



## DSCA Annual General Meeting 2023

Saturday, March 18, 10am, Swansea Community Hub, Arnol St

### Minutes

Meeting opened: 10.02

#### *Acknowledgement of Country*

Present: Paul Walker, Wes Button, Yon Kikkert, David Galloway, Leigh Sealy, David Swifte, Diane Flannigan, Larry & Ruth King, Gary Stoward, Sue & Steve Barrett, Clr Rob Churchill, Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Robyn Moore (minutes)

Apologies: Gill Foster, Paul & Paula Hanson, Cassie & Ian Melrose, Christina Galloway, Andrew Harvey, Karen Taylor, Donna Button, Liz Sealy

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM (May 2022) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: David G

Seconded: Gary

Carried

2. Business arising

#### **Reports**

3. President's Report (see below)

David noted that it'd been a productive year but not without its challenges. The focus of the association is helping local people, social networking, the environment and providing information. He acknowledged the Neighbour Day grant which enabled the association to run a successful Aboriginal history seminar. He thanked everyone for their donations towards the defibrillators (AEDs) and the Landcare group for their ongoing work.

David explained that the name of the association was changed to be more inclusive. This brought up a discussion about who can access resources of the association. The committee is of the opinion that the association should be open to everyone in the area and that limiting information and access to resources is not justifiable.

David thanked emergency services, particularly volunteer fire fighters. He asked people to consider joining if in a position to do so.

Unresolved issues include Swan River Rd. When this issue was raised with the General Manager at our AGM two years previously, the General Manager explained that council was developing a list of all roads in the municipality, including a priority list for road improvement but we haven't heard anything since. Other issues include road maintenance on Dolphin Sands Rd (David noted that more work is being done at the moment), Swansea Tip opening times, and the management of invasive species on crown land. He thanked all the members for their support.

4. Secretary's Report (see below)

Robyn thanked the Landcare group and noted Steve's leadership in establishing an endemic display garden near the Cambria Rd turnoff. This garden was funded via a donation from the Swansea & District Garden Club. She thanked everyone for supporting the installation of AEDs and Wes for leading that project.

A draft of the Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan was presented to the Municipal Emergency Management Committee this week for approval. We expect to hear back about this shortly.

We have applied for Neighbour Day funding to hold another Emergency Services Thank You BBQ. If successful, we'll also use this day to raise awareness about fire safety in Dolphin Sands and to canvas for volunteers.

We didn't end up applying for funding to develop a Weed Management Plan as it didn't seem cost effective. Due to budget management, Crown Land Services have little impetus to deal with gorse and African boxthorn (as these are currently classified as Zone B weeds, so attract less funding). Crown Land may be willing to support targeted weed removal at specific locations.

5. Treasurer's Report

Apologies from the Treasurer who was unable to attend the meeting. Robyn reviewed the Treasurer's Report, including the bank balance, income, expenses, grants acquitted and fundraising balances.

Motion: That the information reports are accepted.

Moved: David G

Seconded: Leigh

Carried

### **Election of committee members**

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



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### Minutes

#### Motions

1. That the information sign near the beginning of Dolphin Sands Rd is updated.

Robyn explained that some information on the sign is out of date and the sign contains a lot of information. The idea is to focus on bushfire prevention and preparation. There is possible bushfire prevention funding available.

Gary explained that the sign was originally designed at the pull-off area for people to get a feel for DS and Nine Mile Beach. There are already 5 fire signs along Dolphin Sands. Would prefer to leave it.

Paul agreed with Gary and noted that a 'no fires' sign was needed at the beach access 5km mark.

Action: follow up with council

Discussion about the legalities of lighting fires on beaches. Steve said that fires can't be lit in the dunes. Robyn said that TFS states no fires in grassed dunes. Rob didn't think that fires could be lit on Crown Lands. Cheryl said that fires can't be lit on any beach without a permit. Leigh noted that, as some info on the sign is out of date, some change will be needed.

Moved: David G

Seconded: Diane

Moved: 6

Against: 4

Carried

Discussion about next steps given that there is some disagreement about motion. Consult members, develop a working group.

Action: invite input from members

Diane asked if the 'Living at Nine Mile Beach' booklet still gets sent by council to new owners. This booklet contains a lot of information that's on the roadside sign. Cheryl to follow up about the new resident pack that council sends.

Action: Cheryl to follow up

2. That council is requested to take urgent action to widen Swan River Rd.

David explained that there is a large volume of traffic on Swan River Rd. It's a narrow road with small verges which limits the ability to widen the road, as do the power poles. David has contacted Tas Networks about putting power lines underground as part of long term strategy for Dolphin Sands Area – to limit fire risk and lessen the amount of times the power

goes out. Tas Networks are interested in discussions with council if road is widened. They would want input from community.

We need to know the priority of Swan River Rd according to the survey of roads in the municipality that the General Manager mentioned at the AGM 2 years ago. David noted that Geoff Jones has been quite active in writing to council about this issue.

Rob said that Asset Management Plan had been completed and that Peter Porch would be able to give some idea of priority of Swan River Rd; land needs to be acquired.

Action: Contact Peter Porch

Cheryl – Tas Networks also challenged with their finances.

Sue – Cheapest and most effective method would be to reduce speed on the road.

Larry – When it rains, water builds up on south side of the road, with the risk of cars aquaplaning.

David G – Cassie Melrose has spoken previously about school bus pick up being an issue in the area as well.

Rob – keep being squeaky wheel, send in something each year. Robyn – confused by contradiction between being told that decisions were based on asset management plan and listening to the squeaky wheel. Rob advised to write polite, civilised letter to council.

Robyn objected to implication that association doesn't communicate in respectful ways. Rob stated that he'd use that language with anyone.

Steve – need for crest sign due to limited visibility. Robyn concerned about a sign being a traffic hazard.

Larry – could have 'road narrows' sign next highway turnout.

Cheryl – put in letter to council from risk management perspective.

Ruth – recent work turned it into flood plain and made the problem worse.

Moved: Paul Walker

Seconded: Larry King

Carried

Action: write to council

### **Upcoming events**

Red Cross Information Evening: Risks Roles Ready – March 23, Swansea Town Hall

CPR & AED Training courtesy of PUBS – March 27 &30; April 3 & 4

Council community connect session: Thursday, April 6, 10-11.30am, Swansea Town Hall

Great East Coast (Tas) Clean Up in May

### **Guest speaker: Mayor Cheryl Arnol**

Just over 100 days since the last council election. Councillors have concerns for whole municipal areas. All focused on fixing problems; depends on finances. Been working hard on asset management plan, budgets etc. State Govt has initiated a Future of Local Government Review focused on the sustainability of councils. Don't know what the outcome will be, but government have said that there will be no forced amalgamations. Council doesn't have a position on the issue but want to see evidence of the benefits to ratepayers from any changes. Cheryl encouraged

ratepayers and residents to look at the Local Govt Review website. There will be an opportunity to comment on the report that's coming out on March 31. If you have opinions, let councillors know.

Yon – attended Local Govt Review meeting at Bicheno. 29 bureaucracies – excessive; difficult to see return in services. Those at the meeting could see benefit from economies of scale & efficiencies but concern about losing community identity or control. Solution that came up from discussion - each regional town in Tasmania could maintain their identity and empowerment through the establishment of locally elected precinct committees with the power to make representations to Greater Regional councils and those councils to be under statutory obligation to take into account their proposals where reasonable.

Cheryl – issue is that govt hasn't communicated with all local councils. Some councils haven't had input. Some talk of creating electorates of 55 000 people. How would that work with representation? No data on cost effectiveness of having amalgamated council.

Upcoming Community Connect Sessions: focus will be budget discussions. Council asked staff to initiate a fairly robust budget discussion session to find out what ratepayers want. Had 330 responses so far. Will give direction to council for future. Aiming for the Community Connect Session to be more interactive than they have been in the last few years.

Beach access stairs on Cambria Drive – Initial discussions with Parks suggest that they may be prepared to repair one set and remove the other set. Where stairs are removed, they'll provide signage and fencing, with only viewing available.

Diane – locals have maintained stairs for years. Seems ridiculous to remove stairs. Protects dunes – social and health benefits. Colin reported that stairs will be fixed.

Rob – purpose of stairs is to protect the dunes. But they were built without being authorised and effected by erosion. These stairs have nothing to do with council.

Yon – case in Coles Bay where the community built own stairs. Saves thousands on consultant reports.

Robyn – Noted that the Association had not been informed about any of these discussions between Parks, council and a community member and that risks a good outcome for the broader community.

Action: Ask for update and clarification from Peter Porch

Cheryl – Planning scheme amendment about subdividing in Dolphin Sands – report to council on March 28 to consider representations.

Cambria – day one of hearing dates set for March 28 (corrected date). Information on TPC website

Tempus – no further updates – went to Land Tribunal and can't be built on that site.

Waste Management – again, a budget issue. Green waste – EPA requirements for council to stop burning green waste last year. Council demonstrated that they're looking at alternatives and were given extension in time. Council looking at getting commercial chipper (see February council agenda).

Steve sent information to the General Manager a year ago about a mobile biochar converter that could be shared between councils. A Qld company gave some away to councils. When Steve spoke to the General Manager about it, he hadn't read the email. Produces material that could be sold commercially. Could still be free ones on trial. Biochar is thousands of dollars a ton.

Action: Cheryl to follow up.

Gary – used to have free green waste chipping. When \$5 charge introduced, reason given was because council wasn't allowed to burn. Then it went up to \$10. But council is still burning. Costly – where does money when paying for green waste go – separate fund? Need to encourage people not to burn green waste.

David S – association used to have a chipper that was shared.

Gary – maintenance was an issue.

Cheryl – Statewide Planning Scheme raising issues for all councils in the state.

Yon – How much leeway does council have in terms of budget determinations?

Cheryl – Council has 183 pieces of legislation that must abide by. Complex process. Fine line to walk. Elected members can't get involved in operational side.

Rob – Local Govt doesn't exist in the Australian constitution.

### **Any other business**

- David S – Swan River Rd – big problem is 2 caravans passing – risk management.
  - David S – fire occurred on his property. Friend was mowing marram grass. Front wheel fell into hole. Mower went forward. Muffler brushed dry marram grass. By the time they got water to that area, fire got away. Message – dry marram grass is highly flammable. When mowing need to have water supply close by.  
Larry – plants pig face when the marram grass is low – low flammability & suppresses marram grass.
  - Steve – Another grant application that wasn't mentioned before is grant for community battery which he looked into. Federal Govt have promised 500 to rural communities across Australia. 2 were allocated for Tasmania – Howrah & Shorewell Park. If further grant rounds become available, we'll apply.
  - Public toilets at Dolphin Sands  
Carrie and Ian were unable to attend the meeting but raised the need for a public toilet. Melshell get people walking in when they are closed to use their toilet. When it's locked, they notice an increase in toilet paper in the bushes near their gate and at YSB jetty. They also have people walk in to use the toilet without buying anything. Pollution is an issue at YSB and Bagot Point. Large numbers of people use the YSB jetty area, especially on long weekends and during fishing competitions which are held in the area. Cassie and Ian think it would be a good idea to use the empty land near their place as a parking area and toilet block.  
'Loo with a view' still sitting in a council depot somewhere.  
Rob – 'Loo with a view' wouldn't be suitable for that site.  
Cheryl – Human waste contamination is an issue. Would need toilet like at Saltworks – composting toilet. Oyster Farm can get shut down with small pollution readings.  
Action: work with Melshell to put to council.
- Rob – Saltworks was a federal government grant. State or Crown will do carpark and maintenance at Saltworks. This new project will need grant money.

Meeting closed at 11.47



## **Dolphin Sands Community Association 2023 AGM Reports**

### **President's Report**

Hi Dolphineers

Thank you for actively supporting the Association during 2022-23. While it has been a successful and satisfying year, it has also presented some challenges.

The DSCA continues to pursue activities that help the people of the area, to better the community generally and to provide opportunity for people to network. Some of the headline activities that have supported these aims over the past year include:

- A First Nation's history seminar. This workshop was very well supported and was valuable in assisting people to understand the special relationship that First Nations people have with the land. I would like to thank Robyn Moore for her work organising the seminar and to Teangi Brown for leading the workshop. Thanks also to the Neighbour Day grant which made this event possible.
- Delivery of the Chainsaw Safety and Operation course. The course, again, was well attended and added to the community skill base. Thanks to Brian Mitchell MHR for supporting the DSCA funding application which allowed 8 members of our community to attend.
- The fundraising, purchasing and placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in the Dolphin Sands area. As you would be aware, these devices are potential lifesavers in the event of cardiac arrest. A big thank you to everyone who donated money to bring this initiative to fruition and to Robyn Moore (again) and Wes Button for the communications and logistics.
- The ongoing work of the Landcare group, particularly in their efforts to control noxious weeds in the area.

As approved at the last AGM, we have changed name from the Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association to the Dolphin Sands Community Association, primarily to be more inclusive and to further refine the aims of the Association. For me, one of the most important issues that was raised this year has been to do with scope of membership of the Association. The DSCA has always taken the view that everyone in the Dolphin Sands area should have access to the resources and benefits of the Association, not just financial members. The current committee is strongly supportive of that view. As much as we like, and indeed need, financial members, I trust that the general community are also supportive of this approach.

I would like to recognise the contribution of the committee this year. As with all volunteer organisations, we are strongly reliant on the goodwill and willingness of the community to contribute. Thank you to Paula Hanson, Wes Button and especially Robyn Moore for their hard work, great ideas, persistence and good humour over the past term.

On the topic of recognition, we are fortunate to be very well supported by our emergency services. The Tasmanian Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Ambulance Tasmania and Marine Rescue are largely reliant on volunteers. Please consider if you are in a position to join one of these organisations in order to ensure the safety of the general community.

A number of issues have been raised over 2022-23 and remain unresolved. These include the widening and improvement of Swan River Road, road maintenance on Dolphin Sands Rd, the Swansea tip opening times and the 'mechanics' of land maintenance on crown land. We are hoping to have progress on these issues in the future.

Again, the support of the community is appreciated and your efforts help to make this a great place to live.

David Galloway

President, DSCA

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## Secretary's Report

As I review our activities from last year to write this report, I'm so appreciative of the generosity and goodwill in our community. This is amply demonstrated on the Dolphin Sands Community Network Facebook page. Community spirit is evident in posts ranging from give-aways, information sharing, providing support or expressing gratitude to helping lost dogs be re-united with owners. Thanks to everyone who contributes.

I'd especially like to thank the regular Landcare volunteers. As always, we've had a number of working bees weeding roadside verges. We've also used our Swansea & District Garden Club donation to plant an endemic display garden near the picnic table at the Cambria Drive turnoff. Thanks to the committee for approving the purchase of roadside safety signs and for the drivers who slow appreciably when they see our signs. Thanks also to the committee for shouting us coffee and cake.

### AEDs

Special thanks to everyone who responded to our call for donations so that we could purchase defibrillators for the Nine Mile Beach peninsula. We raised over \$6000 thanks to our generous donors. This is a great example of what our community can achieve by working together.

After a number of delays from our first supplier, we requested a refund and ordered from a supplier who could guarantee immediate delivery. Remember, in an emergency, please call 000. If an AED is needed, Ambulance Tasmania will provide advice about how to access one.



### Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan

Council began the process of reviewing the EMP in Oct. We were invited to respond to the updated EMP. We collated the community's feedback and sent it to council. We didn't hear anything further. In response to my queries, council has advised that draft plan will be presented to the municipal emergency management committee meeting in March for adoption.

### Emergency messaging service

While we're on the topic of emergencies, a reminder about our emergency SMS service and a thank you to our financial members and donors who make this service possible. Unfortunately, we've had to send a number of messages about fires in the area over the last 6 months. Please let us know if you'd like your mobile number added to our list. We don't use the numbers for any other purpose.

### Grant applications

We have recently applied for Neighbour Day funding to hold another Emergency Services Thank You BBQ. If successful, we'll also use this day to raise awareness about fire safety in Dolphin Sands and to canvas for volunteers.

We are also in the process of applying for a Weed Action Fund grant to develop a Weed Management Plan for the peninsula. We need to have a Weed Management Plan before we can access funding for broad scale weed removal.

### Water testing

We conducted another round of water testing in January. We were particularly interested in the potential impact of the high volume of rain in the preceding months. There were a number of properties whose water samples exceeded the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines—for arsenic, lead, manganese & nickel. Some samples also exceeded the aesthetic level for iron. Fortunately, none of these properties are using the water for drinking or cooking. Once again, we noticed that problematic results seemed to be quite localised.

### East Coast Catchment Steering Committee

Natural Resource Management is about working together to sustainably manage biodiversity, land, water and coasts. A new East Coast Catchment Steering Committee has been established in Glamorgan Spring Bay, overseen by the Landscape Recovery Foundation. For more information, see the [Landscape Recovery Foundation website](#).

### Dog management policy

Council is currently reviewing its dog management policy. The working group expects to release a draft for community feedback later in the year.

### Meredith River bridge

Red Panda director Andrew McCullagh is working with the Association to bring the long-held dream of a pedestrian/cycling bridge over the Meredith River to fruition. The bridge project now forms one aspect of Red Panda's development application for the site opposite the Bark Mill in Swansea. We'll continue working with Andrew on this project. See the [DSCA website](#) for more information.

## Cambria Green

Final hearings for this planning scheme amendment are being held on March 28 and 29 in Hobart or via MS Teams. The Commission has prepared a brief (but not exclusive) list of matters on which representors and parties may wish to make closing submissions. Those wishing to make a submission are requested to provide a written closing submission to the Commission by close of business on March 23, 2023. See the [Tasmanian Planning Scheme website](#) for further information.

Robyn Moore

Secretary, DSCA

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## Email from Mayor Arnol responding to questions from the 2023 AGM

The following are the questions I put to staff on the action items attributed to me from your recent meeting and the responses (coloured blue).

1. At one time, Council provided a booklet called 'Living at Nine Mile Beach' to new residents. As far as I am aware, it still happens but there was some doubt by a resident who was in attendance. I think he said he moved there in 2019 and never received any welcome pack. Could I get a briefing on just what we do now (if anything) for new residents right across the area please?

When we are advised of change of ownership from the titles office, some of the new owners are already in the property system as having owned property in the district. These people do not get a pack. Packs are sent when a new entry is required in the system. Somewhere in the order of 50% of changes in ownership are to people previously listed in the system.

2. There was apparently contact with Greg some time ago about a mobile bio-char converter that could be shared between Councils. There was a company in Queensland that was offering the machines free to some Councils for a trial. It produces material that could be sold commercially. Do you know anything about it?

I recall something about a mobile Bio-char unit and have done a little research. Volumes are small and the units run on gas or diesel. Proper Bio-char chambers are closed to retain high heat with little emission. There are other units purporting to produce biochar that are no better than burning the stockpile. Our best bet is to stay in line with the Southern Waste group where economies of scale and group purchasing can be done when viable options arise.

3. There was some discussion around the high cost of green waste disposal. I indicated that waste management fees in general were being impacted this year by various factors. I did say that all fees and charges will be reviewed in upcoming budget discussions but that Council was doing all that it could to ensure fees that were affordable to avoid illegal dumping of green waste and other landfill bound material.

Illegal dumping of green waste is seldom reported and we seldom come across evidence of it despite what people often suggest. A chipper is still our best option at this stage to produce a saleable

mulch. Once achieved, council could consider reducing the cost of greenwaste handling and charge for mulch to offset the processing cost.

4. There was comment about the lack of public toilets in the DS area particularly in the vicinity of Melshell Oysters. The business has a large number of people wanting to use their toilets as a public convenience. When it is locked, they notice an increase in human waste and used toilet paper on adjoining land. It sounds not unlike the Saltworks situation – very busy boat ramp but no facilities. Would there be any opportunity for Council to apply for some funding under a Federal Government program for a toilet at Yellow Sandbanks boat ramp? There is apparently a tract of land on the left opposite the entrance to the boat ramp that is Council land that could be used for a toilet and car/trailer park. Perhaps it's one of our assets we don't know about? I did tell them that any form of infrastructure in that area would probably have to rely on grant funding. Melshell's concern is, of course, that oyster/shellfish farms can be shut down on small pollution readings.

Good points they raise. It looks like there is space in the road parcel to site a toilet at Yellow Sandbanks. It isn't a separate parcel of land. We will place this on the list of locations that could use a toilet.

If there is any further information your Association requires, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

*Cheryl*

Clr Cheryl Arnol, MAICD MICD  
**MAYOR**

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