



Chum Creek Landcare Group AGM Minutes 8th August, 2018 Chum Creek Primary School

Present: P. Hipwell, A. Nowland, , D. Blair, E. and M. Feller, N. Lithgow, K. Bagley, C., E., and M. Donegan, M. Lang, B. Mathews, S. and T. Sheaffe,

Apologies: D. Weaver, L. Sbalchiero, L. Danks, D. Kemp, A. Fitzpatrick.

Acknowledgement to country and welcome by president, Evelyn Feller and Treasurer, Susi Sheaffe.

President's report

A key part of our activities this past year has been providing a number of workshops for members in which they could participate. In March Graeme Wilkinson initiated a workshop on the fruit-fly problem which was well attended. There are some follow up activities planned for the future. Our Landcare facilitator Anne Fitzpatrick organized three workshops for Chum, Dixon and Steele's Creek. One was a field trip to the Forest Education Centre and sites in the forest to illustrate bad management practices. The other workshops were on small property management and healthy dams. Thanks to Anne for her efforts.

Our third Chum Creek Survey from Lowes Road to the Watts River was published and distributed to landowners and relevant interested organizations. If you are interested in getting a copy, please contact us. Again I would encourage people whose properties are along Chum Creek to revisit your report and use the results to inform any weed control or revegetation projects that you might be planning.

Behind the scenes quite a bit has been happening. Michael and Beth Bagley are continuing to monitor Chum Creek hoping to gain more information on sediment sources and coliform pollution.

Some committee members have attended Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy and Yarra Strategic Plan meetings and the Yarra Catchment Deer Forum meetings to keep up to date with these issues and plans. I certainly felt that we were able to discuss what the issues were in Chum Creek and what kind of programs needed supporting. Melbourne Water has indicated that increasing riparian vegetation in Chum Creek is important as is stormwater control and has some targets for our area. Carrying out these plans is very important just to maintain the state of our creek and prevent declines in platypus, fish and frog populations.

Membership

Because of insurance costs we have been asking those who no longer wish to remain members to let us know. We currently have 67 people from 42 households although we send e-mails to additional people and organizations. Our finances are still in good shape so we again don't plan to charge a fee for 2018-2019.

Volunteers

We have two schools, Billanook and Fairhills whose students are available for community service projects. They have assisted on properties with weed control, planting, firewood stacking and general tasks and members who have had the students work on their properties have been very happy with their work. The students are available again in September and November. We haven't had any responses so far from people who need some assistance on their properties but we would like the program to continue. If you have done any planting over the last couple of years the students could help with weeding in particular. Please talk to Phill Hipwell who is our volunteer coordinator if you are interested.

Blackberry and Weed Control

At the moment we do have a spray rig and back packs that can be borrowed from the Northern Yarra Landcare Network. Anne Fitzpatrick also designed banners to remind people when the best time for blackberry control was and these were placed at strategic points over the summer. She has been working on accessing funding so we can continue a program like NYBAG but extending it to other weeds.

Communications

Michael continued to produce seasonal (4) newsletters per year and even to distribute these to members without e-mail. Hopefully members find these useful in learning about how to control weeds and keep up with events in our area. We also continue to maintain our website and Facebook page. We are also keen to hear from members if they would like to contribute items or have some constructive feedback.

Grants

We were successful in receiving small grants from Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority and these help us with insurance and costs of workshops and some of our projects.

Future Plans

We are hoping to complete our 'Birds of Chum Creek' pamphlet this year. This project has become quite important as birds in our area have been identified by agencies such as Melbourne Water as having insufficient data for planning purposes. We hope to have more workshops, one on better gardening and defending one's garden against animal predation and perhaps repeating the healthy dams workshop. It is probably also timely to have another weed identification and control workshop. If you have any ideas for workshops or would like to be a presenter let us know.

Acknowledgements

Again I would like to thank the Chum Creek Committee members for all their hard work. I would like to acknowledge Susi for keeping our finances in order and doing the often detailed tasks that are required. Again Michael has put in many hours on the committee's behalf particularly in getting our third creek survey published, producing our newsletters and applying for grants. I would like to thank Phill for being our volunteer coordinator and with Nella keeping our meetings and workshops running smoothly. Special thanks to them for cooking the cakes this evening. Once again we would love to have new members join us. It is healthy for organizations to have new members with new ideas and energy. We have about 6-8 meetings a year which are generally about 2 hours long.

A thought to leave you with is even if you haven't the time this year to engage in a big revegetation or weed control program, try to aim to plant 10 or 20 plants or seedlings and remove a small patch of weeds. Every bit helps. Free seedlings are available here after the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

	2017/2018	2016/2017
Balance bought forward:	\$13,931.75	\$16,318.92
Income:	\$ 1,673.05	\$ 4,992.65
Expenses:	\$ 5,310.23	\$ 7,379.82
Year net profit/loss	-\$ 3,637.18	-\$ 2,387.17
Year-end balance (30 June)	\$10,294 .57	\$13,931.75

Higher expenses than income during the year was due to payment for the 2017 Chum Creek survey report from income that was received during the preceding financial year.

Other business

None.

Chum Creek Landcare committee for 2018-2019

Committee positions for the coming year were filled by acclamation as the returning officer, Ann Nowland, received nominations only from – Evelyn Feller, for president, Susi Sheaffe for treasurer, and Phill Hipwell,

Nella Lithgow, Ken Bagley, Mark Donegan, and Michael Feller, for general committee members. We now have a full committee!

The formal meeting closed around 8 pm and was then followed by an illustrated talk by Ron Barrow on bush tucker.

Ron focused on the bush as a complex ecosystem. The type of bush tucker present in any given area, depends on the ecosystem components present – soil, organisms, and climate which determine vegetation. In Victoria, indigenous bush tucker was primarily meat, whereas in NW WA it was primarily vegetation. As we have so little bush left, Ron believes that we should not go around digging it all up, but rather grow it ourselves.

Several good books on bush tucker were on display. The Yarra Ranges shire website has a very good plant directory for our area (<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Trees-vegetation/Plant-directory>).

Ron highlighted his belief that we are not born into a society, but rather into an ecosystem, bush tucker being but one part of that ecosystem.

The evening finished with light refreshments and socialising, while about 200 indigenous plant seedlings were taken away. The meeting closed around 9.30 pm.