

**Minutes
Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Mountains Community Resource Network Meeting Room Lawson
Wednesday 13 February 2013 at 6pm**

Attendance

Neil Mc Glashan, Ray Richardson, Clive Barker, Paul Vale, Mike Purtell, Elizabeth Mitchell, Susan Jalaluddin, Maeve Dunnet. Peter Christmas.

Apologies

David King, Ivan Jeray, Neil Stuart, Rob Agars, Margaret Tafe, Jenny Hill.

Meeting opened 6.17pm by the Chair Ray Richardson

Acceptance of Previous Minutes (Nov 2012)

Paul, Mike.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

1. Recreation, Sport and Fund raising events on Bushcare Sites

Paul received correspondence from NPWS and Council and spoke to Michael Hensen from Council but it was decided further follow up is needed. What the network would like is the documentation used to access these events.

ACTION: Paul to talk to Matthew Chambers, and write again to NPWS.

2. Reprint of 'Living near the Bush'

Susan is back on board to do the bush, gardens and plants. The publication will be loaded online as it is updated.

3 Notifications of Developments

Paul circulated a letter emailed earlier today to Councillor Van der Kley, asking him to investigate why the resolution of 12th October 2010 to notify the bushcare office of all DAs for property adjacent to bushcare sites has not been properly implemented.

4. Survey of Bushcare volunteers

Update provided to the network on survey that I will let them know the full details in April.

5. 2010 photographic project

It was agreed that it was important that these photos be recorded in local history; and

- that this work should not be at the expense of the normal support for the program, hence a grant should be sought.
- that a local history grant be sought to ensure this project does not compete with on ground works;
- that all groups with historic records, some dating back over 20 years should also have them recorded in a complementary project.

Ongoing - Ray to keep an eye on grants that maybe suitable

AGENDA

1. Bushcare Major Day Out –Erin

The site that has been nominated is Valley Heights for this year and the concept was explained. For more information see the website

<http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org/>

2. Fire effect on weeds project – Paul

Update provided on the Centenary Reserve Project which involved monitoring weed growth, particularly gorse and broom after fire.

The 2ha site is the oldest bushcare site in the mountains and in November 2011, 6 study plots were set up: 3 in the burn area and 3 in the unburnt area. The local bushcare group carried out weed and native species counts, measured fire intensity and then counted 10,000 gorse seedlings germinated from 5 parent existing Gorse plants. We have decided to close the project after its 2 year anniversary due to lack of peoplepower. The study has proven that there is a clear difference in weed germination between the burnt and unburnt plots. A full report will be prepared after the final surveys are done in November 2013.

3. Plant display project Discussion – Ray

The table comparing options for the display model was considered. (See attachments below)

It was decided by the network it would be good to have a small mobile display set up in which 3 events per year one lower, mid and upper mountains are targeted on a trial basis.

Action- Clive to ask NPWS about the possibilities of utilising their trailer for use on these three days.

Our City our Future Community Forum – Paul

Mike and Paul and Alan were invited to represent bushcare in this forum run by Blue Mountains City Council that will discuss planning for land use (amongst other Council responsibilities) up until 2025.

Action : Mike to provide information at next meeting.

4. Bushcare Network Conference- Working group

The Working Group of Margaret, Paul, Mike & Rob provided an update. The working group will meet after this week and have made a checklist of all the planning items to be done that the working group will work through has been established.

A request to other members to feel free to add additional items to the list or query any items listed on an ongoing basis – no need to wait for the next meeting.

5. Fire Ecology Unit Community Monitoring Project- Clive

There are gaps in the research of plant species in the NPWS/ DECW database on how species respond to fire. A monitoring program has been established to capture this information. Fire ecology unit would provide perimeters for monitoring for those who are interested. Clive advised that there was an opportunity for interested people in the Blue Mountains to contribute to this database.

Action: Clive to provide a small blurb with contacts for the monthly email.

6. Clarification of certain issues including ‘protected disclosure’.- Clive

Clive joined a networking page for foraging, found a possible noxious weed and reported it. As a result of his name being revealed through this process, possibly by a Council Officer, he has suffered abuse over the web.

Action - Paul to draft a letter to Council to support the principal of maintaining privacy in line with legislative requirements for Bushcare volunteers.

7. Treasury report – Mike

\$455.99 Current Balance

Meeting closed 8:50pm

Next Meeting 3 April 2013 Lawson

ATTACHMENTS

BUSHCARE NETWORK PLANT DISPLAY PROJECT DISCUSSION			
Who is our target? - Residents, potential members, retailers?			
What do we want to achieve?	Educate residents about impacts of their garden - ing	Identify weeds	Identify local native alternate plant choices
	Promote Bushcare/Landcare		
Mobile Display		Static Display	
Trailer based		Elements designed for longer term	
Single day events		Located in town centres	
Set up and dismantle each use		Less set-up and dismantling.	
RESOURCES	ISSUES	RESOURCES	ISSUES
Trailer	Availability (booking) All trailers the same? Vehicle & driver to tow	Transport	Trailer/vehicle Driver
Staff/volunteers	Set up and dismantle	Staff/volunteers	Set up and dismantle
		Maintenance	Local group members
Photos	Stock (permissions) New (photographers) Enlarging & mounting Description	Photos	Stock (permissions) New (photographers) Enlarging & mounting Description
Weed Plants	Some banned for transport	Plants	Potted plants practical?
Potting	Selection and source Volunteers for potting Storage Maintenance		
Documentation	Source Printing Mounting	Documentation (Better quality)	Source Printing Mounting Design
Signage	Design	Signage	Design

	Creation		Creation
Locations	Scheduling Response to local conditions	Locations	Scheduling and booking Response to local conditions
Promotion	Advertising Flyers - design & printing Media stories	Promotion	Advertising Flyers - design & printing Media stories
Funding	Council Grants Sponsorship In-kind	Funding	Council Grants Sponsorship In-kind
Long term maintenance	Continuing improvement of material Updating Expansion Plant replacement	Long term maintenance	Continuing improvement of material Updating Expansion

CONFERENCE Agenda

Time	Activity
8.30 - 9.00	Registration - Tea / coffee etc
9.00- 10.30	Speaker - Margaret Baker - Geology of BM - may be linked with fire???
10.30 -11.30	Popes Glen Journey about need and then applying for a grant - hopefully progress to date- Paul
11.30 -11.45	Morning tea
11.45-12.30	Funding available for Specific projects - Linda Thomas, Eric M, Ray Richardson ?
12.30 -1.15	Lunch
1.15 -2.00	Planning time for individual groups or connected groups to "nut" out some projects that could attract funding - both small and larger amounts to have on their wish list
2.00-2.45pm	Group feedback on ideas for future funding proposals. Network projects - fire data, bush friendly plant stalls etc
2.45	Wrapup,/ evaluation

Blue Mountains Bushcare Network Conference August 2013 Preparation Checklist

Item	Details	Person	Completed	Notes
1	Butchers paper & felt pens for brainstorming sessions.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Projector for slide shows to accompany talks (hopefully Council).	Erin	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	

Item	Details	Person	Completed	Notes
3	Projector screen (I have an old film type in reasonable condition; any better will be good).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Projector stand (I have one of these too).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Invitations to be sent out.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
6	RSVPs to be logged and tabulated.	Erin	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Venue booking checked (I know it has been booked, but ...).	Erin	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Food/drinks - needs some discussion I guess, but must be listed. And I think should be listed separately ...		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Plates & cups, spoons (other cutlery??), definitely glasses & fresh water jugs.	Some can be supplied from Bushcare catering set	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Seating arrangements, including availability of tables & chairs.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
11	Any handouts to be printed, (including a workbook for taking note - or do we ask people to bring their own?) plus spare pencils?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
12	Raffle? (Mike?)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
13	All presenters to be re-confirmed (say) 1 month prior to Conference date.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
14	Check with each presenter as to what facilities they will need; flag if not in those already listed.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	

Item	Details	Person	Completed	Notes
15	Small gifts of appreciation for each presenter.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
16	Moderator(s) for the day.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
17	Someone to introduce each presenter or programme segment.		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
18	Greeters (do we need such a thing?) and/or registration table(s).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	This is very important to have someone to welcome and sign in table (Erin)
19	A large Clock?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Erin has one at home that needs batteries- if you get stuck
20	Bamboo pointer or similar; and/or laser pointer (I have one).	Erin bushcare	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
21	Whiteboard & markers(?).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
22			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	

I'm sure there will be other items to add to the list, including

Additional Ideas for extra events

Group blogging on website – Erin

Sydney water -

Fire impact on sites- Next year?

Weeds sales?

NPWS & BMCC co operation

History and future of bushcare

Combined groups of catchments- catchment groups concept

Photo sharing table- BYO photos to share in photo display

Student information- what's happened in the Mountains?