

Barwon Heads Association

Minutes Monday 16th June 2014 Barwon Heads Community Hall 7.30pm

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome Chair Judith Brooks
- 2 Apologies Sandy Gatehouse, Jeremy Gaylard, Viki Strachan, Dawn White.
Attendees. Jan Anderson, Judy O'Brien, Tehree Gordon, John Romeril, Brett Mitchell, Paul Saunders, Paul Fox, Ann Waite, Geoffrey Waite, Kay Schaffer, Margaret Reed, Richard Hastings.
- 3 Treasurer's Report payment of website \$1,350. Waiting on grant of \$1,000 from the Bendigo Community Bank.

4 CFA review.

Barwon Heads Safety Officer Brett Mitchell reviewed the CFA presentation given at our May meeting. Brett stressed that Barwon Heads is not considered a high-risk area and so is not mandated to have a designated safe area like more vulnerable towns. He clarifying some of the questions asked in May and gave us contact information for setting up a Fire Guard which we will discuss at our July meeting. He also reminded us that on Sunday mornings from 9:00am locals are welcome at the fire station to meet volunteers.

- 5 Guest speaker. Tehree Gordon from Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary accompanied by staff member Judy O'Brien.

Tehree began by outlining her family background and how she got to be involved with animals. She stressed that her tough and at times traumatic family background had given her strength and clear values supported by her faith. She grew up seeing the world very differently from many of her peers. For instance, she was attracted to aboriginal people because of their superior skills and would have loved to become a "black girl." Instead she became one of the first women rangers in the district and grew into a resource for many wanting practical information and help. She set up home help services for pets, mobile rescue and mobile grooming services. Tehree was particularly interested in educating children to give them an early understanding of the importance of animals and, especially, our native wildlife.

Gradually, over time, her family's sanctuary evolved into Jirrahlinga. (which means to seek a home for a kangaroo) It became a self-supporting family business whose purpose is to reach out to living creatures, both animal and human. Tehree entertained us with many examples of the joys and sorrows of working with animals. In particular she emphasized the healing social work done at Jirrahlinga where anxious, pressured people could find purpose and warmth in relating to animals. Jirrahlinga welcomes visitors and those interested to find out more about "what goes on there". Tehree finished by telling of the time she attended a house where she'd

had an emergency call claiming that there was a crocodile banging on the back door. She turned up with a smallish cage thinking the caller had a largish lizard. No. There was a crocodile, several metres worth! Apparently a regular visitor to Barwon Heads, the pet croc had gone for a wander.

The chair thanked Tehree for her time in sharing with us the fascinating and moving stories of life at Jirrahlinga.

6 Pedestrian Safety Working Group – Vic Roads update - report from the chair.

The Pedestrian Safety Group will be meeting in early July.

Vic Roads representatives will be our guests in July.

William Tieppo, Regional Manager from VicRoads, will be attending to discuss our concerns and in particular treatment for the corner of Hitchcock and Bridge Roads. It is important that these safety issues be addressed before the new summer season is upon us.

CoGG roads near the river have dangerous corners.

We have been lobbying CoGG to attend to the unsafe corners near the river. In particular, the corner of Carr St and Geelong Road East is a cause for concern. We consider this corner to be poorly engineered and poorly maintained. Cars travelling south and turning west into Geelong Road East almost invariably cut the corner, at times forcing cars turning north to come to a complete stop. It is even more dangerous with McHarry's buses, about 154 a week, generally cutting the corner to fit the bus around without going into the gravel on the shoulder. That the road width varies from 3.6 metres to 2.7 metres doesn't make it any easier for drivers.

7 Mosquitoes

Concerns have been expressed about the possibility of the CoGG cutting back on funding for mosquito spraying. The BHA Committee will contact council to find out more.

8 13th Beach Working Group meeting 30th May at council officers chaired by Manager of Infrastructure Viki Shelton - report by Geoffrey.

Meeting attended by VicRoads, COGG engineer, Barwon Coast, Bike Safe and BHA. with apologies from TAC

A staged proposal was discussed leading on from improvements to Ewing Blithe Drive to the Surf Life Saving Club. Discussion centred around the road reserve and if it can safely accommodate cyclists because of the fencing on both sides of the road. Fencing is seen as important by Barwon Coast as it offers some control to stop people getting into the dune area. Traffic management: Speed controls, humps, pedestrian crossings near the Surf Lifesaving Club were discussed. Pedestrian crossings need to be lit. The meeting felt it was important to get full documentation on the amount of vegetation removal that would be necessary for a pedestrian bike path. BHA expressed the preference for vegetation replacement to be in the local area. CoGG will convene the next meeting when this information is available.

It was made clear that the CoGG does not have the funds available for improvement to 13th Beach Rd and does not consider it a priority. Funding could be available in an election year.

No further business.

Next meeting Monday 21st July 7.30 Meeting closed 9.00pm.

