

WEDDERBURN CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

Minutes of Meeting



MEETING DETAILS: 1 pm 10th February 2014
Held at Wedderburn Community House

PRESENT: Michael Moore, Sheila Gaines Barrie Taylor, Kate Lee, Jeroen van Veen,

APOLOGIES: Peter Watts, Janet Richardson, Jill McFarlane, Joy Hick, Maureen Moore, Annette Robertson, Lynton Schriever, Freya Matthews, Nic van den Bronk.

1. MINUTES OF LAST WCMN MEETING:

Moved Barrie Taylor, Seconded Kate Lee

2. BUSINESS ARISING: Nil

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

- New rules of the WCMN approved by Consumer Affairs Vic.
- Invoice sent to NCCMA for funding for community engagement activities
- MERI plan sent to CFOC for the Eucy harvesting site project

4. REPORTS:

President & Secretary: Michael Moore

- *Malleefowl habitat project* – a variation to this grant has been applied for involving the purchasing of GPS equipment and training for line searches for malleefowl mounds.
- *Eucalyptus harvesting site project* – relevant permissions for the project have been sought, a work plan has been initiated and pre-treatment monitoring by TAFE students has been arranged.
- *Kooyoorra Connections project* – three steering committee meetings have taken place with discussions including scope of the project, principles governing the transparency of decision making and priorities. A decision has been made to begin with the first priority area – the Sunday Morning Hills. Discussions have also taken place concerning eradication of weeds and possible community engagement activities. The first community engagement activity will involve the geomorphologist Neville Rosengren – a flyer will be circulated soon. It has been agreed that funding will be made available to continue publishing and distributing newsletters – funds being used to cover a shortfall in the cost of printing.
- David Baker – Gabb has been contacted with a view to giving a presentation on the benefits of biodiversity on private property – David has accepted the invitation – a flyer will be issued.
- Teachers from Wedderburn College have submitted a list of activities that will form the basis for determining support for the school curriculum by WCMN and LPLN.
- Anthony Gallacher will be setting up bird monitoring at sites throughout the LPLN area. Some of these sites will be in the WCMN area. Chris Tzaros will lead the training for the project – a flyer will be issued.

Vice President: Barrie Taylor

Attended Breakfast with the birds event at Hird Swamp which has received environmental water and is guaranteed its water level for 2 years. Event run by NCCMA. 70 participants and the event

will run again next year. Both anti Duck shooting group and Field and Game representatives were conspicuous. About 40 bird species were confirmed by the group. A flush of Phragmites australis (common reed) providing excellent habitat, especially for the reed warbler whose melodious call was present in high volume right through the eastern edge where we walked. Also the call of the very difficult to sight Little Grass Bird was everywhere throughout the phragmites. I latched onto a few knowledgeable bird watchers and came away having seen most of the 40 species. I now have a better appreciation of the dozen or so duck species. In particular the rare freckled duck and the totally absent whistling duck. However as the saying goes ...if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck ...!!

Treasurer: Maureen Moore apology for this meeting

A written report from Maureen was circulated, closing balance on 21st January 2014 was \$49,335.54. It was moved by Michael that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Jeroen – all in favour – resolved.

Parks Victoria: - Nic van den Bronk - apology

Australian Bush Heritage and Cassinia: Jeroen van Veen

Jeroen reported that:

Most of the Paul Dettman properties have been sold and this enterprise has resulted in an increase in; the coverage of bush around the Mt Korong area, interest in conservation and new membership of the WCMN.

CMN Observers:

Kate Lee has published three articles in the Loddon Times under the heading of Nature Notes.

It was decided that Karly Learmonth's phone number should be used in these articles as a contact for enquiries concerning endangered species.

Malleefowl Report: Peter Watts – apology for this meeting

Wyhitella District Landcare Group: Janet Richardson – apology for this meeting

Mt Korong Eco Watch: Kate Lee

The Mt Korong Eco – Watch group has gained two new members.

La Trobe University students have been carrying out a survey in the Mt Korong area of cyllid populations on remnant populations of bush as opposed to revegetated areas.

A teddy bear bee sighting has been made in the Mt Korong area – a rare sighting for that area.

5. General Business

- **Naturally Loddon Festival event 2014:** It was agreed at the meeting that a bike ride around the local areas would form part of the WCMN contribution to the festival.
- **Marg Van Veen** – Marg addressed the meeting concerning a project at Wedderburn College involving revegetation of part of the school grounds. Michael will follow up discussions by; meeting with Marg to consider funding and talking with Nic van den Bronk concerning fencing for the project.
- **Kangaroo monitoring** – Jeroen will set up half of the normal transects for kangaroo monitoring. He will contact Terri Williams, Karly Learmonth and Peter Morison concerning the work. TAFE students will then carry out both pre-treatment monitoring at the eucalyptus harvesting site monitoring and the kangaroo monitoring.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm

Next meeting: 1.00pm Monday **3 March 2014** at the Wedderburn Community Centre