

Montreal Goldfield S355 Committee

17 February 2023



Minutes

HELD at Montreal Goldfield

Present

Chris Franks	Barry Virtue
Marshall Binstock	Judi Hearn
Kerri Binstock	Lori Hammerton
Karen Terwin (BVSC)	Carolyn Banados
Cr. Liz Seckold (BVSC)	Chani Keefer (BVSC)
Lucy Togni (BVSC)	Bill Southwood
Bob Hearn	Alan Douch

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

Cr Seckold commenced by acknowledging, on behalf of Bega Valley Shire Council, the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters and airways of the Shire – **as per** new indigenous protocol

Apologies - Sheila Brice

2 Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of minutes for the 18th November 2022

Confirmed Chris Franks – Second Kerri Binstock – All in favour

3 Review of Action Items & Outcomes Register

ACTION COMPLETE – BVSC to check the restrictions on the boundary fence with Crown Land Manager and request the carpark survey include the front boundary line.

Lucy submitted a planning enquiry and needs to let the planning team know what material the fence would be constructed of. Once this has been decided an approval pathway will be provided.

ACTION ONGOING – BVSC to contact Telstra regarding the removal of the phone box.

Karen emailed Telstra but is yet to hear back.

ACTION COMPLETE– Request Manager follow up around EFTPOS issues .

Lucy advised that a Point Of Sale system such as a square would be needed to achieve this.

ACTION COMPLETE – Request Town Team to prune vegetation and install directional sign and follow up previously requested work inside the Goldfield.

Karen advised that the town team have pruned vegetation at the front of the caravan park, they advised they don't have machinery to clear vegetation. They have contractors to help with that.

Karen to provide the direct contact number for town team.

ACTION ONGOING – DA for extension and carpark

Karen provided an update on the DA – The work that is required in the carpark will affect the need for an updated survey. Basic work resurfacing without curb and gutter would mean no new survey was needed.

The Committee decided they are happy with this, and they are ready to proceed.

ACTION ONGOING – Risk Assessment.

Chani discussed that Wayne is acting in another role and due to staff shortages we have not seen the report yet – BVSC staff will pass on the report when they have it

ACTION COMPLETE – BVSC to provide information regarding a grant workshop.

Lucy gave a summary of the recent grant writing workshop and will distribute notes and the presentation from the day to the committee members.

ACTION COMPLETE – BVSC to confirm if the Goldfield is across one or two lots of land.

Karen and Lucy explained the section that is managed by Montreal. The lot across the road is Howards Beach reserve.

NEW ACTION Lucy to check the smaller portion that is marked on the map to establish who is responsible for that area.

ACTION COMPLETE – BVSC to confirm GST details with the Finance Department.

Grant monies are to be spent by March -\$35,000

The Committee is concerned that they will need to pay GST but said that they don't get GST on the grant.

Judi to provide grant information to Lucy.

3.1 Funding Applications and DA Process

No funding applications currently in.

3.2 Working with Children Checks

ONGOING – Committee to provide current WWCC to Council.

Liz explained the process of attending Service NSW and that they can check details of WWCC on the spot.

The Committee are to send certificates to council when they receive them.

3.3 Fuel for Volunteer travel

ACTION COMPLETE – BVCS are to request advice about reimbursement of fuel costs.

Lucy said that it will be fine to provide fuel cards to volunteers on an as need basis.

The Committee questioned the amounts to be made available and Lucy explained that the money to pay for the cards would come from Montreal fees and charges and that they could allocate the fuel cards to the volunteers depending on how far they had travelled.

NEW ACTION - Lucy to provide a register and order fuel cards

4 Business Arising

4.1 Treasurer's Report

For period from July 1st to December 31st 2022

Adult visits – 422

Children visits – 143

Family visits – 30

Total income - \$4612.50

Total expense - \$494.17

Total Income from Tours **\$4612.50**

Amount Received in Council EFTPOS **\$2898.20**

Difference between receipt from tour and EFTPOS terminal receipts **\$1714.30**

Balanced owed to council **\$41.45**

Marshall suggested that funds reimbursed with receipts be removed from the money the Committee owe BVSC, rather than double handling.

Karen advised that the Committee submit reimbursement request with receipts.

It was discussed that the refund from Bermagui Diggers double payment has not shown up on either account thus far. This is to be followed up by the committee.

Chris said he will talk to the Bermagui Diggers Club as he feels that maybe they thought it was a credit rather than a reimbursement.

ONGOING ACTION – Committee to follow up refund with Bermagui Diggers.

4.2 Association Account

Marshall asked about the association having a bank account as a committee of council.

Marshall asked if they can collapse the association and Karen advised it is not best practice now to have these additional accounts.

Karen explained that historically the association was used to provide autonomy for sundry items but now that council can pay Montreal bills it is no longer necessary.

Kerri asked whether the money from the association account needs to go to a similar association. Karen said that the funds were fees and charges.

Chani asked how much is in the association account and suggested perhaps the money be utilised. Marshall advised it is around \$50k from fees and charges in addition to grant money.

The Committee agreed the association is not happy with the association account as it causes confusion amongst new volunteers.

Karen explained the accounts were set up before all the additional requirements were set by banks in terms of ID and ABNS

Chris said the overriding issues were that the concept of the association was twofold

1. Control of funds that the committee spent years raising were to be impounded and released at councils discretion, stating it was not an entirely encouraging arrangement.
2. More importantly council control of Montreal limited application of funding via council and a lot of grants were not being offered to local gov so they needed to be an independent body to exist to apply for grants

Chris noted that when the Goldfields commenced they were concerned with the development of the Goldfield and now it's clear the focus is on grants and funding as being a major task as the group aren't going to get ahead with fees and charges.

The association was developed to apply for the grants that otherwise would not have been available.

NEW ACTION – BVSC to follow up the best course of action for folding the association account

NEW ACTION - BVSC to see what grant opportunities would be unavailable if association folded

Marshall moves that Treasurers report be accepted, Bill Southwood second – accepted by all.

5 New Business

5.1 Montreal Goldfield promotion as only Coastal Goldfield

Kerri questioned how the Goldfield should continue now that they know that they are not the only coastal goldfield in Australia.

Chani suggested agreeing on new wording / branding together.

Judi suggested that Montreal was still unique because the goldfield had gold from the sea and the river.

Chani said the management committee needs to decide what they are comfortable with and suggested they change the marketing material as it needed updating or reprinting.

Kerri said that as an historical site the wording on the documents needed to be historically accurate, and that history isn't a static set of facts and it will continue to change.

Kerri referenced the report by Ken McQueen and that it opens a new line of enquiry.

Chris stated that it is evident that the decision needs to be referred to the management committee and all agreed.

Bill said that we want to be historically correct and accurate moving forward and be proud of their commitment to accurate history.

NEW ACTION – Management Committee to resolve and advise BVSC

NEW ACTION – Include Ken McQueen report with minutes

5.2 Road access to the end of reserve

Chris reports a growing concern is that the access road is no longer being maintained by Council between the caravan park and the Goldfield.

The assumption is, it is part of the Goldfield and is in a state that it cannot be accessed by vehicles other than 4wd or motorbikes. As part of the development of the carpark the committee suggests closure of the road as it is being accessed for recreational activities that are damaging the road and environment. Allowing weed inspectors and Council access would continue but it was suggested that it should be unable to be accessed by public due to rubbish dumping, hooning, camping and as a reported mitten site.

The committee is concerned about hygiene facilities down near the river for campers and that the high level of biodiversity is being compromised.

Chani suggested that the Committee speak to the Merriman's LALC to establish if there is a midden on the site.

The Committee proposed the road be closed and rehabilitated as a walking track.

Karen suggested gate access for emergency use only .

The Committee raised concerns over fires being lit and erosion problems.

Lucy suggested they report to council at the time of incidents so that Rangers can investigate illegal dumping, camping etc be reported.

NEW ACTION – Committee to submit evidence to Lucy for CRM to start the process of gathering evidence of misuse of the road.

5.3 Update on continuation of fire mitigation

Chris reported that Alan has been liaising with the RFS and council regarding the fire mitigation. Montreal put forward concerns to Council from the 2020 bushfires and this has gone to RFS. They agreed with the plan and have implemented part 1 of the plan on the southern end - which included a hazard reduction burn.

The Local RFS have been contacted for a permit to burn off in a managed area. Under new guidelines it is not possible for the volunteers to do this anymore. The Captain of the RFS has advised the committee can continue with the assistance of RFS for pile burns. The Surrounding area will be discussed further with the RFS and are now liaising with Ian Stroud the Council Fire Officer. He has offered to assist with the hazard reduction and will be meeting the committee to liaise with RFS and council with the potential of mechanical vegetation removal which may also help with removal / control of weeds.

NO ACTION

5.4 Development of walking path with environmental focus

Council has assessed trees that need to be removed due to danger. Once that is a safe area committee would like to develop the walk as bush scrub rather than a landscaped area.

The Committee would like to develop a plan for provisions of a walkway for tourists, that draws attention to the natural habitat.

The Committee asked if council have anyone who can provide this service.

BVSC staff advised that they do not have someone on staff but may be able to check with the environmental team or parks and rec.

Liz spoke about a report on what to plant, that was submitted in a council meeting.

Lucy advised that there had been some grants coming through that focused on the development of green spaces and walking tracks.

The aim of the track would be to preserve the area and create a functional space, some examples being Rotary to Bar track and Bundian way.

NEW ACTION – BVSC to speak with park and rec team to see if anyone can assist or recommend a contractor and create a plan for potential grants to create a “shovel ready project”

5.5 Storm water & noise from Caravan park & Brewery

Chris reported that the downpipe from next door is flooding the carpark and is concerned that if a new carpark is put in it will be ruined by the storm water.

The Committee suggestion is to run pipe further away from the carpark

The Committee also raised concern over noise from the brewery and Lucy explained it's an EPA issue and often part of DA conditions.

NEW ACTION - BVSC to contact EHO / building team re storm water drain from neighbouring property.

5.6 Tree action follow up

BVSC to follow up on the tree action / contractor as some branches have been left behind that are quite dangerous and could cause harm in the next big wind.

5.6 Carpark

Committee agreed that BVSC could advise Gordons to proceed with the DA as they would only like to top dress the car park with no marking and no curbing and guttering required. No additional survey would be required for this.

NEW ACTION - BVSC to advise Gordon's to proceed and give detail of carpark requirements

5.7 Heritage officer

Karen gave an update that all meetings previously booked with the heritage officer have been cancelled. All agreed best way to move forward would be to book a video call.

NEW ACTION - BVSC to book a video call with heritage officer Peter Cabala

5.8 Succession Planning of Volunteers

Liz has been to TAFE and asked if any courses would align with getting younger volunteers into Montreal. TAFE did not have anything suitable at present.

SCAC careers advisor said that work experience needs to be full days of work so may not be suitable for the Goldfield.

Liz passed on the contact information to Chris.

5.9 Staff update

BVSC staff advised that Lucy is now Halls Officer and Karen is in the Assistant role.

5.10 Upcoming events

Heritage Day 15th April

Meeting closed: 11:50am

Scheduled the rest of the year of S355 Committee meetings to be held at **10:30am on**

Friday 19th May

Friday 18th August

Friday 17th November

at Montreal Goldfield.

ACTION	STATUS
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4.1 Treasurer's Report	ONGOING ACTION – Committee to follow up refund with Bermagui Diggers.
4.2 Association Account	NEW ACTION – BVSC to follow up the best course of action for folding the

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