

Strathewen Community Renewal Association Inc.

Committee Meeting No. 21

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Community Centre, Bowden Spur Road Strathewen

MINUTES

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE – 7:50 pm

Present:

Committee Members: Karl Apted, Mary Avola, David Brown, Malcolm Hackett (Chair), Peter McLennan, Steve Pascoe, Bronwyn South, Peter Jenkinson, Denis Spooner

Ex-officio Members: Maria Romanin (VBRRA), Gail Cummings (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Georgina Robertson Stecher, Darren Bradshaw, Kirsten Jenkins (Nillumbik Shire Council)

Visitors: None

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read with minor corrections.

Moved: Steve Pascoe Seconded: Mary Avola

Refer to the ACTIONS LIST for a review of progress on outstanding actions.

ITEM 3 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In:

- Christmas Cards.
- Nillumbik Shire - Invitation to attend the Australia Day Awards 9:30 for a 10:00 start at Eltham Community and Reception Centre. Replies to Malcolm if can attend.
- VBRRA – Commemorative and Summer Grants Applications. Maria advised we apply for the full amount available. David and Malcolm will review.
- Via Gail Cumming - Invitation to participate in a Master Class for Strategic Leadership to be held on March 22nd. One free place plus \$475 if a second person attends. It was suggested we encourage younger members of our community to attend.
- Christine Nixon – Invitation to attend a commemorative service at St Pauls 12 midday 7th February. Feedback from Bereaved Forum was that it was unfortunate that it was held on the same day as the community services.
- Nillumbik Shire – seeking support for the AD Ryan event at Diamond Creek to use \$1,500 of the Community Recovery Committees' memorial funds. The Committee agreed to support the event.
- VBRRA (Nick Handbury) – VBRRA needs to publish a contact for the Strathewen Community Renewal Association. Malcolm agreed to provide his details.
- VBRRA – Advice concerning media and anniversary.

Correspondence Out:

- SCRA December Newsletter

- SCRA Bushfire Relief Trust – Deed documents
- SCRA Memorials Reference Group and Working Party – expressions of interest
- Letter to Senior Sergeant Wayne Spence, Diamond Creek Police – traffic concerns
- Letter to Conal Creedon, Group Manager Infrastructure Services, Nillumbik Shire Council – traffic concerns

Media

- Diamond Valley Leader – re temporary housing.
- Channel 10 – re culvert failure after rain on New Years Eve.
- Channel 10 has approached us to see if it would be appropriate to attend the commemorative service. Nillumbik and VBRRRA media units are already working with the press. We need to accommodate the media because it is a public event. Peter M is working with the Police Media Unit to prepare for the day.

ITEM 4 OFFERS OF SUPPORT AND LEADS

5.1 Definite offers

- Salvos have offered to purchase and install the playground. This offer will be gratefully accepted.
- John Graeme from the Diamond Valley Baptist Church is bringing the Youth Group to Strathewen tomorrow. Teams will be weeding and helping tidy up fencing wire.
- Salvos School Fee Grant \$300.

5.2 New offers

None

5.3 Request for support

- Maria would like Christmas event photos for VBRRRA.

ITEM 6 GOVERNANCE

6.1 Conflict of interest and confidentiality declarations

Peter McLennan works for Safeplay Systems Pty Ltd who have entered into an in-principle contract with the Salvos valued at approximately \$32,000 to construct the playground.

ITEM 7 CALENDAR

January	Tuesday 19	Committee Meeting
	Friday 21	Mens night

PLEASE NOTE that this is the calendar that we are aware of at the time of the meeting and may vary to that on the website or in the Community Centre.

ITEM 8 VBRRRA

- Maria and Gail will scope Communications Strategy and Telling Our Stories components of the Bushfire Recovery Plan.
- The Community Engagement component is a way of enabling work on private land – for example, it could be used to purchase equipment for volunteers. It was noted that young adults and children need to be engaged – for example, a visit to the Go-Kart track. Families with babies and young children also need to be engaged.
- Ben Hubbard (VBRRRA CEO) has enquired about delivery of Broadband to fire affected areas. There was mixed feedback about the success of new ADSL connections in the area. We can send an email to ask people if they are satisfied with their internet connection.

- VBRR's Economic Recovery team has not made contact with Malcolm to date.
- Regional Development Victoria is the government agency appointed to work with the groups to handle funds.

ITEM 9 NILLUMBIK

Gail reported that the Shire has noted the problems with silting of dams and damage to bridges after the recent rains.

ITEM 10 FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet			
As of 19/01/2010			
31/01/2010			
6:14:33 PM			
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash On Hand			
Cheque Account	\$55,393.13		
Cash Drawer	\$344.25		
Total Cash On Hand	<u> </u>	\$55,737.38	
Total Current Assets		<u> </u>	\$55,737.38
Total Assets			<u> </u> \$55,737.38
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Loans from Members			
Diana Robertson	\$53.10		
Georgina Robertson-Stecker	\$249.30		
Penny Cullen	\$166.65		
Total Loans from Members	<u> </u>	\$469.05	
Trade Creditors		\$490.80	
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	\$2,650.15		
GST Paid	-\$1,035.51		
Total GST Liabilities	<u> </u>	\$1,614.64	
Total Current Liabilities		<u> </u>	\$2,574.49
Total Liabilities			<u> </u> \$2,574.49
Net Assets			<u> </u> \$53,162.89
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		\$53,162.89	
Total Equity			<u> </u> \$53,162.89

Profit & Loss Statement

1/07/2009 through 19/01/2010

31/01/2010
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Income		
Grants		
Grants Nillumbik Shire	\$20,000.00	
Grants - Dept Human Services	\$28,673.00	
Donations		\$32,548.29
Community Centre Hire		\$150.00
Miscellaneous Income		\$5,024.20
Total Income		<u>\$86,395.49</u>
Cost of Sales		
Gross Profit		<u>\$86,395.49</u>
Expenses		
Finance and legal		
Bank charges	\$4.20	
Insurance	\$449.32	
Legal Fees	\$116.90	
Administration		
Dues & Subscriptions	\$68.18	
Postage & Freight	\$559.41	
Stationery	\$310.03	
Member services		
SMS service	\$3,380.56	
Events		
Event catering	\$8,898.47	
Equipment Hire	\$3,085.45	
Venue Hire	\$109.09	
Event supplies	\$462.24	
Advertising	\$49.00	
Community Assets		
Community equipment	\$15,394.35	
Community Centre		
Telephone	\$27.27	
Gas	\$96.00	
Community Centre Supplies	\$222.13	
Total Expenses		<u>\$33,232.60</u>
Operating Profit		<u>\$53,162.89</u>
Other Expenses		
Net Profit / (Loss)		<u>\$53,162.89</u>

The Australian Taxation Office has confirmed our charitable status. This provides access to CGT concessions and exemption from income tax.

The current balance is \$56,480.73.

We will establish interest bearing deposits.

ITEM 12 SUB-COMMITTEES

12.1 COMMUNICATIONS

New residents are now joining the Association as full members.

Nyree is currently reviewing options for websites.

12.2 FUND RAISING AND GRANTS

12.2.1 Strathewen Community Renewal Association Inc Relief Bushfire Relief Trust

The Australian Taxation Office granted the Association Deductible Gift Recipient status in mid-December.

In accordance with the unanimous vote from members the Strathewen Community Renewal Association Inc Relief Bushfire Relief Trust was established on 21st December 2009.

The trust was settled by Lindsay Apted as the eldest member of our Association. Trustees are Malcolm, David and Bronwyn. The Trust Deed was signed off in the second week in January. Anyone who wants to know more about the trust can contact David Brown.

The Trust Deed allows the trustees to establish Advisory Committees so that decisions relating to the management and disbursement of funds can be made at arms length from the community.

We can now seek funds from whatever charitable organisations have funds for bushfire recovery. Assistance provided through the Trust Fund will be separate to our normal CRC business.

Bendigo Bank will release the funds they are holding on our behalf as soon as the fund has established a bank account and a set of policies and procedures.

12.2.2 Darley Bloodstock Fund

David met with Darley and VBRRA to determine what can be done. We are looking for \$275,000 for 3-year project to improve pasture. David will prepare a one pager to be circulated amongst donors.

12.2.3 Temporary housing

There is no real progress to report despite the urgency of the situation.

We could have up to 20 residents looking for temporary housing. David B has prepared a script that will allow Committee members to contact residents who may be interested to find out what their intentions are.

12.3 RESIDENT SUPPORT

Main focus in on commemorative service

Nillumbik is assisting with the organisation of the day. Georgina has organised the marquee, seating etc.

The main speakers for the day will be Malcolm and Father Michael.

With the timelines so tight, the sub-committee will continue to keep the SCRA committee informed.

12.4 MEMORIALS

Rob Gordon has prepared some notes on disaster memorials for our consideration and these were circulated to all Committee members.

We will continue to hold discussions within the community.

So far we have received one expression of interest to be member of our Memorials sub-committee.

A reminder about the memorials committees will be emailed.

12.4 OPERATIONS

- The hot water service has been installed. Letter of thanks to Evan Brain.
- Need to repair roof on toilet unit.

- DV Hire needs to remove the single toilet. Gail will follow this up.

12.5 BUILDING

- Karl has spoken with Peter Richards from SACRA who are also looking at temporary housing.
- We hope to be able to work with Sustainability Victoria to improve the services they can provide.

12.6 ENVIRONMENT

- We have met with VBRRRA and staff from other agencies to finalise the environment component of the bushfire recovery plan. VBRRRA have proposed an application that delivers a bushfire recovery plan. The position that VBAF funds cannot be used for on-ground works on private land has not changed. This is a far from ideal outcome but hopefully it will enable us to keep land management on the agenda.
- The gardening group has asked permission to spend a modest amount on reference books, information folders and gardening materials to install the planter boxes that were donated to us. The Committee agreed provided they had explored other avenues of support such as Gardening Australia.

12.7 HALL

Decision has been made to rebuild on existing site.

A Planning Permit is required to rebuild the hall because it is a prohibited use under the Planning Scheme.

Hope to present a design brief to the Hall Association in the next 2 or 3 weeks.

12.8 SCHOOL

No feedback from school. Assume building will start soon.

12.8 RECREATION RESERVE

Nothing more heard about recreation reserve.

ITEM 13 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 Blacksmith's tree

The aim is to have an unveiling in Whittlesea in September. It is planned to use an air crane to shift the tree around.

Next meeting Tuesday 2nd February

Meeting closed at 9:52 PM

ACTIONS LIST

No.	DATE	ACTION	REFER	PROGRESS
6	15/9/09	Write letter to residents who are not members of SCRA	Malcolm / Bronwyn	24/11 Ongoing by personal contact
10	22/9/09	Invite suggestions for equipment for tool library	All residents (to Malcolm)	4/11 Push slasher – suggested. 24/11 Chainsaw sharpening service – Suggested 15/12 Whipper snipper ordered 15/12 A log splitter is being shared between communities and will be in Strathewen in January No progress.
22	29/9/09	Provide feedback to consultants on oval master plan.	Malcolm	8/12 A response has been received. 19/1 No progress
23	6/10/09	Application for deductible gift recipient status with the Tax Office	David	8/12 Ballot papers have been circulated. 19/1 A Trust Fund has been established. See general business.
29	20/10/09	Request VBRRRA to give priority to a playground for the Centre	Steve Maria	19/1 The Salvos will fund the playground. See general business.
32	4/11/09	Contact Ramsay Health to formalise a donor relationship	David	19/1 On going
43	8/12/09	Global Dialog meeting	Malcolm	Malcolm attended meeting at the Hurstbridge Bushfire Relief Centre. The group's aim is to establish a piece of land to act as a clearing house for the goods. 19/1 Ongoing
46	8/12/09	Write our tribute for VBRRRA quarterly report	Malcolm	19/1 Done by interview
47	8/12/09	Get Rudi to look at internet service at the Centre	Bronwyn	19/1 Not done as yet
48	8/12/09	Write to Nillumbik and Police re excessive speed	Malcolm	19/1 Done
49	19/1/10	Send email requesting feedback on internet service.	Bronwyn	
50	19/1/10	Establish an interest bearing deposit	Bronwyn	
51	19/1/10	Survey interest in temporary housing	Malcolm et al	
52	19/1/10	Letter of thanks to Evan Brain for HWS	Mary	
53	19/1/10	Remove single toilet	Gail	