

## **Harmer's Haven Residents and Ratepayers Group**

### ***Minutes of meeting of AGM 11am Sunday 21 April 2019, 86 Viminaria Road***

**Present:** Ros Eason, Rosemary Paterson, Amaryll Perlesz, Val Grant, Dave Lane, Maria Zerella, Luisa Macmillan, Richard Tanter, Ron Thomas, Mary Keady, Graeme Keady, Helen and John Laing, Cris Larner, Uli Michel, Nick Ferris, Chris and Emelia Sferrazza, Kevin and Deb Simpson, Jesse and Bibi Sago, Mark Levy, Don Reigel, Ursula and Werner Thienert, Yvonne Simmance, Stephanie Brown, Susan Peel, Daniel Smith, Lynda Western, Braden Betley, Nick Ferris, Giorgio Zanini, Pen Lyttle, Dan Huther.

**Apologies:** Diana McLachlan, John Old, Aneta Marovich,, Annamarie Perlesz, , Helen Collyer, Liz Rule.

(36 attendees, 6 apologies)

#### **1 Welcome**

Ros welcomed all attendees. A round of introductions was carried out.

#### **2. Minutes of previous AGM, 2018**

Minutes confirmed. Moved, Luisa Macmillan, seconded Maria Zerella

#### **3 Business arising**

Will be dealt with as it arises in course of reports below

#### **4 President's Report**

Ros reported on the meeting held on 16/3/19 between our representatives (Ros, Rosemary & John Old) with our local State MP, Jordan Crugnale, to discuss the proposed coastal walking track from San Remo to Inverloch, and to give her some sense of the character of the area. Our reps shared our principles of concern that underpin the route of the proposed trail with Jordan (see below), highlighting the need to protect the amenity of residents as well as protecting the environment. Our HHRRG reps also took Jordan to selected areas on the foreshore that she was not familiar with, including the endangered Banksia Woodland just east of Coal Creek in order to show her the sort of voluntary work Friends of Harmers Haven has done for many years to protect the remnant native vegetation down at Harmers, and to show her how narrow the HH foreshore was in some parts.

Ros invited Rosemary to share the story thus far re meetings that have been held by both the Bass Coast Shire Council with local DELWP reps, and a consortium of local groups from San Remo, Kilcunda, Cape Paterson, the Wonthaggi Heathlands, the Peregrines Walking Group & South Gippsland Conservation Society who have formed a community alliance to prepare a position on a possible track route & the principles that will guide that route.

Rosemary said that everyone agreed that there should be no destruction of existing vegetation but rather an overall net gain of vegetation; and that there should be no mountain bikes, cycling and horse riding permitted on the walking track; there should be no fires allowed at any point along the track; and that existing camping grounds should be upgraded rather than building new ones. Rosemary also said that the Wonthaggi Camping ground may need to be expanded. There was also talk within these informal meetings of acquiring private land (eg pathways through fields) to place a track. This is already being negotiated at the San Remo end of the trail.

A lively discussion ensued then within the AGM with HH residents raising many questions: what would the cost be; what about the future long-term cost of maintaining such a track; why do we need it anyway; why not just utilise existing bike and walking tracks; has anyone done a cost-benefit analysis; what about the problem of speeding bikes taking over; and does the HHRRG want such a walking track and should we oppose the plan.

Some said clearly they strongly supported the idea of walking trails & the key issue was where it was to be routed, so that rather than opposing it outright we should remain in the consultation process in order to influence the outcome. The majority of residents seemed strongly in opposition to the idea of a coastal walking trail across the HH foreshore if it was close to houses, and if it meant destroying vegetation on a narrow foreshore.

It became clear during the discussion that neither Jordan Crugnale MP, nor local DELWP officers, or anyone from Bass Coast Shire Council knew anything about the planned trail & its planned route. Ros thus proposed that instead of putting a vote to the AGM today on whether or not our group would oppose or support the proposed trail, that we needed more information & that the Executive would report back regularly to HHRRG members on the process & outcomes of community consultations.

A side issue arose whilst discussing local walking trails, and Ursula raised the need for a safe bike and pedestrian shared pathway from HH into Wonthaggi along Berrys Rd. It was agreed that a Working Group be formed to prepare such a proposal to present back to HHRRG and to eventually make representation to Vic Roads. Working Group members: Sue, Mark, Chris S, Ursula, and Bibi & Jesse.

**Motion:** *That the President's report be accepted.*

Moved, Maria Zerella, seconded Cris Lerner

Passed unanimously.

## 5 Secretary's Report

John Old had given his apologies to the meeting so Ros spoke on his behalf. There was no significant correspondence aside from the letter written to Jordan Crugnale after the meeting on the 16.3.19 and that letter had been delivered, with notice of the AGM, to all houses at HH.

**Motion:** *That the Secretary's report be accepted.*

Moved, Helen Laing, seconded Uli Michel

Passed unanimously.

## 6 Treasurer's Report

Luisa tabled the statement of income and expenditure for the calendar year 2018, our financial year. Balance at 31/12/18 was \$11,681.07. Total income \$299.55 and total expenditure \$1640.70.

Luisa noted that around \$5,500 has been earmarked for a Botanist's report on the biodiversity values of Harmers Haven Reserve in relation to threatened flora and vegetation communities as well as risks associated with a future coastal walking track.

Luisa also noted that our current balance is mostly as a result of previous grants (eg Coastcare) where funding accumulates if Friends of Harmers Haven (FoHH) don't claim management allowances & other incidental costs. We are currently into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a DELWP grant but those funds are being managed by the South Gippsland Conservation Society. Accrued funding will be used on future foreshore reserve conservation activities.

The chair extended our thanks to the treasurer Luisa Macmillan for her work managing our funds.

**Motion:** *That the Treasurer's report be accepted.*

Moved, Deb Simpson, seconded Mark Levy

Passed unanimously.

## 7 Report of Friends of Harmers Haven (FoHH)

Rosemary presented the report. She noted that Cape Paterson Residents & Ratepayers Association has been successfully controlling Sea Spurge from Cape Paterson through to Coal Creek at Harmers Haven (with DELWP funding) & that CPRRA holds weeding and planting days on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month** and Rosemary encouraged HH residents to join in Sea Spurge removal because it is a very invasive weed that is not only changing the shape of primary dunes & affecting beach-nesting birds but also is now known to impact on wildlife such as wombats & shearwaters (the sap harming their eyes). We also had two volunteer school groups pulling sea spurge in 2018.

Rosemary also reported that in the first year of our DELWP on-ground biodiversity funding contractors from Envirogain had cut out extensive areas of a highly invasive plant Polygala (just north west from the Area 21 sign), and more recently this year sprayed blackberries, dolichos and removed large woody weeds such as

Pittosporum from Coal Creek (near Area 23). Rosemary acknowledged Nick and Rachel Ferris' important role in finding & reporting weed patches (eg Cape Honeyflower) & weeding (eg Polygala, boneseed etc).

Amaryll reported that as part of the Bass Coast Shire Council's (BCSC) biolink revegetation strategy in partnership with the Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN), the Council owned triangle of land at the western end of Viminaria Rd will now be planted out with 2040 Indigenous plants in early winter of 2019 (hopefully when the rain comes). She noted that FoHH have asked three local nurseries to grow us these plants which will be of regional, state and national significance (based on previous vegetation assessments at HH). The triangle will be fenced off & electrified (to keep out Andy's cows), and all plants will be staked & guarded. Amaryll proposed a big thanks to Diana Whittington (BCSC), Dave Sutton (SGCS) & Dave Bateman (BCLN) for initiating this project in partnership with HHRRG, and noted that we'll need lots of HH volunteers to help with the fence building and planting in June/July.

Amelia expressed interest in joining & helping FoHH with weeding but wanted assistance in weed identification. It was proposed that FoHH run a weed identification field trip.

**Motion:** *That the Friends of Harmers Haven report be accepted.*

Moved, Richard Tanter, seconded Val Grant

Passed unanimously.

The Treasurer expressed the group's thanks to the FoHH for their excellent work, the core of our activities.

## **8 Election of office bearers for 2018**

President declared all positions spilled.

All incumbents were willing to re-stand, and there were no new nominations. A motion was therefore passed that all positions be rolled over. Proposed Richard Tanter, seconded Jesse Sago Carried unanimously

**Office bearers.** President Ros Eason, Treasurer Luisa Macmillan, Secretary John Old. Helen Collyer, Amaryll Perlesz, Rosemary Patterson are also on Executive.

Rosemary, Amaryll and Luisa to continue as Friends Sub-committee. Sue, Chris, Jesse, Mark & Linda all agreed to join the FoHH sub-committee.

## **9 Other Business**

**Date of future AGMs:** It was noted that Easter Sunday was not an easy time for permanent residents to attend the AGM, and it was not a good time for those busy with house guests and other Easter activities. Various dates were tossed around and the final date to emerge was the 3<sup>rd</sup> week-end in March.

**Notice of intention to raise fees from \$5:** The Executive has begun to consider a membership fee rise because of increasing web-hosting costs, the cost of maintaining a PO Box, and the cost of printing/photocopying material for distribution to residents. They will discuss a proposed fee & report back to residents at the next AGM

**Meeting closed 12.30 pm. BBQ followed.**