

**MARYSVILLE AND TRIANGLE COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – 21 OCTOBER 2009
MARYTON PARK**

1. Attendance:

Tony Thompson (Chair)	Julia Peddie	Clive Clayton
Steve Coker	Geoff Pope	Graeme Brown
Rita Seethaler	David Clark (VBRRA)	Sandra Slatter (Murrindindi Shire)
Keith Ray	Mike Wasley (Murrindindi Shire)	Megan Lancaster (VBRRA)
Bruce Ackerman	Howard Paix (Murrindindi Shire)	Robyn Hill
Robert Hall (DHS)	Ray Sigersma (DHS)	Ben Hubbard (VBRRA)
Jan O'Sullivan (Centrelink)	Deborah Bobby (Centrelink)	

2. Apologies:

Richard Rogerson (Secretary)	Jennifer Wood	Cr. Kevin Bellingham
------------------------------	---------------	----------------------

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Nil.

4. Guest: Ben Hubbard, CEO Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA)

Tony Thompson introduced Ben Hubbard, CEO of VBRRA. Copies of VBRRA's State Wide Plan were circulated at the meeting. The State Wide Plan is VBRRA's first response to the community recovery plans that have been submitted. The next phase will include a response to the remaining community recovery projects that have been submitted. Some legal issues still remain in relation to the allocation of funds to certain groups. Some projects will require further discussion, some may be able to seek funding elsewhere, and some communities may be able to fulfil their community recovery plans themselves.

VBRRA's purpose is to be a temporary organisation to help people to get back on track, and VBRRA has always stated that the Black Saturday recovery should be a community led recovery.

Committee discussion:

- It is important to emphasise that not all Victorian Bushfire Appeal Funds (VBAF) have been spent. VBAF allocated \$43 million for community programs, \$12 million has now been allocated. \$31 million is not yet committed. Some funds are also available from corporate and philanthropic organisations. VBRRA try to match projects with these donors.
- Some items mentioned in the State Wide Plan have been funded "off budget", i.e. from other sources such as other government departments, insurance etc. Particular attention has been paid to projects identified as 'catalyst projects' in the Boston Consulting Group Report. These include the Caravan Park and Lake Mountain Resort.
- Ben Hubbard is keen to promote the progress being made in Marysville and the Triangle, and may be able to access discretionary funds for printing etc if an opportunity to promote progress arose.

- The Event Planning tool box was raised as an important request that the community has made. The first anniversary of Black Saturday needs to be very sensitively managed, and events planning needs to start now. Ray Siegersma advised that at a recent meeting of hub captains, no one had heard anything about plans for the anniversary. The Committee agreed that it should begin to start talking to communities about what they would like to see as part of the anniversary. Memorials will be an important part as will remembrance. Some communities may want to do their own thing rather than be a part of a bigger event. Ben Hubbard advised that some discussions had occurred with VBAF about the anniversary. The general feeling is that communities should do what they want to do, without government controlling activities. Mike Wasley mentioned that it would be beneficial to seek advice from someone like Dr Rob Gordon to assist in planning events.
Action: CRC members to start talking to communities about how they would like to commemorate the first anniversary of Black Saturday.
- A central web site / community portal is also important. CPA has written a paper which will assist in developing the portal. Negotiations are underway and when completed, the template will be revised and re-submitted.
- The timeframe for establishing the Motor Museum was discussed; there has been considerable frustration about the speed in which it progresses. Some of the delay is attributable to the time it takes to get the commercial arrangements right. The services contract will be let in the next month. Seven retail premises are planned for the Museum to date. The Museum Committee of Management is waiting for a third community applicant for the Committee – Bruce Ackerman advised that his application is ready to be submitted. The Community Recovery Committee will write a letter of support for Bruce’s application.
Action: Tony Thompson to write a letter to the Museum Committee of Management to support Bruce Ackerman’s nomination for the Committee.
- The Winter Events grant application submitted by Marysville Marathon was rejected by VBAF. The CRC wrote a letter of support for the event to Rotary in an attempt to assist in finding funds. Rotary have agreed to provide \$5,000 for the event.
- Next Tuesday, the Committee will meet to review the remaining Community Recovery Projects. The projects that have been funded will be noted and the focus will be on the remaining projects. These will be reviewed and re-prioritised if necessary. Some of the projects have received funding from other sources. The full meeting next week will be dedicated to this review.
- Templates can still be submitted, so if there are any other events that have not yet been funded please ensure templates are submitted asap.
- Megan Lancaster will show the letter sent by CRC (to Megan to request VBAF’s consideration to extend the timeframe for the Winter Events) to Ben Hubbard, to see if any further discussions can occur.
- The issue of “part-timers” (part time residents) was raised. Many are upset about the recent announcement that no support would be available to them. There were a large number of part-time residents in Marysville, and they need to be stimulated to rebuild. Steve Coker confirmed that there is considerable distress among the part time residents, and they would continue to express their concerns. It was agreed that the concept of ‘part timers’ was flawed from the beginning, it is too narrow a definition for this group of residents. Ben Hubbard is well aware of the concerns and will continue to express the concerns in Canberra. He also suggested that the CRC might like to invite Nick Sherry, the Assistant Treasurer, to talk through the issues with the CRC. Julia Peddie noted that it is a very important issue for the Triangle community, and it’s importance is reflected in the fact that it was listed as number 7 in the priority list for the Community Recovery Plans. Alternative solutions need to be considered further.

- It was questioned whether there would be an audit to look at how VBAF funds have been spent. Ben Hubbard replied that there would be in some form, people need to be accountable for the funds they have been provided.
- CRC was invited to highlight other important projects that have not yet received any funding. It was agreed that the following projects are important:
 - Gallipoli Park
 - Bioenergy Plant and Technology Park – this one may be more difficult to receive funding for as the focus is on social recovery. Some advice about how further funding could be achieved would be helpful, Ben Hubbard advised that resources are available to prepare studies on the feasibility of projects.
 - Communications
 - Small business recovery

5. Minutes of the previous meeting (6 October 2009)

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

6. Action item summary (6 October 2009)

	Action item	Action by:
1	CRC members to consult with their representative groups about the Community Recovery projects that have been received, and provide feedback to the Committee. CRC members will meet on 27 October to re-prioritise the projects	See discussion in 6.1 below
2	Mike Wasley and Megan Lancaster to find the original list or community organisations and their CRC representative and circulate before the next meeting for further discussion.	Completed. Will be reviewed at the next meeting.
3	David Clark will provide a copy of the Projects 'further scoping' document prepared by VBRRRA.	David Clark stated that this related to the Narbethong project and was underway.
4	The CRC to formally request an extension to the deadline for the Winter Events program	Completed.
5	CRC to seek support from the Alexandra Hospital for use of the Spa and to also seek advice from Council about the opening of the public pool.	Tony Thompson will meet with Heather Byrne next week. See further discussion in 6.2 below.
6	CRC to write a letter of support to DSE recommending the rebuild of Keppel's Hut as a worthwhile project.	See discussion in 6.3 below

6.1 CR Projects

An extra column will be added to the spreadsheet to show which projects have been funded or if funding is pending. Committee members were requested to advise Megan Lancaster if any further funding details were known for the projects listed in the spreadsheet.

Ben Hubbard suggested that a new top 25 list be created, taking out any projects in the current top 25 which have already been funded. It was also noted that some projects are important but not necessarily expensive and the top 25 should not just be the most expensive 25. Additional help may be available if required to further scope the projects.

6.2 Pool and Day Spa

The opening of the pool and the use of the Day Spa are two separate issues. One is used for recreation and one for health and fitness. The Committee agreed that it would be good to review the hours of operation of the Marysville pool. Graeme Brown moved a motion that the CRC write a letter to the Shire requesting that they review the opening hours of the pool with a view to extending the hours. The motion was seconded by Keith Ray.

Action: CRC to write a letter to the Shire requesting that they review the opening hours of the Marysville pool with a view to extending the hours.

6.3 Keppel's Hut

A project to rebuild Keppel's Hut is already underway through the National Australia Bank. Keppel's Hut is on DSE land, not Lake Mountain land. Ben Hubbard and Megan Lancaster will talk to DSE about assistance with projects on DSE land.

7. Business Arising

7.1 CRC Projects consultation plan – feedback update

The Taggerty Progress Association held their AGM last week and Rita Seethaler presented the folder to the Association. The Association are reviewing the contents. Rita Seethaler asked about requesting funds for the Taggerty Christmas Party. The Committee was asked to put together a list of upcoming events and give the list to Megan Lancaster. Megan will try to source funding but reinforced the point that her request may or may not be successful.

Action: CRC members to submit a list of upcoming events to Megan Lancaster to see if any funding sources are available.

7.2 New CR Projects submitted

1. Triangle Roadside Flowers Project – submitted by Julia Peddie
2. 1000 Hands clay tile installation – updated template submitted by Julia Peddie
3. Community Banking facility – copies of template were circulated to the Committee for inclusion in their folders.

These projects will be considered at the review meeting next week.

Graeme Brown suggested that the template be updated to include a contact name and telephone number.

7.3 New CRC member

Tony Thompson will follow up on new CRC members with Darrell Treloar.

Action: Tony Thompson to raise the issue of the replacement CRC member with Darrell Treloar.

8. Other Business

8.1 Winter Events grants

See previous discussions.

8.2 Indigenous consultation for the CRC

To be carried over to the next meeting.

9. Correspondence

No correspondence was noted.

10. General Business

- 10.1 Circus Oz event will be in Buxton on 14/11. On 15/11 the Ferrari Car Club will be visiting Buxton Reserve, hopefully other activities can be co-ordinated to make this a fun day out.
- 10.2 The minutes of the Section 86 Committee are available on the web, and in a folder held by Robyn Hill. The folder will be available for people to read at CRC meetings. Howard Paix tabled an instruction sheet for finding the minutes on the web. Go to www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au, then Bushfire Recovery, then to Murrindindi Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Committee – Section 86. There will be a series of links to the minutes of the meetings.
- 10.3 Approximately 60 people attended the Sustainable Building Workshop in Taggerty last weekend. Sustainability Victoria launched their Sustainability Folder. A list of available grants for sustainable building can be obtained from Rita Seethaler.
- 10.4 Graeme Brown met with Andrew Watt from the Russell Crowe Foundation. A feasibility study for a new project is being completed by Nigel Bell. When it is ready it will be presented to the CRC.
- 10.5 Lyn Gunter, Mayor of Murrindindi Shire, is hosting a community meeting this Sunday at the Black Spur Inn at 3pm, to discuss bushfire recovery issues.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Marysville and Triangle Community Recovery Committee will be held **at 5.30pm on Tuesday 27 October at Maryton Park**. This meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the Community Recovery projects.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – 21 October 2009

	Action item	Action by:
1	CRC members to start talking to communities about how they would like to commemorate the first anniversary of Black Saturday.	CRC members
2	Tony Thompson to write a letter to the Museum Committee of Management to support Bruce Ackerman's nomination for the Committee.	Tony Thompson
3	CRC to write a letter to the Shire requesting that they review the opening hours of the Marysville pool with a view to extending the hours.	Tony Thompson
4	CRC members to submit a list of upcoming events to Megan Lancaster to see if any funding sources are available.	CRC members
5	Tony Thompson to raise the issue of the replacement CRC member with Darrell Treloar.	Tony Thompson