

MINUTES



OF

FRIENDS OF LOCAL RESERVE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD

TUESDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2009

AT

**SHIRE OF DARDANUP
EATON ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
1 COUNCIL DRIVE, EATON**

SHIRE OF DARDANUP

MINUTES FOR THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP FRIENDS OF LOCAL RESERVE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST August 2009 AT SHIRE OF DARDANUP – EATON ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, COMMENCING AT 5:10PM.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Chairperson Cr Boyce welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 5:10 pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Carmel Boyce	-	Elected Member
Noelene Anderson	-	Elected Member
Tim Batt	-	Manager Health Services
Julie King	-	Community Representative
Carl Hughes	-	Community Representative
Kate Swayne	-	Community Representative
Peter Parish	-	Community Representative
Del Nuske	-	Community Representative
Kevin Hughes	-	Community Representative
Trevor Dyer	-	Community Representative
Jane Dyer	-	Community Representative

2.2 Apologies

Sue Ganz	-	Community Representative
Annaliese Cave-Smith		Environment and Health Officer

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Meeting Held 30th June 2009

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

THAT the Minutes of the Friends of Local Reserve Areas Steering Committee Meeting held on the 30th June 2009, be confirmed as true and correct subject to no corrections:

4 REPORTS

4.1 Duck Pond

The management plan for the Duck Pond on Hamilton road was discussed. The plan has been approved by Council on the 22nd of August and work is expected to commence in September/ October on the installation of bollards, car parking and bus shelter.

Unconfirmed – Subject to Adoption by Council

Revegetation works will not commence until next June once the engineering works has been completed. Plants for the revegetation will be ordered in September 2009.

The committee queried the potential activities that the community would be involved with and exactly what works were planned.

ACTION:

A copy of the overall plan for the Duck Pond will be tabled at the next meeting.

4.2 National Tree Day

On the 24th of July approximately 120 trees were planted on the southern side of the Duck pond by the after school care kids attending the On-line Child Care Centre. Eighteen kids, aged between 3 and 7 and carers were involved in the planting.

On the 26th of July – National Tree Day, 55 participants attended the Collie River Foreshore adjacent to the Eaton Bowling Club. The day was well supported by the John Holland Group who supplied 1000 seedlings, grow bags, stakes and refreshments for the day. The group also donated shovels, plastic spades and gloves to the friends of group.

The following weekend, 2nd of August another 200 trees were planted in the Cleveland Bay/Polworth Circle wetland by the residents in Polworth Circle. The group also removed rubbish and weeds from the area.

The total number of trees and seedlings planted in the reserves for the planting days was 2630.

There has also been significant time spend by Peter and Pam Parish and Trevor and Jane Dyer in re-staking and bagging trees planted in the reserves. Additional plantings have been done by Carl Hughes in the Hands Creek areas.

Outer community members living adjacent to the reserves have started to get involved in replacing the bags and generally keeping vigil over the trees.

RESOLUTION:

That FLoRA writes to the John Holland Group to thanks them for the support on National Tree Day and for the donation of trees and equipment.

Moved: Peter Parish

Second: Tim Batt

4.3 Mulch/Weeding Program

Pete Parish requested that the Parks and Garden staff spray the grass and weeds around the trees on the foreshore area and that Mulch be made available for the FLoRA members to spread in the coming weeks.

Unconfirmed – Subject to Adoption by Council

ACTION:

The request for spraying and mulch to be made by Tim Batt.

4.4 Advertising

Promotion for the FLoRA activity days was discussed. There are a number of options available to the group. It was suggested that the information for planting days, and general activity days be posted on the Council website and in the newspaper on the Council pages.

More effort needs to be made to encourage additional community members into the working days.

Funding may be available through volunteer grants which close in September.

ACTION:

Promotion and grant applications will be undertaken by Annaliese Cave-Smith.

4.5 Hands Creek

Hands creek has received some stabilisation works following recent rains. Further work is planned once the worst of the winter storms have passed.

An exposed pipe will be reported to the relevant service authority (Water Corporation) by Tim Batt. (completed 23rd August 8:45am).

Engineering works are planned for the creek to alleviate the impact of gross litter and silting on the Watson Street Reserve. The group requested further information from the Shires Engineering Department on future plans.

Discussions continued as to the potential storm water retention ponds up stream from Hands Creek. There was some uncertainty on how the drainage from the shopping centre expansion and Glen Huon Reserve will be managed.

ACTION:

That the Manager Technical Services be invited to the next meeting to discuss the possible plans for the shopping centre/oval drainage and the planned works for Hands Creek.

4.6 Collie River Walk

A. The walk path along the Collie River from the Bowling club to Watson Street was discussed. Several issues were raised including:

Condition of retaining wall adjacent to the Solomon Street intersection. Further retaining may be required as there is some erosion occurring from activities on the slope.

RESOLUTION:

That FLoRA request Council consider including the provision of additional retaining works on the Collie River walk in the Royalties for Regions funding.

Unconfirmed – Subject to Adoption by Council

Moved: Trevor Dyer

Second: Kate Swane

- B. Current design of the walk path being compacted limestone. The group was in general support of retaining the path as a compacted limestone provided the surface was compacted to a standard that was suitable for prams and bikes.

RESOLUTION:

That FLoRA informs Council that it supports retaining the walkway on the Collie River foreshore as a compacted limestone standard to retain the natural appearance of the area.

- C. Trevor Dyer raised the issue of dead trees within the river reserve. Concerns were raised over the removal of dead trees adjacent to the bowling club. It was explained that the tree was removed as a matter of public safety after several limbs had fallen during a storm event in July.

Trevor explained that there were a number of dead trees in the reserve that were regularly used by birds, specifically a pair of osprey, for nesting and feeding platforms and that these trees are vital for the birds. It was felt that if the dead trees were removed then birds such as the osprey would leave the area.

The group felt that there is a need to protect the existing trees from being removed and that clear direction needs to be given to Council staff of the ecological value of these trees.

RESOLUTION:

That FLoRA requests Council develop a strategy for identifying and retaining significant trees in reserve areas to protect nesting birds.

Moved: Trevor Dyer

Second: Kevin Hughes

4.7 Biodiversity Discussion Paper

The group was provided with a brief explanation of the Biodiversity Discussion Paper and that the paper would be presented to Council for adoption in the coming weeks.

Peter Parish provided a suggested position of the paper that related to Council verges in residential areas.

"In all new residential areas the nature strip must remain a "nature strip".- by law, which then allows this to become a mini corridor of biodiversity. All current areas, after consultation with residents, should slowly revert back to nature strips, which would then add to the biodiversity of the area".

This concept was generally supported given the drying climate that has been predicted and the likelihood of extended water restrictions in coming years. It is recognised that the use of native species in verge areas in preference to exotic plants that required extensive watering is

Unconfirmed – Subject to Adoption by Council

a common sense approach to maintaining a healthy and aesthetically acceptable community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That FLoRA make the following submission to Council in relation to the Shire of Dardanup Biodiversity Discussion Paper:

That new residential areas be required to maintain verge areas as a "Nature Strip" by Council Policy, consisting of native plant species with high biodiversity values.

Moved: Peter Parish

Second: Noelene Anderson

4.8 Reserve Assessments

Melanie Strang from Eco Edge has been engaged to undertake assessments of the Watson Street Reserve and the Millard/Hale Street Reserve. Melanie will be conducting the field work in the coming weeks and will provide Council with a management plan for both reserves along with the assessments under the biodiversity funding agreement.

Melanie will be invited to the next meeting to discuss her role and the work she is undertaking.

4.9 Working Bee's

Next planned day is the **13th of September**, meeting at the Hands Creek Area at **9:30 am** to undertake some weeding and mulching of the area that has been planted out.

Additional mulch will be located along Pratt Road, Eaton in the River Reserve. Members of the community are invited to assist in spreading the mulch but are requested to register their activities prior to undertaking the work.

5 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF MEETING

[Please Note: This is Not General Business – This is for Urgent Business Approved By the Person Presiding or by Decision. In cases of extreme urgency or other special circumstance, matters may, with the consent of the person presiding, or by decision of the members present, be raised without notice and decided by the meeting.]

Nil

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting is the **29th of September 2009**, time 5:00 pm.

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Unconfirmed – Subject to Adoption by Council

There being no further business the Chairperson, Carmel Boyce declared the meeting closed at 7:45pm.