

Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group



Minutes 18 November, 2008

Next Meeting Notice

Tuesday 17 February 2009

At Tewanin Office Committee Room at 3:00pm

1. MEETING COMMENCED

Ben McMullen opened the meeting at 3:10pm and welcomed all members.

2. ATTENDANCE

Adrian Warner, Ben McMullen, Brian Stockwell, Brian Moore, Dale Watson, Geoff Black, Phil Moran, Raul Weychardt, Ray Kelly, Ross Paulger and Valda McLean.

3. APOLOGIES

Ted Cheetham, Vince Collis and Shaun Rothsey.

4. SPECIAL BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR LAKE MACDONALD CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

The meeting had a think-tank about the future and the role of the group given the changing circumstances of ownership of Lake Macdonald and the amalgamated Council.

The meeting felt that the group should continue and Ray Kelly suggested the meeting cycle might be altered to two monthly. Geoff observed that SEQ Water needs a local vehicle to tap into. Phil agrees and advises SEQ Water prefer to put their local funding initiatives towards catchment groups.

The meeting proposed further awareness activities e.g. field days within the catchment in places like Tinbeerwah Hall addressing horse/cattle management or Camphor Laurel.

The meeting considered it would be desirable to have a lake front land owner on the group.

Another suggestion was assistance to land owners to remove infestations of small Camphor Laurel plants.

We could propose some stretch goals proposed in our newsletter to get some interest from land owners.

At Kin Kin a field day was held (for half a day) with eighty people attending.

Priorities from our session were identified in relation to engaging with SEQ Water on a range of projects and also with DPI on extension purposes.

Actions for 2009 include recruitment approaches to land owners, an insert in our next newsletter about what land owners or residents would be interested in (there was not total agreement on this approach).

Core activities for the group seem to be: -

- Festival of Water
- Two newsletters per year
- Support to hatchery
- Support to management of Cabomba and other weeds
- Support to bird monitoring
- Links to MRCCC and BMRG and Council
- Education

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

Accepted without amendment. Moved Phil Moran, Seconded Brian Moore.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

7. CORRESPONDENCE OUT

<i>Date</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Topic</i>
16 Oct 08	Coordinator General	Concerns about Traveston Dam EIS supplementary report
Oct 08	Community Information Services	Details of our Group for listing in a Council website database

8. CORRESPONDENCE IN

<i>Date</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Topic</i>
15 Sep 08	MRCCC	Final budget for Festival and forecast for 09
18 Sep 08	AWA	Invitation to contribute article to Wetlands Update
18 Sep 08	AWA	World NGO Conference on Wetlands - Korea
19 Sep 08	BMRG	Natural Matters Edition 11
23 Sep 08	P Moran	Info re EIS supplementary report – Traveston Dam
29 Sep 08	MRCCC	Sponsorship for a book- "..A call to arms.."

		<i>opposing Traveston Dam</i>
7 Oct 08	BMRG	<i>Healthy Habitats Applications Deadline Extended</i>
8 Oct 08	BMRG	Notice of BMRG AGM
10 Oct 08	MRCCC	<i>Election of new MRCCC Executive Members</i>
14 Oct 08	BMRG	<i>Funding available for event and professional development training</i>
15 Oct 08	MRCCC	<i>Date of 09 Festival – SCEC advise their event will be 28 Jun so 7June is recommended</i>
15 Oct 08	BMRG	<i>Information on Pest and Weed management</i>
17 Oct 08	NICA	<i>Invitation to meeting – Is there a sustainable future for agriculture in Noosa catchment – 28 Oct at Noosa Leisure Centre – 2.30pm</i>
19 Oct 08	RFN	<i>Invitation to meeting 4pm Saturday 8 Nov 08 Pomona To provide a platform to bring together the main natural-resource management groups on the Sunshine Coast</i>
12 Nov 08	BMRG	<i>BMRG Membership renewal and 07/08 Annual Report</i>
11 Nov 08	BMRG	<i>Info on funding opportunities -</i>
-Nov 08	Sunshine C R Council	<i>Nominations are invited for Aust Day Awards</i>

Phil gave an overview of the BMRG AGM and the proposal to reduce the board members from thirteen to ten but the proposal was not passed.

The meeting noted the Festival of Water date will be 7 June 2009.

Brian Stockwell briefly overviewed his presentation on agricultural land in Noosa catchment and how the Kin Kin creek approaches may be applied to the Lake Macdonald catchment. Brian is working on the State Government Rural Futures Program and anticipates an out of session paper may be undertaken for the catchment area. SEQ Water is a potential investor.

Dale overviewed the BMRG funding programs in the areas of healthy habitats, super graze and better catchments.

The meeting resolved the outwards correspondence be endorsed and inwards correspondence be received. Moved Phil Moran. Seconded Geoff Black.

9. REPORTS

9.1 LANDCARE AND AQUATIC NURSERY REPORT

Phil overviewed his report. See Attachment 2. The meeting discussed that the Mary River Local Government Cluster were looking at options for potential projects as some \$40,000 in funding is available.

9.2 BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CABOMBA

Shon Schooler was not available to provide an update.

9.3 CABOMBA HARVESTER OPERATOR'S REPORT

Ross advised the harvester was operating in the Grange Road area. Next target area would be around the Botanical Gardens.

The harvester is collecting significant amounts of Hydrilla which is unusual. Otherwise there are regular patterns of weed growth present at the lake at this season.

Dumping charges are becoming more significant with approximately a \$500 charge applying to each eight tonne load.

Ross advises that his role is now diversifying to other lake responsibilities.

9.4 FISH HATCHERY REPORT

Vince was not available to provide an update. Ray advised that he is helping out at the hatchery. They are currently trying to reduce their water usage. There will be further discussions with SEQ Water regarding tenure of the hatchery.

9.5 BIRD OBSERVERS GROUP REPORT

Valda overviewed her report which addresses a wide spread decline of waterbirds. See Attachment 3.

Valda proposes to ask Birds Queensland or Birds Australia to fund a study to determine if Cabomba is affecting bird activity.

SEQ Water are no longer allowing eelers to access the dam so eel numbers are substantially increasing.

9.6 NOOSA FESTIVAL OF WATER

As noted previously the festival will be held on 7 June 2009.

10. ACTION LIST

No changes to action list.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 TINBEERWAH SCHOOL PARK

The meeting noted the gravel standard of car park was not so friendly or inviting to visitors.

Action	Write to Assets and Infrastructure Department to review park design	Raul Weychardt
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11.2 SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL UPDATE

Raul advised the meeting of the appointment of Warren Bunker as Executive Director for the Regional Strategy & Planning Department. The rest of the staff positions are to follow. The meeting noted that Geoff Black and his team are likely to be in the Assets and Infrastructure Department, possibly within an Environment team for the whole of the Sunshine Coast.

11.3 BIOPASS STRATEGY

Brian gave a brief update of the strategy and the priorities being applied to some access issues. One access issue has been resolved at Pomona and a second is being redesigned along Ringtail Creek Road.

12. CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 4:30pm.

13. NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 17 February 2009 at the Council Committee Room at 3:00pm.

ATTACHMENT 1

Action List

1.	Invitation be sent to DNRW to provide an officer to address the group on the Resource Operations Plan when a draft of the plan is released for consultation.	Raul Weychardt
2.	Write to Assets and Infrastructure Department to review park design	Raul Weychardt

ATTACHMENT 2



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Report for the Lake Macdonald Catchment Care Group 16th September 2008

- Results of Karyotype analysis of various cabomba samples are still being carried out by Dr. Eduardo Greizerstein from the University of Buenos Aires, however some results may be able to shed some light on what is going on with cabomba in Australia. *Cabomba caroliniana* var. *caroliniana* is fertile, and would seem to be the species of cabomba they have in the Northern Territory; hence the viable seeds being found there. It appears that 'our' cabomba is a hybrid between *C. caroliniana* var. *caroliniana* [found in Argentina] and *C. caroliniana* var. *pulcherrima* [found in the US]. This would explain why our cabomba does not set viable seed. It also suggests that there have been a number of different sources of cabomba in Australia.
- The weevil, *Hydrothimetes natans*, was imported into quarantine in Australia and host specificity testing has begun. The weevils [70] arrived on September 2nd, 2007, after obtaining permits from AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and the Federal Government of Argentina. Four large aquaria have been set up in CSIRO's Long Pocket Laboratories, with equipment designed to grow healthy cabomba. Whilst cabomba grows readily in impoundments, it has been quite a challenge to simulate these conditions in the laboratory. Algal growth has been a particular problem. Shon also secured some of the native plant that is closely related to cabomba, [*Brasenia schreberi*], or Watershield. These plants came from Thirlmere Lakes, SW of Sydney. Watershield is in the same family as cabomba. Weevils were able to be reared through at least one generation, however whilst they were observed feeding on Watershield, completion of their life-cycle on cabomba was not confirmed. The number of adult weevils declined over time, and by February 2008, all had died. This would not normally be a problem; you would just import more agents from Argentina. However the Argentinean Government changed their policy and now permission has to be granted by provincial authorities as well as the Federal Government, and this red tape is slowing things down considerably. These permits have now been secured and weevils are expected to arrive in late October. The time has been used in refining CSIRO's ability to rear the host plant, and Shon now believes they have the capability to complete testing.
- Attended the National Aquatic Weeds Management Group [NAWMG] in Newcastle. This was run concurrently with the Australian weeds Committee [AWC] meeting. This was an opportunity to showcase the work we have done in our region to this group.
- Visited Ewen Maddock Dam with Shon Schooler and other CSIRO staff yesterday. The reason for the visit was to look at a strange form of cabomba. [Photos available]. It appears to be a mutated form, or one affected by herbicides. [They spray *Salvinia* on Ewen Maddock with Glyphosate. Shon is following up on this.

Phillip Moran

ATTACHMENT 3

Lake Macdonald Bird Report For LMCCC meeting 18th November, 2008.

Over the past few years I have noticed a considerable decline in the number of water birds, particularly at Lake Macdonald. The 'pilot study' *Aquatic Weed Dispersal By Waterbirds in South East Queensland *was interesting but not conclusive. The Cabomba weed may be affecting the water birds. I have been wondering if I should somehow be trying to get the Government/BQ/BA to pay for specific scientific studies to determine if the weed is causing a decline in bird numbers.

Perhaps I have found some (more sinister) answers to the decline. Duck shooting has been banned in Queensland, NSW, and WA. Now Conservation, Animal Welfare, and Political Groups are calling on the Federal government to adopt and implement a **national** policy to permanently ban the recreational shooting of native waterbirds. One of the dot points, in a message dated 27th July, 2008, calling for support, reads, 'Aerial surveys conducted by Professor Richard Kingsford (University of NSW) since 1983 show waterbird numbers across eastern Australia have decreased by 82% due to climate change, extended drought, and more frequent El Ninos. You can follow the progress of this aerial survey by going to World's largest bird survey takes off

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/04/2409725.htm>

Across the Sunshine Coast and beyond, the story seems to be the same. Most dams and waterways here are devoid of water birds. The fact that large breeding areas in southern states have dried up is of great concern. This is really bad news. I doubt that we can do much more than be aware of our environment and our need to take care of it. If anyone has the time to spend at Lake Macdonald, I would really appreciate any bird lists from there.

While you are out birding this summer be aware of the reptiles and carry your first-aid bandage.

The ticks seem to be particularly nasty this year so take precautions there too.

Special sightings include Square-tailed Kite nesting at Cooroy, and Great-crested Grebe courting at Poona Dam. Common Myna have been reported in Tewartin, Peregian, Twin Waters and Minyama. That is not good news. In order to trap them 'we' need to be able to place traps on private property where they can be monitored. Let me know if you, or someone you know, is prepared to do that.

From Capertree Valley comes news from Regent Honeyeater studies. Colour banded birds show the longest lived birds are 11 years and the furthest travelled is 534km from Warwick. From the Courier Mail comes the story of Dirty Harry, a magnificent male Rufous Owl. He has disappeared from his old haunts in the Ingham area after more than 30 years and is now presumed dead, naturalist John Young says. Over the years his picture has appeared in many bird publications.

With so many birds now breeding, it is timely to look at nest site precautions. Some birds will desert the nest if disturbed or stressed. Kookaburras crows and butcherbirds watch our movements and may be attracted to a nest that we pay attention to. Have you ever thought about where birds might be nesting when you set up camp in the bush? A pair of parrots could sit for hours in a nearby tree waiting to safely return to eggs or chicks in a hollow near a camp site.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy Christmas.

Valda McLean

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