

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Held at Merricks Yacht Club

4 January 2015

1. Introduction

There being a quorum, the meeting commenced at 10.10am with a welcome from the vice-president, Roy Wiedemeyer, as chairman of the meeting in accordance with rule 37(1). Roy introduced the committee members present.

2. Attendance

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

Robert Johnson, Andy Czerkaski, Liz Levin, Darryl Levin, Andrea & Geoff Gowers, James & Karina Webb, Alec Campbell, Perry Larsson, Robert Fry, Ian Jeffrey, Matt Darby, Bill Cleveland, Joan Garnham, Steve Clarke, Ian Breadon, Lucille Fitzgerald, Grattan Fitzgerald, Joyce Lawrence, Kirsty Richards, Rosanne Pittard, Trevor James, Alison Rechner, John Guthrie, M Nolan, Charlotte Limb, Pam Drake, Helen Fraser, Tony Lintermans, Martin Corden, Ken Rowe, George King, Diana O'Neill, K Lawrence, Janet Guthrie, Peter and Ann Hollingworth, Russ Rechner, Joan Trusler, Derek Trusler, Dee Edgar, Helen Cohen, Alan and Janet Bell, John Hollander, Carole Milton, Peter Cash, Roy Wiedemeyer, Greg Sutherland, Peg Corden, Mary Daley, Kathy Clarke.

Also in attendance – Cr Tim Wood.

3. Apologies:

Apologies were received from: Jan Brasch, Bernard Barrett, Tom & Ann Davies, Andrew Ellery, Graham Menzies, John & Jo O'Neil, Lindsay Sutherland and Gai Wilson.

4. Minutes of previous general meetings

Motion: That the minutes of the 2014 annual general meeting (as circulated previously) be accepted.

Proposed: Lucille Fitzgerald
Seconded: Ken Rowe
Result: Declared passed.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2014 special general meeting held on 2 November 2014 (as circulated previously) be accepted.

Proposed: Ken Rowe
Seconded: Lucille Fitzgerald
Result: Declared passed.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes of the 2014 annual general meeting.

In relation to the 2014 special general meeting, Peter Cash reported that the association's new rules were approved by the Department of Justice on 14 November 2014 and are therefore in effect, as of that date.

6. Correspondence.

The secretary, Peter Cash, advised the meeting of the following correspondence of note through the previous year:

Merricks Beach Residents' Association Inc

- The committee made a written submission to, and had subsequent correspondence with, the Commonwealth Department of Communications regarding the government's mobile telephone blackspot program, and mobile telephone coverage issues generally.
- Correspondence was received from Tom Davies, primarily copying the committee on his correspondence with DEPI regarding foreshore fire risk concerns.
- Correspondence was received from members providing (favourable) feedback on the MBRA's new website, the soliciting of information from candidates in the council by-election and the annual plant give-away.
- A letter dated 27/6/14 was sent to the chief executive of Mornington Peninsula Shire regarding (1) the failure of council officers to follow up on meetings (with Bernard Barrett & Roy Wiedemeyer) regarding traffic issues, and (2) statements made by a shire engineer which had misrepresented the MBRA's position on traffic flow and speed within the village. The responses to that letter included (1) a written apology from the Manager, Infrastructure Strategy (dated 1/8/2014), and (2) much greater responsiveness and engagement from council on traffic issues, culminating in the speed calming trial.
- A letter dated 17/12/14 was received from Cr Tim Wood advising his intention to host bi-monthly meetings of residents' associations to raise issues (on the basis of written submissions); the first is on 12 February.
- A letter dated 1/1/15 was received from Brian Catterall copying his letter of same date to Cr Wood proposing that council enact by-laws to make it mandatory for homeowners to take measures to prevent rabbits establishing warrens under their houses and inviting the MBRA to endorse this proposal [this letter has not yet been considered by the committee].

7. Committee's report

Roy Wiedemeyer presented the committee's report.

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

- The website. Roy thanked Kathy Clarke for her diligent work in bringing this to fruition and members concurred with their acclamation. One of the key features is that it provides an alternative payment channel, noting that cheques will soon be phased out.
- Mobile telephone blackspot. The committee made a submission to the Department of Communications and we are now awaiting whether a mobile phone service provider will include Merricks Beach in its proposal to the program. Recently, in response to a further letter, the Department suggested that we communicate direct with the service providers about coverage issues. The extreme heat and nearby bushfire over the past few days confirm the need for improvement in phone reception – particularly in lower-lying parts of Merricks Beach – and the committee will continue to pursue the available options.
- Aerial bundled cables (ABCs). Since this issue was raised at the 2014 AGM, the committee has been in communication with United Energy, including a recent on-site meeting which Roy attended. United Energy has advised that ABCs are installed based upon "electrical infrastructure fire risk", and Merricks Beach is not assessed as being high risk. Accordingly, United Energy has no plans to install further ABCs in Merricks Beach (in addition to those now in Surf and Spray Streets). Roy noted that the council would continue to clear foliage around power lines, irrespective of whether they are ABCs or not. This could be avoided only by putting power lines underground, the cost of which is prohibitive.
- Council by-election. There were around 18 candidates in the recent by-election for Red Hill Ward. The committee asked each of the candidates questions concerning their positions with respect to issues of interest/concern to Merricks Beach residents and circulated their responses by email. The successful candidate was Tim Wood, with whom Roy and Bernard Barrett met recently.

- Sand modelling and sausage sizzle. Roy thanked Sue Rutley and Ken Rowe for their contributions to the holding of the highly successful sand modelling competition and sausage sizzle, respectively. Thanks also to the Frankston Rotary Club for the use of its BBQ trailer. Roy noted that the sausage sizzle had returned to the yacht club for the first time in 14 years, and this was generally successful, some logistical issues (some caused by the power blackout!) notwithstanding.

8. Roads & Drains Sub-committee report

The chair of the sub-committee, Bernard Barrett, was unable to attend the meeting and Roy Wiedemeyer therefore delivered the sub-committee's report.

During the year, a significant amount of money had been spent on drainage and re-sheeting work.

The roads are presently in very good condition, with a good profile which aids drainage and therefore helps keep them in that condition. The drains are improving, but there are clearly areas where this is not the case, especially the north side of Palmers Hill Road (which, despite the committee's representations, has still not been rectified following a flood resulting from a broken pipe more than a year ago). Roy emphasised the need for residents to ensure that their cross-overs are functioning, so that the drains can function between them. The committee is happy to assist residents to make arrangements with contractors to have cross-overs installed or renewed.

In relation to speed, the council installed 3 slow points during 2014 for a 6 month trial period. Unfortunately, these did not last long as a result of person/s unknown driving over them, apparently deliberately (some members present indicated that they had observed the road grader doing this). The slow points will be reinstated by council. Once they are permanent, landscaping and planting will be done around them to minimise the risk of their destruction and to enhance their visual narrowing effect.

Members made comments and asked questions concerning:

- The status of Wave Street, in particular the loss of camber and the location of the drain on the north side rather than the south.
- The responsibility of the council for maintaining the drains. (Roy noted that the council can be expected to respond promptly if there is a report made of inundation to a house.)
- The use of cross-overs by rabbits as ready-made warrens.

9. Treasurer's report.

The treasurer, Greg Sutherland, presented the MBRA's annual financial statements, which had been certified by he and Roy Wiedemeyer 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 increased to approximately \$20,000, due to the further increased membership (180 financial members). 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 about \$31,000, resulting in a loss of \$11,000, which had been met from prior year surpluses and was consistent with the committee's program of catching up on under-investment on roads and drains in prior years due to unavailability of suitable gravel and contractor issues etc. Apart from roads and drains, other major expenditure items were: insurance, the creation of the website, the plant give-away and council rates (on the tennis courts).

As at 30 September 2014, there was a cash balance of about \$15,000, but this was subject to accrued expenses of about \$5,000. The committee intends to continue to maintain the cash buffer of about \$10,000.

Motion: That the financial statements be accepted.

Proposed: Peter Cash
Seconded: Rosanne Pittard
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 2015/2016, provided that the amount does not exceed \$115.

Proposed: Peter Cash
Seconded: Trevor Pittard
Result: Declared passed.

10. Other business

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

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

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, Susie Gibson, Simon Jaski, Rosanne Pittard, Ken Rowe, Roy Wiedemeyer, Gai Wilson. |

There remain up to 5 vacancies on the committee, as well as the role of vice-president. Members were invited to make themselves available to fill these vacancies.

11. 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' need to be identified to council so that it can raise them with VicRoads, which it is able to do only twice each year. The council has a new CEO, who is undertaking a 'root and branch' review of the council's operations. The proposed Rosebud swimming pool project (cost \$40m) has been terminated by a 6-5 vote of council. Cr Wood has issued an invitation to residents' associations to meet with him every 2 months on a formal basis. This replaces the Red Hill Consultative Group. The first meeting is on 12 February.

Foreshore Committee of Management. Bill Cleveland reported that the 2014 rainfall (614mm) was significantly less than each of the previous 2 years, but the rain that did fall had been timely.

Bill noted that the Foreshore Committee is concerned by the fire risk, but work to remove dead sallow wattles could not be done before February. The committee has received a grant to improve access paths and an assessment will take place during 2015. The reduction in the committee's grant income meant that its focus would have to be on maintenance, but that tremendous improvements had been made, so that there was now a lot that can be maintained. This, however, can only be achieved if the community pitches in and helps. Bill noted that the council erects signs regarding dogs on the beach, but the foreshore and beach are crown land. The rule is that dogs must not be on the beach between 9am and 7pm in summer, and this should be observed by all.

Merricks Yacht Club. Richard Campbell noted that the clubroom renovations had been completed and that MYC is financially stable and with very large numbers of juniors coming through. MYC is conscious that it is the sole infrastructure in Merricks Beach apart from the tennis courts and it is keen that it be used as a facility by the whole community (eg, by attending Thursday night drinks).

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.

The subscription-payment-raffle was drawn and the winner was Ian and Jennifer Rogers, who will receive a voucher for a lunch for 2 at, and courtesy of, Montalto Winery. Roy expressed the MBRA's appreciation for John Mitchell's contribution.

The meeting was closed at 11.45am