

**WYE SEP RECOVERY GROUP
MEETING
Saturday 27th February 2016, 2.00 pm at the Fire Station**

PRESENT: Carolyn Tatchell, Ian Angus, Sandy Forbes, Andrew Hack, Roy Moriarty, Debra Hocking, Peter Latham (*Chairperson*), Yvonne Sheppard (*Secretary*)

APOLOGIES: Richard van der Merwe, Matthew Jackman, Mel Kohout, Terry Bracks

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The future of our Group

- a. We understand the newly-appointed *Community Resilience Committee* will meet for an informal get-together on Tuesday 8th March in Melbourne.
Terms of reference, rules for conduct of meetings etc. will need to be drawn up and documented. It should also decide upon a media representative.
Its role seems to be to advise on the spending of the \$2.7 million promised by the Government.
Sandy tabled a draft letter of welcome to the new committee which, with some minor amendments was approved by the meeting.
- b. It was felt that the WSRG should definitely continue until the CRC is functional, and there was some discussion regarding our future role. ie. in an advisory capacity, advocacy, local projects, etc. We have formed a mutually respectful relationship with the *Spirit Foundation*, which does not want the money they are holding to go into a consolidated fund. It was felt the WSRG, with its strong local representation, should still be able to continue to utilize available charity funds.
The COS request for the WSRG to help with the list of genuine residents who have lost their homes represents a change of mindset.
Our ongoing role – if any – must be clarified.
- c. With regard to the continued make-up of the WSRG, Matthew Jackman will be the Progress Association representative now that Ian Angus is a member of the CRC.
- d. It is not clear who represents our townships and community, and people are being approached individually. As Carolyn will be moving to live in Anglesea next month, Andrew Hack will now be the WSRG's media representative, with Peter Latham advising in need.

2. Proposed Memorial Art Installation

Christine has been trying to have some information published in the COS *Community Recovery Newsletter*. Chris will email the item to Sandy who, if necessary, will ensure it is published. It should also be sent to local organisations for dissemination via their email lists. We will need to start preparing to invite expressions of interest from our local artists.

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3. Progress so far

- a. WATER TANK – The Lions Club money will disappear if not used soon. Sandra Wade has advised that installation of the tank in Harrington Park will require the passing of a Resolution at a Council meeting.
WSRG has recommended the tank be installed near the Community Garden in Harrington Park, as regular ‘turnover’ of the water is necessary for it to be deemed suitable for drinking.
Sandy will send a letter or email to this effect on behalf of the WSRG and PA.
As there seems no likelihood that this will be resolved soon, the tank will be delivered as soon as practicable to trigger some action.
The need for a long term vision for Harrington Park, including a submission to restore it, was suggested.
- b. PERMANENT RESIDENT LIST – COS has asked the WSRG to ascertain which members of our community genuinely qualify as permanent residents who have lost their home. Apparently COS does not have the manpower to do this itself. We have written a letter to be sent to people who may qualify under the following criteria:
- i. Be registered with Council, Taxation Office etc. as the primary residency; or reside permanently in a family-owned residency.
 - ii. Evidence that the resident spends the majority of their days here.
 - iii. Be generally recognized by permanent residents as a local resident.
 - iv. The residency must be a write-off, or deemed uninhabitable.

It is understood families with dependent children were given preference when the initial *Wye Sep Bands Together* concert initial payments were distributed.

- c. FIRE FIGHTERS’ COMPENSATION – Craig has promised that this will be addressed and Sandy will follow it up with him.

4. ONE-STOP-SHOPS – They have opened in Melbourne and Apollo Bay. The SLSC have been supportive in providing our venue, and the Wye River 1SS will operate on **Fridays 10 am to 4 pm** and **Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm**.
DELWP will also be conducting their information centre there, planned to commence this Tuesday 1st March.
Carolyn has information about offers of pro-bono services to bushfire victims, and it was suggested the WSRG have a noticeboard there. Peter Galvin of DELWP is apparently procuring additional notice boards. We will contact him and co-ordinate the services on offer. We understand tenders are to be issued for the previously promised architects’ plans for beach houses suitable for our townships.
The information portal is scheduled to open on Tuesday 1st March – the website address is still to be advised

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5. Our suggestions and ideas for the Community Resilience Committee

- a. The necessity for an independent Chairperson
- b. Terms of reference
- c. Conduct of meetings – rules, quorum etc.
- d. With regard to opening up more walking tracks around the townships – they should be mindful that ongoing maintenance of the tracks will be an issue. Bushwalking clubs, groups etc. could be encouraged to take some responsibility for such maintenance.

6. The Community Survey

The closing date is Monday 29th February after which a formal report will be published.

7. General discussion

- a. Carolyn reported on the Colac Nissan dealership initiative of providing four new vehicles for the next three to four months for the use of locals who may have lost vehicles in the fire. It went very well, and all have been allocated. Thanks also to Ian Wells who was a great help in organizing the paperwork, log books, handover etc.
- b. At the very start Craig emphasised the importance of maintaining community wellness during the recovery process. Whilst the CFA arranged a debrief and another session in Colac for our Brigade members, there is a need for individual counselling both for our fire fighters and the community in general. In particular we need case workers to be available for those who require them.
There has been a need for a temporary community venue so people can get together to talk in groups or on an individual basis to a counsellor. Perhaps there should be a qualified medical practitioner present to identify illness and recommend medical intervention.
Sandy will ask Sue Wilkinson to ring Andrew Hack to arrange this.
Christine will talk to Barwon Health seeking their help.
Birgitte from Emergency Management Victoria phoned Carolyn wanting to conduct another meeting. She said that Rob Gordon, who was the clinical psychologist featured in the Bushfire Scenario video, will be coming to the next community meetings.
- c. Deb advised the meeting that the Canberra Quilting Group had created two quilts – one each for the SLSC and CFA.
- d. Clive Goldsworthy, chairperson of the *Spirit Foundation*, has suggested that the new playground incorporates a parents' exercise circuit. Lisa Neville has said the Government would fund the playground. We understand the City of Melbourne designer of the Royal Children's Hospital playground has offered his services.

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- e. Andrew Hack has tendered a list of SLSC/CFA desired items for the attention of Government and the Lorne Opportunity Shop.

He will also draft a letter to COS requesting –

- i. A moratorium on the policing of rubbish bins left out after emptying.
 - ii. Future-proofing the townships against the potential for further subdivision, ie. if (now) vacant adjacent blocks are purchased and subdivided into three. The neighbourhood character overlay will be important in this respect.
- f. It was agreed that the WSRG should ask the *Spirit Foundation* to give \$1000 each to permanent residents who can't access their intact homes.
- g. Finally it was questioned whether the local camping ground accommodation provided by the *Lions Club of Lorne* is enough to meet the potential demand. Carolyn will talk to Lorne Lions Club President, Belinda Lance, about whether we should ask the *Aireys Inlet Business Group*, who have indicated they want to do something to help our community, to augment the existing initiative.

8. Next meeting will be held on **Sunday 13th March, 2 pm at the Fire Station.**

Yvonne Sheppard
Secretary