



*POST OFFICE BOX 89
TRIABUNNA 7190*

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THE 23rd of APRIL 2008

ATTENDANCE

John Hall, Dale Pearce, Tony Wright, Dennis Bennett, Graeme Elphinstone, Vonda Hall, Mick Desmond, Denis Bignold, Peter Bignold, John Read, Geoff Whitton, Mick Fama, Chris Peterson

APOLOGIES, Ben Quin, Kathy Freeman, Jane Wing, David Metcalf

PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by John Hall, seconded by Tony Wright that the minutes of the February Meeting be accepted. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Jetty facilities.

Mick Fama reported that a grant of \$106,000 has been made to Council for the construction of a new Tourism Jetty (mainly for Maria Island Ferry services) It will be 50 metres in length, and 4 metres wide.

The working area of the port was also discussed, as the state of the fisherman's jetty is also unacceptable. Council have decided it is too expensive to use sections of the dismantled Mc Laine's Creek bridge.

Ferries

It was reported that Keith Pybus is re-furbishing the 'Eastcoaster Express' boat, and he is likely to continue to operate the Maria Island Ferry service. It is believed he is the government's preferred ferry operator, running this in conjunction with his eco-tours enterprise.

Prosser River mouth.

This continues to be a significant issue, and as discussed at the February meeting sand drift is changing the location of the river mouth and river course. It was agreed that the Executive members would contact PWS with a reminder that there was an agreement that dredging and maintenance would be provided.

In particular it was noted that

1/ Peter Mooney NPWS had promised at a public meeting in Orford in 2004 that NPWS would dredge initially then maintain the channel.

2/ David Llewellyn MHA had promised to provide dredging of the channel.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Water supply

Councillors reported that there is approximately 150 days of water supply for Orford/Triabunna townships remaining, with supply levels described as critical with stage three restrictions in place.

Desalination was discussed, with Mick Fama providing information about costs etc.

Hobart Water were to considering pumping water in water holes from the upper reaches of the Prosser River to the dam zone.

The Chamber will write to the Council General Manager, cc'd to Dr. Christine Mucher, CEO Hobart Water to ask what strategies are planned if significant rain does not occur in the next 5 months.

Payment for Troy- D promotional clothing.

Motion from Tony Wright : 'That we recover the unsold stock from Noel Burnell and investigate re-selling to local outlets. Seconded by Jiohn Hall and carried.

This has now been settled with the President and Treasurer contacting the Tasmanian Clothing Company and Noel Burnell. The account has been paid in full between Noel and the Chamber, and the Chamber will take over the sale of a quantity of promotional clothing.

Tourism and general business confidence.

Members made the following key points

- There has been a drop in Vistor numbers around the state in the summer of 2008, and visitation numbers in our region have dropped accordingly. The Backpackers business has closed, effected by not having a scallop season for seasonal worker business.
- Maria Island is poorly promoted by Tourism Tasmania
- There is no caravan or lower budget accommodation available in Orford.
- The Vistor Centre in Triabunna was closed over Easter, due to budget issues and a lack of volunteers.
- Promoting local businesses.

It was agreed this is a vital role for the Chamber, but we still lack good local business support despite initiatives such as our membership drive, membership kits and personal contacts.

• Shop Locally Project.

Vonda spoke about the success of this approach, with vouchers to be involved in major prizes for shopping locally. This would be part of the annual Christmas parade. The promotion will start at the beginning of September, and will be promoted by the Lions Club. Vonda will approach Council for sponsorship funding.

- Additionally, Council have received a \$60,000 grant from the Tourism Board to support Visitor centres. There is a plan for a small levy so that all businesses can benefit from promotional activities.
- **Bring back Targa Tasmania to Triabunna.** Denis Bignold has agreed to write to Octogon Promotions to present our case, as considerable national and international promotion can result from this event.

Troy -D dive wreck.

Chris reported that the dive web-site is having very high interest/ with over 100,000 site hits.

We will need to continue to lobby politicians as the legislation to hand over the control of the site to our Chamber is still not done.

There has been only very limited promotion to date by the dive operators. It was reported that Mick Davey is arranging between 200- 300 divers a year.

Chris has DVD's that will be sent to all national dive clubs.

TREASURERS REPORT

Chris presented our current bank register for the past 6 months until the end of April. Our balance in the general Account is \$7130.87 although promotional materials for the Dive Wreck project will need to come from this amount.

The number of paid memberships is still of concern to the financial operations of our Chamber.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 16th

7.30 p,m,

Blue Waters Hotel

Orford.