

Minutes of Annual General Meeting**Banjup Hall****23 February 2014 at 3:00 pm****Committee:**

Present:	Coco Franklin	Ian Thurston
	Neil Raine	Colin Bramwell
	Jemma Van Dongen	Rita Zuks
Apologies:	Neil Cunliffe-Williams	Dino Elpitelli

Members:

Present: About 100 members

Guests:

Present:	Joe Francis MLA	
	Mayor Logan Howlett	Cllr Yaz Mubarakai
	Don Green, Cockburn Director Community Services	Michael Littleton, Cockburn Director Engineering
	Terry Wegwermer, Cockburn CBFCO	
Apologies:	Cllr Steve Portelli	Shane Harris, Jandakot Brigade Captain

- | Ref. | Minute |
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| 1. | Confirmation of minutes of last meeting |
| 1.1. | Minutes posted on BRG web site - No comments received |
| 1.2. | <p>Motion:</p> <p>The BRG accepts the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 October 2013 as a true and accurate record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote: Passed unanimously |
| 2. | Financial Report |
| 2.1. | The Financial Report to 22 February 2014 showed a bank balance of \$2,648.56 |
| 2.2. | <p>Motion:</p> <p>The BRG accepts the Financial Position as reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote: Passed unanimously |

- Ref. Minute**
3. **Banjup Fire 3 February 2014**
- 3.1. **Motion:**
The BRG thanks all members of the:
- Fire Brigades
 - Western Power
 - Police
 - City of Cockburn
- Who bravely saved Banjup houses, stopped the fire from spreading further, and restored some normalcy to our lives
- Vote:** Passed unanimously
- 3.2. Terry Wegwermer, Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the City of Cockburn, recounted the story of the bush fire that devastated Banjup on 3 February 2014. The main points were:
- 3.2.1. Fire started at midnight in suspicious circumstances in rubbish illegally tipped between Nicholson Road and Taylor Road, Forrestdale.
- 3.2.2. By daylight, the fire was thought to be extinguished but at 10:00 am it flared up again. The 40 kph winds and the high temperature (35°C) caused the fire to spread rapidly through the very dry high fuel load, typically of banksia and veldt grass.
- 3.2.3. Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft based at Jandakot Airport were deployed to drop water on the advancing fire.
- 3.2.4. Eventually 200 fire fighters from as far as York and Bunbury were deployed to bring the fire under control. Jandakot Brigade alone expended 1,200 hours of volunteers' time fighting the fire. Some 498 hectares were burned in the fire.
- 3.2.5. After the fire was brought under control on the evening of 3 February, spot fires and hot spots were extinguished by fire crews working around the clock for a further 12 days.
- 3.3. Terry reported that another fire was started that evening in suspicious circumstances at the corner of Gibbs and Tapper Roads. Police continue to investigate.
- 3.4. Banjup residents acclaimed that they value highly the Jandakot Volunteer Brigade and the great efforts that they make to protect them. They deplored any suggestion that the Brigade members are "servants".

- | Ref. | Minute |
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| 4. | Native Bush Recovery |
| 4.1. | Ian Thurston reported on advice received from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) about recovery of Banjup's natural woodland. In summary, eucalypts and paperbarks should recover but if the leaf canopy of banksia is burned then the tree will not likely recover; regeneration will come from seed. |
| 4.2. | To give the woodland a good chance of recovery in September/October, veldt grass must be eliminated with herbicide when it first appears in August. Information is available from DPaW and will be shown on the BRG web site. |
| 4.3. | Bunnings at Cockburn Central has offered to run fund raising sausage sizzles for the benefit of Banjup residents whose properties were burned in the fire. Members were appreciative of the offer and the Committee will progress it with Bunnings. |
| 4.4. | The proceeds of the fund raising will go towards restoring the natural biodiversity of the woodland. Ron ?? offered to investigate whether herbicide can be obtained at wholesale prices for Banjup residents. |
| 5. | Avoiding Future Catastrophes |
| 5.1. | About half a dozen of the 100 members present indicated that they had attended Cockburn's post bush fire session on 12 February.
About 20 members present indicated that their properties had been burned in the bush fire. |
| 5.2. | Members noted that the Perth Hills Bush Fire Inquiry had made strong recommendations to local governments about reducing fuel loads in their areas by prescribed burning. Don Green, Cockburn's Director of Community Services, was invited to explain how the recommendations would be implemented. |
| 5.3. | Mr Green told members that a Bush Fire Management Strategy had been adopted by Cockburn council and that work on its implementation would begin in March 2014. |
| 5.4. | Cockburn will consult with stakeholders, including Banjup residents, during April and May. The implementation plan will be put to Cockburn council in September 2014. Members noted that this timescale could be too long if controlled burning were to be performed this year before weather conditions curtail the burning season. |
| 5.5. | Several members voiced concerns about some of the procedures enforced during and immediately after the fire. Members wanted to provide feedback to the relevant authorities with the aim of improving the procedures. |

Ref. Minute

- 5.6. Members resolved unanimously to request the WA government to:
- Coordinate fire management of all reserves
 - Require controlled burning of reserves around urban areas
- 5.7. Members resolved unanimously to request the City of Cockburn to:
- Implement Keelty's recommendations
 - Consult fully with Banjup
 - Have Banjup on Bush Fire Reference Group
 - Provide advice on how to restore woodland
 - Extend biodiversity grant budget
 - Spray for Veldt Grass
 - Private properties
 - Verges
 - Reserves
 - Provide access to wholesale prices for tubestock trees and shrubs
 - Provide counselling

6. Elections

- 6.1. All office bearer and committee positions were declared vacant.
- 6.2. By unanimous vote, these members were appointed to serve for 2014:
- 6.2.1. **President:** Jemma Van Dongen
Vice President: Colin Bramwell
Secretary: Ian Thurston
Treasurer: Caroline Rimmer
- 6.2.2. **Committee:** Coco Franklin Brian Morton
Neil Raine Sebastian Scata
Stephen Thornton

7. Banjup Development

- 7.1. Jemma Van Dongen reported that the Department of Planning asked several government agencies to develop consistent policies about the Jandakot Water Mound. It was unlikely that any decision about the Mound's future will be made by the WAPC until mid 2014..

Ref. Minute**8. Footpaths**

- 8.1. Coco Franklin reminded members about the different proposals concerning the construction of footpaths in Banjup. Originally, the footpaths were to be built along Beenyup and Gibbs Roads to improve pedestrian safety. The City of Cockburn had subsequently proposed instead to construct a footpath only along Gibbs Road to complement its 'Trails Master Plan'.
- 8.2. Cockburn's Director of Engineering, Michael Littleton, explained to members the difficulties of constructing footpaths in areas such as Banjup with no kerbing and no road drains – this increased costs substantially. Michael also spoke about the benefits of the Gibbs footpath to complement the Trails Master Plan.
- 8.3. Members were asked to vote about which option to support. 23 members preferred that the footpath should be along Beenyup Road. 21 members preferred the Gibbs Road option. Being such a close vote, Michael Littleton suggested that he review the options again and perhaps see how any footpaths might meet both road safety and recreational needs.

9. Other Business

- 9.1. Members expressed their satisfaction with the half yearly Newsletter.

10. Next Meeting

- 10.1. Provisionally, Sunday 4 May 2014 at Banjup Hall but watch the web site!

Note The presentation materials used during the meeting are available for downloading on the Banjup Residents Group's web site at <http://banjup.webs.com/meetingsminutes.htm>