

**Minutes of the CRVA Executive Meeting
Tuesday 25 September 2017 at Bruce Street, Marrickville**

ATTENDANCE: John Butcher, Ranjith Evas, Ann Leahy, Jennifer Newman, Martin Puchert

APOLOGIES: Julie Corkery, Chris Shanley, Barney Solomon, Gareth Wreford

John opened the meeting at 7.15pm, with an acknowledgement of country.

Business arising:

The meeting considered a number of administrative changes following the August AGM elections to the Executive:

- New signatories to the cheque account are required.
 - *Ann and Martin agreed to attend the bank to effect this change;*
- Chris Shanley was confirmed to continue as the Public Officer; Ann Leahy was confirmed to continue as Publicity Officer;
- Jennifer passed the Post Office box key that she held to Martin;
- John proposed a rotation of both the location and the chairperson role for Executive meetings: discussion was deferred to the next Executive meeting.
- The meeting agreed that it was time to refresh the CRVA website:
 - *Martin undertook to explore alternative options for web hosting;*
 - *Ranjith agreed to undertake management of the website.*

The meeting noted a range of recent activity relevant to the Cooks River and its environs:

- Ranjith attended the *Cooks River Forum* at Ashbury Senior Citizens Hall on Thursday 21 September, organised by local Federal Members Tony Burke (Watson), Anthony Albanese (Grayndler) and Linda Burney (Barton). Ranjith reported the hall to be packed, with hundreds in attendance.
- The *Men of the Trees* sign has been restored and repaired beside the Cooks River path at Canterbury Racecourse.
- Chris Brogan advised that Metro Land Council has confirmed the identification of a number of scarred trees in Wiley Park. He is meeting to view the trees again on Sunday 15 October, at 10am.

Financial report: Chris Shanley advised there had been no changes to the financial position reported at the Annual General Meeting of 29 August 2017. It was noted that a cheque was required to be drawn to cover the Mudcrabs dinner to honour Peter Munro.

Crab Walkers

Martin reported that the outcome of the grant application will be announced in October, with funds made available in December. He proposed to set up a small group of volunteers to conduct a pilot trial of 15 sets of equipment before December.

Canterbury Racecourse and the Urban Renewal Corridor

The meeting noted the comprehensive written report received from Gareth, detailing outcomes and actions from recent meetings:

- 19 September meeting with Anthony Roberts, NSW Minister for Planning, organised by Sophie Cotsis (other attendees were from Campsie and Close St)
- 21 September Cooks River Forum organised by Tony Burke, Anthony Albanese and Linda Burney (Ranjith and Peter also attended)

- 25 September meeting with Canterbury Bankstown Council Mitchell Noble, Manager Strategic Planning, and Daniela Santuci, Manager Sustainable Futures.

Key points to pursue following those meetings were the request for a community representative committee to participate in the development of the Canterbury Racecourse site masterplan, and the need to challenge the assumption that the site will be developed rather than preserved.

Cooks River Alliance

The meeting noted that the Inner West Council and Canterbury Bankstown Council remain committed, with Canterbury Bankstown Council slated to host the Alliance. Both Sydney City and Bayside Councils have left the Alliance. Following the recent local government elections, it is possible that the Georges River Council may return to the Alliance.

Mudcrabs

The meeting noted that the 2017 Christmas gathering is set for Sunday 10 December, at Rosedale Reserve, and that a dinner celebrating the work of Peter Munro will be held at Minh restaurant in Marrickville on Saturday 14 October.

Ranjith and Martin tabled several proposals, including:

- Requesting the installation of taps at Mudcrabs sites;
- Proposing the development of a business card for the Mudcrabs, which could be handed out to passers-by during working bees.
 - *Ranjith undertook to get quotes for this job.*
- Querying where and how to access to keys for the gates along the Cooks River at litter hotspots, which would allow better access and more effective clean-ups.
 - *Ranjith will speak with Nell Graham about keys and access.*

Future events and activities

The meeting discussed suggestions for future events, including:

- Earth Hour candles on the river – 24 March 2018
- Canterbury Swimming Pool 60th anniversary will be celebrated in 2019
- 2020 - 250 years since Cook landed on the east coast of the continent.
- Friday 1 December 2017 Container Deposit Scheme launch: CRVA should stage an event or performance to mark this occasion, specifically around a CDS site on the Cooks River. Martin and Ranjith will liaise to share information in this regard.

There was some discussion about guest speakers for CRVA General meetings. Rod Kerr was willing to give a presentation about the Wolli Creek sub catchment. Martin is willing to give a presentation about his work on marine biodiversity. Jennifer will approach Andy Kissane to read some of his poems about the Cooks River at the next meeting.

Next CRVA General meeting: 7.00pm Tuesday 24 October, CHP RSL Club

Next CRVA Executive meeting: Tuesday 28 November – a pot-luck dinner to end the year.

Meeting closed: 8.45pm