



**NRM**

*Glamorgan Spring Bay*  
**Natural Resource Management**

**GSBC NRM  
Special Committee  
Meeting # 50  
Minutes**

Orford Community Hall, 33 Charles St, Orford.  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 10:30am.

1.0 PRESENT

**Present:** David Tucker (Chair), Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Kate Hibbert (Dept. of Defence), Councillor Bertrand Cadart, Judy Broadstock (Bicheno Earth and Ocean Network), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Assoc.), Rosemary Jarvis (Bicheno), Derek Madsen (*Banwell* Little Swanport).

**Guests:** Angela Turvey (GSBC Executive Officer), Lachie Clarke (Forestry Tasmania), Acting Mayor/Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Janice McConnon (farmer at Levendale), Barbara Dawe (Triabunna).

2.0 APOLOGIES

Nicky Meeson (GSBC Biodiversity Officer), Senior Constable Leighton Riggall (Tasmania Police), Steve Everts (PWS Freycinet), Ben Flear (Devil's Corner Vineyard), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Lyndel Wilson (NRM South), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (Sustainability Officer), Cassie Melrose (MelShell Oysters).

3.0 GSBC EXECUTIVE OFFICER: NEW GUIDELINES FOR SECTION 24 SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Prior to our last meeting in November, all Committee members received a copy of the *New Guidelines for Section 24 Special Committees of Council* and the associated *Confidentiality Agreement*. Both these documents are also available on Council's website. At our November meeting the Committee decided to request that a representative from Council attend a Committee meeting to discuss the new guidelines.

The Chair welcomed Angela Turvey, GSBC Executive Officer.

Angela provided background information as to why the guidelines were developed. They are not a policy, they are guidelines to guide and assist each Special Committee of Council. The most recent WH&S legislation states that volunteers need to be treated as workers for WH&S reasons. Volunteers have rights and responsibilities, just like paid workers. One of the reasons that the guidelines were developed was to ensure that Council is compliant with the most recent legislation.

Volunteers have responsibilities in regards to confidentiality. Council staff supporting the Committee will generally advise if a document or information is confidential. If Committee members are unsure if a matter is confidential or not, please ask Council staff or the Committee's Councillor representative.

Bertrand thanked all the Committee volunteers, and expressed gratitude on behalf of Council. The Guidelines for Section 24 Committees provide a standardised framework, as Committee

members come and go, and Committees change etc. However, Council has to try not to be overbearing on volunteers whilst meeting other obligations. A balance needs to be found.

Mel noted that as someone who has been involved as a staff member in supporting a Special Committee (including the setting up of the NRMC) for over 10 years, she believes the guidelines will be beneficial for us and help us operate better. This is the first version of the guidelines and they will be reviewed this year.

David expressed his concern about the conflict of interest clause in the Guidelines.

Janice noted that she is a member of the Sorell Community Bank Board. They welcome conflicts of interest because it means people are involved, passionate and often can provide valuable insights into related issues. They note potential conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting. If members have a conflict of interest in regards to an agenda item, they can be involved in discussions but can't vote.

Angela noted that the Integrity Commission held a workshop with Councillors recently, and the issue of 'conflicts of interest' was discussed. It is not a black and white issue. It is up to individuals to be responsible and declare a conflict of interest. The Integrity Commission advised that there are 3 questions which individuals need to ask themselves if they think they have a conflict of interest: 1) Is it legal? 2) Is it right (ethical)? 3) If it got into the news, how would it look?

Mel and Rosie commenced the process of updating our Terms of Reference (TOR) in light of the new Guidelines. Thanks to the Orford Community Hall Committee for sharing their new draft TOR with us to assist with this process. Mel spoke to the proposed changes to our TOR in context of the Guidelines. This will be circulated to the Committee via email for feedback.

***Rosie to circulate the proposed new draft TOR to Committee members for feedback.***

The Chair thanked Angela for attending the meeting to discuss the *New Guidelines for Section 24 Special Committees of Council* and the associated *Confidentiality Agreement*.

#### 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 49.

*Moved:* Judy Broadstock. *Seconded:* Gary Stoward. *Carried unanimously.*

#### 5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Report back to the Committee at the next meeting regarding the requirements for water for residential fire fighting capacity and existing requirements regarding water tanks. Who: Mel.

*The amount of water required for fire fighting is determined by a Certified Bushfire Practitioner when they develop a Bushfire Hazard Management Plan which is required when a development is undertaken in a bushfire prone area. There are many variables that would be considered so there is no standard requirement as each development and location is different.*

*The requirements for water tanks are detailed in the Water Tank Policy which can be found on the Council website under Council Policies (under the Documents tab)*  
<http://www.gsbcc.tas.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/1.2%20Domestic%20Water%20Tanks.pdf>

2. Compile an article on appropriate use of PWS Conservation Areas. Who: Rosie and Kath with input from Leighton and PWS Freycinet.  
*To be done, led by PWS with input from Council if required.*
3. Ask PWS Discovery Ranger program coordinator about the possibility of including information about the appropriate use of PWS Conservation Areas when talking to visitors on the Spirit of Tasmania. Who: Kath.  
*Done. Thanks Kath.*
4. Request a representative from Council attend the next Committee meeting to address concerns about elements of the New Guidelines for Section 24 Special Committees of Council. Who: David.  
*Complete.*
5. Circulate letter from TasWater electronically about Swansea dam. Who: Rosie.  
*Complete.*
6. Follow up with TasWater regarding a community update about the Swansea dam and water supply. Who: David.  
*There have been numerous emails and letters to and from TasWater regarding this issue since our last meeting. David recently wrote a Letter to the Editor of the Great Oyster Bay Community News regarding the Swansea dam and water supply. David read out the response to his letter from the CEO of TasWater.*  
  
*Bertrand noted that to his knowledge, TasWater have not provided any further information to Council about the Swansea dam since the letter of response from the CEO.*  
  
***All present agreed that the Committee write to TasWater again and ask for an update for our next meeting.***
7. Present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding illegal rubbish dumping research and reports published by the EPA in NSW. Who: Cynthia.  
*Cynthia is unwell and is an apology for today's meeting.*
8. Send serrated tussock (ST) data to the NVA, and provide the data to Tasmanian Irrigation. Who: *Mel responded in Nicky's absence. Any past ST data that we have collected as participants in NRM South / DPIPWE / STCA projects was provided to the project managers who were responsible for ensuring that the data went on the*

NVA. *We are in the process of uploading additional weed data to the NVA (for all weeds) using the Fulcrum app that we have been modifying worksheets for this purpose in collaboration with Insight GIS.*

9. Follow up slashing contractors about machinery hygiene, use of wash down points and notifying us prior to their arrival. Who: Mel.  
*Mel noted that this is an ongoing conversation (sometimes it's working and sometimes it isn't working) and suggested that we invite the northern and southern Stornaway supervisors to a future meeting. All present agreed.*
10. Write a letter to the Northern and Southern DSG roadside managers asking if they have information on the impacts that slashing has on native vegetation and if they can alter the timing and technique. Who: Terry and David.  
*As above, and this includes addressing Alan Morgan's question that he put to us in an email. Mel noted that she has had discussions with Andy North from North Barker Ecosystem Services (who have long had involvement in the management of roadside vegetation) about this. It reinforced her understanding that given there are still many plants flowering on the roadside (in particular Coles Bay Road) means that the irregular timing of the slashing is possibly quite beneficial in promoting biodiversity. There are so many variables around the roadside slashing program (eg. availability of machinery / weather / other contracts / fire management considerations) as well as the (often) unfathomable requirements of different species (ie. what suits an orchid that only appears every 10 years when the conditions are right verses a beautiful yet common flowering annual) that to develop something that suits all is probably not possible even if the resources were available. It is however a discussion that could be had with the roadside managers at a future meeting – perhaps also with botanists such as Andy North and Nicky Meeson present.*
11. Provide information at the next meeting regarding Coles Bay slipway issue. Who: Mel.  
*Council's Plumbing Inspector has inspected the site and in his opinion the grate needs to be relocated. The Manager Regulatory Services will contact the owner and advise as such.*
12. Follow up with the Works Manager about when the GPT in Bicheno was last emptied. Who: Cynthia.  
*Cynthia is unwell and is an apology for today's meeting. Discussion was held around the challenges of emptying the GPT given issues in respect to WH&S (working in confined space) and the sludge that needs to be removed. Bertrand noted that as the GPT was installed as a part of the 'No Butts in Bicheno' project perhaps it is no longer warranted given the ongoing reductions in smoking. Mel and Cynthia will continue discussions to work out a way forward with the Works Manager and report back at the next meeting.*
13. Investigate possibility of replacing GPT interpretation sign in Bicheno. Who: Rosie and Mel.  
*The current sign on site has faded significantly. However, we will need to wait to hear the outcome of Cynthia's discussion with the Works Manager about the GPT before deciding whether or not to replace the interpretation sign. It was resolved that in the meanwhile it would be best to remove the sign.*

14. Investigate options for coin operated waste disposal units. Who: Cynthia.  
*Cynthia is unwell and is an apology for today's meeting.*

**Other matters:**

Gary noted that Bagot Point still needs to be delisted on the Wiki Camps website. There are likely to be other locations that need to be delisted but not sure how this happens?

Mel suggested that we invite James Gourlay (Crown Land Services) to our next meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general not just illegal camping.

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Incoming:**

- Email from Tim Lyne (ECPPA) to advise that he has retired from the position of Chair. The new Chair is Henry Dunbabin.
- Newsletter from TasWater: Swansea Dam Update – February 2016.
- Email from Alan Morgan containing questions and requests for updates on several matters. Mel provided an update about some of these matters as follows. The proposed Prosser River Stabilisation Project has gone to planning appeals and is going through mediation. In regards to the development on Picnic Island, the Regulatory Services and NRM Departments are currently looking into the issues arising. A site visit is required and likely to also involve Birdlife Tasmania. The Swanwick Coastal Reserve has been surveyed and it is hoped that there will be provision in the 16/17 budget to develop a Fire Management Plan for the Reserve.

Mel noted the recent success of the Coles Bay Fire Brigade fuel reduction burn at the Rita and Doris Reserve in Coles Bay in line with Council's Management Plan for this Reserve. This is a great step forward in building upon a positive relationship with our local volunteer fire brigades.

Janice noted that she had recently participated in the Red Hot Tips programme. Have the fire plans developed as part of this project been made available to Council?  
Mel will follow this up with the project manager.

Kate noted that the Department of Defence are planning to conduct fuel reduction burns this season, in line with their long term fire management plan for the Buckland Military Training Area.

**Outgoing:**

- Email to Henry Dunbabin (new ECPPA Chair) inviting him to join the GSB NRM Committee.
- Letter to Larry Gibson who recently retired from the Committee, thanking him for his help and contribution over many years.

**12:45pm Lunch**

Our thanks to the Orford Primary School Association for the catering.

As this was our 50<sup>th</sup> meeting, a special cake was made to celebrate this milestone – thank you to Amanda Brooks for the cake.

Acting Mayor Cheryl Arnol joined the Committee at lunchtime to celebrate the milestone. Cheryl acknowledged the work of the Committee over the past 10 years and congratulated the Committee on behalf of Council.

***1:20PM Meeting resumed.***

***Lachie Clarke from Forestry Tasmania joined the meeting.***

#### 7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

#### 8.0 OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

Judy: EON is arranging an environmental expo at the Bicheno Memorial Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November will be a “Schools Day”. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> will be community days – all welcome. So far IMAS and RedMap have committed. A vet will be attending to talk about feral cats and de-sexing. This is going to be a big event – not to be missed.

Janice: The Sorell Community Bank is assisting with the establishment of an Edmund Rice Camp at the old Levendale Primary School site. The purpose of the camp is to assist at risk youth in regional areas. So far schools/students from the Tasman, GSB, Southern Midlands and Central Highlands municipal areas are involved. Tasmania Police are also involved. The aim is to keep children engaged and involved in their learning. Any assistance/support from other community groups would be most appreciated. The NRM Committee may have skills to bring to the camp to undertake an activity with the students.

Jane: The Orford Community Group continues to hold concerns about unnecessary trimming and removal of native vegetation in Council Reserves by Council Works staff.

Kath noted that PWS have had issues with Council staff doing this in PWS Reserves also.

Mel noted that sometimes these activities are not in line with Council’s Reserve Management Plans.

Jane: Community volunteers are removing weeds and planting native plants in some areas, whilst in other areas Council staff are removing the native plants but leaving the weeds.

David suggested it might be timely to have another training session on weed ID and native plant ID with the Works staff across the municipality.

Mel noted that the Works staff are great at managing Parks and Gardens, but not necessarily bushland areas of our reserves as they do not have the training in plant identification or knowledge about how best to manage native vegetation.

**Resolution:** Following additional recent instances of over-enthusiastic native vegetation clearing, the Committee would encourage Works Department staff to have relevant training, to enable them to manage Council Reserves according to Council's Reserve Management Plans. The Chair will draft a letter to Council, and circulate this to the Committee prior to sending.

Barbara: lives at Barton Ave, Triabunna. Flooding (including sediment and weeds such as Spanish heath) from Solis is damaging private property, the culverts in Baring Crt, and the road.

**Resolution:** The Chair will write to Council asking if anything can be done about this problem.

Rose: The Tangara Trail in the Clarence Municipality is a network of tracks from Cambridge and Five Mile Beach to South Arm. It comprises a main corridor intersected by many other tracks and offers over 80 connected kilometres of recreational trails through scenic coastal reserves and undulating semi-rural country. Would it be possible to establish something similar in GSB? The Chair suggested that this be put on the agenda for discussion at our next meeting.

Gary: more sand dune vegetation removal has occurred at 9 Mile Beach. Could CLS send another letter regarding this? Mel will follow with James Gourlay from CLS.

***Bertrand departed at 2:05PM.***

Mel: The draft preliminary local area report for Orford and Triabunna for the DPAC Coastal Hazards Project is now available on Council's website.

***The Chair welcomed Dr Dejan Stojanovic to the meeting.***

**9.0 ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

David Tucker vacated the Chair, handed over to the NRM manager Mel Kelly to conduct the elections.

Mel called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.  
*No nominations were forthcoming.*

Mel called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Derek Madsen *Nominated* David Tucker for the position of Chair.

David Tucker declined the nomination and reminded the meeting that he intended to step down from the position last year. He indicated that it was important that these positions were changed to invigorate the function of the committee.

After a call for further nominations, no other nominations were forthcoming.

As there were no other nominations David Tucker then agreed to accept the nomination.  
*Moved:.* David Tucker *Nominated by:* Derek Madsen *Seconded:* Gary Stoward.

David Tucker was re-elected unopposed for another year.

Nominations will be called for the position of Vice Chair via email prior to the next meeting in August.

The Committee thanked David and he resumed the chair to continue with the meeting.

#### 10.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia is unwell and is an apology for today's meeting.

#### 11.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Due to running behind schedule, this report will be presented at our next meeting.

#### 12.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Copies of the NRM Department reports to Council were circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting.

#### 13.0 PRESENTATION FROM GSBC SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER: ILLEGAL RUBBISH DUMPING RESEARCH AND REPORTS PUBLISHED BY THE EPA IN NSW.

Cynthia is unwell and is an apology for today's meeting.

#### 14.0 GUEST SPEAKER DR. DEJAN STOJANOVIC: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ON THE SWIFT PARROT

One member of the public and the grade 5/6 class from Orford Primary School joined us for the presentation from Dejan Stojanovic. Orford Primary School recently received a grant from NRM South, part of their project is to develop interpretation materials for the Swift Parrot habitat areas in the Reserves in Orford.

Dejan's presentation covered 5 things you need to know about Swift Parrots:

1. Rich patch exploiter
2. Cavity nester (tree hollows)
3. Variable nesting success

4. Critically endangered
5. Sensitive at fine scale.

Mel: the new statewide planning scheme is currently being progressed. There are lots of implications for natural resource management and therefore Mel and Nicky have been spending quite a lot of time developing a response to go to Council for their consideration for inclusion in our overall response. The natural assets code is a key element of the new planning scheme which will have significant implications and therefore this is an opportunity to get things right or not. Response to the draft is open for comment until 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016. For more information go to: <http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/>

Following the meeting, a field trip will be held at the Crown Land Reserve west of Buckland. The field trip will be with Dejan to look at key Swift Parrot nesting habitat and threats to this habitat from illegal wood hooking.

The Chair thanked Dejan for his presentation.

#### 15.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel spoke to the Treasurers report. All present received a copy.

Carry over from the 2014-15 budget is still to be finalised with the GM, the outcome of which will determine the Reserve. It was noted the steady increase in Private Works the majority of which relates to increased weed control on private land.

***Meeting closed 3:10pm.***

#### NEXT MEETING

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

#### ACTION ITEMS

1. Circulate via email the proposed new draft TOR to Committee members for feedback. Who: Rosie.
2. Compile an article on appropriate use of PWS Conservation Areas. Who: Kath/PWS with support from Mel/Rosie as required.
3. Write to TasWater again and request an update about the Swansea dam and water supply for the next Committee meeting. Who: David.
4. Present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding illegal rubbish dumping research and reports published by the EPA in NSW. Who: Cynthia.
5. Invite the northern and southern Stornaway supervisors to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss hygiene, wash down and slashing. Who: Mel.
6. Follow up with the Works Manager about when the GPT in Bicheno was last emptied and investigate the possibility of replacing the interpretation sign. Who: Cynthia.
7. Remove the existing GPT interpretation sign until the above discussions have occurred and a decision has been made. Who: Terry to remove the sign.
8. Investigate options for coin operated waste disposal units. Who: Cynthia.

9. Invite a representative from CLS to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general. Who: Mel.
10. Follow up with the new Chair of the ECPA regarding the invitation to join the Committee. Who: Rosie.
11. Write a letter to Council regarding over-enthusiastic native vegetation clearing, and suggesting that Works Department staff have relevant training to enable them to manage our reserves in line with the GSBC Native Flora and Fauna Management Plans. Who: David.
12. Write a letter to Council asking if anything can be done about the cause of the flooding from Solis and the damage it causes. Who: David.
13. Following the removal of more sand dunes at 9 Mile Beach, ask CLS to follow up on this. Who: Mel.
14. Call for nominations for the position of Vice Chair via email prior to the next meeting. Who: Mel.



**Signed by the Chair:**

**Date: 10/8/2016**