

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
Sunday 17th January 2016, 1.30 pm at The Bunkhouse**

PRESENT: Christine Shaw, Mel Kohout, Carolyn Tatchell, Richard van der Merwe, Matthew Jackman, Ian Angus, Sandy Forbes, David Huggins, Andrew Hack, Roy Moriarty, Debra Hocking, Rex Brown, Geoff Quinn (*President – Kennett River Association*), Peter Latham (*Chairperson*), Yvonne Sheppard (*Secretary*)

APOLOGY: Terry Bracks

The Group congratulated Deb for her running of the Community Forum and agreed that Craig Lapsley achieved as good an outcome for the Group as possible. He had taken the heat out of the Recovery Group issue this morning. We are recognized as an interim group which will translate into a new group when applications are considered. Sandy is not yet clear about how decisions will be made.

Sandy was also congratulated for her work for the Group so far. Sandra Wade, Pam Williams and Peter Galvin met and greeted a few of the committee to explain about Sunday's forum, and as a meet and greet, and to strengthen their confidence in the WSRG.

In contrast to the Black Saturday aftermath, when there was apparently little or no government monies offered, Lisa Neville mentioned a number of initiatives to be State Government funded. In offering this funding, the Government will be looking for expertise, governance and communication.

At 10.30 on Monday morning, Deputy Premier – James Merlino – will be visiting the SLSC to announce the funding initiatives.

Peter Latham received a phone call from the Vice-Chairperson of Otway Coast Committee who asked for a position on the Group. The WSRG unanimously declined this request, but said the Group intended to co-opt people with special skills and knowledge when required. Yvonne will draft a letter accordingly and liaise with Peter.

Apparently OCC do plan to re-build the playground. But Pam Williams has said there are bodies, such as Volunteers Victoria who will build a playground for us. Geoff did say that OCC's only income comes from camping fees, and despite past difficulties, it now has a new CEO and change may come.

The Lions Club has \$50,000 to spend, but the focus has changed to individuals, as funding new amenities would have exhausted the fund. When the Spirit Foundation was asked to help by a 50/50 split, they took it all over. At a Lions Club of Lorne meeting on Thursday evening, it was decided they will help all people in Wye River who have suffered loss. It was suggested that when requested items are delivered, photos should be taken and a letter of thanks sent. Carolyn will organize suitable acknowledgement plaques.

With regard to a Group bank account under the auspices of the Progress Association, it was suggested it should only be used for relatively small direct donations.

There are a number of organisations raising and providing recovery money, including Red Cross, Bendigo Bank, and others. Organisations holding monies should pay for requested amenities/projects directly from their funds. Sandy will follow up with Bendigo Bank regarding this protocol. We will try to ascertain the amount of total donations.

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
Sunday 17th January 2016, 1.30 pm at The Bunkhouse**

We need to start immediately with the Spirit Foundation – unsure how much funding will be available – but we should start listing requirements immediately. Peter has a list of previously agreed requests to be taken to the Spirit Foundation. It includes –

- Refurbishment of the First Aid room at the SLSC
- A Diesel pump
- Air Conditioner
- Three diesel generators – SLSC, CFA, The Bunkhouse

Clive Goldsworthy, Chairperson of the Foundation said they will fund the pump etc. Perhaps the Government will match their contribution dollar-for-dollar. Peter will follow up in a meeting with Clive this Friday.

He and Sandy will also collate a further list, concentrating on any short-term obvious needs.

There was some discussion regarding the recipients of some of the donated funds. A neighbourhood ‘straw poll’ conducted by Peter indicated that they clearly believe some monies should go to all individuals irrespective of their means.

However, the Group felt that criteria is needed as to who would ‘qualify’. There are funding principles, it is not the Group’s role to be involved in means testing or to assess need. Some people have lost their livelihood and should be referred to DHHS for Government support. The Group may be able to provide funding for items not supported by the Government, but we would need to be 100% certain of the genuine nature of individual circumstances, although perhaps we could sometimes be flexible.

It was suggested that perhaps the Spirit Foundation might match the funds raised by the *Wye Sep Band Together* concert, but it may not be what they do. This will be clarified with them on Friday.

It was acknowledged that, after what was learnt at this morning’s Community Forum, we have a Government actively involved in the recovery process, and people should be encouraged to approach it for help. It is hoped the importance of Case Managers will be recognized.

Rex will draft a simple letter thanking all the Agencies involved in helping our villages. However he needs to know who they are.

Communication is important and Podcast links should be maintained so that some groups that couldn’t be present can have input.

There will be a community forum held this Thursday 21st January – 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm – at Treasury Theatre, Lower Plaza, 1 Macarthur Street East Melbourne. David Huggins, Ian Angus and Sandy Forbes plan to attend.

Some funding ideas were canvassed –

1. A project to subsidize the establishment of indigenous gardens to replace those destroyed by the bushfire. Experts in this field from various sources would be recruited to advise and assist.

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
Sunday 17th January 2016, 1.30 pm at The Bunkhouse**

2. The Group endorsed a suggestion from the Moriarty's that a sculpture/installation art work be commissioned comprising an item from each property-owner salvaged from their destroyed houses. Christine Shaw was 'elected' project manager. Some of the logistics involved would be –
 - a. Enlist the help of the Shire to contact all property owners who have lost houses, asking if they would like to contribute one item only.
 - b. Criteria for size of contribution.
 - c. Suitable site for storage of donated items.
 - d. Recruitment of a local artist, or the Lorne Sculpture exhibition organizers may help.
 - e. Site of the finished creation. OCC approval will most likely be required.

It is understood that Katie Beamish who, along with husband Ben and daughter Anne, lost her home on Christmas Day, is interested in joining the Group. Peter will talk to her about applying to join the replacement group to be formed from applications. Current Group members will also need to nominate. It is expected the new group will comprise Frank Buchanan, Sue Wilkinson, Craig Lapsley and five community representatives.

Next meeting: **Sunday 31st January, 11 am at the SLSC**

Yvonne Sheppard
Secretary