

# Minutes of the Lake Glenmaggie Community Representative Group 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009

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Minutes of meeting of the Committee of the Lake Glenmaggie Community Representative Group held Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February commencing at 7.30pm at the Coongulla Community Hall.

## 1. Housekeeping

### a) Attendees

- Committee: John Gwyther (Chairman), Leon Bannister, David Sullivan, Heather Kelly, Helen Montague, Geoff Lynch.
- Others: Ken Burt, W & M Carswell, Clare Cowson, Glen Eddington, W & V Fenton, Joan Fisher, John Fisher, Mal Foot, Kylie Fraser, Brian & Sue Hirst, Ray Hope, Carol King, Adam King, M & D Kool, John Krekelberg, Tom McCrohan, Ava McKinnon, Cathleen McLaughlin, Geoff & Terri Page, Ian Penberthy, Ray Pope, G Powell, Ken Savage, Anthony Savage, Gary Symonds, Jarrod Taylor, Ted Turnbull.

### b) Apologies: late apology from Jackie Mitchell.

### c) Confirmation of Agenda: confirmed, with request from the Chairman (as this was scheduled as a Committee work meeting rather than a general meeting) that interventions be kept brief and to the point.

### d) Minutes of last meeting: MOVED Glen EDDINGTON, seconded by Andrew CORKELL that the minutes be amended to reflect the general discussion which had taken place regarding excessive boat noise. CARRIED.

## 2. 2009 Priorities

### a) Communication : A wide-ranging discussion of this issue followed, the key features of which were:

- Some dissatisfaction with the way the activities of the LGCRG are made known to the community. Ray HOPE, a long- standing holiday home owner, who lives in Seaford, said he receives no advice of the group's activities. Others noted that minutes are not posted on the group's website. Ian PENBERTHY suggested that printed copies of minutes should be available at specific locations.
- In response David SULLIVAN pointed out that LGCRG is the only CRG in Wellington with a newsletter (Lakeside News, published via email and in the Heyfield News) and a website.
- Heather KELLY asked if there were any present who felt they were not covered by notices in Heyfield News and the website. No response was recorded.
- John GWYTHER pointed out that there was a limit to what an unfunded volunteer group can achieve if people choose not to have a mailbox, use an email address or read the local paper.
- Most people said they had access to e mail and this appeared to be the preferred means of receiving notices. However the CRG does not have access to WSC's list of addresses.

### Conclusions:

- Minutes of all committee meetings should be posted on the website, along with dates, times and locations of future meetings.
- The CRG will keep an email database of those ratepayers and residents who give their permission for the Group to access these. Helen will email all the addresses she has, requesting they send their approval through to the CRG contact at [jgwyther@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jgwyther@bigpond.net.au).
- Notice of meetings should be placed on the new Community Notice Boards when erected in Coongulla and Glenmaggie (see below).

- Within the limits of funds and human resources available these conclusions should be implemented forthwith.
- b) Survey of community priorities and attitudes: It was generally agreed that there is a need to conduct another survey as quickly as possible. Comments made on the issue include:
- Carol KING believes the four days she was given to complete and return the survey were insufficient.
  - Others questioned how well-represented some groups and individuals were by the last survey, eg holiday home owners and caravan park users. In response Helen MONTAGUE stated that 650 surveys were sent out to all ratepayers, including city based holiday home owners and Heather KELLY, who collated the results, said that all ratepayers in the area defined by LGCRG had received it. David SULLIVAN said that 50 copies had been given to the caravan park operator for distribution to his tenants.
  - Conclusions: Another survey should be conducted forthwith, preferably over Easter. Any deficiencies in the distribution of the last survey should be examined and rectified.
- c) Boating issues: There were many interventions from the floor on this issue, some of which the Chairman ruled out of order on the grounds of irrelevance, incoherence or personal vilification and threats. Key points made were :
- Ken BURT said there was a perception in the community that the committee of the LGCRG is basically against boating on the lake and he believes the group had failed to break that perception down, leading to anxiety and conflict. Norm COTTEE asked the committee to confirm or deny that it is against boating.
  - In response Leon BANNISTER said that, categorically, he knew of nobody on the committee who is opposed to boating on Lake Glenmaggie. John GWYOTHER said that what the group is trying to achieve is a management plan by which all users of the lake were given a fair go and had their rights and privileges respected. David SULLIVAN pointed that the lake is controlled by six different agencies. Because it is being used by more people for more purposes each year, Southern Rural Water (SRW) is drafting a management plan for the lake, which includes such issues as access, safety, noise and nuisance behaviour.
  - Geoff LYNCH pointed out that, six years ago, SRW had proposed to close the lake to boating when the level fell below 72%; a proposal which was averted by carefully planned and organized community intervention.
  - John FREKELBURG spoke in support of having a body which can represent the boating community and asked how the LGCRG was formed and constituted. John GWYOTHER responded with a review of the WSC Terms of Reference and the public participation process by which the group was formed. He said there is a continuing need to involve more members of the community.
  - On the issue of boat noise several people expressed the view that people who object to it are being unreasonable; and that if they didn't like it they should not have come to live here.
  - In response Leon BANNISTER referred to his discussion paper on this issue and said that anybody who lived close to the boat race course, and found that at times it is impossible to hold a conversation inside their own home, would agree that there should at least be some discussion of compromises. He pointed out that his objection is not to all racing boats, just those with un-muffled aircraft engines. He said these were not in evidence at the time he decided to move here. Glen EDDINGTON replied that such a boat had been racing on the lake for many years. Leon stood corrected on this but maintained his objection to this level of noise.

Conclusions: Various motions were proposed and debated at length, culminating in the following:

- MOVED by Glen EDDINGTON, seconded by Tom McCROHAN: "That no attempt should be made by the Lake Glenmaggie Community Representative Group to change boating regulations as they stand on Lake Glenmaggie". CARRIED on a show of hands.

d) Emergency Planning:

- David SULLIVAN spoke to the issue of fire prevention in the wake of Black Saturday. On the matter of Arson he said the WA government has a promising program to deal with it. He proposed that the group should explore how it might be used here. He will post a link to the WA website on the LGCRG website.
- On the Northern Firebreak, which remains incomplete, David proposed joining with other CRG's in a combined effort to have it finished and properly maintained. He called for volunteers to help with this proposal. Ian PENBERTHY and Tom McCROHAN offered to assist.

e) Incorporation:

- John GWYTHYER briefed the meeting on the desire for incorporation so the group can raise and control funds for community benefit. He pointed out that discussion is required on how we determine who is eligible to be a member and how we include non-ratepayers and visitors.
- Tom McCROHAN proposed an early, separate meeting to discuss this. Date and location to be advised. Possibly Easter Saturday nominated.

3. WSC Business: Helen MONTAGUE reviewed current Shire initiatives:

- a) Seaspray holiday bus service was well-supported and successful.
- b) SP Ausnet and FRRR community grants schemes are now open for applications.
- c) Financial Literacy Workshop, 23 April, Leon BANNISTER to attend.
- d) Working with Children information session March 25.
- e) Ten CRG's have now presented their Community Plans to the Shire.
- f) Tinamba Community Emergency Plan has been presented to CFA and SES.
- g) Funding for Coongulla Hall Outside Shelter under Federal Government Infrastructure program – yet to be confirmed.
- h) Support is needed for a move to stop proposed removal of public phones in several towns. Volunteer called to write on behalf of the community. Heather KELLY offered.

4. Other Business

a) Toilets, rubbish and camping

- Written submission received from Merryn STEVENSON for support from LGCRG to establish a picnic area, for public use, adjacent to Glenmaggie Mechanics' Institute, with facilities for a toilet and rubbish collection. Glen EDDINGTON said the land beside the boat club, though not owned by the club, is maintained by it, and is available for picnics. He suggested that Mechanics' committee consider making their hall toilet available to the public, as is done in Coongulla. Leon BANNISTER undertook to put this to the Mechanics' committee.

a) Photography on Lake Glenmaggie

- Several people reported from the floor that they had seen members of the LGCRG Committee photographing boats, jet skis and motorbikes on and around the lake. They thought this was offensive and even illegal (it isn't!) and should be stopped.
- In response David SULLIVAN reported that he had made videos of motor bikes on the lake bed and supplied them in response to a general request from SRW for evidence of behaviour which they wish to curtail for safety and environmental reasons. Nothing was resolved.

b) Petition: Andrew & Shelley CORKELL tabled a petition to WSC for various improvements in and around Coongulla.

- Helen MONTAGUE said that before it is circulated further, the issues involving the hall, playground and tennis courts need to be taken back to the hall committee for approval, as they are the lead agency.
- John GWYTHYER said the CRG would support it.
- David SULLIVAN said it needs a driver and a program to pursue it.

c) Community Strengthening: Heather KELLY tabled a letter proposing continuing funding by the shire for Helen MONTAGUE's role in supporting and facilitating the work of the CRG's. There was general agreement to this.

d) Notice Boards:

- Helen MONTAGUE reviewed the position on the boards, stating that \$9,500 had been granted to the LGCRG through the WSC Community Strengthening Support Fund for this. The boards will be made and erected by the Fulham prisoners. Two kinds of board are available at different costs. The problem is how to avoid losing some of the funding through under-expenditure.
- Leon BANNISTER advised that a site for one board had been agreed with SRW on Glenfiddoch Rd adjacent to the Glenmaggie Mechanics' Institute. A second board could be located between the two caravan parks. Len BANNISTER to liaise with SRW.
- The boards at Coongulla are proposed to be sited at the corner of Ryans Rd and Mt Bradley Rd, (Helen MONTAGUE has written to property owned behind site) and at the community hall.

5. Next Meeting

- a) This is scheduled, by rotation, to be at Glenmaggie Mechanics' Institute. A date is to be determined. There was general support for a meeting at Coongulla on Easter Sunday, 12th March at 2pm. To be confirmed.
- b) Minutes to be recorded by David SULLIVAN.
- c) The meeting closed at 10.15 pm

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