

# Blue Mountains Bushcare Network

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday August 27 2008 at 6 pm  
at Lawson Mid-Mountains Community Centre

**Present:** Barbara Harley (chair), Mike Purtell, Monica Nugent, Lachlan Garland, Karen Hising, Jim Mattheson, Francoise Matther, Clive Barker, Rachel Swindell (BMCC Nox Weeds), Ivan Jeray (from approx 8 pm), Lyndal Sullivan (minutes, BMCC)

**Apologies:** David King

**Acceptance of Previous Minutes** carried

## **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **1. Bushcare Picnic**

It was noted that the suggested date of the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in March doesn't exist in 2009. It was agreed that the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in May (30<sup>th</sup> May) was the preferred date for the annual picnic in 2009, also that further investigation into suitable lower mountains locations be undertaken.

**Action:** Mike and Rachel to check Jackson Park, Glenbrook Oval, Pitt Park and other lower mountains venues, including whether alcohol is permitted.

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

No more recent plant list are available via Council liaison officer.

**Action:** Lachlan to ask David King whether there are any issues to be pursued further.

### **3. Walking Tracks**

Deferred until future meeting when Ivan is present to report.

### **4. Sediment from RTA works into Govetts Creek**

Lyndal passed on information from Matt Chambers (BMCC Environmental Scientist) that the RTA had only cleaned out the sediment basin on the Brahma Kumaris site twice removing 12 cubic metres of sediment, whereas it had been agreed that it would be cleaned 6 times over the 2 years.

Currently all water was being captured from the section 1 works around the Mall at Leura, either at the basin near Kings Road or the one near Myall.

The section 2 works closer to Katoomba are only partly being captured by sediment basins, some of the water is only being controlled by the previous SRA trap. A new basin has been constructed but not yet operational. Council is interested to reinstate the North Leura Working Party to address some of the outstanding issues.

**Action** that Barbara and Lachlan represent the Bushcare Network on the proposed North Leura Highway Working Party, and that meetings be requested to be after business hours.

## **5. Weedbusters Week Event (Sept 4)**

Karen reported on the plans by the Council Green Team to hold a stall at Springwood on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 9am to 3 pm, and invited volunteers to join in if possible during the day.

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

Following the last meeting, Barbara consulted Clive on the potential weediness of proposed plantings for the Lawson Town Centre; viz Crepe Myrtle, Pin Oak, Tristaniopsis, *Pyrus calleryana* (Callery's Pear). There is no record of invasiveness in Australia, but it is listed as a serious invader of native forests in eastern USA. The concern about planting deciduous trees and not natives in townships was discussed.

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

Mike made a submission, resubmitting previous ideas and expressing disappointment about the lack of consultation (circulated with previous minutes). No response has been received.

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

Item carried over.

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

## **9. New Weeds**

### *9.1 Rubus ellipticus*

Rachel circulated a specimen and information on *Rubus ellipticus*, which has been found in Glenbrook and in Mt Wilson. All were asked to notify Rachel (via Lyndal) of other infestations, so that these can be mapped.

### *9.2 Acacia elongata*

Clive reported areas planted with this near the Sorenson's Bridge and also Medlow Bath. It is a native of the Shale/Sandstone areas. Council has started the removal of the infestation around Medlow Bath, spread from highway plantings. To date approx half of the Medlow Bath infestation has been treated costing approx \$1900.

**Action:** Clive to consult Peter & Judy Smith about the range of *Acacia elongata*

## **10. Blue Mountains Local Weeds Committee**

Barbara accepted an invitation to represent the Bushcare Network on the Local Weeds Committee which represents agencies and interest groups from Penrith to Lithgow. It aims to share information and coordinate work programs. It meets quarterly.

## 11. Protocols re Minutes

It was agreed that

- draft minutes would be circulated to all attendees within 4 days of the meeting via email (other arrangements to be made for those without email access)
- anyone attending the meeting would be invited to suggest changes within the next 7 days,
- all suggested changes to be circulated to all attendees by the person suggesting these (please 'reply all' to email)
- minutes would then be put on the website and marked 'to be confirmed'

## 12. Website

It was agreed that there be a separate page for the Bushcare Network to include minutes, rather than be on the general newspaper which is full.

**Action:** Barbara to arrange with John Penlington to set up a separate network page

## 13. Phytophthora

The planned workshop on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September was discussed (at 5.30 for 6pm) and its importance to Bushcare Groups.

## 14. Bushcare Network Bank Account

There is currently \$214.07 in the account, however the latest balance sheet would have been sent to Elizabeth Mitchell. The current signatories are Elizabeth and Hugh Paterson.

It was agreed that we keep the account open and that the new signatories be 2 people out of Mike, Barbara, Lachlan and Elizabeth.

**Action:** Françoise to arrange the transfer of signatures.

## 15. Bioregionalism – Sale of non-local Australian plants as 'native'

**Action** that Clive write an article in the next Gecko to clarify the terms 'native', 'provenance', 'genetic integrity' and 'bioregionalism', and to explain the problems arising from the planting of non local Australian plants.

It was agreed that the Bushcare Network hold an evening event with an expert guest speaker to highlight bioregionalism and the issues of provenance and genetic integrity. (*The approach suggested was – selection of plants for revegetation work on your site*)

**Action** Lyndal to arrange speakers and a venue before the end of the year if possible (Jocelyn Howell and Bob Coveny suggested as possible speakers from the Botanic Gardens )

Ideas to promote the planting of local natives raised were:

- Bush Friendly Nursery Scheme / incentives
- Council involvement in propagation

- Seed collection

#### **16. Bushcare Program Procedure Manual**

The need to review the existing Manual adopted in 2002 was discussed.

It was agreed that

- Bushcare Officers be asked for suggested changes to the Manual or issues for discussion, to be brought to the next Bushcare Network meeting for discussion
- That Bushcare officers be asked to ensure all interested Bushcare volunteers have a copy of the manual and be asked for ideas
- That the current Manual be put on the website

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

Mike thanked Lyndal for editing the article for the Gecko. A range of project ideas were raised.

It was agreed that an annual Bushcare Week should be held to celebrate the biodiversity of the Blue Mountains, ideally at the time of the Bushcare picnic. Also that this event could start small in its first year and build up.

**Action:** Mike to convene the working group of Lachlan, Monica, Barbara and Lyndal on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm

#### **18. Fire Mitigation Works**

The hazard reduction works in the Bonnie Doon Reserve and adjacent escarpment area Katoomba were raised. No action on this issue was recommended.

**Meeting closed at 8.45**

**Next meeting :** Wednesday November 26 2008, 6pm

Meeting Room in the Lawson Library building /Mountains Community Resource Network (northern side of railway line)