

Northern Grampians Shire Council

Walkers Lake Advisory Group

Meeting held at 6pm on Wednesday 12 September 2018
at Banyena Hall

Minutes

1. **Present** - Cr Tony Driscoll, Prue McAllister, Wayne Robbins, Colin Coates, Graeme Clark, Trevor Baldock, Chad Frost, Steve Jesse, Austin Freeman.

Absent: Tony Hand, Rob Loats

2. **Apologies** – Cr Kevin Erwin, Michelle Clark,
Apologies accepted: Moved Wayne Robbins and Seconded Prue McAllister
3. **Disclosures of Interest & Declarations of Conflict of Interest.** Nil
4. **Confirmation of Minutes from the previous meeting.** 11 July 2018
Minutes accepted: Moved Wayne Robbins and Seconded Prue McAllister

5 **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

- **Dja Dja Wurrung report** - There are some discrepancies in the report that need to be rectified such as - tree on front cover not mentioned, quartz found around the lake could be from the quartz mine mentioned in the document so may just be remnants from that. A site visit with members present would be good to go over the report as it does impact the site and we need to get a full understanding from it.
Action: Tony Dark to organise
- **Front Fence reinstatement** - All agreed to complete this project as soon as possible. Wayne Robbins and Cr Driscoll will organise.
- **Wood removal** - 4 signs to be installed before school holidays
Action: Tony Dark to organise

6. **General Business**

- Top up water supply status - Supply commenced on 23 July, with 155 ML delivered to 10 September. GWM Water we will continue supply until the 200 ML requested is delivered. It should take around 2 weeks to supply the remaining 45 ML. The current level is approx 2.8 meters.
- September school holidays - Discussed past history for September holidays and there is not expected to be a high influx of people therefore it was decided that there was no need to be organising extra toilets for the site. Pick my project update (if available)
- Pick my project update - the description of the project from the "Pick my project" website is as follows:

Developing Walkers Lake for natural, cultural and recreational fun!

Walkers Lake development will include the addition of facilities designed to enhance and protect the natural environment, and improved recreational use. The development will include areas dedicated to day visitors, picnic areas, car parking for cars & boat trailers, campsites and amenities. The local schools and kindergartens will design facilities (such as a camp kitchen) to enable new programs to use the site such as outdoor, cultural and heritage education programs and bush kinder. The project will be sensitive to everyone's needs, to ensure that the natural beauty of Walkers Lake is protected. St Arnaud and local residents are connected to Walkers Lake as their recreational lake. To ensure that the lake and natural environment is protected, the lake requires development to ensure users have the facilities, amenities and spaces dedicated to particular use - camping, fishing, bush walking, cultural experience, skiing, education and swimming. The project will be overseen by the Walkers Lake Advisory group who advise Northern Grampians Shire Council on the management of the Lake. This development will make Walkers Lake the truly spectacular experience for locals of all ages, as a natural hub to connect together.

Whilst the full details of the project are unknown we discussed the fact that should the funding be approved then any proposed activities and/or infrastructure are to be directed through the Advisory Group for consideration before going to council for final approval.

- Letter received at council from Bruce Hando relating to a meeting held on 29 August 2018 of interested community members wishing to form a Walkers Lake Recreational Club. There were approximately 40 community members present and there was a common theme from the meeting that they would like to help maintain, if not improve the area and facilities and be a voice for the people who use Walkers Lake. Their general intentions as a group are as follows:
 1. To have a group that would work toward maintain and improving the Walkers Lake area
 2. To raise money - possibly via membership - which would be used for this purpose
 3. To have a voice in coordinating improvement of facilities eg toilets, rubbish removal, events

The recreational group confirmed they are aware of council's Walkers Lake Advisory Group and agreed that this group would work with them and not have cross purposes.

Cr Driscoll explained that from council's perspective the recreation club would be separate from council and any ideas or development proposals would need to be directed through the advisory group and onto council for consideration.

All Advisory Group members were in agreement that the new club would be a good idea and could assist with the sustainability of the Walkers Lake reserve.

Council CEO Michael Bailey would respond to the recreation group.

- Management Plan update, further input and next steps

Copies of the draft plan were circulated by email and also at the meeting.

The plan was viewed in general terms in relation to content and specifically mentioned the vision, management areas and strategies. At our last meeting we workshopped the Key Values and Key Management Issues for the five main areas:

1. Community, Recreation and Built Environment
2. Cultural Heritage
3. Biodiversity and Natural Environment
4. Tourism and Economic
5. Water Supply

Action: All group members to provide feedback and input as necessary and also if there is any historical data or information that can be included as well as any photos that they would like to see included. Whilst this is a council document the advisory group is a major contributor to its information and implementation.

- Landscape Architect design update

Landscape architect Geoscene International has been engaged by council to prepare a concept, visual plan document that will be include in the Management Plan. This document will be used to provide relative information for the site as well as a visual map of the whole precinct for potential projects and management of the reserve.

Action: Architect to be invited to the next meeting at the lake.

- Prue mentioned the trees near the boat ramp and the state of their health.

Tony Dark visited the site with council's Parks and Gardens coordinator John Hunt. Thoughts were that whilst extra compaction and people to the site will have an impact the trees have issues that are have eventuated over many years well before the pipelined water. This type of issue shoule be dealt with in the management plan in terms of managing the natural environment and visitors.

- It was agreed that the next meeting be held at Walkers Lake and with daylight savings starting early October there should be good light to have a lookm at the site.

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday 10/10/18 - 6pm at Walkers Lake

9. Meeting Closed 7.50pm