

Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

Held at Merricks Yacht Club

3 January 2016

1. Introduction

There being a quorum, the meeting commenced at 10.10am with a welcome from the President, Peter Cash as chairman of the meeting in accordance with rule 37(1). Peter introduced the committee members present.

2. Attendance

The following members (and, in accordance with rule 13(3)(b), member's designates) were present:

Bernard Barrett, Allan Bell, Janet Bell, Ian Breadon, Alec Campbell, Glythyn Campbell, Susan Carden, Garry Carter, Debra Carter, Peter Cash, Kathy Clarke, Stephen Clarke, Helen Cohen, Antony Cohen, Graeme Crossley, Mary Daley, Matt Darby, Caroline Gibbs-Darby, Bruce Dench, Peter Drake, Dee Edgar, Grattan Fitzgerald, Lucille Fitzgerald, Robert Fry, Joan Garnham, Shirley Griffin, John Guthrie, Janet Guthrie, Ed Height, Susie Gibson, Geoff Gowers, Ann Jaski, Simon Jaski, Ian Jeffery, Carla Jeffery, Robert Johnson, George King, Diana O'Neill, Perry Larsson, Keith Lawrence, Carole Lawrence, Joyce Lawrence, Dean McIntyre, Megan Douglas, Carole Milton, Margaret Morris, Michael Nolan, Rosemary Nolan, Ken Rowe, Leigh Ryrie, Greg Sutherland, Lindsay Sutherland, Rosanne Pittard, Trevor James, Russ Rechner, Alison Rechner, Jo Rechner, Ken Rowe, Kirsty Richards, Damian Sierakowski, Julie Thompson, Derek Trussler, Geoff Webster, Simon Webster, Roy Weidemeyer, Rob Weiss, Celia Weston,

Also in attendance – Cr Tim Wood, Russell Joseph (for Hon Martin Dixon MP)

3. Apologies:

Apologies were received from: Jan and Norm Brasch, Lyn Crossley, Tom & Ann Davies, John & Jo O'Neil, and Gai Wilson.

4. Minutes of previous general meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the 2015 annual general meeting (as circulated previously) be accepted.

Proposed: Ian Jeffery,
Seconded: Dee Edgar
Result: Declared passed.

5. Business arising from the minutes of the previous general meetings

There was no business arising from the minutes of the 2015 annual general meeting.

6. Correspondence.

The secretary, Kathy Clarke, advised the meeting of the following correspondence of note through the previous year: the major topics covered were letters to and from MPSC on ES027, Letter from Brian Catterall re rabbits, letters to Telstra and local MPs and Malcolm Turnbull as Federal Minister for Communications re mobile coverage and the NBN, a proposal from John O'Neill to coordinate calendars between MBRA, MYC, FSC, FOBCR, and from Tom Davies regarding fire risk on the foreshore.

7. Committee's report

Peter Cash presented the committee's report.

Peter referred to the written report, which had been made available to members on the association's website. Further to that report, he commented upon:

- Peter thanked the immediate past president Roy Weidemeyer for all his work over his years on the committee. He also thanked Susie Gibson who is leaving the committee after years of dedicated service.
- He noted the improved engagement this year with a number of key partners

MPSC: (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council): after some difficulties earlier in the year with MPSC personnel regarding roads and speeds, the relationship with the newly combined environment and infrastructure group led by Alison Leighton has greatly improved as seen by the recent community consultation regarding road and traffic issues. The Council has done a lot of work and responded with some very interesting positive proposals for road calming measures. A community meeting will be held in February to consider the proposals.

The attack on roadside vegetation was a negative but the MPSC's rapid response to suspend all vegetation trimming across the Peninsula until better guidelines were developed and the offer of revegetation by Council were signs of the improved responsiveness of the MPSC.

MYC: The good relationship has led to joint initiatives including combined social calendar printed and distributed to all households, reintroduction of the Davies Cup for Tennis to be held on January 6th, and the very successful Sausage Sizzle following the Sand Modelling Competition which was held at the MYC yard and attracted large numbers of residents to the MYC yard.

- Peter thanked Roy Weidemeyer for the plant giveaway, Bernard Barrett for the work on roads and drains, Greg Sutherland for his work as treasurer, Gai Wilson for Merricks Matters, Rosanne Pittard for the Residents Survey and Kathy Clarke for further web site development.
- Sand modelling and sausage sizzle. This a great success with our new member of the MBRA Committee, Megan Douglas, winning the Rose Bowl. The location of the Sausage Sizzle worked well. Peter thanked Sue Rutley and Ken Rowe for their contributions to the sand modelling competition and sausage sizzle, respectively. Thanks also to the Frankston Rotary Club for the use of its BBQ trailer.
- Mobile telephone blackspot. Merricks Beach was not successful in its application to the Black spot program. There will be another round but given the criteria, a submission is very unlikely to be successful. The NBN is coming to the Peninsula in 2017 and at present is not proposed to include Merricks Beach. Residents who are concerned at our exclusion were encouraged to make their views known to the local federal member, the Hon. Greg Hunt.
Telstra was undertaking a pilot with several residents to see if individual houses could achieve better reception but progress is unknown.
- The tennis courts required repairs this year. The fence is in a poor state, some repairs to the poles have extended its life but it will need replacement in the not too distant future. The cost is in the order of \$20,000. They are our major asset and well-loved and used by the community.
- Bike Paths. The MPSC has plans to continue the development of bike paths on this side of the Peninsula. It is planning to open Junction Rd which runs from the corner of Bayview and Marmaduke Streets in Balnarring to Merricks Beach Rd over the paddocks as a bike path. It also plans to complete the path along the Frankston Flinders Rd between Balnarring and the Merricks General Store at a cost of \$2M when funding is available.
- Speed trailers: the speed trailer in the village records traffic speeds for those vehicles exceeding 30 kph. We have been given data for 4 days prior to Christmas (19 Dec – 22 Dec). Of the vehicles recorded at over 30 kph, the majority are at 30-34kph. But between 9%

and 16% of vehicles exceeded 40 km/h. The highest was 55kph (there was a 99kph, but this is possibly an error).

- Foam St working bee was successful. Thanks to Dee Edgar, Megan Douglas and Dean McIntyre as well as the committee members who attended.

Questions from the floor:

Speed proposals, more information from MPSC? To be provided in Feb.

Green rubbish on Nature strips. Council responsibility, recommended to contact MPSC who are very responsive.

Possibility of lengthening the Foam St walkway further down Foam St. Needs further consideration and consultation by the committee.

8. Roads & Drains Sub-committee report

The chair of the sub-committee, Bernard Barrett, delivered the sub-committee's report.

The roads are presently in very good condition, with a good camber which aids drainage and therefore helps keep them in that condition. The relationship with Council, which undertakes the maintenance with advice from MBRA, was working well. The vegetation removal, as mentioned before, was on the negative side. There has been some opening out of roads as a consequence. The Council put in the new drain in Surf St at no cost to us by way of amends.

Traffic speed continues to be a major concern to residents. It is worth noting that speeds have not changed over the past 10 years, with 85% of vehicles still below 36kph. In relation to speed, the council installed a slow point in Palmers Hill Rd during 2015 for a 6 month trial period.

Unfortunately, this did not last long. After further representations by MBRA to Council, a community consultation meeting was attended by Council Officers, Alison Leighton and Ed Pocock, on Melbourne Cup weekend.

MPSC has developed proposals for 9 traffic calming sites: 3 in Palmers Hill Rd, 3 in Bayview Rd and one each in Spray and Minto. In addition, they will extend the fence at the end of the Foam St walkway to prevent cyclists from continuing around the current fence into the intersection without stopping.

The proposed calming measures are largely by way of chicanes with hard borders, guide poles and landscaping.

An information pack will be sent to members and a community meeting held in February to consider the proposals which include several alternatives which need to be discussed and decided upon before we respond to Council.

Questions from floor:

Potholes as a remedy to speed, not effective in past.

Dust suppression, more gravel doesn't really work New treatments available at a cost by householders from MPSC. Committee will investigate.

9. Treasurer's report.

The treasurer, Greg Sutherland, presented the MBRA's annual financial statements, which had been certified by he and Peter Cash in accordance with section 94(2)(b) of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. A copy of those statements is annexed to these minutes.

Greg reported that income for the year was \$19,000, (179 financial members, 75% of residences). He noted that a high level of membership permits the committee to represent residents more credibly and effectively in its dealings with council and other service providers.

Expenditure for the year was \$14,000, for items expended during this year (main items: \$10,000 roads, \$2000 tennis court repairs, \$2000 insurances) with an extra \$5000 for road work from last year resulting in expenditure of \$19,000.

There was a cash balance of \$15,000. The committee intends to continue to maintain the cash buffer of about \$15,000.

Motion: That the financial statements be accepted.

Proposed: Ken Rowe
Seconded: Megan Douglas
Result: Declared passed.

Motion: That, in accordance with rule 12(1), the MBRA committee be authorised by the members of the association to determine the amount of the annual subscription for the financial year 2016/2017, provided that the amount does not exceed \$120.

Proposed: Ken Rowe
Seconded: Megan Douglas
Result: Declared passed.

10. Residents Survey

Rosanne Pittard presented the outcomes of the survey of residents' views using an electronic survey tool. 100 residents replied of whom 97% were property owners.

The key areas of importance to residents were

- The environment
- The beach, sailing etc
- People and sense of community
- Peace and quiet
- Lifestyle

Re connection to services (currently)

- Gas 66%
- Water 57%
- Sewerage 84%

Memberships/participation in the community

- MBRA 90%
- MYC 44%
- FSC or FOBC 17%

Satisfied with mobile phone coverage

- No 40%
- Yes 28%
- Barely 33%

Does MBRA fulfil its purposes?

- Yes 78%
- No 7%

Priorities for respondents

- Preserving the village environment as it is
- More conservation activities
- Roads maintenance
- Representation to MPSC

Communications

- Merricks Matters 97%
- Website 35%

Comments and more detailed analysis are still to be undertaken and will inform MBRA plans for the future.

11. Rabbits

Kathy Clarke spoke to the considerations by the MBRA as to how best to address the problem of the increased rabbit population that is challenging attempts to plant new vegetation. The web site from DELWP (previously DEPI) has guidelines for addressing the problem in urban and semi-rural areas.

The guidelines state that it is the owner's responsibility to address the problem on their own land. Parks Victoria and shire councils will become involved on public land. It needs to be addressed as a community problem as individuals can only control their own property and are usually reinfected from neighbouring properties. It suggests that there be a community wide approach, timed at the end of summer/autumn when rabbit numbers normally decline as feed is less available in winter months. The approach needs to be multi-pronged with blocking of burrows around woodpiles, under sheds and houses etc. and judicious use of poisoning. The MBRA is thinking of coordinating a program across the village at the end of summer. A show of hands for those in favour of such a program resulted in about 90% of those present indicating support. One person indicated their opposition to the proposal.

12. Other business

Motion: That a donation of \$700 be made to the Balnarring CFA brigade.

Proposed: Ken Rowe
Seconded: Alan Bell
Result: Declared passed.

13. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Nominations have been received as listed below. Those nominated are therefore duly elected.

President	Peter Cash
Vice President	No nomination received
Secretary	Kathy Clarke
Treasurer	Greg Sutherland
Committee	Bernard Barrett, Grattan Fitzgerald, Simon Jaski, Rosanne Pittard, Ken Rowe, Mary Daley, Megan Douglas, Gai Wilson.

There remain vacancies on the committee, as well as the role of vice-president. Members were invited to make themselves available to fill these vacancies.

14. Presentations

Presentations were made by:

Cr Tim Wood. Cr Wood congratulated the members on their level of engagement with the association and endorsed Greg Sutherland's comment regarding the impact high membership has upon its ability to be effective in its dealings with council and others. He noted that the issues already raised with him by the association were common to the communities in the ward, particularly roads and their condition. Specific road 'trouble spots' remain a problem and MPSC meets with VicRoads, to raise issues twice each year. This year there has been progress in the form of reduced speed limits in known high risk areas eg Warrawee Rd intersection with Frankston Flinders Rd as well as Mornington – Flinders Rd and Shands Rd intersection. The council has a new CEO, who is undertaking a 'root and branch' review of the council's operations and is improving its performance.

Foreshore Committee of Management. Joyce Lawrence reported on behalf of Matt Darby. The committee depends on grants and donations and volunteers. Progress is good and there are wallabies returning to parts of the foreshore. All help and donations welcome.

Merricks Yacht Club. Richard Campbell spoke of the success of the MYC as a community hub and encouraged people to take up social membership even if they didn't sail. He welcomed the greater use of the facility by the MBRA and others to encourage greater social events in the community.

Mick Nolan spoke to the plan to install a lift at the MYC in order to allow the less physically able residents to enjoy the facility. Total cost is \$100, 000 and a donation campaign is underway. Pledges can be made by forms from the MYC preferably by end of January with payment by end of financial year 2015/16.

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve. Kirsty Richards noted that BCR is another place where the Merricks Beach community can mix with all ages and get involved. She reported that the reserve is flourishing. She invited members to join the working bees, and to attend the picnics, to be held later in January and at Easter.

15. Prize for Early Subs Payment:

The subscription-payment-raffle was drawn and the winner was George King and Diana O'Neill, who will receive a voucher for a lunch for 2 at, and courtesy of, Montalto Winery. Peter expressed the MBRA's appreciation for John Mitchell's contribution.

The meeting was closed at 12.00 noon.