



## GM minutes 30 September 2021

### Welcome and apologies

**Apologies:** Marg Easson, Mayor Angela Evans, Bob Herbert, Ros Herbert, Erica Jolly, Larissa Lamnek, Helen Manning, Kathryn Smith, Anne Wheaton, Julie Whitehead

### Acceptance of minutes

AGM and GM minutes 30 June 2021 <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

Moved: Richard Smith

Seconded: Geoff Short

Carried

### Treasurer's report

Financial report (see <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>)

Subscriptions healthy

Movie night raised \$1384 (money still coming in)

Bank balance \$4648 (approx.)

74 financial members

Moved: Richard Smith

Seconded: Geoff Short

Carried

### Guest speaker

#### Dr Michelle Blewitt

#### Impact of micro-plastics in waterways

'Dr Blewitt, Program Director of AUSMAP, is a Marine Scientist, with over 30 years' experience, with a passion for education, research and conservation. With a PhD in marine mammal bioacoustics and the effect of human disturbance, her main focus now is marine debris, particularly microplastics. She is a passionate Environmental Scientist, involved in research as well as extensive community service activities, public speaking and implementing marine education programs, particularly about the impact of litter in the aquatic environment. Michelle is currently an Adjunct Lecturer in the College of Science and Engineering at Flinders University of South Australia and also a Research Associate in the Marine Studies Institute (MSI) at The University of Sydney where she continues her research on marine mammals. She is a passionate environmental educator and has been working with the team at the Total Environment Centre since early 2017, educating and empowering young and old about the impact of marine debris and raising community awareness.'

(<https://www.ausmap.org/team>)

The presentation is on the website: <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

**Q:** Why isn't West Lakes flushing through?

**A:** The tidal surge is not enough to send it out, it comes back in. Sea bins are being talked about but we want to isolate the cause/source of the microplastics.

**Q:** How will the pipeline from north to south affect microplastics?

**A:** Coastal management needs attention. Sand pumping resulted in this (sample) bottle of collected microplastics in 1 hour – it was on the beach at Brighton.

**Q:** Why isn't Charles Sturt Council supporting the program?

**A:** It hasn't been considered. No action has been taken so far.

**Q:** Can we raise this [the program] with council as a residents' association?

**A:** Certainly. That would be great.

**Q:** West Lakes is being promoted as good for fishing. Has any investigation been done of what is in the gut of fishes in the lake?

**A:** To my knowledge it hasn't been done yet – it's a problem of resources. Documenting this is a good idea. I've been asked to 'eco-credit' fish. But it comes down to power and money.

**Q:** Is all rubber synthetic?

**A:** Yes, the bulk of it.

**Q:** There is a start-up company in Perth which has developed a product out of seaweed that could replace plastic.

**A:** Yes, other research is also being done on this. But the problem is the plastics that are already in our system.

**Q:** Not all plastics are bad, do you agree?

**A:** Agreed, there are good and bad plastics. But fossil fuels are at the base of some plastics which is not good.

**Q:** There was a story about microplastics mimicking oestrogen and affecting male fertility. Do you know about that?

**A:** Certainly there is research around this, I'm not sure of the outcomes.

**Q:** Even if plastics become decomposable, we will need to work out a way to 'deplasticise' them. Do you have a timeline on this?

**A:** No. Beyond our lifetime.

**Further information:** <https://www.ausmap.org/>

**AUSMAP welcomes volunteers:** <https://www.ausmap.org/get-involved>

Motion of thanks: Sandy Ball

Seconded: Richard Smith

## General business items

### CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Andrea Rankin reporting

#### **'GROWING GREEN' submission**

28 June Council meeting: Council approved the adoption 'GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 – 2045' and agreed to put it out for public consultation.

Main goal of the strategy is: 'Let's make our City greener, cooler and healthier', with an increase in tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045. This canopy strategy is ambitious comparative to other councils and aims to address issues relating to climate change as well as the decline in canopy since 2008.

The 'GROWING GREEN' draft strategy was available for feedback in the 'Your Say' website (Charles Sturt) until Sunday 5 September: <https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy>

WACRA made a formal submission to Mark Hannan giving full agreement to the strategy Monday 6 September. You can read our submission in the Climate Emergency Group webpage:

<http://wacra.org.au/climate-emergency/>

#### **Nature Festival**

25 September – 4 October

Lots of events, mostly free: <https://www.naturefestival.org.au/>

#### **Festival of Climate Action**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1032294280643341>

15-17 October (Friday-Sunday) at Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga

To follow on from School Strike 4 Climate (SS4C) protest

This is a grassroots festival with everyone contributing to make it a success. Key contributors are Conservation SA, South Australian Student Environment Network (SASEN), Extinction Rebellion. You can make a presentation or volunteer. CEG is considering presenting information about the My Tree Project.

#### **Woodlake Reserve – Masterplan**

[www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/woodlake-reserve-masterplan](http://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/woodlake-reserve-masterplan)

A new project has launched on Your Say Charles Sturt. Council is working with JPE Design Studio on a Masterplan Design for Woodlake Reserve, West Lakes. They are inviting the community - that's you – to submit your ideas, vision and suggestions for enhancements for the reserve!

To find out more and contribute your ideas click on the link above.

#### **My Tree Project**

The project is fully underway with three primary schools eager to participate. Discussions about details of the implementation have been held with the principals and business managers at Kilkenny Primary School, West Beach Primary School and Grange Primary School, summary as follows.

- Students from Years 4/5 will join student leaders, teacher representatives and some parents in a workshop to propagate seeds of indigenous trees and plants late November this year
- Propagation tables and electronic watering will be established for continuing propagation
- Student leaders and teachers from the 3 schools will attend a forum in November of ideas related to trees and sustainability for inclusion in next year's curriculum, including biology, culture,

garden design, climate change and art. Representatives from SA Water, Trees for Life, Green Adelaide etc will present

- In first term 2022, all students will create an artwork about what a tree means to them
- Micro forests, butterfly attracting and/or bush tucker gardens will also be established at the schools
- Protective devices like fencing will be erected
- Midyear 2022, some/all students will be involved in a tree planting day as well as a launch of the artworks at their schools and in community centres
- Students, parents, community groups, school grounds persons will tend the trees and gardens.
- Information and progress will be relayed to other primary schools in the western region for their likely adoption in the future

#### **State Government planning – Urban Tree Canopy Off-set Scheme** (Jim Douglas reporting)

[https://dpti.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/801482/Urban\\_Tree\\_Canopy\\_Off-set\\_Scheme.pdf](https://dpti.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/801482/Urban_Tree_Canopy_Off-set_Scheme.pdf)

If a regulated or significant tree is identified on a land block, the developer must notify council. They can either plant a number of trees in a specified location or make a required payment – so much per tree. The scheme is not working to increase tree canopy. What is happening is that the funds being raised are being manipulated by state government to use in other areas.

Mark Hannan of Charles Sturt Council is aware that the scheme is not working, and Mayor Angela Evans has spoken out about this issue. She is also speaking on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA). The scheme needs review.

WACRA will work with council in whatever endeavours they take to change that process. We have provided a supporting letter to council for Community Alliance SA's push for changes to the Planning and Design Code <https://code.plan.sa.gov.au/>. View the letter: <http://wacra.org.au/council-connect/>

#### **Invitation to join CEG**

<http://wacra.org.au/climate-emergency/>

If you are passionate about our local environment and climate change issues, please join us. We are committed to working with others to make a difference.

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

Geoff Short reporting

#### **West Beach-Semaphore Sand Replenishment Project**

- 34,000m<sup>3</sup> delivered from Semaphore breakwater to North of West Beach SLSC
- 20,000m<sup>3</sup> delivered from between Semaphore and Largs jetties to the southern part of West Beach
- Remaining planned 36,000m<sup>3</sup> from north of Largs jetty deferred & won't be part of the current program – access more difficult and expensive than expected
- 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of Mt Compass quarry sand is being delivered to West Beach (between the boat harbour and the SLSC) from mid-August to end September
- 200,000m<sup>3</sup> more will be dumped in front of and to the North of the SLSC. Work will be Mon-Fri for seven months
- There will be a full/empty truck pass approximately every 6 minutes
- The development application for the pipeline is expected to be lodged in October, followed by 4 weeks public notification. Construction to commence January 2022 and be completed early

2023. It is unclear whether/when/how construction of the northern section will be paired with construction of Stage 1 of the Coastal Linear Park (Third Ave Semaphore Park to northern edge of Wara Wayingga-Tennyson Dunes Conservation Reserve)

- WACRA has written to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW)/Coast Protection Board (CPB) with concerns about the manifest inadequacy of the Phase 2 Impact Statement on the pipeline prepared by Coastal Environment/Salients. No response from either organisation
- Next Community Reference Group meeting 20 October to discuss the development application and revised pipeline plans

#### **Linear Park shared coastal pathway**

- WACRA met with representatives of the Coastal Ecology Protection Group (CEPG)
- Submissions in relation to a concept plan closed 24 September (proposes that the pathway at the northern end partly goes onto Seaview Road)
- WACRA supports a declaration of a Linear Park from Terminus to Bournemouth Streets
- State government failed to provide sufficient information on probable environmental/vegetation damage
- State government failed to provide sufficient information on the sand pumping pipeline alignment
- WACRA indicated that an inclusive consultation process must be put in place to discuss issues of concern

#### **Torrens River Breakout Creek**

- Survey work is ongoing for construction
- Various wetland plant species identified and planting has commenced in various locations
- Start on development dependent on weather/rain events
- State government promises to commence in this spring

#### **Parliamentary inquiry into Coast Protection Board**

- ERD Committee has received 54 written submissions, including WACRA's 12 page one
- Seven public hearings with evidence from 12 individuals/organisations, including WACRA's evidence on 21 June 2021
- Final hearings to hear from State Planning Commission, CPB and DEW
- Plan to report to Parliament before the end of the year

### **COUNCIL CONNECT AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Antunes Drain** (Paul Laris reporting)

- 10 years now
- 5 December is booked for the Antunes case in court
- Meanwhile the department plans to do the work themselves (3-week process)

#### **Library Hub development** (Jim Douglas reporting)

- WACRA met with council (Bruce Williams and Sarah Maddock) – they are short of the money for this development but want to sell some property to raise the funds. Problem here is what might be built on these sites
- Council has engaged architects to go beyond the conceptual designs
- Will they be able to fit in all the programs run in the current community centre?
- Car parking and open space issues

Paul Laris suggested that council could consider joining with a reliable developer to provide public housing in Charles Sturt. Jim Douglas proposed that WACRA raise the issue of the need for more affordable and public housing with council. Local government could play a significant role in working

with the state government to ensure homes and rentals are made available, as the situation is becoming increasingly hard for renters and first home buyers.

#### **History Book grant** (Jim Douglas and Andrea Rankin reporting)

- WACRA has made an application to History SA for a grant of up to \$2,300 to print up to 100 copies of the 'Listen to the People' History Book (1970-2020)
- The final draft of the book has just completed being proofread by our qualified editor Andrea Rankin (a BIG thanks)
- The photos are being added to the stories this week and final formatting/styles will be created using a Word template so that the book looks professional and is easily read
- We are hopeful that we will win the grant and that we can launch the book by end of year
- It will also be an ebook

#### **Feedback on August newsletter**

- Good read
- Links are good (to videos etc)
- Good way to spread the word about WACRA
- Mailchimp works well (less work)
- History is good – other issues could emphasise this

#### **City of Charles Sturt Cultural/Arts Plan** (Jim Douglas reporting)

- Council has an Arts Policy but does not have a dedicated arts officer
- Council via their Place Makers team are responsible for developing an extensive Arts and Cultural Plan; WACRA has expressed an interest in being a part of future discussions
- There will be community consultation

#### **AOB**

##### **Trees**

Feedback re trees – City of Marion is putting a lot of money into planting trees over the next 7 years. The *GROWING GREEN* strategy is longer term (to 2045) and we won't be here!

Issue of verge trees – no obligation if owner doesn't want the tree

Valetta Reserve – council doesn't want to plant a tree as 'it takes away the ambience of the reserve'

Ringbarking of a street tree on Charles Sturt Avenue in front of a new build (tree now removed)

##### **General meetings**

How can we communicate with our members etc at these general meetings? Geoff Short suggested that a summary could go to our membership via email and we could have more time for discussion and input at the meetings instead of just reporting.

**Next meeting:** Thursday 2 December 7pm <http://wacra.org.au/news-events/meetings/>

*Meeting closed 9.08 pm*