

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Held at Merricks Yacht Club

5 January 2014

1. Introduction

There being a quorum, the meeting commenced at 10.05am with a welcome from the president, Roy Wiedemeyer, who introduced the committee members present.

2. Attendance

All members present were requested to sign an attendance register, which is retained separately.

3. Apologies:

Rob Weiss, Lady Potter, Bernard Barrett, Allan O'Neil, Jenny Newstead, Tom & Ann Davies, Jan & Garry Fowler, Ian Jeffrey, Gai Wilson.

4. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2013 annual general meeting (as circulated previously) be accepted.

Proposed: Roy Wiedemeyer

Seconded: Ken Rowe

Result: Passed.

5. Business arising from the minutes of the 2013 annual general meeting

Roy Wiedemeyer noted that the possibility of a reduced rate of subscription had been raised at the 2013 AGM. He reported that this suggestion was subsequently considered by the committee, which had determined not to make any change, but had agreed instead that any residents who considered that they may not be in a position to pay the full subscription would be welcome to make a (smaller) donation instead, or to approach the committee to discuss some other arrangement that would be more suitable to their circumstances. This was then communicated to members via Merricks Matters.

6. Correspondence.

Correspondence was noted as available for review.

7. President's report

Roy Wiedemeyer reported that the committee had again been very active in 2013. It met on 8 occasions. Its main focus was on roads and drains which, thanks in large part to the work done by Bernard Barrett, had generally been kept in very good condition. There have also been good improvements in drainage, with thanks due to those who had invested in new cross-over pipes, making the work of the contractors on the drains much more effective. Roy reminded members that their cross-over pipes are their own responsibility.

In March 2013 there was a dog attack on a koala, which died as a result. The dogs were owned by a Balnarring resident. This was reported to council at the time, but it serves as a reminder to all that dogs must be kept under their owners' control at all times. The MBRA will continue to support responsible dog ownership. The applicable regulations and guidelines can be accessed on the Shire Council's website.

The MBRA gave away some 250 plants at the annual Queen's birthday plant giveaway. One hundred left over plants were sold to a member and the remainder were planted at the corner of Bayview and Palmers Hill Roads. This is a unique program, and is of great benefit to maintaining

the indigenous flora and fauna of the village. Roy noted that there are a number of Merricks residents who can provide residents with advice about indigenous planting, and he is always happy to provide information himself.

Merricks Matters was published in 3 editions during 2013 and thanks are due to its editor, Gai Wilson. Each edition included interesting articles about residents and their present and past activities. Residents are encouraged to contact Gai with content of this nature. Distribution of Merricks Matters is now largely by email. Roy advised that, in the future, hard copies of Merricks Matters will not be sent to non-members due to the cost of doing so. The MBRA Facebook page is available as a forum for community information, and back copies of Merricks Matters are available on the Merricks Yacht Club website.

During 2013, the committee sought to progress the suggestion of hiring a chipper and making it available to residents over a designated weekend. However, this proved impossible as contractors are reluctant to make their machines available where they are not involved in the lopping because of the risk of damage to their machines. Local tree-felling companies will often sell mulch at reduced rates when they are working in the village.

Roy thanked Ian Rogers for his contribution to the community by maintaining the lawns around the tennis courts.

Roy reported that an information session arranged by the MBRA had been conducted by the CFA between Christmas and the new year. Nineteen people attended. A show of hands requested by Roy indicated interest in another session being arranged, possible at Easter.

With respect to membership, Roy noted that the number of members at this time last year had been 120, but that the final number for the year had climbed to 167. This is out of the 240 or so houses in Merricks Beach. As at the time of the meeting, there are about 150 members. The increase in membership had enabled the committee to maintain the association's activities throughout the year. Associated with the increased membership has been a more extensive use of email to communicate with members. The committee is keen to get as many email addresses as possible – particularly including those of the now-grown children of many longer-term residents in order to be as inclusive as possible. This includes publicising the tennis lessons that have been conducted on the tennis courts each school holidays. Roy noted that residents can opt out of receiving emails about these lessons.

The association's long-standing auditor, Graeme Henderson, has retired, and Roy requested anyone who may be able to fill this role – or may know of some else who could – to contact him or the treasurer, Greg Sutherland.

Roy observed that having reasonable mobile phone reception is increasingly important to most – but not all – residents. The committee is presently considering what options might be available to improve mobile phone reception in the village (particularly at the lower levels), in order that they might be considered by the community as a whole. It may be that any answer will lie in technology that is not yet available.

Finally, Roy noted that this has been his third, and final, year as president, although he intends to remain on the committee. He thanked past and present committee members for their support during his term.

8. Treasurer's report.

Greg Sutherland presented the MBRA's annual financial statements. Income for the year increased to approximately \$18,000, due to the restoration of the membership base. This permits the committee to maintain its planned expenditure of around \$15,000 each year. There was negative cash flow for the year, but this was only due to an accrued expense as at the previous balance date.

As at 30 September 2013, there was a cash balance of \$21,000. The committee intends to continue to keep a cash buffer of about \$15,000 to enable the association to have financial capacity to respond to unanticipated events of concern to the community.

Merricks Beach Residents' Association Inc

The 2013 AGM resolved to authorise the committee to increase the annual subscription to an amount up to \$110. The committee did resolve to increase the subscription to that amount, there having been no increase for several years, as a matter of prudence.

Graeme Henderson has retired as the honorary auditor, and Greg thanked him for the fantastic job he had done in that role over the years. The association is therefore looking for a new auditor.

Motion: That the MBRA committee is authorised to set the level of annual subscriptions for 2014/2015, at no more than \$115 per subscription.

Proposed: Greg Sutherland

Seconded: Ken Rowe

Result: Passed.

Motion: That the treasurer's report be accepted.

Proposed: Greg Sutherland

Seconded: Alec Campbell

Result: Passed.

9. Roads & Drains Sub-committee report

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

The roads are presently in exceptionally good condition, although, of course, there are cycles throughout each year. Members were reminded that they can call the council's 1300 number to make a report if there are bad potholes.

Good drainage is essential to keeping up the condition of the roads, so the committee has been committing funds to rectification work on drains, and will continue to do so. Roy emphasised the need for residents to ensure that their cross-overs are functioning, so that the drains can also function. The south side of Bayview Road was recently completed, which was a substantial project.

It was a wet winter and spring, which affected the roads. [Bill Cleveland provided the meeting with details of Merricks Beach's annual rainfall, which showed that although overall rainfall was less in 2013 than the 2 previous years, a very wet period in August had made the village quite boggy from then on.] The situation was not helped by damage done by SE Water to its own main, in Bayview Road. That damage is still to be fully rectified.

The association has co-invested with the shire council in re-sheeting the roads; so far Minto and Spray Streets have been done.

Bernard has met regularly with the shire council's responsible officers, and with its contractors.

There are a number of ongoing projects:

- Clearing from Palmers Hill Road the silt which resulted from the damaged main
- Redefining the drain in Palmers Hill Road near Bill Carroll Reserve and replacing the crossover
- Replacing the culvert under Foam Street, north of the roundabout
- Rectifying the pit on the northwest coner of Minto and Foam
- Redefining the drain at the south end of Merricks Beach Road and clearing the culvert
- Clearing the drain on Merricks Beach Road 400m south of Frankston Flinders Road where it regularly floods.

The shire council has been replacing signs and guideposts. This has narrowed the roads in some places.

The contribution of Keith Lawrence to helping to keep the drains clear over the past few years was acknowledged.

Merricks Beach Residents' Association Inc

Portable speed limit signs have again been placed around the village. The feedback is that they have some effect, particularly when there are a lot of visitors about. In response to a query, Roy confirmed that the legal speed limit is 25kph.

There was discussion as to the potentially differing levels of engagement in roads issues as between members and non-members. Bill Cleveland suggested that non-members be asked to pay a levy towards maintenance of the roads. Roy advised that the committee would discuss this.

A member raised a concern with the near-disappearance of the Palmers Hill Road roundabout and the straightening of that road. Roy advised that the committee would see what could be done in this regard.

10. Ordinary Business

Election of Office Bearers and Committee

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

President No nomination received.

Vice President Roy Wiedemeyer

Secretary Peter Cash

Treasurer Greg Sutherland

Committee Bernard Barrett, Andrew Ellery, Lucille Fitzgerald, Susie Gibson, Simon Jaski, Rosanne Pittard, Ken Rowe, Gai Wilson.

There remain 5 vacancies on the committee, including the role of president. Members were invited to make themselves available to fill these vacancies.

Appointment of Auditor

As no suitably qualified person has yet been identified,, no appointment was made by the meeting.

11. Special Business

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

Proposed: Roy Wiedemeyer

Seconded: Margaret Mann

Result: Passed.

Retiring committee members

Roy Wiedemeyer thanked and made presentations to the 2 retiring committee members, David Wharington and Robyn O'Brien.

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

12. Presentations by community groups.

The Merricks Beach Story Meg Paul made a short presentation regarding this recent publication and advised members how they could purchase a copy.

Foreshore Committee of Management Bill Cleveland advised that the Foreshore Committee had planted 1000 indigenous plants in 2013, including along the west path beyond the new bridge. He encouraged residents to report any incidents of vandalism, to get involved in the planting activities,

and also to sign on for the weekly beach clean-up, which is still the committee's primary source of income, despite the amount received from DEPI having been reduced by 50%.

Merricks Yacht Club John Hollander noted that the yacht club is proceeding with a redevelopment at the same time as it celebrates its 50 year anniversary. The club has many very sailors, including a number of younger sailors going overseas to compete.

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve Kirsty Richards reported that the reserve is flourishing. She invited members to join the working bees, usually held on Sundays, at which they will be able to learn about local flora.

13. Other Business

Members raised the following issues, which were discussed by the meeting:

- The times when dogs are permitted on the beach (**not** between 9am and 7pm, throughout the period of summer time)
- The need to avoid fibrous items being placed in the sewers in order not to block the pump. However, Andrew Ellery advised that SE Water will install new pumps – which are more robust – free of charge, if asked.
- Harvey Williams requested that the committee press United Energy to instal aerial bundled cables in all areas to minimise fire risk.
- The possible installation of more park benches around the village.

The meeting was closed at 11.55am