



DSRA General Meeting

10am, Oct 31, Swansea Courthouse, Noyes St

Minutes

Meeting opened: 10.05am

Acknowledgement of country: David Cooper acknowledged the Paredarerme as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet

Present: Dianne & Barry Smith, Gary Stoward, Mal & Val Innes, David Galloway, Donna & Wes Button, Yon Kikkert, Diane Flannigan, David & Hilary Cooper, Neville & Danae Stewart, Robyn Moore (minutes)

Apologies: Kate Shield, Mark Pooley, Trish & Ian Jay, Steve Barrett, Liz & Leigh Sealy, Scott Ragg, Danny & Sallee Allford

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan (DSEMP) review meeting [Jan 25] are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Mal Innes

Seconded: Val Innes

Carried

2. Business arising (none)

Reports

3. President's Report (see below)

Please note that item one on the President's report regarding the Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan has been updated since the report was published. This item is covered as part of the Secretary's report.

Regarding the Yellow Sand Banks boat ramp, MAST are looking for community support. The aim now is to get a presentation together from community members who use the ramp.

4. Police report – Sergeant Marcus Pearce

Marcus began by noting the commitment of the DSRA to all matters relating to Dolphin Sands and stated that we are the only group in the area that maintains this level of commitment. He said that he is totally supportive of the DSRA.

Marcus acknowledged that property security rates significantly for people in Dolphin Sands and noted vulnerability due to houses being unoccupied at times. He explained that crime 'across the board' [statewide] is down.

Marcus recognises that the impact when houses are broken into is profound. Nevertheless, he discussed finding a comfortable medium between increased surveillance and not having privacy invaded (via security cameras etc). He stressed that the east coast possibly has the lowest crime rate of anywhere in the state, coupled with a higher level of response than if the crime occurred elsewhere.

There have been three burglaries in the area recently, with one being a repeat burglary. Items were stolen on one occasion but it's yet to be determined if anything was stolen on the other occasions. It seems as if access was via the beach. The Police haven't made any progress solving these crimes despite having a good list of stolen items.

There is a commitment from the Police Department to maintain police numbers in the area. They're currently formalising arrangements for relief officers is someone is away for more than one week.

Regarding road safety and the speed at which people travel in Dolphin Sands, Marcus said that the police patrol the area regularly. He's also had the opportunity to meet a range of new people while doing COVID inspections.

Finally, Marcus invited any queries to be submitted to Robyn who will forward to him.

Dave Cooper asked about outcomes from charges laid over the fire in April 2019. Marcus said this it has gone to court, but he hasn't followed it up. He'll find out and let Robyn know.

5. Secretary's Report

Communities Environment Program (CEP) grant – this grant is for removing Radiata Pine from an easement in Cambria Drive. We first contacted Council over a year ago regarding transferring the easement from ASIC to Council, but this is yet to be finalised. However, we have completed an Aboriginal Heritage Investigation for the site which needed to be done before working in the area. When members of the working groups met with Council's new General Manager, Greg Ingham, a couple of weeks ago, we brought this issue to his attention.

Picnic tables – we first contacted Council about this issue in January but are yet to get any clear guidance. We've asked Greg Ingham to let us know how to progress this project.

NRM's Rural Water Use Strategy submission – as a member of Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committee, Robyn contributed to Council's Rural Water Use Strategy submission.

Access ways – Following legal advice received from Leigh Sealy SC in March 2018, DSRA representatives met with staff from Council and Crown Land Services (CLS) to try to come to a shared understanding about the beach accesses, eg who has responsibility for track construction, maintenance etc. At this meeting, Council said that they would be getting their own legal advice. This advice was forwarded to the DSRA this week and is available on the DSRA website.

David Cooper explained that, in the 2018 meeting, Council staff felt that the public should have the right to use access ways as well. It was decided not to pursue the issue, but leave

management of the access ways as it's been in the past. David said that Council's advice is basically identical to that provided by Leigh: landowners have rights of carriage over any easement.

Barry Smith explained that the rights of way are for residents on the northern side to access the beach. There are ongoing issues with people claiming that the access ways are their private land, putting fences up etc. Residents are allowed to clear pathways to a 'reasonable' standard. At the 2018 meeting, Fiona Steele from CLS said that CLS only recognised the main walkways onto Nine Mile Beach. However, Barry read from a covenant for Great Oyster Bay Estate which stated that residents in the area were allowed to put in a pedestrian walkway to the beach. CLs were going to check it out.

Wes Button said that the rights of way are on our titles. Council may have ownership, but this doesn't extinguish the rights of title holders.

Diane Flanigan asked who has the responsibility to maintain the beach accesses.

Robyn Moore responded that the aim of the original meeting with Council was to try to achieve a shared understanding about maintenance etc.

Barry Smith said that residents can apply for permission to clear the accesses, but it requires an astronomical level of paperwork which only lasts 12 months. Council should welcome volunteers.

Dianne Smith said that snakes are out, and easements need to be cleared.

Mal Innes said that some Councils will sign you on for public liability and injury. Best to approach track supervisors or 'safety zones for escape'. For example, in Kingborough, they have a massive amount of tracks and only 3 permanent workers.

Robyn said that the DSRA also has public liability and personal injury cover from our Landcare membership.

Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan (DSEMP) – Last week, members of the Emergency Management Working Group met with Council's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator Bev Allen, Council's Executive Manager - Development Deon Belling (now resigned), Mark Klop from the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and Caroline Noonan from SES to discuss the long-awaited review of the Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan. It was a constructive meeting with all parties recognising the importance of removing coastal wattle from roadside verges. The DSRA are going to organise a works program and get quotes.

Bev presented us with a draft DSEMP. A copy is available on the DSRA website. It's important to note that the DSEMP should be read in conjunction with the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and the East Coast Fire Management Area Bushfire Risk Management Plan. The DSEMP is designed to cover risks that are specific to the Dolphin Sands area. Bev would like feedback from the community on the draft. Please forward your comments to the DSRA and we'll collate them and send to Bev.

Correspondence In

| Date received | Document subject or title | Author/Sender | Action |
|---------------|--|--------------------|--|
| 30.7.2020 | Contamination hazard to aquifer | Bev Allen | Forward to committee |
| 13.8.2020 | Aboriginal Heritage Investigation report | Anne McConnell | |
| 14.8.2020 | Bushfire risk | Ellen Coulter, ABC | |
| 18.8.2020 | Letter of support | John Tucker | Forward to working group |
| 26.8.2020 | Budget | BridgePro | Forward to working group, Council |
| 30.9.2020 | Access to Nine Mile Beach | Roger Jaensch | Forward to concerned residents |
| 20.10.2020 | Drinking water exceedances | Mark Clow, AST | Notify affected people |
| 29.10.2020 | Legal advice re access ways | Deon Bellingen | Forward to Leigh Sealy; share with members |

Correspondence Out

| Date sent | Document title or subject | Recipient |
|------------|---|--|
| 3.8.2020 | Meeting with DSRA reps | Acting Mayor |
| 18.8.2020 | Upgrading YSB jetty | MAST |
| 18.8.2020 | Application for sponsorship | Australian Plants Society Hobart |
| 26.8.2020 | Access to Nine Mile Beach | CLS, Roger Jaensch, John Tucker |
| 16.9.2020 | Request for support | Break O'Day Business Enterprise Centre |
| 22.9.2020 | Municipal Emergency Management Plan | Council |
| 17.10.20 | Follow up from meeting | Greg Ingham, GSBC GM |
| 21.10.2020 | Groundwater quality tests | Bill Cromer |
| 23.10.2020 | Submission re Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill | DPAC |
| 26.10.2020 | Agenda item 7.4 - Rescind grants auspiced by Council policy | Council |

6. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance is \$18 275.78. The balance went down this week because we paid for the water testing. We made about \$110 (less cost of the courier) from the water testing because we got a 5% discount on the metals testing as we had more than 25 tests. When the cost was worked out, there were less than 25 people interested so the discount wasn't applied.

The balance looks healthy enough, and we are solidly in the black, but a fair amount of our balance is 'earmarked' – mostly for projects that are languishing with Council. Setting aside the 'earmarked' funds, there's only about \$170. There's no crowdfunding money left.

'Earmarked' funds

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Meredith River bridge balance | \$3502.20 |
| CEP grant balance – pine tree removal | \$8051 |
| Neighbour Day grant balance – picnic tables | \$5000 |
| Landscaping seminar | \$1050 |

7. Working group reports

Meredith River bridge group

Yon Kikkert said that the bridge is progressing slowly. The bridge group met with John Tucker who was enthusiastic and seemed to be looking for infrastructure projects to support. The bridge group also met with Nick Crawford from the Break O' Day Business Enterprise Centre. Council wants a business plan for the bridge before we can get planning approval. Nick Crawford is helping us develop a business plan. Dave Cooper organised a meeting with Aron Brimfield from BridgePro who has since provided us with plans and basic costings for a truss bridge across the Meredith. The quote is about \$1.5 million. This is a malleable figure as geotechnical reports etc have yet to be completed. The quote is based on the worst-case scenario for geotech. Nick Crawford is also very enthusiastic about a suspension bridge as an iconic tourist attraction. The Swansea Destination Action Plan (DAP) group and the Swansea Chamber of Commerce are also supportive of the bridge.

Dave Cooper noted that an advantage in terms of grant funding is that an aluminium bridge would be fabricated locally.

Barry Smith suggested that a suspension bridge would be likely to have higher maintenance costs.

Robyn explained that an advantage of the BridgePro bridge was its low maintenance requirements, which is an important consideration for Council.

Emergency Management group [formerly Bushfire prevention group]

Steve Barrett was unable to attend the meeting, so Robyn gave the report.

The working group prepared a submission in response to the Bushfire Measures Mitigation bill. Steve wanted everyone to know that we'd like to apply for funding to do another round of green waste chipping for fuel reduction. At the meeting with TFS and SES last week, we found out about some more grant opportunities, so we'll follow those up. As noted earlier, the draft DSEMP is open for comment.

8. Aquifer report

Robyn thanked all the water sample collectors and gave a brief overview.

- High levels of arsenic & iron detected ~400 DS Rd (early September)
- Dept of Health tested @ three sites (late September): arsenic: <1 at DS Rd west, 18 µg/L at ~400 DS Rd, 1 µg/L at Bagot Point
- Council advised the community not to consume groundwater
- DSRA tested @ 30 sites on Oct 11; 14 sites also had e.coli tests (all clear)
- Arsenic: 6 results had arsenic 9 µg/L or higher – from Cambria Drive to 1100s; no apparent pattern, except all beach side on DS Rd
- Lead: 1 result had lead 9 µg/L; other results just <9 – from Cambria Drive to Bagot Point
- Iron: 11 results above aesthetic guideline

Summary of DSRA water quality tests

| Metal | Range | Health limit |
|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Arsenic | <1 to 37 µg/L | 10 µg/L |
| Barium | <1 to 10 µg/L | 2000 µg/L |
| Cadmium | <0.1 to 0.3 µg/L | 2 µg/L |
| Chromium | <1 to 1 µg/L | 50 µg/L |
| Copper | <1 to 443 µg/L | 2000 µg/L |
| Iron | <20 to 5670 µg/L | 300 µg/L (aesthetic limit) |
| Manganese | <1 to 40 µg/L | 500 µg/L |
| Molybdenum | <0.5 to 8.1 µg/L | 50 µg/L |
| Nickel | <0.5 to 5.7 µg/L | 20 µg/L |
| Lead | <0.5 to 9 µg/L | 10 µg/L |
| Selenium | All <2 µg/L | 10 µg/L |

Department of Health advice re groundwater

- The data is limited and is not meant to be representative of the water quality in all locations of the aquifer
- The data shows that some groundwater is unsafe for human consumption. Therefore, caution is necessary
- Water quality sampling is one point in time and does not tell us what the concentrations were historically or what they are likely to be in the future
- If you have your bore supply tested and it is assessed as fit for drinking, then this is not a guarantee into the future
- Recommends quarterly testing as a minimum as this will pick up seasonal variations, which are known to occur in groundwater

More information about the aquifer is available on the DSRA website (www.drso.org.au).

The DSRA would like to conduct more testing to try to understand water quality changes over time. We have looked at funding options but so far no success. We may have to fund ongoing testing ourselves which may make our results less consistent.

Robyn to find out the cost for testing just 3 metals – As, Fe & Pb.

Motion: That the information reports are accepted.

Moved: Gary Stoward

Seconded: David Galloway

Carried.

Any other business: New committee member David Galloway

Meeting closed: 11.20am



President's Report October 2020

Dear Dolphins

Welcome.....

I begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today — the Paredarerme — and pay our respects to Elders past and present and emerging.

I hope this correspondence finds you all safe & well, particularly given the experiences that all of us have endured this year. For me, more than any other year I can remember, this year has highlighted how much of a privilege it is to live in Tasmania and that we should never take this stretch of paradise for granted – we have all seen how challenging life has been in other parts of our nation, I feel for those affected far worse than we have been here in Tassie.

A big thank-you must go out to all the Shackies who observed the ban on not visiting shacks during the lockdown period – extremely painful as it was!

Throughout the year, progression of issues at hand with Council has been disappointing, however we need to contextualise the priorities of those we have sought outcomes from, no doubt the GBSC has faced many challenges not only due to COVID but also the political context that has affected their operation.

We hope that with a refresh of critical leadership, GBSC will do the community proud by allowing the municipality to attract measured investment that further bolsters the long existing values that are the envy of many local government organisations nationwide.

So, what have DSRA been up to since we last met.....

1. The Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan (DSEMP): Following a meeting held after the AGM in January, the committee have been following up with Council but no progress so far. At Council's September meeting, they endorsed the revised and updated Municipal Emergency Management Plan. The DSEMP sits under the Municipal plan in order of structure, so, according to Council, the MEMP needs to be sorted first.

So, what can we do about this, other than continue to follow the correct channels of communication with Council?

We all must educate our families now, especially children, about our emergency plans, rehearse regularly – let's pray you never need it, but being prepared is the first significant step towards survival of your property and loved ones – if anyone existing or those new to the area would like guidance on where to start, please contact the DSRA anytime.

2. Progress on the picnic tables proposed for use at the public area just east of the Cambria Drive entrance has been slow despite a promising start. The same can be said for the transfer of land from ASIC to Council to enable the progression of the Pedestrian bridge over the Meredith River. Again, we respect the working context of the GSBC and have strong hope of making progress with new Mayor and General manger once they settle into their roles.

Members of the DSRA committee and working groups met with the new General Manager recently.

3. In June 2020, retired forester Rod Smith generously donated about 150 white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) seedlings that he'd grown from local seed to the DSRA. They came to us via Council's NRM (Natural Resource Management) department. These were distributed to members from about 40 properties.
4. Landscaping seminar – after application, the community has been offered partial sponsorship from the Australian Plants Society Hobart (APSH). A big thanks to Jenny Kay for liaising with the APSH. The seminar will be held on Nov 7.
5. A very successful Clean-Up Australia Day event was held at Bagot Point on Sunday, March 1. Thanks to everyone who participated and to Gary & Lorna for organising.
6. More recently, some concerning information on the levels of contaminants in the Aquifer. It must be stressed that water quality tests were for one point in time and can change. Those with groundwater bores that are currently being used for potable water supply need to follow Dept Health advice regarding regular testing of their drinking water – Please head to the DSRA website for further information about the Aquifer.

7. Property Security – a big thanks to Craig Selkirk who picked up a committee initiative and facilitated the area visit by experts from Harvey Norman who gave advice to landowners on security camera installations & options – let's hope the deterrent created by having a security camera at various properties serves to send a clear message to “would be” thieves that unlawful entering of property and theft at Dolphin Sands will result in prosecution.
8. Yellow Sandbanks Boat Launching – With the Swansea Launching Facility suffering sand inundation over winter, making launching very difficult, the committee has reached out to MAST regarding an upgrade of the Yellow Sandbanks Launching Ramp, initial consultation was met with an open, positive response, we will progress this issue as a priority heading into the busy summer period.
9. Bridge over Meredith River – Very exciting news that we now have:
 - a. A concept design
 - b. Price
 - c. Marketing logo for the Bridge & Working Group
 - d. A business plan that is 60% complete to present to council

More on the bridge will be tabled by the working group at the meeting held on 31st October.

As you can see, whilst outcomes with Council favourable to the community to report are few, any and all issues are being documented and followed up by the committee chosen to represent the ratepayers of our piece of paradise, the committee are optimistic of a turning point where progression of issues through consultation with the community is just around the corner.

Kind regards

Dave Cooper