

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 25 2020

Minutes

The meeting began at 5.35pm at the Braidwood Servicemens Club

1. Welcome and apologies

In attendance: 28 people as per attendance sheet.

Apologies: Andrew Clark. B and J Crosby, Sue Lyons, Cecile Gaiazzo,, Bruce Keely, Margaret Tuckwell, Suzanne Gearing, Kirsty Altenburg, Pauline Coady;

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held December 3rd 2019

Moved: John Tuckwell **Seconded:** Don Jones

3. Business arising and not included in General Business

a. Lascelles St Upgrade: Report by John Tuckwell

After consultation with the Garden Club, QPRC have selected 3 preferred trees for planting in Lascelles St. They are Golden Ash, Chinese Pistachio and White Cedar. The Garden Club surveyed its members and the preferred trees were alternating Golden Ash and Chinese Pistachio. These preferences reflect information regarding best options for street trees in our climate. This process is now with QPRC.

Keith Potger asked if the Wallace St Intersection was included in the upgrade. It is not. Wallace St (Kings Hwy) is an RMS responsibility. This upgrade is for the IGA side of Lascelles St.

b. Plans for the Council office building/library – No further updates.

c. Community Christmas Party 13th Dec/ BCA Christmas drinks 8th Dec.

Both were very successful. The Braidwood Museum is a great location for the BCA Christmas drinks. Thanks to the Hoitorial Society for making it available.

d. Lighting and security in Ryrie Park playground.

Ongoing. David Gray was writing to council about this. Geoff Davies added that Ryrie Sth also needed lighting.

ACTION: Add Ryrie Park South lighting to notification for council

e. Swimming Pool upgrades: Sue Lyons has reported that there are no updates from QPRC or John Barilaro, despite efforts to find out.

Gilly Burke commented that the third round of the Stronger Communities Fund grant decisions was expected in January, but has been put back.

f. Meeting with Telstra reps- postponed due to bushfires. New date? Sue will try to reschedule for mid-March.

ACTION: Schedule Telstra meeting

g. January BCA meeting - postponed due to bushfires.

4. Correspondence

To and from QPRC Comms team re swimming pool opening dates

To and from QPRC Events Management Team re Christmas party arrangements.

From QPRC re arrangements for Bushfire Recovery Centre in the Old Library

To and from local RFS Brigades re funds raised from IGA collection and donations.

To and from KPMG re possible financial support for Community projects after the bushfires.

To and from Braidwood Life Centre re participation in Braidwood Community Help Fund Panel.

To and from Kate Monaghan, QPRC, re Rates Harmonisation consultation meetings

To and from Jacquelyn Richards, Manager, Community Choice at QPRC, re use of indoor public spaces in Braidwood.

To and from QPRC Comms team re Draft Climate Action Plans Consultation

5. Treasurer's Report

Andrew Clark unable to attend the meeting, but has supplied Financial reports. We have \$4564.68 in the bank, of which approximately 1200 is for Ryrie Park Playground

Community donations to the RFS of just over \$13000 have moved through the account, evenly divided between the 10 local RFS groups.

6. General Business

a. BCA Incorporation – next steps

BCA is now Inc, and this means we can move ahead with the website.

b. BCA Website: Report - John Tuckwell

Gordon Waters is creating the website pro bono. There will be some ongoing management fees. The domain name is ***braidwoodcommunity.org***. The aim is for an April launch.

The website will aim to include:

- Information about the BCA, meeting details, reports, submissions etc.
- Facility for community members to suggest topics for discussion
- Braidwood Events calendar, to avoid clashing and inform as a whole community service.
- Newsletters –
- Info about community groups (who wish to be listed), for new members
- Possibly a new residents' guide with useful local information
- Links to related sites.
- Possible facility for online surveys
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Sue thanked John for his efforts in getting the website details worked out in consultation with Gordon.

c. Bushfires and Recovery process.

BCA has been involved in the community response to the bushfires.

- We initiated a community collection for the local RFS brigades, raising \$13,060.50 from cash donations at the IGA, and other donations from individuals and groups. Cash donations of over \$7,000 were made at the IGA. The Dargues Gold Mine employees and contractors undertook collections for this. The owner of a small Canberra Construction Company collected \$1500 from workers in other construction companies and donated it to our local brigades. There were other very generous individual donations. Each of the ten local brigades has received \$1300 from this fundraising, and the Braidwood brigade received \$1360.50.
- Some of us helped with catering for the hundreds of RFS members who worked tirelessly to keep the fires in every direction controlled.
- We were invited to have representatives on the panel to administer a fund set up by the Braidwood Life Centre for bushfire relief. Sue Murray and David Gray are on that panel.
- We have liaised with the Braidwood Bushfire Recovery Centre re ways to help locals impacted by the fires.
- We met with representatives of KPMG re ways they could assist the community with the recovery process.

The **BLC-Braidwood Community Help Fund** has distributed fuel vouchers to the “Mozzies” who were invaluable in helping the firefighting effort, using their own fuel and equipment. The vouchers are a way to say ‘**thank you**’ for their contribution to the safety of our local communities. So far, over 200 ‘Mozzies’ have been identified. The BCHF is also distributing cash grants to those who have lost permanent homes, or had secondary losses such as sheds, equipment stock feed, etc. They will also be looking at other ways to assist community recovery efforts.

QPRC Bushfire Recovery team are holding a Braidwood Community Meeting on Sunday 8 March and are also conducting outreach meetings in the villages and outlying communities.

d. Bombay Recreation Reserve. This has been severely impacted by the fires and is currently closed. A community restoration project has been suggested.

David Anthony confirmed that this area, along with similar areas at Warri and Oallen, are owned by Sydney Water Catchment Authority. He proposed that we approach them to give these spaces to QPRC to manage. Don Jones had insight into this, and offered to follow up.

ACTION: Don Jones will draft a letter to the SCA (Water NSW)

This would be a total community effort, thinking that Landcare, Lions, Apex and other groups could be involved. Geoff D pointed out that any efforts would have to wait for a safety assessment eg potential for falling trees. In light of this, it is likely to remain closed for some time.

ACTION: John T will find out about Lions involvement in the past, setting up the picnic area etc Initiate contact with other community groups who might be interested.

e. Other ideas for community recovery – Submissions for discussion at our next meeting.

- **Monga Forest** was mentioned by Margaret Royds, in relation to the boardwalk and picnic areas. Tim Gearing commented that ferns are recovering, but not so much the old trees.
- **BlazeAid** was mentioned, as they are helping to replace boundary fences destroyed in the fires. Replacing fencing is a priority for rural landholders.
- Sheelagh Noonan suggested a **health day or weekend**, with a speaker on emotional/psychological recovery to raise knowledge on what to recognise and where to

seek help. Speaker suggested: Ian Hickey. This event could also include tables with therapy options (including massage) and community groups to connect with. This would ensure people know the options and can find what might help them. Further discussion to take place with Clare Young and Rose Ricketson. Keith commented that such things should be put onto the local facebook group page. Any event should be free. It was discussed that Beyond Blue or Blackdog might be a source for support. There are other organisations listed in the bushfire recovery handouts.

- Bess Harrison added that her idea is a **community nursery** (for propagation etc) to help restore gardens and create connections. This is a way to find support without calling it therapy or making it anything more than it needs to be. Activities that bring people together were generally agreed to be a good approach. Clare Young offered to help Bess to achieve this.
- John T commented that some people are still experiencing drought impacts. He also commented that 'Joint Open Working Bees', such as at Tim Wimborne's Mountain Pepper farm, included people coming from Canberra who were keen to help. It was generally agreed that between drought and fire this is a whole community need. Green spaces, such as gardens (and reserves) are important and have therapeutic value. Also general agreement that Bess's idea was good because it was not 'direct' and allowed for it to be about connecting, helping or being supported. This will be a long term and ongoing issue. It was also noted that clean-up of impacted properties was a priority, and is of particular concern in Nerriga.

ACTION: Further discussion and follow-up with other community groups.

- Tim Gearing mentioned the **Men's Coffee Club**, a weekly event which is supported by Black Dog and looking to expand its support.

f. QPRC Climate Action Plans Consultation.

The date for submissions was extended to March 1st. These plans build on pre-amalgamation plans created by Queanbeyan City Council. Palerang Council did not have a Climate Action Plan.

ACTION: Too late for a BCA submission but individual submissions can be made.

Geoff Davies has started a conversation on Facebook in the 'Sustainable Braidwood' page/group. It has a list of concerns for QPRC to address. This can be added to, to aid in determining local priorities and needs.

Sheelagh Noonan is the new president of Two Fires, and has offered for people to send ideas to her to be included in the Two Fires submission. She would like to see a conversation leading to consensus across the community. Clare Young also has started a FB conversation, and is keen for further community input. Sue suggested these three could work together to get submissions into QPRC.

Gilly suggested a future event may be a speaker from Farmers for Climate Change.

Geoff commented on the failed water supply and road blockages as needing future proofing. An evolving plan would be best approach. Clare commented that the Climate Action plan was to be reviewed annually.

BCA could endorse the Climate Action Plan, with local additions/ideas.

Don Jones raised the KPMG item, stating that this may be an opportunity to put our hand up to be a case study. The lessons learned from an audit of Braidwood's experience could help prepare for future event. KPMG may conduct this study, which could be informative for other areas also.

ACTION: Don will advise Sue on this idea and draft a letter to KPMG.

Tim Gearing (as Business Chamber rep) was at the KPMG meeting in January, and commented it was basically a 'tell us what you need' with \$\$ available, but there has been no follow up despite submissions being made by various groups.

Gilly asked if we would be following up with KPMG. Sue responded that based on Don's input she would follow up. This may not result in immediate response, but could put in place a future mechanism.

The **QPRC Bush Fire Recovery Centre** is currently providing advice re the Govt help on offer. This has limited staff, facing an increasing workload. David A confirmed QPRC had received federal funding (\$1M) for bushfire recovery efforts. The Bushfire Recovery Centre is reaching out to local communities with advice and support.

There will be reports from RFS on operations matters, along with the 'bushfire enquiry'

John T raised the issue of **unsealed roads**, which have deteriorated faster than usual, due to flooding in some cases. Was there anything that can be done to help this process?

David A explained that this was a logistic problem, not one that would be fixed by a sudden influx of money. Road grading could not take place during the bushfire period. Council equipment and staff were used to build containment lines. QPRC makes assessments and prioritises based on a 'triage' approach. By all means let Council know any particular concerns, but they will be considered based on this triage.

ACTION: Sheelagh proposed that we write to Tim Overall regarding this triage approach.

g. Rates Harmonisation: Report - Sue Murray. Extensive consultation has taken place to create a rates framework that covers the entire LGA. Public consultation will take place via QPRC's Your Voice Website. The proposal will be considered at the QPRC Ordinary meeting on Wednesday 26th Feb. For more information see the QPRC Your Voice website

<https://yourvoice.qprc.nsw.gov.au/>

Paul C pointed out that there was a rate-freeze since amalgamation, which ceases in September.

7. Any other business

- a) Clr Kendrick Winchester would like to attend the next meeting of BCA.
- b) A mention was made of a recent incident: a major brawl in Park Lane outside the town fireshed which started at the Royal Hotel last Friday night, and lasted from 11.30-1.00am. There was only a single policeman in attendance, until late. Discussion was around the 'responsible service of alcohol'.
- c) **Water restrictions.:** What is the current and future intention here? **Sue will ask QPRC.**

8. Date of next meeting. 24 March 5:30pm at The Club.

