Wedderburn Conservation Management Network

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Details 7.00 pm 1st November 2016 Wedderburn Community House

Present: Michael Moore, Jeroen van Veen, Joy Hick, James Nelsson, Trudy Nelsson, Barrie Taylor, Kate Lee.

Apologies: Freya Mathews,

Minutes of the last WCMN meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate account of that meeting were moved by

and seconded by

Business Arising

Correspondence

Reports

Bush Heritage - Jeroen van Veen,

Recently attended the Wedderburn secondary college and spoke to the year 9’s on ecosystems. The students were very interested and asked a series of questions.

He recently attended a workshop on fire with a visiting aboriginal specialist from Cape York in Queensland also present were several members of the Dja Dja Wurrung. The day was very informative with the specialist advising on ecological burning of the box ironbark.

Currently burning on his property with intent to improve biodiversity and reduce weeds. 2 strips are currently being trialled by burning the ground litter and “green” weeds of Bromus and Thistle. Certain patches have been successful and others not. He will look at doing another trial and burn later in autumn.

Attended the Eucalypt Australia launch in Inglewood.

Kooyoora connections, the last of the Sunday morning hills block has been sold, This block has had extensive erosion control works completed, an offer of assistance has been given to the new owner, who indicated that no further assistance required.

The Nardoo no 5 block with bush heritage is being renamed. It will now be known as “Laawan” also Reg Pearson is selling the 340 hectares in Nardoo hills.

Jeroen is on holidays to visit family in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, we wish him a safe journey.

Barry Taylor – Committee Member, two emails received via the website have passed on to Trudy,

Certain Logos on the WCMN website needs to be updated, i.e adding in Friends of Kooyora and MKEW,

The WCMN is not on the Landcare gateway and registered as a group,

Barry Taylor to follow up

Joy Hicks – Committee Member

The friends of Warrandyte group currently run a nursery, and they engage with community on a regular basis with a solid base of volunteers. The majority of their members are elderly and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with the group. Joy suggested we look at establishing workings bees once a month, to engage the local community. A suggestion was to grow Yam daisy’s in the Wedderburn Hot house. James and Kate to investigate further, with Michael requesting the cost of seed from Lindsay Ezard.

LPLN – James Nelsson

The documentation with North Central Catchment Management authority for Kamarooka wetlands project will be finalised shortly. James has been meeting with landholders in the area who have agreed to fence off these important ephemeral wetlands.

He has also met with the Tarrangower cactus group discussing their success and challengers. They are currently targeting Bridal Creeper and tracking wheel cactus. They also had a concern that there is no longer a compliance officer within DEWLP and they hope to form a partnership with the LPLN and attend the next weeds committee meeting.

Buffel grass, a new introduced weed species has been located on the Bridgewater – Dunolly Road and is currently heading south.

New Secretary WCMN, GM Pipeline – Trudy Nelsson

I have been corresponding with Gavan Hoult (Loddon Shire Councillor) and Dean Robertson GWM Water with regards to community consultative meetings. I requested that they have both advise when net meeting to be held as I wish to discuss what steps are being undertaken about environmental offsets and roadside Vegetation in particular with the spiny rice flower and Isolepsis. I also requested a timeline for the project and reiterated our concerns over nesting sites and agriculture cropping. Was advised that a bus tour is being considered and the meeting will be set once council elections have been settled. Dean Robertson stated that they strive to minimise the environmental footprint across the board. In the case of native vegetation impacts, once Biosis provided the report, they were able to revisit and move the pipeline route to avoid native vegetation including the Pimelea and Isolepsis sites. The current works in the Yeungroon, Buckrabanyule and Korong Vale areas have been delayed greatly due to the wet weather. There is also an additional 1,300 km of trunk mains and distribution mains in the planning phase. There are ongoing discussions with DELWP and DoEE regarding the environmental impact of the project. The loose timeline will be for planning to be completed over the next 12 months or so and construction taking another 12-18 months.

I scheduled a meeting with Simon Coutts of GWM (committee representative who is going to bring me up to speed on the project)

Kate Lee – Committee Member

The MKEW nursery is up and running with some members (Ian and Kate) being able to prick out the seedlings that were propagated at Francis Cincotta’s workshop in august. The group has some seed collection to do around the mount in November and December.

Francis has prepared a “propagation Table/Calendar to assist the group over the coming years as to the best time to, and how to grow specific indigenous plants.

MKEW will start to hold regular working bees (probably on the alternative weekend to the meetings) all welcome. Joy recommended that a set time and hours be advertised.

Michael Moore - President

The Mallee fowl project with the green army has been progressing well with line searches for mounds being conducted. The green army has also completed more or the seeding. It was great for the team to see that their previous seeding efforts were successful with a 95 to 100% success rate.

The Eucy Harvesting Project,

With recent rains some of the seeds have come up, which was also good for the team to see. Annette is out at the sites monitoring at the moment.

Meeting closed 9.25