

# **Blue Mountains Bushcare Network**

## **Lawson Mid-Mountains Community Centre, 6pm May 28 2008**

**Present:** Barbara Harley (chair), Mike Purtell, Ivan Jeray, Monica Nugent, Lachlan Garland, Karen Hising, Alan Murray, Erst Carmichael, Michael Hensen (BMCC), Lyndal Sullivan (BMCC)

**Apologies:** Clive Haywood Barker, Ruth Ley, David King

### **Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

Moved: Ivan Jeray    Seconded: Lyndal Sullivan

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

#### **1. Bushcare Picnic**

The issue of holding the picnic on the normal work day of Bushcare groups was discussed; some groups felt that they had missed out on the bushcare days a number of times because of the clash. Other factors considered were – the Great Grose Weed Walk March program, many groups missed one workday over December /January, 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays were good dates for remote bushcare days, there are six 5<sup>th</sup> weekends during 2009, and the additional cost involved in paying for Bushcare officers on a 5<sup>th</sup> weekend (if substituting for a weekday is the penalty rates).

It was agreed that the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in March (the 29<sup>th</sup> March) be suggested as the date for the picnic in 2009.

#### **2. RTA plant list – Hazelbrook section**

No recent plant list was available for Council officers involved, the most recent being February 2006. Deferred until next meeting to discuss when David King is present.

Action: Lyndal to make further attempts to obtain the most recent plant list.

### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **1. Event based activities and educational workshops**

Michael Hensen distributed a copy of the grant application made on behalf of the Bushcare Network to the Sydney Catchment Authority to fund a Bushcare Event Based Volunteering Program. Application for \$7810 is to supplement Council's contribution of approx \$25,000.

It aims to provide new avenues for primarily new volunteers to become involved in on ground conservation works and obtain training. It also will fund a kit of tools, safety equipment and catering equipment for activities. 12 integrated training and event based activities are planned to be funded.

Possible activities discussed were:

- Work in catchments with *Microstrobos* – Katoomba Falls, Leura Cascades, Gordon Falls, Bonnie Doon;

- Swampcare – expansion of activities and sites to be worked, including Clydebank (Nth Leura), Braeside, Hester Creek;
- Remote Bushcare support and coordination with NPWS – including working downstream of Bushcare sites
- Biodiversity Workshops – some planned, with some funding for external presenters

It was agreed that the Bushcare network support the grant application for the event based volunteering program as presented by Michael Hensen [M.P/MN carried]

#### **4. City of Blue Mountains Bushcare Biodiversity Project**

Mike Purtell outlined a proposal to document the biodiversity contained within public lands within the local government area, and to link this resource into broader state and national databases. The emphasis to be on Bushcare sites and to produce field guides for each site. Other ideas included an audiovisual, website, Bushcare Week/month, exhibitions etc

Alan reported that the Plant Society was developing a CD of plants in the Blue Mountains which could be incorporated into the project.

Agreed that the Bushcare Network support in principle the proposal outlined by Mike Purtell entitled 'City of Blue Mountains Bushcare Biodiversity Project' (attached). [EC/AM carried]

#### Actions:

That a working group be formed to discuss the details further, consisting of Mike, Barbara, Lachlan & Monica, and bring back proposals to the next meeting.  
Mike to summarise the proposal for a short article in the next Gecko

#### **5. Weeds Booklet Launch**

Plans were discussed of a belated official 'launch' of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the 'Weeds of the Blue Mountains' booklet. The idea of holding a launch at Everglades with a prominent gardening identity was supported. The date to be late in June if possible but will depend on the person available. The launch will be planned as a small event, geared to maximise publicity opportunities.

Action: To invite active members of the Bushcare Network, as well as contributors.

#### **6. Weeds Booklet Distribution**

Ideas about good locations for distribution included nurseries, libraries, neighbourhood centres.

Action: Alan agreed to keep the Glenbrook Plant Society supplied with booklets.

#### **1. Walking Tracks**

The appropriateness of funding trackwork from the Environment Levy was discussed; also whether the Levy was funding additional environmental projects or those which would have been funded from council's core budget.

Action: Ivan to bring back to the next meeting a report for discussion on how walking tracks impact on Bushcare sites and the source of funding for trackwork (current and previous years).

## **8. Nature Based Recreation**

The question was raised about whether Nature Based Recreation should be funded as a Tourism activity, rather than Environmental, and funded by the Environment Levy.

It was Agreed that Bushcare Groups need to monitor their sites for impacts from Nature Based Recreation activities.

## **9. RTA funded sedimentation and bush regeneration works on Govetts Creek and Wentworth Creek?**

LS reported that both bushregeneration contracts were underway and in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year (out of 5 years).

Action: Lyndal to seek information from the relevant council officer, on whether sediment was still coming from RTA roadworks into Govetts Creek.

### **1. Lawson Golf Course Redevelopment Site**

It was noted that regenerating areas along the creekline had been mowed. Erst reported that the South Lawson Bushcare Group was planning on establishing a barrier to delineate the edge where mowing should stop. As the Bushcare Officer for the group, Natalie was pursuing a meeting with the person who mows the area.

### **2. Participation in National and Local events**

The following list of events was considered:

- a. Landcare Week (1<sup>st</sup> week September)
- b. Weedbusters Week (October 5 – 11 2008)
- c. International Day of the Volunteer/ National Volunteer Week (2<sup>nd</sup> wk May)
- d. Opportunistic events / Local Markets (Springwood, Lawson, Blackheath)
- e. Threatened Species Day (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 08)
- f. National Tree Day (Blue Mountains Tree Day/Month or BM Bush Week)
- g. Foundation Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sat April)
- h. Winter Magic (June 21 08)
- i. Australia Day, Glenbrook (Jan 26)
- j. World Environment Day (June 5)
- k. World Wetlands Day ....
- l. Clean-up Australia Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sun March)

Winter Magic and Clean-up Australia Day were generally not considered useful events for recruiting new volunteers.

It was Agreed that it is important that Bushcare volunteers are visible in public displays about Bushcare.

It was Agreed that Weed Busters Week should be a focus for Bushcare's public profile, and that volunteers should be invited to work along side council staff for this event

Agreed: that BCN supports the development of a Blue Mountains Bushcare month incorporating Biodiversity workshops, Bushcare Picnic, publicity stalls, Tree Planting Day (instead of NTD) and remote Bushcare. [Lachlan/Monica carried]

Action: Lyndal to report back on the feasibility

### **11. Lawson Town Centre Redevelopment proposed tree plantings**

Action: Barbara and Clive to investigate the potential weediness of proposed plantings for the Lawson Town Centre.

### **3. Blue Mountains Bush Fire Risk Management Plan**

Feedback was given on the Springwood and Katoomba meetings. It was noted that whilst the Bushcare Network responded to a request for submissions on the nature and timing of consultation, it was not notified of the meetings although an email address was supplied.

The next round of meetings is planned for July, but dates and venues have not been provided.

Action:

Mike to make a submission, resubmitting previous ideas and expressing disappointment about the lack of consultation. (see attached)

## **General Business**

### **4. Records of Bushcare Network Minutes**

Action: that Lyndal investigate the process of having early BCN minutes archived by the local history library.

### **5. Parkcare/Streetcare/Treecare**

Ivan supplied information on these initiatives from Kuringai Council

*Meeting closed at 8.30 pm*

**Next meeting :           Wednesday August 27 2008  
                                  6pm Mid Mountains Community Centre**

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