



Lake User Group (LUG)

Trim 214748

Wednesday 3 December 2014 - 9:00 am

ADFA Rowing Shed, Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla Bay

Summary Record of Meeting

Welcome and Apologies

The Temporary Chair (Nick Hunter) opened the meeting at 9:00am and welcomed all attending.

Participant List

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
	AIS Rowing		Triathlon ACT
	NCA		Lake Burley Griffin Cruises
	NCA		AFP
	Scouts ACT		Rowing ACT
	ADFA Boatshed		NMA (Paddle Steamer Enterprise)
	Jerrabomberra Wetlands Management Committee		Capital Region Fishing Alliance
	ACT Parks, Jerrabomberra Wetlands		Canberra on the water/ My2hooks
	WaterWatch, MCG & Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands		Southern Cross Cruises
	ANU Sport		Royal Life Saving Society ACT Guest Speaker

Apologies

- Canberra Yacht Club

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting of the Lake User Group (LUG) held on 10 September 2014 were accepted without amendment.

Discussion of actions arising from previous meeting: 10 September 2014

'Draft of the LUG Terms of Reference to be developed.'

Ongoing action item- Terms of Reference still to be drafted. James Hammond (previous LUG Chair) has not been able to be contacted. Once the 2015 LUG Chair position has been filled, work on the Terms of Reference will recommence by new Chair and Peter Beutel.

Love Lake Burley Griffin – 'Canberra's Drains are Just for the Rain'

Prior to the LUG meeting, the launch of the Community Engagement Strategy #LoveLBG took place outside the ADFA rowing shed. While no media attended, the response has been very positive to the idea that all Canberra's can play a part in improving the quality of the water in the stormwater system which includes streams, creeks, wetlands and lakes. Lake Burley Griffin is a part of this system. Simple, practical things can be done to lower the impact of the urban runoff into the Lake which contributes to blue green algal blooms and bacterial contamination.

Posters, flyers and car stickers were distributed to those attending the meeting and all in the LUG are invited to become #LoveLBG Ambassadors. Supplies of these are available from the NCA reception.

Presentation on Safe Waters ACT 2014-2016 Action Plan – Guest speaker: Cherry O'Connor Royal Life Saving ACT

The Safe Waters ACT 2014-2016 Action Plan was presented to LUG by Cherry O'Connor, Executive Director, Royal Life Saving ACT. The Action Plan is a collaborative effort toward a whole of ACT approach to water safety in the ACT and focuses on three priority areas. These are:

- People;
- Places; and
- Challenges.

Within each of these priorities relevant localised objectives are identified through various sub-areas. Previous local aquatic incidents have influenced the development of the Action Plan and places the spotlight on areas of significant risk within our community.

Recreational water users are encouraged to use life jackets when out on the urban waters of Canberra. The notion that Canberra's lakes are not dangerous and that it is not necessary to wear life jackets has given a false sense of security to many users. There have been drowning deaths and near misses in Canberra's lakes in the past and some of these may have been prevented had life jackets been worn. Education and awareness are needed to carry the message of wearing life jackets.

A copy of the Safe Water ACT 2014-2016 Action Plan is attached for your information. The priority area of particular relevance to the Lake User Group and areas around the ACT is *Places: Open and Urban Waterways*.

Items for Discussion

a) NCA Update – Peter Beutel

Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality, 2014

ACT Health has reviewed the ACT Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality and the 2014 version of the document is now current. There have been some changes to how the Guidelines affect the management of recreational activities on Lake Burley Griffin, the most notable being that after an area has been closed to Primary Contact recreation due to bacterial contamination; two consecutive clear samples are required before it can be reopened.

The new ACT Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality, 2014 are available for download from the ACT Government website at:

<http://health.act.gov.au/health-services/population-health/health-protection-service/recreational-water-quality/>

Maritime Training School

The NCA is currently considering a commercial boat permit application for a maritime training school.

Water Abstraction from the Lake

As of 19 December 2014 the ACT Government will be responsible for the abstraction of water from Lake Burley Griffin under the Water Management Resources ACT.

Water abstraction for all ACT lakes is under license. If anyone happens to see a water truck taking water from the lake, there is a small chance that this is being done illegally. Peter Beutel asked the LUG members that if this activity is being witnessed, please get any details that you can – car registration, company name, location etc. Photos would be very helpful. Pass these on to Peter Beutel for investigation.

Black Mountain Peninsula Slipway

The Land Development Agency (LDA) has confirmed construction of the slipway will start February 2015 with completion in June/July 2015.

Risks of Cold Water in Lake Burley Griffin

The NCA is currently drafting a response to a letter requesting that signs be installed advising of the risks of cold water in Lake Burley Griffin. The risk of cold water is widely known by many experienced lake users. More signs around that Lake are not expected to be effective in reducing the number of persons adversely affected by cold water. Life jackets and being aware of the conditions are areas in which clubs can educate members to assist in reducing the risks.

Summer schedule for Cleaning of Jetties

During the summer season the jetties on the Lake are being cleaned weekly on Fridays.

b) **General Lake Update – Peter Beutel**

The NCA General Lake Maintenance work and program was distributed to LUG members prior to the meeting.

AFP Update: SGT Paul Cartwright, AFP, SRG Maritime

The Lake has become busier in recent weeks, coinciding with the warmer weather, particularly in the afternoons.

Incidents over the past period have included:

- Rescues including Dragon Boat events
- Other club based events
- Snowy Hydro Southcare helicopter training
- 2 unrelated deaths

Deployment of resources to the G20 Summit and Solomon Island elections

The number of boat safety inspections for AMSA certifications have increased, as have the number of spot checks performed by the AFP water police. Most of the inspected craft have complied with requirements.

AFP would like to remind all commercial boat operators that they are responsible for the total number of passengers on board and that at no time is the maximum number of persons to be exceeded. Additionally, vessel documentation must be available and current for review by the AFP at anytime whilst on the water and on the spot fines will be issued to those who cannot provide these.

During events and competitions the AFP will endeavour to be considerate and will pass competitors at an appropriate speed, but request that competitors understand that they have a job to do.

Other Business:

Nominations for Lake User Group Chair 2015

Nominations are now open for the Chair position of the Lake User Group. The Chair will hold the position for 12 months. Please nominate a candidate or self nominate by 17 December 2014 to LUG@natcap.gov.au. Once the Chair has been selected, the Terms of Reference draft process will begin again.

Proposed meeting dates and venues for LUG meetings 2015

Following the positive response of holding the December LUG meeting at the ADFA Rowing Shed, other venues are being considered for other future LUG meetings. The proposed meeting dates for the LUG Meetings are:

- Wednesday 4 March 2015 (Venue: AFP Water Police Office at Yarralumla Bay)
- Wednesday 3 June 2015 (Venue: M.V. Southern Cross)
- Wednesday 2 September 2015 (Venue: To Be Advised)
- Wednesday 2 December 2015 (Venue: To Be Advised)

LUG would like to thank ADFA for allowing the NCA to hold the #LoveLBG launch and the LUG December meeting at the ADFA rowing Sheds.

Meeting Closed: 9:45am

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING – 3 December 2014

#LoveLBG Ambassador Packs	Additional stock of posters, flyers and car stickers are available from the NCA Reception.
Call for 2015 Chair nominations	Nominations for the 2015 LUG Chair are to be submitted to LUG@natcap.gov.au before COB 17 December 2014.
LUG Terms of Reference	Following the appointment of the 2015 LUG Chair, the process of drafting the LUG Terms of Reference will recommence.