

# Goolawah <sup>CO OP</sup> Gazette

www.goolawah.org

15 June 2016

## Rain, at last...



## From the Editor

G'day Goolawah,

Exciting times around the roo paddocks these autumn months.

Major rainforest tree planting action greened a new area alongside Illa Langi (p 5), and we made a good start on roadside vegetation clearing on the road in to Goolawah. House number masterworks are popping up around the place (p 7), and tools got work-outs around the Camp Kitchen and other building sites.

The first frost nights in late May gave new bananas a bit of a shock, and then after a dry period we were drenched by 150mm downpour over the first winter weekend.

Brand new water tanks filled overnight, Crescent's

footbridge lost its footings, Maria River and creeks soaked some roads and a few pretty trees blew over. As far as we know, no major harm was done around Goolawah, and the dry greens and gardens were happy.

Thanks to all who took part in our newsletter online survey (results p 3). I'll do my best to keep your quarterly interesting, fun and informative. After brainstorming ideas a panel of four decided to re-name it 'Goolawah Gazette'. Hope you like the new look.

Stay warm this winter,

As always please let me know if you want to contribute something.

Cheers, Julica (julica.j@gmail.com)

## Solstice Celebrations

Three Island Sports & Social Club invites all members to celebrate this year's winter solstice with an election night "Don's Party"\* on Saturday 2nd July at Three Island Dam, Cockatoo Ridge

• Bonfire • Bonobo Bar open • Live Music • BBQ from 5pm, bring something to throw on it.

\* a term coined by David Williamson's election night play set in 1969, feel free to look it up if in doubt and/or feel free to behave accordingly.



# Mouse OR Antechinus?

Most of us bush residing humans are not keen on mice, but we don't like to catch & kill antechinus, Australia's native dasyurid (hairy tailed) marsupials.

Distinguishing a mouse from an antechinus is difficult. Since I've been catching both in my house I have noticed a few give-aways. I set four live traps at once with peanut butter. The next day I'm usually able to peer in the top to see what I have caught without them jumping out. It's best to do that outside though - just in case.

Here are my main identifying observations:

**Noise:** The antechinus seems to make lots of noise when it raids the kitchen, they will happily walk all over plastic and move nuts around, it is easily heard rooms away. Mice hardly ever make a sound.

**Smell:** Mice often stink, just a whiff of the live mouse trap is often a give-away that it is a mouse. But sometimes they do not smell so this can't be the only identifying hint.

**Ears and nose:** The sure way to tell: As you can see in the pictures the mouse has rounded funnel shaped ears and the antechinus has ears shaped more like ours. The antechinus also has a hairless nose tip.

**Scats:** When you compare the scats in the picture, you see that the antechinus scats are more lumpy, uneven and less frequent. The mouse scats are smooth uniform abundant cylinders.

Live mouse traps are available from <http://stores.ebay.com.au/ilandtrading/>

Paul



Antechinus

Antechinus scat



Mouse

Mouse scat

© Paul Martin

## Antechinus Trivia

- Australia is home to ten species of antechinus.
- Unlike mice, which are herbivores, most antechinus are primarily insectivorous, and boldly hunt spiders, cockroaches and other insects. Some also eat fruit and flowers, and a few will even eat vertebrates such as frogs and lizards.

- Mating is a once-in-a-lifetime ritual and happens in winter.
- Males live for exactly 11.5 months, dying from stress-induced immune system breakdown about two weeks after mating.
- Antechinus are some of the smallest Australian marsupial babies, they can weigh as little as 4 grams.

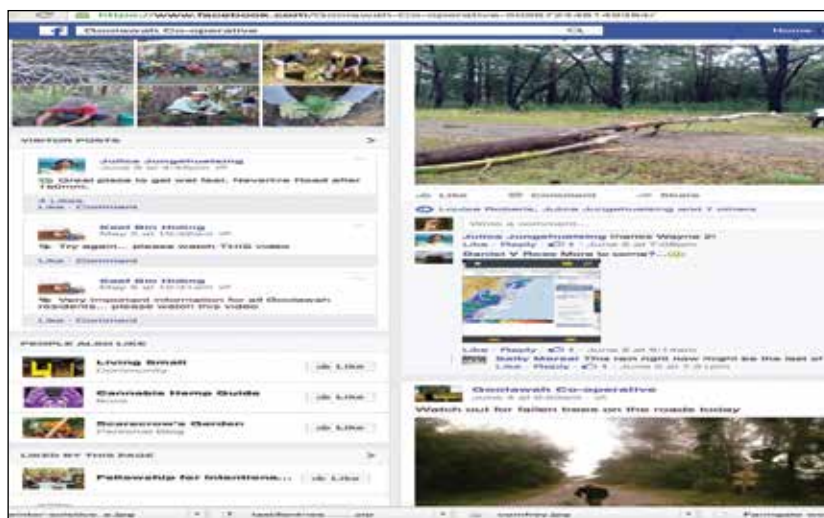
## Goolawah social media

In case you don't already know, there is a Goolawah Facebook page (public). You can post things that aren't Buy Sell Swap related on there: <https://www.facebook.com/Goolawah-Co-operative-505672446149384/>

Photos, comments and relevant links are welcome! This page is visible to the public, that is: everyone who uses Facebook.

Alicia is the admin of this social media page in the moment making sure it's alive and well.

The Goolawah Buy-Sell-Swap-And-Community-Forum-page is a closed page, that means not visible to the outside world, and you have to apply (search goolawah buy sell ...) to become a member (like in real life ;-). The page's administrator, Salty Morris, will then click you in.





# You've Had Your Say!

Thanks to 39 Goolies for completing our newsletter survey.

A summary of the results:

- The majority of readers (19) felt strongly that the newsletter should remain Co-op focused, some suggested even humour should be 'Gooliecentric' (a new word I happily adopt ;-)
- A minority (7 out of 39) would like to read about spiritual, religious and other general topics on two pages or more.
- Eleven people think a page of non-Goolawah topics would be ok, but some of them, and many of the '100% Goolawah' respondents strongly oppose politics or spiritual themes: 'keep it inclusive not divisive'; we are a 'secular community, let's keep it that way'.
- Suggestions included: more practical tips (gardening), updates on members' building progress, and recipes with relevance to what's growing at Goolawah.
- Ten of you would like to see entertaining bits - jokes or quizzes.

We'll take the suggestions and opinions onboard and keep working hard to produce a fun and interesting quarterly for everyone. We hope you enjoy most of the Gazette most of the time.

We also need your help with some newsletter house-keeping:

- If you DON'T want to be seen or named in the Gazette, please let the editor know. It's easy to avoid if we know, but hard work to go through group photos and ask everyone for consent, as it may eliminate working bee snaps or party shots. Close-ups or portraits are only published of people who know or sent photos themselves.
- Current affair topics, self-promotion or short notice items: don't forget we have a Facebook page (NOT buy-sell-swap, but the public one) that loves your input (see Alicia and/or page 2)
- Print or pdf: the Gazette is available online AND in paper version, so let us know if you change your preference.
- Please also tell me (julica.j@gmail.com) if your email or postal address changes. (Chris J and Bev Cox: if you don't reveal your current email addresses you'll keep missing out)
- Six non-resident members didn't get the survey because I don't have their email addresses.
- If you'd like to share opinions, please email me directly (julica.j@gmail.com)

---

PS: no extra work hours were claimed to set up or analyse the survey.

---

## Pumpkin & Harissa 'Sausage' Rolls (vegetarian)

In case you had enough pumpkin soup by now, but got still kilos left of those tasty vegetables, try out Belinda's great recipe. Most ingredients grow on Goolawah, you'd just have to find oil and pastry in the shops...

### Ingredients

- 1 kg pumpkin
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 large onion finely chopped
- 1 red capsicum, roasted
- 2 chillies, seeds removed & chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves
- 1 tsp cumin, 1 tsp coriander 1 tsp sea salt
- pepper
- handful of fresh parsley
- 200 g puff pastry

### Method

*Harissa* - peel roasted capsicum, and process in blender with chillies, garlic and spices.

Roast the pumpkin in a little oil, seasoned with salt for 45 minutes. Saute onion in oil and set aside. Remove flesh from pumpkin, add Harissa, onion and parsley. Make up rolls with pastry. Cook until brown in a hot oven 220°C.



# International Permaculture Day goes Goolawah

Permaculture Day inspired events around Australia and the world. Goolawah couldn't miss out of course and had a day of swapping & buying & selling bushfood, native rainforest and permaculture plants at Red Hill. Rain kept all plants watered and provided good conditions to get them in the ground straight away.

The folks that made it happen and took part got good self-sufficiency books and free Earth & Garden magazines. They swapped stories and got advice, tubers, seeds, fruit (beware of those Dawson Plums!) and useful food supplying plants.

Next year we could improve it with shared recipes and food at the camp kitchen. Maybe we could even design a communal permaculture garden and kick it off with a working bee?

Thanks to Rob Hewitt for providing a great variety of native tubestock!  
*Alby Hunter*



© Alicia Fox

**By the way....** Permaculture Day isn't an invention of Alby, here's an overview what happened elsewhere around the world: <http://permacultureday.org>. These guys publish the permaculture magazine 'Pip' as well, for those who like mags and think they can learn more about it.

## Proposal to Establish a Cemetery At Goolawah

With North Gate sites unsuitable (too low-lying), the two sites currently under consideration for a cemetery are Goldmine Hill and the corner of Forest Way & Illa Langi Rd. However, a site between Goldmine and Illa Langi would require considerably less clearing and not impact on any future activities at Goldmine. An area of max. 150m<sup>2</sup> is envisaged.

An initial budget of \$2,500 should suffice: if no major clearing is required, if geo-tech work does not exceed \$1,000 (not clear yet – quotes will be available for the next meeting) and if the community accepts a simple bamboo construction as “fence”.

### **Establishment:**

KSC Development Application (following legislation from the NSW Department of Health), must include:

- Number of graves proposed
- Register of Burials to be established and maintained
- Fencing of site – or other clear separation
- Numbering of grave sites
- A right-of-way has to be added to the title deed allowing family members of a deceased to visit grave.

Importantly, the site has to be above 1-in-100 years flood levels and geotechnical data (which would have to be contracted) need to demonstrate that the site's run-offs,

soil composition, etc., will not impact on ground water.

For cremation of a body, where storage of the ashes is desired, a suggestion has been made to build an ash wall (or similar) where urns can be housed in a respectful environment.

### **Operation:**

The body is transported to an undertaker, who prepares it properly and places in a coffin;

Application to KSC is lodged for “burial on private lands”;

A grave at the nominated site number is dug (min. 900mm deep) by Goolies or contractor;

Entry in Register shows name, date of birth, date of death, cause of death, next of kin.

### **Personnel:**

Secretary to oversee these operations; however, the maintenance of the area may require a coordinator or committee and these works could be added to the Approved Jobs List. Hopefully, the gardeners will advise what species should be planted, ie. non-invasive, ‘look after themselves’, flowering and unpalatable to wallabies.

A community cemetery makes a good statement about Goolawah's permanency, and gravitas, by dealing with our dead. “Self-sufficiency” takes on a new dimension.

*Ralph*



# Rainforest planting bee

Green day in mid May: Goolawah's very own new rainforest pocket got started near Illa Langi Road opposite the camp kitchen. Rob H. did extensive plantings on the other side and had the idea to extend the project in the woody ditch before the turn-off to Gold Mine Hill near the old fence line. Two dozen members, supported by German and Moroccan woofers Annika, Rebekka and Aysha brought shovels, mattocks and muscle power to the special planting bee. Since Rob had pre-dug some holes most plants were in the ground, sheltered and watered in a flash, so helpers were sent for more of Rob's happy seedlings.

In total 146 trees, mainly rainforest varieties, were planted, including Lillipilli species like brush cherries, string bank and small leaf lillipillies. Their fruits are all edible - the Ribberies make an awesome cake crumble (amongst other probably healthier uses).

The team dug in some Cheese Trees (*Glochidion ferdinandi*), good pioneer plants with pumpkin (or 'Edam' cheese) shaped fruit. They split when ripe and reveal seeds covered in a bright red-orange aril within. In went Red Cedars, one of Australia's few native deciduous trees, that can grow to 60m high. Australia's largest recorded specimen grew near Nulla Nulla Creek, west of Kempsey. When felled in 1883 it produced 240 cu.m of timber (there's hope for future generations of Goolawah roof builders).

We planted Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), with undulated leafs that will have orange woody fruit one day. Pretty colour will be provided by *Acacia fimbriata*, also

known as fringed or Brisbane Wattle, a small fast growing tree that produces golden, ball-shaped flowers in spring.

Other species in our future rainforest patch are Bangalow Palms, Moreton Bay Figs and native Frangipani. A great effort! If you drop by to visit them, don't forget to check if they need water. Rob is watering them for now if needed, but help and care is always welcome.

After that fun and productive Saturday morning Wayne suggested we think about setting up our own Goolawah Landcare group (check [landcareaustralia.org.au](http://landcareaustralia.org.au)). It would involve some paperwork, but we could access grants and funding for more revegetation projects. Food for thought.

*Julica*





# New Blackboard on Red Hill



Local news and goods have a new home on Red Hill. James thought up a new blackboard for the corner of Red Hill Road, Frog Hollow and North Gate Road, ready to use for real life exchange of information, garden overproduction and plants. Thanks to French WWOOFer Thomas for building it and putting it up!

## Membership Committee - Help wanted

After valuable contributions and long service for the membership committee, Lexie and Bronwyn have resigned. Since Nityama is still mainly in Siddha Farm the committee currently consists of Rebekah and Paul. With both having numerous other commitments, it would be desirable if one or two new people could familiarise themselves with the rules and assist with the committee's work.

Any takers? Please get in touch with Ralph.



## Safe Sites

If you're building, please be aware that your sites are not covered under Goolawah's Public Liability Insurance. It's up to you to take out a Construction Works Insurance if you want, which includes Public Liability (approx. cost \$1000).

Insured or not, please remember that you must keep your building sites safe and don't forget to display relevant legal signage.

## Kevin's Goolawah sketchbook

A soon to be historical record from Kevin: Camp kitchen before the major roof building began.





## House Numbers

Members (and their WWOOFers) got creative with more funky house numbers popping up weekly. Here's a few pretty cool examples. The competition for 'Goolawah's most original number' is still running until 31st of August (extension possible), so give those ideas some shape if your lot is still numberless. The jury consists of the newsletter team & Goolawah's resident artists (all excluded from competition). But since we all love to have our say, there will be a people's prize for which you all are the jury and everyone's number is in the competition.

Gerard #76



Larry #37



Mark & Lexie #72



Griff #48

Ralph #50 (twice)







# The Comfrey Story

## Healing & helping the soil

Comfrey, or Knitbone (*Symphytum officinale*), is an extremely versatile herb.

Internal prescribing of liquid by registered naturopaths and herbalists (like me) is prohibited in Australia, but comfrey can be used as a homeopathic remedy internally and in creams, oils and poultices.

**Parts Used:** roots and leaves, fresh and dried.

**Actions:** Demulcent, emollient, stimulant to bone, connective tissue, cartilage repair and vulnerary (healing of wounds).

**Contents:** Comfrey is the highest plant source of vitamin B12 and allantoin (a cell proliferant). It is highly mucilaginous and contains phenolic acids, choline and tannins, along with pyrrolizidine alkaloids (produced by plants to defend insect herbivores).

**Uses:** A healing agent for all damaged tissue - especially bones. Comfrey accelerates the normal healing processes and minimizes scarring. It is also valuable in the treatment of skin and bronchial conditions, and has been used in the regulation of female hormones.

**Application:** Externally comfrey is used in poultices, oils and creams. Internally used as a component in bone and ligament injury and maturity applications. Herbalists also include comfrey in mixes aimed at repairing hard tissue

abnormalities like scarring, adhesions, bone degeneration, spurs, nodules and calcification.

**Cautions:** Due to the alkaloids, comfrey is presently banned for internal use in Australia. As a poultice or for other external application it must be used with antiseptic herbs, as it is not antiseptic in its own right.

Comfrey cream (manufactured at Goolawah by Tony) is prepared from the herb *Symphytum officinalis* and mixed with an aqueous base. It's not only helpful for broken bones, sprains and bruises but also very good in assisting the treatment of tissue damage, varicose veins and arthritic joints. Recent research in Germany showed it is better than *Voltaren* cream for arthritic joint pain.

**Permaculture:** Comfrey is a dynamic nutrient accumulator and improves the soil as "a slow motion fountain" of nutrients because it is bringing up nutrients from the subsoil to improve the topsoil. It grows very well in Goolawah.

PS: Our Nature Loo instructions claim it is excellent as a decomposition accelerator in our toilets.

Tony Roberts

\*Tony is a naturopath and herbalist who specialises in Bowen Therapy. He's now operating out of Kempsey's Purple House in Forth Street from 9am to 6pm on Tuesdays.



# Harvest Time

Late summer was the season for rich pickings: Roger and Belinda succeeded in growing Goolawah's (probably) first ever Avocado (it took only four years and about \$300 so far on replacing trees, fencing etc.) whilst neighbours Pete & Mairead's gigantic Banana crop was definitely worth a photo. On Cockatoo Ridge, Bronwyn and Wayne grew a respectable pumpkin that weighed in at a hefty 10.8kg



Roger and Belinda's avocado



Pete and Mairead's bananas



Bronwyn and Wayne's pumpkin

## FARM GATE TOUR

Hastings Landcare organised a Farm Gate Tour over the June long weekend which saw Goolies out by the dozen (at least). Ten farms and agricultural businesses in the area – from oyster farm to blueberry business and sheep dairy – opened their doors and organised tours. A great way to exchange knowledge, learn stuff and have some fun. The photos show groups at the Koree Herb Farm near Beechwood and three Goolawah gentlemen being awarded massive trumpet pumpkins for asking intelligent questions at Shenstone, an 'urban Farm' in Wauchope. Maybe Goolawah could play a role in this annual event one day by sharing our special skills.



## Goolawah's got Talent

Russell had a big day at Port Macquarie's Glasshouse recently, he told us that in late April he performed in a lunch time concert as 'Outback Elvis'.



# A shared vision for Goolawah

For some time now I've been convinced that we need to update Goolawah's vision statement. Our original one was written before most of the current members joined the co-op, and lots of people aren't clear on what's in it.

Now, I know that vision statements can often be drab, vague, fluffy and frankly statements used by companies that don't seem to have any connection to what they actually are about, so I understand that there might be some resistance to putting any energy into this process. But, I reckon it's important for three reasons:

1. Knowing which values we all share can help to give a sense of unity, and empower us to put energy into achieving our goals, knowing that the people around us have the same vision.
2. We can use it as a yard stick to measure decisions we make – if a decision fits with the vision statement, then it has more value
3. It clearly shows new members what we're about.

We did a similar short survey about five years ago, and it was useful for showing how much support there was for finalising the DA.

For it to be meaningful and useful, it has to be in plain language, and represent all of our members. At the end of the day, Goolawah is what it's members are.

So Goolawah's vision is the common vision of the individual members. We've all got different dreams for what the co-op should be, but the parts of the dream we have in common form our collective dream.

I'm not talking about what you think the co-op stands for right now, or what you think it might be like in five years, I'm talking about what you want the co-op to be. In your ideal world, what would Goolawah be like? What values would it hold dearest? What things would happen here?

I've thought long and hard about how to do this visioning process, read up on how other groups do it, chatted with a bunch of members, and raised it at a meeting, and from all that, here's what I reckon is the best way:

1. Start with an initial questionnaire with four open-ended questions:
  - a) What do we do well at Goolawah at the moment?
  - b) What don't we do well at Goolawah at the moment?
  - c) What values are the most important to you as a member?
- d) In an ideal world, what would Goolawah be like?

The purpose of this initial questionnaire is to form lists. Not everyone needs to fill this one out, just a few people representing a broad range of our members.

2. Refine the list of answers from the initial questionnaire to clear out double ups or statements that are very similar
3. Use an online survey tool like Survey Monkey to put the same four questions to all members. For people who don't have internet access, we can bring a laptop to a meeting/Bonobo/men's shed/yoga/pizza night, or you can just visit someone that has internet.
4. The statistics from the online survey will show what members think our strengths and weaknesses are, and which values and goals are common dreams for the members of Goolawah.
5. Write up the shared values and goals into an easy to read statement/list.
6. Keep working on the areas we need to improve on and find ways to achieve our goals through the meeting process.

We could also include questions about what qualities we'd like to see in future members, if that's something people would like to do.

So, where to from here? How about having a think about the process above, and next meeting let's talk it through, make adjustments, then start with the initial questionnaire.

Anne Wilson

## Resolution 1: Fire prep mowing

*Rationale:* Persistent long grass on approximately ten sites is posing a fire hazard. We need a better, less bureaucratic system to make sure that blocks are mowed at least three times a year in line with fire and grass growing seasons. Currently private arrangements, and members volunteering to slash others' sites using the community tractor are mostly working ok, but some sites have lots of trees/objects and take longer to do, and \$50/site is not a fair rate for these sites.

*Resolution:* "All members are to regularly mow their sites to reduce fire fuel load. If a site is not mowed by cut off dates of 15/08, 15/11, 26/02, then the co-op will use a contractor to cut the grass, and bill the charges to the member. Goolawah members will be approached first to do the work, but if none are available, an off-site contractor will be hired. Charges will be at an hourly commercial rate. It is the member's responsibility to clearly mark trees and tidy up objects not to be mowed."

*Proposed:* Paul, *seconded:* Anne W



# April General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2nd April 2016

Minute Taker: Denise Cobourn

Chair/Facilitator: Craig Singleman (D)

Commenced: 9.15am

**Attendance:** Ralph Erthel (D), Ann & John Tennock, Bronwyn Little, Paul Martin, Anne Wilson (D), Keef & Mog Leach, Sue Loudon (D), Dennis Cobourn, Belinda & Roger Ball, Stuart Pougher, Louise (D) & Tony Roberts, Rose Mahar (D), Wayne Ellis, Mairead Shorten & Tarrik Morssi (part of the meeting).

**Apologies:** Julica Junghusling & Peter O'Hara

**Visitors:** Gunter Bohles & Julie

**Proxies:** Nil

**Confirmation of Previous minutes:**

January GM *Proposed* – Louise *Seconded* – Ralph *Approved unanimously*

March CM *Proposed* – Roger *Seconded* – Ralph *Approved unanimously*

**Business arising from Previous Meeting(s):**

1. 2 dust signs reading SLOW DOWN REDUCE DUST and a 40kph will cost \$208.71 from National Safety Signs. Purchase an additional 4 dust signs for erection on access roads + \$241.40. TOTAL = \$413.95. Will also need to purchase posts.

**ACTION:** Approval given for Denise to organise purchase of signs.

**2. Revisions to Finance Policy** – John advised still in progress.

**Secretary's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's Report - General Meeting 2/4/16 posted on website.
- DA Road Fund update: now \$113,000. GME invoice paid - \$23,000
- Thank you to all members now paying directly into Bank Australia account.
- Members have 90 days to pay \$250 invoices.
- Please don't ask John for exemptions / changes to the way the finances are managed as it makes his job more difficult.
- Member complaint regarding finance charge – John has prepared a detailed explanation of how Goolawah's finance charges work. This explanation will be published in the next Gazette, and has been emailed to the member.

**Finance Charge Proposal** (John) – When a payment is received any finance charge will be deducted before applying to outstanding levies.

*Seconded:* Tony Roberts

*Abstain:* 1 *Approved*

- How payments are applied – it is the responsibility of members to pay their dues on time and to clearly indicate any preference regarding which invoice the payment is applied to.
- Road Levy - Set annual Road Levy 2016/17 at \$500 to begin on 1 July 2016.

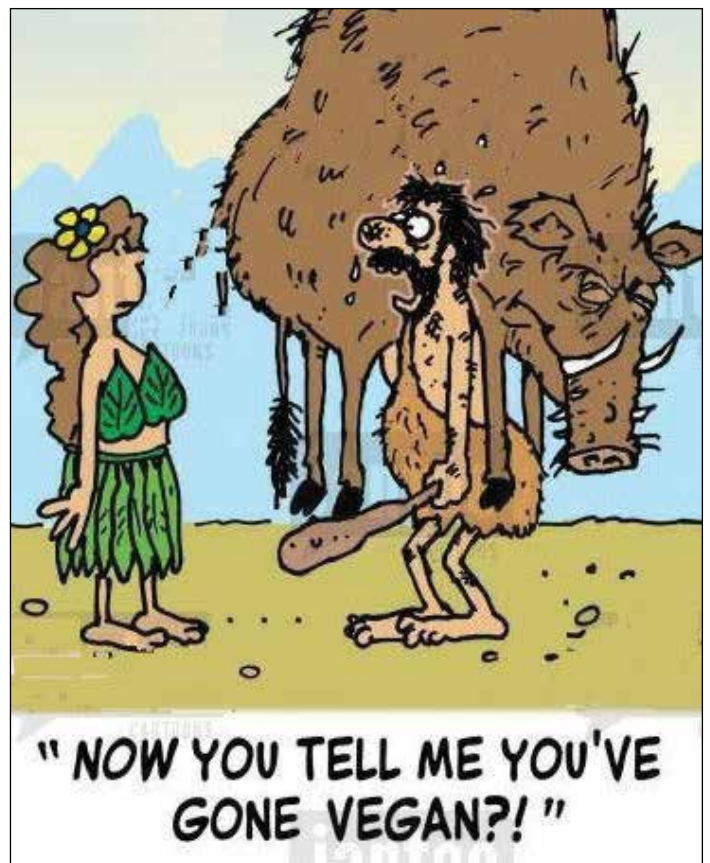
*Approved unanimously. !*

- Delinquent members:

Response received from Justin & Leah and circulated to Directors. Their response made no in-roads to paying off their debt. They are currently living at Point Plomer. Zen currently lives on Goolawah and is working as apprentice with Jason. At the last two meetings the community voted they should pay \$90 per week not \$50 per fortnight in order for them to meet their financial obligations. From today the finance charge will be deducted before applying to outstanding levies. At \$50 per fortnight their debt is increasing. They did not take up offer to meet with Directors last month. The community is concerned regarding their current attitude towards Goolawah. It was noted in the past they contributed to the Community - Leah was Treasurer for a number of years, and Justin often did community work. They do have the option of doing community work to help pay off their debt.

**ACTION:** The meeting agreed unanimously to proceed with the current request of \$90 per week and to re-invite them to meet with four Directors or their Delegates on Saturday 16th April 10am Camp Kitchen. Advise via email and text as they are not collecting mail on a regular basis. ! Grant Woolcock has paid \$1000 – reducing his debt from \$2004 to \$1004. Ben Adams has advised John he will be paying soon.

- Marion Arent and Alan Highfield – Invoices are being sent to both. Any sale of share will require the signatures of both parties.
- Signatories on cheques (as per Delegation Manual) – Louise, Craig, Ralph



and John are the new cheque signatories to operate the Bank Australia account.

*Proposed:* Roger *Seconded:* Sue *Approved unanimously*

**DA Report:**

- Refer to website for updates from DA Committee - posted 20.3.16.
- Solicitor advised our weak point is in the area of technical details ie. need Road Engineer quotes / advice. He emphasized simplicity, and to focus on getting advice etc. from Road Engineers.
- Councilors and council staff made it clear they want a sealed road, not an all-weather road. They are prepared to consider a compromise. They agreed to liaise with Goolawah on a monthly basis.
- Options;
  1. Type 3 sealed
  2. Possibly a sealed section in front of residences
  3. All-weather road
- Michael and Ishbel spoke to neighbours (thank you) – their main concern was speeding Goolawah motorists and dust. They are open to talking about a good outcome for all.
- Kinchela Road is a good example of a local sealed 4m wide road. Type 3 is too wide. Let DA Committee know if you know of other roads like this.
- Road Engineer feedback;
- GHD (Port Macquarie) - plan to meet with them during the week.
- Mike Dutton of DEX Consulting (Kempsey) – will provide design and costing on all 3 options – will cost \$3500 approx.

**ACTION:** Give DA Committee authority to engage Mike Dutton asap, and possibly GHD.

*Morning Tea 11:00am*

**Road Report:**

- Georges 'gang' on Illa Langi Road had issues with the neighbor on south side. He called Crowned Lands, council, police, and says he wants to take us to court. His issues are around erosion, blocked drains and flooding. Ralph and Craig did their best to alleviate his concerns. He's written a letter to an 'authority'? Don (neighbor across the road) signed the letter but not really supporting all his issues. He claims the 2014/15 upgrade clogged the drains, causing his land to flood. Don explained the plan was to let the drain block at the end of Illa Langi Road, and drain further down Maria River Road. Who's responsibility is it to clear the drain? Final bill ended up being only \$100 over budget.
- Bush encroaching from our gate on the south side of Illa Langi Road is



© Julica Jungenhuis

getting overgrown and needs machinery to clear in the near future (this year). The owner is Tom Azermath (nursing home in Maitland). George may be able to squeeze us in between sub division jobs. Is any member planning on a dam?

**ACTION:** Next Working bee followed by machinery when available.

#### **Membership Report:**

- Move Jay Keenan is approved as a Guest Member.

*Proposed:* Paul *Seconded:* Rose *Approved unanimously.*

- Gunter Bohles completed membership application process. No issues. Gunter Bohles be eligible for membership.

*Proposed:* Craig *Seconded:* Rose *Approved unanimously.*

Gunter is looking at Carmel's shares today. Will be ratified as a member when share is purchased.

Shares currently available – Carmel (3 shares), Vivienne, Rodney.

Carmel's shares – sites not surveyed, access issues with neighbor, bore.

#### **Machinery Report:**

- Tractor needs a new link pin, steering wheel comes off (fixed). Greg Ryan mentioned to Roger by law we need to have a lap seatbelt on tractor.

**ACTION:** Tarrik to check if he has a seatbelt.

#### **Fire Squad Report:**

- Striker update – Total to finish (including vehicle) will cost \$7,684. So far we have spent \$6,694. Going really well. Service completed. Finishing electrical.

#### **Proposal (Paul): Approve additional expenditure of \$1,700 to finish Striker.**

*Seconded:* Craig *Approved unanimously.*

- 2nd pump – Roger recommends keeping. All agreed to keep this.
- Cullum is interested in buying the old Land Rover striker – Cullum has already paid \$800 to Treasurer.

*Proposal (Tarrik):* Accept Callum's offer of \$800 for Land Rover.

*Seconded:* Ralph *Approved unanimously.*

- Requirement for Fire Permits lifted as of last Friday. Take care when burning piles if dry spell continues.

#### **Work and Expenses Claims:**

- Stewart Pougher - \$77.50
- Mairead & Peter - \$250.00
- Dan Rose - \$30.00
- Anadean Douglas - \$25.00 (applied to Luke & Ishbel's account)
- Mark & Lexie - \$130.00
- Callum Lawson - \$60.00
- Louise Roberts - \$100.00
- Peter & Julica - \$945.00

*All approved unanimously*

**NOTE:** Office Bearers need to submit Work Claims before July ie. \$500 Work Claim for the Financial Year.

Review community jobs List: No reviews

#### **Resolutions:**

**Resolution 1** - Withdrawn - received payment \$1000 (including \$219.32 finance charge).

Received 2 emails from Grant 20/3/16 requesting share not be cancelled and payment in progress.

That the Goolawah membership of Grant Woolcock be cancelled and his share number 54 declared forfeit in accordance with rule 15. Rationale Quarterly invoices and statements have been sent in line with normal procedure. Invoice #426, Due Date 30 August 2013 remains unpaid two years after the due date. Total account balance unpaid \$2965.00 Last

payment received \$500.00 on 10 June 2014 Email requesting immediate payment or acceptable payment plan, and registered letter delivered person to person on 6 February. No response. Email requesting 'show cause' why membership should not be cancelled, and registered letter awaiting collection since Tuesday 23 February. It appears that Grant has no interest in continuing participation in Goolawah Cooperative.

#### **Resolution 2**

Goolawah will use debt collection services as a tool to recover debts from members who have not been paid up members for 2 years. Decision about whether to use this tool is to be made on a case by case basis at a meeting. *Rationale:* The use of professional debt collectors can be another tool besides share forfeiture and eviction when members do not make reasonable plans/arrangements with the Co-operative to repay aged debts and regain active financial membership.

Members don't want to be debt collectors nor should we ask them to be; people take debt collection agencies seriously; such agencies are effective and it has worked well for other communities. Any costs incurred by Goolawah from the use of a debt collection agency would be passed on as a charge to the debtors, is it clear costs incurred from debt collecting is for member, who takes on role of liaising with debt collector – will not be Treasurer.

*Proposed & Seconded* by March 2016 Community Meeting.

#### *Discussion / Comments*

Not necessary as a debt collector can't do what we're already doing now, current process is working, approve as a tool, ends up as a legal process in the Small Claims Tribunal, going external should be a last resort, make current process clearer, need a change of culture, nothing happens until 2 years overdue (should be sooner), cooperatives find it almost impossible to evict a member – clarified the eviction at Bundagen was not related to unpaid debt, so sad to get to point of eviction, reasons are so varied for not paying dues, social pressure should be enough, sends a message – we may not need to use debt collectors – there if we need it, current process has collected an enormous amount of debt, start naming and publishing member's names with debts each month (name and shame), credit to the community we have not needed this action to date, outsourcing takes the pressure off community members, need a process with clear steps, approval to engage debt collectors at GM's only, hard cases make bad law, debt collectors is part of the tool box, formalise the steps in the Delegation Manual.

**AMENDMENT:** Goolawah will use debt collection services as a tool to recover debts from members who have not been paid up members for 1 year. All debt collection costs will be added to the member's account. Decision about whether to use this tool is to be made by resolution at a General Meeting.

*Propose amendment:* Tony *Seconded:* John *Approved unanimously.*

*Amended Resolution:* For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 !

#### **General Business Agenda Items:**

- Speeding Goolawah Drivers: This has been raised as an issue following Michael's and Ishbel's conversations with neighbours – their main concern is speeding and dust. We should apply the same courtesy and respect to our neighbours as we do to ourselves ie. 20km in residential areas and 40km on connecting roads. 20km does reduce dust, and slower speeds 'save our roads'. Since erecting speed signs on Goolawah some residents are still speeding. Inform tradesman, delivery drivers and guests they should slow down on access roads. Forest Road upgrade – more road to maintain, more cost. Discussion around whether to erect speed signs and / or dust signs on access roads.

#### **ACTION:**

- Purchase 4 SLOW DOWN REDUCE DUST signs for erection on Nevertire and Illa Langi Roads – discuss with neighbours prior to erecting (ask Luke and Ishbel to do this).
- Next meeting – put forward a resolution to change our current By-Law related to speed limits, and extend to access roads.
- Cemetery – Anne T and others have done a lot of research.

*Proposal (Anne W):* The community accepts we approve the concept of a cemetery on Goolawah with details to be decided in the future.

*Seconded:* Ralph *Abstain* – 2 *Approved*

**Proposal (Paul):** Apply to the Department of Health and allow up to \$500 for any fees associated with application.

*Seconded:* Ralph *Approved unanimously.*

*Gratitude Round:* Round of applause for the meeting participants.

*Meeting Closed:* 1.00pm



# May Community/Directors Meeting Minutes

7 May 2016

Minute Taker: Trinh Nguyen Chair: Peter O'H Commenced: 9.15 am

**Attendance:** Julica, Bronwyn, Wayne, Belinda, Luke, Russell, Michael (D for Sue), Trinh, Paul, Dan, Anne W (D), Roger (D for Louise), Denise (D for Rose), Ralph (D), Craig (D), Isaac

**Apologies:** Rose, Louise, Dennis, Sue

**Visitors:** Alan

## Amendment & confirmation of previous minutes:

Re. Committee for Goolawah Cemetery, Denise raised correction, that John T is not part of the committee, which is Ralph, Anne T and Russell.

Read out from Jan GM minutes - "The planning group formed to make recommendations on the feasibility of a Cemetery at Goolawah has done a lot of research, and have come to the conclusion the way forward is to put in an application to the Health Department, in order to move forward on the issues around burial. Anticipated fees of up to \$500 could be associated with an application."

Moved by Ralph that minutes be corrected, seconded by Paul.

Approved unanimously.

## Business arising from previous minutes:

1. Purchase of dust signs: Bronwyn and Denise to decide where poles go, purchase cement and poles if required and direct installation at next Working Bee.
2. Neighbour feedback re erection of dust signs: Michael C said neighbours are eager for dust signs to go up.
3. Resolution to change our By-Law re speed limits to include access roads: Denise readout current By-Law No 9: "The speed limit on Goolawah is 20km in residential areas and 40km on connecting roads".

*Proposed change:* "Members and their visitors are not to drive faster than 20km in residential areas and 40km in non-residential areas in Goolawah and on both access roads of Nevettire and Illa Langi".

*ACTION* To be discussed in the next meeting.

4. Revisions to Finance Policy: Refer to Treasurer's Report. Work in progress.
5. Outcome of Meeting with Justin & Leah and Directors or their Delegates Saturday 16 April at CK regarding unpaid levies: Prior to the proposed meeting the Secretary received an email from Leah saying that they were unable to attend as she was in Tasmania.
6. Cemetery Application: Refer to Business Arising.

## Secretary's Report

1. Position of Treasurer's Report in Meeting Agenda:  
The secretary suggested that a hardcopy of the report be circulated at the beginning of the meeting to allow members time to absorb it before discussion and approval before General Business at the end. (the report is posted on the website a few days before the meeting anyway).
2. Neighbour Kellie Flanagan has 100 acres for sale for \$375,000
3. New Electoral Boundaries put the Co-op in the seat of Cowper
4. Public Liability for Goolawah
  - Building sites are not covered under our Public Liability insurance policy
  - Awareness raising: up to members to decide if they take out Construction Works Insurance, which includes Public Liability. (approx. cost \$1000).
  - Members must keep their building sites safe and display relevant legal signage.
  - Julica will put a suggestion in the newsletter
  - Pete will put a reminder on the website
5. Justin & Leah's Debt
  - They currently owe \$4374
  - Leah sent the Secretary an email requesting it be read out at the meeting. In summary she says they will sell their Hilux ute to repay their current Goolawah debt outright and that this will take 4-6 weeks.

Vote to put Resolution to GM:

- Resolution: "To refer Justin & Leah's debt to Debt Collectors if they fail to pay their current Goolawah debt by 27 June 2016".
- Secretary to email Leah: "Failing to pay the current debt of \$4374 outright to Goolawah by 27 June 2016, as per your own proposal in your email, the community will refer the entire debt to Debt Collectors

without further discussion".

## 6. DA/Access Roads

Mike Dutton is working on Goolawah's project: quoting on 3 options - all-weather road, sealed in front of residents, all sealed to the standard of the Kinchela Right Bank Road (photo circulated).

## Road Report

1. Ralph requests that the next Working Bee trim the bush growing onto Illa Langi and fix potholes on Tallowood.
2. Paul sought interest for a wood chipper to be hired to mulch the roadside bush, and will get costings if necessary.

## Membership Report

1. Enquiries: Bronwyn had 3 but not heard back; Paul had a couple, and is encouraging enquirers to spend time woofing with members to learn about Goolawah community.
2. Application by Luke for visitor fee exemption for Jay approved unanimously
3. Guest membership fee structure - Luke requests further discussion about it, suggesting a levy per share rather than per person.
4. Anne noted that Moora Moora community has taken aspects of Goolawah's membership structure in their own procedures.
5. Carmel's lots for sale: Ralph will offer to help her sell.

## Machinery Report

1. Private tractor use: Denise noted they recently paid \$10/hour.
2. Tractor Seat Belt: Tarrik may have spare one, and Dan to install.

## Fire Report

1. Striker finished and ready to go. Paul suggest members take the Hi-Lux to their lots to familiarise themselves with its use - he offered to train them.
2. Trailer: Roger raised fitting out a trailer for the fire truck.
3. Asset Protection Zone:
  - Anyone wanting to mulch or burn in their APZs to contact fire squad (Roger & Paul).
  - The forest mulcher used last year was Jason (imulch.com.au), based in Taree.
  - Roger offered to survey members' sites for fire protection

## Treasurer's Report

1. Adopted (m. Ralph, s. Dan) unanimously.
2. Expense Claims approved unanimously (m. Roger, s. Anne) Belinda & Paul's claims were submitted but have not shown up in report.

Sattwa requested that we accept work claims that have not been submitted on time - agreed.

## General Business

1. Cemetery: report from Russell tabled. Ralph to liaise with Anne T and proceed with application.
2. Rainforest Regeneration Project: Wayne explained that it's been lead by Rob under Men's Shed, and they would like to make it a community project. And include everyone in planting next week. Rob can also provide education sessions. Wayne will text details. Special thanks to Rob for all work done.
3. Camp Kitchen: Wayne cleans it after Men's Shed and is current caretaker. Discussion about cleaning up the mess after Pizza Night - the same few people come the morning after - all who participate should help. The battery may be on its way out as it is only capable of running one light at night - Wayne will talk to Dave L. Special Thanks to Wayne for all the unclaimed work done at CK
4. Cats & Foxes:  
Paul raised idea of paying for professional eradication.
5. Red Hill Fire Shelter: Anne reported that footings are dug, steel ready to be picked up by James, and we need a Working Bee to do the formwork.

## June Meeting

You're missing the minutes for the June meeting? Don't worry, we neither censored nor forgot them. The first Saturday in June was simply considered too wet to have a reasonably coherent meeting and our favourite get-together got cancelled.

This won't happen again very often in the future since the board is thinking up a Plan B for situations like this, and the *Goolawah Men's Shed* is working overtime to finish that enormous roof over the camp kitchen deck. Update on building progress around the paddocks in the next *Gazette*.



© Alicia Fox

An intense party season let us celebrate a 30th, a 65th and a 70th birthday. During the traditional equinox festivities before Easter the Three Island Natives were supported by a classy line up on stage: Special guests included NT visitor Lou (violin), guest member Anadean (vocals) and Callum's wife Helen (keyboards)

#### Newsletter Team

Editor - Julica Layout - Griff Printer - Ralph

#### Disclaimer

The content of the Goolawah Gazette and it's web site is provided for information purposes only. No claim is made as to the accuracy or authenticity of the content of the website.

The Goolawah Gazette and the Goolawah website do not accept any liability to any person or organisation for the information or advice (or the use of such information or advice) which is provided on this web site or newsletters or incorporated into it by reference. The information on

the newsletters and the website is provided on the basis that all persons accessing the site undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of its content.

The information contained in the newsletters is not to be displayed except in PDF A4 format. No liability is accepted for any information or services which may appear in any other format. No responsibility is taken for any information or services which may appear on any linked websites.

## Stay up to date, follow the website - get a mail when new items are posted!

Get the Goolawah Good Oil from the comfort of your own computer! You can stay up-to-date instantly with the latest Goolawah news & notices by choosing to receive an email whenever a new item is posted on our website.

Simply go into the members section, and follow these instructions:

#### Follow Blog via Email

Click to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.



Goolawah Co-operative Limited  
PO Box 40 Crescent Head NSW 2440

Secretary: Ralph Erthel email: [goolawah.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:goolawah.secretary@gmail.com)

Treasurer: John Tennock email: [gool.treas@gmail.com](mailto:gool.treas@gmail.com)

Banking details: Goolawah Co-operative - Bank Australia: BSB 313-140 Account 12088171

Registered with the Department of Fair Trading NSW