



# BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING

18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, at 5.30 pm - Braidwood Servicemen's Club

## MINUTES

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.*

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:** Welcome to Rebecca Ryan, the new QPRC General Manager

**Apologies:** Barbara Gilby, Jeff Wolford, Bill Waterhouse, Anni Chilton, Jan Mason, Kirsty Altenburg.

- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Moved:** Martin Glover

**Seconded:** Trish Sargeson

- 3. BUSINESS ARISING AND NOT INCLUDED IN GENERAL BUSINESS**

**a) Skate Park Update:** The Skate Park is on track for work to begin in late November, weather permitting. Council work to prepare the site is complete. An onsite visit with the contractor is set for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The site is ready for the Skate Park contractor. He has been delayed by weather (in Victoria), but will try to rearrange his schedule to start on time.

**b) First Tuesday Lunch at the Club:** Wendy McMahon Bell explained how the lunches came about and the purpose of them. Lunches are being held at the club and the club is providing transport for those who need it. 50 people attended the first lunch, with 60 at second. The plan is to keep them going as long as they are successful and needed. Annie Duke asked whether Maria Bakas-Booker has been approached as she has her finger on the pulse on the need in the community. She has been contacted. Michelle, the Club Manager, is organising free fortnightly events for seniors which will incorporate training on IT platforms.

**c) Seniors Events in Spring and Summer:** Grant approval has been received and the funds should be available soon. Sue explained the history behind the events. They are not just in Braidwood, but incorporate events in Nerriga, Araluen, and Majors Creek.

**d) Come-Together Event:** October 8-9: Sheelagh Noonan and Roger James explained what the event was intended to achieve. Yuin people had historically been told never to come to Braidwood due to past events. But Uncle Noel Butler from Ulladulla attended, with his wife Trish and family members. Uncle Noel has family links to the Mongarlowe area. The Saturday morning event in Ryrrie Park was very successful. The Saturday afternoon event was strongly worded at times and Uncle Noel became emotional. The Sunday morning book discussion between Craig Cormick and Harold Ludwick, about their book "On a Barbarous Coast" was very successful. It was overall a fantastic weekend. Follow up – perhaps Matt Thane will put together a visual account. There is more learning about

Braidwood's history to come. Support was amazing, both formal and financial, and many volunteers gave their time. All were respectful and listened to each other.

**e) Christmas in the Park, Friday 2 December:** Catherine Bell reported BYPAA is working with the Braidwood Dance Studio on an awesome stage-show which will tell a story of Braidwood. Food and wine will be available. The road will be closed off for the event, and advertising will be by Facebook and posters. BYPAA will be running Thursday afternoon workshops to finetune acts for the party and the upcoming fringe festival.

**f) Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group:** Kim Stewart outlined the Bosom Buddies coffee morning catch-ups. There was minimal attendance at first event (13 Oct) but more attended the second event. The coffee mornings are free and held at the club. They are an informal get-together to chat and support others affected by breast cancer. There is potential for a break-away group for supporters of people effected by breast cancer.

#### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS

**a) Affordable Housing Update:** Sarah Leheny reported that the Braidwood Affordable Housing Proposal is now complete and has been provided to all QPRC Councillors, Rebecca Ryan, Nichole Overall, and Kristy McBain. We have requested meetings with Nichole Overall and Kristy McBain but are awaiting their response.

Sue Murray and Sarah met with Bendigo Bank Nick Fry, Craig Pettit, Alex Rofe, and Di Izzard, as the Bank wants to assist with affordable housing solutions. It was decided to put together a committee from BCA, BLC, Bank, BAVBC, etc. to ensure Braidwood presented an informed and unified voice on the issue.

**b) Heart Health Walking Group:** Trish Sargeson reported that she would lead the Heart Health Walking Group. Walkers should meet on Thursdays at 8.50am in Ryrie Park. Trish will lead the group on different arranged walks. A \$4000 grant organised by QPRC's Community development Officer Cristina De Jongh is available for promotion of the events. The idea is to have a short walk, drop people off, and continue on longer walk for those who wish to continue. A coffee chat afterwards is planned.

**Q and A with Rebecca Ryan:** Rebecca introduced herself and explained her background. She has moved to Queanbeyan from rural NSW and has a farming background. She likes the diversity of the city and the rural areas within the LGA and believes it is important Braidwood retains its identity and objectives while being part of the LGA.

#### Items raised by Community

- **Braidwood Swimming pool** – Alisa Stephens from the Braidwood Swimming Club stated we struggle with a small pool and a short season. Staffing issues are holding up swimming events and limiting sessions. She asked if there would be staff to open, and whether there was any way we could help with staffing issues. Rebecca replied that she had engaged 2 full time staff for the season, and they were being trained this weekend. She advised Alisa to contact Mark Spears with names of potential pool attendants. Alisa asked for an update on the planned and funded upgrades to the pool. She said there were only limited classes for school-age kids due to low water temperature. Rebecca advised that tender documents were ready to go out, and that she wanted to appoint a contractor before Christmas. She said she would get back to us on what the tender is for as there was some confusion. She has asked her staff to do a strategic plan on all swimming pools in LGA – challenges, risks, specific identities, wants, etc (better heating). How do they deliver what is wanted/needed? How much funding is required? What

is preventing usage? There is a Stronger Communities Fund grant application to supply 'pool pods' for accessibility and provide a wheelchair-friendly path from the carpark to the pool.

- **European Wasps** – Judy Knowles thanked Council for funding the baiting and tracking program, which has been successful. She asked whether the contract will be renewed this year for the contractor, what were the long-term eradication plans, and if Council would continue funding. She stated there is a lot of habitat in Braidwood which wasps love and we should be able to safely use our public spaces – rec ground, walking track, community gardens, parks, etc. Rebecca advised the same contractor would be engaged by Council and will commence in the next couple of months. She advised us to direct our questions to Sean Kaden. Phillip Owen advised that the first baits laid targets wasps in area, and the second bait is taken by wasps back to the nest. The contractor will only set traps on public land. Rebecca says community can be involved. They can advise places containing wasps for the contractor to target. Marilyn Mills stated there was a lot of ivy and willow near her place on the corner of Glenmore Rd that attracts wasps. The Nerriga Rd turnoff roadworks has been commenced, and has included cleaning up of some bushes, but has stopped short of the wasp area. She suggested Council continue on and clean up the creek. Judy asked whether there is a hold-up with the funding as the queens are emerging now. Rebecca will let Council know tomorrow. Annie Duke advised there was a new wasp baiting technique which will be the key to our problem. It is a more efficient and economical method to handle them.
- **Road repairs** – John Tuckwell commented that roads are repaired but rain storms soon wash out the repairs. He asked what the process was for repair prioritisation, and whether Council were putting more resources towards it. He also wanted to know if Council were having to move money about, and how they identified which roads get fixed. He asked whether we could help campaign to get more money for fixing roads. Rebecca explained that the Council was under-resourced, there had been excess rain, and roads coming to end of their life are being patched. Rebecca said they were concentrating on finishing sealing and heavy patching on Nerriga rd. She advised us not to just email councillors, but to call Council first, and use the 'Snap, Send and Solve' website function. Council will do a risk assessment and take necessary action. She also said they had 50 staff vacancies in the infrastructure department which included the road crews. Council is aware of the value of roads and are doing the best they can. There are some state roads (highways) which Council staff maintain on behalf of the State Govt.
- Annie Duke asked why there were staffing issues. Rebecca believed a competitive labour market, especially in the private sector, mining where operators can work 7 days on 7 days off with guaranteed overtime was one reason. Public Service employees are paid better. They are looking at trainees and school students with a view to employing them. George Sherriff asked if there is a vision taking climate change into the equation, and mentioned that 'shonky' work in the past on the roads doesn't help. Rebecca said a lot of roads are coming to the end of their life, and additional resources are going to be required to pay for road works.
- **Signage** Nola Clarke spoke of the memorial in the old Braidwood cemetery for 4 police allegedly killed by the Clarke bushrangers. She said this was inaccurate as the Clarke bushrangers were never charged over the deaths. They were charged with shooting / injuring a policeman when they were captured, and were hanged for that offence, but not for murder. A wooden sign states Clarke bushrangers were responsible for the deaths. Rebecca said she would refer the issue to the new Heritage Committee to discuss. They will make recommendation to Council. Nola also said there were other signs stating the Clarke gang were responsible – signs at the Big Hole (which comes under National Parks), and Araluen sign as well.
- **Power Boxes Ryrie Park** Roger James mentioned there were three power boxes in Ryrie Park. He asked who owned the power boxes as he was only able to be given access to two of them. He thought Council seem to own two of them. Rebecca advised she will investigate.

- **DA notifications** Wendy McMahon Bell asked how it was decided who would be advised when DA's were submitted. She believed there were issues with lack of official notification of neighbours' DA's. She asked what the procedure was for sending out notices. Rebecca advised that neighbours are notified but that the process should be consistent, however some DA's do not require notification. In a Heritage Listed town all neighbours should be notified. John Tuckwell advised there were ways to enquire to find out more (Planning Alerts website). Wendy asked whether changes to DA's were notified. Rebecca advised it depended on how significantly different the changes are to the original approval. Phillip Owen advised that sometimes owner details are not updated.
- **Braidwood Structure Plan** George asked when the proposed Braidwood Structure Plan was due. Rebecca said it should be completed by the end of June 2023. Rebecca didn't know whether it coincided with the NSW Heritage Review outcomes.
- **Braidwood Old Library** Annie Duke enquired into the timeframe to get the BYPAA proposal into Jacquelyn Richards' report to Council. Rebecca advised there was still a window of opportunity to get it into Jacqui's report.

**Rebecca advised:**

- The QPRC Affordable Housing Strategy would be due for comment by the end of year.
- Rebecca has talked to the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council representatives to see how we could work with them re land for key worker and affordable housing.
- The State Government has funding allocated under the Regional Housing Taskforce for a range of housing solutions.
- Funding application for Accelerated Infrastructure Fund to move Council Works Depot to designated site behind the Waste Transfer Station site is a priority. There is a proposal to rezone the area behind the D&S site (88 Wallace St) for medium density housing, as well as carparking. Catherine Bell asked how many car spaces are intended behind 88 Wallace street. Rebecca advised 56 – 60 car spaces.
- Lascelles Street Upgrade – contractors are working around the weather.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Troy Vardanega (Little River Rd) talked about the Mona fireworks over the last couple of years. He said sometimes they were performed legally and sometimes not. Council is the governing authority for permits. He said some locals were not happy about the fireworks due to livestock issues. Mona has said they will not put on fireworks for the rest of the year. Troy asked how we go about getting a permanent ban on fireworks in the area, and perhaps in the LGA. Rebecca is aware of the issues. She advised to report all issues to Council. They will ensure people do things the right way and through the right channels. Troy has talked with environmental officer and Cr Mareeta Grundy. His main push for a permanent ban was so any future owners of Mona were also banned from letting off fireworks. If it is to happen Rebecca advised there is a proper process to be followed.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November ?**