



Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 12th August 2015

Mountains Community Resource Network Meeting Room
San Jose Ave, Lawson

Apologies:

Maeve Dunnett; Clive Barker; Linda Thomas; Steve Barratt; Neil Stuart; Lachlan Garland

Attendees:

Ray Richardson (North Lawson; Popes Glen Steering Committee); Paul Vale (Convenor; Popes Glen, Centenary Reserve, Chairperson); Mike Purtell (Else Mitchell and Deanei Forest); Neil McGlashan (Glenbrook Lagoon); Susan Jalaluddin (Vale St); Margaret & Warwick Tafe; Monica Nugent (Bushcare Team Leader, minute taker).

1 Confirmation of last minutes

Minutes of meeting held 12th May 2015 were confirmed by Ray and Paul.

2 Actions arising from May meeting:

- i. Monica to discuss First Aid Training with managers - Carry over
- ii. alternating the annual Bushcare picnic with the conference - see item 3
- iii. Bushcare trust Fund to enable bequests from wills - Paul presented the suggestion to the Greater Sydney Landcare Network at their last meeting where it was received favourably but no further action will occur until after their AGM, but it is on the agenda.
- iv. BMCS Plant study group - Monica will relay the offer from BMCS to the Bushcare team. Susan will discuss with Meredith.

3 Holding Bushcare Conference - Picnic alternate years

The idea of alternating the annual Bushcare picnic with the conference was discussed. Feedback received so far from Bushcare Officers is inconclusive; it seems those who don't attend the picnic would like the conference and vice versa.

Reasons given for supporting a change

- The conference format is likely to attract those volunteers who prefer informative as opposed to social gatherings and an indoors venue;
- Alternation would reduce demands on peoples' time.

Against changing:

- Some like the picnic and the social atmosphere it engenders;

- Change would risk Network losing control over the conference and BMCC losing opportunity to express appreciation of the volunteers.

The general feeling is that it would be best to continue with the annual picnic and the conference every 2nd year. It is suggested that the number of information events be reduced in the year that both events are scheduled.

4 Report on Conference 2015 planning

Planning is going well. Registrations are healthy, catering is confirmed, logistics arranged, 17 “VIPs” have been invited so far.

That the Bushcare Network approves funds from the grant towards travel expenses of up to \$200 for Mark Graham from the Nature Conservation Council to present. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Linn has been invited facilitate the panel discussion but has not yet responded. Paul suggested that should he agree, a small payment would be appropriate.

Action: The Network approves funds from the grant of up to \$75 to be paid to a panel facilitator. Passed unanimously.

Mike has approached the relevant Bush Regeneration Companies for a donation towards raffle prizes/sponsorship with good results. He suggested that The Turning Page Bookshop in Springwood also be approached, and agreed to follow this up.

Action: Mike to contact The Turning Page

5 Accounts summary & proposal to contribute \$400 towards catering

Recommendation received from Conference Organising Committee that the Network makes a \$400 contribution toward catering costs of Conference 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Monica to invoice the Network, Mike to transfer funds.

6 Hazard reduction issues

Mike tabled a copy of the Blue Mountains Gazette Wed 12 Aug edition regarding the level of hazard reduction burning on Darks Common. The article airs the view of one local resident who believes annual burning is required. Concern about that level of burning being detrimental to the environment was discussed and also whether a response from the Network would be useful. The meeting decided against responding.

7 Annual stats

Monica provided an update on the annual statistics:

Bushcare 2014-15	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	
Number of volunteers	165	147	156	175	148	154	130	173	115	89	136	127	1,715
Number of volunteer hours	478	429	492	503	441	448	426.5	470	345	285	397.	378	5,092
Number of Council hours	115	104	120	115	102	103	103	111	90.	68	95	102	1,227
Area treated - primary (m2)	1,380	907	1,055	1,260	755	480	570	840	230	500	265	400	8,642
Area treated - secondary (m2)	1,810	1,447	2,240	2,850	2,438	279	2,540	3,080	238	1,150	1,048	1,170	24,948
Area treated - maintenance (m2)	3,110	1,830	3,500	2,265	2,360	201	2,000	5,530	487	23,320	2,100	2,275	55,170

9 Green Army

Mike suggests the Network write a letter of congratulations to BMCC for supporting the Green Army. The motion disagreeing with the suggestion that a letter be written was passed 7:1.

10 urban Sanctuary Charter

Paul tabled the “urban Sanctuary Charter” as an inspiration document to accompany the Networks aims and objectives.

Action: Jenny agreed to review the charter with the view to adapting it for the Network.

Other business

10/50 report

The recommendations of the report on the 10/50 legislation are now being implemented.

The report can be found on the RFS website

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/33607/Review-of-the-1050-Vegetation-Clearing-Entitlement-Scheme-Report.pdf

Seniors Week Grant

Ray suggested that the Network apply for a Seniors Week grant to run an event targeting seniors. Given the administrative workload a grant application would require, it was agreed that it would be preferable if the BCN / BMCC could explore the possibility of potential Seniors Week event in April within existing program.

Action: Ray, Jenny and Margaret volunteered to form a subcommittee to organise an event.

Venue for November meeting

November 11th meeting venue is yet to be decided. Lawson Bowling Club was suggested.

Meeting Closed 7:45 pm. Next meeting will be November 11th, 6pm.

Actions Summary Table:

item	action	who
Business from last meeting	Liaise with Blue Mountains Conservation society Plant Study Group	Monica and Susan
4 Turning Page	Contact to invite sponsorship	Mike
5 Invoice Network	Organise for BMCC to invoice the Network for donation of \$400 Pay invoice when received	Monica Mike
10 urban sanctuary charter	Review and adapt for Network's use	Jenny
Other business Seniors week grant	Forma subcommittee to plan a seniors week bushcare event	Ray, Jenny, Margaret