



Meelup Regional Park Management Committee

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Informal Meeting- Notes

DATE: Monday 30 July 2018, commencing 10.00 am

VENUE: Dunsborough District Country Club

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance Members: Dr Bob Jarvis (Presiding Member), Mr Peter Randerson (Deputy Presiding Member), Councilor John McCallum, Councilor Kelly Hicks, Mr Tony Smurthwaite, and Mr Albert Haak

Officers: Ms Tanya Gillet (Manager, Environmental Services), and Ms Kay Lehman (Meelup Environment Officer- EO)

Apologies: Mr. Damien Jones, Mr Bob Ginbey, Mrs Shirley Fisher and Mr Greg Simpson (Environmental Management Coordinator)

2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Attachment A

Proposed Direction:

1. The Committee noted the June 2018 Financial Summary (**Attachment A**).

3. MEELUP VOLUNTEER UPDATE

This report covers the period 19th June to 24th July 2018. For the period, there were a total of 73.50 man-hours of volunteer involvement.

Highlight of the period was a very successful planting day at the Eagle Bay Wildlife Corridor with 18 students from the Busselton High School on Tuesday 26th June. The students are part of the school's Waalitj Kartajin Aboriginal engagement program.

Local custodians also attended the planting and passed on cultural knowledge to the students. Isaac and Wayne Webb delivered a fascinating account of the way in which Aboriginal people have been looking after the land for thousands of years and recalled many stories of their experiences in the area now known as Meelup Regional Park.

Further achievements for the period included:

- Planting at Eagle Bay foreshore and Meelup coastal trail
- Weed identification and mapping between Gannet Rock and Meelup Beach

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.
2. EO to liaise with DBCA on the coordination of the rare orchid survey with volunteers.

4. ACTION SUMMARY PROGRESS UPDATE

The action summary is appended as **Attachment B**.

Proposed Direction: The Committee reviewed the action summary and agreed to include additional actions.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Monitoring of the Declared Rare Flora *Caladenia viridescens* orchid population

Natasha Moore, Flora Conservation Officer for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) discussed the proposed survey in Spring by DBCA and the Meelup volunteers of *Caladenia viridescens* orchid populations within Meelup Regional Park. DBCA want to locate as many populations as possible to collect seed for propagation by the WA Botanic Gardens at King's Park.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.
2. EO will coordinate with Natasha Moore (DBCA) and the Meelup volunteer coordinator to plan for the flora survey. EO may also liaise with the Capes Branch of the Wildflower Society if we require additional volunteers.

5.2 Meelup Beach moon viewing platform

At the 25 June MRPMC meeting, Committee members requested the following amendments to the Moon Viewing Platform Preliminary Concept Design:

- 1) Timber decking areas to be reduced where possible and timber terrace extension to be removed. It was acknowledged the decks around the trees were a good idea but should be minimised due to cost and maintenance. Modwood material to also be used instead of natural timber.
- 2) Remove or reduce the lower deck on the lower left corner and replace with planting around the base of the existing trees if possible.
- 3) Image in the top right to be removed as not really representative of the more rustic nature intended for the project.
- 4) Larger boulders to be incorporated more into the walls to break up the spaces and provide a more rugged appearance.
- 5) Show indicative location for possible future table and bench seating installations.
- 6) Provide additional staircases and widen existing to ensure adequate, easy access through the design and noting the steps (to be constructed of laterite coloured limestone blocks) can be used as seating also.

The revised Moon Viewing Platform Concept Design was presented to the Committee. Refer to **Attachment B**.

Proposed Direction:

1. Revised concept design noted by the Committee.
2. There was a concern about using crushed pea gravel which may not be a suitable substrate for bare feet in a beach environment. Other potential alternatives will be discussed with Emerge Associates.

5.3 Gourmet Escape 2018- Castle Bay

The Gourmet Escape event is scheduled from Friday 16th November to Sunday 18th November 2018 at Castle Bay Beach. The event series is a festival of dining, wines and produce.

Gourmet Escape is proposing to increase their numbers from 260 per session to 300 per session. This year they are only planning on having 6 sessions not 7 sessions. There will be no session on the Thursday evening, just Friday – Sunday (lunch & dinner).

This will mean less people overall (it was 1,820 max last year) now it will be 1800 people, but with an increase of 40 per session. All other arrangements remain the same as previous years including set up in the Castle Bay carpark, public access to the beach and shuttle buses from Meelup Carpark.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.
2. EO to check on the fees to be paid by the operator of the Gourmet Escape 2018.

5.4 NRM Stewardship Grant

An action from the June 2018 MRPMC meeting was to arrange a meeting with interested Committee members to discuss project options for the State NRM Stewardship Grant. This meeting was held on 11th July 2018 and included discussion on research proposals outlined in the *Meelup Regional Park Research Proposal 2014-2014 (Shedley, 2014)*.

The City of Busselton and the Meelup Regional Park Management Committee are proposing to apply for the following project detailed below.

Title: Managing key threats to biodiversity values of Meelup Regional Park

Summary: Protection of biodiversity values with Meelup Regional Park is a key objective of the Meelup Regional Park Management Committee and the City of Busselton.

This project will enable the management of recognised key threatening processes to the Park's conservation values including the impacts of feral animals, weeds, and fire on Threatened and Priority flora, fire sensitive vegetation communities and Threatened and Priority fauna. These threats will be managed through the coordination with adjoining landholders on feral animal control, strategic weed control and the production of an Ecological Fire Management Plan.

Refer to **Attachment C** for background on the proposed grant project.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.

5.5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) City of Busselton and the Friends of Meelup Regional Park Inc.

The Friends of Meelup Regional Park are finalising the details in the MOU between the Friends and City of Busselton. The draft MOU is attached for your information.

Refer to **Attachment D-** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) City of Busselton and the Friends of Meelup Regional Park Inc.

The Friends of Meelup Regional Park will be finalising the MOU at their next scheduled meeting. The Launch of the Friends of Meelup could be included in the Committee' 25th year celebration scheduled for Sunday 16th September 2018.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.

6. Late Items

6.1 Meelup Regional Park Management Plan

A draft of the Meelup Regional Park Management Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Committee in September 2018.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted by the Committee.

6.2 Pedestrian signs

Committee members requested that pedestrian crossing signs be installed at the two walk crossings along the coastal trail at Point Piquet and at the Lookout trail crossing. It was also discussed if traffic calming methods could be investigated at these sites. An example was the use of line crossings painted on the road used by the City of Fremantle.

Proposed Direction:

Pedestrian crossing signs to be installed at the two walk crossings along the coastal trail at Point Piquet and at the Lookout trail crossing.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

The next informal meeting of the Committee will be held on the 27 August 2018, commencing 10.00am at the Dunsborough District Country Club.

ATTACHMENT B - ACTION TABLE (Post 30 July 2018 Meeting)

Subject	Action	Date of Committee Decision	Progress/Comments	Completed
Weed and Feral Animal Issues- Proposed Meeting of Neighbours	To engage with adjoining rural landholders on weed and feral animal management in the area delineated in the attached map.	25/06/2018	Meeting held with Nature Conservation Margaret River (NCMR) for a coordinated approach to arum lily weed control in the Capes region. The City of Busselton are proposing to partner with NCMR in a NRM Stewardship Grant application to deliver this project. Liaison with adjoining landholders will be undertaken on other priority weeds to be controlled. Funding for a 50% contribution for feral animal control on adjoining land has been included in the proposed NRM Stewardship Grant. There have been discussions with a feral animal control contractor on this work.	
Meelup Beach moon viewing platform	The revised concept plan to be presented to the Committee.	25/06/2018	Presented at July 2018 meeting	Done
Feral Animal Control Program	A copy of the feral animal control presentation to be emailed to Committee members.	25/06/2018	Emailed to Committee.	Done
Grant Opportunity	A meeting to discuss project options for the NRM Community Stewardship Program Grant to be scheduled for Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 10am at Bob Jarvis's residence.	25/06/2018	Meeting held 11th July 2018. Refer to Agenda item for details of proposed grant.	Done
Car Rally Trail- Gravel Pit Rehabilitation	For the contractor that installed the coir logs in the former gravel pit on the Car Rally Trail to be engaged to complete the task.	25/06/2018		
Volunteer Activities	1. EO to liaise with DBCA on the coordination of the rare orchid survey with volunteers. 2. Mr Tony Smurthwaite offered to do a geological presentation to the Meelup volunteers on Plate Tectonics. This will be scheduled with the Volunteer Coordinator.	25/06/2018	DBCA officer, Natasha Morre is presenting at the July 2018 Committee meeting. Plate Tectonic presentation by Tony Smurthwaite is booked in for Tuesday 21 August at 9am for the volunteers at the Dunsborough District Country Club.	Done
Liaison with the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association	EO to contact the MRBTA to arrange a staff visit to Meelup Regional Park. Presiding member, Mr. Bob Jarvis will make a presentation to the group.	28/05/2018	Booked in for 23 August with MRBTA and Bob Jarvis	Done
Meelup Regional Park Committee- 25 th Year Celebration	1. As part of the celebrations, a Wildflower Walk has been scheduled for Sunday 16 September and a BBQ lunch at Meelup Beach for Sunday 21 October 2018. 2. Invite Isaac Webb or Josh Whiteland to lead a tour in the Park on indigenous culture.	28/05/2018	EO has discussed leading a tour with Issac Webb. The 25th Celebrations needs a working group to progress this event. Shirley Fisher and Tony Smurthwaite can assist with arrangements for the celebration	
Training and Employment of Indigenous Rangers	1. Potential partnership projects to be investigated. 2. Invite a representative from the South West Indigenous Ranger Program to outline the benefits of the South West Indigenous Ranger Program at a future Committee meeting.	28/05/2018	EO meeting with Undulup Association 8 August 2018	
Survey of Soil Erosion and Track Maintenance	1. EO to further investigate the use of chemical treatments for the hardening of trails surfaces. 2. That the use of 3G network for the remote monitoring of proposed rain gauge stations in the Park be investigated.	26/03/2018	Have checked what is available through Davis instruments. Needs further investigation. https://www.davisinstruments.com/	
Training and Events				
Training/Events	Environmental training opportunities, workshop, events. EO to arrange speakers on relevant topics.		1. South West Environmental Snapshot, South West Catchments Council. An initiative measuring and describing the status and condition changes in the environment. Fri 27 July 2018, 4-6pm. Event details have been emailed to the Committee to RSVP.	Ongoing