

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF VALLA BEACH
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023
AT THE VALLA BEACH COMMUNITY HALL**

Meeting opened: 7.02pm

Acknowledgement to Country: Peter Sobey

I would like to acknowledge the Gumbaynggirr people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to any Aboriginal People present here.

Welcome Guests: NVC Acting General Manager Bede Spannagle and Director Corporate Services Matthew Sykes

Welcome to all in attendance

PRESENT: 22 members (as per attendance sheets)

Footbridge Presentation: NVC's Manager of Infrastructure Services, Matthew Leibrandt, was to give a short presentation but has been called away. He would like to remind everyone that he welcomes any questions or queries in relation to this project. His contact details are available at the entrance table.

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Rhonda Hoban, Councillor Ricky Buchanan, Councillors Susan Jenvey and Jim Angel, Manager of Infrastructure Services Matthew Leibrandt, Keith Parker, Chris Robinson, Pat Greenwood, Mac Wilson, Maggie Bevan, Vanessa Cain, Michelle Spratt, John Windmill and Daphne Jones

PREVIOUS GENERAL MINUTES:

Minutes of the last VBCA General Meeting held on 26.06.23 were tabled as read. Moved Peter Sobey and seconded Marja Parker that those Minutes be accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES (BAFM) 26.06.23:

1. **DA - Report** from Peter Sobey in **GB**
2. **Hall refurbishment** - floor tiles need replacing outside toilet - hall floor to be re-sanded and estapoled - Peter obtaining quotes - must be an approved NVC contractor
3. **Local News Shared (LNS) Project** - Carole Andersen update in **GB**
4. **Anderson Park** - report from Lori Warren in **GB**
5. **Permanent stage** - Valla Reserve Report in **GB**
6. **Primary School Valla Beach** - Rachele Blake - not pursuing
7. **CRT and Defib report** - Julie Collins to report in **GB**
8. **Resident Chris Robinson** - request for 'Shared Zone' sign at end of Cockburn St - update in **GB**
9. **Traffic mitigation along Valla Beach Road** - ongoing issue; grants being sought
10. **Painting/mural artwork on telegraph poles** - Carole Andersen - no time at present
11. **Valla Expressions Exhibition** - report from Julie Collins in **GB**

Correspondence In (letter or email):

26.06.23 to 06.11.23

27.06.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re footbridge summary
 27.06.23 NVC Keith Williams re speed mitigation grants
 27.06.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re Internal Reporting (Public Interest Closure) Policy
 29.06.23 CBP Program re permanent stage at Valla Reserve
 30.06.23 NVC Teresa Boorer re Essential Energy Grant
 30.06.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re VBCA's annual meeting schedules
 03.07.23 NVC Teresa Boorer re Essential Energy Grant queries
 03.07.23 NVC Damian Leahy re sketch plan of permanent stage positioning
 03.07.23 Essential Energy Raelene Myers re Essential Energy Grant
 14.07.23 NVC Matthew Leibrandt re footbridge plans for August Market
 25.07.23 Vanessa Cain re Gregory St Carpark and poisoned native shrubs
 27.07.23 Valla Community Preschool wanting presence at their upcoming meeting re DA
 31.07.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re footbridge plans not yet available
 01.08.23 NVC Damian Leahy with Annual Fire Safety Statement for our Hall
 07.08.23 NVC Tim Woodward re vandalism of toilets at Valla Reserve
 09.08.23 Zoie Byrne re speed reduction along East West Road - native animal deaths' increase
 15.08.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re electrical items in our Hall - testing and tagging
 17.08.23 Zoie Byrne re possible presentation at VBCA November Meeting
 30.08.23 NVC Chris Thompson re DA status and possible changes
 31.08.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re volunteer applications
 31.08.23 The Valley Hub (Stephen and Robyn) re collaborations with other NFPs
 17.09.23 Talarm Hall re advertise its upcoming Family Dance
 21.09.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re compulsory Volunteer Risk & Contractor Seminar
 29.09.23 NVC Matthew Gee re electrical work at the PreSchool and Hall site
 03.10.23 FRRR Sally Clifford re Evaluation Date Collection - to be carried out early November
 03.10.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re possible footbridge presentation at our Nov General Meeting
 04.10.23 NVC Teresa Boorer re CBP funding possibilities
 05.10.23 NVC Matthew Sykes re printing VVs by NVC - VBCA will need to pay in the future
 09.10.23 NVC Matthew Gee re Preschool and Community Hall testing and tagging
 13.10.23 NVC Matthew Sykes re NVC's Administration fee and Council documents printing
 13.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re volunteer Julie Collins' registration
 18.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re Volunteer Risk and Contractors mandatory Information Sessions
 19.10.23 NVC Keith Williams re "Shared Zone" signage query near end of Cockburn Street
 24.10.23 IRCF/FRRR Sally Clifford re Funding Evaluation activities in November
 25.10.23 One Underwriting re insurance cover for VBCA volunteers and markets - Peter Sobey to follow up
 29.10.23 VBRFS Nick McCudden re attendance at our Family Christmas celebration
 30.10.23 NVC Jodie Jeffery re Australia Day Award Nominations
 31.10.23 NVC Matthew Sykes requesting 2023 Risk Assessment for our Family Christmas Celebration
 31.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray answering queries in relation to the Info Sessions
 01.11.23 Transport NSW Laine Muller with invite to Nambucca Valley Community Forum 29.11.23
 03.11.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray with answers to more queries in relation to the Info Sessions
 06.11.23 Resident Chris Robinson re "Shared Zone" signage update
 06.11.23 Resident Vanessa Cain - apology for this meeting - use the Antenno App and reply from NVC that they were not responsible for the dead native bushes and concerns re migratory birds - she will contact NVC again about larger signs

(From 26.06.23 to present - many emails regarding VV, Markets, LNS and funding possibilities)

Moved Carole Andersen seconded Gary Suter that the above inward correspondence be tabled as read.

Correspondence Out (letter or email):**26.06.23 to 06.11.23**

- 27.06.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt with draft summary of his footbridge presentation
- 27.06.23 Valla Beach Residents Social Group (Therese King) with receipts for acquittal
- 28.06.23 NVC Matthew Sykes re CBP funding for the permanent stage
- 29.06.23 NVC Matthew Sykes re DA and Alithia's approval for VBCA to take over the DA
- 29.06.23 CBP funding body re extension to March 2024
- 29.06.23 NVC Keith Williams and Councillor Jenvey re Valla Beach Road speed mitigation, Resident Chris Robinson's query about "Shared Zone" signage near the northern end of Cockburn St and faded speed sign at the northern intersection of Valla Beach Road and Giinagay Way
- 02.07.23 NVC Teresa Boorer whether VBCA successful with Essential Energy Grant
- 03.07.23 Essential Energy (Raeline Myers) re voting procedures for the EE Grant
- 03.07.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray with information regarding VBCA Meetings
- 05.07.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray with updated Code of Conduct VBCA signatories
- 14.07.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re possible footbridge plans at our August Market
- 26.07.23 Vanessa Cain re recent herbicide spraying of native vegetation Gregory St carpark
- 31.07.23 NVC Tim Woodward re supply of 6 red lidded bins for our Markets (store in our Shed)
- 03.08.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt with summary of footbridge project
- 07.08.23 NVC Tim Woodward re vandalism at the NVC Reserve toilets
- 07.08.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re NVC's wording/design for the grant application for speed mitigation along Valla Beach Road
- 09.08.23 Zoie Byrne re East West Road speed reduction - native animals being hurt
- 18.08.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re electrical items in Hall - testing and tagging
- 20.08.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray with volunteer application forms
- 03.10.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re footbridge plans to have on display at our October Market
- 03.10.23 NVC Matthew Gee re electrical items in Hall and Preschool - rectification works
- 05.10.23 NVC Matt Leibrandt re footbridge presentation to VBCA November Meeting
- 09.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re compulsory volunteer risk assessment Seminars
- 16.10.23 NVC re possible new Parks Manager for Anderson Park - would like to make contact
- 16.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray re upcoming Seminars
- 18.10.23 Resident Zoie Byrne re query for speed zone changes along East West Road
- 18.10.23 NVC Keith Williams and Councillor Susan Jenvey - follow up email re speed mitigation along Valla Beach Road, "Shared Zone" sign at end of Cockburn Street and replacement of faded 50kph sign on the northern side of the Giinagay Way and Valla Beach Road
- 18.10.23 Resident Rachelle Blake re primary school query at Valla Beach - not pursuing
- 20.10.23 Scotts Head Community Group with queries re their system in relation to the Scotts Head Wave and delivery to residents
- 22.10.23 Briony and Ray from SHCG with newsletter reply and information
- 24.10.23 NVC Jodie Jeffery with attendance and apology names for this meeting
- 24.10.23 NVC Matthew Sykes re VBCA Application for our Family Christmas celebrations
- 25.10.23 One Underwriting Andriana Bagewski re insurance for our Market and Christmas Celebration
- 26.10.23 One Underwriting Melissa Babawy re insurance questions
- 26.10.23 NVC Matthew Leibrandt re footbridge presentation at this meeting
- 27.10.23 NVC Rochelle McMurray with questions regarding the Risk Assessment Session and new NVC forms
- 29.10.23 Police with Notification of holding a Public Assembly re our Family Christmas celebrations
- 29.10.23 Ambulance with Notification of Family Christmas celebrations
- 29.10.23 VBRFS with Notification of Family Christmas celebrations
- 29.10.23 NVC Matthew Sykes with formal Application for our Family Christmas celebrations
- 02.11.23 NVC Matthew Leibrandt with query about footbridge presentation at this meeting
- 03.11.23 NVC Matthew Sykes and Rochelle McMurray with queries about the Risk Information Sessions
- 06.11.23 NVC Jodie Jeffery with Agenda items

Correspondence Out (letter or email):**26.06.23 to 06.11.23 (cont.)**

06.11.23 Resident Chris Robinson re information from NVC's Keith Williams and whether Chris is able to attend this meeting

06.11.23 Resident Zoie Byrne forwarding information re Transport NSW Nambucca Valley Community Forum 29.11.23

(From 26.06.23 to present - many emails regarding VV, Markets, LNS and funding possibilities)

Moved Carole Andersen seconded Peter Sobey that the above outward correspondence be tabled as read.

PRESIDENT /TREASURER'S REPORT: This report and financials were made available to members present at this General Meeting. Peter Sobey spoke on these reports.

He also reported on **current ongoing projects**. Plans in place for the permanent stage in readiness for the base and structure for the sail and currently considering all the options and concerns including wiring, buried water main, avoiding the scar tree, etc. Hoping to start on the Monday after the Carols; April for structure on top of the concrete; VBCA contribution \$34,500 for stage; \$5,000+ for Reserve lighting; old wooden tables in front of "trailer stage" very old and need replacing - VBCA to look to replace these and move to the other side of the trees.

Peter Sobey, Carole Andersen and Pat Greenwood attended NVC recently regarding new NVC conditions about volunteer risk and contractors. Due to all the extra responsibilities and rules, VBCA has received Pat's resignation from the Executive. She is happy to continue working with the CRT Team.

Through the Commonwealth Bank Not-For-Profit Scheme a framed Treasurer's Award Certificate was presented to Peter Sobey by VBCA member Gary Suter.

It was moved Peter Sobey and seconded Gary Suter that these financial and President's reports be accepted.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Approved DA relating to Part Lot 8, 22 Valla Beach Road: The current DA will lapse July 2025. VBCA's sub committee is researching this issue - options to build with VBCA becoming incorporated - this would involve membership fees, etc but then VBCA could not be a Management Committee of NVC - more grants available as separate incorporated body. Project cost would be over \$300,000 - possible pathway for Alithia Learning to use its DA application through Council and VBCA to align with Alithia. Trying to prepare documentation so that when grant funding becomes available, it can be applied for. Time lapse may be approved for another 5 years or so. John Windmill has been seeking help from Michael Coulter to try and find out the actual dimensions of the land.

2. Local News Shared (LNS) Project through FRRR - Carole Andersen gave a brief report; grant initially for one year (from November 2021) but this Project has been a long process; an extension was granted to 1st March 2024. It has given opportunity for the 4 newsletter publishers in the Valley to work on communication, exchange ideas, strategies for the future, computer training and youth involvement. Evaluation processes through FRRR this coming week.

3. Valla Beach Family Christmas - Kerri Mergan reported that the organising and preparations are going well - great committee - different format this year - more contemporary - a lot of local performers and singers giving of their time freely. It will start with kids activities, then musical entertainment, performers and Carol singing and will end with local fire twirlers. 2NVR will be live streaming the event. Kerri asked VBCA whether it would be okay to purchase some battery powered fairy lights for some of the trees at the Reserve to add to the atmosphere. Agreed. To be noted that at this meeting, Matthew Sykes presented NVC's formal approval for the event.

4. Anderson Park report from Lori Warren: VBCA sent a letter to NVC 16.10.23 about a new Parks Manager - NVC still looking into this - NVC's Stephen Lloyd has been given this position for the next 6 months. NVC's Bede Spannagle will get Stephen Lloyd to make contact with Lori about what plans could be possible for Anderson Park in the future.

5. Permanent Stage at the Reserve: Dealt with by Peter Sobey in his reports.

6. The annual "**Valla Expressions**" art and craft fair will be held at the Valla Beach Community Hall from Saturday 6th January 2024 until Sunday 14th January 2024. This is the seventh year of the popular exhibition showcasing the work of twelve local artists and craftspeople who will be displaying their original and unique works of art with all exhibits available for purchase. Exhibitors will include jewellery, wood carving, painting, ceramics, photography, fabric art and driftwood lamps. The fair is held over nine days with credit card facilities available and is open 10am until 5pm. Report from Julie Collins.

CRT report - Julie Collins reported that the Community Resilience Team was an initiative of Red Cross to provide information and pathways that communities could do during an emergency of any type. Following the education sessions with the RFS and a fire simulation demonstration in July, our local CRT Team has produced an information sheet to highlight the need to prepare for this bushfire season. Our street coordinators will be delivering them during this coming week and can answer any questions that residents may have about having a fire plan.

Defib report - Julie Collins reported that the seven Defibs are checked monthly by volunteers and are all in good working order. None have been used in an emergency yet. We have been trialling a tracker on the south beach unit and it is remotely monitored by a company in Sydney. If it is suitable, each unit will have one installed.

It is important that everyone has an emergency contact who can access the Defib while someone else is calling the ambulance or performing CPR. One solution is to issue a whistle to each house which is used to alert a neighbour to fetch the Defib. There will be another public information session about the Defibs at the Wool Shed to highlight their use and basic CPR. Date to be advised.

Resident Darren Squibb asked about the possibility of another Defib near Swordfish Drive and into the new estate = new houses. The initial cost of a Defib machine is \$3,500. Fundraising would be needed. Great fundraising and generosity for the initial costs for the 7 Defib machines.

7. "Shared Zone" sign at the northern end of Cockburn St - request from resident Chris Robinson - reply from NVC's Keith Williams (Manager Technical Services) stated that 'shared zones' are reserved for busy shopping precincts where Traffic calming or suitable treatments must be provided. Keith suggested either a **road narrows sign** or a **pedestrian sign** similar to those installed on Valla Beach Road would warn drivers to be careful. Discussion followed. It was agreed by all present that we ask NVC to install a **pedestrian sign**.

8. Resident Vanessa Cain contacted VBCA about **possible herbicide spraying and killing of shrubs** near the end of Gregory St carpark - Vanessa away atm and not able to attend this meeting - she used the Antenna App to contact NVC and the reply from NVC was that they were not responsible for the dead native bushes. She also has concerns re **migratory birds** - she will contact NVC again about installing **larger "no dog" signs**.

There was general discussion regarding the confusing signs which show where you can go with your dog on a lead and allow them to run free. Need simpler signage. Wires member Darren stated that the middle Valla carpark down along Thompson St overlooking the lagoon is a designated migratory bird nesting area. NVC's Bede Spannagle stated that the current Ranger combines his Nambucca Valley Work with Bellingen Council. The Ranger reports each fortnight to each Council about any fines being issued - could be for not picking up after their dog, keeping control of their dog, not on a lead, dogs in 'no dog' areas, etc.

The subject of 4WD on beaches was then brought up and discussed at length. Gregory Street resident has suggested that Gregory and Buchanan Streets be made into a one way street - with cars going down Gregory and coming up Buchanan St. Discussed.

General discussion followed regarding the multitude of dog issues and complaints and the need for more regular patrols by Council's Ranger to help with the dog issues and illegal 4WDs. It was moved Graham Jones and seconded Kerri Mergan that VBCA write to NVC asking for:

- Dog signage needs to be clear and simple ie green arrow off leash area - red arrow on leash area. \$378 fines could be issued. More presence of the Ranger.
- 4WD on beaches, especially North Valla Beach and into the dunes near Jagun Nature Reserve. What can be done? More presence of the Ranger.

All in favour.

9. Resident Zoie Byrne emailed VBCA about **lowering the speed along East West Road** - native animals being hurt and killed - she was advised to write to Transport NSW in October - she is waiting for reply - Carole has forwarded to Zoie information re Transport NSW Nambucca Valley Community Forum on 29.11.23. The question was asked whether there has there been any consultation with other residents by Zoie?
VBCA to raise this matter with NVC traffic committee. Darren Squibb (Wires) spoke re native animals being killed along East West Road, Ocean View Drive and Thompson Street. Darren moved and seconded Peter Sobey that VBCA request NVC's traffic committee to utilise its mobile radar units in these areas. All in favour.

10. VV Printing options - Due to rising printing and paper costs, VBCA is considering going down the path of only printing a small number of VVs to be placed at the Cafes and Pharmacy and no postbox deliveries in the future - but asking residents to access the newsletter online. An anonymous survey has been produced and is available now through various channels to gauge the community's thoughts. Survey forms also available on the entrance table tonight. Upcoming meeting flyers could still be delivered.

11. Lock the Gate against mining - Georgette Allen from Nambucca Valley Conservation Group spoke to the meeting - our Govt is supporting start-up companies for mining antimony. This is not appropriate and certainly not in the Nambucca Valley. Mining would end up ruining our water ways. There is a public meeting at Macksville Ex Services Auditorium 5.30pm Tuesday 14 November. Georgette encouraged all concerned residents to attend.

12. Darren Squibb spoke in relation to recycling - Darren has received great support from VBCA over the years - a rare Horus bird has been spotted in the Oakes State Forest, Kalang - this may prevent logging in that particular area.

13. Kerri Mergan brought up the idea of a **tidal pool at Valla Beach** - any interest? Brief discussion. Matthew Sykes mentioned the one at Sawtell is almost unusable due to algae buildup. Valla Beach is a very special conservation area bounded by bushland and there are many Indigenous sacred land pockets and rivers.

Chairperson Peter Sobey: Is there any other General Business to be discussed tonight? If not, I'll declare the meeting closed at 8.38pm - thank you all for your attendance.

Next Meeting will be a General Meeting - **Monday 4 March 2024** commencing at 7pm
Due to recent NVC requirements, our AGM is set down for Monday 22 July 2024