

by Drummond Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment

Proceedings of the DNDRC Steering Committee Meeting

31st March 2004
(Meeting 3)



Sue Turner volunteer CALM wildlife carer at Bolgart Primary School

Prepared by Bob Huston



DNDRC Steering Committee Notes

Meeting 31st March 2004 at Bolgart

- Meeting opened: ~ 10:00 a.m.
- Present: Mike Meinema (Chairman DCLM),
Bob Huston (Exec. Officer, Recovery Catchment Officer DCLM),
Matt Edmonds (Solomon Yulgan Catchment Group),
Stephanie Clarke (Solomon Yulgan Catchment Group),
Sally Craddock (Toodyay Shire)
Brendan Oversby (WRC / Dept of Environment),
Frank Rickwood (AgWA),
Mark Graves (WA Share Farms)
Elizabeth Tierney (Community Landcare Coordinator – Observer)
- Apologies:
Geoff Erickson (Shire of Victoria Plains),
David Cale (CALM)
Greg Keighery (CALM)

1.0 Review of past Meeting Proceedings:

Members reviewed the document summarising the meeting on 4th June 2003 and endorsed it (and attachments) as an accurate reflection of proceedings.

2.0 Recovery Catchment Officer – Report

Bob Huston [Recovery Catchment Officer] presented a summary of the 15 on-ground projects to be completed for 2004 (Attachment DNDRC Project Profiles 2004) culminating in the planting of approximately 115,132 seedlings over approximately 60 hectares. In conclusion Bob outlined projects already in the planning for 2005. These included:

- DNDRC Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme - finalise fencing agreements and Voluntary Management /guidelines with - George Murray [20 to 30 ha including joining to Drummond NR]; and Dan Kennedy [20ha high value remnant].
- Community Development Program - environmental education: Contributing to Bolgart PS and Calingiri's P.S. environmental education program for Term 2 2004.

Response to the Recovery Catchment Officer Report

Mark Graves highlighted that Liz Barbour (FPC) will need to have site visit in regards to their input of salt tolerant speciality timbers into the SGSL project site. Bob noted the point and will organise a site visit with Liz Barbour.

Mark Graves raised a question regarding how weed control is managed in bushland remnants and in areas jointly managed (Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme). Bob Huston explained that problem plants are controlled by using a range of standard practices using herbicides, grazing or a mixture of both methods. Crash grazing may also be used. In affect a holistic/integrated approach is encourage. The action plan presented in the Voluntary Management Guidelines (Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme) assists to identify how weeds will be managed effectively in bushland remnants private land.



Recovery Catchment Officers Workshop participants. Bolgart

3.0 Confirming Final DNDRC Outcome Statements

The meeting revisited the draft set of outcome statements with the goal of reducing the number to around five to seven statements and to refine the wording in each statement. After considerable open discussion, facilitated by Bob Huston, the Committee reached consensus to eliminated four of the draft outcome statements and modify others (Refer to Table 1) to approve the six statements below:

- Restore Drummond Recovery Catchment area to an ecological sustainable level.
- Contain, recover and utilise degraded areas in Drummond Recovery Catchment.
- Preserve and enhance the present native species and their habitats and ecosystems in the Drummond Recovery Catchment area.

- Establish an informed community that is contributing to improving the quality of the natural environment.
- Achieve a shared sense of ownership by the community in the recovery catchment project.
- Attain cultural change in the community to implement the integration of environmental, economical and social factors in managing the natural environment.

Table 1

Outcome Statements	
Ecologically sustainable waterways in the Drummond Recovery Catchment area.	Changed
Restore Drummond Recovery Catchment area to an ecological sustainable level.	
Contain, recover and utilise degradation processes.	Changed
Contain, recover and utilise degraded areas in Drummond Recovery Catchment.	
Greater ownership and participation required	Deleted
Preservation of local rare species and habitats and eco-systems.	Changed
Preserve and enhance the present native species and their habitats and ecosystems in the Drummond Recovery Catchment area.	
Recover indigenous species diversity.	Deleted
Maintain and develop appropriate vegetative corridors.	Deleted
An aware and contributory community.	Changed
Establish an informed community that is contributing to improving the quality of the natural environment	
Ownership by the 'Catchment Community' of catchment recovery [Cultural Change]	Changed
Achieve a shared sense of ownership by the community in the recovery catchment project.	
Cultural change to implement environmentally sustainable farming practices	Changed
Attain cultural change in the community to implement the integration of environmental	
Demonstrated integration of environmental, economical and social factors.	Deleted

5.0 Project Issue

Frogwatch Project 2004

Bob presented to the committee for comment/advise a community based fauna monitoring project centred on identifying local frog species diversity and abundance, which he and David Cale have been planning. The basis of the project is two fold:

1. To provide meaningful opportunity for the community begin investigating the presence of local wildlife in their local area.
2. To begin building a database on the distribution of fauna across the recovery catchment.

The choice of frogs as the focus species is suitable as the Western Hooting Frog is the flagship icon of the Solomon Yulgan Catchment Group. The monitoring project would follow the structure and methods of the successful ALCOA/WA Museum Frogwatch Program. The committee confirmed that the timing of the Frogwatch project for late June after seeding would be appropriate and by collaborating with Bolgart and Calingiri Primary Schools would be an effective approach to maximise community involvement. The monitoring project would involve a community information night describing how the observations are to be done but also raising the communities awareness of the important role frogs play in maintaining the health of an ecosystem. The observations would occur over a one-week window where participants would go out one of the evenings in the week to make their records. The committee fully supported the project.

Issue of Dieback education measure with local government

Mark Graves suggested that dieback is a management issue in the recovery catchment (i.e. Confirmed presence in Drummond N.R.) and that one aspect that may need addressing is educating local government authorities on practices they can adopt to minimise the spread of the fungus in their daily operations. This view was supported by the committee and should be addressed in the Recovery Catchment Management Plan.

Bridal Creeper issue

Bridal creeper was raised as a focus weed that needs attention along roadside verges and on private property. Bob H informed the committee that a rust fungus is now available that has proven to be effective at reducing bridal creeper infestations by as much as 80% and that this will be introduced into the catchment to tackle the problem this year. It will be an ongoing management action.

Fox baiting – BH to investigate program in Trayning LCDC.

Mark Graves asked about whether fox baiting is carried out in the catchment and if not whether something may be able to be done in this within the catchment. Bob H explained that he is away of a community/catchment based fox baiting project happening in the Trayning LCDC area and will be investigate it to see if it could be replicated in the recovery catchment.

Half Day meetings

The committee supported a request from community members to make all future meetings last only half a day so that family and farming commitments can be better managed

7.0 Next Meeting

To be advised for late in the year.

Attachment DNDRC Project Profiles 2004

DNDRC Project Profiles 2003-04			
Site/property	Project type	Area	Seedlings
Clarke Nev	Saline creekline rehab and protection	5.00	10048
Edmonds Matt	Waterlogged/saline rehab	2.00	8000
Edmonds Matt	Sandalwood/wildlife corridor	2.00	5004
Erickson Geoff	Saline creekline rehab and protection	8.00	17900
Kennedy Dan	Saline/erosion rehab/wildlife corridor	3.00	6144
McGill Julian	Oil mallee/hydrology	2.00	25000
McGill Julian	Waterlogged saline rehab/ wildlife corridor	2.00	4000
McGill Julian	GP rehab	1.00	Seed balls
McGill Julian	Remnant protection	3.00	
McGill Julian	Remnant protection	1.00	
Martin	Corridor	2.00	6000
Piggott John	Waterlogged/drainage line	2.00	3500
SGSL	Saline waterlogged rehab and protection	15.00	4000
TALGA Stevens Eddie	Creekline protection and rehab	10.00	19456
Watson Neil	Waterlogged rehab	2.00	6080

Appendix 1: Drummond NDRC Steering Committee Members:

Name	Position	Organization	Role	Contact details
Mike Meinema	District Manager	DCLM	Chairperson	Perth Hills District Office Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring WA 6073 Ph: 9295 1955
John Carter	Nature Conservation Coordinator	DCLM	Deputy Chair <i>Proxy</i> for Chairman	Perth Hills District Office Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring WA 6073 Ph: 9295 1955
Bob Huston	Conservation Officer	DCLM	Executive Officer Recovery Catchment Officer	Perth Hills District Office Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring WA 6073 Ph: 9295 1955
David Cale	Technical Officer	DCLM	Technical/advisory <i>Proxy</i> for Greg Keighery	Woodvale Research PO Box 51 Wanneroo WA 6946 Ph: 9405 5181
Greg Keighery	Principal Research Scientist	DCLM	Technical/advisory Scientific	Woodvale Research PO Box 51, Wanneroo WA 6946 Ph: 9405 5100
Owen Donavon	Manager, Mid West Share Farms	FPC	Technical/advisory Farm forestry	Lot 1 260 Kalamunda Road South Guildford WA 6055 Ph: 9279 4088
Don Telfer	Moora District Manager	AgWA	Technical/advisory Agriculture	Agriculture Department Moora District Office PO Box 16 Moora WA 6510 Ph: 9651 0553
Brendan Oversby	Natural Resource Management Officer	Department of the Environment	Technical/advisory Waterways	DEWCP PO Box 497 Northam WA 6401 Ph: 9622 7055
Cr. Sally Craddock	Councillor	Toodyay Shire	Technical/advisory Councillor and Toodyay Naturalist	Toodyay Shire PO Box 96 Toodyay WA 6566 Ph: 9574 4184
Cr. Geoff Erikson	Councillor	Victoria Plains Shire	Technical/advisory Councillor and farmer	Victoria Plains Shire PO Box 21 Calingiri WA 6569 Ph: 9628 7004
Matt Edmonds	Farmer	Solomon Yulgan C.G.	Farming/catchment Technical/advisory	PO Box 14 Bolgart 6568 Ph: 9627 5128
Stephanie Clarke	Farmer	Solomon Yulgan C.G.	Farming/catchment Technical/advisory	PO Box 83 Bolgart WA 6568 Ph: 9627 5283
Warren Howlett	Farmer	Mt. Anvil Gully Catchment	Farming/catchment Technical/advisory	PO Box 405 Northam WA 6401 Ph: 9622 7264