



Dolphin Sands Community Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2025, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Apologies: Gary Stoward, Donna & Wes Button

Present: Leigh & Liz Sealy, Sue & Steve Barrett, Gynes Isherwood & his mother Suzanne, David Swifte, Paul Walker, Vicki Jones, Neil Wiseman, Tony Mitropoulos, Diane Flannigan, Brenton Wheare, Paul & Paula Hanson, David Galloway, Robyn Moore (minutes)

Meeting opened at 10.00

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM (April 2024) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Gynes

Seconded: Paul Hanson

Vote: Carried

2. Business arising

Reports (see attached)

3. President's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report

Motion: That the information reports are accepted.

Moved: Diane

Seconded: Brenton

Vote: Carried

Election of committee members

The following were elected unopposed:

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



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General Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2025, Swansea Courthouse

Minutes

Motions

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the previous general meeting (April 2024) are accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Paula Hanson

Seconded: Paul Hanson

Vote: Carried

Maureen Ferris joined the meeting

- Guest speaker – Maureen Ferris, East Coast Historical Society

Maureen Ferris shared some documents and photos from the early days of Dolphin Sands that were donated recently by Graham Burton, whose grandfather Richard Porter was the original developer.

Brenton noted that the area was originally going to be called Dolphin Heads subdivision.

The original documents can be viewed at the Historical Society - open Tuesday & Friday 10-3.

Paula presented Maureen with a small donation on behalf of the Association.

Maureen left the meeting

Any other business

- Cambria beach stairs update
- Invitation to join cohealth's Community Health Advisory Group
- Mental Health Week (Oct 4-12) – lots of activities planned
- GSBC's Open Space, Walking & Cycling Strategy – community survey

Cambria beach stairs – dispute with NRE: Natural Resources and Environment

July 2023 – DSCA signed licence agreement with NRE for use and maintenance of the stairs

Nov 2023 – stairs built by NRE

March 2024 – DSCA applies for works permit to extend handrail

Oct 2024 – works refused by NRE, stairs declared to ‘be fit for purpose’ and ‘meet policy requirements’

Nov 2024 – community members Diane Flannigan and Brenton Wheare submitted complaints to the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner

Feb 2024 – response to complaints from NRE (brief summary of much longer document)

1. All actions and decisions undertaken in full compliance with applicable legal and regulatory obligations, with no intention to discriminate...
2. Stairs not subject to the National Construction Code (NCC); only binding statutory obligation – compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1992
3. Extending the handrails deemed unfeasible due to potential damage from debris, accumulation of seaweed, and resultant structural deterioration and trip hazards
4. Comprehensive and proactive approach to addressing discrimination in the organisation
5. NRE is committed to ongoing improvements in its policies and practices
6. Alternative access points exist that provide access for people with disability

Complainants requested a copy of the risk assessment that has been used for decisions and info about assessment of alternative access points.

March 2025 – NRE forwarded a risk assessment (completed March 2025)

1. Track is classified as T1/Class 3 (do not usually require a handrail)
2. Fall hazard – considered acceptable, no corrective action required
3. Option considered – install handrail extension = potential for trip hazard & likelihood of damage to handrail (seems to be considered unacceptable)
4. Precedent – could set undesirable precedent for the management of walking tracks and beach accessways throughout the state
5. Suggestion to install hazard sign to warn of risk

Wed, March 26, 2025 – conciliation, Swansea Courthouse

Conciliator can't make decision – records any proposed outcomes or any resolutions; verbal agreements are binding.

If no agreement reached, initiate investigation process, which goes to TASCAT – Tas Civil & Administrative Tribunal – findings are enforceable. No cost. Conciliation is confidential; no information from the conciliation can be used in further proceedings.

DSCA complainants were supported by [Michael Small](#) from [Disability Voices Tasmania](#).

No agreement reached; investigation process initiated.

Brenton – they didn't win; we didn't lose; our safety is non-negotiable

Diane – hazards are equal – trip & fall – same rating on risk assessment – why is the risk of fall considered acceptable?

Steve – drew up plans for the original request to extend the handrail. The suggested extension was only 400mm, positioned a little lower and slightly narrower. If you took the current situation where the sand is pretty high, the extension would need to be 2m before it reached the sand.

Brenton – sand builds up in summer & is washed away in winter by storm action. Measured couple of days ago – 1.2m fall while sand is at highest level.

Summary: we are all bewildered by NRE's decision and subsequent behaviour.

Diane – asked if council were going to follow up re bushfire hazard zones.

Paul Walker – Landcare group's planting of She Oak – lovingly maintained & watered; feature – shade for parked cars – used a lot by tourists. Works manager believed them to be unauthorised and demanded they be removed. Note, some may be on private property. Robyn explained to council that permission was given by Amanda Brooks and that the trees can act as ember catchers etc.

David Swifte – wrong species of coastal wattle planted in initial development phase.

Gynes – personally feels 80k is too fast for Dolphin Sands Rd. Any chance of having it reduced to 70? Referred to Steve who was successful in having the speed limit reduced in Cambria Drive. Steve organised a petition that had almost everyone in Cambria Drive's support.

Meeting closed 11.10



Dolphin Sands Community Association Inc

President's Report 2025

Hi Dolphineers

To all the members of DSCA , thank you for your support during 2024-25. After some significant individual events in recent years, it has been great to have a bit less 'excitement' this year!

A headline event for the year has been obtaining a substantial grant for the purchase of a heavy-duty mulcher for use in the GSBC area. I would like to acknowledge the Commonwealth

Government as the funding body, and recognise the pivotal work of Steve Barrett and Robyn Moore in securing this 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.

The need for this machine again highlights the continued fire risk in our area. All residents in the area must ensure they take reasonable measures to reduce our risk for the benefit of themselves, the rest of the community and the first responders.

The GSBC commissioned a Bushfire Mitigation Report following the last major fire event and a number of recommendations were made. Pending review of the Council, some of these recommendations will be the responsibility of the GSBC and other bodies and will likely require substantial investment but others are relatively straight forward and should be managed by property owners. These include ensuring;

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

The Association look forward to working with Council in progressing the recommendations to contribute to the greater safety of the Dolphin Sands community.

The Dolphin Sands area was revalued by the Valuer General in the past twelve months. After substantial increase in the assessed land values, the result has been a marked northward hike in Land Tax for non-permanent residents and a significant rise in the GSBC rates for all. The effects of these cost imposts have presented financial challenges to many Dolphin Sands landowners. Unfortunately, the era of affordable family shacks is a fast fading memory for many. In saying this, we must be mindful that there are many in our community who are struggling to meet basic cost of living, including accessing housing in any guise.

I would like to thank a number of groups and individuals for their work over the past year:

- The DSCA committee, Robyn Moore and Paula and Paul Hanson for their contribution. As always, I would strongly encourage members to nominate for committee roles
- In addition to the formal committee, there are a number of individuals who take on projects. They provide important support to the activity of the Association.
- The Landcare Group for their substantial and consistent work for the benefit of all
- Our emergency service workers, the majority of whom are volunteers. Again, I would encourage everyone to consider their capacity to join one of these services.

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 2025

Firstly, a quick thank you to all the people who contribute to our community in so many diverse ways.

I've been involved in a variety of activities this year. For example, I represent the Dolphin Sands community on the Landscape Recovery Foundation's East Coast Catchments Committee (ECCC). I was also a member of the Community Advisory Group for cohealth's [PRIMM](#) (Primary Health Rural Innovative Multidisciplinary Models) project. The aim of this project is to help rural communities work out their primary care needs and design health care that works for them. I also worked with Geoff Jones to create a petition that was presented to state parliament requesting a Service Tasmania outlet in Swansea. Thanks to Geoff for his work on this initiative, which unfortunately hasn't yet achieved its aim.

Bushfire mitigation

Bushfire remains the biggest and most frequent risk to our community and environment, which is why bushfire preparation and mitigation is one of our main priorities. We held a successful fire-fighting expo in January 2024, with support from TFS staff. We hope that everyone who attended found the day useful. Thanks to Paul and Paula for hosting the BBQ afterwards.

We've been pleased to see council develop initiatives to support bushfire safety in Dolphin Sands. For example, thanks to the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Grant Program, council have installed fire-fighting water tanks at properties whose owners indicated interest. A Bushfire Mitigation Assessment Report has also been commissioned and delivered, to inform ongoing initiatives.

Our grant application to the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Ready Fund for \$125 000 to support council to purchase a portable Chipstar Negri R640 chipper/shredder was successful. At the time of writing, grant deeds are being issued, after which council will order the machine. Note that there is lead time of 4 months from ordering to delivery. This means we're expecting the machine to be delivered to council in July-August.

It's also been good to see Tas Networks attach fire retardant mesh on newer power poles. When exposed to heat, the mesh forms a solid barrier. There are hopes that there will be fewer power outages during fires, and less need to replace poles after fires. We note that concrete poles are also been used when existing poles need replacing.

Bushfire preparation is everyone's responsibility. It's important that we all do our bit. Please see the TFS's [Bushfire Safety Guide](#) for information, and ensure that you have completed your bushfire plan at the end of the guide. Everyone in your family needs to be familiar with your

bushfire plan. If you'd like to learn more about bushfires, the University of Tasmania offers some free courses:

- [Living with Fire](#)
- [Bushfire and your Health](#)

Landcare

We have a small but wonderful Landcare crew who take care of a lot of public land on the peninsula. We hold weekly working bees for most of the year (weather permitting). Last year, we were happy to receive a Landcare Australia grant to help us deal with some remaining pockets of gorse on private land.

Recently, we discovered a weed which hadn't previously been observed in southern Australia: small-flower evening primrose ([Oenothera indecora](#)). Biosecurity have been informed and are providing advice. Please get in touch if you need help dealing with weeds on your land. We may be able to help.

Something else we can all do to protect the biodiversity here is to report feral animals, such as rabbits and cats, to [feral scan](#). Rainbow lorikeets are also a current threat. You can read more about the risks posed by these seemingly innocuous birds in this [information sheet](#).

Aquifer water testing

We continue to conduct annual aquifer water testing, around Easter each year. We hope the data generated will enable us to build up a profile of the aquifer and how it changes over time.

Robyn Moore, Secretary



At Moulting Lagoon by John Glover