



Chum Creek Landcare Group AGM

3rd August 2016

Chum Creek P.S.

Present: E. Feller, M. Feller, S. Sheaffe, D. Weaver, L. Danks, P. Hipwell, T & K. Mays, B & A. Quaffin, A. Nowland, Nella. Lithgow, I & R. McNees, E & T. Whelan, J. Baker

Apologies: R. Fallon, T. Sheaffe

Acknowledgement to country.

President's report.

Evelyn presented her report. Highlights are:

Membership - has increased to the point that we now have 80 properties that are members. Once again for next year we are in financially good shape and have decided to not charge a membership fee.

Projects - We completed the second stage of the Chum Creek survey covering the section of the creek from its source in Toolangi to where the creek crosses Chum Creek Road.

A benefit of doing the survey has been meeting property owners and giving them information about programs like NYBAG that will help control blackberries. Now over 27 Chum Creek Landcare properties have been involved with NYBAG doing blackberry control. This has exceeded our initial expectations and participation has been due to the hard work and encouragement by Rob Fallon our NYBAG coordinator.

Workshops - We organized three workshops this year, one on wombat mange which was well attended, one on weed identification which was not well attended possibly because of lots of other events in the area that week-end, and one on rabbit control in June 2016. The last workshop we cancelled because of lack of numbers but if there is more interest later we could reschedule. We wanted to run workshops that are of value to members and we did conduct a survey in Nov. 2016 to gauge what these interests were. We have based our topics on our member's expressed interests. Please let us know if there is a topic that a number on which would be interested in having a workshop

Communications - We have continued with our Facebook and Website. We also have produced our own newsletter this year and so far have produced two issues.

Volunteers Program - We have chosen to work with Billanook College student volunteers because of their reliability and hard work and teacher involvement. Last spring we had three properties that benefited from the work of these students. There were over 250 trees planted as well as other tasks performed by these students.

Grants - We were successful in obtaining funding from Melbourne Water to continue the Chum Creek survey. We also received a grant from the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Association and another from Landcare Australia and these funds are being used to replace gloves and tools, provide banners of public events, and buy a storage shed and myna traps.

Melbourne Museum Plants - Tabitha Barclay of Healesville Plants supplied the plants for the magnificent display in the Melbourne Museum. Once the plants get too big they get replaced. The museum approached us to find out if we might be interested in these plants. We were so these plants will soon be available to members.

Acknowledgements - Debbi Weaver for establishing the Group, minute keeper, President and much more; Susi for looking after our finances; Michael for applying for Grants, newsletter, website; Linden for organising the volunteers, equipment monitor, chef; Tom for membership, enrolments; (Evelyn for her taking over the position of President, organising workshops)

Many thanks to our outgoing, hard working and dedicated committee

Treasurer's report

Balance brought forward:	\$ 7,310.34
Income:	\$10,491.88
Expenses:	<u>\$ 1,483.30</u>
Total:	\$16,318.92

Balance as per Bendigo Bank 30/6/16

Accepted. D. Weaver

Seconded. M. Feller

Unanimous vote in favour.

Formal acknowledgement

Evelyn formally acknowledged D. Weaver, L. Danks and T. Whelan for their commitment, hard work and many and varied tasks in the Chum Creek Landcare Group. She presented them with various gifts.

Other business

Debbi Weaver, Tom Whelan and Linden Danks have formally stepped down from the Chum Creek Landcare Group Committee and nominations were requested for new committee members: Phil Hipwell was accepted and voted on.

The 2016 committee currently comprises E. Feller, M. Feller, S. Sheaffe, P. Hipwell

Michael Feller spoke about seedlings available from the National Museum and a plant list was distributed to members to request plants, once they become available.

Presentations

1. Trevor Mays spoke about Indian Mynas and how they are a nuisance for our native birds. He introduced the Myna Trap that is available for loan through our Landcare group. He suggests cat food in a plate inside the cage. Bread also works; however some native birds are also tempted by it. Water also needs to be provided in the trap. A humane way of disposal was discussed by Trevor. Traps are available from Yarra Glen Stock feed for approximately \$50. Yarra Indian Myna Action Group has a website where you can get information about the birds.
2. Wildlife camera presentation by Debbi Weaver - Weatherproof motion sensor infra red wildlife camera. Debbi spoke about how she has used the camera to capture visions of the wildlife that move freely around her property. Visions included; wombat, fox, kangaroo, echidna, rabbit, deer, cat, dog, currawong, grey shrike thrush, crimson rosella, wonga pigeon, grey fantail, rosellas, bronzewing pigeon, red wattlebird, swamp wallaby and satin bower bird. Bird calls included: boobook owl, magpie.
The quality of the batteries is important as is the position of the camera....keep it low.
3. Upper Chum Creek habitat survey power point presentation. Michael Feller presented Tabitha Barclay's and Coral Jeffs' Upper Chum Creek Habitat survey for this year. Chum Creek Landcare decided that a survey of the creek was a good starting point for recognising what, if any issues exist with our creek environment. Last year we surveyed the middle part of the creek. This year's survey is from where Chum Creek road crosses the creek to the head of the creek, approximately 8 km long, near Toolangi. Many factors were covered including - creek health, erosion, tree and plant species present, weeds, evidence of animals, indigenous plants. Michael spoke in more detail about the plants and trees. Platypus have been sighted in many areas along the creek, so it has a resident population, making it a 'significant waterway' (recognised by Melbourne Water). Creek health was generally high.
Comparisons were made between upper and middle Chum Creek surveys. There are differences between upper and middle Chum Creek in vegetation, animal habitat, land ownership, creek health and size of the trees.

Meeting closed 8.30p.m.

Evening finished with a light supper of Soup and Lamington Cake provided by Wombats Chai.