

Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Minutes OF Meeting Wednesday 12th May 2010 at 6 pm
Mountains Community Resource Network Meeting Room Lawson

Present: Barbara Harley (Tree Fern Gully, Lindeman Road Leura), Allan Murray (Glenbrook Lagoon), David King (Gundungurra), Una King & Jessica Martin (Red Gum, Bullaburra), Christina Day (Braeside), Erst Carmichael (Sth Lawson), Margaret & Warwick Tafe (Mt Riverview), Ivan Jeray & George Harris (Katoomba Falls), Lyndal Sullivan (BMCC)

Apologies: Karen Hising (Valley of the Waters), Veronica Paul (Katoomba Creek); Lachlan Garland (Braeside, Valley of the Waters), Elizabeth Mitchell (Birdwood Gully), Mike Purtell (Else Mitchell & Deanei), Clive Heywood Barker (BMCS), Monica Nugent.

Facilitator: Jessica Martin

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting February 2010 moved Barbara Harley

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

1. Integral vegetation clearance work program & protocols

The questions raised in the Network letter to Integral to attend Network meeting to discuss program and policies were read, together with the response from Integral, and discussed (letters attached). It was agreed to pursue firstly the issue of consultation with Bushcare groups raised in question 2.

Action: the Network to write to Council asking whether Integral Work Plans for vegetation clearance works are received, and if so how far in advance of works being performed. Also requesting if council does receive this information, whether there could be a procedure to notify the bushcare team. (Allan Murray)

2. Bushcare promotion

Environmental Education Officer, Jasmine has now produced:

- (a) a set of 6 posters for displays in both A2 and A3 sizes for street stalls and community notice boards
- (b) Bushcare/Landcare brochures with general information for new volunteers; with possibilities for specific group or local area inserts

The photographic project is continuing obtaining photos of all bushcare and landcare sites.

The site A frames have not progressed any further. The ideas developed by the network for slogans will need to be matched up with appropriate promotional photos.

3. Participation in community events – deferred until Annette was present.

4. Papers from Provenance/Bioregionalism Forum for website.

Allan reported that he was still working on it, as it was more complex than first apparent.

5. Weed Trees – fee exemption from Tree Preservation Order

Action Barbara & Elizabeth to write, on behalf of the Bushcare Network, to Council proposing the fee be waived for residents making a TPO application to remove any of the weed trees identified by BCN but not currently exempt. The 1998 Network list of weed trees to be used plus

Phoenix canariensis Canary Island Date Palm

Populus nigra Lombardy poplar

Also that *Pittosporum undulatum* be removed from the DCP weed list and any exemption list for the TPO.

(see list in attachments)

6. BMCC Weed Management Strategy

Barbara was thanked by the meeting for compiling the Network's comments on the preliminary draft of the Strategy, and appreciation from Council also noted.

Action: that a special meeting of the Network be held to discuss the strategy during the public exhibition period. Tentative date Monday 12th July. (Lyndal to confirm once draft is on public exhibition)

7. Downhill Bicycle Tracks in Bushland

Soren Mortensen, BMCC Bushland Management officer joined meeting. Warwick Tafe provided a history of the Downhill Mountain Bike activities and issues on the eastern escarpment and showed photos of the damage to bushland.

- Tracks were closed in the Nichols Pde Mt Riverview area in 2004 and activities recommenced in 2009. Other main site for activities has been Old Bathurst Road.
- During 2009 BMCC commenced discussions with Down hill riders. The spokespeople for the group agreed to the rationalisation of tracks closing Nichols Pde, and also to assist with drainage works on the Old Bathurst Road track. A small number of riders continued to use Nichols Pde.
- Councillors voted to close all tracks and for asked for a further report on other suitable sites.
- New illegal tracks have been reported at Knapsack Reserve. Knapsack Reserve's Plan of Management allows for a single down hill bike tracks and tracks for cross country mountain bike riding.
- Margaret Tafe reported that Mt Riverview residents were keen to work together to assist with the remediation. It was agreed that it was best as a separate activity from the regular bushcare day, and would be beneficial to have the assistance of the bushcare officer. It would be also be an opportunity for recruitment of new members to the group.

Following discussion of the appropriateness of the different forms of mountain bike riding in the Blue Mountains, the Mt Riverview representatives were thanked for bringing the issue to the attention of the network. **It was agreed** that the Bushcare Network did not support the building of downhill bicycle tracks in environmentally sensitive areas.

General Business

8. Draft Street Tree Master Plan

Copies of the Plan were circulated and it was noted that comments would be received till until 18th June.

Issues of concern discussed included:

Weedy species proposed with no plan for active replacement eg Camphor Laurel, *Phoenix canariensis* Canary Island Date Palm,
Where 'native species' proposed these should be defined to ensure local species of local provenance.

It was agreed that in preparing submissions on local areas, individual groups could exchange ideas by sending these to Lyndal for distribution.

9. Resignation of Barbara Harley as Bushcare Network Convener

Barbara's resignation was accepted and she was thanked for her huge contribution over many years as the Upper Mountains Bushcare Network convener.

Action: election of an Upper Mountains Bushcare Network convener at next meeting.

10. Volunteer Insurance Cover

George Harris reported on an accident he had had on a bushcare site where there had been some uncertainty about payment of medical expenses incurred. His medical related expenses were covered and had triggered a review of the policy.

It was agreed that a review of council's insurance coverage for volunteers was needed and should be incorporated into the current review of the Bushcare Policy and Procedures, with a clear statement that of out of pocket expenses would be covered.

11. Volunteer registration and agreement forms deferred

Next meeting: Thursday 16th September

Following discussion with Mike Purtell, convener, the date for the next meeting was changed from August to September and to a Thursday evening

Special meeting to discuss Weed Strategy planned for Monday 12 th July, to be confirmed once exhibition period is known and draft is available.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CORRESPONDENCE WITH INTEGRAL

NETWORK LETTER TO INTEGRAL
(Scott McKenzie, Acting Vegetation Manager)

9 April 2010

Dear Scott

I am writing on behalf of the Blue Mountains Bushcare Network (the Network) to invite an Integral Energy representative to attend a regular meeting of the Network on 12th May 2010. The Network is comprised of volunteer bushcare group members and aims to address issues concerning bushland reserves across the Blue Mountains.

A number of matters relating to vegetation clearance undertaken by Integral Energy have been raised by Bushcare network members at recent meetings. We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the following questions:

1. When will Integral Energy's vegetation clearance work policy/plan next be reviewed? Will the general public have an opportunity to make submissions to the policy/plan?
2. Could Integral provide the Network with the annual works program and map for interpretation prior to July each year?
3. Some trees and shrubs subject to Integral clearance works are environmental weeds as listed in the Blue Mountains LEP 2005. Is it possible for these plants to be treated with herbicide rather than pruning or lopping?
4. What hygiene policies and protocols do Integral staff and contractors follow to ensure that vegetation management works do not spread weeds or soil pathogens?
5. Does Integral apply any special policies and practices in areas where threatened vegetation communities or species exist? If so, please make them available to the network.
6. Are the following Act and Regulations the relevant rules governing vegetation management?
 - Electricity Supply Act 1995 No 94 - section 48 Interference with electricity works by trees
 - Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001 - Part 11 Tree preservation (sections 100 to 104).
 - Please provide hard copies of the relevant sections for the meeting.
7. Will Integral consider the use of bundled cables in sensitive areas?"
8. Will Integral undertake to consult with any effected Bushcare or Landcare Groups at least one month prior to any works commencing?

The meeting will be at 6-8 pm on 12th May at the Mountains Community Resource Network Meeting Room, BMCC Library, cnr San Jose Ave and Loftus St, Lawson. Could you please RSVP by April 25th, advising who will represent Integral.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Harley
Convener, Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
sumach@exemail.com.au

RESPONSE FROM SCOTT MCKENZIE (INTEGRAL)

Hi Barbara

Unfortunately I'm unable to attend your May 2010 meeting to discuss veg issues as they relate to your bushcare group in your local area. At

present I'm acting in the vegetation managers position and have an equally busy role as Integral Energy's vegetation environmental specialist. Not a good time at the moment. However I am willing to address some of the issues you raise in your letter as I have a keen interest in bushcare programs initiated by the community.

My background as a Botanist has afforded me many opportunities throughout Australia, including being part of the establishment team who initiated Landcare and Environmental Action Programs (LEAP) in the late 80's early 90's, in WA.

At this stage I'll provide a brief for each question to stimulate discussion for your group and provide information and website links for further research. This should provide some short term answers.

1. Integral Energy, along with other energy providers here in NSW, are guided by the Industry Safety Steering Committee (ISSC) recommendations (paper 3) and is generally reviewed every few years; last review was in December 2005. All reviews are conducted by various government departments. Information can be found by a net search of ISSC 3. As a general rule this paper and others referring to the powerline industry is based on safety - I'm not aware of tendered public submissions in this process.

2. I'm not authorised to provide any data on our electrical network/assets to the public and as a general rule Integral only provides LGA's with documentation as to vegetation programs throughout our network.

3. On land owned by Integral Energy we have a policy to remove weeds as defined under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and have worked with BMCC Noxious Weed Manager, Chris Dewhurst on these issues within the LGA. On land, other than Integral's, we are only responsible to clear vegetation that has a potential to impact on safety to the community and network reliability, including the risk of bushfires in bushland environments.

4. Integral does have a hygiene policy with specific reference to the management of phytophthora and have worked extensively with national parks (DECCW) on protocols to reduce the spread of this nasty, including weeds with high dispersal rates.

5&6. As a part 5, self determining authority, Integral Energy is heavily regulated by state and federal legislation (ES, TSC & EPBC Acts), State Environmental Planning Policies (Infrastructure), guidelines and standards. All this is reflected in Integral Energy's Tree Management Plan (June 2007) that can be found on Integral Energy's website.

7. Integral Energy has a program throughout the franchise area for the implementation of ABC. As you can appreciate Integral has approximately 24, 500 Km of powerlines to manage and areas are prioritised according to a number of environmental and engineering considerations.

8. Time permitting I would love to spend some time to discuss, in greater detail, issues of vegetation. I've spent a life time researching and educating various community groups on native vegetation here in Australia. Unfortunately time is limited and after work commitments are numerous.

If you have any further comments I'm only too happy to provide information that I'm able to supply.

Kind Regards, Scott McKenzie

5. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

(Note that the NSW government does not permit Council's to have TPO's anymore as a stand alone "Order". It currently exists as Clause 54 in LEP 2005 and clause 10.11 in LEP 91 – unfortunately these are different for the different areas covered by the LEPs.

Note: LEP 2005 currently exempts: *Salix* and *Populus* species, and *Pinus Radiata* if less than 10 m (with some local area exceptions). Also all Noxious weeds. There are no exemptions in LEP 91

The following is the proposed List of exemptions from the BCN list (plus new additions):

<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle
<i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>	Old Silver Wattle
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Irish Strawberry Tree
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame Tree
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>	Tree Lucerne, Tagasaste
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> #	Camphor Laurel (# W4d) =\`1e
<i>Cornus capitata</i>	Evergreen Dogwood
<i>Erythrina crista-galli</i>	Cockspur Coral Tree
<i>Erythrina x sykesii</i>	Coral Tree
<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Lemon Scented Gum
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> #	Broadleaf Privet (# W4b)
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> #	Narrowleaf Privet (# W4b)
<i>Olea europaea subsp africana</i>	African Olive
<i>Phyllostachys spp</i> #	Rhizomatous Bamboo (# W4a)
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Date Palm
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata Pine, Monterey Pine
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Lombardy poplar
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird Cherry
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Flowering Cherry
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust
<i>Salix spp</i> #	Willows (# W4)
<i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i> #	Rhus Tree (# W2)