

Confirmed Minutes
Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Mountains Community Resource Network Meeting Room Lawson
Wednesday 8th August 2012 at 6pm

Present

Paul Vale , Maeve Dunnart (Minnehaha Falls Katoomba), , Mike Purtell (Deanei & Else Mitchell) (chair) , Sue Cunningham, Margaret & Warwick Tafe (Mt Riverview), Lyndal Sullivan (BMCC, Minutes)

Apologies

Elizabeth Mitchell (Birdwood Gully), Susan Jalaluddin(Cumberland Walkway), Ray Richardson(Nth Lawson), Clive Barker(BMCS), Shirley Brown (Minnehaha,Katoomba Creek, Brahma Kumaris, Leura Park, Barbara Harley (Tree Fern Gully, Leura)

Acceptance of Previous Minutes (May 2012) Margaret/Paul

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

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

Action: Paul to follow up with letter to Council and NPWS to ask what procedures cover the approval of such events on Bushcare sites; in particular about the opportunities for consultation and environmental assessment prior to approval. Also a copy of any policies that relate to environmental protection in the conduct of such events. Background material has been received from Ivan & Neil.

2. Reprint of 'Living Near the Bush'

Warwick had reviewed the building section and suggested energy efficiency was no longer in need of extensive coverage due to availability of this material, reference to existing resources should be adequate. Warwick had other relevant information & proposed changes documented; Mike also contributed information off the cuff.

Action: Warwick to send his notes to Paul, who will continue discussions with Brendon (from BMConservation Society); Lyndal to send word document of the text of the booklet to Margaret

3. Sale of Weeds at Local Markets

Margaret was thanked for the list of markets held on land not owned by council. List to be attached to the minutes for all add to by emailing Margaret.

Clive compiled a list of schools and preschools which Margaret also has.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to schools and preschools or other groups who may hold fundraising events, asking that if they are organising stalls or fetes where plants could be sold, that they consider the appropriateness of the plants to be sold, and include some information.

Action: to be deferred until an opportunity arises to divide up list to people in local areas.

4. Bushcare Network 2006 Proposal for the Use of Lawson Golf Course Site

Report from Elizabeth Mitchell noted and she was thanked for the background work she has done in clarifying the proposal, for a walking track demonstrating geological changes. She was also thanked for testing the support from a range of people and local groups.

It was agreed that the proposal was a good idea but beyond the resources of the Network to develop to design stage; however all would remain on the watch for individuals or organisations that may be better able to drive the project.

5. Update of "Instead of Weeds" list

The latest electronic version was received from Allan and the 1st page reviewed;

Action Paul to check the current version of the "Instead of Weeds" list then send it to the website for inclusion. A name-change suggestion had been received from Ray for consideration.

It was agreed that if a better name emerged, it could be changed at any time.

6. Bushcare Network Conference

Action: Lyndal confirm booking for Saturday August 31st 2013 for the Mid Mtns Community Hall; and also confirm this date with Linda Thomas & Eric Mahony Mike to confirm the date with Margaret Baker for her presentation. Paul to confirm the date with Alan Lane

Program - a session to give groups an opportunity to come together in small groups to work together on a common issue was suggested (eg same catchment, shale based communities, common weed etc)

Action: Program to be discussed at next meeting; suggestions for discussion to be circulated to all Network participants 1 week before the next meeting (ie 14th Nov before Wed 21st November

7. Project funding

Paul has begun to investigate "bequest" facility for enabling the funding of Bushcare activities; the possibilities of using a local charity or environment group as an umbrella group was discussed.

8. Review of Council Services

Ray investigated how to participate in the workshops and survey planned and found that that this process is ongoing and that anyone can make a submission at any time to afield@bmcc.nsw.gov.au. There is likely to be a more public call for comments again later this year, but the timing of a more formal consultative process has not been confirmed.

9. Membership of Hawkesbury-Nepean Community Reference Committee

Paul was accepted as a member of the Community Reference Committee of the HN CMA representing the Blue Mountains Bushcare Network.

Paul reported on the first meeting he attended that **Catchment Action Plans** were currently being prepared (as all CMAs are required to do each 5 years). Rather than develop just one plan for the catchment, the HNCMA is planning to develop a separate **CAP** for each of the 9 identified Social-Economic System areas.

One interesting aspect is the identification of thresholds, where states of degradation are beyond rehabilitation.

CMA is developing software for 'biodiversity indicator' tools; later there will be opportunities for community groups to learn about these with presentations from the CMA.

Changes to funding are being considered which has a possible danger that all funding may be concentrated and other areas may miss out

A Community survey is currently being conducted on website across catchment – to gather info from community and report back

Changing the licence conditions on Delta Electricity to increase the environmental flows from Lake Lyall to the Coxs River was discussed.

Paul invited all to let him know of issues to be raised

10. Newsletter from Roza Sage

Ray was thanked for the excellent article about Bushcare he organised that was published in the last newsletter of the local MP

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Treasurers report

Sydney Credit Union Closing balance was \$354.90 (15c interest)

12. Bushcare Major Day Out - Sunday September 9th

Action: Margaret, Mike & Warwick would attend the event at Central Park Wentworth Falls and talk to participants about getting involved in the Network; and contact Lyndal to print any flyers designed for handing out. Badges were also suggested identifying the BCN.

13. Notification of Developments

Since discussion at the Nov 2011 meeting further DAs have come to light where the officers or groups have not been notified by council – effecting Katoomba Creek and Water Nymphs Dell Bushcare Groups.

It was agreed that the council decision (October 2010) to notify Bushcare groups about proposed developments on adjacent land was not working properly.

Action: Paul to contact a councillor to follow up on the inadequate implementation of the Council decision.

14. Survey of Bushcare volunteers

It was agreed that there was value in the BCN sponsoring a survey of volunteers; and that the first step would be to ask BCOs to ask each of the groups whether there were issues or questions that they would like included in the survey.

Action: Lyndal to ask BCO to ask each group for issues or questions or ideas to be included in a BCN survey of all volunteers and to return responses to Margaret prior to the next meeting.

Sue Cunningham discussed a TAFE assignment she had to develop a sustainability action plan for the bush regeneration industry. Weed waste was identified as one area where improvements could be made.

15. 2010 Photographic Project

Deferred to next meeting when Barbara may be present

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 21st November

ATTACHMENTS

LAWSON PROPOSAL – report by Elizabeth Mitchell

20/7/2012

- John Lowe, local historian

John was most enthusiastic with the idea of a walk which would give a 'taster' of the pathway across the mountains and a place where a few interesting facts can be found about the journey and the development of each village along the G.W.H. and pointers to what can be seen there today. e.g Woodford remnants of convict road. John offered to talk to the history groups and to go through possible stories, I gathered that they would be willing to put in for grants appropriate.

- Aunty Carol Cooper and Leanne Tobin. Indigenous community

Both were very enthusiastic, Leanne has done work for Auburn Council about indigenous use of plants and was delighted with the idea of a place to show case the history of Indigenous habitation in the mountains. Carol Cooper was excited by the prospect and especially having a place for children in the mountains and greater Sydney to come and learn a little then be directed to the actual place where they could see the history still present, e.g. Water holes at Hazelbrook next to the G.W.H. Aunty Carol said she will talk with the various schools when she goes to talk to the students. On the day we talked she was going to Springwood High and to Lawson Primary, and often goes to other schools on invitation. She also said they would put in for grants to enable a walkway and areas to represent their history. She also referred me to several other Elders I should talk to.

- Erst Carmichael, coordinator South Lawson Bushcare Group

Erst's main concern was that there should be a buffer around the present bushland, and that if possible the bushland extended. I thought that the pathway representing the G.W.H would not be on the present fairway edge but 10 metres or more away with bush coming up to the path and a further planting of 10 metres. Another concern was the possibility of a raised walkway into the bush at one or two points where views of the river and distant view can be obtained and also another small incursion so people could see what the explorers many have been faced with. Another reservation was that plants not specific to Lawson could be planted e.g. Faulconbridge Mallee.

- Merle Williams from the Gully, and Gundungurra community

She was supportive of the idea and thought their council would be supportive of any applications for money and would also be open to asking for funds in their own name.

Conclusion

On walking over this wonderful area I could see how other groups could be accommodated but not all, and maybe that some of the land could be sold to fund the development of this area for the use of the larger community not just the off leash dog walkers.

I have also contemplated a time line starting with them laying of a stone next year, and the making of a rough path, and the planting of foundation plants that are common throughout the mountains, and then the indigenous story and use of the plants depending on what is suggested. In the next stage we follow the timeline of European settlement, starting with Lapstone and Glenbrook and moving west, at the same time, consolidating the path. The tee and putting greens already give representative flat areas as village sites where people could sit and absorb more information. (this could be provided as an App. or as a leaflet)