

MINUTES OF THE 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEAUMARIS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC. HELD AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALL, DALGETTY ROAD, BEAUMARIS AT 7:30 P.M. ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2013

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

Present - (27 members) Mr Ron Morris (Chair), Mrs Kathleen Abelnica, Mr Leigh and Mrs Diana Dugan, Mr Kornel Koffsovitz, Cr Heather Stewart, Mr Edward and Mrs Diana Pearce, Mr Rob Carseldine, Mrs Joy Taylor, Mr Geoffrey and Mrs Margaret Goode, Mr Adrian Cerbasi, Mrs Joyce Gardiner, Mr Peter Russell, Mr Chris Sutton, Mrs Sue Raverty, Mr George Schaetzel, Mr Lindsay and Mrs Di Rex, Mrs Moira Longden, Ms Katherine Shaw, Mrs Joy Tate, Mr Ken Rendell, Mr Gregory Mier, Mr John Knight, Mr Garry Allan.

Guests - Cr Laurence Evans, Councillor for the Southern Ward of Bayside City Council; Ms Celeste Ward of RMIT University, Mrs Jill Ward, Mr Sam Gartside; Mrs Mary Rimington OAM and Mrs Judith Fields of Mordialloc-Beumaris Conservation League Inc.

Apologies - Mr Murray Thompson MLA, Mrs Andrea Coote MLC, Mr John Lenders MLC, Ms Georgie Crozier MLC; Cr Stephen Hartney, Mayor of Bayside; Mr David and Mrs Lynda Judkins; Mrs Janet Oliver, Mornington Environment Association Inc; Professor John Buckeridge, RMIT University; Mr Ron Hayton; Dr Matthew Mitchell, Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc; Mr Graeme Lyell, Frankston Beach Association Inc; Ms Teresa Murphy, Mrs Patricia Glazier, Mr John Moller OAM, Mrs Jenny Morris, Ms Jan Spreyer, Mrs Josie Cerbasi, Mr Bryce Gardiner.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved (G Mier/J Taylor) (2013A09A) that the [minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. held on 19 May 2013](#) be confirmed.

3. REPORTS

President's Report –

The President, Ron Morris, reported on the achievements of the preceding 12 months.

“I'd firstly like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the original inhabitants and conservationists of the land known as Beaumaris - the Boon wurrung people of the Kulin nation.

As I reviewed the year for the purposes of this report, it was the positive issues that stood out. A high note was the celebration of 60 years continuous operation of our Society celebrated in the Community Centre last April. It was a wonderful and inspiring afternoon where members past and present renewed acquaintances and reminisced over battles won and lost and achievements of the Society over 6 decades.

Also on a positive note, Bayside Council elections last October resulted in an outstanding result for the youngest candidate, Heather Stewart, a BCS Inc. member and prior to her election, a Zone Leader on Committee. Her election was particularly pleasing and hopefully demonstrated the ongoing concern for the Beaumaris environment by a large number of Southern Ward residents. Sadly, we had to receive Heather's resignation from Committee as a result to avoid any possible conflicts of interest and that of Kornel Koffsovitz. As Heather's husband, his resignation as our Secretary was also necessary and was accepted with regret. We were grateful Diana Dugan was able to step in as Acting Secretary as short notice. Thank you Diana.

Heather's excellent performance on Council to date has surely been to the benefit of the Bayside community generally, and more so for the Southern Ward ratepayers. It's also worth saying how very pleasing has been the positive attitude to the Beaumaris environment demonstrated by our other Southern Ward councillor, Cr Laurie Evans. We thank them both and appreciate their consistent support for issues involving risk to the Beaumaris environment.

During the year there has been a range of issues affecting the Beaumaris environment and responded to by BCS Inc. on your behalf. These have included the Ricketts Point and Landside Management Plan, the Beaumaris Sporting Complex proposal in Banksia Reserve, proposed tree removal and asphaltting of part of the Beaumaris Reserve, and a proposed amendment to the Bayside Planning Scheme to rezone Ricketts Point Landside Reserve and Long Hollow Heathland Reserve as Public Conservation and Resource Zones, which we wholeheartedly supported of course.

Further afield, we continued to show support for the Highett Grassy Woodlands preservation and were pleased to receive positive news on that front recently. Most issues remain ongoing so our work is not finished. Further details as well as our submissions, are available on our website.

The battle against multi-dwelling developments has continued throughout the year resulting in formal objections to Council often followed by speaking at Council to reinforce our concerns, and frequent attendances at VCAT to give support to Councils and our objections to a Planning Permit Application. This is very time consuming and quiet demanding on those few Committee members able and available to develop and present our submissions, but to do otherwise would result in worse outcomes for the protection and enhancing of our neighbourhood environment continuously at risk from inappropriate development.

We remain hopeful that a new Planning Zone proposals currently going through the approval processes at Council and State levels to which BCS Inc. is having input, will incorporate controls in bracing our major concerns and may reduce our workload in this area in the future.

Still before us is the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron so called “Safe Harbour” proposal. Although the long-awaited stakeholders consultations to be held prior to finalization of an Environment Effects Statement have still not occurred. We have endeavoured to keep the issue alive through media releases, letters to Government and via our website and Bulletin. Last year’s guest speaker, Jan Oliver from the Mornington Environment Association, provided much useful tactical information and this year our guest speaker, Celeste Ward, will focus on the issue from a different aspect and possibly one that will help “turn the tide” and assist our case against the proposal.

That concludes a very brief overview of our activities during the year and some direction for the year ahead. I couldn’t close without expressing my sincere appreciation on your behalf and personally, to the outgoing Committee for their willing support and assistance throughout the year, to those members who are not on the Committee but have also demonstrated their support and assistance on a range of matters, and to the membership generally without whom BCS Inc. would not have lasted this long, have the respect it has achieved at government levels nor have been able to continue to strive for the preservation of the special Beaumaris environment. Thank you all.”

Resolved (C Sutton/G Schaezel) (2013A09B) that the [President’s report](#) be received.

Treasurer’s Report –

The Treasurer, Geoffrey Goode, circulated and explained a Summary of Receipts and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

Resolved (G Goode/A Cerbasi) (2013A09C) that the Treasurer’s Report be adopted.

4. ADMISSION OF MR EDWARD PEARCE AS AN HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Resolved unanimously (G Goode/G Mier) (2013A09D) that Mr Edward Pearce, whose citation appears below, be admitted as an Honorary Life Member of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. in accordance with [Rule 3.1 \(e\) of the Constitution](#).

Citation: Since joining Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. with his wife, Diana, in 1996, Ted Pearce has willingly and effectively volunteered his time, expertise and passion in upholding the values of the Society. As Zone Leader (1996-98), Junior Vice-President (1998-99), President (1999-2002), Junior Vice-President (2003-08) and Zone Leader (2008-13), Ted has been a faithful, effective officer taking an active role in the many issues in which the Society has been involved. He mentioned some of the matters in which he led the Society for three years in his [final President’s Report](#), to the 2002 Annual General Meeting. Since he ceased his role as President, Ted has been notable for his thorough and dependable work on the *BCS Inc. Bulletin* and maintaining our contact with members through delivery of material to them. He also served as a Deputy Member of [Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc.](#) making himself readily available to represent BCS Inc. on that body for some years.

The President said that it would be proposed to the incoming Management Committee that it send Ted Pearce a letter under seal certifying his admission to the Society as an Honorary Life Member.

Resolved (G Goode/A Cerbasi) [\(2013A09E\)](#) that under the provisions of [Rule 13.3](#) of the BCS Inc Constitution, the number of Zone Leader positions be decreased, from the default number of eight, to four for the year 2013-14.

5. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Returning Officer, Peter Russell, declared that, given that there was no more than one candidate for each of the positions on the BCS Inc. Committee of Management, the following persons were elected unopposed:

- President: Ron Morris
- Senior Vice President: Gregory Mier
- Junior Vice President: Diana Dugan
- Secretary: Chris Sutton
- Treasurer: Geoffrey Goode
- Zone Leader 1: Katherine Shaw
- Zone Leader 5: Garry Allan
- Zone Leader 6: Adrian Cerbasi
- Zone Leader 8: John Knight

6. GUEST SPEAKER

Ms Celeste Ward, a final year environmental engineering student at RMIT University, gave an [illustrated presentation](#) on ‘Impact Assessment of the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Safe Harbour Proposal’.

Ms Ward’s research project, supervised by Professor John Buckeridge, was an investigation of the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron’s [redevelopment proposal](#). She presented her findings of the potential impacts of the proposed ‘safe harbour’ on the local community and environment, and specifically focused on the geological significance of the site and the potential impact on sediment transport processes.

After a number of questions at the end of the presentation had been answered by Ms Ward, the meeting thanked her with applause.

7. CLOSE

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and invited those present to join him for the refreshments provided.

Diana Dugan, Secretary

Confirming Chairman

Date 2014