has been using Canberra Nature Map and on-site visits to assist in protecting assets.
- The Justice Crew have been working on the Pinnacle to remove old fences.
- The 25th anniversary seats are being rolled out to ParkCare groups.
- Recent Fringe Forum was on the Environment grants programme. Haven't been announced yet.
- ParkCare beanies available for volunteers.
- Louise Curham from Urambi ParkCare group is on 666 today.
- New Community programs manager, Mikayla Jade.
- ACT Landcare Engagement Strategy is needed

Lara Odell - Icon

- Business as usual.
- Doing a comprehensive erosion assessment of the Lower Cotter Catchment and are looking at prioritising funding. Not clear whether there is a standardised system of assessment.
- Suggestion of JF to facilitate a discussion in response to AQWA.

Karissa Preuss - GCG

- Water watch position will be advertised soon.
- Grassland strategy currently being written.
- Trial sites of fire management project recently reburnt using RFS volunteers.
- Green Army are planting at the CSIRO site at Ginninderra.
- Annual reconciliation event in June at Gubur Dhaura.
- Northern National Park proposal – LACT held a consultative forum with park carers. Identified many issues that need to be improved but a national park does not address them.
- A budget bid has been submitted to the ACT Government for the Frogwatch program.
- Positive media about University of Canberra and Frogwatch using remote data loggers.
- The Frogwatch Climate change project (weekly monitoring) is going well and there is evidence that frogs are calling earlier.

Karissa Preuss - LACT

- National climate change Institute grant –workshop looking at how climate change will impact park carers activities.

Angela Calliess - GA

- Adam Shipp working on heritage grant to map cultural trees – many not registered.

- 5 bush crew casuals, 3 of them are ex Green Army.
- Volunteering ACT awards on Monday night – 2 GA groups nominated – Aranda School Kids and the Achievement Centre
- Stall at Folk Festival. Had propagation activity on the Friday and Bush Tucker talk on Saturday.
- Planting season starting soon, National Tree day and World Environment Day coming up.

Martin Lind – SACTCG

- Wetlands development at Isabela Ponds has started – enlargement of pond under Drakeford Drive.
- During the Carp Out 2 carp species were removed. No native fish found.
- Upper Strangers Pond a carp weighing 9kg was removed. Carp taken to Braidwood to be made into fertiliser.

John Feint - ACT Government

- H2OK - demonstration sites grants open. Innovation best practice use of stormwater. Would like to hold practical workshop if grant recipients would be happy to do so.
- Extending call for artists.
- Continuing with drain stencilling.
- Industry training and best practise for construction industry – workshops planned for mid-year.
- Strategic planning for GCG and SACTCG continuing.
- Water sensitive urban design plan out soon.
- Danswell is the new catchment planning scientific officer and is looking at models and frameworks – need to get idea of how areas actually work.

Ann Milligan

- Application to FOG for grants of \$500 for education or research have now closed.
- Draft ACT Grasslands Strategy Submission due on Friday. FOG would like a stakeholder meeting.
- Next K2C meeting – Michael Mulvaney talking about the Canberra nature map, and Geta from the OEH will be talking about citizen science.

Meeting closed: 12.45pm

Actions

Action	Person	By Date
<i>develop a procedure to ensure member views are fully included when the committee is representing the membership</i>	Committee, FS	

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network Inc. Registered for GST.

As at 9 May 2017

Commonwealth bank accounts now closed and the contents transferred to Bendigo Bank in March.

BENDIGO BANK STATEMENT ACCOUNT 158222588 (\$0 bank fees)

Item	Date	Costs/outgo	GST on outgo	Income/inputs	GST on income	Balance
1 July – 31 December 2016						
Opening	18 Aug					0.00
Membership A Milligan	18 Aug			25.00	2.27	25.00
Donations for tea, August meeting	18 Aug			20.50	0	45.50
Deposit from CBA Chq Ac	26 Oct			20,000.00		20,045.50
NRM jobs Chair advert	27 Oct	165.00	15.00			19,880.50
Forum report (F. Spier)	10 Nov	600.00	0.00			19,280.50
Admin support November (calc)	10 Nov	720.09	65.46			18,560.41
Admin support, Aug–October (calc)	18 Nov	1,440.18	130.93			17,120.23
Public officer reimbursed (calc)	14 Dec	191.00	17.36			16,929.23
GST to ATO (Apr-Jun016)	15 Dec	685.00				16,244.23
GST to ATO (Jul-Sep016)	15 Dec	31.00				16,213.23
Subtotals		Costs 3,832.27	15.00 GST	Income 45.50	2.27 GST	
1 January – 31 March 2017						
Admin support Dec-January	21 Jan	1,584.18	144.00			14,629.05
Donations, Tea for meeting	8 March			21.85		14,650.90
Deposit from CBA chq ac	13 March			20,000.00		34,650.90
Deposit from CBA closing chq ac	14 March			8,750.17		43,401.07
Admin support, Jan1-March	28 March	1,584.18	144.00			41,816.89
Subtotals		Costs: 3,168.36	288.00 GST	Income 21.85	0 GST	
1 April – 9 May 2017						
Membership fee deposits (3 corporate, 3 group/individual)	24 April – 4 May			450.00	40.91	
GST credit from ATO	13 April			288.00	0	
Insurance	4 April	390.00	34.87			
Landcare gateway website	9 May	1210.00	110.00			
Subtotals		Costs: 390.00	144.87 GST	Income 738.00	40.91 GST	40,954.89
Admin support 10Mar-10May	10 May	1584.18	144.00			39,370.71

27 membership invoices sent on 19 & 20 April for 2016-17 financial year. When/if all paid, income would be \$1100.00 in total (14 individual/group (\$25) + 6 corporate (\$125)). So far only ~8 people are financial. Many more than 27 people/groups are on the mailing list

For membership, this is a transition period, from assumption of a calendar year basis, changing to match the Constitution which says it should be by financial year, i.e. July-June.

The plan is for invoices for 2017-18 to be sent out in early July.