

Connecting Country Background

October 2007 update on the Biodiversity Blueprint Project (FOBIF/NWF)

Beth Mellick (NWF), Doug Ralph, Bernard Slattery and Marie Jones (FOBIF Committee Members) met with Mount Alexander Shire Council on Tuesday 2nd October and made a presentation to councillors and staff. Council support the principle of the project and will be kept up to date through Russell Ogier Manager, Healthy Environment and the Landcare Coordinators.

Applications for the Project Worker close this Friday (12th October) with the selection panel organised to meet the following week to appoint the project worker. An article will be published in the local paper about the appointment.

People who have expressed interest in being on the Reference Group at this stage:

Community people: Doug Ralph, Bernard Slattery, Marie Jones (FOBIF executive members), Chris Morris, Maurie Dynon, Jan Hall, Patrick Kavanagh, Christine Kilmartin,

Others considering: Zoe Amor, Deidre Slattery

Agency people: Beth Mellick, Geoff Park, Virginia Adrian/Chris Pollock, Tim Read, Mark Walker, Parks Vic, DSE.

The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday November the 1st 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. in the Chewton Town Hall (Pyrenees Highway, Chewton – next to the PO).

At this meeting we will:

- meet the Project Worker
- meet each other
- acknowledge the Mount Alexander Shire's Environmental Action Plan 1996
- discuss the "Biodiversity Blueprint" that will identify existing natural assets, threatening processes, priorities for protection, enhancement and restoration including potential landscape scale biolinks and will also include a social/cultural overlay that captures community interest and builds on current community resilience.
- identify where this information will be available from and how it could be presented
- identify perceived gaps in the Reference Group and suggest solutions.
- plan the Community Information Sharing session/workshop