



Dolphin Sands Community Association

Annual General Meeting

10am Saturday, February 7, 2026, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Meeting opened: 10.04am

Present: Gynes Isherwood, Susan Henning, Stephen Denman, Gary Stoward, David Galloway, Jane & Tony Bissett, Paul Walker, Yon Kikkert, Neil Wiseman, Paul & Paula Hanson, Steve & Sue Barrett, Brenton Wheare, Peter Boekel, Hyatt & Mark Fowkes, Diane Flannigan, Vicki Jones, Maura Chamberlain, Stephen Free, Jane Fist, Robyn Moore (minutes)

Apologies: Donna & Wes Button, David & Hilary Cooper

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM (April 2025) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Paul Walker

Seconded: Maura Chamberlain

Carried

2. Business arising

Reports (see attachments below)

3. President's report – fires are an ongoing occurrence; this can't be allowed to continue. It's concerning that things seem to be going back to normal. The association has been lobbying pollies/ministers. The committee had a meeting with Guy Barnett – what are we doing to do about this? Everybody wants the same end goal – fewer fires, less impact – but there are different ideas about how to achieve it (ideas from the post-fire meeting in Cranbrook are on our website). The most efficient way is to have a central coordinating body. The association is pushing hard to have centrally coordinated review about how to reduce the risk of fires. DS high risk area – we want to see some changes.
GSBC now have access to \$250K mulcher thanks to a successful grant from the National Emergency Management Agency. Thanks to Steve Barrett & Robyn for their

work on the grant. This mulcher gives community members another option for reducing fuel load. We're still waiting for info from GSBC about the mulcher's deployment.

4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report – contacted by Troy from Lake Leake Inn, who are running a country music festival in March. \$5 per ticket going to the association to aid people affected by bushfires.

Motion: That the information reports are accepted.

Moved: Diane Flannigan

Seconded: Brenton Wheare

Carried.

Election of committee members

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

David asked for nominations from the floor for vacant committee positions. Thanks to Stephen Denman for nominating.



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General Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2026, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Motions

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous general meeting (April 2025) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Vicki Jones

Seconded: Yon Kikkert

Carried

2. Motion: That donations for bushfire recovery are spent on plants and/or materials for landscape rehabilitation, following advice from Playstreet Landscape Architects.

Moved: Paul Walker

Seconded: Maura Chamberlain

Carried

Discussion about using the funds to purchase a fire trailer. Most bushfires in Dolphin Sands are from escaped burns. Association is resistant for a few reasons:

1. Funds were raised by Reef to help people affected by fires.
2. Potential for liability if fire trailer is associated with an escaped burn.
3. Association does not want to encourage people to burn vegetation. We have applied for grants to provide other options to help people get rid of their vegetation, ie chipper/shredder.
4. Capacity of a fire trailer is insufficient to fully extinguish a 1m³ fire.

Any other business

Guest speaker – Senior Constable Matt Massie

Officer in Charge of Swansea Subdivision – 9 officers – 2 at Bicheno, 3 at Swansea, 4 at Triabunna/Orford. Staffing is always an issue due to leave & courses at the academy. However, at any one time there is at least 1 officer at Bicheno, 1 at Swansea and 2 at Orford/Triabunna. Rest assured that there would be a response at any time if you ring Police.

General day to day business – poor driver behaviour on the highway, drink & drug driving. There is an over-representation from visitors compared to permanent residents.

Post-fire looting – 3 official reports of theft from destroyed properties were received. A person known to Police has been identified. A further 2 reports of theft that were noted but not officially reported. Going to resolution in the next few weeks. Would encourage people to make statutory declarations.

During any major incident, such as the DS fire, there is going to be a lot of different police in the area.

Reports about cars on the beach – responsibility of PWS, via Freycinet office.

17 motorists were booked on DS Rd for speeding last year. 20% were locals.

Prosecution for escaped burns – fire scene examiner determines causes; culpability /negligence comes into it. If Police get go ahead from fire scene examiner, they will prosecute. Decision comes from TFS as lead authority.

Tas Police also enforce MAST regulations re sea-worthiness etc.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council update – GSBC responses in blue text

- The chipper/shredder - is it in GSB yet? When is it expected to be operational? When might it visit communities?

The chipper has been delivered to council's Swansea depot. Council is reviewing options for the operation and usage of the chipper.

- Any progress on implementing recommendations from the Dolphin Sands Bushfire Mitigation Management report. Which recommendations are council working on and when can we expect to see action?

Council has completed some of the recommended actions, including the installation of an additional 22,000-litre water tank on Dolphin Sands Road. We are currently working on the two additional fire breaks from Dolphin Sands Road to the beach area, as time and resources permit.

- Any progress on free green waste disposal at Swansea tip?

Council engages a private contractor to mulch green waste at its transfer stations. Providing a free service specifically for Dolphin Sands would create a precedent that could then be expected to be applied across the entire municipality.

- Any progress on updating the biodiversity clause in DAs?

Dolphin Sands is entirely covered by the priority vegetation overlay and therefore the removal of vegetation requires a permit unless vegetation removal is approved as part of a development or meets the vegetation exemption requirements in Table 4 of the Tasmanian Planning

Scheme. Any change to the Priority Vegetation Overlay in the Dolphin Sands area would require an amendment to the overlay maps approved under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

DSCA committee will continue to pursue these questions with GSBC.

Letter from GSBC planners

Robyn noted that many community members were upset by the failure of the letter to consider bushfire safety. Despite the scale of the bushfire disaster, there doesn't seem to be a shift in GSBC's approach. Robyn rang senior planner Laura Small for further information and had a constructive conversation. Laura is developing a FAQ document to help provide clarity. When complete, this will be posted on the DSCA and GSBC website. Robyn recommends ringing Laura to get clarity on your individual situation.

Info from Senior Planner Laura Small

Routine post-fire clean-up activities *may* be exempt from the need for a planning permit, depending on the nature and extent of the works. These exemptions generally apply where works are reasonable, minor and limited to clean-up or safety purposes.

FAQs document (see GSBC and/or DSCA website)

- When a planning permit may not be required;
- The types of works that are generally considered exempt; and
- When landowners should contact Council before proceeding

Fire-fighting expo Sunday, Feb 22

Tour local properties to learn about their fire-fighting systems

Senior TFS staff in attendance (barring emergencies)

RSVP essential

Gynes encouraged people to attend – to walk around property and understand how to create defendable areas, considering wind direction, shape of the dunes etc. Gynes applies risk management protocols. We are in control of most of the fuel load. Banning fires won't stop fires occurring at DS.

Clean-up Program Information Session, 4pm Feb 17, Swansea Courthouse

Pitt & Sherry, Batchelor Group, Resilience & Recovery Tasmania, GSBC staff will be in attendance to answer questions.

Post-fire landscaping seminar with Playstreet Landscaping

Details still being finalised.

Ta Ke Ti Na – April 10/11

More info to come.

cohealth's International Women's Day event

She makes it happen: Stories of local women – multi-media submissions and exhibitions in town halls of inspiring women of GSB past and present.

Other questions and comments

Stephen asked about references to a total fire ban seen in articles and the DSCA matrix. David Galloway explained that, prior to the post-fire community meeting, we invited input from the community for ideas – what are the measures we think should be considered to reduce the incidence of fire and reduce the impact of fire? Some people forwarded ideas via email, others presented at the post-fire community meeting (see meeting minutes). There is a lot of debate and discussion needed about extent of a fire ban. Nothing's set in stone yet.

Vicki noted that if anyone needs to contact Council, Bernadette, GSBC's Community Development Coordinator, is available in the office outside the courthouse on Thursdays.

Steve – coming out of TFS debrief, Gynes property was mentioned as easy to defend because of the preparation he'd done. When TFS volunteers go to a fire, it's often dark. One of the big problems is locating properties on the roadway; one of the first things that burn down are gate numbers and reflectors, which are often on wooden posts. Suggestion from TFS - paint house number on road adjacent to driveway. Steve to get advice from TFS and GSBC about standardising numbers (eg colour, size, orientation).

Track to Meredith River from end of Cambria Drive. Landcare group have repaired the wire fence that was put in >15 years ago, and installed sign explaining that we're trying to minimise disturbance to shore birds. Only a few metres out of your way to use the original track, but takes people away from the river mouth.



Diane – signs at beginning of walking tracks in Cambria Drive need repair. PWS responsibility.

Meeting closed: 11.45am

Dolphin Sands Community Association Inc

President's Report 2026

Hi Dolphineers

Well, it has been another 'interesting' year for the Dolphin Sands Community. On the one hand, we again faced a disaster situation in the shape of a catastrophic fire. On the other side, we have been privileged to see the community rally around to support each other and get through difficult times.

I would firstly pass on the Committee's thoughts to those who lost property and suffered personal trauma and stress in the recent fires. The event was massively challenging to everyone as once again we saw part of the community we love destroyed. For many, the experience transitioned a place of happiness and rest to one of anxiety and lost memories.

Even out of this unfortunate shared experience, I would encourage everyone to be grateful for a number of things. First and foremost is that we did not have loss of life or major injury. Secondly, we once again had the support of our emergency services, service crews, businesses and volunteers. Many organisations and groups have contributed hours of work and substantial amounts of money to help the community. Thirdly, on the ground, individuals have been helping each other out in providing resources, effort and mental and moral support to their neighbours. It is unfortunate that sometimes it takes a disaster to bring out the best in us.

Thank you to everyone who has made donations towards bushfire recovery. I would especially note the extraordinary effort of Reef Murfet in running 100km to fundraise a substantial amount for the community. Also a special thanks to the Lake Leake Hotel who have offered to undertake a fundraising activity. The use of donated funds will be put to the community for input.

With the repeated fire events of recent years, as a community, we now must be very proactive to minimise the risk and effects of future fires. We cannot go back to where we were prior to this event. To this end, the DSCA has developed a proposal for actions to minimise future damage. These proposed actions involve residents / landowners, council and government agencies working collaboratively to a common purpose. I would ask that community members review this proposal and provide constructive feedback as to its value. The DSCA committee has already commenced conversations with significant stakeholders in order to keep the issue of mitigation alive. Many will have seen our Secretary Robyn Moore's article in the Hobart Mercury

about the necessity of collaboration and mutual responsibility to achieve a positive end. The Committee will be asking for direct assistance of community members to progress projects.

One of the questions to be asked is the progression of the recommendations of the Bushfire Mitigation Report commissioned by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council after the 2023 fires. While a number of these recommendations rely on government agencies for implementation, I would once again point out that there are a number of actions residents can take to reduce risk to their and their neighbours properties. These include ensuring:

- clear marking of property numbers
- no planting of vegetation on road verges
- clear access to properties for emergency vehicles
- all property users (including those accessing short stay accommodation) are aware of the risk of fire and comply with fire prevention measures
- properties are in compliance with the various hazard management regulations.

We are awaiting the arrival of a heavy-duty mulcher for use in the GSBC area. This machine will offer a viable alternative for fuel reduction in Dolphin Sands and other parts of the municipality. The purchase of this machine is largely a result of some hard work on the part of Steve Barrett and Robyn Moore in securing a grant. I would also note the positive relationship with the Council in progressing this grant and we all look forward to this significant asset being available for use by our community.

Finally I would like to thank the following for their work over the past year:

- The DSCA committee, Robyn Moore and Paula and Paul Hanson for their contribution. Filling committee roles is always a challenge. I would strongly encourage members to nominate for committee roles
- individuals who take on projects. They provide important support to the activity of the Association
- The Landcare Group for their significant efforts. They punch well above their weight.
- Our emergency service workers, the majority of whom are volunteers. Again, I would encourage everyone in our community to consider their capacity to join one of these services.

I look forward to 2026 being a great year for the people of Dolphin Sands as we continue to recover and build a positive community.

David Galloway

Secretary's report 2026

Unfortunately, the major event for 2025 was the bushfire on Dec 4-5 which affected 115 properties. We appreciate the support received by the broader community following the bushfire, such as offers of accommodation, showers, clothing, furniture, and fundraising. We're also grateful for the support of GSBC and the Tasmanian Government with the recovery process.



Photo by Ashley Swan

Since the bushfire, our focus has been trying to ensure that our concerns about bushfire preparedness, and our safety, are taken more seriously. We welcome the announcement by Tasmania Fire Service Commissioner Jeremy Smith that the TFS hope to co-design a bushfire plan with the Dolphin Sands community and key stakeholders. We hope everyone will get involved in this process.

We have received a lot of feedback about the importance of the Facebook page during the bushfire. Note that we also post updates on our website and send emails when necessary. There are limitations to Facebook's workability. For example, it's not possible to organise posts in order of importance. In emergencies, we will limit the number and type of posts to help people find the info they need. For example, we will:

- Decline any non-urgent posts
- Create posts with specific themes and ask people to add a comment to the relevant post rather than creating a new post. For example, post about the spread of the fire over time (including the status of various properties); post about immediate support available (accommodation, safe refuge, evacuation etc); post with TasAlert updates; post about the location of particular people; post about how to get further info (eg TasAlert, Tas Police, Tas Networks); post about the status of the road (if it's open etc)
- Decline posts about longer term offers of support, eg offers of furniture
- Decline 'how did it start' posts

Recent bushfires at Dolphin Sands



Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-08/tasmania-dolphin-sands-bushfire-community-dismayed/106113646>

Bushfire preparation

One of our recent initiatives to help reduce the risk of bushfire was to apply for a \$125,000 National Emergency Management Agency grant to help council purchase a chipper/shredder to collect community members' green waste. We aim to reduce the incentive to burn vegetation. We were notified of our successful grant application in December 2024 and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the chipper/shredder. Additional steps in acquitting this grant included completing an Implementation Plan, which we submitted in January 2025. We then had to wait while Resilience and Recovery Tasmania (RRT) reviewed the plan, forwarded it to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for endorsement, and for the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) to enter into a grant agreement for release of funds. On June 30, 2025, once the grant deeds were signed, GSBC ordered the chipper/shredder. At the time of writing, it has arrived in Melbourne and is due in GSB soon.

Landcare group

Thanks to our committed Landcare group for continuing to manage public land on the peninsula. As in past years, this year our focus was weed control and rubbish collection. We also maintained beach access tracks. We were fortunate to receive a grant from Landcare Australia to tackle remnant patches of gorse on the peninsula.



Cambria Drive beach access stairs

After a lengthy process, NRE (Dept of Natural Resources and the Environment) agreed to allow us to extend the handrails on beach access stairs at Cambria Drive. It was a minor change (40cm) but means that the stairs are usable by people in our community who rely on the handrails. Thanks to the complainants and to Steve for installing the new handrail. In the photos below, you'll notice that Steve has installed a narrow handrail that is easier to grip.



Mental Health Week

This year, members of the Dolphin Sands Community Association collaborated with Jo Raspin from the Swansea Chamber of Commerce to organise a fabulous week of events for Mental Health Week. Our grant application to the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to cover some costs was successful. Many individuals and businesses donated time, expertise, accommodation, and money to make the week a great success. Special thanks to Di Bricknell for dealing with the multitude of emails required to design all our flyers. Thanks also to Paul Walker & Brenton Wheare for their support, and to Kunst Beach Pod and Beach Haven for donating accommodation.



Logo by Di Bricknell



Treasurer's Report 2026

DSCA income and expenditure 1.1.2025 - 31.12.2025

Income	Amount
Membership 132 @ \$15	1980
Water testing 12 @ \$45	540
Mental Health Week grant	1800
NEMA grant - GSBC mulcher	100000
Donations - general	90
Donations - bushfire	1300
Donations - Go Fund Me	4020.98
Recycle Rewards	0.8
Total INCOME	\$ 109,731.78
Expenditure	
Mental Health Week	1862.87
Emergency messaging service	38.89
Cambria handrail timber	111.67
DSCA post office box	51
Neighbourhood Watch subscription	30
GSBC mulcher	100000
DPWIE - water testing	727.43
Annual return	74.8
Courthouse meeting room hire	30
Mulching	1500
Donation - historical society	50
Gorse control	282
Donation - Disability Voices Tasmania	200
Catering - post-bushfire meeting	450
Total EXPENDITURE	\$ 105,408.66
Opening Balance 1/01/2025	\$ 13,303.09
Income 2025	\$ 109,731.78
Expenses	\$ 105,408.66
Surplus	\$ 4,323.12
Closing Balance 31/12/2025 \$13303.09 + \$4,323.12	\$ 17,626.21

PETTY CASH 2025		
Carried Over	1.1.25	\$67.35
Income		
Water testing payments		\$135.00
Total income		\$135.00
Expenses		
Fuel for Landcare		\$50
Postage – Living @ 9MB booklet		\$3.30
Printing		\$5.50
Gloves for Landcarers		\$31.60
Landcare biscuits		\$5.85
Post-fire meeting drinks		\$18.70
Total expenses		\$114.95
PETTY CASH ON HAND	31.12.25	\$87.40

Mental Health Week Swansea 2025	
Income	
Donations	\$300.55
Expenses	
Bush dance	\$600
Ecopulse – Ta Ke Ti Na	\$440
Donation – Speak up! Stay ChatTY	\$200
Accommodation cleaning	\$100
Morris Store ingredients	\$462.56
Curry night	\$250
Thank you cards	\$83.86
Thank you gift	\$27
Total expenses	\$2163.42
Expenses less donations	\$1862.87

Total Go Fund Me donations @ January 24: \$12, 915