

Minutes of the JRCPA Management Committee

**Meeting on 30th November 2008 at 10.20am - 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 and Treasurer Bruce Shaw (BS), Deena Lane (DL), Michael Williams (MW), Kerri Williams (KW) (KW and MW in attendance but arrived late).

Apologies:

Rod Heath

GF opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

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 – GF proposed and CB seconded. Minutes accepted.

New Membership Applications

CB advised that a nomination forms was received for Richard Wilson to become a member of the JRCPA Inc. The nomination was sponsored by CB. CB indicated that all the committee knows of Mr Wilson and that he would be an excellent addition to the association. Nomination for Richard Wilson was accepted by all present. CB will arrange to send new member letter to Mr Wilson. Payment of fees was given to BS.

Presidents Report

GF indicated that both CB and DL have been busy on the Eco Subcommittee and have held recent meetings the Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) to gain their support with the Koolyangarra project. A Mud map was presented to the PTLALC and the CEO was happy with the plan. The next step is a walk through of the reserve with the elders (scheduled for 1/12). CB, DS, DL and Sherrie Quinlivan (Johns River Public School) will meet Glen Rennie (CEO, PTLALC) onsite for the meeting. DS indicated that the Eco Centre and Koolyangarra could be linked and would be a nice tie to the heritage of the Biripi people in the area. DL indicated that Kevin Carter (NPWS) works closely with the PTLALC.

GF advised that we had received a letter from the FRRR (Foundation of Rural Regional Renewal) and indicated that we had not been successful in our grant for \$5000 for the Reserve project. GF indicated that we may be able to access funds through other sources and maybe the PTLALC will assist with some of the improvements to the Reserve.

CB commented that we maybe able to access monies in kind from council for all the volunteer time and commitment that the committee of the JRCPA puts in. CB

calculated a rough figure just for himself at \$25,000. CB asked other committee members to prepare calculations so we can approach council for assistance.

GF further reported that a recent NBN news article was aired with both Graham Gardner from GTCC and Hon. Robert Oakeshott (Federal Member for Lyne) supporting the plan for the village, which has finished its display period (21/11/08). GF indicated the Mr Galati had also been on the same program stating that the plan was 'not very good' and, in his opinion, 'the designers did not have enough experience to do the job'. Mr Galati also indicated that the position of the proposed Eco Centre would cause flooding to his tavern. GF indicated that in discussions with Prime News, Mr Galati gave the impression that he was representing the village and JRCPA. DS indicated that he spoke with NBN and gave them the correct information. It was then that DS was asked to do a quick phone interview to speak on behalf of the JRCPA. GF reiterated the importance of only the Media Officer is to make statements and reports to the press and Mr Galati was again out of line.

DL indicated that on occasion, she has had to defend the management committee and the JRCPA as a whole. The JRCPA has simply put together the wishes of the community as a whole to the relevant authorities. It is unfortunate that there is an element of disruption in the village.

DS further reiterated that the when we need to get good word out to the public and wider audience, we issue a Media Release. We need to ensure those reading these releases see the JRCPA as a SAFE organisation without conflict and risk. The Next release will be on the Koolyangarra project, which will include the involvement of the school and PTLALC.

DL stated that once the Koolyangarra project commences and people can see things happening the doubters will disappear. It will be also good to have the playground started.

Secretary's Report

CB indicated that there had been two letters for the month.

1. A letter from the FRRR re our grant application
2. A letter from Tim Fox and Ass. (Mr Galati's solicitor) regarding the article in the JRJ re the Illegal Burning in the Tea Tree Soak area.

CB read the correspondence and then the JRCPA's response to the solicitor.

Treasurer's Report

BS indicated that the balance of the Association's Bank account was \$1,580.00 as at 30/11/2008.

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

Update from the Post-Bypass Committee

CB advised that due to the festive season no meetings will be held until late Jan or Early Feb 2009.

Update from Community Information Group (CIG)

GF indicated that there was a tour of the site and the new bridges that were part of the new alignment. Sections for these new bridges were transported by road from Newcastle and there were several different methods being used to construct them. There are to be box girder types and a new construction technique known as a 'push out bridge or incremental launch'. This method uses rails and allows for the preformed sections to be pushed from one end to the other, alleviating the need for cranes, etc.

GF indicated that Max and Frank Araldi catered for the final BBQ and each member of the CIG were given hampers for their work throughout the year. The January meeting will be held at the Camden Haven Bridge site.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Crime Subcommittee

MW indicated that their front fence was 'paint balled' by a passing motorist. The paint balls narrowly missed their front window and MW has had to repaint the fence to cover the paint marks. A report was made to the local police.

Nothing further to report on this sub committee.

Youth Subcommittee

MW indicated that he has visited the school and discussed with the Principal the idea of having the children come up with a wish list of items for the village. We will be in contact with the school to ask the children to present this to the committee at the Feb 2009 meeting.

History Committee

DS indicated that Bev Yates dropped off some books regarding more history of the local area. These will be placed online shortly. Due to Bev's current medical concerns, she has opted out of the chair position for the Sub Committee. DS has asked for others to take on the responsibility in the interim until Bev recovers.

DS indicated that Domenic Galati has plenty of history and stories and maybe he might like to assist, as he is a member. DS to further investigate.

JRJ and Media

DS indicated that the third issue of the JRJ is due for delivery just prior to Christmas and that he was looking for articles for this edition. Media events since the last meeting included the Prime News article (referred to in the Presidents report).

Eco/Beautification Committee

DL submitted her report as a result of her meeting and walk through of Tea Tree Soak area with Dr Mary White. Report is attached below as a scanned image...

Tea Tree Soak and neighbouring areas – inspected by Dr. Mary White 13/11/08

Mary viewed the tea tree and Wash Tub Creek area from the "school bus turn around area". We discussed this as the site of a visitors centre as per village plan.

We then moved across the road and view it from outside Koolyangarra reserve where upon two observations were made. It was an area that should never be subject to burning and wherever there are groups of tea trees it is not a suitable terrain for building...I explained the hopes for the bridge area and pathway leading up to Station Street.

We traveled up the highway calling in at the old tip and again the remark was passed that it was area to be preserved rather than built upon. We drove as far as Obadiah and then turned around so that we could see where the tea tree line is bi-sectioned by the new highway. It was easy to see as the tea trees were in flower. Hopefully this will make an attractive feature on the new highway.

We retraced our steps to Station Street where Pat Feeling had given permission for us the enter the family property to view Wash Tub Creek as it nears the railway line. Unfortunately extremely long grass and a downpour prevented closer inspection.

We turned back along Thomas Street over the bridge onto Marsh Street and were able to see where the creek passes both under the railway and under Marsh street and enters the forest (onto property owned by Swans).

We took the first fire trail and followed it until it entered forestry land but were unable to drive down into the swamp again because of bad weather but will return to photograph some of this later.

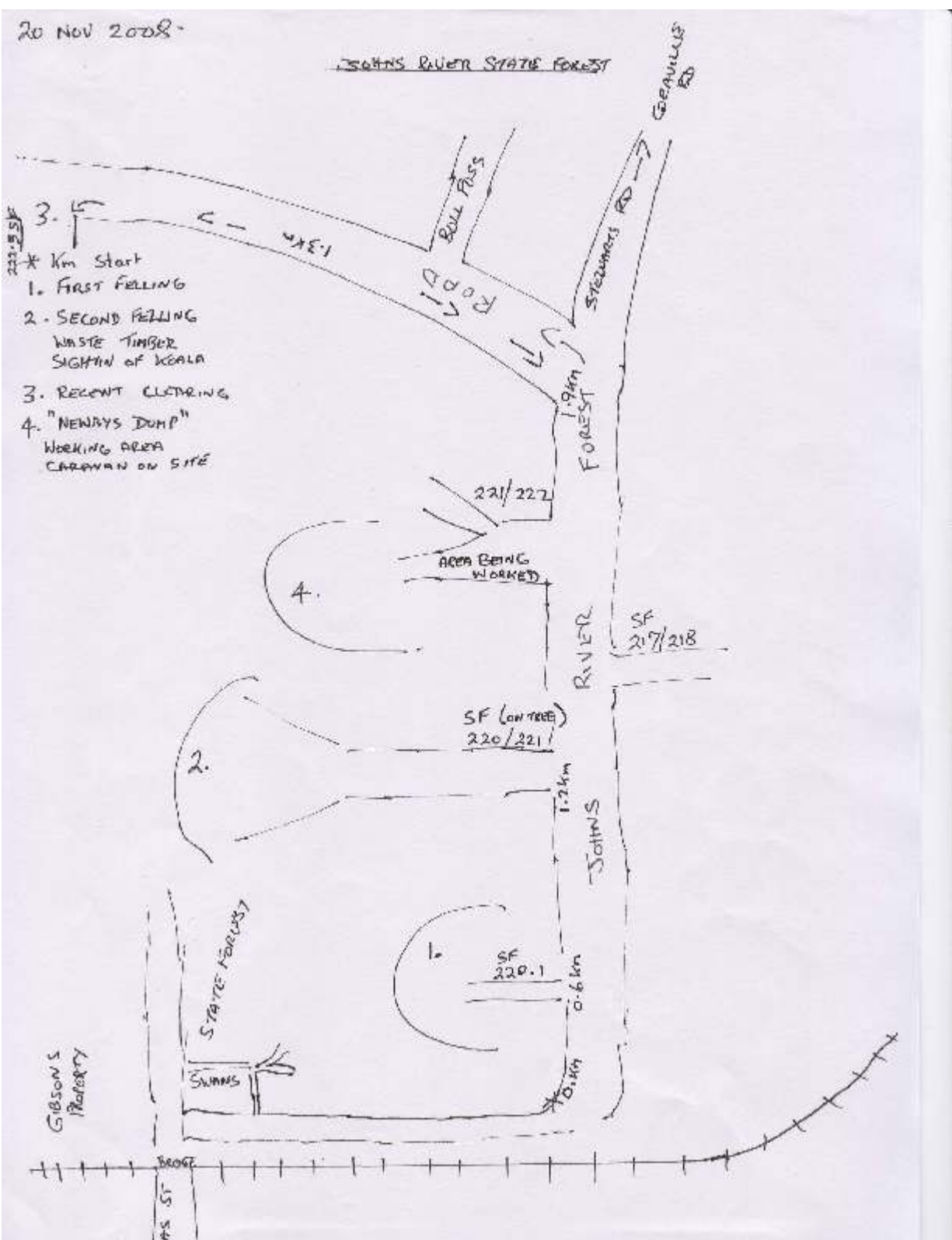
We took a look at some of the logging that is going on and Mary expressed her horror at the waste of material left behind and decided to take it up with both Rob Oakshot and Peter Besseling.

We returned to Davids' house as apparently previously arranged and enjoyed morning tea and a discussion on the trip and other village matters.

My summing up of the tea tree area is that it needs preserving as is.

It is not an area that benefits in any way from a regular burn.

The creek follows a natural course eventually flowing into swamp and on to Wash Tub Bay via swamp areas and the bay opens into the sea.



The CMA (Catchment Management Authority) has been asked to visit the site and a meeting is expected for Late Jan 2009. The CMA will also assist us with flood control with a review of the area as raised by Mr Galati.

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 has been proposed for the 20th December 2008 and we could have a Summer Sausage Sizzle for members. GF agreed to purchase bread, onions and sausages and KW/MW offered to operate the BBQ.

Village Plan and Design

CB indicated that there were 2 submissions received by GTCC with comments on the plans for the village. These will be discussed at the meeting in late Jan early Feb 2009. MW indicated that he liked the idea of the speed humps in the village and that from his past experience with speed humps in Hastings council, they do work well with minimal noise to surrounding neighbours.

Fund Raising (Bingo)

Member Joe Malvicino raised a fundraising idea with CB recently. The idea is to have a Bingo evening, with the proceeds from evenings being spread between the community groups in the village (such as RFS, JRCPA, Trustees of the Hall and P and C. DS indicated that the RFS would be happy to receive funds to assist local brigades. DL indicated that she would not prefer monies raised in JR going to other brigades. Money should stay in the village.

DL indicated that a crucial item for the brigade in the village is access to water supply for their truck. We could look at raising money for a water tank to assist with holding emergency water. The one at the existing fire station is inadequate.

GF indicated that we could approach the Alliance for tanks they have around the compounds for a donation of these after the works are complete. They are bound to have surplus tanks available. GF to discuss this and other items with the Alliance.

CB indicated that we should form a larger group of like size villages in the region (such as Moorland, Johns River, HannamVale and Cooperbrook) to have a larger voice in Council. A great deal of funds is directed to Harrington, as they are quite vocal and certainly larger than Johns River. As a combined group we would make more noise.

CB has printed the required forms for Bingo (Charitable Fundraising Application Form) and will submit on behalf of the JRCPA. Discussions will be held with Joe Malvicino to ask him to coordinate the running of the Bingo event.

Elsie Testimonials

DS indicated that he has received 20 testimonials in the form of letters and drawings nominating Mrs Elsie Stinson for her 46 years services to the school. All of these have been scanned and placed on the to JRCPA website.

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 much cheaper and represents good value. **Item now closed.**

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 Feb 2009.

Timberline

CB has been in lengthy and heated discussions with Timberline owners United Petroleum. They have advised that they will commence a plan of management for the area and maintain the site to ensure it is up to standard. Item still ongoing.

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

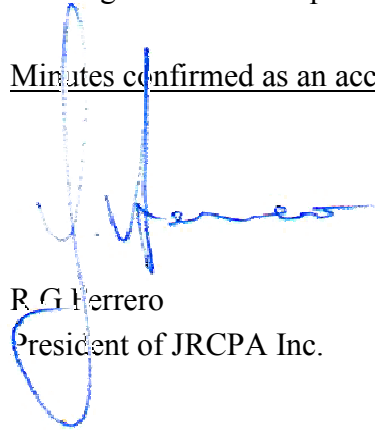
Raised Telstra Box – Lot 1 – No. 2- Thomas Street

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.

ALL- No further items.

Next Meeting proposed – Sunday 11th January 2009 - venue Deena's Studio– 1pm.
Meeting closed – 12.30pm– 30th November 2008

Minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting held.



R.G. Ferrero
President of JRCPA Inc.