



Dolphin Sands Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Apologies: David & Christina Galloway, Donna & Wes Button, Brenton Wheare

Present: Paul & Paula Hanson, Paul Walker, Yon Kikkert, Steve & Sue Barrett, Gary Stoward, Diane Flannigan, Gynes Isherwood, Denise Laird, Robyn Moore (minutes)

Meeting opened: 10am

In David's absence, Paul Hanson chaired the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM (March 2023) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Gary

Seconded: Diane

Vote: Carried

2. Business arising

Diane asked about weed control and clearing of the fire break behind Cambria Drive. Robyn to follow up with Darren Smith.

Reports (see below)

3. President's report

4. Secretary's report

5. Treasurer's report

Motion: That the information reports are accepted.

Moved: Paul W

Seconded: Diane

Vote: Carried

Election of committee members

- President – David Galloway
- Secretary – Robyn Moore
- Treasurer – Paula Hanson
- Committee members – Paul Hanson

Other business

Gynes raised the issue of beach access at Bagot Point. Parks are aware of the issue as their compliance officer is on our Facebook page. Robyn has raised the issue with him and requested a considered approach that enables emergency access to Nine Mile Beach.

NB: General meeting minutes are below, following the AGM reports



Dolphin Sands Community Association 2024 AGM Reports

President's Report 2024

Hi Dolphineers

Firstly, thank you for your support and contribution to the DSCA during 2023-24. With some of the challenges faced by residents of the area in the past year, it is great to have a community around us to provide help if required.

Unfortunately, the headline event for us over the past year was probably the fire in November 2023. Sadly, a few residences were lost, a number of people experienced destruction to infrastructure and the community in general was distressed by the damage to the environment of the area.

On one hand, the fire was a reminder of the random nature of such an event: there is a degree of luck as to whether or not you will be affected. On the other hand, the fire is a prompt to ensure we need to do everything that is reasonable to reduce our risk, not only for our own benefit but for the benefit of other residents and the first

responders who often put their own safety on the line. I would strongly urge everyone to review their fire plan and take steps to secure your properties. Actions such as avoiding or carefully controlling potential fire sources (eg fire pits, burning off), improving safe access and egress to properties and ensuring fire safety packs are available are sensible measures for us all to implement.

The Association eagerly awaits the ability to contribute and the eventual outcome of a review commissioned by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council as a result of the fire. It is hoped that the review will address issues around evacuation and strategic steps to mitigate risk to residents.

Finally, in respect to the fire (as well as many other incidents), I would also like to once again thank our emergency service workers for their work over the past year. The majority are volunteers and perform their fire, health or rescue function on top of their normal roles and family lives. I would encourage everyone to consider whether they can take on a role in our emergency services. The Association appreciates the support of the Tasmanian Fire Service in participating our well supported fire awareness seminar in January 2024.

Year in, year out, without any fuss, the Landcare group continues to do some great work in the area. Thank you for what you contribute to the betterment of us all. Again, if you have capacity, please actively support their efforts in their working bees during the year.

It is great to see the new sign at the beginning of Dolphin Sand Rd in place. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.

In a prolonged negotiation with PWS, the Association has taken on maintenance of two sets of pedestrian steps to Nine Mile Beach. It is unfortunate that a community association had to intervene to ensure access to an important community asset, but it likely reflects the competing financial and resource pressures on organisations such as councils and NPWS.

Thank you for the contribution of the committee this year. As with all volunteer organisations, the Association is heavily reliant on ability of the individuals in the community to put their hand up. In short, don't be shy to put your name forward to serve on the committee!!! To Paula and Paul Hanson, Wes Button and especially uber-secretary Robyn Moore, we all appreciate their hard work, determination, and humour over 2023-24.

In closing, the committee appreciate the ongoing support of the community. I would like to acknowledge the special contribution to the community by individuals such as Steve Barrett, Garry Stoward, Leigh Sealy, Diane Bricknell and Paul Walker.

Please continue to be positive and help to make this a great place to live. I look forward to another great year for the people of Dolphin Sands.

David Galloway

President, DSCA.



Secretary's Report 2024

Together, we've achieved lots again this year. Thanks to the many community members who contribute in various ways.

Bushfire mitigation

Bushfire mitigation was a major focus of the association again in 2023. We provide regular reminders about bushfire preparation on the Dolphin Sands Facebook page. Informing visitors to the area about the risk of bushfire was a major impetus for updating the information sign at the beginning of Dolphin Sands Rd. Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch for their contribution towards the cost of the new sign, to Diane Bricknell for her design work and expertise, and the community members who donated towards this project. We think it's a great result.

In winter, we sent hard copy information about bushfire preparation to all property owners, including an A4 sheet which can be placed in a prominent position to inform friends, family and paying guests about fire safety. Sincere thanks to Red Cross for covering the cost of printing and postage. Early in 2024, we held a Bushfire Expo to share information about fire-fighting systems. We're grateful to the TFS and SES personnel who attended and shared their expertise, the community members whose properties we visited and the Hansons for providing and hosting the BBQ.

Reducing the fuel load is crucial for bushfire mitigation, especially after the increased growth in the last few years of high rainfall. Unfortunately, a mid-year grant application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for green waste mulching was unsuccessful. However, we've recently applied for \$125 000 grant from the National Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Ready Fund to support council to purchase a portable Chipstar Negri R640 chipper/shredder. As well as chipping green waste at tips, it would travel to areas like ours to mulch community members' green waste. If successful, the grant will cover 50% of the cost of

the chipper/shredder. Thanks to Steve Barrett for consulting with the funding body and Peter Porch from council about this grant.

After the devastating November bushfire, the Tasmania Fire Service requested more beach accesses be cleared to provide points from which to fight approaching fires, and to allow access to the beach for emergency evacuation. In response to this request, council has engaged an accredited assessor to prepare a report to guide their mitigation measures. The report is expected to be completed around August.

The November bushfire also highlighted the importance of our bushfire plans outlining options for ourselves and our pets if we need to evacuate. A council evacuation centre may be available if you have nowhere else to go but, ideally, wouldn't be your first option. In the words of council's municipal emergency management coordinator, "the first question to anyone coming to any evacuation centre is to see if there is anywhere else more comfortable they can go to – friends or family as evacuation centres are the last place people want to go if they have suitable options".

Regarding pets in evacuation centres, council is planning to purchase six pet cages. Overall however, their evacuation centres are ill-equipped to deal with animals and people with animals need to plan for their pets should they need to evacuate. Planning for evacuation (with or without pets) is included in [TFS' bushfire plan templates](#). I encourage everyone to complete their bushfire plan and check it regularly to ensure that it's up to date.

Following the November fire, when residents were trapped at Bagot Point, we again raised the need for a bridge to Swanwick. A pedestrian/cycling bridge would have the capacity to be used by emergency vehicles when necessary. We will continue to lobby for our safety concerns to be taken seriously.

Council's Emergency Management Plan for Dolphin Sands was due to be updated last year but isn't yet complete. Perhaps it will be finalised after any additional mitigation measures are implemented.

As a token of our appreciation of first responders, we donated a Leatherman and two spider bite kits to the Glamorgan Spring Bay SES crew. Thanks to Wes for organising this.

A reminder to register any fires by calling 1800 000 699. Indeed, at our Bushfire Expo in January, Mark Klop (TFS East Coast District Officer) recommended to also register your activity if you're doing major work outside.

Defibrillators (AEDs)

After a delay with one supplier, we swapped to a different supplier and three AEDs were delivered and installed in February. In an emergency, call 000. If you need an AED, you will be directed to the closest one. Thanks to Wes for coordinating this project.

Landcare

Our regular Landcare working bees are incredibly rewarding and I appreciate our committed Landcare crew so much. In addition to our focus on weeds and rubbish removal, this year we planted an avenue of she-oaks at the 5km beach access. The seedlings were grown from local

seed and donated to us. We're keeping them mulched and watered, and look forward to the time when they provide a beautiful, shady avenue for beach goers.

In May, we participated in the Great East Coast Clean Up, joining events in and around Swansea.

In July, we submitted a Landcare Action Grant for gorse removal. Our initial application wasn't successful. However, this project may be funded in future from a different area within Landcare. If/when successful, this grant will help us tackle some of the larger infestations of gorse on the peninsula.

In August, we participated in a fabulous biochar workshop in Swansea.

Thanks to Diane Bricknell for her help updating the Living at Nine Mile Beach booklet, which you can find on our [website](#).

Cambria Drive beach access stairs

In July, we were pleased to sign a licence agreement with Parks for beach access stairs from two paths off Cambria Drive. Parks' initial request to council to licence the stairs was refused, and we were at risk of losing these community assets. Parks organised the replacement and repair of the existing stairs. We are responsible for their maintenance.

The new stairs are quite steep, and the handrails end abruptly, before people are standing on the sand. We've submitted a works request to Parks to extend the handrail. Thanks to Steve for completing the works request. If/when approval is received, we'll organise a working bee to extend the handrails.

Water testing

Finally, a note to say that we've recently completed another round of aquifer water testing. Results will be available by the AGM. (Note: the lab has recently installed a new computer system and results have not been released yet.)

Robyn Moore (secretary)



Treasurer's report 2024

DSCA income and expenditure 1.1.2023 - 31.03.2023

Income	Amount
Membership subscriptions	2055
Donations: members	580
Grant: Neighbourhood Watch	500
Grant: Landcare LAP	120
Water testing	720
Defibrillator refund	4553.62
Total INCOME	\$ 8,528.62

Expenditure	
Defibrillator	4572
Water testing	889.99
Community Hub meeting room hire	25
Beach access stairs: licence fees & association seal	811.5
Courier: water crystals & welcome sign	66.22
Landcare supplies: water crystals & stakes	100.3
Domain name renewal	93.45
ISBN: Living at Nine Mile Beach booklet	44
Welcome to Dolphin Sands sign	1090.98
Emergency SMS top up	35
Cultural burning workshop	100
SES donation (Leatherman & Spider bite kits x 2)	268.9
Total EXPENDITURE	\$ 8,097.34
Opening Balance 1/01/2023	\$ 9,734.98
Closing Balance 31/12/2023	\$ 10,166.36
Meredith River bridge balance	\$ 3,433.20
Defibrillator balance	\$ 1,076.24
DSCA	\$ 5,656.92

PETTY CASH 2023		
Carried Over	1.1.23	\$81.70
Income		
Membership		\$45.00
Water testing payments		\$180.00
Total income		\$225.00
Expenses		
PO Box	22.2.23	\$47.00
Dept of Justice - Annual Return		\$68.00
Printing		\$10.40
Batteries for road sign	15.4.23	\$7.70
Catering	26.6.23	\$21.50
Postage – licence agreement		\$31.30
Total expenses		\$185.90
PETTY CASH ON HAND	31.12.23	\$120.80

See next page for general meeting minutes



Dolphin Sands Community Association

General Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Motions

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous general meeting (March 2023) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Diane

Seconded: Paul W

Vote: Carried.

Guest speaker: Amanda Brooks

Amanda worked as a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Officer for Glamorgan Spring Bay Council for 14 years. When council disbanded the NRM department, they lost focus on NRM activities like weed control. She felt that her training wasn't valued and accepted a position as Natural Resource and Environmental Officer at Grindstone Pastoral on a large holding North of Triabunna. There is a strong interest in control of feral cats at Grindstone for both altruistic (wildlife-related) and commercial (sheep breeding) reasons, in particular since feral cats carry toxoplasmosis.

In the light of Amanda's experience in this area, it is evident that a carefully planned approach is needed to comply with relevant legislation while working to solve the feral cat problem effectively. A full report on Amanda's presentation is included below and Amanda has further offered to send us Grindstone's Cat Management Plan to assist us in our planning.

2. That the committee work towards creating a feral cat exclusion zone for the Nine Mile Beach peninsula.

Moved: Gynes

Seconded: Steve

Vote: Carried

Any other business

Gary asked about the Meredith River bridge. Robyn explained that we have funds from our previous fundraising and are still interested in developing cycling infrastructure. We are continuing to talk to relevant people whenever possible. For example, we have participated in the recent consultation about the Tasman Highway, emphasising the need for cycling infrastructure and advocating for cyclists to use Dolphin Sands Rd to avoid the Tasman Highway. Steve sent ERA (who were running the consultation for State Growth) a copy of our business plan and Power Point presentation.

Meeting closed: 11.30.

Notes from Amanda Brooks' presentation on feral cats

Grindstone Pastoral had a Landcare grant to monitor feral cats and employ a contractor for eradication. Amanda negotiated to use the money to purchase wildlife cameras and cages instead so that the program could be ongoing.

Grindstone Pastoral wanted to control feral cats because 1) they noticed a decline in shorebirds on their beaches and 2) maiden ewes having low rates of successful lambing (~60% when, ideally, should be 120%). Cats carry toxoplasmosis which can cause ewes to abort or lambs to be born with deformities (can also cause same issues in humans and blindness if transferred to wildlife). Blood analysis showed that 30% of stock had toxoplasmosis. Decided on eradication program for feral cats.

Targets sheep paddocks from March-September, then beach area during shore bird breeding season from September-March.

Before the program began, assumed they had about 12 cats at Grindstone. Since July last year, Amanda has caught 51 feral cats from ~1,000 Ha.

They keep data from cameras, GPS points of all sites where caught, and photos of caught cats. Nine cats have been taken out from behind the beach and an awareness program run with campers. Since the program began, hooded plovers have increased in number from 5-15 and red capped plovers from 2-16(ish).

Have also caught domestic cats, dachshund, devils. Cages have no pins, hooks or clips which could lead to injuries, so these animals are released unharmed.

It's easy to differentiate between domestic and feral cats by their behaviour. They also have a microchip scanner so can return microchipped cats to owners.

Feral cat issues at Dolphin Sands

Amanda's sister has a property at Cambria drive and cameras are regularly set off by cats.

Grindstone Pastoral is primary production land, so they are permitted to euthanise cats straight away. In other zones (like Dolphin Sands), it *may* be possible to get permission to euthanise cats

(as vermin control) if you have a 'land for wildlife' covenant or a PID code for your property. Landcare Tasmania is working in this space to try to support small landholders deal with feral cats. Also, need to be mindful of the firearm licencing act, eg not allowed to discharge a firearm with 250m of another property; can't discharge on roadside.

Otherwise, any cats must be transported to 10 Lives Cat Management facility in Hobart or Just Cats in Launceston (if they have capacity to take them).

Practicalities

Need to use an approved trap – no pins, hooks or clips that could injure the cat. Amanda uses waterproof canvas covers so trapped animals don't get wet. Must check traps every 24 hours, while trying to minimise your scent. It can help to spread your scent in the vicinity so that cats are desensitised. Monitor with trail cams (baited with tuna oil) to determine where to put traps.

Bait – chicken breast fillet; cooked in extra virgin olive oil; needs to be seasoned with Tasman Sea Salt!

To set trap, lay chicken in chux, put knots it in and then tie to top of cage - moves in the breeze, looks like a bird; put chicken leading into cage; tuna oil at base of cage. Mutton bird fat spread over bait is also good, esp for cunning cats.

Amanda is happy to do demos. She'd like to see us trapping cats humanely and effectively. Amanda to forward Grindstone Pastoral's cat management plan.

Can apply to council to call the peninsula a cat management area. People can still have domestic cats but they would have to be microchipped (this is a legal requirement for all cats in Tasmania) and kept indoors. Trapped cats would need to be scanned to determine if they're pets and returned to owners. Unexplained loss of pets can be traumatic for pet owners, esp elderly residents. Need someone with gun licence who'd be responsible for euthanising cats. Need to consider what to do with dead cats. West Tamar council may be able to provide advice.

Robyn – Landcare has offered to support the DSCA to develop a cat management plan. They may also be able to help fund cameras (\$400-\$650 each) and cages (\$150 each).