



H11 and H12 Community Action Group

Planning Meeting

31st May 2010



Facilitators: Geoff Park and Beth Mellick, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Participants: John Malin (Chair), Bill Sharp (Facilitator), Bill Weatherly, Richard Jamieson, James Richardson, David Allen, Michelle Casanova, Una Allender, Peter Forster, Gabriel Lammon (DSE), Dion Bourke (DPI), John McDougal (Southern Farming Systems)

History of Project/reason for the group:

- Concern over the condition of Lake Bolac
- Concern over management issues with Lake Bolac
- Eels dying in Lake Bolac
- Interest from Eel Festival
- Misinformation circulating community about catchment issues, need for facts
- Disconnection between upper catchment and Lake Bolac
- Drying of Lake Bolac having a social impact on the community – no boating, fishing or tourism
- Need to think of the catchment as a whole

Key Achievements:

- Landholder engagement by individuals
- Increased environmental awareness in the community – anecdotal evidence of change
- Collecting facts, information and historical data together and documenting
- The formation of the group itself
- Getting money in
- On ground works
- The way the group has worked with the community
- The group's structure and commitment and continuity
- Government representative and relationships built
- Income of around \$200,000 over the last five years

What has not worked so well:

- Disconnection with landholders in the upper part of the catchment
- lack of strength in landcare groups
- Lack of interest from landholders
- Lack of knowledge by landholders (fear, apathy)
- Landholders often not thinking big picture
- Narrow demographic
- Lack of interest in study results – not lead to active involvement in the group

- Link not made to profitability for farmers
- Lack of indigenous involvement
- Long complicated name

Picture the catchment in 20 years:

- Removal of Lake Bolac's adjustable spillway, restoring natural flows
- Wetlands existing
- Increased community involvement and awareness
- Farming is both productive and sustainable for biodiversity
- Lake Bolac township to expand and the small towns in the region to connect
- Larger farms
- Ecosystem services and market-based instruments
- Increase in precise and usable technology
- Decrease in agency staff and increase in environmental consultants, privatisation of ecoservices
- Well fenced catchment
- Increased water quality
- Wetlands protected and maintained eg biodiversity payments to farmers
- Better documentation of environmental assets, both hard copy and web-based
- Rewards for good management
- Good mix of productivity and biodiversity
- Increase in biodiversity
- Increase in shelter belts and wildlife corridors
- Increase in social interaction within the catchment including schools
- Limit to commercial forestry
- Use of underground water to fill Lake Bolac
- Expansion of Beaufort
- Increase in hobby farmers and lifestylers
- Increased facilities to support rural towns
- Decrease in farm dams
- Increase fire occurrences, asset protection
- Increase in soil health through better farming practices
- Farm forestry
- Increase in local government involvement
- Reduced farm animals – meat vs fibre
- Commercial use of protected creeks
- Wind towers, solar power
- Crops and pasture and vegetation adapted to hotter, drier climate
- Carbon crops
- Corporate farms
- GPS technology
- Precision farming
- All water courses fenced

Strategies – HOW	Responsibility – WHO	Timeframe – WHEN	Indicators of success - how will we know if it's working	Key tasks/actions – WHAT
1. Develop relationship with schools	H11 and H12 Sub-committee, school representative, parents	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation by the community in H11 and H12 meetings • Increase in public meetings • increased use of the media • Use of a H11 and H12 website • Use of the cwmp * • relationship built with school community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce school program • Produce document/brochure to accompany school program • Program to include talks, walks, workshops etc
2. Site planning and mapping	H11 and H12 Facilitator, committee members (peers), Southern Farming Systems	Over next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of past works and a plan for the future produced • Increased involved from landholders in onground works and project work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map past works • Map ideas for future works • Use the cwmp to collect data • Work with the upper catchment groups to learn about site planning process • Research and monitoring • Develop a prospectus with achievable projects
3. Monitoring, information management and IT	H11 and H12 Facilitator, extra staff, school students, DPI	Over next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data available in one place (clearing house) and easily accessible • Data being used by community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link website on landcare gateway • Keep website up-to-date • Develop a system for archiving and storing data • Gather new data (as per number 2)

* Community web mapping portal (cwmp) developed by Spatial Vision and used by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation projects

These notes prepared by Beth Mellick, Executive Officer, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation, beth@nwf.org.au