

## **MEETING DETAILS: 1 pm 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Community House

**PRESENT:** Sheila Gaines, Barrie Taylor, Kate Lee, Peter Watts, Freya Matthews, Tony Hobson, Nic van den Bronk

**APOLOGIES:** Jill McFarlane, Joy Hick, Jeroen van Veen, Michael Moore, Maureen Moore.

### **1. MINUTES OF LAST WCMN MEETING:**

Moved Peter watts, Seconded Sheila Gaines – all in favour.

2. **BUSINESS ARISING:** Barrie has not yet seen Rob Scholes to ask about images for website. Will do so soon.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:** nil

**4. REPORTS:** Nic (acting as chairman) read Michael's report aloud to the meeting:

**President & Secretary:** Michael Moore

**Eucy harvesting site project** - requests for quotations for work on this project by contractors have gone out and I have received several replies back in response. I have taken two contractors out to the site to date.

**Malleefowl habitat project** - the GPS training day went well with ten interested people turning up. The training was led by Nic and Suzie from Parks. All attending appreciated their efforts and finished the day knowing a bit more about how to use the handheld GPS.

A note has gone out by email asking for volunteers to help with the direct seeding by hand around the malleefowl mounds selected for the project. A day will be selected within the period 12th - 16th May, weather-wise, to complete the seeding. I have received offers from WCMN members to be involved. Catering and transport will be provided for the day.

**Kooyoora Connections project** - the Neville Rosengren geology tour of some of the priority sites in the project area was deemed to be a great success judging from the response sheets handed in at the end of the day. Around 40 people attended the day and all appreciated the enthusiasm and expertise of the presenter.

**WCMN Interaction with Wedderburn College** - I have been up to the college helping Duke of Edinburgh Award students Jamie and Laura with their WCMN reporting project. Kate Lee and I will catch up with

students with respect to their reporting after the planting day. All award students are involved with the BBQ / planting day at the college now set for the 9th May. The WCMN will supply the plants, funding from the Kooyoora Connections project, and the fencing for the planting.

Anthony Gallacher will be contacting teachers at the college concerning the students painting and placing of nestboxes during term two.

**Loddon Plains Landcare Network** - I have received notification from the Department of the Environment Canberra that the application that I submitted on behalf of the LPLN for admission to the Register of Environmental Organisations has been successful. This means that the LPLN now has Tax Deductible Recipient Gift status and opens up avenues for funding applications not previously feasible.

Anthony Gallacher is still finalising arrangements for the bird monitoring project.

The LPLN Calivil Creek project has been funded. This means that 10 km of fencing will be erected to protect 75ha of land along the Serpentine Creek. Associated with this project 150 acres of remnant vegetation on private land will also be protected by fencing.

The LPLN will be holding the third of their community engagement events in Wedderburn, at the Wedderburn Motel, on the 8th June. The keynote speaker for the event will be David Baker - Gabb. A flyer will be sent out soon.

**Vice President:** Barrie Taylor – Barrie met with Jeroen on April 24<sup>th</sup> for monitoring of the fire recovery sites. The results will be entered on the WCMN computer. Barrie's impression was that regrowth has been variable, and the day was interesting.

**Treasurer:** The following report by Maureen was forwarded by email to members before the meeting, but, as no-one present had a copy on hand, we weren't able to read and formally accept the report during the meeting.

**Parks Victoria:** - Nic van den Bronk

The planned burning is probably finished for this season. Most have been small burns, in forests rather than on Parks land. A large burn planned for Kooyoora will be rescheduled for next season.

There have been several large campaign fires this season further south and at the Grampians.

The fire on Mt Korong was started by two lightning strikes and was spotted from the fire tower at Mt Brenanah. Nic and Parks officers reached the fire, close to the summit, on foot and cleared around it, then returned every day for 10 days to monitor. A helicopter later dumped water on the site.

The tower at Mt Brenanah is staffed on high fire danger days during the season from late morning till dark.

The gate for seasonal road closure at Mt Korong will be moved to allow year-round access of Korong Ridge residents to their properties.

Parks activity is now concentrating on weed control, mainly bridal creeper and horehound.

In two weeks Dja Wurrung workers will begin wheel cactus control on and around Mt Egbert.

Nic will still be attending future WCMN meetings, but will give a verbal, rather than a written report.

**Australian Bush Heritage and Cassinia:** Jeroen van Veen - apology

**CMN Observers:**

Kate reported that she has submitted an article to the Loddon Times, encouraging members of the public to call Karly Learmonth to report malleefowl sightings [article published LT 6<sup>th</sup> May]

**Malleefowl Report:** Peter Watts – see general business below.

**Wychitella District Landcare Group:** Janet Richardson – apology for this meeting

**Mt Korong Eco Watch:** Kate Lee

MKEW began a practice of a pre-meeting group walk before yesterday's meeting. The group walked to the rear of Freya's property to see which plants in the exclosures had survived the summer (hakea, cassinia and some acacia).

MKEW decided to keep a wildlife log in the form of the meeting minutes collected in one volume with a wildlife observations index.

The group also decided to begin a process of logging and learning about the granite rock pools (gnannas) on and around Mt Korong. (Nic mentioned Professor Brian Timms who has studied Gnammas at Kooyoora, and will forward his details to Kate).

## 1. General Business

### **Malleefowl camera monitoring**

There was a lengthy discussion about Malleefowl camera monitoring. Nic said he had talked to Michael about this. Nic said there are many photos already, and that efforts would be better spent on line searches, fox control and habitat revegetation. Because camera monitoring is invasive to a degree, Nic said there needs to be a good reason for ongoing monitoring in order to be granted a permit. He agreed that line searches might be more effective if Peter Watts was consulted about likely sites beforehand.

Nicsaid Parks generally concentrates on more sustainable malleefowl populations further north, but continues to be supportive of local community efforts towards conserving malleefowl in our area.

Peter said ongoing camera monitoring is important, not to have more photos, but to gain more knowledge about breeding activity of malleefowl and behaviour of predators.

Peter also said there had been two malleefowl sightings at Wychitella in the past month.

Freya suggested translocating birds from fragmented habitat until habitat is restored, or building feral animal-proof exclosures around nests.

### **Reptiles**

Tony has identified 40 species of reptile on his property, and will talk to Barrie about putting data on the website.

**Meeting closed at 2.50pm**

Next meeting: 1.00pm Monday **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014** at the Wedderburn Community Centre