

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VINCENTIA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION/VINCENTIA'S CCB HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL VINCENTIA ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present

There were 45 ratepayers and residents at the meeting. Names and addresses are recorded in the attendance book.

Councillors White, Kitchener and Tribe were present as well as Stephen Murphy from Huskisson's Voice and Andrew Harvey

Meeting Opened

President Bob Proudfoot opened the meeting at 7.30pm welcoming members, new members and guests.

Apologies

Barbara Liddle, Robert Dunn, Angela and Stephen Andersson, Anne and Paul Spira, Jan and David Coogan, John Levadetes, Norm and Roslyn Vickery, Lyndal Lawless, Clair Proudfoot, Walter and Lyn Boscoscuro, Len Murray, The Mayor Councilor J.Gash, S Easterbrook, Caroline Lamb, Marian Wilson.

Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved on a motion of Col Poulter seconded Tony Thompson that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday October 15, 2015 be confirmed, carried.

Professor Pia Winberg gave a Webinar regarding seaweed in Jervis Bay but the transmission was poor and the webinar had to be cancelled.

Andrew Harvey addressed the meeting on the history of mussel production in Jervis Bay. He advised that if we wish to eat seafood, we need to take responsibility in its sustainably. Mussels can only be farmed in calm waters as the weather precludes farming in the open ocean. Sydney is not appropriate for their production as there is too much "run off" causing adverse polluting effects in mussel farming.

The technique planned for Jervis Bay used long lines to grow the mussels rather than rafts.

He questioned the positions of the proposed farms due to the issues caused by easterly swell.

He explained the growth cycle of a mussel from spawn to harvest size takes two years. He also said he had experience in experimental pearl growing in the Jervis Bay, with good results. His talk was informative and interesting.

Mr Harvey was warmly thanked for his informative talk by the members.

Correspondence Inward

The Secretary read the following items of inward correspondence

- Email from council pertaining to the Orion Beach path.
- Email from Lilian Hutchison pertaining to Community Safety Planning.
- Email from Stephen Murphy of Huskisson asking permission to attend our next meeting to hear Dr. Pia Winberg speak.
- Email from Dr. Pia Winberg pertaining to seaweed production and research in the Shoalhaven.
- Email from Ken Price pertaining to the Collingwood Beach vegetation.
- Email from SCC containing DA's.
- Emails from John Picot pertaining to changes in the About Magazine.
- Email from SCC informing residents on the steps required to get issues of maintenance addressed.
- Email from SCC regarding the familiarity tour.
- Email from SCC regarding closure of current access road to the Shoalhaven Leisure Centre at Vincentia.
- Email from Louise Marr regarding the road works in the Woolies development.
- Emails from members regarding issues SE require maintenance.
- Email from Clive Robertson offering assistance with CAPEX issues we might have.
- Email from Treasurer enclosing his monthly report.
- Email from John Picot regarding the missing hard drive, owned by the VRRRA.
- Email from SCC regarding the Bayswood Audit of Consent.
- Emails from Ian McCausland and John Picot regarding a Code of Practice for the VRRRA/CCB.
- Email from Mr. R Pigg regarding SCC being "Fit for the Future".
- Email from Bob Pullinger regarding a Safety programme "Little Blue Dinosaur.
- Email from Bob Pullinger regarding the Insurance Renewal for the VRRRA.
- Email from SCC relating to the Kiosk event at Collingwood Beach.
- Email from Bob Pullullinger regarding the payment of the annual grant from SCC.
- Multiple emails from the About Magazine regarding changes in our community notice.
- 25 Media releases from SCC.

Correspondence Outward

- Email sent to members regarding the vegetation at Collingwood Beach and the Kiosk event for this beach.

- Emails sent to members regarding how they can access SCC for maintenance matters.
- Email sent to Mr. Pigg at SCC enclosing VRRRA minutes for meeting held on October 15, 2015.
- Email sent to Mr. Pigg at SCC enclosing VRRRA/CCB motions passed at the above meeting.
- 2 reminder emails regarding the November meeting of VRRRA /CCB.
- Email sent to Stephen Murpy from Huskisson, inviting him to our November Meeting.

Resolved on a motion of Ken Buckley and seconded by Jasminka Vukelic that the correspondence be accepted

A question was raised by *David Wagstaff* regarding the omission in the outward correspondence regarding an email sent to all members. Below is the email and a summary of the discussion.

Dear fellow members,

We write to re-affirm the status of the VRRRA/CCB as the officially recognized Shoalhaven City Council Community Consultative Body.

As you are aware our committee was elected unopposed with any reference to a “takeover” being deliberately deceptive.

Our meetings are public, conducted in an open and honest manner, with respect from the chair shown at all times.

Now, we have the situation where another group has been formed. This group, who go by the name of Vincentia Matters, is a self-appointed, non-elected, elitist group, made up of some disgruntled former committee members.

Their first meeting is by invitation only which further adds to the elitist tag. In addition to all of this is our real concern regarding privacy issues related to VRRRA membership email addresses, as well as the missing VRRRA hard-drive, for which we have engaged legal counsel.

Finally, we do look forward to your continued support as we all work together in a fully recognized democratic forum for the benefit Vincentia.

*Bob Proudfoot
President*

*Peter Gaffey
Secretary*

The omission was an oversight.

The robust discussion as to the contents of this email are noted below.

- President Proudfoot had been contacted by a number of disgruntled members regarding the non-return of the members’ hard drive. Mr Proudfoot was obligated to act. He sought legal advice and sent an email via the Secretary (Peter Gaffey) to all members informing them:-
 1. The VRRRA/CCB is the only Consultative Community Body in Vincentia.
 2. All members of the committee were democratically elected.
 3. We are transparent.
 4. Legal counsel has been sought to advise the VRRRA/CCB’s legal position in this situation.
 5. Following these actions, he has issued communication to ALL members via email as to the situation at hand.
 6. Mr Proudfoot informed the meeting that if there was a fee for this service he would cover its cost.

Mr. Proudfoot used the term “and that’s it”. Bruce McKenzie (member and Chairperson of “Vincentia Matters”) asked for clarification on this term. Mr. Proudfoot replied that he could not guarantee that the matter was finalized but he had little complaints following the sending of the email.

David Wagstaff wanted to be assured that the electronic data is being backed up “off-site” as a similar issue has occurred in another group where a change in secretary saw a complete loss of the electronic information.

Bob Pullinger noted that the Code of Practice had already taken this issue to task and has suggested a good and multiple back up system.

TREASURERS REPORT - VRRRA INC - NOV '15 MEETING

Treasurer’s Report was given by Bob Pullinger

“Finances are in a fairly flat projection” with about \$1900 in the bank at the end of the year.

Resolved on a motion of Bob Pullinger seconded Tony Thompson that the Treasurers Report be accepted, carried

• General Business

The President, Bob Proudfoot gave a report on the tour around Vincentia with the Mayor and Council staff. At the Bayswood stop, Bob raised the two vexing issues with Council namely the need for a swing set and the need for drainage in the park. These matters were taken on by Council staff and we look forward to a positive response on behalf of the ratepayers and residents of Bayswood.

Motions Moved

1 Members contribute and enable formulation of a list of preferences regarding maintenance of the Vincentia area.

Suggestions raised at the committee meeting were:-

BBQ facility at Plantation Point Reserve needs to be repaired.

Toilets at the Holden St. boat ramp and Plantation Point Reserve need upgrading to bring them to the “Huskisson Standard”.

Broken bollard at Church St.

Moved Lance Sewell, seconded Jo Pullinger carried.

2. Linkage of the Villages around the Bay.

a. The VRRRA/CCB ask Council to continue to link villages by development of a tourist precinct adjacent to Club Jervis Bay and continue the ability to cycle on a continuous bike path especially in the Twyford and Vincent Street areas.

Moved Lance Sewell, seconded Jo Pullinger carried

b. The VRRRA/CCB also asks Council to construct a cycle bridge over Currambene Creek connecting Huskisson to Callala Beach. Moved Bob Proudfoot, seconded, Peter Gaffey.

A vote of 14 in favor and 5 against saw this motion carried.

3 Contact Council regarding control of *Pittosporum Undulatum* in the Vincentia area

Write to Council regarding the scientific evidence regarding the monoculture growth with *Pittosporum Undulatum*. There is ample evidence that if this issue is left unattended, *Pittosporum Undulatum* will dominate where earthworks have been done along the Orion Beach path. This is already evident on the land on Orion Beach foreshore following poisoning regime carried out by Council's contractors. *Pittosporum Undulatum* is the fastest species to germinate in this area.

The VRRRA/CCB asks Council to put this species in the Vincentia area, on a "programme" to stop it becoming a monoculture and degrading the present natural habitat.

Moved Lance Sewell, seconded Jo Pullinger carried.

4 Suggestions for CAPITAL WORKS (CAPEX)

Council would like our Association formulate a list of 5 capital works we consider needy for attention

1. Water Bubblers to be placed along the Collingwood and Orion Beach Pathways as a simple health and comfort issue.

2. Additional BBQ facilities to be created at Plantation Point Reserve to cope with the high demand for these facilities.

3. All storm water outlets to have rock baffles places at their openings to prevent needle erosion in the event of high water flow. This process can be modeled on the Twyford Street storm water exit which operates very efficiently at times of large rainfalls without leading to erosion around its exit.

4. Address "ponding issues" evident along Elizabeth Drive near Moona Moona Creek in time of rain. These ponds form quickly, are dangerous to traffic and are extremely slow to dissipate.

5. Urgent attention needs to be given to a sensible upgrade of the Vincentia Village Mall to allow the transition of the Woolworths complex to occur without commercial destruction of this Mall.

This Mall is the original Mall for Vincentia and gives it a "village appeal". We ask Council to be mindful that all these business people have suffered severe downturns already in business due to road works centered on the Woolworth's Complex.

An upgrade to the toilets and appeal of the central court yard would be a great help.

Moved Lance Sewell, seconded Jo Pullinger carried.

There was no update on from Orion Beach as Council has not corresponded with Col Poulter regarding the vegetation height issue. He patiently awaits a reply.

Code of Practice Update

The President Bob Proudfoot said that the sub-committee has come a long way in its endeavor to overhaul this matter. It is now at a stage of development that it is ready to go out to the members to get their view on this matter. He would like the document to be condensed to a one page document. He anticipates it will be in April – May to have this document finalized to send to Council.

Tidy Town

The VRRRA/CCB asks council can they assist in giving direction as to how we can proceed to enter this statewide competition. We feel it would do more than just “pick up rubbish” as it would create and engender civic pride and ownership to our village.

Vincentia as a certified RV Friendly Village

The members see the usefulness of having Vincentia declared “RV Friendly”. This would allow RV and Caravaners to dispose of “grey /black water” and also have access to fresh water for their needs. Can Council offer assistance with this matter.

CCB Executive meeting was attended by Dawn Thompson and Roslyn Vickery, who gave the below overview.

CCB EXECUTIVE MEETING OVERVIEW 11/11/15

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The General Manager Mr Russ Pigg welcomed and addressed the meeting, his presentation focused mainly on “Fit For the Future”. This has been a State Government initiative where councils have been encouraged and offered funding to voluntary merge with other councils. Shoalhaven city council has been assessed as being “fit” and IPART supports SCC as “stand alone”

Council supports membership of the Illawarra (Shoalhaven) Joint Organization.

Final Report - Assessment of Council Fit for the Future proposals-October 2015.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On display at VRRRA/CCB November meeting.

ASSET AND WORKS Ben Stewart

Some of the works and projects undertaken locally include:-

- * Sanctuary Point Skate Park \$166,000 Federal Government funding by Dep. Infrastructure and Regional Development.

A total of approximately \$3.5 million has been allocated to priority projects including:-

- * Upgrade of Huskisson wharf including improved recreational access.
- * Upgrade to boat ramp and car /trailer parking and install pontoon at Sanctuary Point.
- * Investigation into preferred site for upgrade ramp, parking and installation of pontoon at Sussex Inlet.
- * Huskisson Beach Holiday Park--3 new 4way ensuite units being installed.
- * The community paths program.

Maintenance requests program for roads

The community can report issues through the council's website, phoning email or letter e.g. potholes, cracked pathways, blocked drains, overhanging vegetation, amenity building and park furniture. This will assist in the scheduling of maintenance activities. A workflow or job is created for work crews to action. High risk issues are given priority and allocated accordingly e.g. pothole on a high speed or high traffic flow road would be given priority.

website <http://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/My-Property/Report-a-problem/Maintenance-request>
phone Shoalhaven Council 4429 3111 to report maintenance issues.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT Tim Fletcher

Huskisson Foreshore Master Plan:- workshops where 50 people attended have been held, consultants are now working to formalise detailed options for 59 Owen Street and the precinct. The consultants will then meet again with the reference group. The community will then have the opportunity to have their say when the preferred option goes on display for public exhibition.

THE IMPACT OF THE AUGUST 2015 FLOOD

Currambene Creek Navigational Channel.

Survey confirmed that that the August flood removed sand from the creek in such a way that the channel was naturally dredged by the flood. Only rock and 17m² remains to be removed to achieve previously set navigation improvement objectives. Sand is no longer available for beach nourishment at Callala Beach.

SHOALHAVEN WATER Carmel Krogh

6.5 million is to be spent on Porters Creek Dam, this includes 3.6km of road.

CCB GUIDELINES AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP Jessica Rippon

Improvements to Date:-

- * CCB Newsletter.
- * Maintenance request system (as previously mentioned).
- * Councillor Familiarity tours: - Councillors meet with the community over a BBQ with CCB representatives. Councillors familiarize themselves with certain areas, in particular, the concerns raised by the CCB. Issues addressed by Vincentia CCB included the Holden Street toilets that will now be given a facelift.

The Workshop was focused on CCB guidelines, roles and responsibilities, clarity on process and expectations. In regard to a "Health Check for CCBs" Question that were suggested included

"How can a CCB know they are doing well?" "How can a CCB learn about areas for improvement?"

"How can a CCB recognize their achievements and communicate this to council?"

Bob Pullinger gave a report on the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group "CBPG" as seen below

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group "CBPG" as a subcommittee of the Community Consultative Body "CCB" in respect of the Coastal Zone Management Plan "CZMP".

Mission Statement. "The purpose of the group is to share knowledge, ideas, and potential solutions. The group will foster communication amongst beachfront owners and other concerned users of the beach on matters vital to preserving the amenity of Collingwood Beach, both as a place to live as well as a place for others to enjoy"

15th November 2015

COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP "CBPG".

Progress Report to the CCB - October 2015.

1. Sea Level Rise Policy- consequences on hazard lines.

No further action. Await result of application for OEI grant to redraw lines. Expected for 2016-17.

2. Collaboration with Shoalhaven Council.

Await feedback on status of motions from CCB requesting supply of soft copies of critical reports identified by Council in the evolution of the coastal management plan. Includes the SMECC (2009), Worley & Parsons peer review "WP" (2011) and the Manly Hydraulics "MH" (2013) reports. Collaboration continues with Council.

It is planned to collaborate with staff on outcomes of November Coastal Conference.

The papers presented at the conference can be accessed from:-

<http://www.coastalconference.com/papers.php>

The link to the Coastal Reforms announced by Minister Rob Stokes on Nov 13th can be accessed from

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastreforms.htm>

3. "Our Coast - Our Lifestyle - Community Engagement".

The CBPG submitted a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for inclusion in the release of the Coastal Management engagement programme.

4. Dune Care Vegetation.

Kiosk was held over November 6th & 7th.

The CBPG members were encouraged to attend the Kiosk and submit feedback forms to Council.

The CBPG preferred option is option 3 with provision for grasses and shrubs between 1 and 1.5 metres. Research reflects, that despite considerable global research being carried out there is no proven science to indicate resilient sand dunes require tall trees with deep roots. The Queensland Environmental Protection Authority and Beach Protection Authority advice in their Technical Paper 2 states that vegetation roots can't resist wave action. Similarly one of the most recent research papers by the Texas A&M University reflects the status of the evolving global research which summarized "However, substantial knowledge gaps exist with regards to efficient vegetative restoration techniques and vegetation's role in dune resilience".

Meanwhile Shoalhaven is faced with the task of proposing a draft vegetation plan when the science is still evolving. Perhaps learn from the practices and experience of other sites in New Zealand, Tasmania, and Scotland etc. The CBPG has undertaken considerable research on the science and found there are just so many countries and locations applying the solution of grasses and shrubs. This demonstrates the opportunity available for Council to "add value" by collaboration with the highly qualified professionals who own properties but do not necessarily reside in Vincentia.

Next steps in the timeline for the vegetation plan are:

Dec 3rd Presentation of draft vegetation plan to Reference Group

Dec 8th Review of draft vegetation plan by Strategy and Assets Committee.

Mid Dec – mid Feb. Public exhibition of Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Plan.

5. Participation in case study for Association of Local Government. The CBPG has been approached to participate in a case study for the Association of Local Government on a toolkit for Coastal adaptation. The CBPG appraisal of the process and opportunity for participation is still work in progress.

6. Sand Reserves: - Collingwood Beach's greatest asset.

The results of initial survey of the sand dunes have been sent to Council. Outcomes from the survey reflect the edge of the veg on the dunes is overall further seaward (accreted) since the original mean high water mark used for the subdivision in 1952.

Next steps are to work with Council in comparing with Councils' photogrammetry records.

It must be remembered the very nature of the dunes is being a sacrificial buffer for storms. Thus comparison of surveys must be over a longer time frame than just one past experience.

The CBPG await feedback from Council on the CBPG's suggestion the survey process be shared as a common performance indicator for both Council and the CBPG.

7. Hazard lines.

As reported above, the redraw of the hazard lines will be subject to a grant from the OEH for 2016/17 budget year.

8. Sharing experiences, benchmarking and feedback from the Central Natural Resources Committee.

Nothing to report.

9. Request for consideration of an Estuary Management Plan for Moona Moona Creek.

Await feedback from Council.

10. Request for guidelines for promotion of a "slow down-holiday time" theme with Blue Dinosaur Group.

The Blue Dinosaur group have been in touch with the various levels of politics at Council and State Government. It is hopeful the promotion of the safety awareness for little ones with the signs for "Hold my hand" and "Slow down its holiday time" will be displayed on the cycle way over the Christmas holiday period.

Yours faithfully,

John Stuchbery

Chair CBPG

Following this update, a motion that the CCB/VRRRA adopt the sub committee's report and that the Minutes including the report be distributed to all Councilors' was moved by Bob Pullinger and seconded by Ed Jolley.

A vote was taken, 22 for and 1 against so the motion was carried.

Following this motion, Bob Pullinger gave a talk on the progress of the Blue Dinosaur safety project.

A motion was moved that the VRRRA/CCB write to Council endorsing this safety initiative and get the Association/Committee involved in where and when these signs are to be placed.

Moved Bob Pullinger, seconded Jasminka Vukelic. Carried

Meeting closed at 9.14pm.