



Meelup Regional Park Management Committee

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Informal Meeting- Notes

DATE: Monday 27 August 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 Hick, Mr Tony Smurthwaite, Mr Albert Haak, and Mrs Shirley Fisher

Officers: Mr Greg Simpson (Environmental Management Coordinator)

Apologies: Mr. Damien Jones, Ms Tanya Gillet (Manager, Environmental Services), and Ms Kay Lehman (Meelup Environment Officer- EO)

2. ANOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING MEMBER

Presiding Member Dr Bob Jarvis informed Committee members with sadness of the passing of Meelup Regional Park Committee member Mr Bob Ginbey.

3. FINANCIAL SUMMARY - Attachment A

Proposed Direction:

1. That the Committee notes the August 2018 Financial Summary (Attachment A).
2. That a 2018/19 recreation and maintenance priority work schedule be prepared for the Park at the next scheduled Informal Meeting of the Committee.

4. MEELUP VOLUNTEER UPDATE

This report covers the period 31st July to 21st August 2018. For the period, there were a total of 55.50 man-hours of volunteer involvement with average attendance 12 volunteers.

Major activities for the team centred on identification of weeds and mapping of weed locations. Teams walked each of the trails identifying weeds and extent of infestation, and recording GPS locations. Volunteers' weed mapping work included arum lilies and bridal creepers.

The locations mapped to date include:

- Castle Bay to Meelup Beach
- Meelup Beach to Point Piquet

- Point Piquet to Eagle Bay including coastal trail and lookout trail
- Eagle Bay Fire Break, Rocky Point and Wildlife corridor

A presentation by Mr Tony Smurthwaite on the 21st August 2018, was well attended. The presentation explained the timescale and effect of geology, plate tectonics and continental drift in the development of the Meelup area.

Proposed Direction:

1. The volunteer update was noted by the Committee.
2. The Committee members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mr Tony Smurthwaite for his excellent work and presentation on the effects of geology, plate tectonics and continental drift in the development of the Meelup area. Plate Tectonics presentation will be added to Park's geological coverage.
3. That the data from the recent weed identification survey be incorporated onto a weed map, to guide future weed control programs.

4. ACTION SUMMARY PROGRESS UPDATE

The action summary is appended as Attachment B.

Proposed Direction:

1. The action summary is updated to include the additional actions from the Meelup Regional Park Management Committee meeting held on the 27 August 2018

5. REPORTS

5.1 Meelup Regional Park Committee- 25th Year Celebration and Launch of Friends of Meelup.

Members of the Meelup Regional Park Management Committee met with members of the Friends of Meelup group on 15th August 2018, to plan for the 25th celebration and to discuss the inclusion of the Launch of the Friends of Meelup Group as part of the 25th year celebrations.

The event will be held at Meelup Beach on Sunday 7th October 2018 and involves the following planning:

- Invitations to past and present Meelup RP Committee and Friends Group members, local politicians, City Councillors and relevant staff, stakeholder groups. Events are open to the general public.
- Media to include a newspaper article, City Facebook, Bay to Bay newsletter and possibly other social media.
- A photo competition featuring photos of Meelup Regional Park by local Busselton and Dunsborough schools.
- Welcome to Country and Cultural Walk- Wayne and Zac Webb (subject to availability)
- Wildflower Walk
- Speeches by local politician (subject to availability) and Presiding Member of the MRPM Committee.

The following is an overview of the event:

- 9.30 am- Welcome to Country
- 10am - Cultural/Wildflower Walk
- 11.30 am- Speeches and Photo Competition inners announced.
- 12/12.30 pm- Lunch- BYO Picnic

Proposed Direction:

1. Presiding Member Bob Jarvis to meet with Mr John Slee to discuss the history of the Meelup Regional Park for use in the promotion of the planned 25th year celebration.
2. That the Friends of Meelup Regional Park launch be incorporated into the MRP 25th Year celebrations.

5.2 Liaison with the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association

Presiding member, Mr Bob Jarvis and EO Kay Lehman gave a presentation on the Parks tourism related information, to staff from the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association on the 23 August at Point Picquet.

Proposed Direction:

1. Information noted

5.3 Review of Meelup Regional Park Management Plan

The Meelup Regional Park Management Plan is scheduled for review in September 2018. The review process is progressing with the compilation of the previous work that was carried out on the management plan, some of which needs to be updated. The review process is expected to involve finalising a draft revised management plan, a public advertising period and seeking the necessary approval from the Minister under the Land Administration Act 1967. The Committee may want to consider establishing a sub-group to provide further input into the review of the management plan prior to the Committee making a formal recommendation and seeking Council approval to proceed with the review process.

Proposed Direction:

1. That Committee Members Bob Jarvis, Peter Randerson and Albert Haak meet during October 2018 to finalise the review of the Meelup Regional Park Management Plan.

5.4 Weed Control- Contractor

The weed control contract has been awarded to Litoria Eco-services who will initially focus on Arum Lily control in the Park and the control of other invasive and woody weeds during spring. Committee Member Shirley Fisher and EO met with the weed control contractor onsite on the 23 August to determine weed control locations.

Proposed Direction:

- 1 Weed control date to be provided to weed control contractor when finalised.

6. LATE ITEMS

6.1 Point Picquet

Committee members discussed the recent photographs supplied by community member Ian Wiese which indicated a decline in Peppermint tree condition at Point Picquet. Peppermint

Tree decline has also been observed in other parts of the district and specialist services are being sought to investigate the causes of this decline.

Proposed Direction:

1. That the Peppermint trees at Point Piquet be included as part of any future investigations into the causes of tree decline.
2. Investigate options for maximising rain runoff into the vegetation areas around the Point Picquet carpark.

6.2 Drone Aerial Photography Survey

Committee members discussed a suggestion from Mr Tony Smurthwaite regarding the use of drone aerial photograph for mapping dieback boundaries, track maintenance and erosion of beaches.

Proposed Direction:

1. That quotes be sought for the supply of drone aerial photograph to assist mapping of dieback boundaries, track maintenance and erosion along Meelup Regional Park beaches.

6.3 Signage

Committee Member Shirley Fisher tabled a copy of a sign installed in the Kalbarri National Park which could be adapted for Meelup.

Proposed Direction:

1. That future signage reviews incorporate a similar message to the signage used by the DBCA in the Kalbarri National Park.

6.4 Trail Brochure

Committee Member Cr Kelly Hick advised members that Meelup Regional Park does not appear to be well represented on the latest version of the MRBTA South West tourism map.

Proposed Direction:

1. That the MRBTA be contacted to discuss the updating and inclusion of information on Meelup Regional Park in the MRBTA South West tourism map.
2. That a general Park and trails brochure be prepared for the Meelup Regional Park.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

The next informal meeting of the Committee will be held on the 1 October 2018, commencing 10.00am at the Dunsborough District Country Club.