

**Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Minutes
Lawson Mid-Mountains Community Centre
6pm 13 February 2008**

1. Welcome

Present: Ivan Jeray (Chair), Lyndal Sullivan, Elizabeth Mitchell, Norm Harris, Laurel Harris, Richard Steeder, Nathan Summers (BMCC – Minutes)

2. Apologies – Monica Nugent, Barbara Harley, Lachlan Garland, Mike Purtell

3. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Moved: Lyndal Sullivan Seconded: Norm Harris

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 5. Bushcare community consultation for the review of the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. Suggestions and feedback to give to the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Management Committee.

Action: A letter has been sent off on behalf of the Bushcare Network. A copy is attached with these minutes.

Item 9. Management of companion animals on Bushcare sites. It was resolved that this had been dealt with in the previous meeting.

5. Procedures for Bushcare Network Minutes – Ivan Jeray

- (i) When minutes are placed onto the 'weedsbluemountains' website, they will be marked as 'unconfirmed' until they are confirmed by the following meeting.
- (ii) Bushcare Network letters are to be included in the minutes.
- (iii) Minutes for each item will be marked with a resolution or an action.

6. Environment Summit.

Discussion was had on issues to be raised at the Environment Summit workshops. These were then grouped for the appropriate sessions.

The discussion points had been disseminated to the wider Bushcare Network in the week leading up to the summit via group email and also discussion on site workdays. In summary, they included

- Effective system for eliminating green waste of weed material
- Nursery Sales of Environmental Weeds

- Local natives of Local Provenance for NSW Govt instrumentalities
- Effective legislation for enforcement of weed outbreaks
- Weed control / Bushregeneration funding for National Parks
- Performance targets for Plans of Management
- Rate rebates for land zoned Environmental Protection
- Land Management and Buffer Zones
- Protection of Creeklines

7. Bushcare Picnic

The general feeling of the meeting was that the new venue for the picnic this year at Sun Valley worked very well, and that the picnic day was a great success. The picnic was attended by over 140 people. The meeting congratulated the Bushcare Officers for the organisation and running of the day. The meeting also thanked council for the venue.

The meeting considered that alternating the venues between the Megalong Valley (upper mountains) and Sun Valley (lower mountains) to be a good idea. This has also been considered by the Council Bushcare Officers.

The meeting also suggested organising the picnic day in autumn or spring when the weather was more suitable.

8. Update on RTA correspondence re Hazelbrook Roadworks – Nathan Summers.

David King had made contact with the RTA regarding plantings used for the roadworks at Hazelbrook. The correspondence is attached below.

It was noted by Council at the meeting that correspondence had taken place between Council and the RTA last year regarding the plantings. A brief of summary of this correspondence was discussed at the meeting including councils recommendations on appropriate plantings and the list of plants which council had considered inappropriate for this section.

Action: It was resolved that Council obtain a full list of the proposed RTA plantings for the Bushcare Network to assess.

9. Other Agenda Items

Items to be carried over to the next meeting (put forward by Ivan Jeray):

1. Progress of the RTA funded sedimentation and bush regeneration works on Govetts Creek and Wentworth Creek?
2. The Trackcare program
3. Nature Based recreation in the mountains
4. The Environmental Levy

10. General Business

Dog off Leash Areas: The March Council meeting was discussing a proposal for new off leash dog areas, some of which affect certain Bushcare sites. It was agreed that the people involved in the relevant groups be made aware of these proposals. The meeting agreed that off leash dog areas need to be adequately fenced to protect adjacent bushland.

Meeting Close: 8.20pm

Next Meeting
Blue Mountains Bushcare Network
Wed 28 May 2008 6pm
Lawson Mid-Mts Community Centre



See attachments below

Attachment: Letter sent to the Blue Mountains Bush Fire Management Committee regarding community consultation with Bushcare.

9 January 2008

Mal Cronstedt
Executive Officer
Blue Mountains Bush Fire Management Committee
PO Box 600
Katoomba NSW 2780

Blue Mountains Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

Dear Mr Cronstedt,

The Bushcare Network appreciates being asked at this early stage in the planning process about how we would like to be consulted.

Your letter dated 2 November 2007, was discussed at the recent meeting of Blue Mountains Bushcare Network (BMBN) representatives. We have the following comments to make.

We support the principles outlined in the Planning Guidelines (Annex B to BFCC Policy No 3/2007), in particular:

- that communication should be an exchange of information rather than a one way flow;
- that community participation must be undertaken throughout the BFRMP process.

The Blue Mountains Bushcare Network wishes to be included as one of your *target audiences*. The BMBN represents 56 active Bushcare groups.

The *issues of prime concern* for consultation with Bushcare groups across the Mountains include (but are not limited to):

- Identification of bushland as a valuable community asset;
- protection of native vegetation in the catchment of each Bushcare Group site;
- the impacts of hazard reduction - spread of weeds, loss of habitat, volunteer labour to remediate areas, additional volunteer time involved when the growth of weeds is promoted by slashing;
- a hazard reduction ratification process that involves Bushcare Groups;
- recognition of work carried out by Bushcare Groups on a regular monthly basis that often contributes to bushfire hazard reduction: ie, regular monitoring and planned removal of overgrown weed trees and shrubs (eg privet).

Appropriate Methods of Communication

- A series of workshops rather than large public meetings;
- meetings which provide factual information and an opportunity for discussion;

- the Bushcare Network requests that a special workshop(s) for the BMBN be held where Bushcare Group representatives could discuss shared concerns in depth;
- local workshops are suggested where residents have an opportunity to be involved in
- detailed local issues, which would also be open to local Bushcare Groups;
- we suggest that all residents and organizations have an opportunity to participate in the planning process at least twice:
 - prior to the preparation of a draft where the different approaches to Risk Management
 - are discussed, and one to discuss the draft Plan.
- if there are other crucial stages in the process, it may be beneficial to offer another opportunity for consultation.

Conduct of Consultations

We propose that all workshops be conducted by a skilled 'facilitator' to ensure that discussion is not dominated by BFMC members, or by any one resident. A skilled facilitator is also needed to assist participants identify the issues of concern, whilst reducing the level of emotive input.

The skilled facilitator should also assist in the planning of community meetings/workshops to ensure that adequate notice is provided, that the venues are accessible and appropriate for discussion (eg, good acoustics and separate from other activities, appropriate room size, where alcohol is not served etc).

The Bushcare Network would normally need a couple of months notice of such a meeting to ensure it could be included in the quarterly publication which goes to all volunteers. We would be happy to discuss the details further.

The Blue Mountains Bushcare Network wishes to work in a positive way with the RFS to educate, define and encourage the role of Bushcare groups as active participants in hazard reduction planning and implementation.

We look forward to working with the RFS in planning detailed workshops and presentations in the coming year.

Yours sincerely
 Mike Purtell
 Coordinator, Lower Mountains
 purtells@tpg.com.au

Barbara Harley
 Coordinator, Upper Mountains
 sumach1@exemail.com.au
 Blue Mountains Bushcare Network

Attachment: *Correspondence between David King and the RTA regarding plantings for Hazelbrook roadworks.*

-----Original Message-----

From: NASSAR Ned [mailto:Ned_NASSAR@rta.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2008 12:29 PM
To: David King
Subject: RE: Woodford to Hazelbrook then Lawson.

Dear Mr King,

While the existing vegetation adjoining the section of Highway between Woodford and Hazelbrook is predominantly native, there are significant sections of introduced trees that form part of the landscape character of the Blue Mountains.

The proposed planting is therefore predominantly indigenous species but also includes introduced species in some locations where the existing species are introduced. These include the section adjoining Hazelbrook Shopping Centre and Memory Park and adjoining the northern side of the Highway west of the Woodford shops.

In addition, the planting has been influenced by maintenance considerations.

Regards,

Ned Nassar
Project Manager
Great Western Highway Upgrade,
Woodford to Hazelbrook

From: David King [mailto:David.King@optus.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 1 February 2008 08:03 AM
To: NASSAR Ned
Subject: Woodford to Hazelbrook then Lawson.

Good Morning,

[Woodford to Hazelbrook then Lawson.](#)

I'm enquiring about the re-planting of the highway and impacted areas once construction is complete. The area is pre-dominantly native so I want to confirm that plants local to the area are used.

I need to pass on the response to Bushcare, Gundungurra (my tribe), Darug and locals. So if you can respond ASAP it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You,

David King
19 Red Gum Avenue Hazelbrook.