

SOUTH WEST LOVETT BAY COASTCARE INCORPORATED

AGM 14 November 2021

MINUTES



SOUTHWEST
LOVETT BAY
COASTCARE

The 3rd Meeting & AGM was held at 1000 at Lorna Montgomery and Dave Watson's home

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 1015

ATTENDEES

Attendees: Lorna Montgomery Co President) Lisa Atkins (Vice President) Monique Stidwill (Treasurer) Lesley Stevens (Secretary) Emma Stride (Committee) Terry Mackaness, John Wood, Steve Wells, Andrew Cutler (RFS) Mick Budden (GSLLS) Nikki McGrath (GSLLS)

1. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Co President Lorna Montgomery welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land.

2. APOLOGIES

Dave Watson, Deborah Jones, John & Maureen Hicks, Jennifer Cook, Jane Wood, Don & Anne Nicol, Sara Nimmo, Geoff Nimmo, Rouge Hoffmann, Pete Mace, Mel Broughton, Alan Hill, Alan Yuille, Michael Kneipp (NBC) Luke McSweeney (NPWS) and intending members Elissa & Jelte Bakker

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on September 27 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda and were confirmed by the meeting unanimously.

Moved: Lisa Atkins
Seconded Emma Stride

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

It was an interesting year with the challenge of working around COVID restrictions, however it has also been a productive and positive year for our group. Our achievements were many with the care of for our special and unique local environment however the continuing growth and maintenance of our community spirit should also be recognised

The year started very quickly after the September 2020 AGM with a hazard reduction on the land bordering Steve Wells property with our local RFS managing and successfully completing a potentially difficult burn with a lot of prep and caution needed. Many thanks to our RFS friends and in particular to Andrew for his committed guidance.

November 2020 - An active morning tackling the weed, bamboo and lantana. Removal of bird cages, old fences, building materials and a general clean up.

The Burtons Bush Bash was a great contributor to our funds but more importantly a great day for sharing the knowledge and passion Craig has for our region.

May 2021 - Another Bamboo, lantana removal day with an interesting weed identification program led by Paul who shared his vast wealth of knowledge. We had over

20 people attend and it was great to see a number of community members from all areas of the west Pittwater region.

It is also interesting to note of the 36 plus Cocos palms we now only have approx 8-10 left thanks to all the efforts during our onsite working bees.

A big thank you to Paul for his beyond the normally asked for work at preserving and returning the local environment back to its original being.

Lastly we would like to thank all committee members and members for their efforts during the year and in particular Lesley for her continuing tenacious, behind the scenes, energy without which we would not be where we are today.

5. TREASURERS REPORT

Monique commented on the small number of transactions over the year the largest of which was the grant payments to Dragonfly Environmental for the services of our Contractor Paul Webb. She also noted that we had a healthy balance sheet.

Attached is a copy of the Treasurer's Report

6. CONTRACTOR'S REPORT

This year's work plan, supported by the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Grant, has been a consistent 4 pronged approach each visit. Priorities are re-determined each visit according to need.

The primary work zone starts alongside No 66 Sturdee Lane and covers both sides of the track to the Waterfall. The secondary zone stretches east under the escarpment to the beach site below the Swiss Chalet

In the Primary Zone we have:

- maintained the suppression of bamboo regrowth by herbicide application
- hand-weeded amongst all areas of regenerating native vegetation, removing any emerging weed species (mostly lantana).
- recorded new plant species both weeds and natives.

In all Secondary Zone we have:

- treated any other weeds present (mostly lantana).
- recorded any plant species, weed or native, not already recorded.

To date we have recorded 68 species with more to come. We have also recorded 25 weed species, some of which can be removed as a result of our activities.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Lovett Bay Water Quality

This was an issue that arose at last year's AGM. Multiple members reported swimming along side raw sewage. While outside our regeneration and land care efforts it was obviously a deep concern for the membership. Lisa volunteered to follow up the possibility of water monitoring and Dave spoke to Maritime to draw their attention to our concerns. Maritime said they were aware of the issue and were planning to

undertake a PR awareness campaign with all the waterside marine facilities. No further obvious action has been taken by Maritime.

Andrew Cutler reported to the meeting that Michael Rich had advised him that an onshore toilet facility at the Lovett Bay Boatshed was available to his live-aboard clients on LBB moorings.

While concerns were expressed about the lack of economic choices for many of those who lived on board, it was agreed that raw sewage in the water couldn't be an acceptable outcome. What would be a solution that did not penalise anyone is still not obvious to the group. However establishing if the problem is ongoing and continual would be a good start.

Lisa reported that the water monitoring is under the EPA's umbrella and, as far as she can deduce, is collected by Council. The only collection point for the Western Foreshores at present is in Elvina Bay. She suggested we try to either get this point moved or add Lovett Bay to the list for regular water quality monitoring, by lobbying the EPA and/or local member Rob Stokes. The AGM was in complete agreement and Lisa will follow this up.

Membership Fees

This was an issue that arose when the Committee was puzzling on possible ways they could continue the employment of Paul Webb following the end of the GSLLS grant. One-way canvassed was to raise the money by a substantial hiking of membership fees.

This brought into view the two separate strands of membership - the first being the residents of SW Lovett Bay and the second being supporters from the local bushcare groups. The meeting acknowledged that charging anything other than a nominal fee for the second group did not properly reflect or reward their volunteering spirit but still wanted to retain the flexibility to raise the annual fee for residents should extra money be required.

John Wood moved a motion that:

- established the current \$30 fee as the standard fee for residents
- allowed the Committee to call for further resident donations in any year to support a new endeavour agreed on at the AGM
- established a new fee of \$5 for the Bushcarer members living outside South West Lovett Bay

The motion was passed unanimously

8 WAY FORWARD

Goodbye to our Greater Sydney Local Land Services Grant

All good things come to an end. Our Greater Sydney Local Land Services grant ends in December. The meeting thanked Mick Budden for the confidence both the Department and he personally had placed in us and outlined the additional benefits that came with this much appreciated financial gesture - such as kick-starting the on-the-ground work with the hiring of Paul Webb and stirring our appreciation of the two ecologically endangered forests that surround us, our interest in building native gardens, and cementing our community ties. With a common goal we became stronger and more unified.

Mick was very generous in his praise of the community's achievements to date, thanked everyone for their wholehearted support and wished us all well for the future.

While recognising that this day would inevitably come but reluctant to lose Paul's advice, leadership, and knowledge of the regeneration area, the Committee has been has been considering how we might continue Paul's employment.

Public Liability

This is needed for all work on public land. We had hoped that membership of NSW Landcare would provide an avenue whereby we could access relatively cheap public liability insurance to cover the continued employment of Paul. Sadly the scheme would only cover the volunteers and not a contractor.

Additional Revenue

The Committee also discussed raising the subs of the SW Lovett Bay Coastcare, the possibility of another walk, this time with SWLB Coastcare member John Wood, or applying for another grant.

Northern Beaches Council

Happily NBC has also been looking at the achievements of the SWLB Coastcare and has decided to continue the employment of Paul through Dragonfly Environmental for another year.

The meeting expressed their joy at this outcome and the Committee will be writing to Bushcare Coordinator Michael Kneipp to express their appreciation.

More on this when we speak to Michael and Paul to understand what shape this support will take in the New Year.

Rural Fire Service

In more good news Local Fire Chief, Andrew Cutler, is planning a pile burn next door to Steve Wells on Saturday to assist regeneration and a possible planting day next year. The RFS will be possibly 4 strong (Vince, Roy and two others) and Paul assures us that the job will be easily completed with no need for further volunteers.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Wells asked to address the membership to explain what his plans were for his own property.

He is still planning to use a water pump to blast the soil along the boundaries to reveal the bamboo roots and chop them. He will then line with ditch with old iron and refill with either the topsoil or sawdust that will easily reveal the new bamboo shoots. With constant snipping of the new shoots he is hoping that the plant will be deprived of chlorophyll and gradually die.

The water pump is yet to be sent from Melbourne. In the meantime his most recent worker on the site has dug out a small portion of the bamboo from along the section bordering the track.

No one on the Committee felt the sawdust treatment would do anything else other than mulch and support the growth of the bamboo. The use of the water blaster was also questioned given the loosening of the top soil on a steep gradient which would lead to an inevitable loss of soil in heavy rain and the creation of a new but permanent water courses.

The Committee did encourage the digging out of the bamboo however Steve said he personally could not do it, his worker had left, and he had no money to employ anyone. Nor would he be using Glysophate anywhere on his property given his suspicions that his wife's terminal illness was in part caused by inhalation or penetration through the skin of this chemical spray, and the fact that he wanted to have a vegetable garden which he would not be able to given the continuing presence of glysophate in the soil.

John Wood agreed with Steve that one had to be cautious with the use of Glysophate. He then took the Meeting through the toxicity time scale associated with spraying. On the leaves and stems half of any Glysophate will break down in 8 days. However as Glysophate binds tightly with soil it can remain there for up to six months in which time it is broken down by bacteria (ref: <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/glyphogen.html>) . Given this - if Steve sprayed his property tomorrow - he could be planting his new vegetable beds mid April 2022 without any concerns.

Steve was receptive to John's explanation and John asked Steve to review the background further himself. If Steve were comfortable John offered to assist Steve get rid of the bamboo anytime and suggested if other SWLBC members volunteered it could be done in a day. The two agreed to tick tack on this offer in the coming weeks.

10.ELECTION & APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS & ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee member John Hicks proffered his resignation due to new commitments elsewhere and Deborah Jones flagged her possible departure from these shores some time next year. All other Committee Members and Office Bearers were available for re-election.

The Committee had received a notification from David Watson nominating John Wood to the Committee.

A replacement for Deborah Jones was discussed on a deferred basis, however, as there were no other nominations, it was decided to deal with Deborah's resignation when it actually happens.

The meeting voted in all other existing members together with John Wood as the Committee for the next year

11.The meeting closed at 1210 and the attendees made them selves available for photos and interview with Nikki McGrath (Greater Sydney Local Land Services Public Relations) for an article.