

**MARYSVILLE AND TRIANGLE COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – 8 SEPTEMBER 2009
MARYTON PARK**

1. Attendance:

Tony Thompson (Chair)	Jennifer Wood (Vice Chair)	Clive Clayton
Julia Peddie	Geoff Pope	Graeme Brown
Rita Seethaler	Cr. Kevin Bellingham	Sandra Slatter (Murrindindi Shire)
Keith Ray	Mike Wasley (Murrindindi Shire)	Robyn Hill
Robert Hall (DHS)	Howard Paix (Murrindindi Shire)	Mark Leitinger (Murrindindi Shire)
John (Centrelink)		

2. Apologies:

Richard Rogerson	Simon Cuzens	Megan Lancaster (VBARR)
Ray Sigersma (DHS)	Bruce Ackerman	

3. Guest: Mark Leitinger, Murrindindi Construction, Murrindindi Shire Council

Mark Leitinger, Manager of Murrindindi Construction, advised the Committee of the enormity of the works required to be undertaken as a result of Black Saturday, including tree safety works, road and drain repairs. Over \$17 million has been spent on tree works alone, and a watching brief will continue over the next 12 – 18 months. The Scope of Works for tree works has continued to be refined, and community engagement processes are in place.

Murrindindi Construction proposed to do some tree works in Murchison Street; this will involve dead wooding and safety checks. The works will not include any tree removal. Mark Leitinger invited people who are interested in discussing the proposed works and to meet the arborist, to gather at 10am on Friday 11th September in front of Marysville Bakery.

The future of the trees in Murchison Street is a much larger, separate issue to be discussed at a later date.

Mark Leitinger also advised that trees in Granton will also need to be checked for safety in the next few weeks. Residents on adjoining properties will be advised in writing and will be given 5 days notice of a site meeting to discuss tree works. Mark Leitinger asked the CRC to pass this information on to the communities they represent, and to advise Mark through Howard Paix of any other interested people who may wish to attend the meeting. The Committee nominated John Coyne and Robyn Cuzens as interested parties. The Committee will need to advise Howard Paix of interested stakeholders, and provide their contact details and their area of special interest. Howard Paix's email address is hpaix@murrindinid.vic.gov.au or contact 5772 0333.

Action: CRC members to consider people who may be interested in tree works in the Triangle area and provide their contact details and areas of interest to Mark Leitinger, via Howard Paix.

Graeme Brown invited Mark Leitinger to the next MATDG community meeting to talk to the community about the proposed works, or to send a briefing note which could be read out at the MATDG meeting.

Tony Thompson mentioned that the Committee had a role to play in letting their community groups know that the proposed works in Murchison Street are safety checks and dead wooding. It was acknowledged that any works to the trees in the main street is a community sensitive issue.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Nil.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting (1st September 2009)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by the Committee. Geoff Pope moved the motion to accept the minutes, Keith Ray seconded the motion.

6. Action item summary (1st September 2009)

	Action item	Action by:
1	VBBRA to provide definitions and information about the classification or prioritising of community recovery projects.	Sally Craig has advised that she would report on this action item within two weeks of the meeting on 1/9/09.
2	Mike Wasley to investigate system that local government use for tracking grants to see if a similar system could be used for recovery projects.	Mike Wasley looked in to the grant process used by local government. It may be appropriate to invite a specialist to talk to the CRC about how the system could work. Howard Paix advised that the Project Action Group should be able to help out with a model.
3	Sally Craig to provide an update on VBRRRA's proposed communications plan for community recovery projects.	Sally Craig has advised that she would report on this action item within two weeks of the meeting on 1/9/09.
4	Sally Craig to consider how to include community feedback in the prioritisation of the recovery projects.	Sally Craig has advised that she would report on this action item within two weeks of the meeting on 1/9/09.
5	Mike Wasley to circulate Anne Leadbeater's model of community engagement/feedback to the Committee.	Mike Wasley tabled a document which Council uses to document and monitor projects. Tony Thompson requested Committee members to review the document and consider how it could be used as part of the CRC process. Mike Wasley also mentioned that it was a useful way to see how much time may be required of the CRC in progressing projects.

Action: Committee members to review Council's project tracking document (tabled by Mike Wasley) and consider how it could be used as part of the CRC process.

7. Business arising

- 7.1 Tony Thompson advised the Committee that he had spoken to the Lions Club about the Winter Grants program. The Lions Club will provide \$5,000 to the Winter Grants fund.
- 7.2 The Community Recovery projects will be presented to the Section 86 Committee at their next meeting on Wednesday 9th September. Tony Thompson provided Committee members with the draft Table of Contents for the folder which will be presented to the S.86 Committee.
- 7.3 A selection of MATDG members met with some CRC members and Darrell Treloar from Murrindindi Shire Council last week. All parties agreed that communications between the groups is a key area for improvement. Both groups have important roles to play. Tony Thompson advised that a vacancy exists on the CRC, and that as the Marysville One Community Association (MOCA) does not have any representation on the CRC, then a delegate will be recommended from that group.

Tony Thompson advised that Simon Cuzens has resigned from the CRC. The Committee agreed to thank Simon for his support to date and to wish him all the very best for the future. Simon's resignation creates another vacancy on the CRC, and a representative from Mystic Mountains Tourism (MMT) is being sought.

8. Other business

8.1 The Performing Arts Centre and the Bushfire Museum

Andrew Watt and Sue Hodge from the Russell Crowe Foundation will be presenting to a MOCA meeting in Melbourne tomorrow night. At this stage they are scoping possibilities for a community facility. The facility may not necessarily be a 'museum' but may be more like a learning or discovery centre (somewhat like the Discovery Centre at Toolangi). It is hoped that it would record bushfire history, perhaps back to the 1939 fires, and provide an opportunity for people to learn about fires and the impact on communities and the natural environment. It may also include a training facility. Marysville is likely to be the location for the Centre. The Committee agreed that it would be important to make sure consultation about the facility occurred on a broad scale. Tony Thompson will contact Andrew Watt to discuss the consultation process for the facility. It was noted that it is still early days in the project process.

Action: Tony Thompson will contract Andrew Watt from the Russell Crowe Foundation to discuss consultation processes for a new facility in Marysville.

8.2 Community Recovery Projects

The revised Community Recovery Projects spreadsheet was tabled at the meeting. Changes have been made in accordance with the discussions at the last CRC meeting.

Clive Clayton advised the Committee that he and Graeme Brown met with the Federal Minister for Communications, Stephen Conroy, to discuss communications in the Triangle area, with a particular focus on the lack of facilities at Buxton. The Minister advised that his department are working on a sustainable long term solution for the area. It was noted that having Communications at the top of the Community Recovery project list was very helpful in re-enforcing the community's feelings about the importance of improved communications in the area. The estimated cost of the communications project should be increased in the spreadsheet to \$1 million.

The Committee discussed the following projects:

	Project	Comment
1	Gallipoli Master Plan	Insert cost estimate of \$70,000
2	Visitor Information Centre	Cost to set up a temporary facility will be approximately \$50,000. This item should be moved from the top category to “\$25k to \$100k” projects.
3	Small business recovery	Increase cost estimate from \$100k to \$500k
4	Environmental & Tourism assets	Insert information from the template submitted about rebuilding landmark huts and remarking trails, include as high priority.
5	Technology Park category	Include Bioenergy power plant in this section (high).
6	Alternative route	Discussion about whether it is an issue for a Community Recovery Project. It was agreed that whilst it is a VicRoads matter, it should stay in the spreadsheet to acknowledge the community’s concerns.
7	Shade sails at Buxton	Include in the comments section “funded”.
8	Kids after school program	Change title to Community arts program; add open arts studio and 1000 hands clay tile projects from elsewhere in the spreadsheet.

Discussion:

1. Musical performing arts – consider priority of all projects again when new VBRRRA guidelines are available.
2. Geoff Pope raised the issue of small business recovery and the significant capital input that will be required to rebuild businesses in the area. The community projects do not really reflect that the business recovery is paramount for the recovery of the Triangle. The Committee agreed that the covering letter to the Section 86 Committee should reflect strong support for business recovery as well as the community projects.
It was confirmed that the idea behind the small business recovery project template was to provide assistance to small business operators who are having difficulty making decisions about the future of their businesses, and will need help preparing business plans, etc. Sandra Slatter mentioned that many of the local businesses that she is dealing with do require assistance and Council is talking to different organisations that may be able to provide help.
3. The Boston Consulting Group report recommended that an Economic Leadership team should be appointed to support businesses in their recovery. Preliminary discussions have taken place, with an initial meeting of representatives of the Shire, MATDG, VBRRRA, CRC, Lake Mountain resort operators, and CRC.
4. An expression on interest has been lodged with the Car Museum Committee of Management for space within the building for an administration centre, a meeting room and an area where different groups can meet.
5. The Building Advisory Centre is hoped to be in place by Christmas. It was noted that the Centre could be a useful tourism asset.

6. Tourism Vic have dedicated funds to promote tourism to the area, in the order of \$600,000.

9. Correspondence

No formal correspondence was noted.

Jennifer Wood advised that she is receiving a number of emails about the progress of community recovery projects and is looking forward to VBRRA's advice about the best way to provide feedback to community groups who lodged templates.

10. General Business

10.1 Sustainability Expo

Rita Seethaler advised that a Sustainability Expo may be run in the Triangle area, some time in autumn 2010. It would include (1) sustainable living (2) community arts engagement projects and (3) community health and well being information. Some exhibitors may want external space to exhibit, some may want undercover areas to exhibit. Rita Seethaler asked Committee members to consider possible locations for the Expo, the Committee agreed that the best approach would be for Rita to provide a Brief about the Expo and explain what might be required, and provide it to the CRC so representatives can talk to their community groups about it.

Action: Rita Seethaler to prepare a Brief about the proposed Sustainability Expo and what would be required to run it, and provide it to the CRC for consideration of possible locations.

10.2 CRC representation at MATDG meetings

MATDG meet every second Sunday at the Golf Club to discuss community issues. A CRC representative should be at the MATDG meeting to talk about CRC projects. The CRC representative could also be a MATDG representative. Clive Clayton agreed to be the CRC representative at the next MATDG meeting. The CRC representative for the next MATDG meeting would be discussed at the next CRC meeting.

10.3 Winter Grants

The Lions Club have committed an additional \$5,000 to the Winter Events program.

The Winter events that had been identified have already been held (Guides camp, Narbethong Hall event and Men's Day at Taggerty). There has been very positive feedback about the Men's Day at Taggerty. Other submissions that have been received were for a football event (\$3,000) and a bush dance at Taggerty (\$2,000). The Committee agreed to support these two projects with the remaining funds.

There are two projects which remain unfunded; the Triangle Christmas BBQ and the Narbethong and Community Tourism Group event. Graeme Brown agreed to find out whether MATDG would be able to support or source funding for the Narbethong and Community Tourism Group event.

10.4 Youth activities

There was general discussion about the need to co-ordinate the youth events programs and to support Sherrie Ackerman where possible. There is a group of 18 young people involved in youth projects, with the support of Stuart Coller from the Shire. Mike Wasley advised that there was a strategic meeting to be

held on Wednesday 9th September to discuss youth activities. Jennifer Wood has spoken to someone at Berry Street who may be able to assist.

10.5 Plant Aid

The Plant Aid project has been set up to provide trees to people who are rebuilding in the Triangle. Plant Aid will provide people with a few trees and will then guide them to local businesses to purchase the remainder of their requirements. Many trees and plants have been donated, and a nursery is being established as a temporary facility. A committee is being set up to run the project, and to establish the processes for people to access the plants. Once the processes are finalised, they will need to be communicated across the Triangle area, including making information available at the Hubs.

10.6 DHS updates

Robert Hall advised that grants up to \$4,000 are available to support the removal of hazardous trees on private property. There is also a grant available for Transitional Support to assist people in moving from rented accommodation to a new site (\$10,000 for a couple, \$15,000 for families)

10.7 Other:

Graeme Brown advised that John Landy has resigned as the Chair of the Bushfire Relief Fund. John Landy's efforts in administering the Fund were noted by the Committee.

Howard Paix advised that Rob Croxford has been appointed as Acting CEO at the Shire.

9. Next meeting

The next Community Recovery Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd September 2009 at 5.30pm, at Maryton Park. The frequency of future meetings will be discussed at the next meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – 8 September 2009

	Action item	Action by:
1	CRC members to consider people who may be interested in tree works in the Triangle area and provide their contact details and areas of interest to Mark Leitinger, via Howard Paix.	CRC members
2	Committee members to review Council's project tracking document (tabled by Mike Wasley) and consider how it could be used as part of the CRC process.	CRC members
3	Tony Thompson will contract Andrew Watt from the Russell Crowe Foundation to discuss consultation processes for a new facility in Marysville.	Tony Thompson
4	Rita Seethaler to prepare a Brief about the proposed Sustainability Expo and what would be required to run it, and provide it to the CRC for consideration of possible locations.	Rita Seethaler