**Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held on 19th August 2023**

Quarterly meeting chaired by Vice President Ian Morphett, was held in the Silver Dolphin Room at the Tea Gardens Hotel. There were 9 members present. The meeting commenced at 9.35am.

**PRESENT.**  Ian Morphett, Trish Blair, Jane Collison, Ann Woods, Debbie Wood, Judy & Rob Hughes, Adrienne Ingram, Leigh Allen.

**APOLOGIES**. Gail Morphett, Jill & Peter Madden, Christian Patteson, Richard & Kit Streamer, Trisha Jervis, Lorraine Lock, Lyn Mealey, Diane Russell, Raphael Ziv, Bev Dunbar, John Duffield.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Minutes of the May quarterly meeting had been distributed to all members following that meeting and redistributed before this meeting.

MOVED Jane Collison

SECONDED Debbie Wood that the minutes be taken as read.

CARRIED.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

Nil

**CORRESPONDENCE**. (Incoming and outgoing.)

Ian Morphett summarised the list of correspondence, See below.

**Myall Koala & Environment group Inc.**

**Correspondence for Meeting 19th August 2023**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **IN/OUT** | **ADDRESSEE** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 1-Jun-23 | Out | Jennifer Simpson  Biodiversity Conservation trust | Highlighting blocks of land for sale in North Arm Cove |
| 4-Jul-23 | In | Chris Percival BCT | Advising members about second Koala reference group meeting and providing link to “Koala Smart” education program |
| 2-Aug-23 | Out | MKEG Members | Distributing reports about “wild dog” and koala management distributed by Shaun Tamplin of the Koala Reference Group |
| 4-Aug-23 | Out | Jill Madden | Responding to Shaun Tamplin reports disputing that the science is in about dingoes impact on koala populations |
| 6-Aug-23 | In | Gordon Grainger, Myall River Action Group, | Calling for support to write letters to politicians calling for action to dredge the silted channels of the Myall river |
| 14-Aug-23 | In | Richard Streamer and MCC Staff | Indicating support for the Haks Nest nature walk. |
| 14-Aug-23 | In | Liveable Communities MCC | Advising the DA2023/0608 has been lodged for a caravan park at 288 Mungo Brush Rd. |
| 17-Aug-23 | In | Richard & Kit Streamer | Indicating they are not in favour of an environment group having a stance on the Voice Referendum. |
| 18-Aug-23 | In | Richard Streamer | Indicating he would be reluctant for MKEG to have a position on dingoes because it is devisive. He prefers waiting on the result of the Myall Dingo Project. |

**PUBLICATIONS**

Winter Vol 3/2023 Australian Wildlife Society Australian Wildlife Magazine

MOVED Trish Blair

SECONDED Rob Hughes that the correspondence be accepted.

CARRIED.

**TREASURER’S REPORT.**

Trish read the financial reports for the current quarter to date ending 18th August 2023.

Quarter to 16/5/2023:

Operating account

Opening balance on 1 July 2023 $16,564.53

Current balance 18th Aug 2023 $17,712.53

Investment account

Closing balance $17,333.95

TOTAL ASSETS $35.067.00

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MOVED Jane Collison

SECONDED Ann Wood that that the Treasurer’s reports be accepted.

CARRIED.

**BITOU BUSTERS**

* Trish Blair gave a summary of the report. See below for full report.

**MYALL KOALA AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**BITOU BUSTING UPDATE for AUGUST QUARTERLY MEETING**

* The start of season BBQ held back at the end of March seems but a distant memory! We held two sessions in April working along the Boulevarde and made some good inroads to the tenacious hold of recalcitrant invasive species – notably Bitou and Mother of Millions.
* May was a stand -out month where the depth of our volunteer base came to light as we laboured along the John Davis Walk nature strip in Sanderling Ave, weeding and mulching the entire length of the strip in 4 sessions! In that month we achieved the following impressive stats: 103 volunteer hrs over 4 sessions involving 28 BB members, many of whom came to at least two team efforts.
* In June a solid crew turned out to tackle Asparagus Fern, Bitou and Morning Glory at the back of the sand dune at the end of Sanderling Ave. Last Friday new member Wendy Swinburn joined Gordon and I to revisit that spot and do more weed pulling and tidying of the edge of the car parking area. It’s a place I’ll ask Council to mow and provide a bin for dog poo at the entrance to the beach to try and keep the area looking better.
* In July we went to the bush area along Moira Parade and eleven of us did a great job in exposing acacia spp that were hidden by kikuyu. Of course there was also MoM, easter cassia, lantana and wayward bulbs. That area is particularly open to garden waste being dumped as well as native plants being trimmed – for better views? More work to be done there this year, as well as Council efforts to prevent illegal actions from some.
* So far this year we’ve held 5 regular 4th Saturday working groups, plus 4 extra sessions. I think this extra effort is paying dividends in what has been achieved. With perhaps 6 more sessions before we hang up our overalls at the end of October, there should be something to see for this year’s work.
* As always, thank you to my fellow coordinators Sharon and Adrienne, my partner in crime, Gordon and a big thank you to everyone who has given their labour to improving the natural environment.

Trish Blair

**CHRISTIAN PATTESON’S NATURE WALK UPDATE**

**\*** There has been positive feedback from MCC and we are awaiting a reply from the

Recreation Officer. The signage is being worked on. It was suggested the Nature Walk

and Town Walk be kept separate.

**MIDCOAST KOALA REFERENCE GROUP REPORT**

\* Ian Morphett reported on 2 meetings so far and expressed concerns about the function of the group. Ian indicated that council was tightly controlling the agenda and documents being prepared for council consideration were being produced by council staff and NPWS with no input invited from the reference group. The group were advised that all information releases to the press or general public must come from the group chairperson (MCC Lord Mayor). However, Ian was given consent to give our group updates on the progress of the group.

**REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK AWARDS**

**\*** Suggested 3 or 4 attend this presentation at Hawks Nest Surf Club Tuesday 22 August

ie: Richard Streamer, Trish Blair, Adrienne Ingram and Judy Hughes.

ACTION – Ian to confirm numbers prior to 22nd.

**NOTE THIS EVENT IS NOW ON 5TH SEPTEMBER**

**MYALL RIVER ACTION GROUP REQUEST FOR ACTION**

\* MRAG have asked for support in their campaign to have a regular dredging program for the short cut channel. After some discussion it was decided to send letters of support to the relevant authorities.

**ACTION – Secretary to prepare letters**

**VOICE REFERENDUM**

Ian Morphet raised the issue of the “Voice to parliament” and if we should as a group have a position on this important matter. After some discussion it was moved that MKEG should not have a stance and leave it to members to decide on their own preference.

MOVED Rob Hughes

SECONDED Judy Hughes

CARRIED.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**\*** The dolphin sculpture at Bennetts Beach has been repainted and replaced with good feed back from community.

**DINGO INTERACTION**

Further to general business item (dingo interaction) from previous minutes (16 May). A discussion took place if we should have a stance on this issue. It was decided that as the myall coast dingo project report was still to be finalised we should wait until this is available before we consider any stance on this sensitive issue.

**KOALA SCAT SIGHTING**

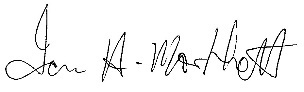
It was reported scats have been sighted in Hawks Nest and securing infrared cameras for the group to lend out was suggested. Trish to inquire about costings.

MOVED: Jane Collison

SECONDED: Trish Blair

Meeting concluded at 11 am

Next meeting to be held in the Dolphin Room Tea Gardens Hotel on 21 st November at 3pm

Ian Morphet Judy Hughes

Vice President Secretary

Date: 19th August 2023 Date: 19th August 2023