

Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Minutes
Wednesday 12th November 2014
6:00 - 8:30pm

Lawson Community Hall (the Mechanics Institute), 284 Great Western Highway, Lawson

Apologies: Jenny Hill; Barbara Harley; Neil McGlashan (Glenbrook Lagoon); Maeve Dunnett (Minnehaha Bushcare); David King (Garguree, Gulunga, Gibbergunyah; Lilypond); Elly Chatfield (Garguree, Gulunga, Gibbergunyah, Lilypond); Susan Jalaluddin (Vale St, Cumberland Walkway, Woodford Glen), Linda Thomas.

Attendees:

Paul Vale (Bushcare Network Convenor; Popes Glen Bushcare, Garguree Swampcare); Mike Purtell (Else Mitchell; Deanei Reserve); Ray Richardson (North Lawson/Homeschoolers); Margaret & Warwick Tafe (Deanei, Mt Riverview); Neil Stuart (Friends of Katoomba Falls Ck Valley); Elizabeth Mitchell (Birdwood Gully).

1 Confirmation of last minutes

Paul Vale confirmed; Ray Richardson seconded.

2 Actions arising from August meeting:

1. Monica to check Bushcare Office Files and Paul to follow up his files. Hard copies have been located, Monica will arrange for them to be posted to the website;
2. Birdwood Rock engraving management. MN to continue following up with Office of Environment and Heritage for more detail;
3. MN to obtain copies of Bushcare with Care (CMA/LLS publication). Actioned: several copies are housed in the Bushcare Office;
4. Bushcare for singles. No further information regarding this matter to report. Monica will continue to make enquiries;
5. Gecko message to co-ordinators re: Bushcare Network - MN to include reminder in next monthly bulletin. Actioned: Erin is developing streamlined process and confirming co-ordinators' list is updated;
6. Monica to invite Linda Thomas. Actioned - Linda apologises for this meeting and plans to attend the next.

3 Community Conservation Program Plan (CCPP) update

Paul advised that the CCPP was Item 18 on the agenda of last night's BMCC Ordinary Meeting (11/11/14). Linda made available to the Network a copy of the Business Paper including her report and the enclosure to the agenda item. Council accepted the

recommendations to adopt the Plan; acknowledge and thank its community conservation volunteers and noted that if the Special Rate Variation 2 (including the Environment Levy) does not proceed, the CCP will be reviewed after June 2015.

Ray volunteered to be involved in workshopping the implementation of the plan.

Paul had planned to speak at the Council meeting in order to express gratitude and appreciation to Linda Thomas for her hard work and commended the thorough community consultation process undertaken. Paul moved that the Network write a letter to Council to communicate these sentiments. Seconded by Ray.

The meeting endorsed the idea & Paul volunteered to draft & circulate a letter to the Network for review.

Action: Paul to draft letter.

4 Review of Network's aims

Ray prepared and tabled a draft of the Network's aims and objectives. The meeting revised it and agreed on some amended wording.

- Action: Ray & Paul to include the amendments in a further draft and circulate. It was agreed that the final draft will be reliant on the implementation of the Community Conservation Plan *. Discussion included: A period of review for the aims and objectives was deemed desirable but not agreed. Does BMCC's Insurance policy provide cover for network members attending meetings?

Bushcare Backyards membership was discussed. The meeting requested that BCN meeting notifications, agendas and minutes plus other relevant information be sent to Linda Thomas for distribution to Bushcare backyards members.

Suggested wording regarding Bush Backyards membership of Bushcare Network: "BMBCN would welcome a representative of a Bush Backyards umbrella group to attend meetings".

Action: Monica to liaise with Ray and Paul regarding the revised wording;

Monica to follow up on Insurance.

5 Network Conference plans

Paul reported that Margaret Baker is booked in as keynote speaker and will present her "Fire" talk. Bill Dixon from Greater Sydney Local Land Services has indicated his interest if we need him and he is free on the date. There are several other possible speakers still to be contacted and the working group thinks we need additional speakers.

Monica confirmed that the Mid Mountains Community Centre Hall is booked for Sat 29th August 2015.

Prior to the meeting Jenny Hill emailed some suggested conference ideas. These are:

1. That we get a story writer to come run a workshop on writing our bushcare stories for the website. needs to be fleshed out but it is essentially stories about the commitment and passion of why we do what we do
2. We have a workshop on seed collecting – I can run it or we get an expert
3. We have a session on habitat assessment – eg potential habitat – Trees – thinking about 10/50 in and around our sites
4. That we have a run down on using the website and uploading stuff
5. That we have something on the landscape approach and/or community conservation

All were received favourably, the need to narrow down the number of sessions / scope of workshops and decide on the format was discussed and it was agreed that these should be refined by the conference working committee (Paul, Ray, Margaret, Warwick, Neil, Jenny, Monica, Mike).

We agreed the working committee should meet 3 times prior to the conference.

Action: Paul to circulate suggested dates to the working committee.

Action: Paul to circulate a draft program “smorgasboard” and contact keynote speakers to confirm availability and topic.

6 10/50 review

Ray moved that the Network endorse the Blue Mountains Conservation Society submission to the 10/50 review which closes 13/11/14, Neil seconded.

Action: Paul to write and submit it.

7 Asbestos

Paul Vale reported on a recent case of asbestos dumping in Else Mitchell Park which highlighted the need to clarify the appropriate process to follow and how Council responds. This incident initiated an internal work request by the Bushcare Officer as well as an email to council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au by a volunteer. There was a misconception regarding Council’s waste management staff actions (ie, that the suspected asbestos may have been treated as general waste).

Monica advised that the email was interpreted as a complaint about council’s staff and dealt with as a report of misconduct rather than a routine Customer Service Request and therefore not logged as such in the CSR system..

Monica explained that the protocol for managing asbestos or suspected asbestos on Bushcare sites is for the material to be left in situ, the location identified with marking tape and for the relevant Bushcare Officer to lodge an internal request immediately on return to the depot or, if after businesshours, by phoning 47805000 to report it to the Environmental Rangers so that it can be removed by the appropriately qualified staff. Volunteers and other members of the community should not have any contact with the material.

Other business arising:

Note received from Susan - I am progressing with the revision of Living Near the Bush and I hope, by December, to have a draft ready for other members to look at, pass comments and give me advice and guidance to complete.

Items from Jenny for next meeting:

- Seed collecting
- biodiversity monitoring
- anything the network would like me to support them with as BMCC Environment ed officer in 2015

Popes Glen Swampland and Bush Regeneration Project Steering Committee has a vacancy to be filled from the BCN. Meeting attendees were asked if anyone was interested. As no one nominated for the position, a request will be sent to all on the BCN mailing list.

2015 Meeting Dates were nominated. MN to check the availability of venues and confirm meeting dates.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Actions Summary table:

item	action	who
2.1 Minutes	Post confirmed minutes to the bushcarebluemountains website	Monica
2.2 Birdwood Gully Rock engraving management	Clarify AHIMS register mapping	Monica
2.3 Bushcare for singles	Continue research	Monica
2.5 BMBCN meeting reminders	Include reminders in monthly bulletin	Monica / Erin
2.6 Post-fire Community Ed project	Invite Linda Thomas to discuss plans at 1 st meeting 2015	Monica
3. CCPP	Network letter to Council to communicate these sentiments.	Paul
4. Review of Network's aims	Liaise with Ray regarding the revised wording. Clarify insurance cover	Monica Monica
5. Network conference	Circulate: 1) suggested dates to the working committee; 2) a draft program "smorgasboard" and contact keynote speakers to confirm availability and topic.	Paul
6. 10/50 review	Make submission based on BMCS	Paul
7. 2015 meeting dates	Check venue availability & confirm dates	Monica