

Draft Minutes
Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Lawson Mechanics Institute Hall Meeting Room
Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 6pm

Attendees: Paul Vale (Facilitator, Popes Glen, Centenary Reserve Blackheath); Monica Nugent (minutes, BMCC Bushcare Office)

Neil Stuart & Ivan Jeray (Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley); Maeve Dunnett (Minnehaha Falls Reserve); Barbara Harley (Tree fern Gully); Neil McGlashan (Glenbrook Lagoon); Elizabeth Mitchell (Birdwood Gully); Jenny Hill (Leura Falls Ck Catchment); Mike Purtell (Deanei Forest), Michael Hensen (BMCC Environment Branch).

Apologies: David King, Elly Chatfield, Rob Agars, Susan Jalaluddin, Robert Trenchard-Smith, Annette Coulter.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the Dec 4th meeting are not available so are unable to be confirmed. Actions are in process to recover and/or reconstruct these minutes so as to validate actions taken in the interim & discussions conducted this evening. (Monica & Paul, plus Ray Richardson).

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

1. Protocols regarding communicating between meetings were approved at the last meeting. (This item will be expanded after additional information is recovered).
2. Fire Recovery Bushcare Blitz Teams. The October fires highlighted the need for a system to assist fire-affected bushland areas adjacent to Bushcare sites. Eg, to mobilise the network to assist in some way. It seemed to be a common experience to feel the need to act immediately – to “do something”, however this didn’t necessarily result in the best outcome. Eg, some residents whose properties were burnt immediately accepted the offer of mulch and help to spread it, but it has become apparent that the mulch was too fresh and has suppressed natural regeneration.

Mike apologised for his minimal attendance at the Bushfire Recovery and Restoration meetings on behalf of the Network and expressed some frustration at the lack of maps depicting the location of EEC’s in burnt areas.

Paul expressed appreciation to Mike and thanked him for his participation, pointing out that the action plan developed at those meetings that we now have a copy of was a good outcome. See more discussion on this matter in item 3 following.

It was agreed to vary the published order of business on the basis of importance and likely time required. However, the published order is maintained in this record for ease of correlation.

1. **Protocols – Ivan.** Work has been done and will be discussed in detail at the May meeting. This meeting ran out of time for this item.
2. **Bushcare Network Conference – outcomes; report & possible write-up.** Some fragmented reports

are available; other information gathered at the conference is still in Council Bushcare office and needs to be sorted and catalogued.

3. Fire effect on weeds project – Paul

In conjunction with the discussion on bushfire recovery, Paul gave a summary on the completion of over two years of data-gathering for the post-fire effects on weeds study at Centenary Reserve. Quadrats of 400m² (20m x 20m) were set up and monitored following a Hazard Reduction burn. 6,000 Gorse seedlings were counted in the burnt area quadrat. Paul noted that a significant amount of data was collected and he is in the process of writing it up for use in future grant applications and or for use by Council.

Mike noted that it is particularly important because the study area is located in the urban-bushland fringe of Blackheath in exactly the kind of area that will be subject to ongoing hazard reduction burns.

Discussion continued on the general issue of recovery from the October 2013 bushfires.

- It was agreed(?) that some residents will be wanting information regarding fire resistant plants and in the urgency to take action following fires might encourage the planting of invasive species for their fire-resistant properties;
- Mike noted that the mountain landscapes species list on the BMCC website might need to be checked for invasive alternatives; the interactive plant list is at:
<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/landscape/index.cfm?p=DBE76D8A-9349-4A2F-9F8138B46ACC53E4&dt=271602441404>
- *Suggestion that the Restoration Committee may be approached to talk to the Network ???*
- The meeting agreed it would be good if Rob Agars could tell his story regarding the regeneration on his bushfire-affected property in Buena Vista Ave Winmalee following the October 2013 fire (Action: Mike &/or Paul to contact & discuss with Rob).

4. Community Education Project – Neil & Maeve

Neil Stuart provided an overview of the meeting a working group (consisting of himself, Maeve and Lyndal) held on Feb 3rd, and tabled a record of their conversation titled

Report to BM Bushcare Network “Living With & Within the Bush As Risk”

Neil and Maeve were asked if they were prepared to carry on with this project. A motion was drafted “That the BM Bushcare Network adopt the report as tabled at the meeting as a working document and that the BM Bushcare Network supports Neil, Lyndal & Maeve to begin the Project as outlined”.

Paul Vale put the Motion

Seconded by Jenny Hill

The motion was carried unanimously.

Jenny Hill offered help as a Facilitator/Trainer for (Train the Trainer) and to be involved in getting the project together.

Action: Neil Stuart, Maeve Dunnett, Jenny Hill and Lyndal Sullivan (?) to continue a working group with the brief of preparing an outline of the logistics involved in developing a series of workshops; commencing with recommendations for a facilitators workshop.

Action: Jenny Hill to locate relevant historical materials held by BMCS.

Paul put forward a vote of thanks to Neil, Maeve and Lyndal for their report.

5. Suggestion to canvass all Bushcare/Landcare group coordinators directly, to ask for feedback on how their site is going / what's needed – David

- Carried over

6. Recreation events in Bushcare areas – Michael Hensen (BMCC Nature Based Recreation and Tourism Licensing Project Officer)

Michael provided a brief outline of BMCC's Nature Based Recreation and Tourism (NBRT) Licensing Scheme which regulates nature based recreation and tourism activities undertaken on Council owned or managed lands which included the following details about the NBRT Scheme and endurance events:

1. Council's Nature Based Recreation and Tourism Licensing scheme advertises the intent to issue annual NBRT licences annually in the Gazette in June to provide the opportunity for community input; Environmental assessments are undertaken as part of licence application process; Special event application fee of \$110 + a per participant fee of \$2 (1/2 Day) / \$4 (full day) is charged for events such as Wild Endurance and North Face;
2. Two large endurance events are held partly on Council managed lands in the Blue Mountains – Wild Endurance (600 participants, fundraiser for the Wilderness Society); The North Face 100 (an “icon” event for the North Face Adventure Company, approx. 1400 participants; \$110 special application fee is charged + user fees. Approximately \$3,000 pa is directed back into Reserve Management of Katoomba Falls Reserve and McCraes paddock).

Michael undertook to provide an article on endurance events for forwarding to the Bushcare Network (attached).

It was agreed:

1/that the Bushcare Team Leader will be notified that the call for submissions about Council's intentions to issue Nature Based Recreation and Tourism Licences is open. The Bushcare Team Leader will ensure that all Bushcare officers and their respective groups are informed;

2/ that the Blue Mountains Conservation Society will be notified that the call for submissions about Council's intentions to issue Nature Based Recreation and Tourism Licences is open;

3/ those maps of the routes of annual special events such as Wild Endurance and North Face are available for viewing as part of Council's intentions to issue Nature Based Recreation and Tourism Licences for these types of events in addition to the currently provided information about the parcels where the activities are to occur.

The next call for submissions is scheduled to take place in MAY-JUNE 2014.

7. Draft LEP update - Paul

Paul provided an overview of the work the Bushcare Network and the Conservation Society have been doing to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Draft LEP, meetings and letter-writing workshops held. Paul tabled copies of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society information

regarding submissions.

8. **Bushcare Major Day Out** – Monica flagged the upcoming Bushcare Major Day Out on Sunday 8th September, just for advance notice that the Bushcare Team will be planning to participate this year.

9. **Other business:** There being no time for other business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14th May Mid Mountains Resource Centre Lawson

Actions Summary Table:

| Item | Action | Person(s) |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Previous Minutes | Chase data & reconstruct | Paul Vale, Monica Nugent |
| Items Arising | Contact Rob Agars re bushfire recovery | Paul Vale, Mike Purtell |
| 4. Community Education | Proceed with project | Maeve Dunnart, Neil Stuart, Jenny Hill (Lyndal Sullivan TBC) |
| 6. Nature Based Recreation | Provide additional information | Michael Hensen (BMCC) |
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