

# The 'origins' of "MCC" – a Timeline!

# Late 1995

- Public Meeting, initiated by Don Cameron (Gingin), held in Moora to discuss the issue of water movement and environmental issues in the Moore River catchment and possible formation of a catchment group.

Arose from concerns that deep drainage in the Yarra Yarra catchment may result in saline water being delivered into the Moore River catchment and the downstream Moore River via the lakes and drainage system that terminates in Yarra Yarra Lake at Three Springs (above the start of Coonderoo river system)

# 1996

Discussions on forming a “Catchment Group” continued between interested parties and with the Water and Rivers Commission.

# 1997

Open workshops initiated by Dept of Agriculture (Duncan Peter) to develop a vision, aims/objectives and structure of a Moore River catchment group.

Viv Reed from Water and Rivers Commission as the facilitator. Members of the 8 Shires in the catchment, LCDCs, land managers with an interest in catchment issues (NRM) and relevant govt agencies (CALM, Dept of Ag) attended.

# 1997 continued

Catchment Management Group to be called the **Moore River Basin Initiative Steering Committee.**

Structure of committee set as 2 representatives from each of the 8 shires (shire council nominee and a community member) plus representatives from the Water and Rivers Commission, Dept of Agriculture, and CALM. Chair to be elected from within the Shire (= community) representatives.

# Also in 1997

Yarra Yarra Catchment Group formed with Max Hudson as Chair.

Dept of Agriculture (Dr Jill Wilson) initiated formation of further potential Catchment groups in West Midlands and Greenough.

Formation of NAIMS (predecessor of NACC) initiated by Dept of Agriculture with the idea of there being 4 sub-regions – Greenough, West Midlands, Moore Catchment and Yarra Yarra Catchment. Max Hudson was the community leader and subsequently chair.

# Also in 1997 - continued

MRBISC Strategy incorporated in a draft NAIMS strategy

# 1997 continued

Don Cameron, from Gingin, elected as first chair of the “MRBISC”

Outcomes from the planning workshops were incorporated into a MRBISC strategy

Submissions made to Natural Heritage trust for funding



# 1998

Name of group reconsidered and the name 'Moore Catchment Group' chosen

Constitution of MCG developed, submitted and approved.

Further applications for "National Heritage Trust" (Landcare) funds submitted to Australian Government

# 1998 - continued

NHT submissions made by Water & Rivers Commission (with MCC assistance) successful and work commenced on –

- evaluating ground water movement in the Coonderoo system
- monitoring water quality in the Moore River estuary

# 1998 - continued

MCG commissioned as a committee of the Board of the Water and Rivers Commission and annual funding of \$40,000 approved for management and running of the group.

# 1999

## Moora flooded!!!

Large submission from Coorow LCDC to establish revegetation in the Marchagee sub-catchment (successful)

# 1999

Don Cameron, the inaugural chair of the Moore Catchment Group resigned and stepped down from the committee due to personal issues

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Michael Anspach (Victoria Plains) elected chair with Elizabeth Eaton (Gingin; subsequently chair of NACC) as vice-chair

# 2000

NHT submissions made for funding to

- manage water movement in the north Moore River Catchment to reduce flooding (successful);
- fence the river on Mogumber Aboriginal Reserve (successful).

# 2001

Project on 'Surface water management in the north Moore River catchment' commenced.

Jason Carter (private consultant) appointed as project manager.

Project very successful in engaging landholders in NRM

Funds for fencing on Mogumber returned due to conflicts with CALM over fence location.

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# 2001

Jonelle Black (funded through WRC & NHT) developed a new Moore Catchment Group Strategy – ‘Getting Moore to the Point’

This strategy was developed from a Water and Rivers Commission viewpoint and has a somewhat greater focus on ‘water’ than on ‘land’ ‘agriculture’ and ‘biodiversity’.



# 2002

East Moore River project commenced with management by MCG and use of sub-contractors for work.

(Not a total success and substantial funds eventually returned to NHT)

# 2002 continued

Water and Rivers Commission ceased funding of MCG

Name changed from -

“Moore Catchment Group (MCG)”

to

“Moore Catchment Council (MCC)”

(thought to be more “official”)

Constitution revised.

# 2003-04

NACC granted significant NHT and State funding. Two members of the MCC committee on NACC Management Committee

MCC became the 'host employer' of two NACC NRM officers who operated largely under the direction of NACC staff.

MCC sought and obtained funding for its own NHT projects from both NACC and NHT directly.

# 2004

MCC employed staff to operate its own MCC projects

(Did not differentiate between staff 'employed' as NRMOs and managed by NACC and those employed directly by MCC.)

Facilitated workshops held for developing a business plan. Large SWAT analysis carried out and draft plan developed but final plan not fully completed.

2005

NACC Regional NRM Strategy released

# 2007

Third revision of constitution carried out

Geoff Erickson (Victoria Plains) replaced Michael Anspach as chair

Management structure of NACC altered so as policy and non-operational matters managed by a much smaller skill-based Board and without sub-regional representation being essential. MCC retained 2 members on the Board

# 2008

New contract signed with NACC for employment of 2 NRM officers (still in reality a hosting arrangement) and delivery of C4OC outcomes for NACC. Majority of funding provided by NACC from Australian Govt “Caring for our Country”

MCC runs its own Caring for our Country and State NRM projects

# 2009

Business plan developed under guidance of  
MCC committee member, John Braid.

New CEO at NACC and NACC structure



# 2010

Revised contract signed with NACC which saw MCC sub-contracting to deliver 'Caring for our Country Outcomes' for NACC

NRM officers became 'genuine' MCC employers answerable directly to MCC rather than NACC

# 2011

Several contracts signed with NACC for delivering targets in differing components of 'Caring for our Country'

(Failure to meet agreed contract outcomes (targets) in one contract and subsequent with-holding of further payments by NACC for that contract does not mean total cessation of payments by NACC, provided outcomes (targets) of other contracts are met. )

Reg Beale replaces Geoff Erickson as Chair

# 2012

Constitution revised to try and meet quorum requirements for meeting – unsuccessful

NACC contract funding ceases at the end of the year as C4OC comes to an end

MCC committee agree that the funding and function of the organisation be examined with a view to developing a possible plan for future funding, operations and new management structure.

2013 ?????