

Barwon Heads Association

Monday 19th May 2014
Barwon Heads Community Hall 7.30pm

Minutes

- 1 Welcome - Chair Judith Brooks
- 2 Apologies – Geoffrey Waite, Grant Pocock, Alice Ward, Dawn White, John Romeril.
- 3 Attendees – There were 20 attendees and 4 people from the CFA.
- 4 Treasurer Report tabled by chair in his absence. \$2354.95.
Judith advised we have been granted \$1000 by the Community Bank for our new website.
- 5 Judith introduced our guest speakers, representatives from the Barwon Heads CFA. Bernadette from CFA Community Liaison led their presentation with support from BH Brigade members, Safety Officer Brett Mitchell, Tony Hodder Brigade Captain-elect and Helen Wood, First Lieutenant-elect.
Main discussion was around the threat of fires to the town. The responsibility is split between the CFA and the CoGG. The following are the main points from the discussion.
 - Primary role of the CFA to stop the fire not to save assets.
 - Barwon Heads not in high risk category and doesn't have designated safe area. If bad day go to bridge (but will not work if high tide).
 - Other close brigades Conneware, Torquay, Ocean Grove, Breamlea
 - If fire in Barwon Heads might get mobile phone notice. Locals all responsible for their own fire plan.
 - If it is a bad day (will get notice days ahead – go into Geelong in advance)
 - Barwon Heads in Central Zone (which is a large area)
 - Grass fires main risk
 - Does the town have a fire plan? No – up to each individual to have their own fire plan.
 - Some communities have their own Fire Guard group – meet as a community group and develop own fire plan.
 - Organise Fire Ready meetings in the town – up to Barwon Heads community to drive this
 - Training nights are Tuesday nights but Sunday mornings from 9:00am locals are welcome to come and ask questions and meet volunteers. The CFA also have an article each month in Talking Heads.General Safety tips- If there is a fire use wool blankets – (on bodies dry), always wear natural fibres long pants, proper boots and wool hats - cover up on bad days. Home Safety - Everyone should have a fire blanket, fire extinguishers, fire alarms. Buy Australian Standard fire blankets/extinguishers Kmart/Aldi/Bunnings

Matters arising from questions to CFA presenters.

- Barwon Heads one way in one way out
- grass fires don't spread as quickly
- biggest concern Stephens Pde (leave early)
- if it is a severe fire will throw resources at it.
- Ocean Grove also has its own risks
- Closure of golf links rd has resulted in limited egress for Stephens Pde residents (discuss with Council, bollards bolted in), on catastrophic day difficult to get through
- When you make your plan understand that there will be limited visibility, lots of emergency vehicles on the road,
- Fire danger ratings on weather forecast usually 4 days out, usually have lots of time to decide whether to leave. We have not had code red catastrophic since code was introduced
- Is Golf Course natural barrier
- There are natural fire breaks, game reserve. Grass on private land, usually slashed for feed.
- Royal commission recommended Municipal Fire Management Plans – CoGG has one, mainly driven by CFA. Job to identify risk – Victorian Fire Risk Register. Ask Council and look on CFA website. Stephens Pde listed in the Fire Plan. “Up to local people who live there to have their own fire plan”. Is there a Fire Guard Group for Stephens Pde?
- Resident of Stephens Pde talked about scenarios (Breamlea, or local fire in sand dunes/golf course). No idea how it would spread if local fire. No 2 fires behave the same way, so hard to predict and plan for how to respond. Power poles spark through summer (complain).
- Should residents of Stephens Pde reduce some of the fuel?
- CoGG responsible for maintaining fire plugs no longer the responsibility of the CFA.
- Are there records of the Conneware swamp burning? (One fire in swamp in 20 years).

Thank you to the fire brigade for all their energy and dedication. And volunteering. The general feel of the meeting it is essential for the community to have a fire plan for Barwon Heads.

6. Meeting with Lisa Neville. On Thursday BHA Committee meeting with Lisa Neville and will put these matters to her plus 13th beach Rd safety and general pedestrian safety in town.

7. Council conducting review of by-laws. Look online and make a submission.

8. Pedestrian Safety working group will meet over next few weeks, still waiting for Vic Roads to come back to us.

9. Council Budget – we will have opportunity to comment on community grants. Please use our website to comment.

10. 13th Beach Rd working group – report to discuss. Meeting will be convened over the next few weeks.

11. Sheepwash/Geelong Rd/River Pde with Carr St corners – concern about speed of buses and trucks. 154 scheduled bus trips per week. Committee member Richard Hastings has written to Council and suggested mechanisms for remediation. Problems for CFA fire trucks.

12. Hard rubbish collection – can we have this for Barwon Heads. Advice at meeting that no longer provided in CoGG. This matter has been discussed before and there is no support from the Council to provide this service. Hard for older people to dispose of “rubbish” and old appliances.

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday June 16th 7.30pm Barwon Heads Hall.