

Wedderburn Conservation Management Network

Planning Day 7 October 2013

The planning day was preceded by a short normally scheduled meeting

The question was posed “What do we want to get out of the planning day?” The aim of WCMN is to improve and protect the environment.

Discussions which followed were grouped under the following headings:

- Community engagement
- On ground works
- Administration
- WCMN Equipment
- Partners

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Ongoing deficit of knowledge by members about the actual works of WCMN. Members need to be clear on what WCMN has achieved. There is excellent written documentation of all projects from CFOC and Kooyoora Connections reports. This is challenged by a lack of available photographic documentation providing visual demonstration of evolution of works. It was agreed that photographic records are important for display, promotion and education purposes. Photographic record should feature as baseline documentation to record projects from now on.
- Take photos of what is there now. Air photos will show the differences.
- Newsletter & rebranding changes are underway.
- WCMN information and membership brochure needs updating.
- Website and Blog. Calendar, important to keep it up to date. Fungi field guide has worked well. Perhaps we could do more guides. Member’s area is private, requires password to register. Photo gallery enables members to contribute their own photos. To be published in next newsletter so everyone will learn how to join.
- Need to have more members actually registered as members using the webpage.
- Community Updates: Promotion of WCMN activities in local community media and newsletters should be increased.
- Presentations: Kooyoora Connections have already organised some. Suggest weed control as a topic and do this in conjunction with the Wedderburn chapter of the VFF. ACUP course - needs reciprocated arrangement so that landowners who do the course then have to do work. Other suggested topics - Bird talk, Reptiles, night noises.
- Ongoing progress report to update members on projects and opportunities or need for member involvement. This could be achieved by agenda item at each WCMN meeting - “Kooyoora connections Update”.
- Community action plan to be revised and completed in the next 12 months.
- Need to clarify the requirement for member participation, and members roles in WCMN as well as participation in meetings to improve governance compliance

ON GROUND WORKS.

Are we engaging the broader community in doing on ground work?

- Is it the role of members to conduct work or be the decision makers? It was agreed that it would be desirable to have more participation by members, but not on what form that participation should take. If this requirement is left vague members choose for themselves what they want to do.
- Bus trip held in the past to provide broad familiarisation was valuable. Perceived issues with access to works completed for Private landholders. Suggest future works include in contract of engagement that landholder agrees to on ongoing sharing of information about works on their land.

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- **Kooyoora Connections** 3 priority sites. Project manager appointed by NCCMA. Working group appointed. WCMN representative Michael Moore the only non-salaried or volunteer member. Protect and restore vegetation reduce grazing pressure weed management targeted control of pest and animal species.
- What are our priorities for this project?
- To assist with decisions about future on ground works Jeroen presented information about the Landscape View of WCMN area of work, vegetation status of particular areas, land available in the Sunday morning hills landscape, and Landholders.

On ground: Granites – Wheel cactus, Fox control as previous with focus on Malleefowl, Mt Korong – wheel cactus and horehound, Roadsides – Gazanias Rabbit control, school, Mt Korong gravel pit, small amounts, bridal creeper, African lovegrass, east of town.

Conservation of Threatened Species:

- Bush Stone Curlew, Habitat
- Spiny rice flower
- Robust Greenhood
- Yellow Lipped Spider Orchid
- Velvet Daisy Bush
- Works on Public or Private Land – needs to be determined
- Stewardship payments may be something to be considered with Kooyoora connections to preserve remnant vegetation

ADMINISTRATION:

- Discussion was held regarding three main options for WCMN role in Kooyoora Connections – WCMN as employer, or Coordinator, or participant. It was agreed by those present to remain largely in the same role as the past, as Coordinator and advisor. WCMN as Coordinator - facilitator employed through NCCMA, LPLN in the past DEPI took care of all details, WCMN determined what projects had contractors to engage works. WCMN would employ a facilitator. Position that NCCMA has already engaged advisory role on the steering committee, coordinate work, report back to keep us updated and retain our say.
- Group wishes to highlight the lack of consultation with the allocation of staff for works.
- Committee of Management – Monthly meeting need to have quorum at meetings. Get executive positions filled and decide on the number of people as ordinary members.
- Eucy harvesting Site: Paul Foreman will do the site assessment this week. Pilot project 37Ha. May involve training of local community members to monitor site in future after thinning, Field days and community engagement work.
- Malleefowl HABITAT PROJECT: Malleefowl line searches, project money spent on CVA conducted searches. Revegetation projects, five mounds increase density of vegetation around mounds. Money as part of the grant for den fumigation. No dens identified, shoot foxes instead. Variation on the grant to use up the remaining grant money. To be decided by Malleefowl group. More people to become trained as monitors for annual VMRG survey.
- Malleefowl booklets - still have about 100 of them. To be used for future project funding applications

WCMN EQUIPMENT

- List of current equipment (asset register) to be formulated at next meeting..
- Cactus injecting apparatus to be used will be provided by Kooyoora Connections
- GPS units to be purchased for future line searches.

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- Camera -Alison Pouliout providing advice on appropriate purchase
- Photographs from the WCMN exhibition - what do we do with them? People who contributed photographs may keep one the remainder to be donated to Wedderburn Community House for display in the new building when it is completed. Photographs to be stored at Parks Vic in Inglewood until then.

PARTNERS:

- Present arrangements will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Meeting closed at 1550

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No	Action	To be carried out by	Outcome time frame
CE 1	Photographic record taken of all new projects to provide "before" and "after" documentation	Project manager, members	Kooyoora Connections projects 2013
CE 2	Obtain air photos to give better visual picture of WCMN area of operation and sites of on ground works. If possible locate the maps that WCMN had several years ago	Jeroen and Nic will investigate access to these resources	Report to WCMN Meeting in Nov/Dec 2013
CE 3	WCMN information brochure to be updated – brochure to promote payment of membership by electronic means Goal: produce a new brochure that promotes payment via electronic means.	Committee	ASAP
CE 4	Publish information in WCMN newsletter to explain process for registering on website and contributing photos Goal: 50% of WCMN members to be accessing information and or newsletters electronically.	Barrie	Next WCMN newsletter
CE 5	Increase promotion of WCMN activities through local media such as newspapers and community newsletters	Kate	At regular intervals
CE 6	ACUP training –investigate feasibility through Bendigo TAFE	Jeroen	
CE 7	Update membership on progress of Kooyoora Connections projects at regular intervals	Michael	Agenda Item to be included at all meetings from Nov 2013
CE 8	Community Action Plan to be reviewed and updated	WCMN Committee	Published and presented by October 2014
AD 1	Training of Local community members to monitor Eucy Harvesting site	Paul Foreman	Following results of survey in Eucy harvest area and decision on
AD 2	More people to train as VMRG monitors	Annette to promote this to members and others	Training weekend October 2014
EQ 1	Equipment List – Asset Register to be compiled	Michael and WCMN committee	At next meeting (November 2013)
EQ 2	GPS units to be purchased	Annette to Research and consultation with VMRG	Suitable units to be purchased ASAP with allocated funds
EQ 3	Photographs and frames obtained for the 2013 Exhibition.	Parks Victoria Inglewood Depot to store Photographs until required	Remaining photographs to be donated to Wedderburn Community House when renovations completed