

# Blue Mountains Bushcare Network

Wed 28 February 2007 6.00pm

## Lawson Mid-Mountains Community Centre

**Present** : Lyndal Sullivan (Chair), Chris Dewhurst (BMCC, minutes), Linda Thomas (BMCC), Lachlan Garland, Warwick Atkinson, Barbara Harley, Sue Atkinson, Elizabeth Atkins, Karen Hising (BMCC).

**Apologies**: Mike Purtell, Dave Allen

**Acceptance of Minutes** : Lachlan Garland, Seconded: Lyndal Sullivan

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

**Bushcare Accommodation** – The Network has prepared a letter on this matter and it has been sent to Peter Adams (BMCC Group Manager, Community & Corporate Branch) on 27/2/2007.

Chris Dewhurst stated they are still located in the HQ building, but will be moving once the new accommodation is ready in South St Depot.

**Communication Protocol between Council and Bushcare Groups:** The Network has prepared a letter on this issue, but it was felt it needs a little more refinement before it was sent to Council.

**ACTION:** Lyndal to redraft and circulate to members present.

**Dangerous Tree Assessments:** CD reported back to the Network the positive results of a meeting that took place between Water Nymphs Dell Bushcare Group, CD (Bushcare Team Leader) and Damien Drew (BMCC Operations Manager). The meeting resulted in a change in Council protocol regarding Dangerous Tree Assessments. Council must now investigate if the tree located within the scope of works of a Bushcare Site, and if so, must consult with the Group via the Bushcare Officer.

CD tabled a copy of the amended Tree Assessment form which included consultation with Bushcare Group in checklist.

**Election of office bearers** To take place at the next Bushcare Network “special event”. This will most likely be held during winter 2007. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to have two Co-Conveners.

# Agenda Items

## 1: Bushcare Hats / Stickers

CD reported that Council has produced more Bushcare hats and stickers, contact your Bushcare Officer if you would like one.

## 2. Autumn Biodiversity Workshops

CD tabled the program for autumn 2007 (below). The Network felt it was good to start developing workshops in Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced categories.

Saturday April 14 - Popes Glen Biodiversity Workshop

*The day will include...*

- 15 years of Bushcare @ Popes Glen and the Frogs of Popes Glen - Alan Lane
- Aquatic biodiversity, stream health and water bugs - Anne Carey and Amy St Lawrence (BMCC Aquatic System Officers)
- How to Identify the Common Plant Families of Popes Glen - Chris Dewhurst BMCC Bushcare Team Leader

Saturday April 28 – Bird watching with Carol Proberts – 7.00am – 10.00am - Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls (limit 12 people) *Intermediate*

Sunday May 13-Sun Valley Biodiversity Workshop

*The day will include...*

- Learn all about the Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Endangered Ecological Community and current efforts to preserve it - Eric Mahony (BMCC Bushland Management Officer)
- Faunal signs and traces and the Fauna of Sun Valley - Matt Chambers (BMCC Terrestrial Scientist)

Saturday May 26 – Bird watching with Carol Proberts – 7.00am – 10.00am – Horseshoe Falls, Hazelbrook (limit 12 people) *Intermediate*

Saturday June 9-South Lawson Biodiversity Workshop

Exact topics still to be confirmed

## 3. Weeds Booklet Re-Printing Update – Barbara Harley

The “Weeds of Blue Mountains Bushland” Booklet is currently due for a reprint. We are taking this opportunity to do a full content and design revision. The brief is to maintain most of the original booklet with four new weeds and a new design, plus an update of all relevant information relating to Noxious

Weeds, herbicide use, weed control techniques and contacts. A draft copy of the Stage 1 Weeds Booklet is currently circulating. Contact Chris Dewhurst [cdewhurst@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cdewhurst@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) to obtain a copy.

#### **4. Landcare Program Update – Linda Thomas (BMCC)**

Landcare is the same activity and approach as Bushcare but it is on private land. Landcare section is in Community & Corporate Branch of BMCC (Bushcare is in BM City Services)

There are currently 17 active groups across the mountains.

An additional 7 groups were started and have since ceased operation. This is somewhat related to the nature of Landcare as Groups have a lot more defined objectives.

Grants in Landcare require a matching contribution, either cash or in-kind.

There are three different models of Landcare Groups – Active Working Groups, Non-Working Grant Based Groups or Individuals. They are all trained by LT. Once groups reach a certain level of maturity (6 – 12 Months) they handed over to the Bushcare section for ongoing support.

The Bush Backyard Program – includes landowners with high conservation values in their backyards and are supported by LT. 21 properties overall, 14 currently active. Council helps to get grants and manage the process, and also develop volunteer conservation agreements

LT also provides general Resident Support and does extension work in the Megalong Valley.

LT also runs Mountain Living Courses with the Waste & Aquatic Management sections in target sub-catchments to promote sustainable lifestyles and property management.

**Issue:** CMA has changed the way it manages grant projects which will have the effect of re-directing funding toward individual private land owners, and away from Landcare groups.

The Network decided it would like to invite CMA board member Jenny Smith and Mat Chambers BMCC to the next Bushcare Network Meeting to discuss the issue.

#### **5. Bushcare Officer Report (inserted post meeting) - Chris Dewhurst**

The Bushcare Program has recently employed two new staff – Trish Kidd and Karen Hising. Total staff is now 1 full-time / 6 part-time.

The program has been re-structured slightly to have a full time team leader / coordinator and 6 part-time staff focused on direct group supervision.

A new Bushcare Group in Sun Valley commenced work in early 2007.

#### *Blue Mountains Bushcare "Thank You" BBQ 2007*

Another wonderful day was enjoyed by volunteers and their family and friends last weekend in the Megalong Valley. Blue Mountains City Council put on the day in recognition of the efforts of over 60 groups of Bushcare, Landcare and Streamwatch volunteers which work across the mountains. The day was attended by over 150 people who enjoyed a staff cooked BBQ, Bushcare Olympics, free horse rides and plant and water bug identification competitions. Deputy Mayor – Terri Hamilton commented "It is wonderful to see so many people maintain their commitment to the local bushland reserves". Cllr Pippa McInnes who was also present urged more people to become involved: "The satisfaction that you achieve from being part of a Bushcare Group is amazing, a great way to meet your fellow neighbors' and do something positive for the environment"

The day was also an opportunity to launch a new Swampcare program and donate \$2000 worth of Biodiversity books to the Blue Mountains Libraries courtesy of a grant received from the Sydney Catchment Authority.

The Bushcare annual awards were presented to the following groups and individuals:

Group Awards – Presented by Cllr Terri Hamilton

#### 5 Year Awards

Blackheath Glen Bushcare Group  
Kedumba Creek Bushcare Group  
Frogs Hollow Bushcare Group  
Cross St Bushcare Group  
Grover St Bushcare Group

#### 10 Year Awards

Pippas Pass Bushcare Group  
Sublime Point Bushcare Group  
Katoomba Creek Bushcare Group  
Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group  
Bellata Court Bushcare Group

#### 15 Year Awards

Popes Glen Bushcare Group  
Minnihaha Falls Bushcare Group

Individual Awards – Presented by Clr Pippa McInnes

Junior Bushcarer Awards: Richard Samson, Ewen Samson

Hard Yakka Awards: Ruth Ley, John Hill

Landcare Award: Kevin Stapleton

Masters Awards: Shirley Brown, Joyce Brister

Bushcare Legend: David Coleby

## **6. Bushland Management Report (inserted post meeting) – Eric Mahony**

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE BUSH REGENERATION AND WEED CONTROL CONTRACTS 2006/07

Projects to commence shortly or recently started

Degraded lands program – Revegetation and conservation earthworks

These reserves are proposed to receive works funded through the BMCC Environmental Levy;

- Bluff Lookout, Glenbrook
- Lapstone Reserve, Lapstone
- Skarret Park, Lapstone
- Knapsack Park, Glenbrook
- South Lawson Park, Lawson
- Old Ford Reserve, Megalong Valley
- Megalong Reserve, Megalong Valley
- Michael Eades Reserve, North Katoomba
- Barden Lookout, Mount York Reserve, Mount Victoria
- Mount Boyce Lookout, Mount Victoria
- Lockyers Head trackhead.

Bush regeneration contracts external funding

Lilianfels Park South Katoomba	HNCMA
South Lawson Park	HNCMA
Katoomba Falls Reserve South Katoomba	HNCMA
McRaes Paddock South Katoomba	HNCMA

### **Weed control contracts external funding**

- Bridal Creeper - Lower Blue mountains various sites
- Gorse – Blackheath and Wentworth Falls
- Crofton Weed - Eastern escarpment lower Blue Mountains various sites
- Pussy Willow - Lawson
- Himalayan Honeysuckle – Wentworth Falls

## **7. General Business**

It was reported to the network that sediment control at the tennis court construction site at Summerhayes Park has been very badly built and maintained. Management and communication by Council has been poor. The EPA is now involved and we will await an outcome.

Meeting closed 8.04pm

**Next Meeting 23 May 2007**  
**Lawson Mid-Mts Community Centre**  
**Free Dinner upon arrival @ 6pm**