

Connecting Country Background

Reference Group Meeting May 1st 2008

Present: Doug Ralph, Bernard Slattery, Beth Mellick, Julie von Platen, Chris Morris, Geoff Park, Deirdre Slattery, Patrick Kavanagh, Peter Johnson, Noel Muller, Jan Hall, Tim Read, Julie Hurley

Apologies: Christine Kilmartin, David Major, Elvyne Hogan, Chris Pollock, Virginia Adrian, Mark Walker, Nicole Bullen.

Minutes of the April Meeting were considered and accepted.

Agenda

1. Julie von Platen gave a project report. She tabled a summary of the situation so far, which was considered by the group.

The meeting looked positively on the idea of disseminating launch results and maps via email, providing privacy issues can be resolved, and after follow up contacts are made.

It was noted that 45% of the works recorded in the questionnaires were done without group or agency support: an indicator of some depth of commitment to land restoration outside established frameworks.

On overlaps and alliances it was recognized that there are networking challenges in considering agency and other works [like CMA drought relief] as part of a pattern.

We will invite Andrea Delaney [DPI] to come to a meeting to report on the Cairn Curran APP.

It was suggested that we make a presentation to the South West Integrated Flora meeting in Ballarat or Bendigo, and that use could be made of a 'Wiki Site'.

On community engagement, the consensus was that the blueprint could clarify the extent of 'government engagement', the nature of 'community of practice' and the role of councils in community-country links.

The case studies were strongly approved.

2. Green Paper: Bernard and Julie will draft a CC response for consideration at the next meeting
3. Beth reported that the NW Foundation would be asked for a further \$20,000 to extend the project for two extra months. She also reported that a third project in Victoria would be proposed to the Foundation when it considered its strategic planning framework for landscape change. She will report on these proposals at the next reference group meeting.
4. Ideas for Stage 2: some general and specific ideas were fielded. They included production of an environmental history of the region, a consolidation of scientific studies of the region, a guide to high quality natural assets, a Swift Parrot DVD, a field guide to plants and birds of the shire. It was recognized that a solid framework of knowledge was necessary to implement these, and that pre existing work, like BOCA and Field Naturalists data would need to be carefully used.
5. Websites: a. Geoff reported that Doug Falconer will come up with a concept for the CC website by mid May. We may be able to see it at the next meeting. In any case, when it goes up experimentally, members will be notified, inviting them to try it out. b Marie reported that the FOBIF site is 'under construction'. It will be a single site, with links to Mamunya and Connecting Country.
6. It was suggested that people could nominate their property for the blueprint, as a way of bringing public and private management ideas together. This could possibly be a way of helping agencies to implement their programs.