

Minutes of the JRCPA Management Committee

Meeting on 1st November 2008 at 2.15pm - Johns River Community Hall,
Thomas Street, Johns River.

Committee Members in Attendance:

President Glenn Ferrero (GF), VP David Shepard (DS), Secretary Chris Bawn (CB), Ordinary Members Rod Heath (RH) and Treasurer Bruce Shaw (BS), Deena Lane (DL), Michael Williams (MW), Kerri Williams (KW).

Apologies:

Nil.

GF opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. GF also thanked members who were here earlier today to talk to residents about the new draft village plan, which was on display between 12 and 2 pm. After today, the plan will be on display in GTCC's office for comments, etc. Display finishes on the 21st November 2008.

GF then reviewed the minutes of the last meeting held with all committee members present indicating that these were a true account of the meeting held. GF moved a motion that the minutes be accepted – RH proposed and MW seconded. Minutes accepted.

New Membership Applications

There were no new applications received.

Presidents Report

GF indicated that CB had been busy meeting with the Purfleet Taree Aboriginal Land Council (PTALC) to gain their support with the Koolyangarra project. The project is going full steam ahead with CB's next meeting with the PTALC being Monday 3rd November to review the mud map for the project. CB has also been active with preparation of a grant submission for \$5,000 to assist with the project. The funds will be used to purchase vital equipment for the JRCPA Inc's in the various Eco and Gardening projects around the village. The equipment could be stored at the Community Hall and insured as a separate item on the hall's insurance. Volunteer workers are covered by Insurance - provided by GTCC - as JRCPA members are doing on council land. GF also indicated that Thiess might also contribute with some material, in which we could stockpile for later projects.

GF commended the DS (Media Officer) on his latest issue of the JRJ. The quality of the publication is really excellent and compared to other community publications in the area - ours is first class. CB also commended DS on the latest edition.

BS indicated that he had been contacted by Tony Galati in relation to an article in the latest JRJ. BS said that Tony was not impressed about the article on the Vandalism of

the Ti Tree Soak area, which is near the Tavern. BS indicated that Tony's main concern was 'who wrote the article?'

DS, as editor of the JRJ, indicated that the article was written by the committee as a whole and it was not the work of one individual. DS indicated that Tony had indeed contacted him about the article - and he gave Tony the same explanation (a copy of this conversation is below).

BS further indicated Tony was also concerned about the comments pertaining to the RTA. Tony indicated that no one from the RTA has been in touch with him regarding the burn off. DS indicated further that he was informed by a reliable source that the RTA had indeed been in contact with Tony and indicated to Tony that he is not to burn off any land owned by the RTA. It was also confirmed that as a result of the fire - two marsupials were killed due to injuries sustained at the event.

GF raised an issue relating to the Crimes Act where it was illegal to burn off land without the approval of the owners. GF went on to indicate that a substantial penalty was the result if convicted under the Act.

GF indicated to BS that he will conduct an investigation of this matter and requested BS that if Mr Galati should call again - indicate he should raise the matter with GF.

DL indicated that we need to raise this issue with the RFS and to put it in writing. DL indicated that the community need to have confidence in their local RFS and this type of activity by the captain does not inspire this. DL also went on to say that we need to ask the RFS to support us on this so we can help them in the long run.

DS indicated that Mr Galati believes this is his right to burn off where he wants but this is simply not on. He cannot just go burning off areas that aren't his and without approval. The wetland is an environmental area and one we should be protecting not destroying by fire.

DL indicated that it would be great if the RTA could mark out the boundary of the land so we can be sure what is owned by the RTA.

MW indicated that we should consult with the RFS to understand what the fall out here is and that we do need their support.

GF indicated that we do need to move on - Proposed that we write a letter to the RFS indicating the events and ask for their support as a crime has occurred and their need to take action.

Secretary's Report

CB indicated that there has been no correspondence inward since the last meeting.

CB discussed the progress with Koolyangarra project. CB went through the mud map and project costs/estimates along with the Project Brief and Traffic light report. CB indicated that he is to have a meeting with the principal of the Public school to ensure that she is OK with the project brief and Mud Map. This meeting was scheduled for last Friday, but was rescheduled to Monday 3 November. CB further indicated that the project was in two stages 1) the Reserve and 2) the walkway and pedestrian bridge area. The latter stage was due to GTCC restrictions on work commencing close to the main road. CB will work further with GTCC on this issue.

DL showed a newspaper article from the mid 80's highlighting when the original reserve was opened.

CB went on to say that this was the start of the volunteer groups in the village working together as we now have three actively working together on various projects, the school being the third. We now need to get the RFS on board.

CB indicated that once the Koolyangarra reserve was back to its original condition we could have an opening ceremony performed by the local Biripi Elders which would be great for the community and media.

Treasurer's Report

BS indicated that there were still some businesses who advertised in the JRJ who have not yet paid for their adverts. BS indicated that there was only one outstanding and CB has offered to follow that up.

BS indicated that the balance of the Association's Bank account was \$1,514.72 as at 31/10/2008.

GF thanked Bruce for his efforts with the accounts and renewals that were coming up.

Update from the Post-Bypass Committee

CB indicated that due to the Council Elections in October, the draft Village Urban design plan due for public exhibition, no Post Bypass meetings has been held. CB indicated that Councillor David Keegan was now the chair for this 355 committee. A meeting is due in either late December or late January (bearing in mind the Christmas break).

GF suggested that we should send a letter to David Keegan welcoming him to the committee and also advising who our elected delegates are.

Update from Community Information Group (CIG)

GF indicated that there was not much to report at this stage. GF did indicate that he had been in joint discussions between the Alliance and two residents in the village. GF was able to assist both of these residents with access to the Alliance, who will look at ways to solve their problems.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Crime Subcommittee

MW indicated that they now have the 'spot and report' forms that CB collected from GTCC and they will be distributed to the Tavern (thanks KW), to Joe Malvicino and CB to place some in the General Store. CB indicated that he will collect some more from GTCC on Monday.

MW indicated that there have been some car hoons in the area – which were reported to the police. MW and KW will work together to spread the word about the new spot and report forms. Education will be the key here if we as a community want to reduce

the evidence of crime in the village. Each report will get an “Event Number” from the police assistance line. CB indicated that we should arrange for the local Police Community Crime Prevention Officer to attend our next community meeting.

KW indicated that she had heard on Star FM that Johns River received \$20,000 for a new playground. CB has offered to gain clarification regarding this and will contact GTCC.

Eco/Beautification Committee

DL indicated that the article in the latest JRJ can be used in other publications as it is important to highlight the ways in which people can reduce their carbon footprint. KW left the meeting as she is due at work.

DL continued – the Grid Connect scheme is facing a time of uncertainty. The Fed. Govt. has now spent in excess of \$150 million on grants for solar products. Given the uncertainty in the economy at present – we will need to wait and see if a new program is released.

DL indicated that the usual 1KW solar panel system will assist to reduce your electricity bill by approx 50% but will not reduce it to \$0. The approximate cost for one of these systems is approx \$13,000 but with rebates from the Fed. Govt. approx \$3,000. A larger system, say 2KW may assist with a further reduction in costs but obviously more expensive as an initial outlay. DL indicated that Off Peak is to be phased out shortly. BS indicated that this may not be true. DL to research this further and advise. DL also indicated that she will do further research into the Grid Connect System.

BS indicated that other states have a much better by back or ‘credits’ system and we need NSW to follow suit to make the grid connect systems more attractive for consumers. BS does also challenge some of the numbers quoted in documents as to savings, etc.

DL then discussed the Ti Tree Soak area, which is the water eco system that runs through the village and eventually makes its way into Wash Tub Bay (Watsons Taylor Lake). Dr Mary White and Darren Baxter-Lane have both shown interest in supporting the JRCPA and the community as a whole in managing this important Eco System. DL indicated that Dr Mary White is a professional in her field and has offered to walk through the Eco System and perform a study on the area with a management plan being the end result. DL and Dr White to carry out the assessment shortly. DL will contact residents who have this area on their land to gain approval to conduct the assessment.

The CMA (Catchment Management Authority) will assist the JRCPA with the overall management of the area to ensure this valuable village resource remains viable. The CMA will also assist us with flood control with a review of the area.

CB discussed the Forest Area opposite the hall and that a Plan of Management is being prepared to have this area regenerated with weed removal being performed by the local Aboriginal Land Council. Discussions are progressing well on this front.

History Committee

As the chair of the History Committee is unwell at present - we will need to place some of these activities on hold at present. DS indicated that he would continue to work on history items (time willing) and will place the next history instalment on local famous families in the next edition of the JRJ.

DS also indicated that he would like to out the call out for others to assist with this data collection.

JRJ and Media

DS indicated that the second issue of the JRJ was a great deal easier to prepare given that the format was already available from the first edition. DS thanked all who contributed by way of articles as it does make it easy if everyone is actively contributing.

DS stated that there were some new advertisements in the latest edition. Natalie's Nail and Beauty, CARE is larger than previous and Steve Bulley's new Business – Bull Skip'. DS is calling for articles for the December edition of the JRJ.

Media events since the last meeting included an excellent NBN television report of the village, which David has a short time to prepare for. The end result was excellent advertisement for the village and highlighted that the village is 150 years old in 2010.

Youth Subcommittee

A discussion was held in relation to ways in which to help the youth on the area. CB indicated that we should get them together as a group and discuss how we can assist them in their village. This in turn would give them more responsibility about ensuring the village is vandal free – working with them as opposed to against them. All agreed this was a good idea. CB further indicated that we could ask the school children to be part of the whole village plan to see what they would like in their village post bypass. MW offered to continue with this – DS also offered his assistance as MW has limited time at present due to work commitments. Further discussions to be developed further - Skate Park could become a new Bike park – Basketball hoop on the Recreation Reserve, updating the cricket pitch, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Community Forum Meeting

CB indicated that we do need to have our next meeting soon so, preferably after the display period of the village plan. We also need members to vote on the changes to our Model rules, which were discussed at the last AGM. Meeting could be at the end of November and we will need to get notice out soon to comply with our 'Notice period' in the rules.

Village Plan and Design

BS indicated that the current design on the new General Store area has the powerlines omitted from view. GF indicated that designers rarely include powerlines. BS indicated that the powerlines could pose a problem for the new plans and that placing them underground would come at a considerable cost to the project.

Moorland Community Meeting

GF and DS represented the JRCPA at the recent Moorland Residents meeting with GTCC. State Candidates Peter Besseling, Tony Galati and Lisa Intemann were in attendance. Several members of GTCC were there along with Dick Whibley and Ben Phillipson from the RTA.

GF was called upon to give the audience and understanding of how Johns River has overcome the issues of bypass with GF eventually taking control of the meeting to elect a committee to take issues forward. GF indicated that their main issue is the division between north and south Moorland and a link/service road, which is a long way down the track. Their issues are far greater than what we have in our village.

Items still open and waiting finalisation.

Speed Limits for the village

Will be determined by GTCC when roadway ownership is handed to them from the RTA. JRCPA will push and promote a 50km/h speed limit.

Renaming of Roads

Submissions have been put to GTCC for the roads and this will be decided on shortly. Item remains open.

Skate Park

Awaiting MW to report on the creation of the Youth sub-committee. Item to remain open. A discussion was also held around the skate park and putting this on hold until the Urban Design of the village has been attended to. **On Hold at present.**

Telstra NOT Supporting the Village with Basic Broadband

This item to remain open as the JRCPA will continue to lobby Telstra and the Government for a better deal for residents of the village and surrounding area. DS has indicated that the Wireless service provided by Telstra is quite good and now a little cheaper.

Coordinating Village Group Activities

This item is still open and will continue to be managed to gain a meeting with all the groups in the village. Expected for completion by End November 2008.

Timberline

Timberline has been mown by Jim's Mowing local franchisee Bob Lange. It is now in need of another 'haircut' and Bob will be in contact with United Petroleum to arrange authority to have this second job completed. CB to engage further with United Petroleum to gain a commitment to their upkeep of the property and future planning of the site. Item ongoing

Bulk Fuel Outlet

Still nothing further on the reopening of the service station. Refer to previous minutes regarding this.

Tea Tree Soak Area and Catchment Management Authority

This matter is still ongoing and we are waiting the visit from the CMA to review the area as a whole and seek their advise as to flooding problems in the area. Refer to DL's notes earlier in relation to DR Mary White's assessment of the area. Item ongoing.

ITEMS CARRIED FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Raised Telstra Box – Lot 1 – No. 2- Thomas Street

CB has been in touch with Telstra to repair this box. Telstra have visited site and will construct a safety barrier around the box pending their repairs to bring the level of natural ground higher. Item still pending and awaiting Telstra to fix this area.

Income for the Association

CB is continuing to work with the GTCC to arrange for some funds for the association (by way of Grants). Chris Ryan - GTCC has been very supportive of our efforts thus far and is keen to support us. Item Open

Visitor to our meeting.

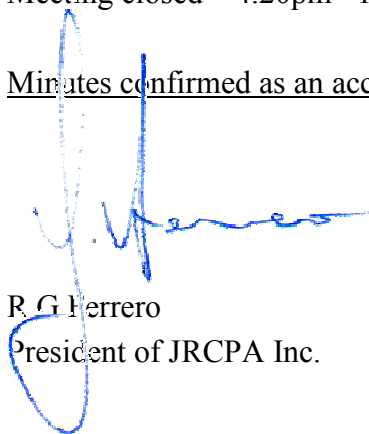
Federal Member for Lyne – Hon. Robert Oakeshott MP joined the meeting on his way back to Port Macquarie. CB invited the Member for Lyne to review the village urban design plans on display as he has been passionate about the growth of the JRCPA and the village as a whole. The meeting was closed at 4.20pm so Mr Oakeshott could review the plans.

ALL- No further items.

Next Meeting proposed – Sunday 30th November 2008 - venue JR Community Hall – 12 noon.

Meeting closed – 4.20pm– 1st November 2008

Minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held.



R.G. Ferrero
President of JRCPA Inc.