

Rokeby & Crossover Friends Group Inc
Minutes 13 August 2008

Present: David Dawson, Nicky Cann, Eugene Dimitriadis, Bernard Doherty, Caroline Ferguson, Mary Hughes, Ian Knowles, David Mapleson, Paul Pearson.
Apology for Craig Jeffs,

Minutes of last meeting taken as circulated and read. (moved Mary/Eugene).

Business Arising from previous minutes:- Referred to General Business.

Treasurer's Report – Eugene

No change since the last meeting. Current balance of \$973.55

Correspondence-

1. Catherine Bryant (Planning Dept. Baw Baw Shire) – agreement to proceed with Heritage Grant application.
2. Gabrielle Vaughan – (Baw Baw Shire) ‘Walk/Ride’ brochure - launch is proposed when signage is installed.
Advised distance markers and signage will be installed in the coming months.

Reports

1. Hawthorne Bridge Replacement

Paul advised that funding had not been granted for the bridge in this financial year but assurance had been given that a commitment was expected before/by 2012. Community support has certainly assisted in raising the profile and this should be maintained. Plans are to be prepared for the Camp Ground. Funding Applications have been made for \$5,000 in the current year and \$25,000 in the future through the Trail Bike Initiative. Member Garry Blackwood is co-ordinating a submission for the Minister and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

2. Trail Bike Visitor Area – Whitelaws track

Paul advised that delineators were placed last week and the shelter installed a month ago by the Green Corps. Toilets, signage, information board, table and fireplace are in process. Davd M expressed concern about the installation of the fireplace. Paul advised that the Department were considering their options and would closely monitor the situation – especially during the summer period.

3. Horse unloading – Whitelaws Track

Paul advised that plans for an unloading area at Mapleson Road and Whitelaws Track are being prepared and work is expected to be carried out in 6 to 8 weeks time. A working bee is planned for 21 September between 9am and 5pm to clear the area – a bobcat is to be hired. Other decommissioned sites are to be rehabilitated.

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4. Review of Track network

Paul advised that a track network for passive recreation is to be reviewed at an upcoming Reference Group Meeting. Other matters to be raised at the meeting include weed and baiting programs. The Group will be advised of the outcomes of the meeting.

5. Green Corps

The Green Corps has its final day tomorrow (14-8-08) with a break-up BBQ. They have had EXCELLENT RESULTS from the program with works carried out at numerous sites from Mt Baw Baw to Korumburra and from Nayook to Rawson. Details of the works are on the Web site. The participants have employment as a result of the program – 5 full time positions and 2 propose to be part of DSE summer crews. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the work that Paul and especially the considerable commitment David D had made in helping to make this program so successful.

6. Community Engagement Workshop

A community engagement workshop was conducted by Baw Baw Shire last week with 20 attendees. The top two top priority projects were

- a.* restoration of the Crossover Trestle Bridge and
- b.* Rail Trail projects. Following the workshop Council is to report back.

General Business

1. Crossover Bridge Project

Bernard advised that two grant applications had been forwarded for Heritage Grants. An application for \$12,000 to enable an Engineering report to be prepared on the structure and \$5,000 for interpretative signing had been forwarded in late July. Grants are expected to be advised in November 2008. The meeting agreed that David M be appointed to Co-ordinate the Crossover Bridge project.

2. Constitution

The motion “That, in order to satisfy requirements of the Australian Taxation Office regarding certain financial aspects, as well as to be specific about our purposes, the Rokeby Crossover Friends Group adopt its own Constitution, that is, its own Statement of Purposes and Association Rules, the said document being that dated 24 April 2008, as promoted publicly through the Group's website since that date”. put by Mary and David M Mary was passed unanimously.

It was agreed that Bernard be authorised to make the required payment to the Department of Consumer Affairs to effect the submission of the new constitution.

3. Volunteer Baw Baw

Baw Baw Shire proposes to launch its Web Site, Volunteer Baw Baw, on 20 August at the Warragul Arts Centre 'Fountain Room'. The launch is open to all volunteer groups to attend.

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4. Pony Clubs site

Council is considering establishing a consolidated single site for Pony Clubs from Drouin and Warragul towns. The old mill site and Crown Land of the former railway station is under consideration.

5. Brochure

A brochure has been prepared and printed for Rokeby and Crossover Friends Group Inc. A change is required to the membership fee – otherwise it was agreed that Paul would have a number printed for the next meeting.

6. Future Projects

David M raised the issue of future projects and warned that the Group had performed well with smaller projects and expressed concerns that larger long term projects like the Crossover Bridge were likely to be drawn out and consume the resources of the Group. David also expressed the view that an 'Open day' at the Bridge site would help to raise the profile. It was agreed that an open day in the future may be considered.

Next Meeting – 24 September 2008

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.