

Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 February, 2017
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5:00pm

Membership (Quorum - 7)
All Councillors

Addendum Agenda

Mayoral Minute

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MM17.2 Mayoral Minute - Lake Conjola Bushcare Retires

HPERM Ref: D17/40110

Recommendation

That Council write to the past members of the Lake Conjola Bushcare group thanking them for their dedicated service and congratulating them on the fantastic result. Council also send a letter of appreciation to Kerry Thompson to her unwavering dedication to the South Coast Bitou Bush eradication program.

Details

It has come to my attention that the Lake Conjola Bushcare group has closed the chapter on 20 years of history battling Bitou Bush on the dunes at Conjola.

This Bushcare group was the first volunteer organisation I committed to when I first came to the Shoalhaven, some early members were concerned when I kept turning up heavily pregnant. My daughter Kiah used to be carried through the dunes and before she could pronounce the name of Bitou Bush could spot it and toddle off to the next plant to be eradicated. I have fond memories of Bushcare members Bert and Ernie who were great stalwarts of Bushcare and the RFS who cared deeply for the project and its success.

It's not often that the battle against Environmental Weeds is won – Congratulations to Lake Conjola Bushcare Group and to Kerry Thompson whose dedication to this project over many years has had a fantastic result.

Please see the excerpt from the Bushcare Links Newsletter:

Conjola Bushcare Volunteers – Call it a Day!

On December 19, 2016 the long-term volunteers of the Conjola Bushcare Group meet for their last Christmas get together after 20 years of volunteering. The Conjola Bushcare Group started working on Conjola Beach in the mid 1990's as the result of a Coastcare grant which employed Kerry Thompson as the Project Officer to oversee and coordinate the control works, which included the valuable work of the Bushcare volunteers. Every month since then, Kerry and the volunteers have met to manage Bitou Bush on the beach and around Pattimores Lagoon, working on Crown, Council and National Park land.

It is thanks to this consistent, hard work of the volunteers, with Kerry's excellent guidance, that has made the Conjola Bitou Bush control project one of the most successful projects of its kind on the NSW coast.

Many tears, lots of sweat and many tick bites later, the volunteers have decided to hang up their boots and tools and pass on the mantle. Lifelong friendships have been made and yarns swapped. Most importantly no one has been lost in the thick bushland during all those hundreds of hours of seeking and destroying Bitou Bush. I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped over the years (you know who you are) and also to thank Kerry for her consistent dedication, passion and invaluable expertise in the fight for ecological restoration at Conjola Beach.

MM17.3 Mayoral Minute - Betta Electrical

HPERM Ref: D17/60923

Recommendation

That Council staff report back to council on the extent of contamination in the Betta Electrical Building in Nowra and the approximate costs to remove (not remediate as such) the contaminants from the building to allow for future repurposing. Council staff also make comment as to a suitable funding source to undertake the removal of the contaminants.

Details

The “Betta Electrical” building which is owned by Council has been standing vacant now for some time and to the best of my knowledge is contaminated with asbestos. What is unknown to Councillors is the extent of the contamination and the cost to remove it. If Council were to sell the asset it would most likely have to remove the contaminant or reduce the cost to any perspective purchaser, so any removal work that Council undertakes ‘today’ has a useful purpose for the future. Once the building has the contamination removed other considerations for its future can be further discussed.

MM17.3