

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE JERRABOMBERRA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
24TH May 2006**

1. PRESENT

Margot Sachse, Jim Horan, Brian Brown, Kathryn Tse, Paul Whalan, Tania Rynne, Dorothy Lawson, Dwayne Keefe

2. APOLOGIES

Lyn Edwards, Tom Lewis, David Hope, Val Terrow

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous Meeting be accepted.

Moved: M. Sachse, **Seconded:** J. Horan, **Carried**

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Trail Bikes: Once again the JRA Committee would like to thank all members of the JRA, the Queanbeyan Police and members of the Jerrabomberra community who participated in the successful operation to rid our streets and nature reserves of the dangers and environmental damage caused by illegal trail bike riders. There has been a noticeable decrease in trail bike activities in most areas of Jerrabomberra and another operation will be carried out in the very near future. The collaboration between the JRA and the Queanbeyan Police has been very effective and the JRA thanks the Queanbeyan Police for their support and look forward to continue our successful working relationship.

- a) Response from Mayor: After much prompting, the JRA received a letter from the Mayor in relation to the issues he agreed to follow up from our April meeting.
1. Bushland around Jerrabomberra and illegal use of trail bikes etc - I wish to inform you that the Police Bike Squad have been active and continues to be active in this area.
 2. The Jerrabomberra Creek Management Plan – there is an amount of \$10,000 that is in the Draft Management Plan to be spent on this work.
 3. The Mt Jerrabomberra gate – I have checked with Mr Allan Moss and he assures me that this will occur on 9 June.
 4. The matter of preferred option for the Jerrabomberra Community Centre – I have been informed that this submission related to one you made in about 2002 to the old Precinct Committee. Can you please confirm whether this is the one you are referring to and I will take the matter up further.

5. The matter of the bird platform in the pond – the bird platform in fact was a plate over the overflow pipe and I have asked the Engineers to replace it.
6. In relation to the Managers of the Jerrabomberra Shopping Village re the carpark and other areas – a letter will be sent by Environmental Services Division in relation to those matters around the shopping centre and car parking area.

c) Shopping Centre Management: The JRA has contacted the Centre Management (Savills) and once again requested that problems previously discussed (e.g. overgrown, dead or inappropriate shrubs, broken glass, rubbish, toilets etc) be rectified. Savills has stated that they have had difficulties in filling the position of Centre Manager but will continue their search. Meanwhile they have assured the JRA that a contractor has been employed to trim/remove shrubs and re-lay mulch etc. This should take place within the next month and will then continue to be maintained on a monthly basis. They have also agreed to make the cleanliness of the car park a priority and will soon employ a full time cleaner.

Motion: If there has been no improvement to this situation by the next meeting of the JRA, the JRA will communicate directly with the Shopping Centre owners to ensure these problems are rectified. **Moved:** B. Brown, **Seconded:** M. Sachse, **Carried**

d) We have been approached by the Queanbeyan Local Area Health Service for a member on their Local Health Service Advisory Committee. Kathryn Tse has tentatively agreed pending Margot inquiring as to what the magnitude of the time commitments required for committee members.

5. CORRESPONDENCE – IN

- a) Queanbeyan City Council: re Invitation to Community Summit held on 20 May at the Masonic Hall. The community summit is another key consultation event as part of setting the 15 year vision for Queanbeyan.
- b) NSW Government Independent Assessment Panel: Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry. Copy of the background paper and a request for submissions to the inquiry are due by 9 June 2006.
- c) Queanbeyan City Council: Draft Management Plan 2006/2007
- d) Queanbeyan City Council: Letter acknowledging our 2006 meeting dates
- e) Queanbeyan City Council: 2006 General Donation Scheme – invitation to apply for a QCC grant. Last year we got \$915. To be actioned by the Treasurer.
- f) Copy of a letter from David Inall to QCC – opposing more speed humps on Bicentennial Drive and suggesting roundabouts or chicanes or slow points

g) Comments from members to assist in the JRA submission to the Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry

- a. Colin Blyth
- b. Julie Vercoe
- c. Marian Furner
- d. Phillip Harrison
- e. Verona Armstrong
- f. Dwayne Keefe
- g. S&F Murphy
- h. Brigitte Kestermann
- i. Joyce Meagher
- j. Noel Murray
- k. Kel Watt
- l. Alan & Lyn Edwards

6. CORRESPONDENCE – OUT

- a) Email to Mayor re follow up previous issues
- b) Media Release re Trail Bikes

7. TREASURER’S REPORT

T. Lewis (Treasurer) was absent and unable to provide a report; however, M. Sachse was able to report a balance of \$4,929.71.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

a) Copperfield Place Letter: NSW Ombudsman found that the Queanbeyan City Council followed correct legal procedures, yet the JRA Committee believes that the Council fell a long way short of their obligations to the Queanbeyan community. The JRA also believes they acted in a way that did not represent the majority views of a number of State and Local authorities and their respective policies as well as an Environmental Impact Statement conducted by the adjacent quarry management.

Motion: B. Brown to draft a letter to Queanbeyan City Council and present it at the next meeting for committee approval. **Moved:** M. Sachse, **Seconded:** B. Brown, **Carried**

b) Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry: The JRA received a number of responses to our call for contributions to the Queanbeyan Land Release Inquiry. These contributions will be added to the already diverse collection the JRA committee has been working on for many months and will be collated and a submission put before council in the first week of June. M. Sachse will organize a meeting of the JRA Development Sub-Committee to further develop and finalise the JRA’s response to this inquiry.

c) Mirrabee Project Update: B. Brown and L. Edwards attended the 18 May 2006 meeting of the Mirrabee Clean Up Working Group. Mirrabee is the land located on either side of the proposed Edwin Land Parkway between Cooma St and where the Edwin Land Parkway currently ends and is owned by the Ngunnawal LALC. This land is a crucial link and wildlife corridor in Queanbeyan's Natural Bushland System as it connects Mt Jerrabomberra to Jerrabomberra Creek via Stringybark Hill and the Queanbeyan River Corridor via the Gale precinct. The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, Queanbeyan Police, Queanbeyan City Council, Ngunnawal LALC, Queanbeyan Landcare, Friends Of Gale Precinct and the Jerrabomberra Residents' Association are all working together, with the help of a \$50,000 grant, to regenerate and protect Mirrabee. Work has already started and fences, dirt mounds and boulders to restrict vehicle access into Mirrabee from Cooma Street/Old Cooma Road should be completed by August. Work to restrict vehicle access from the western edge (Edwin Land Parkway end) should be completed before Christmas 2006. When this project is completed it will have a significant impact for residents that are currently experiencing problems with illegal trail bike riders. As we steadily enclose all the reserve areas around Jerrabomberra it will make our bushland areas a safer and more peaceful environment. Funds have already been lobbied for Stringybark Hill and the buffer areas to the south in the upcoming Plan of Management 06/07 and we are optimistic of a favorable outcome. If we receive the \$50,000 requested it will go a long way to restricting vehicle access from the south leaving only the northern boundary unprotected.

d) Review and Update of JRA Rules and Objectives: The review sub-committee is currently working on the draft and should have it completed by the June or July meeting. The sub-committee will give an update of their progress at the next JRA meeting in June.

e) Queanbeyan Vision Meeting: M. Sachse attended this meeting and was concerned about the amount of time and effort being spent on the Queanbeyan CBD with little interest being shown for Queanbeyan suburban and rural areas. The community summit was attended by about 50 Queanbeyan residents who have lived in the areas from 3 months to 60+ years. Whilst the Masonic Hall was an unsuitable venue due to poor acoustics, the Vision group now has a wealth of information to collate into a draft for public consultation. The preliminary results from the focus groups and 'Have a say day' showed that Jerrabomberra has quite different issues to other parts of Queanbeyan, however over all 26% of the people surveyed strong local community and a real sense of belonging. This is the highest percentage that the consultants have ever registered. A summary will soon be on the QCC website.

Key issues for Jerrabomberra residents were:

- high school (24%) the need to provide a solution for locating a high school in close proximity to Jerra;
- local access (15%) improvements to traffic congestion, traffic management and extensions to pedestrian/cycle network;
- sports facilities(15%)desire for sports centre and indoor pool;

- Monaro Highway (10%) upgrade of intersection (roundabout/bypass etc)

f) Project Sustainability Update: M. Sachse to attend and brief the committee at the JRA June meeting.

g) Walking Track Update: The Queanbeyan City Council has asked the JRA to add areas of interest to the walking map and suggest to council where park benches could be sited around the walking tracks. M. Sachse will continue to liaise with council in respect of completing this project.

h) Removal of Poplars: The Queanbeyan City Council has investigated a grove of Poplar trees that are causing problems in the Waterview Drive, Jerrabomberra Lake vicinity. The Poplars were planted when Jerrabomberra Park Estate was created and have been found to be a species that is highly invasive and with hindsight should not have been planted. The council intend to poison the trees during their high growth period in spring and when finally removed will replant and regenerate the area with a more suitable species. Councilor Jarvis has requested that the JRA convene a public meeting regarding the proposed poisoning of these trees. As these trees cover a large area, once removed they would leave a large empty space around the lake.

The committee agreed that Council should take the lead on this matter by first putting an article in the Chronicle and Queanbeyan Age to inform the community that they were going to cut them down and why. This should include a map. The QCC should also consult with the DHA liaison officer as many houses in the area are leased by DHA. The QCC should replace the trees with mature trees and link with the school so that children can help plant and water the trees so they have a chance to survive in the dry conditions.

i) Management Plan Submission: M Sachse attended the 23 May public submissions at the Council to highlight key matters that will be in the JRA submission for funding in the 2006/07 management plan.. These were:

- Funding for Stringybark Hill. The Mayor informed us that the \$50K in the plan was for Stringybark Hill, not Mt Jerra (this was a typo)!
- Funding for park on community land as part of Jerra Creek management plan by putting in the watering system
- Funding for cricket nets on Made Oval
- Add the pathway from Jerra Circle to link up with the one that crosses Edwin land Parkway plus prioritizing the completion of a pathway the whole way around Bicentennial Drive and Halloran Drive, especially before people plant their verge.
- Fund improving the Community Centre Park, that is now dead and bindi infested.

Whilst the Plan was easier to read in its new format, it still was difficult to see where the funding for the Mt Jerra and Jerra Creek management plans were detailed

(j) Youth Centre – There has been articles in the local paper about Councils desire to build a Youth Centre between the Community Centre and Scout Hall. It is proposed to

move the Scout Hall, however they are waiting on advice from the Scouts as to where they would like to be moved to. Jerrabomberra has the largest scout group south of Sydney. The JRA questioned the QCC, at the Management Plan meeting as to the real need for the youth centre and who will use it and what will be provided, considering that developers funds (S94) in excess of \$300K are proposed to be spent on this facility. Is this the best use for the remainder of the money???? Whilst council staff were not clear as to what/who will use it, they were clear that they were determined to build it. M Sachse reminded the QCC that the JRA wishes to be consulted on what they propose to do and that we ask is this the best facility for council to spend the remainder of the developer money?

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.03pm.

The next meeting of the JRA will be held on Wednesday 28th June, 2006 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre where Steve Whan, MP, Monaro, will be in attendance and any JRA member is more than welcome to attend.