

# Southern ACT Catchment Group

## Annual General Meeting

### 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Apologies:** Andrew Reichstein, Anne Ions, Jennie Horsfield, Alan Ford, Michael Sim

**Present:** Miranda Gardner (MG), Wendy Rainbird (WR), Clive Hurlstone (CH), Glenys Patulny (GP), Martine Franco (MF), Svetlana Manns (SM), Geoff Hyles (GH), Martin Lind (ML), Oi Li (OL), Les (visitor)

**Acceptance of Last AGM:** The minutes of the annual general meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 was accepted by all. Accepted by WR seconded by CH

#### Chairs Report

Apologies from the chair for not being able to organise a complete Chairs Report, due to a death in the family.

Over the past 12 months the highlights have been as follows:

- After a year of Waterwatch not being funded we have now received money for the Waterwatch position through the ACT Government.
- We have moved the office into better premises. Our time at the previous office was at the time month to move as the site was due for demolition. Our new office is twice the price, but we were able to use some of the Waterwatch funding towards accommodation.
- Over recent months the SACTCG has been heavily involved in the process of setting up a community ACT Landcare office with money from the National Landcare Network (NLN). This will differ from the current model in the ACT as it will be separated from the ACT Government. Discussions are continuing with other stakeholders. We have received \$60,000 to use to employ a ½ day administration officer and a person to develop a marketing and fundraising plan.

Currently due to the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) our focus of projects is largely restricted to working in areas of National Environmental Significance (NES); the down side of this is that most of our member groups are not in NES areas which has meant that we have not been able to support many groups as we would like. The hope is that the NLN concept will reduce the focus on RIS funding and allow us to get other funding for groups that don't fit into the RIS requirements.

- We welcome Svetlana Manns as our new Honorary Treasurer, if accepted by the group. Svetlana has a background in auditing and has a great deal of experience that GP and FS don't have. Currently we are looking at improving our policies and procedures in a number of areas.

- We have also employed Fiona Spier as a Project Officer. As FS was the Vice-chair and Treasurer at the time she stood down and MG took her role as Vice-Chair. GP took on the role of Treasurer until we could find a replacement.

### **Treasurers Report**

In the absence of a Treasurer and given the Chairs recent loss, Oi Li, the SACTCGs bookkeeper was asked to talk about the accounts.

See the Audited Report.

OL informed those present that the accounts and the Audited Report show the same figures, and that she believes that the Audited Report is a sound reflection of the SACTCG's accounts. Currently we have \$165,000 in the bank.

One area that is unclear is that in the Income and Expense Statement the 'Employment Entitlements' is higher than it should be. This is due to staff not using their annual leave. At the end of September it was at \$20,000. Currently Martin has 8 weeks. SM expressed concern about this as unused leave is a liability to the organisation and may cause problems if it continues to increase.

SM said that we need a policy regarding how much leave staff can accumulate.

The reports also show that there is an \$8,000 drop in wages. OL says that this is due to a lag in the accounts being reported and the wages physically being paid.

Treasurers Report Accepted GH Seconded CH

### **Coordinators Report**

See handout for detailed report.

We resubmitted the Barneys Gully project as a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Landcare Grant.

Paddy's River grant being acquitted. We now have a lot of landholders attacking African Lovegrass. Need to have a 'living with ALG' attitude.

The Nildesperandum sign grant is still ongoing. The 5 signs have been made and are at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve but due to a change in the company doing the graphics we still have money left over. FS is discussing uses for this money with Mary Gleeson at the Heritage Unit and Murray Aston at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

We bought some tablets which are mainly being used to map rabbit warrens. There are a few glitches that we need to fix. The Weed Spotter app is also available but has issues as well.

MF is organising a set of workshops on site for 5 parkcare groups in our catchment with Cam Wilson from Earth Integral to look at some low cost erosion control ideas.

MF told the meeting that the change in funding structure has affected all of the catchment coordinators. In the past the focus of funding has been on capacity building now it is all about on ground work. After June we will have a 20% cut in funding.

GH commented that MF had done a huge amount of good work under the current restraints but we need to be aware of staying relevant. Don't try to be everything to everyone. Since FS started as a project officer MF has done a lot with NLN and FS has gotten on with the other work well.

GH also pointed out that in recent years the ACT Government has dropped involvement with rural landholders, now it is all through Sally McIntosh as the Regional Landcare Facilitator, and the SACTCG.

Currently there is similarity between what different groups are doing, there isn't a real niche for us at the moment.

## **Waterwatch Report**

See handout

Waterwatch is now funded definitely for 12 months but probably for 4 years.

This pays ML 3 days a week, while ACTEW pays 1 day for catchment health and 1 day comes out of the RIS funding.

New data portal up and running and running and people are using it. There has been a lot of work in helping people to use it. The bug survey portal is still being refined.

Dan Starr has been employed as the Waterwatch Scientific Officer with ACT Government, and he has been doing the CHiP (Catchment Health Indicator Program) Report, which includes data from groups in the Southern catchment.

Education has fallen off as ML is no longer funded to do any, but he does liaise with schools to undertake water testing at useful sites.

GH suggested that we contract the spray trailer out when not in use for areas like roadside verges.

## **Other Business**

Les raised question in regard to algal problem in Lake Tuggeranong. GP said to contact the Tuggeranong Lake Carers group and come out to the Clean UP Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Chair handed over to Coordinator for Election of Office Bearers

- Chair: Glenys Patulny (Nominated WR, Seconded GH)
- Vice-Chair: Miranda Gardner (Nominated GH, Seconded WR)
- Treasurer: Svetlana Manns (Nominated WR, Seconded GH)
- Secretary: Jenny Horsfield (Nominated GP, Seconded MG)
- Public Officer: Clive Hurlstone (Nominated WR, Seconded GP)
- General committee members
- Wendy Rainbird (Nominated GP, Seconded MG)
- Geoff Hyles (Nominated GP, Seconded WR)

Coordinator handed back to Chair.

Our last Audit cost \$3,900, which SM thinks is too much. SM proposed that we change our auditor for the coming year to Amanda Booth in Jerrabomberra.

GP proposed that we agree to use Amanda Booth as our auditor for 2014/2015. Seconded WR. All in favour.

**Meeting closed:** AGM closed 6.15pm