



SBCA Meeting Minutes

10th Oct 2019 6.30pm – Pear Tree Cafe

Attendees: Mark Loughran, Ben Saward, Jono Vincent, Phil Hastings, Andrea Hastings, Lynn Hutchison, Rose Vera, Rowan Jones, Darren Fairbrother, Michael Phillips, Robert Hill, Ros Hill, Sue Wedd, Jon Wedd, Fran Owens, Feoff Blackburn, Collin Hocking, Mick Groom

Apologies: Stuart Gula

1. Minutes of previous meeting

These were passed as a true and correct record by Lynn Hutchison.

2. Opening of Meeting and Structure

Jono Vincent as President opens the meeting at 6.30 pm.

3. General Business

a.) Announcement on Firefighting Training behind Sisters Beach Fire Station on Saturday. It is agreed a notice be put on the Sisters Beach Facebook Group page ASAP, so residents are aware of possible smoke drift.

b.) Ben Saward raises that a working bee is on Sunday 12th to help clear the BMX track initiated by Celina Capine, and anybody is invited to come and help out.

4. Coastal Erosion, Walkways, Improvements completed and in progress, further action

It is discussed that Walkways 2 and 10 are complete, and those using them are satisfied with the results so far.

Jono Vincent introduces discussion about the Creek erosion and possible solution, noting the informal work done on the creek foreshore in the past couple of years.

Formation of a local Wildcare Branch is proposed, which is run by National Parks & Wildlife and will give permission to do works in reserve areas. To do so we need volunteer members to join the wildcare organisation.. Will make a plan for works to be done after carrying out research and submitting a plan, and Parks would provide license for the Wildcare group to carry out the work.

It is suggested, that even if a Wildcare Group is permitted to do a clean-up with some physical improvements to foreshore made each spring, both aesthetically and for safety, in



preparation for summertime, this would be a short-term solution. Also aiming to re-establish some ideal natural vegetation to naturally protect the foreshore against erosion.

Phil Hastings raises that while this would be Ok for the short-term, a long-term solution is required.

It is clarified the difference between Wildcare and Landcare; Wildcare is managed by Parks & Wildlife, while Landcare is more aimed at farmland and managed by council. Wildcare would be more appropriate as the crown land is managed by Parks & Wildlife.

It is clarified a Sisters Beach Wildcare group would be registered as a Branch of the main Wildcare organization, requiring minimum 5 members, by filling out the appropriate forms, with supportive letters of approval from WWC, private stakeholders and finally Parks and Wildlife, providing the license to carry out approved works.

The Wildcare "branch" group could be called, for example "Friends of Sisters Beach Wildcare Group" (or it could be the SBCA becoming a Wildcare subgroup). A membership costs \$20 for those who would like to join to become a member. There is more info on Wildcare here: <https://wildcaredtas.org.au/about/>

5. Introduction to Collin Hocking – Supporting a Wild Care branch Group formation

Collin speaks about the late Penny Wetton, who recently passed away and has a foundation started in her name to support such initiatives in caring for the local environment of Sisters Beach, in particular erosion control, rehabilitation and revegetation.

Penny was a meteorologist and climatologist, and was a leader in the the scientific community, with many contacts nationwide. The foundation is called the Penny Whetton Fund.

Collin suggests we need to investigate what has been done in similar coastal areas, such as Turners Beach. Also researching biology of naturally occurring plants that can protect against erosion.

On formation of a Wild Care group, there may be avenues for Penny Wetton Foundation to support the Wild Care branch initiatives in protecting against erosion, rehabilitation and revegetation.

It was raised that there was consultation with a Water Technology consultant with Crown Land Services in the previous year, but in absence of a formal plan nothing went forward.

It was raised that the report from the water tech consultant from Parks & Wildlife Circular Head had been requested by letter to release the report, but the report is still not released.

The 23 – 45 Irby Blvd group of homeowners also been consulting with Crown Land Services, but there has been not much action as at the date of this meeting.



Action: Jono Vincent thanks Collin and everybody for their contribution in discussion and all attendees agree setting up a Wildcare group is a priority and the best way forward, and more than 8 people raise their hand in agreement to be involved.

6. Sisters Beach Skate Park

Ben Saward and Jono Vincent bring up the Action Plan of the working Group of 5 Sisters Beach residents as well as 2 WWC councillors and 1 council staff member who have been working on the three initiatives being the Hall, Freedom Camping and the Hard Stand / Court at the creek.

It is clarified that as the hall is a large project with ongoing preliminary planning headed by Jay McGough. Freedom camping is an activity recently banned at Boat Harbor having mixed support in Sisters Beach currently. The hard stand / court has been an immediate priority of the group for which there is already a budget from WCC in this financial year

Ben Saward and President Jono Vincentsaid that a BBQ was held at the creek in the two weeks earlier which was publicised over social media for more than 1 week prior, inviting children and their parents to attend and view the new plans for a Skate Park combined with Basket ball area. Around 60 people attended with some feedback was given by children and parents and the designs were taken back to Simon Williams to make some improvements, such as adding a small quarter pipe for skateboarding.

There is some concern from attendees Mick Groom and Rose Vera about the development plan and lack of coordination with the local community. Mick Groom suggest that perhaps the Skate Park could be put somewhere else, and use the existing hardstand for basketball, or even tennis, so then we might end up with two facilities.

Treasurer Ben Saward clarifies that the permits and council funding are for improvements at the existing location. To do a development somewhere else, it would require a new proposal from the beginning to get those plans through and to get funding.

Ben further clarifies that the council committed funding of \$40,000 originally to do the hardstand, and then committed a further \$40,000 to fix it, plus another \$30,000 to make it even better, as the first development was a failure with pooling water on the court. We have an opportunity to raise further funding, The Group intends to apply for a state government grant and also hopes to get some funding from corporate and private donors to make the facility the best it can be, making a plaque for platinum, gold and silver sponsors, for example.

It was raised that the main method of communication of SBCA was social media and therefore some will not be receiving information. An updated email list to be used as well will be useful.



Fran Owens, who has had a family holiday shack in Sisters Beach since 1949, states she is happy with the action the association members are taking in getting something done. Also pointing out that there are two types of concerned parties being residents and visitors to shacks etc, and that shack owners generally understand that permanent residents may have need for some extra facilities, yet all community members should be consulted.

7. Beach Volleyball Net

Jono Vincent announces that the association has sourced a beach volleyball net as was proposed previously by Mick Groom, in preparation for the summer months.

8. Tassie Devil Virtual Fencing

This was initiated by Fiona Loughran, and it is announced that the grant was unfortunately unsuccessful. It is recommended that community members use the roadkill App to report roadkill, and this will increase awareness of the amount of road kill at Sisters Beach. Bill Walker from the council has also offered to help to secure a virtual fencing for Sisters beach. This is still being progressed, but up to the community as well.

9. The Community Hall and Freedom Camping

There is discussion about a Community Hall concept. Ideas for a facility are being sought. Other buildings that people have seen could be used to help with these ideas. An example of a recently built community facility being made from 3 shipping containers was spoken of. Lynn asks Fran about this design which has been used successfully elsewhere.

Fran also mentions that freedom camping in Stanley has raised the community \$30,000 per year.

While there is some support for freedom camping, it is generally agreed that with the general store for sale, any proposal for camping would need strict guidelines and regulations as well as majority support from the community.

Additionally, the Mayor WWC Robbie Walsh has indicated that he supports the wishes of the Sisters Beach community.

10. Australia Day

The funding grant has been extended for another 3 years.

The event makes \$600 - \$700 profit each year.

Currently there is approximately \$3500 cash at bank.

There is a need for the community to contribute some ideas and volunteer to help out on the day.

Australia Day will be a main topic at the next meeting, as it is not far away!



11. Guest Speaker – Michael Phillips from Gone Nuts Stanley to Wynyard Running Race

Event Date 29th February (100 km Stanley to Wynyard and 25 km Boat Harbor – Wynyard)

Approximately 650 competitors take part in the event. The race passes through Sisters Beach. Michael welcomes feedback from the community as to how locals feel about the event, and also welcomes any body to contact him who may be able to offer a garage for drinks or nurse station. Any feedback is welcome. michael@tasadventures.com.au
Most at the meeting agreed that the Gone Nuts race was an exciting event that was welcomed by our community.

The meeting was closed at 20.25. The next meeting is agreed to be at the Pear Tree Café at 6.30pm on the 28th November, 2019 or possibly at the creek as an end of year Barbeque