

Minutes CRVA Executive Meeting 2nd June 2020

Venue: Online via Zoom

Time: Meeting opened 7.16pm

Attendance: Jennifer Newman, Gareth Wreford, Ranjith Evas, Chris Shanley, Ann Leahy, Justine Langford, Martin Puchert, Julie Corkery (minutes)

Acknowledgement of Country: Jennifer Newman

Apologies: Barney Solomon

Adoption of Minutes from February General Meeting: Moved Jennifer Newman, Seconded Justine Langford. Carried

Adoption of Minutes from March Executive Meeting: Moved Ann Leahy, Seconded Julie Corkery. Carried

Treasurer's Report

Current bank balances are as follows CBA \$837.91 and ING \$11,272.75

Being a total of \$12,110.66

Chris will continue as Treasurer until the AGM

Successful Grant Applications: Gareth Wreford

On behalf of the Mudcrabs the CRVA has been successful with two Commonwealth grant applications in the Barton electorate (Linda Burney MP):

1) Community Environment Program \$20,000

The \$20,000 grant needs to be spent by December 2020. \$2k is an administrative component to cover CRVA costs while the remaining \$18k is prioritised towards on ground work across up to four sites as follows:

A) Burnett St Reserve

Bulk of the money to be spent on this large site primarily on replacing lawn and exotic weeds with heath and bush.

B) Boat Harbour / Sugar Mill

Joining the two sites around the Canterbury pumping station by removing lawn, mulching and planting out.

C) Foord Ave / Ewan Park Joining these two sites by extending extensive work recently completed at the Foord Ave raingarden.

D) Gough Whitlam wet lands

Some money may be spent on habitat creation beyond the immediate capacity of volunteers or Council support.

2) Volunteering \$4,000

\$4,000 to be spent by June 2021. The grant can be spent on:

- * Volunteer training costs \$2k (though not venue or training materials)

- * First Aid and Safety (Equipment) \$1k

- * Landscaping / gardening (Tools / Equipment) \$1k

The training component is intended to be focused on A) bushcare skills for volunteers and B) first aid for site coordinators.

A) Bushcare Skills for Mudcrabs Volunteers

Could be delivered locally TBC by, for example, Marrickville Community Nursery (they also have a local venue). Outcome is volunteers who can tell the difference between common weeds and natives, planting and maintaining sites.

B) First Aid for Mudcrabs Coordinators

A 1/2 Day or Full Day of training for site coordinators. Outcome is increasing site coordinator confidence responding to incidents.

Many thanks and congratulations to Gareth on achieving this great result.

Ewen Park Bushcare Site: Ann

Ann to become co-ordinator of this site. The site may be joined with the Foord Ave site to extend both sites and make a native wildlife corridor.

Mudcrabs: Ranjith

The Mudcrabs are returning to weeding bees and cleanups while employing social distancing and hygiene practices. The new calendar began on Sunday 31st May at Canterbury Racecourse with the new rules including limiting numbers to 10 volunteers.

Ranjith advised that new river access gates have been installed at Close St near the racecourse and that stairs to improve access and safety are to be installed by Sydney Water. Ranjith expressed his appreciation for the role of Catarina Fraga Matos and Cooks River Alliance in these matters. Ranjith to write to Catarina and Sydney Water to thank them for these initiatives. Ranjith advised that Mudcrabs Co-ordinators are to meet safely on 20th June at Rosedale Reserve.

Public Meetings and AGM

Jennifer to email Virginia at CHP RSL to discuss venues for meetings later in the year. Martin raised the point that perhaps holding the AGM online might see more members attend. It was suggested that we could ask Sue Burton from Cooks River Alliance to be a guest speaker on the topic of the Cooks River Congress. Ann to contact Sue Burton.

General Business

Justine spoke to her idea of CRVA combining with other community and environmental groups to further improve management issues for the Cooks River. There was broad support for Justine to follow up with other groups. Jennifer suggested a possible network of information exchanges. Gareth believes that brain storming, information and sharing amongst community groups are positive initiatives but counselled against over committing; suggesting a focus on important issues to lobby for e.g. removal of steel pylons, rubbish and littering and tree canopy goals.

Justine's action point is to share a proposed meeting agenda with the exec for feedback before convening a meeting.

Justine also reported that Inner West Council is aiming to develop working groups/advisory groups to advise on the following areas:

1. Social issues
2. Strategy and planning
3. Arts and culture
4. Environment

Meeting closed 8.20pm

Julie Corkery

(minutes)