



General Meeting

Wednesday 9th August 2017: 9:30am-12:30pm

Jerrabomberra Community Centre

2619 Jerrabomberra Parkway

Present: Martine Franco, Woo O'Reilly, Anna van Dugteren, Karissa Preuss, Rebecca Widdows, Deb Kellock, Antia Brademan, Fiona Dyer, Bruno Ferronato, Karen Williams, Gina McConkey, Alex Mond, David Barratt, Tony Robinson, John Hyam, Luke Pope, Janelle Dennis, Angela Calliess

Apologies: Helen King, Martin Lind, Ann Milligan, John Feint, Ian Falconer

Minutes: Fiona Spier

Welcome: Angela Calliess, 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 Karissa, seconded by Rebecca

Chairs Report

The executive committee met recently and discussed a membership policy and Terms of Reference for the organisation.

Treasurers Report (report attached)

Anne Milligan is away but she provided the Treasurers report. She outlined:

- As of 8 August 21 members have renewed their memberships.
- As of 8 August there is \$39,893.02 in the accounts.

The Treasurer's report was accepted: Motion moved by Angela, seconded by Alex

Water for the Environment

Terry Korodaj, Community Engagement and Communications, and Paul Packard, Senior Environmental Water Manager, Office of Environment and Heritage

Need to regulate water flow in rivers to ensure a regular supply.

Unregulated rivers are those rivers where the flow varies dependent on rainfall events. Examples include Blowering dam to the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee River and the Goodradigbee, or the Cotter below Bendora Dam.

Regulated rivers have a role in the water sharing plan so as to allow regular flow release unless a high flow overflows the dam. Example is the Lachlan River

Environmental flow parcel is an amount of water that is set aside for environmental water/ river and wetland health.

Much of the management of environmental flows and water allocation is about timing, duration and volume of water.

There is never enough available to replicate high flows but enough to move away from a regulated pattern.

Through the Basin Plan water regulators look at needs to ensure for future water use, and the environmental needs of birds, plants, and connectivity of habitat. It is important to ensure that a river can actually flow properly (longitudinal connectivity) and that it spreads out on high flows to get water back into wetlands along the edges of a river (latitudinal connectivity).

The difference between actual flow and delivered flow causes a problem due to the high peaks being stored and not being passed through the system. A lot of birds, such as ibis, need high flows to breed. By using water parcels can sometimes alter the flows to trigger or assist natural responses in the system.

Planned water – all licenses have identical amounts. In a wet year might be able to get 110% of your allocation.

Held water – actual holdings, based on annual allocation. Very small amount of water purchased through various programs.

In winter dams try to catch as much as possible – required to release some base water – protection to ensure water flow continues.

Many ‘rules-based’ rules are set and forgot, so once agreed it is set.

There are advisory groups in each area to assess all applications to the water allocation program and ensure all users are accepted and get what they apply for. Releases of allocations are usually strategic, but can be tactical, depending on what is happening.

Example: To control hypoxic/ black water recently - takes 17 days to get water out of Hume Dam so DoEH did a deal with irrigators to use their water to flow through, then used DoEHs allocation to return the water to the irrigators.

Need a water resource plan and long term water planning (LTWP) that then sits under the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan also requires indigenous patterns of use to be included. The purpose of LTWP is to guide management of water over the next 30 years.

Need to assess the assets (community, bird breeding, etc.) and work out environmental water and needs to assess how much water is needed. Annual allocation is based on previous year's rainfall.

Development of LTWP – Paul Packard

The key point is that there are guidelines about the best way to use the water.

Timeline – currently many plans as part of the wider Basin Plan are being drafted with public consultation early in 2018.

Made up of supplementary allocation, though that can't be stored... if you have a supplementary permit you may be able to use it over a period of days.

High security water – infrastructure use

General security – environmental flow

Need to hold more entitlements that you need because can only rely on 43 – 49% of allocation due to yearly fluctuations long term.

Regulators need to respond to natural inflow triggers or events. Environmental flows for fish, birds, vegetation, instream habitats, and processes, will look at primary reason but naturally different issues and needs need to be included in any decision.

In the Murrumbidgee River in 2016/17 there have been 16 water actions.

An order is placed to the regulators and it has been released, but you need to have water in your account to match it.

600,000ML has been used for

- Native fish recovery flow - Water release to try to improve black water event. Waters don't mix well; releasing water doesn't dilute the black water, but it provides pockets of better quality water for fish to move to.
- Colony waterbird breeding event - A release of water won't be used to trigger a breeding event, but once water birds begin breeding naturally more water will be released to improve the chances of success.
- Recovery of mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands - Currently trying to reconnect flow for native fish to migrate easily, and to move carbon back into the system so that it is there for spring. Can't do this in summer as it will create black water.

Burrinjuck Dam holds 1 million ML

Sometimes it is important to leave the water, so that it remains in the dam, or river, to assist in restoring natural wetting and drying events.

The Murrumbidgee River is unregulated under Tantangera dam – redraw is owned by OEH.

Can only regulate through cease to pump rule.

Release for the year is defined by previous year. Water that flows to Burrinjuck isn't counted there, so it can flow through. Peaks are not protected downstream as they flow, as irrigators use what they can.

Draft ACT NRM Investment Plan – Anna Van Dugteran

ACT NRM, as the Regional Body, is developing The Investment plan as part of the planning for the next round of RIS from the Commonwealth.

Currently, ACT NRM and its partners are into the 5th year of the 5 year contract which provided \$5.8 million to the ACT. 63% of this has been passed onto the community through partnerships with the catchment groups and Greening Australia. 37% is used by the ACT to fund a MERI officer, RLF and Aboriginal NRM Facilitator.

In the next round, the commonwealth has confirmed that there will be a 20% cut to the 2019-2023 round. Will only fund Commonwealth responsibilities, with no cost shifting from states. There will be increased reporting, accountability and transparency, and a focus on delivering on ground outcomes.

There are national obligations that funding will focus on;

- access to market – biosecurity
- Australian biodiversity strategy
- Paris Agreement
- Closing the Gap
- World Heritage and RAMSAR
- Drought policy

Will need to assess how we reconcile national obligations with local circumstance and priorities?

The Investment plans is aimed at avoiding similar problems experienced during the last process, and allow the process to be smoother and funding ideas to be better developed, while identifying gaps in the current NRM planning framework that could be incorporated.

The Investment plan is designed to be online and a dynamic document continuously being updated.

A number of members pointed out that the Community theme needs to be rewritten as it is currently inadequate, and many were confused by the priority inclusion of bird hotspots and fens and bogs in the Biodiversity section

Luke also pointed out that \$3 mill of RIS money also goes to the LLS, and they are looking at complementary ideas from their catchment action plans.

Members Reports

Martine Franco – SACTCG

- Currently writing Environment Grant for Willow and Blackberry control along the Murrumbidgee River - Tharwa to Point Hut crossing
- Finishing planting for the Gudgenby Willow grant
- Organising dam planting at Amberley Farm as part of another environment grant

- Recently there has been a lot of work into the project by SACTCG and GCG project to develop strategic plan. The process has involved discussion with members and committee. Drafts should be delivered to members early September.
- New group interested in Tuggeranong Hill, and are on waiting list to become a new Park Care group.
- Plan for more understorey planting at Scrivener Hill.
- 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

- Establishing a Yass Gorge Management Plan, will be out for public comment soon.
- There is a need for more plans of management in the Yass area
- H2OK program helped assess applications for community gardens that practise water efficiency.
- Looking at Yass Gorge fish habitat to see what council can do
- Development of plan to improve best practise in how council deals with waste
- Sustainability Sunday – good news weekly blog about sustainability in Yass area. Any ideas send to Rebecca.

Deb Kellock - MCG

- Busy writing CHIP reports
- Platypus survey in August, helping tell us about catchment health
- Added a ww site to lower Molonglo below Molonglo valley development
- Site below Coppins Crossing is longest running waterwatch site in ACT.

Anna Van Dugteren – ACT NRM

- ACT Landcare Awards have been extended to 31 August.
- Oli is continuing ongoing rabbit program with landholders. Now at stage of discussing results with landholders and implementing actions.
- Beginning a legume and soil fertility program to identify issues with legume nodule formation, and how this impacts on fertility of soil.
- Sally working on dieback program. Looking at provenance issues with landholders. Trialling seed from other drier areas.
- Attended the SciScouts Day which attracted 750 scouts.
- Darren developing a fire forum with traditional owners about cultural burns. More to come.
- Tim and Darren looking at developing a post jail training program.

Tony Robinson

K2C

- Lesley Peden has been doing Land for Wildlife assessments in the ACT and NSW for K2C in partnership with the Community Environment Network (CEN). More are planned in the ACT in 2017-2018 and will be continuing in NSW through the South East Local Land Services (SE LLS) CILF grant.
- The Yass Gorge Environmental Trust project "Being a good neighbour to the bush" is continuing. Maya Potopowicz resigned 30 June and the project is now being managed by Ryl Parker.
- Lesley has gained a small grant from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and will run three workshops in NSW over three years.
- K2C was successful in gaining a Saving our Scarlet Robin grant from SE LLS to run workshops in Bredbo/Michelago and Delegate on habitat and identification of the 8 species being addressed.
- K2C will be holding a Mini-forum at the NSW Govt Offices on 18 August. The speaker will be Tim Wong talking about the Draft ACT NRM Investment Plan.

UMLC

- Georgeanna Story continues to run events for Landcare groups in the Upper Murrumbidgee region under the SE LLS CILF grant. She has also surveyed the groups and produced a "Health" report for us. We have nine groups and over the last decade have remained stable and active.
- A support grant has been obtained through South East Landcare from the RLF program managed by Peter Pigott. The project will be run in conjunction with the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council to run a Landcare dinner in Queanbeyan on 26 August, a series of workshops on pollinators and how to attract them to your garden including constructing bee "hotels. Other events will be indigenous fire workshops and a small farms mini-muster.
- Jenny Goldie, President of Michelago Landcare, has been successful in gaining two large grants to establish "stepping stones" across the Michelago valley. Currently 13 landholders are involved and it is planned to partner with Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia for the plantings.

Fiona Dyer - UCAN

- Currently involved with 5 yearly Review of environmental flow guidelines. Draft sent to ACT government last week. Public consultation will be in October - November.
- Beginning to scope major urban stormwater project as part of Basin Project. Lake Tuggeranong algal bloom issues are one outcome of the project.

Gina MacConkey - Snowy Mountains Regional Council

- Snowy Mountains Regional Council was amalgamated from Snowy River, Bombala and Cooma Monaro Councils.
- Elections are about to be held for council

- Changes to biosecurity will be huge challenge especially in ensuring everybody understands the changes.

John Hyam - Icon

- Since the enlarged Cotter dam project a lot of work has been done above the dam looking at habitat needs of 3 spined blackfish and Macquarie Perch.
- Spawning season 2016/2017 best for decades. Spawning has been problematic due to barriers.
- Study with ACT Gov. looking at characteristics of spawning sites and how barriers to spawning and migration can be reduced. The project is going into the 2nd year. 40 fish have been tagged so that their movements can be tracked. So far discovered that temperature is a trigger for spawning and that Macquarie Perch migrate at night, and spend little time in spawning site.

Karissa Preuss - GCG

- New water watch coordinator Bruno Ferranto has started.
- Fiona Spier is working 1 1/2 days a week at GCG while Karissa is working on the strategic plan.
- A draft template for the strategic plan has been developed and GCG is currently discussing it with members.
- Aboriginal Green Army finish on the 16th August. It has been a good project and they teams have provided much needed on ground help to many groups.
- Grassland Restoration - setting up scrape sites with Greening Australia. Ken Hodgkinson has identified other sites to look at as part of the project.
- Rachel Tockley in back at TCCS in Nick Bakkers role and GCG have already had a number of meetings with her

Karissa Preuss - Frogwatch

- Census starts soon and the 2016 report from last year is being written.
- In media a few months ago about a project with UCAN using remote data loggers
- Putting in a budget bid for Frog watch - may ask for letters of supports from other organisations.

Bruno Ferranto - GCG

- New Waterwatch coordinator at GCG.
- PhD Research was with turtles
- Currently working on ChiP report and Platypus surveys

Karissa Preuss - LACT

- Climate change workshop was really useful for park carers who attended. Attendees were keen to get together a list of what species would be practical to plant in their areas.
- Organising a peri urban land use forum. More details soon.
- LACT have provided feedback to the ACT NRMs Investment Plan

Angela Calliess - GA

- 300 people attended the Urambi planting day, which was a partnership with the Wood

Karen Williams - MCG

- New staff – Ben Koros-Hutton, Janelle Dennis, Josie Banens, Kristy Moyle, Alice McGee
- Ben is currently writing an application for 20 Million trees grant, in partnership with CVA, QPCR, and Queanbeyan Landcare
- Janelle is communications officer
- MCG is ramping up again and ready to provide services to members and regional partnerships.
- Website is in transition.
- Shaping project portfolios into catchment areas, and re-establishing Vegwatch program

David Barratt - Alluvium

- Currently developing a catchment post recovery management plan. There will be discussions with various partners, and there will be a workshop. This will provide framework for a catchment recovery perspective in an emergency event, such as drought, fire, biosecurity etc.
- Developing a hydrology model for whole of Upper Murrumbidgee source. Looking at water quality issues, surface water resource plans. This will be made available for the ACT Government to run scenarios etc.
- Enlarging the weir at Isabella Ponds due to apartment development increasing pressure on Lake Tuggeranong. Wetlands also being added to treat water coming in and out of the lake. Alluvium continually checking on the site.
- Work was supposed to be one year, but may take longer.

Woo O'Reilly – Waterwatch

- It is Platypus month, and the Waterwatch program runs the only platypus monitoring in the region. The program continues to grow and add more sites. Waterwatch is now started to get a good dataset over a number of years.
- Cooma Platypus survey with Antia - an article will be on the ABC News on Saturday night.

- CHIP report being written. This year will include 220 sites, 1900 water quality tests, 200 water bugs, 200 RARC.

Antia Brademan - Waterwatch

- Busy with CHIP report and Platypus surveys.
- H2OK have done a video in Cooma.
- Have completed the revegetation part of the UMDR project. With Bush Heritage are developing 10 years management plan for UMDR – will be completed by end of August. There will be a public consultation period following.

Luke Pope - LLS

- Beginning to implement new Biosecurity Act -moving away from lists to a more modern risk assessment framework , so there is a consistency in risk
- Lab tests have confirmed first Fluprofonate resistance in Serrated Tussock (2 populations) on the Monaro.
- *25 August the new Biodiversity and Conservation Act* regulations come into force, which has some mapping available for landholders to use.
- Still money available for wetlands projects in the Monaro
- Money available for research into earless dragons and dieback
- Riparian work grants closing this week for projects in the Upper Murrumbidgee and Lachlan catchments.

Meeting closed: 12.45pm

Next meeting will be the AGM on the 8th November 2017

Actions

Action	Person	By Date
Send link to ACT Investment Plan to members	FS	
Pass on K2C email about Investment Plan meeting to members	FS	

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network Inc. Registered for GST.

As at 30 June 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	0			18,560.41
Admin support, Aug–October (calc)	18 Nov	1,440.18	0			17,120.23
Public officer reimbursed (calc)	14 Dec	191.00	0			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-Mar (2 mth)	28 March	1,584.18	144.00			41,816.89
Subtotals		Costs: 3,168.36	288.00 GST	Income 21.85	0 GST	

Notes given in Treasurer's report on 9 May: (note April-May now incorporated in April-June below)

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.

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network Inc. Registered for GST.

As at 30 June 2017 (compiled on 2 July)

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

Item	Date	Costs/outgo incl. GST	GST on outgo	Income/inputs incl. GST	GST on income	Balance
1 April – 30 June 2017						
Opening balance 1 April						\$41,816.89
Insurance	4 April	390.00	34.87			
GST credit from ATO	13 April			288.00	0	
Membership fee deposits: K2C, UMLC, Icon Water	24 & 26 April			175.00	15.90	
Balance 30 April and 1 May						\$41,889.89
Membership fee deposits: NCA, H.King, Yass Valley	4 May			275.00	24.99	
Landcare gateway website	9 May	1210.00	110.00			
Membership fee (I. Falconer)	10 May			25.00	2.27	
Admin support Mar-May (2 mth)	11 May	1584.20	144.00			
Membership fee deposit: A.VanDugteren	11 May			25.00	2.27	
Refund of insurance overpayment	17 May			6.42		
Membership fee deposits: Greening Australia, SACTCG	22 & 30 May			50.00	4.54	
Balance 31 May and 1 June						\$39,452.11
Membership fee deposits: MCG, F.Dyer	1 & 8 June			50.00	4.54	
Donation: F.Dyer	8 June			25.00		
Admin support May- June (1 mth)	15 June	792.09	72.00			

Closing Balance 30 June						\$38,735.02
April – June Subtotals		Outgo: 3976.29	GST: 360.87	Income: 919.42	GST:54.51	

GST on membership fees is \$11.36 on corporate memberships, \$2.27 on individuals and landcare groups.

Summary information for 2016-17

Inputs

Membership income = \$625 (12 memberships: 3 corporate + 10 individual / landcare) including GST.

Donations = \$67.35 (two tea money collections + 1 personal donation)

Outgo

Total outgo = \$10,976.92

Admin support = \$ 7,704.92

Other costs = Insurance, website, NRM jobs advert, a report + GST owing from the 2016 Forum, legal costs.

Membership renewal invoices are being sent out on 3 July or soon after that (sorry to do this again so soon) to 29 'members'.

Between 30 June 2017 - 9 August 2017

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

Item	Date	Costs/outgo incl. GST	GST on outgo	Income/inputs incl. GST	GST on income	Balance
Opening balance 1 July						\$38,735.02
Membership Alluvium, A. Milligan	4 July			150.00	13.63	
Membership UMLC, GCG, LACT	11 July			75.00	6.81	
Membership MCG	17 July			25.00	2.27	
Membership fees Alluvium	21 July			125.00	11.36	
Membership fee SACTCG	24 July			25.00	2.27	
Membership and donation	26 July			50.00	2.27	
ATO BAS credit	31 July			308.00		
Membership EPD	1 August			125.00	11.36	
Membership QPRC, Yass Council	3 August			250.00	22.72	

Membership H. King	4 August			25.00	2.27	
Closing Balance 8 August						\$39,893.02
June - August Subtotals		Outgo: 0	GST: 0	Income: 1158	GST: 74.96	

Summary information up to 8 August

Inputs

Membership income = \$825 (13 memberships: 5 corporate + 8 individual / landcare) including GST.

Donations = \$25 (1 personal donation)

Outgo

No outgoings in this period