

CRVA General Meeting 25th June 2019

Venue: School of Hospitality training room Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL

Meeting opened 7.00pm

Acknowledgement of Country: Jennifer Newman and Peter Munro

Attendance: J.Pidcock, P. Wikins, C.Shanley, N. Wheatley, R. Cail, M. Mallone, B. Solomon, M. Puchert, Dr Chris Derry, B.Jones, A. Gibbs, D.Gilling, D. Hallahan, S. Ordokhan, K. Vander Donk, F.Abdi, N. Honan, J. Honan, S. Wilkes, C. Fraga Matos, T.Bray, R. Evas, J. Newman, J. Kent, P. Munro, A. Leahy, J. Corkery (minutes)

Apologies: John Butcher, Chris Brogan, Gareth Wreford

Adoption of minutes April General Meeting: Moved Ann Leahy, Seconded P.Munro

GUEST SPEAKER DR CHRIS DERRY

Dr Chris Derry is Senior Lecturer and Principal Researcher, Toxicology & Environmental Epidemiology, Uni of Western Sydney.

Chris has a PhD in public health hydrology. He has extensive international experience in water research.

In Australia he has collaborated with government and local authorities where he feels that cutting edge projects in natural water protection are taking place. In this regard he engaged with City of Sydney on developing a monitoring system for their raingardens before moving to a similar portfolio for the Cooks River Alliance.

Chris has completed research into the pollution removal performance of stormwater bioretention units, rain gardens and biofilters on the Cooks River. He has also studied wastewater treatment in urban reedbed systems and developed an assessment and monitoring framework for stormwater quality improvement systems.

The Cooks River project is progressing well, despite the difficult restructure of local governments which took place, and some lean rainfall periods and he hopes to be able to finalise this, rainfall willing, by next year.

Chris has also investigated accurate and effective means of tracing and identifying the sources of pollutants being released into waterways.

The efficiency and effectiveness of constructed stormwater & wastewater bioretention units is a vital component in the retro-fitting of systems that mimic nature in cleaning polluted water before it enters the Cooks River.

Thank you Chris for your informative presentation.

Correspondence: Emails: Nadia Wheatley re future directions for Ewen Park; Cooks River Alliance re proposed Riverkeepers Network; River Canoe Club re Paddle Against Plastic

Treasurers Report - Chris Shanley: Current Bank Balances CBA \$701.94; ING \$10,386.15 **Total \$ 11088.09**

Current financial membership for 2019 is 99.

Current issues:

- Income/expenditure this financial year up to the beginning of June (excluding money on quarantined grants). Income has been \$1,752 and expenditure \$2,553 leading to a deficit of \$801.
- A lot of membership fees for 2020 have already been paid reducing the anticipated income for 2019/20
- This impending deficit prompted a one-off request to members for donations focused on support of the Mudcrabs (a significant portion of our expenditure). This has raised \$520* since June 17 (*\$805 as at 28 June)

Chris spoke about grants available from Canterbury Bankstown and Inner West Councils. Chris has volunteered to check eligibility and possibly apply for grants that may assist CRVA with expenditure for 2020 Candles by River Event and tools and equipment for bushcare projects. Thank you Chris.

Chris is stepping down as treasurer at our AGM in August. Chris and Ann Leahy spoke about the need for new members on the executive committee. Please contact us at info@crva.com.au if you are interested in nominating or would like more information.

Plan of Management for Marrickville Golf Course- Peter Munro addressed the meeting. While the community consultation re the three options for POM has closed Peter reiterated that this is an ongoing issue and urged the membership to keep lobbying on this matter. Jennifer Kent urged members to contact councillors to state that option C (no action) is unacceptable.

Ewen Park-Future Directions

Nadia Wheatley addressed the meeting in regard to the future directions for Ewen Park. Following discussion the following motions were put to the meeting

In the light of the decision by Canterbury Bankstown Council on 30 April 2019 not to proceed with the construction of a small multi-purpose community building at the eastern end of Ewen Park, as promised in the Ewen Park Plan of Management 2008, but to provide instead a slab with a shade structure, described as an 'Outdoor Education Meeting Space', the Cooks River Valley Association resolves to inform Council that:

(1) The CRVA sees no value in the construction in Ewen Park proposed at the 30 April 2019 meeting of Canterbury Bankstown Council, as such a structure would be useless either for community meetings or for outdoor education.

Instead, the CRVA asks Council to upgrade facilities in the Ewen Park picnic area, as outlined in the Plan of Management and subsequent designs, including:

** two new picnic shelters with barbecues (one at the south-east corner and the other at the north-west corner of the picnic area)*

** the upgrading of the playground area, including provision of shade*

** additional planting of trees in accordance with a landscape design plan, with a set maintenance program for a minimum of three years*

(2) The CRVA further opposes Council's proposal for the development of the flat open space of a 'Village Green' on the western side of the Ewen Park picnic area.

The CRVA demands instead that Council preserve the current Ewen Park Picnic Area, with its mounds and trees and separate picnic spaces, as promised in the Plan of Management for Ewen Park (2008).

Moved: Jennifer Newman; Seconded Peter Munro; Carried

Cooks River Alliance- Catarina Fraga Matos spoke on the proposed Riverkeepers Network. Interested people will be encouraged to apply. It is proposed that there will be a full tour of the Cooks River followed by a course of eight sessions (one day per week). It is hoped that this will result in a network of individuals/groups within the community who care for the river.

River Canoe Club- Simon Wilkes addressed the meeting,

- Thanks to all involved in the Paddle Against Plastic. On 19th May 1188kg of waste was collected. In total over a three day period 3 tonnes of waste was collected.
- New but smaller event is proposed for Sunday 1st September
- A big event is planned for early 2020 in Feb/March
- Ocean Crusaders are planning to have a presence in Sydney

Mudcrabs- Ranjith Evas:

- Two new Mudcrabs sites at Boat Harbour and Burnett Street reserve
- New Mudcrabs Calendar has been sent to volunteers

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

J. Corkery (minutes)

Reminder: August 27 will be our AGM followed by a general meeting at which Diego Boneto (aka The Weed Man) will be guest speaker