

GECCO Meeting 4/10/2024 Minutes

Members present: Lee, Denise, Ralph, Jac, Tanja (Chair), Michael

Guests: Tor, Claire and Zola

Apologies: Julica

Meeting began 4pm

CMZ – Community Managed Zones

- Discussed CMZ working bees are NOT sustainable for group and issue is bigger and needs attention from whole Community
- Discussed Steve Hall has details of a contractor who has a nibbler/mulcher and charges \$150 per hour for minimum of 4 hours. To take the idea of having an annual systematic approach with clearing CMZ areas and then individuals are responsible for time in between
- The next step would be to consider the different terrains, Hamlet characteristics, individual site needs and then prioritise where to begin. Financially what could the Community afford? How many metres in could we do using the machine? Bring a plan to the community.
- Establish Assessment group to find places needing work. Working with community to establish their needs. **Bring to a GM**

Koalas

- Tanja asked what the information from surveys and drone events would be used for? Check where Sam Turbill – ecologist. Can use database – iNaturalist to input sightings. Already a lot of info on Goolawah. Chlamydia- vaccine- can we be part of trial.
- Besides collating numbers and genetic information (via scats) we can look at using the information for grant applications. Jac suggested the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. We might be able to get funding for road maintenance and removal of weeds along the Beach Track beginning at North Gate! This would include Covenants for certain areas of the Goolawah Property in relation to supporting our koala populations and the rainforest.
- Lee has offered to be the communication person to track koalas that leave Goolawah and are taken to the koala hospital. Lee and Tanja will contact Koala Hospital to start up a new liaison.
- Denise spoke about new koala Centre (in conjunction with Aboriginal Local Land Council- Jamie Donovan) opening near Wauchope in December. Tanja and Denise will attend and make connection to the centre.

Maps

- Elizabeth has organised the large aerial view maps at the CK.
- Group discussed we would still like to see a hard copy 'user friendly' map for walks and major landmarks. Continue following up what Kev has done with the view to seeing a completed, more detailed and artistic map up at the CK as well. Tanja to follow up.
- Group also discussed approaching Al and/or Dan to see if any interest in creating a digital database style map to use on a computer/ phone app. Maybe incorporating use of drone..... Tanja to follow up.

Rainforest

- Michael spoke to the reduction of weed (lantana) Rob and he have been doing. He has conversed with Chris Robins about getting Shawn (ranger) out to the site (although he is very busy). Discussed getting expert advice on to guide us on best way to conserve and manage this site. Michael suggested there is a possibility the rainforest would fit into an endangerment category and is an extremely significant area. The group agreed we need assessment, evaluation and classification to assist with direction on how to manage it. Ideally engaging a professional Ecologist. Denise will follow up contacting Kevin from NCC.
- It was agreed we follow the draft plan prepared by Mick and Denise in the meantime and present to GM.
- Jac will follow up investigating the National Parks Management Plan for Limeburners to see how this “fits” with what we are doing.

Tools

- Tanja spoke to purchasing more tools with the \$1000 GECO funds. In a discussion with Rob, we need another pair of loppers, mattock, some telescope saws, safety glasses, gloves and a small aluminium ladder. Ideally it would be great to have a fireproof box to store tools near Rainforest while we are focusing on this site. Ralph suggested some available at Men’s Shed stash of tools! Tanja and Ralph to follow up.
- Group can consider any other needs re: budget of \$1000.

Weed eradication

- Tanja spoke to next collective Goolawah Working Bee in November to include getting rid of spreading bulbs at North Gate. Michael suggested this area would most likely need a systematic approach and may take 3-4 working bees as a long-term plan. It could be ripped first to get the bulk lifted and follow up as needed.
- Camphor Laurel trees on individual sites was also discussed. Denise and Michael to follow up.

Boomerang Garden

- Group felt that fencing could come down and just target wire fencing protection around young citrus trees. Tanja will follow up with Ish.

Signage

- Tanja informed group of revamp of Red Hill PO Box project with Dennis. This will include some stump seating with shelter behind the PO Box. Also discussed Dennis’s idea of putting site numbers under our already established road name signs. Everyone a thumbs up for this. To be taken to next GM.

Kangaroos

- Discussed aggressive male kangaroos and kangaroo populations. Lazs and Alecia attacked. How do we know which one? Is there a rogue type? Also is Lumpy jaw a result of increased population? Group felt we need to ask an expert to visit to explore more so we can make informed decisions as a Community. Would be great if this could be done with Ranger Shawn as well.]

- Meeting finished at 5.30 pm