

Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group

11.00pm – 1.00pm, Saturday 5 November 2016

Meeting 6# Minutes

COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

Attendees: Debra Hocking (phone in); Sandy Forbes; Christine Shaw; Carolyn Tatchell; Charles Le Feuvre, Jay Robinson (Lorne Hospital); Het Ramp (Lorne Hospital); Clare Malone (COS) and Matthew Chamberlain (DHHS); Yvette Hill (COS) and Kim Stanley (DELWP).

Apologies: Yvonne Sheppard

1 Welcome and Introductions

Debra Hocking welcomed Work Group members and noted apologies from Yvonne Sheppard. As Debra was phoning in it was agreed that Sandy Forbes would chair the meeting.

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Review of Action Items

The Minutes from the previous meeting were ratified and action items reviewed.

Meeting in Melbourne with people who lost their home

Work Group Members discussed the intention of a Meeting in Melbourne with people who lost their homes. Matt Chamberlain suggested that the Work Group Chairs could attend and speak about their roles and specific projects underway.

Charles Le Feuvre advised that Rob Gordon had attended the September Community Meeting in Melbourne and thought it would be a good idea to have him attend the next one in Melbourne (date TBA).

Deb Hocking will strongly recommend to the CRC that Rob Gordon attend the next Community Meeting in Melbourne.

Het Ramp advised that she can also attend and advise on the programs and services currently available through the Lorne Hospital.

Water Tank Installation

The water tank is now fully installed and operational with a filtration system. An official opening will be announced once the plaque has been completed.

Accommodation

Yvette Hill advised that Great Ocean Road Properties in Lorne have been assisting long and short term residents with accommodation needs. Each enquiry will be looked at on a case by case basis. No further updates from other businesses have been received.

Matt has contacted Jayco but has not received a positive reply at this stage. He has also contacted approximately 35 other caravan manufacturers to seek assistance in having two loan vans. At this stage he has received no definite responses but will follow up. He also advised that DHHS would have no available funding for this program.

The Work Group discussed that the idea of accommodation discounts over the peak season is difficult for businesses. The aim will be to have discount offers and possibly accommodation options available late February / early March.

Clare Malone advised that to date approximately 21 planning permits have been submitted / issued.

Debra advised that the SLSC Bunkhouse will be able to offer some accommodation - \$100 for a family room and \$20 for single bed.

Carolyn Tatchell advised that there are still two houses which cannot be accessed on Coryule Avenue.

Other Business

The Work Group decided that if members of community groups or associations in Wye River / Separation Creek have events that they would like advertised, they can send them through to Clare or Yvette to be posted on WyeSep Connect Calendar.



Debra and Sandy advised that their application for the Fire Awareness Awards for the SLSC Recovery Hub has been shortlisted. An awards event will be held at the RACV club on 1 December ... good luck!

Clare also advised that an application for the Wye River and Separation Creek Bushfire Vegetation Restoration Project submitted by COS has also been successful.

The Work Group noted that Yvonne Sheppard will no longer attend the Community Connection and Wellbeing Work Group Meetings and it was acknowledged that she has made an enormous and important contribution.

There was discussion around other individuals who could be invited to join the Committee.

Community Activities and Projects

Clare is assisting with a funding application to support a community function facility which could possibly be used as a short term art space.

Action / Outcome

- Debra to make a recommendation to the CRC that Rob Gordon attend the next Community Meeting in Melbourne.
- Yvette to finalise the plaque for recognition of the water tank.
- Matt to follow up on obtaining two caravans on loan.
- Debra to send accommodation details for the SLSC Bunkhouse for COS to communicate.
- COS to prepare letter of thanks to Yvonne.

3. FEEDBACK ON COMMUNITY LUNCH

Feedback from the community who attended the lunch has been really positive. Around 150 people came to the lunch and enjoyed the informal atmosphere, good food and plenty of activities for the kids.

The Work Group were thankful to Yvonne Sheppard for putting in a great effort to organise.

Clare acknowledged the assistance provided by five volunteers from Volunteers Victoria.

The Work Group discussed the suggestion of having another event like this after the Summer peak period to commemorate the day that the fire was controlled. The Work Group agreed to avoid too many additional events over the peak period as there are already many Surf Club events happening at this time.

Action / Outcome

- Matt to confirm the date the fire was controlled.

4. IMPACT OF GOR LANDSLIDES

Debra advised that there had been a significant impact on the morale of community members.

It was suggested that the economic impact of the landslides has been more significant than the fires.

Matt advised that construction of the retaining wall has commenced and that depending on the weather, the aim is to have two lanes on the Great Ocean Road open for Christmas.

The Work Group discussed how the landslides have caused the community to feel uncertain about the rebuilding process and property access.

Clare advised that works had commenced on Stanway Drive to ensure integrity and that the road is safe for passage.

The Work Group discussed a Preparedness Plan in case of a landslide. Christine Shaw advised that there is a community volunteer model already in place which feeds into the agencies plan.

Kim Stanley advised that there was a joint agency get together on 29 October at the Wye River CFA. Colac Otway Shire, Forest Fire Management Victoria and CFA volunteers attended an Open House to discuss what is being done to prepare for this year's fire season.

The Work Group suggested that communications and messaging could be more positively framed and timely – there was a feeling that some communications from agencies was not clear or accessible.

The Work Group discussed the communication between themselves and the community and how to go about ascertaining what the needs of the community are at this stage.

The Work Group discussed the Shuttle service and if there was an expectation that the shuttle will continue if the road gets closed again. Clare will follow this up as Grocon is expected to finish before Christmas.

Matt advised that the issue of landslip and the proposed mitigation works and road closures are being discussed weekly on a regional level. VicRoads will consult with the community in relation to any road closures or overnight works.

Matt will follow up with ICC to get an understanding of how individuals are impacted by the road closures (eg not being able to get to work, school).

Chris advised she will contact Roy Moriarty about a community volunteers get-together and potentially create a climate resilience program that can be delivered to volunteers. Kim advised that there are resources available to use as a framework initially and that consultation can then be undertaken with the community volunteers and relevant agencies to develop a short term resilience strategy which can feed into the longer term Climate Resilience Program.

Action / Outcome

- Clare to follow up the future of the Shuttle Service once Grocon have departed.
- Matt will follow up with ICC to get an understanding of how individuals are impacted by the road closures Chris to contact Roy Moriarty about get together for community volunteers to discuss climate resilience program.

5. Barwon Great Ocean Road Resilience Strategy – Climate Resilience Program

Discussed in Agenda item 4.

6. Community Commemorations and Advice to CRC

Matt advised that he will discuss with Rob Gordon potential ideas and suggestions for commemoration of when the fire was controlled.

Action / Outcome

- Matt to follow up with Rob Gordon potential ideas and suggestions for commemoration of when the fire was controlled.

7. Wye River Fact Sheet (for the Summer visitors)

Christine discussed a concept to produce a fact sheet to give to visitors over Summer. The information provided would be based on the Christmas Day Fire and the recovery process as well as facts on do's and don'ts and how to act sensitively to the community during their stay.

Clare advised that COS is working on a similar Fact Sheet to provide to visitors through holiday accommodation providers and that the information suggested could be included in this.

It was recommended that the Fact Sheet be distributed widely throughout the community and available in all businesses as well as on notice boards to get maximum distribution.

Action / Outcome

- Clare to investigate what has been prepared and work with Bushfire Recovery Communications to develop a comprehensive Fact Sheet.

8. Youth Dimensions Tent

Carolyn advised that the Youth Dimensions Program will not run this year due to planning and resource issues being experienced by the group organisers.

Carolyn suggested that the funds that had been made available to the program be redirected to the Wye River Surf Life Saving Club to run alternative Summer Activities.

Deb will put a proposal together on behalf of the Wye River SLSC to substantiate the funding transfer.

Action / Outcome

- Deb to prepare a proposal to substantiate the funding transfer from Youth Dimensions Program to the Wye River SLSC.

9. Short Term Funding Projects

Currently there are no appropriate funding streams available. Yvette will monitor sites to seek availability.

10. Ideas for Community Recovery Activities

Clare advised that she had met with Sibylle Norris and discussed ideas for activities and projects including:

- Mammal expert visit / night walk
- Visit to Otway Eco Centre
- Rock pool ramble (Parks Vic)

Clare also advised of the Preview Screening of Red Dog will be shown at the Lorne Cinema on Friday 16th December.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Het gave an update of the status of programs being run through the Lorne Hospital and advised that Jay Robinson is due back from leave on 7 November.

- Free health checks still available.
- Team of four psychologists working to assist the community.
- Free massages provided on Monday 6 November 2016 – 8 community members booked in.

The Work Group discussed the problem of noise being omitted because of chain-sawing and mulching. Matt Chamberlain advised that chain-sawing has now ceased on weekends. He will also discuss with VicRoads the potential for noise issues over the landslide mitigation works and community consultation in this regard.

10. NEXT MEETING

Saturday 3 December 11.00am – 1.00pm, Wye River SLSC.