

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WYE RIVER AND SEPARATION CREEK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

Sunday 19 January 2014 at the Surf Life Saving Club House, Wye River

The meeting opened at 10:05am. 35 Members were present.

**Welcome** Stephen Rae (President) welcomed all attendees.

**Apologies** Received from: David Henshall

## **In Memoriam**

A minute's silence was observed for the following members of the community who had died in the past year:  
Stephanie Berry, Mary Campbell, Allan Howie, Fred Jane, John Hudson, Mark Paton, Jim Scanlon, Mel Windsor

**Minutes** Rex Brown proposed confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM held on 13 January 2013. Seconded by Cate Lewis. Minutes were confirmed.

## **Financial Report**

The treasurer, Juliet Le Feuvre circulated copies of the Association's Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Balance sheet for the year 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013 and noted that Income for the year was \$1,737.97 which included subscription income of \$1,310.00. Net assets at the end of the financial year were \$8,589.09, an increase over the previous year-end of \$1,031.02.  
A motion that the meeting accept the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Mark Stokes and seconded by Toni Lawson. Carried.

## **Subscriptions**

Due to the current financial situation of the Association, the Treasurer indicated that no proposal was needed to increase subscriptions. A motion to accept this was proposed by Rex Brown and seconded by Mark Stokes. Carried.

## **President's report**

Stephen Rae presented his report to the meeting. A copy is appended to these Minutes.

## **Resolutions on changes to the Association's Rules**

The Secretary, Harry Lewis, introduced draft rule changes.

After discussion during which some members expressed questions about some aspects of the proposed draft, the President sought and obtained the consent of the meeting to withdraw the proposed rules for further consideration, with a view to sending a revised proposal to the Association's AGM in January 2015.

## **Election of Officers and Committee**

Among the Officers, the terms of office of the Vice-President and Secretary had not expired. There was one nomination for the office of President, and Stephen Rae was accordingly declared elected. There was one nomination for the office of Treasurer, and Toni Lawson was accordingly declared elected.

Five Committee places were open to election, following resignations and the ending of terms of office. Five candidates were nominated, and the following were accordingly declared elected to the Committee:

Ian Angus  
Juliet le Feuvre  
Lesley Maly  
Denis O'Brien  
Jeremy Tatchell

The meeting closed at 11.00

Harry Lewis  
Hon. Secretary, Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association  
30 December 2014

# Wye River and Separation Creek Progress Association

## Annual General Meeting, 19 January 2014

### President's Report

I have pleasure in presenting the President's annual report on behalf of the Association.

Our Association is a significant local community association, dating back to the 1960's. It was registered in 1995 and later in this meeting we expect to be revising our constitution to respond to changes in the law. We now have over 160 financial members..

The Wye River & Separation Creek communities are fortunate to have the CFA, Surf Life Saving Club, the community Volunteers and other voluntary groups that provide services and opportunities for social and community engagement by residents and visitors.

Our Association supports those organizations and promotes their activities, including via the PA Newsletter, which is hand-delivered to every household in Wye & Sep by members of the PA Committee.

During the past year we have been working effectively with various stakeholders to help make Wye and Sep a better place.

- We have met a number of times with officials from the Shire, VicRoads, Otway Coast Committee and Telstra to keep lines of communication open and ensure they are aware of local needs.
- We made sure the Shire was aware of our members concerns about the roads, the Harrington Park development, better burning off permits and parking in summer
- We are pleased to see that a yellow line has been placed along the Boulevard before summer , which has ensured emergency access in this critical part of town
- Together with the tourism group through our Vice-President Rex Brown, we have asked Telstra to improve the mobile internet – you may have noticed that mobile internet is now better than ever, even on peak days
- Again together with the tourism group, we added a local voice to the need for improvement to the Great Ocean Road, and met with politicians of both the major parties urging improvement, including arranging meetings here in Wye. The Shire put us in touch with G21, which was very helpful in working with us locally on press during the campaign
- We feel our work was a helpful small step in achieving the result of the additional \$50 Million for the Road over the next 5 years. We will hear more from Vicroads in the forum today
- We met with VicRoads and supported the need for improvement to the Great Ocean Road, and made suggestions for improvement including the Separation Creek pedestrian bridge
- Together with the Otway Coast Committee, we applied for a grant for weed removal in Wye River, and we made suggestions about the new foreshore facilities
- We are part of the Community Planning Group, which is in its early stages of development
- We have kept members informed generally and have continued with our hand delivered newsletters to each house in Wye and Sep.
- We surveyed you our members to check our approach and to identify member priorities. The level of response was high and members were overwhelmingly

supportive. The two main issues were parking in summer and more reliable electronic communication

- The Health of the Wye River is now being monitored on a fortnightly basis by the estuary watch team of volunteers. This was a Progress Association initiative as it was discovered that the data previously being recorded by the Corangamite Catchment Authority was being taken from the Cumberland River.
- The Harrington Park Project is the responsibility of the Colac Otway Shire Council. The Park an important community asset.

The PA noted serious concerns expressed by many of its members about the supervision of the project through 2013 and advised Council accordingly.

The PA notes that Council has resolved to appoint a formal Committee of Management to oversee the project, with community representation

The PA encourages its members to participate n that process.

Colac Otway Shire CEO Rob Small is here today and can respond to any specific questions in the Community Forum that will follow this meeting.

- We have also invited members of the Kennett River Association to work closer together where it is mutually beneficial and they have attended one of our committee meetings as observer, with a standing invitation to attend future meetings

The challenge for 2014 is continue to work for the benefit of our members and to engage collaboratively with other groups in the community.

In 2014, there are several specific issues we will be working on:

- We will keep attention on the issue of parking in the peak summer season. We have already carried out a parking study this summer and have sent it to the Shire. We are hoping for a transparent process that involves the main stakeholders and the community
- We will work on improved electronic communication and will build an email list for communicating matters concerning Wye and Sep that will reach all members of the community including those in other groups and individuals who wish to be included
- We will add our voice to the CFA in establishing a clear safer place in the event of fires as there currently is no safe haven here.
- In the same way that 2013 was a federal election year and we capitalised on that with the road improvement, 2014 is a state election year and we will be alert for opportunities for grants and other practical improvements for our communities

Finally, we will not lose sight of the reason why we come to Wye River and Sep Creek. It is a haven of tranquillity and natural, unspoiled beauty. The importance of this was emphasised by the members who responded to our survey. We will continue to do what we can to maintain it as the special place it has become for generations of residents and visitors.

Stephen Rae  
President