

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
Sunday 10th January 2016 11 am at the Surf Life Saving Club**

PRESENT: Ian Angus, Matthew Jackman (*WRSC Progress Association*), Debra Hocking (*Wye River SLSC*), Andrew Hack, Carolyn Tatchell (*Wye River CFA*), Christine Shaw, Yvonne Sheppard (*Wye River CFA Auxiliary*), Mel Kohout (*Kennett River Association*), Rex Brown (*GOR Tourism*), Terry Bracks, David Huggins, Richard van der Merwe (*long-term holiday house owners*), Peter Latham (*Wye River resident*).

APOLOGIES: Roy Moriarty (*Wye River CFA*)

Chairperson: Peter Latham

Minutes: Yvonne Sheppard

Appointment of a Group Project Officer/Coordinator:

At the suggestion of a local property owner, Sandy Forbes of the *nous group* was approached to see if she would be willing to take on this role. Sandy is experienced in project management, has excellent skills, expertise and experience in this field. She also has the advantage of being able to draw on the professional knowledge of her colleagues at the *nous group*, if needed. Some members of our Group have knowledge of her performance on other projects and gave her their recommendation. She can give us two days a week, possibly more if necessary. Sandy says managing the project will be busy at first, but will taper off with time.

Sandy also has the advantage of local knowledge as a Wye River property owner. She will donate her time, but may need to be reimbursed for some necessary administrative equipment and items. Craig Lapsley indicated that the Government would financially support the appointment of a Project Coordinator, and it was agreed that we should seek those funds, so that 100% of *Spirit* money goes to the community.

All at the meeting agreed that she appears a suitable choice for the role.

Recommendation and approval of the Group

Craig Lapsley will be attending the WRSC Progress Association AGM this Sunday 17th January. He will be briefed on the members and make-up of the Group, and asked to endorse and recommend the Group as already in action on behalf of the WRSC community.

Endorsement and approval of the Group will then be sought from the attending members

Some attendees of the AGM may ask to join the Group and this will be subject to discussion and negotiation with Peter Latham.

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Size of the committee

Peter emphasized that the smaller the committee, the better.

The current Group comprises:

WRSC PROGRESS ASSOCIATION	Ian Angus,/Matthew Jackman
WYE RIVER CFA	Roy Moriarty/Andrew Hack
WYE RIVER CFA AUXILIARY	Christine Shaw/Yvonne Sheppard
WYE RIVER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Debra Hocking/Andrew Hack
KENNETT RIVER ASSOCIATION	Mel Kohout/Dave Kohout
LONG TERM HOLIDAY HOUSE OWNERS & CHARITY PARTICIPANTS	Terry Bracks/David Huggins/Richard van der Merwe
ON CALL IF NEEDED	Rex Brown/Peter Jacobs/local business owners/ and others
LIAISON & PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Carolyn Tatchell
CO-ORDINATOR	Sandy Forbes
CHAIRPERSON	Peter Latham
SECRETARY	Yvonne Sheppard

It should be necessary in future that only one person from each local organisation need attend meetings. Rex says he is happy to withdraw from regular meetings, but is happy to be on-call if needed.

It was discussed whether this body serves as an acceptable representative group, and whether there should be representatives from local businesses. If they are members of the tourist association, they can use Rex as their representative, but should also be invited to meetings where decisions may be made which could affect them.

Carolyn Tatchell has lots of contacts and local knowledge and will stay on as long as needed

Schedule of Meetings

It was agreed that, at this early stage, group meetings be held as often as necessary. Later, regular meetings to be held on every other Sunday, but may be called on an *ad hoc* basis if necessary.

It was agreed to use Teleconferencing to include members unable to attend. However this will need to be trialled beforehand to ensure it will work satisfactorily at the Surf Club. Cost per teleconference will be \$30.

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Quorum: It was agreed a quorum of five members will be necessary for any meeting held

Conduct of meetings:

Peter Latham said he hoped there will be a 100% consensus on any decisions made. Transparency of approval basis and decisions, and committee actions in general, is paramount.

Minutes:

Minutes will be distributed to existing community groups and other bodies –

- Wye River & Separation Creek Progress Association
- Surf Life Saving Club
- CFA Brigade and Auxiliary
- Kennett River Association
- Tourism Association
- Colac Otway Shire

Peter Latham will discuss with any other groups or organisations which may require to be kept informed, and arrange distribution of minutes accordingly.

Minutes of meetings will also be posted on the Progress Association website.

Bank Account

WRSCPA Treasurer - John Harris - will set up a separate bank account under the auspices of the PA, for the use of the Recovery Group.

Utilisation of Donated Funds

It is desirable that the community works with Craig Lapsley, Colac Otway Shire, Spirit, Lions International etc. for the effective use of donated monies for the long-term benefit of the affected townships and their communities.

For more efficient management and organisation, spreadsheets will initially be created for –

- Wish lists
 - Item/project
 - Recipient
 - Supplier
 - Purchase price, etc
- Contacts, suppliers
 - Names
 - Contact details
 - Specifics. etc

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Projects will need to be identified, and funding applied for, quickly. We believe Lions International has an urgent time limit within which they want to allocate funds. They need a pledge list of requested items within that time.

- SLSC already have quotes for the equipment they are asking for, a list will need to be expedited so we can get it to Lions International.
- CFA also has their list ready.
- Roy already has had discussions with the Minister, Lisa Neville, about the urgent need for the repair of the pipes and pumps that provide water to the General Store, Hotel and Camping Grounds.
- Carolyn has discussed with Belinda Lance (President, Lions Club of Lorne) to provide a new photocopier for the Fire Station. They are also willing to pay for the community drinking-water tank – but purchase of this will be subject to approval by COS for siting near the Community Garden in Harrington Park. This will in turn require levelling of a suitable site. Peter will discuss with COS by telephone tomorrow.
- All agreed that Kennett River also needs a community water tank. Mel will arrange for Dave to identify a suitable site.
- Ongoing maintenance and provision of water will need to be looked into.
- Other items suggested were –
 - Laptop computer for Brigade. Not needed for current operations, and might only be used by external bodies during future incidents.
 - A drinking-water tank for Separation Creek. Not required, but a larger, suitably located tank for Brigade use could be considered.
 - Funds for a project, hopefully employing local labour, to clear overgrown shrubbery, weeds, etc. around the Bunkhouse and SLSC.
 - The Surf Club needs a new PA system to replace the existing troublesome unit. Suggested a portable one be purchased for more versatile use.
 - Replacement of work tools - vital for their livelihood - lost by local tradies. (Carolyn is already liaising on this.
 - Rental support for people who have lost their homes and are having to rent.
 - Rehabilitation of the burnt areas of Harrington Memorial Park – will need to be in conjunction with COS.
 - Support for cleaning up fire-fuel from blocks
 - It has been noticeable that property-owners are more conscious of the need to keep their blocks cleared.
 - Can we provide advice from knowledgeable people?
 - Would need to be centralized and twofold –
 - Advice (including replacement planting) – Roy and Andy from local CFA
 - Action – Mel will organize a database of local tradies who will do the work.
 - Whilst this may not be an urgent matter, we may not want to miss the opportunity.

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We will need to seek further suggestions. However it must be kept in mind that the Group is primarily dealing with funds for infrastructure.

Christine Shaw advised that the *Rotary Club of Geelong* and the *Cotton-On Foundation* (Tim Diamond) have also offered support. She will contact them to find out in what form – cash or kind – and refer them to Peter Latham.

Social issues, counselling and support:

Carolyn has been dealing with a number of these issues, but is now ready to hand over to COS who have the resources to deal with them.

It was agreed we need a venue located here in Wye River, properly equipped and professionally staffed by one leading agency, offering personal advice, counselling and support to those in community who need it. This could also be used to facilitate a support group which Katie Beamish has indicated she would like to start.

Perhaps we could have a 'Recovery' group under the auspices of DHS, as has happened in other townships.

Deb Hocking will follow up with Pam Williams of DHS regarding the provision and staffing of such a venue, say at the back of the playground to allow more privacy.

It was discussed that the recovery of the townships and community will be two-fold –

1. The social aspect – immediate, and which should be provided here in Wye River for the townships' community.
2. The practical rebuild – down the track a little, and probably conducted in Apollo Bay and/or Colac

Other matters:

- A skip will be sought to enable people to get rid of their copious quantities of plant debris.
- Some people whose houses have been destroyed have been told their insurance does not cover the clean-up of their blocks. This is being addressed by the State Government's impending appointment of a single contractor to do every property. Aspects of this will require licensed specialists.
- The COS initiative for roof clean-up, water tanks and replenishment will also be handled by one contractor who may sub-contract locally.
- Peter Latham will organize contacting COS regarding possible rates relief for those who have lost their homes/houses.

Next meeting of the Recovery Group will be after completion of the WRSCPA AGM, and will be held in the Bunkhouse.

Next meeting with *Spirit Foundation* will be after they have received our 'wish list'.

Yvonne Sheppard
Secretary