

MINUTES OF THE NATURAL AREA VOLUNTEERS GROUP

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2023
Location: Jervis Bay Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr Evan Christen - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White
Mr Tony Jennings
Mr Wayne Pearce
Ms Siobhan Berkery
Mr Jason Carson
Mr Paul Hayden (Remotely – joined at 4.15pm)

Others Present:

Mr Michael Smith – Coordinator – Bush Care
Dr Michael Roberts – Manager – Environmental Services
Mr Peter Swanson – Lead – Land Management
Ms Kerry Thompson – Natural Areas Operations Officer

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Roger Hart and Len White.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Natural Area Volunteers Group held on Monday 16 December 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declaration of Interests

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

NA23.1 Case Study of Narrawallee Bushcare Group - Michael Smith

**HPERM Ref:
D23/233017**

Mr Michael Smith presented on what makes a successful Bushcare Group. The information presented will be attached to the minutes.

REPORTS

NA23.2 Bushcare Program Update

**HPERM Ref:
D23/174400**

Clr Patricia White requested an information day be organised for Councillors and Natural Areas Volunteer Group to attend the Community Nursery Bushcare Group.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That

1. The Natural Area Volunteers Group receive this update on the Bushcare Program for information.
2. An information day be organised for Councillors and Natural Areas Volunteer Group to attend the Community Nursery Bushcare Group

RESOLVED (By consent)

That

1. The Natural Area Volunteers Group receive this update on the Bushcare Program for information.
2. An information day be organised for Councillors and Natural Areas Volunteer Group to attend the Community Nursery Bushcare Group

CARRIED

NA23.3 Bushcare Procedures

**HPERM Ref:
D23/218640**

The Group provided feedback to staff advising that the procedures document may be too technical and lengthy to be of use to Bushcare Volunteers and suggested that staff create succinct fact sheets with key information referencing the procedures document.

Recommendation

That the Natural Area Volunteers Group provide feedback on Bushcare related aspects of the draft Bushcare/Park care Procedures.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That the Natural Area Volunteers Group

1. Endorses the Bushcare related aspects of the draft Bushcare/Park care Procedures.
2. Request that fact sheets be produced in collaboration with Bushcare volunteers to ensure the procedures are understandable and provide a means for volunteers to provide feedback to Council.

GENERAL BUSINESS

NA23.5 Additional Item - Central District Bushcare Officer

Clr Christen proposed that Council fill the Central District Bushcare Officer role immediately to maintain function, morale, supervisory responsibilities particularly from a Work, Health and Safety legislative obligation perspective (as volunteers are defined as workers under the Work, Health and Safety Act 2011) and equity across the Bushcare districts.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That Council consider filling the Central District Bushcare Officer role to maintain function, morale, supervisory responsibilities particularly from a Work, Health and Safety legislative obligation perspective (as volunteers are defined as workers under the Work, Health and Safety Act 2011) and equity across the Bushcare districts.

CARRIED

NA23.6 Additional Item - EOI Process

The Natural Areas Volunteers Group discussed go out for another Expression of Interest (EOI) process to fill the two vacant membership positions on the Natural Area Volunteers Group

RESOLVED (By consent)

That Council promote the EOI process to the wider community to encourage applications to fill two vacant membership positions on the Natural Area Volunteers Group

CARRIED

NA23.7 Additional Item - Thank you to Bill Pigott

The Natural Area Volunteers Group were notified that Mr Bill Pigott had resigned and it was recommended that a letter be sent to Bill Pigott thanking him for his contribution to the Shoalhaven environment.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That Council

1. Accept the resignation of Mr Bill Pigott
2. Send Bill Pigott a formal letter thanking him for his contribution to the Shoalhaven environment.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:24pm.

Clr Evan Christen
CHAIRPERSON