

**BEECHMONT AREA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
DRAFT MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**

Held: 19th February 2018 – 7.00 pm

At: BEECHMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Activity Room (demountable), 1835 Beechmont Road, Beechmont, Qld 4211

ATTENDEES: Vanessa Bagley, Barbara Bible, Rachel Bible, Penny Bydlinski, Angela Brooks, Diane Edwards, Glyn Edwards, Jonathan Fisher, Pat Fitzgerald, Fran Gilbert (Treasurer), Ian Gilbert, Carol Gistitin, Paul Graham (President), Affra Hall- Beers, Fay Hansell, Maurice Hansell, Amanda Harrison, Alison Johnson, Di Kuhl, Alan Leech, Deb Mclachlan, Janet Moore, Cathy Orr, Nicole Pickering, Janis Rossiter, Leonie Smith, Doreen Sproul (Vice-President), Wendi Trulson, Ger Vloothius (Secretary), Cr. Virginia West, Boris Zoubakin

APOLOGIES: Geoff Bruce, Janet Ritchie, Andrew and Paula Sproul, Monica Graham.

MEETING OPENED AT 7.08 pm

Paul opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

CORRESPONDENCE

An enquiry had come from Helga Van Zaane from Lower Beechmont who wanted to do an Art Class with [Jan Lawnikanis](#). There was another enquiry from a Majella that didn't go any further and then there was a nice letter from the Golf Coast City Council announcing that the Council had a number of Community Grants coming up. They appeared to have plenty of money if anybody was interested.

They had received Minutes from Queensland Parks on a meeting that was held in December where they had been asked to look at the opening of the waterfalls and adjoining land. It was a well attended meeting and very amicable. The only group not represented was the Army. Ger was mystified as to why a large delegation from Queensland Parks had come to Beechmont and put nothing on the table. He thought that if nothing was done in that quarter, BAA should look to the National Trust.

NEW MEMBERS

Penny had taken over as Membership Secretary as Di Edwards would not be available.

Penny read out the applicant's names being: Janette Stevenson from Canungra, Daniel Muray from Boyland, Paula Peeters from Beechmont, Veronica Clasohm from Mt. Marshall, Leonie Smith from Lower Beechmont, Michelle King and James King from Lower Beechmont.

That the applicants named should be accepted as new members

Moved by Penny Bydlinski

Seconded by Fran Gilbert

All in agreement

Doreen said that there were also two others but she had left their forms behind and they would have to be ratified at a future meeting.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 11 DECEMBER 2017

Paul commented that these had been available on line and he hoped everybody had read them. A hard copy was also available.

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December, 2017 are true and accurate.

Moved by: Jonathan Fisher

Seconded by: Janet Moore

All in agreement.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 11 DECEMBER 2017

Paul referred to Glyn's enquiry at the previous meeting about putting up a "men's shed" (or a "people's shed". Based on twenty or more interested people, he thought investigations should be made to see what could be found. Council did not have a problem but an application would have to be made in the normal way. Phillipa had sent through the steps to be gone through, including issues. It was a good start. He commented that most of the interest in this came primarily from ladies.

Ramps had been discussed and the plan has changed slightly as the Council had come one day and had built a new deck at the café. BAPA had retained the materials from the previous deck including hardwood decking and that could be used on a ramp from the demountable. The Council had been asked about the path with the damaged cement, but so far nothing had been done. Paul would speak to Cr. Virginia later about that as it was becoming quite a hazard; two people already had fallen on it.

Signage had also been discussed. Glyn was happy to get it done, but it had to be decided exactly what was wanted. He asked for input from the members on this so that a costing could be made. The 'tear drops' cost about \$160 each. Maurie said that the Council needed to be consulted before a decision could be made. Paul confirmed that the envisaged signs would be within Council's limits and Doreen added that they would not be up permanently. Glyn said they were mainly for the market but there would be permanent signs indicating the building and he would be approaching Council concerning using their logo and Community Centre signs and things of that nature. Glyn had also suggested to Paul that, in view of the opening of the "Flying Bean" a further sign should be placed before the jump-off point. It was pointed out that too much wording should be avoided. Jonathan felt that good quality signs were important. Vanessa suggested that a sign headed "Welcome to Beechmont" or something similar and with interchangeable notices beneath it could be useful. Jonathan said that if anybody came up with something, the NTA would be happy to mock up the sign.

Carol referred to her request for lighting at the junction of Binna Burra and Boongala Roads. She said that Cr. Virginia had taken the matter up and Mains Roads had contacted her to say that they would attend to it although they were rather busy at the time. She thanked Cr. Virginia for her help in the matter.

Di Kuhl said that she thought the kitchen below the Op Shop should be referred to as the "Tuck Shop" that was its original name, to avoid confusion with the café kitchen,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Paul reported that, apart from the things that he had brought up under 'matter arising', a lot was going on. People were 'coming out of the woodwork' all over and bringing new ideas. Some he had spoken to, others he had heard about but would meet up with them. It was quite amazing that this was suddenly happening.

With regard to the café, he thought that most people did know although it had not been announced by BAPA that at Easter Glyn and Di would be moving on. They would be going to the

United States for a long break. This did not mean they were leaving Beechmont or that they would not be around if they were needed. However, it did mean that somebody was needed to step in to take over the café. A few people had put their hands up and the MC had had a meeting the day before to discuss the position. He asked that if anybody else was interested or could help, they had until close of business on the 28th February to make themselves known to the MC. After that a decision will be made by the MC.

Janet asked if the new applicants would be running the café in the same way and was told that probably but at this stage it was not known exactly. Jonathan asked on what criteria the new incumbents would be chosen. Doreen mentioned experience and Paul added that the MC knew what was needed, the criteria would be decided when looking at the applicants but it was important to ensure that the people going in would know what they were doing and had a plan to move the café to another level, which was needed. Maurie was content that the MC would make the decision, as was Jonathan but he wanted to know the criteria. Janet said that it was important that the new incumbent should also be aware that it was a community project. Paul thought that the Community was involved together and the MC would ensure that whoever came in would have the same aims. It was new ground but he thought it could be handled and it needed to be done fairly quickly as Glyn and Di had their plane booked. They were willing to help up to almost the last moment and were willing to talk to anybody interested also. A decision should be made in early March. Replying to whether this had been advertised, Paul said no but word of mouth had been effective although it had also been rumoured that the café would close down. There was general discussion on various aspects including personality, which could come into the final decision.

Di Edwards clarified that the café management was a sub-committee of BAPA and a sub-committee member had to be a member of BAPA. The sub-committee paid a rent to BAPA and also received a management fee from BAPA. Glyn said that they had a two-year agreement, which was now coming to an end. Although they had the choice of an extension of another year, they had decided against it as, among other things, Glyn was also building a house. Di said that the sub-committee was on the BAPA web site and the by-laws appeared there. That had been set out at that time and were very rough and probably needed to be upgraded a little. The Agreement was also there. Paul added that the MC had looked at the documents at their meeting and apart from a couple of changes, they were fine. Janis asked how she could get a copy and was told to apply to the Secretary. Paul said that all details of the current café workings were now available.

Maurie pointed out that BAPA did not have a lease but rather a Management Agreement, which was due for renewal in July so a lease as such could not be given to the café incumbents. Paul said that BAPA gave a non-exclusive access to the building, which meant the incumbents were free to do as they pleased but it also meant that if a group, such as the painters, wanted to hold their sessions there, they could do so with advantages also in that they drank coffee etc. Whilst BAPA didn't want to interfere, it was available if, for example, they wanted to hold a MC meeting there. If somebody wanted to hire the kitchen, there could be a problem if it interfered with the running of the café.

Paul, continuing his report, said that other people had approached him with ideas but nothing concrete at present. Jonathan and a colleague had an idea, and Jonathan would speak about it shortly, of using the facilities present that some happy campers could be brought in. Their proposal was rather exciting. He also had other people, headed by Amanda who was present, talking about what they could do with the markets. Also Wendi, who was there, would talk about the Zest Fest for this year. He had spoken to Phillipa at Council, who had confirmed that they would be doing their upgrade of the café to bring it up to Class 6. They had almost \$60,000 in their budget for this purpose. This would include new toilets in the café. They have also confirmed funding for the school house, which involved putting on a new roof, which would involve clearing the contents to make sure that the mould problems were dealt with.

That concluded the President's report.

TREASIRER'S REPORT:

Fran explained the figures in the attached report. There was in the bank a total of \$17,229.08. Two new assets had been purchased, the drinks 'fridge, which was \$967 and a new vacuum cleaner at \$599. There had been 17 market stalls at the last market, two more than the last month.

She also said she planned to update the assets inventory before the AGM. There were things on it that needed to be removed as well as newly purchased things that needed to go on.

Motion 3

That the Treasurer's report presented at the meeting be accepted as true and accurate

Moved by: Fran Gilbert

Seconded by: Wendi Trulson

All in agreement.

ZEST FEST REPORT

Wendi said that the idea for this year was that it be more of an art influence at the Fest. It would be called 'Arts at Zest Fest.' They hoped to run some workshops on site and having art related stalls as well as food. She was looking at probably the 4th or the 11th of August. This did not clash with the Canungra Show or the Rodeo. She already had a small committee and would be having their first meeting on the 4th March. Regarding Open Studios, she would be at the Community site on May 26th running a workshop. She was not actually doing Open Studios for Beechmont and Canungra as that was 2nd and 3rd June. She would be talking to Gold Coast City Council, who had supported them with previous Zest Fests and advertising would be done nearer the time. She was hoping to get two artists to do workshops and she also noted that it would not be a paid event. Anybody interested should contact Wendi on the 4th March at the café. Ger enquired about Wendi's e-mail for this event and she said she would let him know. Speaking about the name of 'Zest Fest', apart from the fact that it was already known, Wendi also still had a lot of banners and such like that could be used.

OP SHOP

Doreen reported that the Op Shop was doing all right at the moment with donations still pouring in, for which she thanked everybody. She had had to reduce stock and that had been donated to Lifeline. On market day she had been approached by a professional 'clutter clearer' who had offered to help in reducing the load as a volunteer. A provisional date in April had been made, with BAPA's permission unless anybody had any objections. Nobody objected. She continued to say that unwanted goods such as clothes would be donated to Lifeline as usual and she would probably have a 'fire sale' before then.

As the members had just been informed that Glyn and Di would be leaving in April, Doreen wanted to say that she would miss them. They had worked exceptionally hard to get the café to its present state and she wished them well with the next challenge they took up. This was underlined by appreciative applause from those present.

Finally Doreen expressed many thanks to all her helpers, especially Di, Geoff and Andrew. Paul thanked Doreen for her report.

BEECHMONT GARDEN GROUP

Nicole reported that the previous couple of months had been challenging to say the least. The ongoing debacle with a particular member had turned the corner finally resulting with the person deciding to leave. A new structure was presently being negotiated, which would benefit the Community as a whole and they welcomed new and existing members with fresh ideas. Now they could all move on together as one.

Welcome packs had been put together for new members, many seeds sown and an activity schedule drawn up. The market cart was currently full of plants and they would continue this with a plan to fill the cart with fresh produce for sale each Saturday, placing the cart near the Headmasters Café.

They had two new members; Penny Bydlinski and Lynn Moore. These ladies were a welcomed addition to the Garden group and they were very happy to have them.

Markets had been steady, the use of the BBQ definitely helped to boost funds. The plan was to offer fresh produce, seedlings, plants, etc. each month. Flyers were in the process of being printed and the BAPA web page had been updated, for which she thanked Ger.

Finally, she said, "here's to the next couple of months of producing growth, change and last, but not least, lots of vegetables."

The report was applauded.

Paul said that actually more was going on down in the garden and more community members would be invited to help with what was going on. Janet added that there were two kinds of membership; the ones that wanted to rent a bed and the ones that didn't want that but would come down socially and plant things or help with weeding. Paul thanked them for their report.

HEADMASTER'S CAFÉ REPORT:

Glyn thanked Doreen for her nice comments. He reported that the café continues to go from strength to strength. With a mixture of trepidation and relief they would be giving it up at Easter but would be there to support whoever took it over as they regarded it as their little baby and they didn't want to see it stop. There was no negative side to their departure but they were going to do other things. They would have a couple of months away and then Glyn would be building a house when he got back and it was time for them to do something else. He added that it was also time for the café to take its next step and it needed somebody to take it to the next level.

Glyn reported on their 'Orphans' Christmas, which had been a very hot day. A few people had turned up as well as their family and they had a great day.

They had changed their opening hours from Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This was because with the opening of the 'Flying Bean' it seemed silly to have two cafés open on Friday. It seemed to be working well for them. The previous month's market had been their record day and this month's market had been their second best trading day; it was growing all the time. He acknowledged that the 'Flying Bean' was taking a lot of the drive-past custom. He thought there was room for both and they were different sorts of establishments. He was happy it was going well for them but wished the road were safer. Generally speaking the comments on Facebook were very positive. Di said they had a lot of regulars who came from Brisbane, Mount Tamborine and the Coast. They were also serving breakfast. They would support the new people where possible and thought the café would continue to grow.

Finally, he said they had loved doing the café; it had been a big labour and he thought whoever took it on would be in for a shock. They were not leaving BAPA and would be back.

Speaking of the location of the 'Flying Bean' the dangers of the road were noted and the fact that people parked and opened their doors on to the road as well as walking across the road from their cars. Maurie said that Main Roads ought to be contacted as they were the only people who could do anything about it and perhaps if more people contacted them, they would do something.

Cr Virginia was invited to address the meeting. She opened by congratulating the Australia Day awards recipients, Di and Fran and especially Kim, the winner of the Citizen of the Year Award, who was also from Beechmont putting Beechmont really on the map.

She was glad to see that the MCU had come through and that was all good news.

She thanked all those who had gone to the Mayor's Conversation meeting the previous week. Beechmont and Canungra were the best attendants at that meeting.

She passed around a new 'Disaster Dashboard' giving a web site from which everything could be downloaded. It had a lot of information and was worth consulting.

Referring to amendments to The Community Plan for the Scenic Rim, which had been ordered by the State Government, Council had been consulting with the Community as to what they wanted within the time frame. It was available on the web site and would also be available at the mobile Library. She would send copies to Ger and if anyone had anything they would like changed, they could put their views forward.

With reference to the relay of the Commonwealth Games and access to Tamborine Mountain, Cr Virginia had a schedule as to road closures, times etc., which she gave to Ger who would put them on the web site.

She then thanked Glyn and Di for all their work on the café, they had not only done a great job for the Community and for BAPA but also for the new people to come along.

Finally, Cr Virginia reminded the meeting that the Women's International Day Breakfast is at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, 7th March. Anybody interested should get in touch with Council. Details were on the web site.

Paul thanked Cr. Virginia and referred to the MCU, which, as she had said, had come through with unanimous approval by Council. There are conditions and discussions with Council are taking place. Somebody is needed to make plans for the proposed car park. Its location had been approved. Ger knew there were civil engineering students at the Uni who could do this and he would look into it. BAPA would apply for a grant for the work to be done. The conditions on the MCU were standard ones and the main things for BAPA, apart from the car park, were signage and vegetation management. Paul had spoken to Phillipa regarding the time frame and everything was in hand.

Markets

Paul then introduced Amanda Harrison and asked to tell the meeting about the thoughts she and her colleagues had about the markets.

Amanda explained that she had only lived on Beechmont for four years but she and others would like to see more movement in the markets. She thought more focus or interest for the local craftsmen to bring things such as jewelry, pottery etc. as there was a lot of talent on the mountain. She had her own line in women's clothing that she designed and manufactured on the mountain and had talked to other talented ladies who did different things. She had spoken to Paul about it and her group would like to address not only existing stall holders but also potential stall holders by perhaps an Expression of Interest (EoI) to local residents. The idea being to either have the monthly markets and then have a quarterly market which people are invited to attend and speak, or there may be enough people already here to do that. That would be continue monthly markets and have special quarterly ones or make it every two months.

There was feeling against making a market every two months. Maurie pointed out that the difficulty with new ideas is letting people know about them and wondered how Amanda would do that. Di Kuhl asked whether Amanda was aware that the position of market co-ordinator had

been vacant for nearly a year. Ger said that as the monthly market was known, he thought it important to keep it in place but that basic could be built on.

Amanda said they had thought also about different things at different times of the year and also about bringing wellness into it as there were a lot of people who did massage, physio treatments and counseling on the market so it would mean bringing in other skills.

This again was seen as a market co-ordinator's area. Jonathan remarked that it was encouraging that there were more at the meeting where this had been discussed, as more people were necessary to do this job. Paul said that he had been very pleased with the ideas that had been voiced at the meeting on Saturday. He stressed that new ideas were welcome and if Amanda and her friends decided to take it on, they would be most welcome.

Working Bee

Paul thought that people would be aware that there were a few things around the site that needed sorting out. He said a 'working bee' would be called to give a hand. There are bits and bobs all over the place, which need tidying up. The gardens around have got to be cleared because the drainage is wrong and Graham Andrews and his team need to be able to get in to sort them out. There is a bit of a mess at the back of the tennis court. He thought that would be a day's work and he added that the BBQ would be on with some sausages and drinks for the helpers. This had been done successfully in the past. Paul said a skip would be brought in and loaded up. Alison asked if the windows and the walls could also be cleaned at the same time. Paul agreed as a hosepipe could be used. The first date was decided to be Saturday, 10th March at 8 a.m. Paul thanked everybody who had volunteered to participate.

Di Edwards asked about the grass being mown. At this time of the year it needed doing more than once a month. Paul said he believed they did it 33 times a year. The en were Council employees and came up to mow as quickly as possible whereby it tended to be slashed rather than mown. Looking to the future, he added, that the grass area needed to be a lawn and the only way for that to be possible was to have a lawn mower on site. There would be enough people willing to do the mowing. Someone commented on the risk of snake with long grass but Paul thought the main problem was what dogs left behind. Doggy bags and a receptacle would be useful. Cr Virginia suggested that Paul asked Phillipa if some extra mowing could be done in the summer months.

Paul invited Jonathan to speak about a new idea.

Jonathan explained that he worked for the National Trust and they had been asked to look at the idea of "Glamping", which was tents that were brought in for a period of time and were then taken away. Once the MCU had been granted, he wondered if it would be a good idea to have somebody looking at the site with that in view. They are comfortable nice tents. He happened to know somebody who was involved with the tents that go up for some of the big festivals. He is also the Chairman of Flash Camps NSW and involved on the Green Cauldron committee, which was how Jonathan had met him. He had been up look at the site to see if he would be interested in putting up a proposal within the temporary use under the MCU, which was around 20 days. He might be interested for about ten weekends and a block at a time. He was interested in the area behind the Garden Area, which is fenced and not visible from the road. He would like to come in and tidy up the site. A sub-committee would be set up and they would pay a rent. Effectively there would be 20 or 30 people there at weekends who would potentially use the café. He had also spoken to the people at Binna Burra who also had tents, which were over-subscribed; he emphasized that this was not setting up competition but more a case of working together. He would be happy to pass on anybody he could not accommodate and would also be interested in running his shuttle bus from the site up to Binna Burra. Referring to showers and toilets, Jonathan thought perhaps something could eventually be done with the existing facilities but on the short-term something would have to be brought in. If the venture were to be successful, they would look at investing to reinstate the unused facilities.

In answer to various questions such as water supply. Jonathan explained that this was just an idea at this stage and details would be gone into later if BAPA were interested. The idea was for twenty weekends from May onwards.

Jonathan then referred to the meeting in December where the different bodies were represented, including the National Trust. There was to be another meeting towards the end of March, to be again organized by National Parks. However, they have enough on their plates and are not interested in taking on any more land and space. The proposal at the meeting had been that they hand the meeting over to the National Trust and they would then ask the Community to Work with them/ They would form a National Trust Branch for Binna Burra and Beechmont, only three people were needed to start a branch; a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary. It then had to be approved the NTA board, that approval Jonathan said was assured. It then had the benefit of the National Trust, which is a not for profit charity working all over the world and which is an entity which could start co-ordinating some of the issues that Council and the other bodies are unable to handle. His interest was in the Trust expanding on its activities at Binna Burra and working with the people in Beechmont.

Amanda asked about Wwoofing but this was not something Jonathan was familiar with. She explained that it stood for 'World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms and asked if something like that could not be done on Beechmont. Jonathan said that what he wanted the Trust to be on Beechmont was to represent everybody, BAPA, BRASA, etc. It was basically a management group under the National Trust. He went on to explain that the Trust in the UK in the 60s and 70s was based on old buildings and old people but when they got involved in walking trails around the coastline it had got more relevant to the broader community. He thought the Trust had a role to play in Beechmont in finishing off paths that hadn't been finished, maintaining them and trying to get the community more involved in maintenance and things that Council couldn't do. There will be a meeting at the end of March but he would not be doing anything until he thought that people were really interested. They had a group at Atherton, which was basically run by the local community but supported by the National Trust.

Paul thought this was good and he would be at the meeting. He thanked Jonathan and said he thought it was exciting and looked forward to it.

Paul asked Pat if he had anything to say and he replied that he was waiting to see what happened. He added that despite the barrier, people were still going to Killarney Glen and to Denham falls. He was trying to harness all the goodwill and the people power to lobby politicians to get on and spend their money wisely. He gave examples of large sums being given by government for certain things and he considered that if they could do that, they could find money to support the Gorge.

Leone Smith introduced herself. She had long experience in hospitality and working in the community. She had decided to set up a CWA on Beechmont and at the first meeting, 57 women had turned up. There is now a core group of about 25 and 75 on their e-mail list. They represent a new group that was forming and would be launching their sub-branch in the 21st April. CWA would shortly be celebrating their 100 years and during this time they are looking to modernize the branches and their activities. They are no longer required to have craft or similar things and their activities are guided by the members of the branch. It was not about fund-raising but more about social connections with women and families on the mountain and also about helping the community in kind.

She referred to Wendi's Zest Fest and said that CRA would be happy to do something for this and would leave it to Wendi's committee to say what they would like them to do. Regarding the clearing out of the Op Shop, she thought that was a wonderful opportunity to have a social occasion for women to get together and if she could be informed of the date, she would notify the members who could come along and help. Speaking of Community Gardens, she said that CWA had something called Country Kitchens, which was government funded by Queensland

Health and was a really great programme and there could be a possibility of doing something there.

They also advocated on both social and community issues both within the region and State and Federal. She added that no politician liked to go up against the CWA. They had successfully campaigned at government level. They also had bursaries and scholarships. She invited people to go to their meetings, which were posted on the web site. She wanted to emphasize that they were there as a supportive community group.

Paul thanked Leonie and there was appreciative applause.

Doreen added that CWA supported the 'handing in of bras' and she had a box in the Op Shop for their collection. Leonie said that 220 bras had been collected and out of these only two had been exactly the same.

Before closing the meeting Paul reminded people that the membership fee was now due and that the next meeting would be the AGM. He added that all positions on the Management Committee would be up for election and if anybody was interested, they should put their name forward.

The proposed date of 9th April was a cause of concern as the Commonwealth Games would be on. Leonie said she would notify their members as maybe they could bring food. After discussion and to avoid the Games, it was decided to put back the date to the 23rd April at 7 pm. Nominations had to be in 14 days before the date of the meeting, so by the 9th April.

There being no further business Paul closed the meeting at 9.05 pm adding that there was tea and coffee available as well as gluten free cake.

The next meeting would be on Monday, 23rd April 2018 following the AGM.