

COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION (INC)
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 22nd July 2018 at 4.00pm
Lesser Hall, Cottesloe Civic Centre
MINUTES

1. Apologies

Jan Beissel; Dieter Benken; Garry Bird; Greg Boland; Richard Harris; Helen Kanakis; Mark Rodda; Kate Sputore; Denise Tyler-Hare.

2. Present [27, as per Attendance List]

Carol Angers; Philip Angers, Mayor; Gabor Bedo; Robyn Benken; Frauke Chambers; Keith Chambers; Valdene Diprose; Marion Ewing; Megan Ewing; Mike Ewing; Peter Ewing; Rhonda Flottmann; Rob Freeth; Sue Freeth; Ruth Greble; Mike Gregson; Cr Helen Sadler; David Letts; Elva Letts; Adeline Morrissey; Caroline Scotford; Garth Scotford; Lisa Smith; Elizabeth Spoor; Richard Thomas; Cr Rob Thomas; Cr Lorraine Young.

3. Minutes of the AGM on 30 July 2017 were accepted [G Scotford/S Freeth], signed and filed.

4. Reports

4.1 Secretary's Report

All Committee Meetings in 2017/18 were well attended. CCA expresses its appreciation of the contribution made by Cr Rob Thomas who attended all CCA Committee meetings in 2017/18. All Committee members have expressed their willingness to continue their services in 2018/19 except for Greg Boland who will be temporarily absent for one year because of extended travels overseas. For the year 2017/18 CCA had 75 financial members and an active mailing list of 232 people, including Corporate Sponsors such as BankWest and UWA, as well as Perth NRM and several schools. This represents a wide supporter base. We believe we are increasing our support from younger people through our face-book page.

The report was read out, accepted and filed.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

The bank balance on 31st May 2017 was \$ 14,224.26, on 30.6.2018 it was \$ 18,914.58. For the 13 months the credit gain was \$ 4,690.32 [Income \$9,305.83 – Expenses \$ 4,615.51]. CCA's sound financial position is partly the result of substantial donations, in particular from the Cottesloe Film Festival [\$ 2,360.00]. CCA also holds a Fixed Term Deposit Account of \$11,342.49 which was renewed on 13 January 2018 with an interest rate of 2.30%. Maturity date is 13 Jan 2019.

The building up of financial reserves will enable CCA to fund special projects as may be necessary in the future. So far, applications for the funding of projects has been very successful.

The report was read out, accepted [S Freeth/R Benken] and filed.

5. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers

All Committee Members except for Greg Boland were prepared to re-stand and continue to serve as office bearers: Chairperson remains Dr Michael Ewing, Vice-Chairperson Robyn Benken, Treasurer Marion Ewing and Secretary Frauke Chambers. Sue Freeth, Mike Gregson and Helen Kanakis will continue as Committee Members. There were three new nominations for the Committee: Valdene Diprose, Garth Scotford and Lisa Smith. All Committee positions and nominations were accepted by acclamation.

The CCA Committee for 2018/19 is as follows:

Chairperson	Dr Michael Ewing
Vice-Chairperson	Robyn Benken
Secretary	Frauke Chambers
Treasurer	Marion Ewing
Committee	Valdene Diprose; Sue Freeth; Mike Gregson; Helen Kanakis; Garth Scotford; Lisa Smith
Council Representative	Cr Rob Thomas
Coastcare Officers	Adeline Morrissey; Kate Sputore

6. Chairperson's Report/Presentation

Dr Mike Ewing began his power point presentation by thanking Robyn Benken for the images he was going to use – they are the result of the very appreciated comprehensive pictorial record Robyn maintains of all CCA activities.

CCA's Mission is simple = Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Natural Areas of Cottesloe's foredunes. However, the component tasks, collaborations and impacts involved are multi-faceted:

Strategic Planning and Management

This comprises project development [funding sources]; operational planning which requires an annual cycle of activities such as seed collecting and taking cuttings of local plants [15-20 species]; managing contractors' propagation of 4-5,000 plants p/a [*APACE* and *Nuts About Natives*] and monitoring quality standards [of vital importance as a recent experience with poor quality seedlings from APACE showed: the survival rate of plants was considerably lower than usual; CCA's reactions led to substantial improvements]; pre-planting weed removal [hand weeding and application of herbicide by contractors] is imperative because of the largely degraded soils of the Coastline; planting in May/June [essential coordination of supplies]; watering; post-planting weed control [up to three years after planting].

Current CCA Projects

The main new project site is between the Cottesloe Grass Terraces and Napier Street; the work consisted primarily of planting and weed control. The second, revisited, site is opposite Bryan Way where weeding and in-planting were the main activities, as in other revisited sites at Dutch Inn, Sydney Street and Vlamingh.

Impact of CCA's Work

Impressive 'before & after' images of the Napier Street project site convincingly demonstrated the impact of CCA's work: within three years the area changed from a weed infested wasteland to a foredune with a variety of healthy local plants. It is an example of the results of techniques and expertise learned and applied by CCA: the survival rate of the seedlings is a high average of 75%. Pre-planting herbicide treatment and approximately 10 hand-weeding sessions during the three years of growth have led to this gratifying result. About 30% of Cottesloe's foredunes have now been changed from 'degraded' to healthy – gratifying, but there is still a lot to do.

Town of Cottesloe Sites and Support for the Natural Areas Management Plan

In 2018, both CCA and the Town of Cottesloe planted ca 4,000 seedlings in their respective sites. The planting areas of the Town of Cottesloe were south of Barchetta, north of the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club, north and south of the Vlamingh Memorial. Of particular importance was the effective deployment of a contractor for the substantive removal of the woody Victorian Tea Trees to free new sites for planting in 2019.

CCA is thrilled about the excellent collaboration and the shared objectives with the Town of Cottesloe, its strong alignment with the Natural Areas Management Plan and the expanding of resources to fund the work on Cottesloe's Natural Areas. With the extended operational capacity of the Town of Cottesloe staff, their skills development, experience and enthusiasm [especially on the part of Adeline Morrissey], it is feasible that the Coastal Rehabilitation based on the NAMP may be completed in the next decade.

Other CCA Activities

- Organisation of public information sessions and workshops with distinguished speakers such as Kingsley Dixon and Don Bradshaw
- Beach Clean-ups
- Volunteering at the Cottesloe Movie Festival
- Volunteering for the Sculpture by the Sea, Cottesloe Exhibition
- Engagement and liaison with local events and committees
- Providing information to the general public either directly by participating in community events or indirectly by the digital content on CCA's website. This is vitally important and members of the CCA Committee are working on a substantial upgrade and increased sophistication of the access and negotiation of the information
- Support of Town of Cottesloe initiatives.

The Future

CCA will

- Continue its partnership with the ToC
- Deliver focused advocacy in support of Cottesloe's Natural Areas
- Apply for external funding to maintain operational momentum
- Seek to build up our base of active members and partners; this is our biggest challenge as we need more fully, ongoing engagement of young people. Our face-book page had led to many casual contacts, but we need more profound involvement
- Keep looking for new ways to maintain our momentum.

Acknowledgements

CCA wishes to acknowledge the

- Town of Cottesloe, especially the Management Team and the Outdoor Staff
- Liaison with Council –and its very active representative Cr Rob Thomas on the CCA Committee
- Coastal Sustainability Officer Adeline Morrissey and her outstanding enthusiasm and effectiveness
- Perth NRM and the Coastcare Project Officers
- New funding for work with a local school
- Groups of external supporters and volunteers, sometimes paid for, sometimes free
- Fantastic efforts of all CCA members and in particular the Committee.

At the end of the presentation the Chairperson invited questions/comments from the audience. The Mayor, Philip Angers, asked about the capacity for self-propagation of our local species. Answers were that yes, some species do self propagate [i.e. *Olearia axillaris*], but most do not. The Mayor followed up with a question about the life span of our species – the answers were that experience has shown that most are still very healthy after 20 years. Another question related to the weed management and the Chairperson explained the application of a grass selective herbicide specifically used on *couch grass*. This herbicide was specifically developed and is most effective when it is applied at the right time, when *couch* is actively growing, i.e. in late

September/beginning of October or after substantial summer rain. Eradication of *couch* is most important before planting, but spot spraying is also done afterwards.

Cr Helen Sadler asked for support from the audience for a new initiative by the Town of Cottesloe for the establishment of a Green Infrastructure Management Plan which will derive funding from savings from the green bins programme and will support initiatives such as an increased tree canopy. This 'Green Interface' is unanimously supported by Council.

Peter Ewing raised a question from the audience referring to the threatened axing of 50 trees deemed necessary for the building of a new cycle path along the Railway Reserve, but it was decided not to discuss this issue.

Close of Meeting: 5.15pm.