

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

Journal of Goolawah Co-operative Limited

September 2017

## Special neighbours

See page 2



© Harvey Cresswell



## From the Editor

Your spring Gazette is four pages longer than the previous issue. Unfortunately we still couldn't fit in special articles about the following subjects:

- Massive praise for the Men's Shed work in the camp kitchen. The new door is fabulous, large, light, and even people without big muscles can open it. Thanks guys!
- A letter to the rain gods, let's hope they send us some wet soon.
- A story about possible sealing of Maria River Road - apparently Kempsey and Hastings Councils are trying to join forces to get funding for bitumen.

We continue to publish the minutes only after approval through a meeting. So in this Gazette you find the May, June, July and August minutes. In December we'll print September, October & November.

Enjoy the read; and keep sending ideas, stories, drawings and photos if you have any and have a nice spring.

Julica (julica.j@gmail.com)

## Calendar

### September

- 22 Rhythm Hunters, cutting edge fusion drumming band, 8pm Wauchope Community Arts Hall

### October

- 1 Wildwood Music Festival, Cassegrain winery, [www.wildwoodmusic.com.au](http://www.wildwoodmusic.com.au)
- 7 Goolawah AGM, 9am Camp Kitchen
- 16-22 Slim Dusty Country Music Festival, Kempsey Showground
- 29 Funya@unkya Market, grass roots community market (make it, bake it, sew it, grow it). Eungai Creek, from 10am [unkya.com.au](http://unkya.com.au)

### November

- 4 Goolawah Community Meeting, 9am Camp Kitchen
- 10 Akubra Cup, Kempsey Racecourse
- 18 Working Bee, check phone tree for details
- 19 Gladstone Markets (9am-1pm)

### December

- 2 Community Meeting, 9am Camp Kitchen



# New (old) Member

Hi all my fellow Goolies,  
Technically speaking I've been a member since about 2002, but have spent the intervening years up in Armidale and only visited occasionally, so a 'newbie' introduction here is probably appropriate. I'm on Lot 1, first on your left as you approach Red Hill from the west. I've not built anything substantial yet, but you've probably noticed a swale planted out with Rob-gifted seedlings, and a new growth of irrigation risers - I'm sure you'll all know the joy of getting water for the first time!

I'm one of the 'turn 60 in 2018' club. I've worked the last 30 years as an academic. I'm a linguist who's specialised in Australian Aboriginal languages, so I've done a lot of time in NT communities documenting languages, writing grammars and dictionaries, and making movies.

These interests will all continue, but I'm looking to spend the next decade less desk-bound, contributing to community life, building on my site, being more involved in creative arts, growing plants and developing a garden



- and dropping all of those things the minute a swell hits. I've always loved this part of NSW. As a 17 yr old I used to camp and surf at Racecourse, and decided then that I'd live around here one day. I'm chuffed that through Goolawah, that dream has become my new reality - drop by and say hi when you're going past.

*Nick Reid*

## Dancing Brolgas down south...

A brolga pair has recently been in temporary residence in the wetlands west of Maria River Road north of Goolawah. Harvey

photographed them in early August as they started their famous dance: "Experts used to think the brolga dance was a mating



© Harvey Cresswell





ritual, but now say they just dance whenever they feel like it! Brolgas seem to come back every year to the same place, so with luck, and good land management, those two will stay."

The name Brolga comes from the Gamilaraay language in northern NSW, where they are called buralga. In the Arrnheamlan language of the Yolngu people it is known as gudurrku, made famous by a Yothu Yindi song. Various Aboriginal legends and dances are associated with the bird. Bush Heritage (BH) describes them as "one of Australia's largest flying birds, standing a metre tall with a wing span of up to 2.4 metres. They're one of two members of the Gruidae (crane) family in Australia."

#### **Vulnerable in NSW**

According to NSW Office of Environment & Heritage the brolga was "formerly found across Australia, except for the south-east corner, Tasmania and the south-western third of the country. It is still abundant in the northern tropics, but very sparse across the southern part of its range."

BH says that while not considered migratory, they're partially nomadic, flying to different areas following seasonal rainfall; and that the omnivorous brolgas feed and breed in open wetlands, coastal mudflats and irrigated croplands.

BH confirms that during the breeding season (Sep-Dec in the south) a pair will return to its breeding site to build a nest - an island mound made with sticks, grass and sedges - sometimes to the same spot for 20 years.

The Australian brolga population is considered 'secure' with 20 to 100 thousand birds in the north. But the southern population, estimated at 1000 birds, is dwindling and the species is listed as vulnerable in NSW, SA and Victoria.



© Harvey Creswell

Birds Australia: "Within NSW, Brolga numbers have been much reduced because of widespread drainage of suitable habitat for agriculture, land reclamation and water regulation."

#### **Keep wetlands in a natural state**

Harvey again: "Seeing these fabulous wading birds so near to Goolawah makes it imperative that we act to keep the wetlands which are part of Goolawah in a natural state, and continue to keep all dogs out of the property. Perhaps one day these majestic birds will land here once again."

#### **Interesting links:**

[bushheritage.org.au/species/brolgas](http://bushheritage.org.au/species/brolgas)  
[youtube.com/watch?v=zxnra4qI EIA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=zxnra4qI EIA)  
[birdsinbackyards.net/species/Grus-rubicunda](http://birdsinbackyards.net/species/Grus-rubicunda)  
 Julica with Harvey Creswell



**Annual General Meeting 7.10.2018** Don't forget: the AGM is on Saturday, October 7th at 9am. Check the agenda in the week before on member's page of the website. See page 6 for resolutions.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

## Some Fundamentals

It doesn't seem likely that our species came to dominate the planet because of higher intelligence or better toolmaking capabilities. 20.000 years ago *homo sapiens* probably had higher intelligence and toolmaking skills than the average individual today – and was physically stronger than the species is today.

In the Stone Age natural selection tested you every day, every moment. If you flunked any of these tests you died. Yet despite our ancestor's superior skills, humankind as a whole was much weaker then than it is today.

Over those 20.000 years humankind moved from hunting mammoths with stone-tipped spears to exploring the solar system with space ships. The crucial factor here was not the evolution of more dexterity. No! Our conquest of the world was due to our ability to connect many humans to one another. Our dominion of the planet is not because individuals are smarter, more nimble-fingered than the individual chimp or wolf, but because *homo sapiens* is the only species capable of co-operating flexibly in huge numbers. If humans had not been capable of this, we'd still be splitting flint stones - instead of uranium atoms.

Bees and ants learned co-operation millions of years earlier – so, why didn't they beat us to the nuclear bomb? Bees' co-operation lacks flexibility. They cannot reinvent their social system overnight. If a hive faces a new threat - or opportunity - the bees cannot, eg., guillotine the queen and establish a republic.

Mammals like elephants and chimpanzees do co-operate more flexibly than bees but only in small numbers. Their co-operation is based on personal acquaintance: the chimp must know the other guy personally or no-go... perhaps even animosity.

Only *homo sapiens* can co-operate in huge numbers with total strangers! It is this concrete capability, rather than some external soul (religion) or some unique kind of consciousness (philosophy), that explains our mastery of the Earth!

Yes, ***homo goolius***, co-operation is the key!

Ralph Erthel

The above borrows heavily from Yuval Noah Harari's new book *Homo Deus* - with much having been paraphrased for brevity's sake.

## Fair Trading Advice

### on running a co-operative

I know, it sounds boring, but in the weeks before the AGM members might like to check out the Fair Trading website: ([fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Co-operatives\\_and\\_associations/Running\\_a\\_cooperative.page?](http://fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Co-operatives_and_associations/Running_a_cooperative.page?).)

It provides a guide to the legal and other responsibilities that a co-operative must adhere to once registered. This will be of particular interest if you're thinking of nominating to be a director. During my time as a director I often referred to the Goolawah Director and Office Holder Manual and to the Fair Trading Website. If you haven't had a turn at being a director, I'd like to encourage you to have a go. Sometimes challenging, but mostly enjoyable, providing a real insight into the value of co-operative living.

This quote comes from 'Co-operatives in Australia A Manual - Understanding the purpose, start-up process, planning and running of a co-operative in Australia - Prepared by RDA Mid North Coast for the Co-operatives Federation of New South Wales July 2013':

'Co-operatives were first established over 500 years ago and are one of the oldest types of business. The social principles that guide co-operatives are principles that humanity, at its best, have used to survive, share and thrive since early palaeolithic times. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, equality, solidarity and caring for others'.

On Fair Trading's website under the heading 'Running a Co-operative' you'll find information with easy to read fact sheets on the following;

- Small co-operatives financial reporting
- Co-operatives active membership
- Role of a co-operative secretary
- Co-operative directors
- Co-operative rules
- Postal ballots for co-operatives
- Resolving co-operative disputes

Happy reading! I'll put a copy of those fact sheets in the camp kitchen.

Denise Cobourn





Whilst Sattwa and Mark examined an option for immediate and permanent roof access in the Last Resort ....

## Working Bee Moments



The rest of the team worked on wall structures and fortifying the rafters. After a number of working bees during winter the hexagon is taking shape and starts looking like a proper little building now.

## Saying Sorry

The community is trying to elaborate policies on dispute resolution and breaches of the code of conduct. Of course this is challenging, as we try to work out processes to provide recourse for members who feel aggrieved about the behaviour of others or how they were treated.

I support those efforts, but feel that as individuals we should also take responsibility for our own actions and behaviour. When I resigned as a director in July, I apologised if I had inadvertently contributed to the troubles over the logging issue. I also suggested that others take an honest look at their own behaviour, and apologise if necessary, to whoever they need to.

At the September Community Meeting I suggested that the 'Apologies' item in our agenda (when we pass on other members' apologies for missing the meeting) be expanded. It could be an opportunity for actual public apologies by members themselves to individuals or the community at large.

Entirely voluntary, this act of contrition could help

to clear the air, promote healing and give an opportunity for aggrieved parties to move towards forgiveness and even reconciliation.

Naturally an insincere apology would not do the job!

Apologies are a simple but powerful tool, used in counselling, mediation & psychological practice, and the core of Truth & Reconciliation commissions and groups around the world following societal trauma. The benefits of apologies can be far-reaching. And it's do-it-yourself.

Done sincerely apologies may even obviate the need for more formal dispute resolution. In our can-do, DIY Goolawah culture, surely as individuals we can try to set things right, and have the courage to simply say SORRY!

Peter O'Hara



## Resolutions for October 2017 meeting

### Resolution 1

Road Levy for financial year 2017/18 to be \$500.00 billed (quarterly) in accordance with normal billing procedure.

*Rationale:* The \$500 road levy for 2017/18 was unanimously approved at the 1 April 2017 meeting (as it was at the 2 April 2016 meeting for 2016/17). This was necessary in order to include it in the 1 July 2017 invoice run. The question was raised whether, as a matter of procedure, this should be the subject for a formal resolution.

*Proposed:* John Tennock *Seconded:* Ralph Erthel

### Resolution 2

Road levy to continue as a regular levy until the DA finally approved and any associated roadworks costs covered. The amount to be agreed by vote at the April general meeting without the need for a special resolution.

*Rationale:* All road levies collected are being accumulated into a 'DA Road Fund' budget. This is still short of expectations about what the total cost might be so we need to continue accumulating these funds. Road maintenance is not taken out of this budget and is funded, so far, by normal annual levies. Once the DA is approved and associated road work completed, the road budget arrangements can be reviewed.

*Proposed:* John Tennock *Seconded:* Ralph Erthel

### Resolution 3

Proposed amendment to by-law re dogs

That visitors with dogs be allowed to stay with a Goolawah member for a maximum of 2 or 3 nights.

With the proviso that the dog is tied up/on a lead, only within the perimeter of the host member's site. That the dog is well trained & well behaved, and under the supervision of a responsible owner at all times.

Please note, that when the above conditions are not adhered to, Goolawah reserves the right to ask the member that their visiting dog leaves the property forthwith.

*Rationale:* Some Goolawah members have relatives or close friends whom they would like to have visit & stay in their home for a few nights accompanied by their family dog. When the above conditions are complied with, and there is no disturbance to wildlife or neighbours, then these occasional visits can be made possible thereby meeting the needs of some of our members.

*Proposed:* Nityama Martin *Seconded:* Lexie Gonzales



## 23 Nest Vacancies

John Seed's *Deep Ecology Workshop* in May brought a man to Goolawah who's an expert on nest boxes: Trevor Smith. He later returned to the Co-op with 23 bird boxes to install. These boxes are very well made and took time to build, but considering that it takes a tree about 100 years to form a natural hollow this work is surely worth it. His boxes vary in size and their openings and box shapes are specially designed for different species.

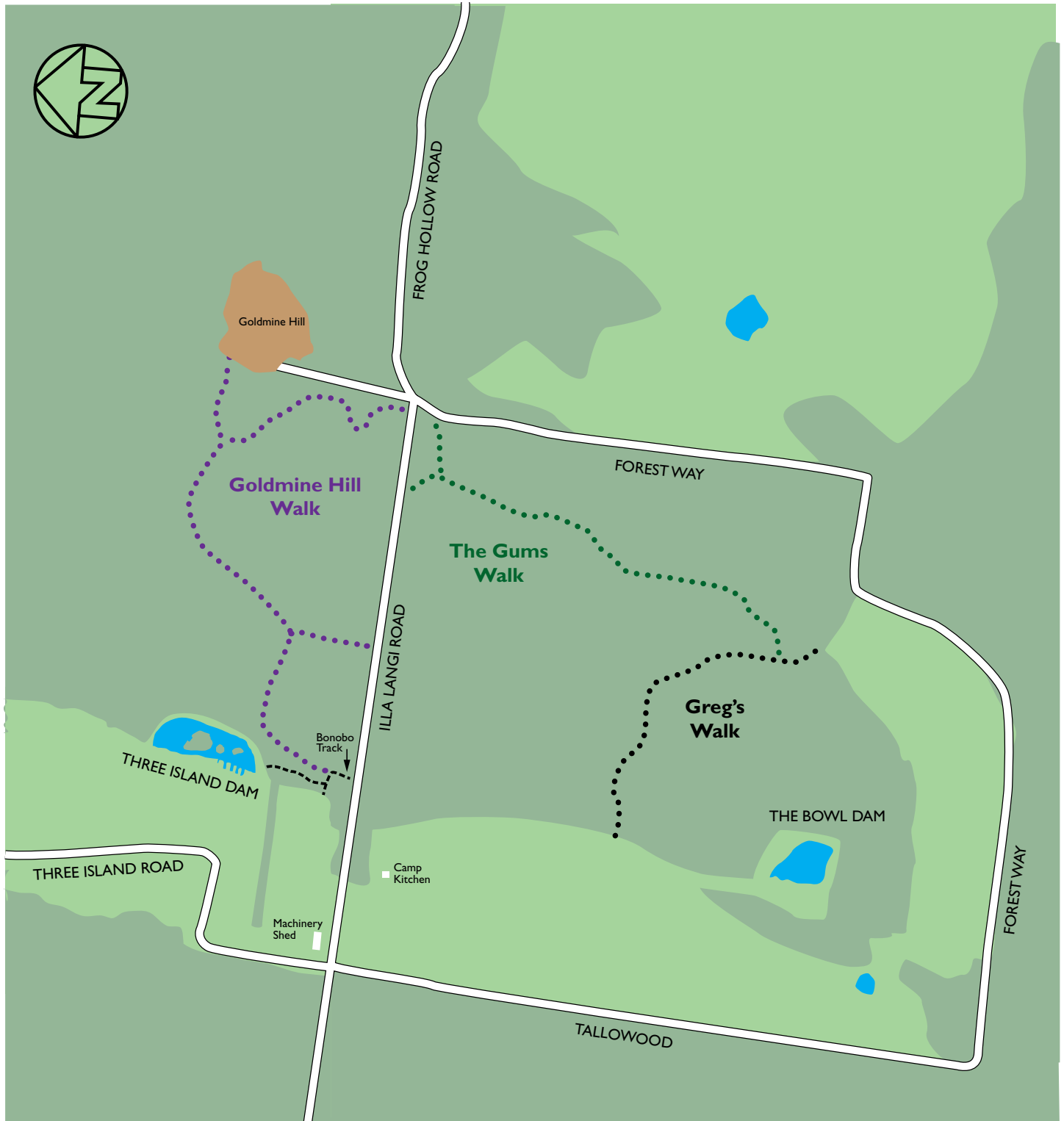
A group of members (Frank, Paul, Sattwa, Wayne, Mark) then helped Trevor to find suitable spots all around Goolawah for those hand crafted nesting stations. After several months it would be interesting to do a first survey and find out if and by whom they have been used. Paul will get a camera in the next months and see who is in the boxes. Maybe someone has seen movement around them in recent weeks? Let us know! Apart from some very different bird species the nest boxes could be used by gliders and possums.

PS: If you're interested in building your own nest box, the [birdsinyard.net](http://birdsinyard.net) website has developed twelve different nest box plans with useful background and instructions.

Julica



# New walkways



Several new trails have been cleared on Goolawah communal land in recent months. Griff's mud map above shows their location. Between Goldmine Hill and the Three Island Dam, Wayne, Roger, Michael and other Men's Shedders cleared a new, tractor-wide walking trail, meandering through bushland and forest. It's about a kilometre long and accessible via a side track from Illa Langi Road. Both trails still need a name.

The oldest of the new trails was a track Roger and

Belinda cleared west of Forest Way. It's called Gums Walk and has already got a hand-carved road sign. It's also tractor-wide and connects Forest Way with the bottom of Verity's lot and Greg's Walk between Bowl and Burrendong. About half a year ago Anne cleared another, footpath-wide walking trail (not on this map) behind Red Hill dam. It goes past beautiful old gums and leads south east to the new border road. Look out for the red ribbons.



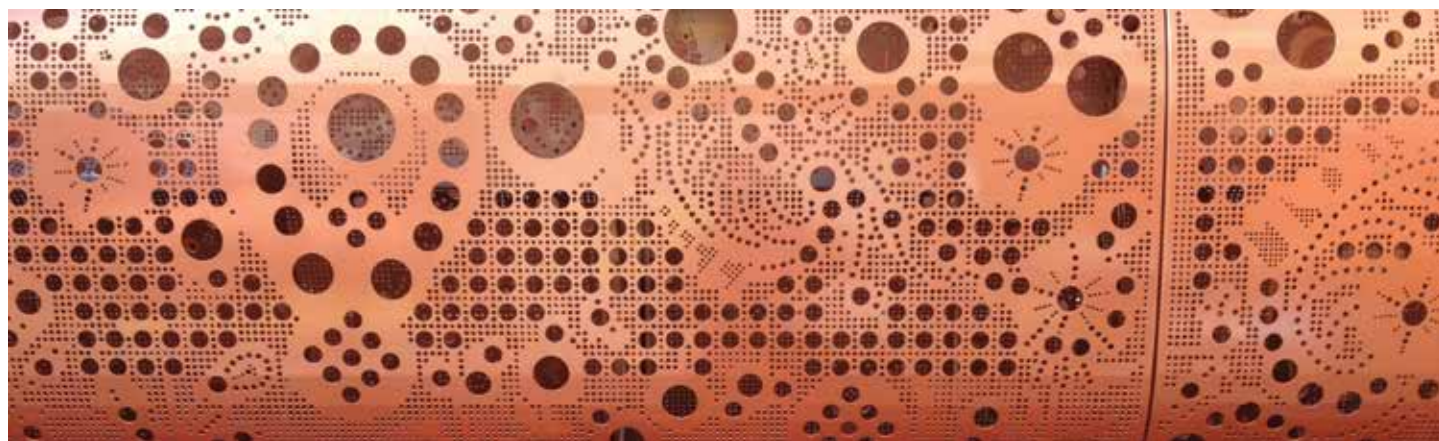
## Kevin's Goolawah sketchbook

Kevin adds this memory about his loo drawing on Forest Way:

"Russ moved to Goolawah early on. His camp and dunny were later shown to be on common ground, the dunny was therefore declared to be "public".

Others have used it, myself included, from time to time, until they've built one for themselves. It has proven to be a very handy structure and is part of our history, sadly being considered for demolition."

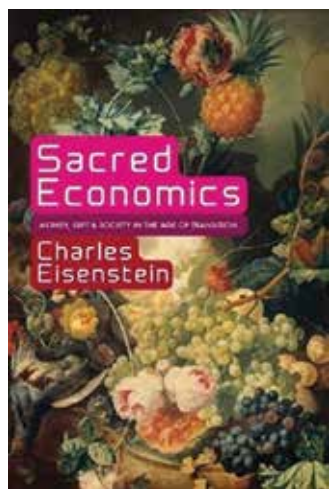
PS: Recently the dunny was moved away from Forest Way to Russell's site.



The public benches in The Hague are very different from anything I had seen before - they are works of art, as you can see from this close-up. Griff

## BOOK REVIEW

### The History of Money



When exploring uncharted territory it is always wise to have a guide with good local knowledge and the ability to communicate it clearly. Such a guide can help us avoid unproductive dead-ends. Our Goolawah enterprise could be considered a bold exploration of alternative

economic models. Unfortunately the potentially useful guides, those who have studied and understood economics, are usually locked into the conventional system of banks and corporations and unable to explore radical alternatives.

According to *Wikipedia* Charles Eisenstein is a public speaker, self-described "degrowth activist" and the author of several books including *The Ascent of Humanity* (2007), *Sacred Economics* (2011), and *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible* (2013). He has a

deep understanding of economic principles and how to communicate them.

*Sacred Economics* traces the history of money from ancient gift economies to modern capitalism, revealing how the money system has contributed to alienation, competition, and scarcity, destroyed community, and necessitated endless growth. Today, these trends have reached their extreme—but in the wake of their collapse, we may find great opportunity to transition to a more connected, ecological, and sustainable way of being.

For me, reading *Sacred Economics* generated the seeds of a few ideas that could fruitfully be planted in the fertile soil of the Goolawah community. Rather than use this space I will leave it to others who might read the book to see what they might find.

Mid North Coast library service has Eisenstein's two other books. I have submitted a purchase suggestion for *Sacred Economics*.

John Tennock





Did you know what *Wikipedia* says about 'Bonfire Traditions in Australia'? I found it funny:

'In Australia, bonfires may be lit to celebrate Commonwealth Day or the Queen's Official Birthday.' Fullstop.

No real need to comment, except it gives me opportunity to confess I didn't even know what or when Commonwealth Day was (must have missed that in the citizenship test....) Clearly, the *Wiki* contributors have never been near Goolawah. Especially not on August 11

(neither Commonwealth Day nor Betty's special day, but Japan's second ever "Mountain Day" and Independence Day in Chad).

In Goolawah we didn't celebrate either, nor Joe Jackson's birthday (he's 63 now). In Goolawah it was mainly Friday evening, good enough reason to have a big, fat bonfire. Massive, actually. Good time for a fire too, might have scared the pigs away (for a night).

We light bonfires because we can.



# Kale Chips - too easy!

Kale is mainly good for you. Foodies say it's packed with anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties, high in fibre and iron, in omega-3 and 6, in vitamins K, D, B6 plus a great source of calcium. In case you feel like a change from steaming or stir-frying it, try kale chips. But baking them fast and hot can make them soggy in the big bits and burned at the thin ends. The solution: slow and low.

Stu helped the recipe editor and tried out how kale chips work in a solar oven.

He baked them for about 15 minutes, at medium low temperature, and I assure you and they're delicious! If you haven't got a solar oven, try baking them at 150°C for 20 minutes. That allows the veg to slightly dehydrate while it cooks, resulting in a perfectly crispy chip.

The other trick to awesome kale chips is to flavour them up. Rub them with oil, sprinkle them with anything you like: salt of course, quinoa flakes, lemon rind, paprika, grated parmesan, pepper. I found one recipe that even suggested to sprinkle a bit of brown sugar before you bake them.

## Ingredients

- 1 large bunch of kale
- 1 to 2tbsp olive oil
- 1/4 to 1/2 tsp salt
- other spices

## Instructions

- Line 2 baking sheets with baking paper. Arrange racks on upper and lower third of oven. Preheat to 150°C.
- Remove stems and ribs from the kale. Tear into small pieces, rinse, pat dry, removing all water.

- Spread the kale over the baking sheets. Drizzle with olive oil then rub oil in with hands to ensure the kale is coated evenly. Sprinkle with salt and any seasonings.
- Bake for 15 minutes, rotate sheets and bake for 10 to 12 more minutes or until chips are dry, crispy and evenly baked.

For your kale supplies call or visit Stu on Red Hill. He's got a super tasty harvest growing in his new market garden.

Julica



# Make sure your days aren't numbered (but your lot is...)

Goolawah recently had a visit from a Rural Fires Service group with the amazing name "Lower North Coast Community Engagement Brigade" They have written a report (available in the member's section on our website). One of the fire-friends big concerns was: How to find you?

They gave lots of useful advice and insisted how helpful it would be for them (and other rescue workers) if our sites would have NUMBERS displayed.

So please, if you live on Goolawah, even semi permanently, and want your lot, belongings, shed, fruit trees, house possibly protected, put a number near the access of your site.

I can think of at least four lived-on sites on Cockatoo Ridge without numbers, at least six in Outback, Bowl and Burrendong and six on Red Hill.

Could you please spare an hour and help get this count to nil before the fire season begins and before the next Gazette?

If you don't have time for your hand chiselled masterpiece or figurative artwork at the moment, how about taking an easy-impro-approach for now - like these examples - and create the Beauty-Number of your Dreams in the future?



*A simple sign can do the job, as long as people can see it.*





On Red Hill Road, Frank has started to plant Bromeliads - He's got over 600 of them and dozens of different species. Photos © Julica

## May Board & Community Meeting Minutes

6th May 2017

Commenced 9.00am

Chair: Peter O'Hara

Minutes: Ralph Erthel

**Attendance:** Julica Jungehulsing, Anne Wilson, Robin Hewitt, Roger Ball (D), Belinda Ball, Bronwyn Little (D sub for Louise Roberts) Todd Henshall, Gemma Dowell, Nityama Martin (D sub for Denise Cobourn), Peter O'Hara (D), Ralph Erthel (D), Trinh Nguyen, Alan Blake, Paul Martin, Craig Singleman

**Apologies:** Rose Mahar, Tony & Louise Roberts, D&D Cobourn, Sattwa Horne.

### Business Arising from Previous Meetings:

Cemetery: area at Goldmine Hill Rd has been marked out, approx 30x30m; members are encouraged to inspect, and discuss at 03 June Meeting.

Vision Statement: data amount larger than expected; however preliminary report expected for June meeting.

### Secretary's Report

- Three overdue members - usual follow-up endorsed again.
- Valuer General's 2017 property valuation for the Co-op's land increased from \$810,000 to \$815,000 (so minimal raise in KSC rates); new Emergency Agency Levy to be invoiced separately this year and amount to be advised by NSW govt. in June.

### Roads Report

Recent roadworks cost \$10,000 for Nevertire (quote \$10-15,000), \$25,000 for internal roads (as quoted) and \$1,000 for 'extras' (Illa Langi, Machinery Shed, Forest Way). The meeting expressed appreciation for quality of roadworks.

### DA Report

Ralph reported unsatisfactory/unclear phone conversation with KSC's Shane Reinhold re our unanswered Section 96; opportunity to attend Council Meeting 16/5 at Frederickton to speak with directors Pitt & Scott; tabled letter to them to be delivered "by hand" after removal of cattle grid & gate reference to Nevertire/Maria intersection; ensuing debate about the Co-op's position on the future of the gate & grid again inconclusive – to be re-visited at coming meetings.

### Membership Report

Janet Munro has completed the process and was voted unanimously to be ratified as Kevin's guest; Rick & Jack will attend June meeting and this will complete their obligations for membership eligibility; Dharma Browngedge (Mohini's Dad) is visiting and has been issued *Guest Handbook*; paperwork for Justin & Leah to be completed for Zen, now turned 18, as per membership policy.

### Machinery Report

Tractor 3 point linkage ingeniously repaired by Roger and the meeting

was grateful; new floor in machinery section of Ag-Shed welcomed; all equipment working.

### Fire Report

All equipment in order; Paul reported on the fire working bee tidying up the shed and surveying possible fire hazard reduction burns for the near future; he will call for working bees in suitable weather conditions; piles at Goldmine Hill will also be burnt.

### Treasury Report

John's report accepted unanimously (prop. Ralph, sec. Craig); to clarify "Annual Levy" will be called "Membership Levy"; several members voiced problems with lucidity of treasury statements (payments overlapping etc.); whilst payments should always be made "on invoice" (rather than in response to statements), meeting resolved to ask John to issue Reconciliation Statements in a 3-monthly rhythm and send them a week before the due date (unanimous).

### Resolutions:

That the decision of the April General Meeting to maintain the road levy of \$500 per share for the financial year 2017/18 be ratified (procedural only, as resolution was omitted from March Newsletter): prop. Julica, sec. Roger, approved unanimously.

That a group be formed to review and recommend options for signage and traffic exclusion measures on Northgate and Illa Langi Roads. Trinh, Alan, Paul, Bronwyn and Griff volunteered to form the group, with Ralph to provide initial brief re. R. Scott's suggestions from KSC experience.

### General Business:

- Keenans' request to have Anadean's 2016 guest fees waived: lengthy discussion and the meeting was unable to reach a decision; deferred to June meeting and it was felt desirable for Luke and/or Ishbel to attend and 'make their case'.
- Logging access for neighbour Chris Robbins. Peter reported on an incident on Red Hill Road on Thursday afternoon 04 May, when a semi-loader carrying a huge logging machine entered Red Hill Road. Paul Martin blocked the truck with Anne's car. When the truck driver (Paul) went to unload the logging machine Paul M moved the car behind the loader. Justin Bollard was there and had a heated exchange with Paul M. The car driver's side window was broken. Peter & Julica then arrived on the scene, and Ralph E & Griff soon after. The logging company was engaged to partially clear Chris Robbins' block, and its supervisor Matt Osborne arrived too. We (Ralph, Peter, Julica, Griff) then spoke by phone loud speaker to Chris Robbins, who said he had informed Dave Launt. After more heated argument between Paul and Justin the logging truck reversed out of Red Hill & left. Apparently police had been called but did not arrive in time. Peter later contacted KSC to check on Robbins' EPA approval for the clearing, but had not been called back by a Council officer who promised to check.

Members expressed their appreciation of Paul standing up for Goolawah policy (September 2016 decision to exclude logging trucks on our private roads), and agreed to reimburse the cost of repairs to Anne's broken window (prop. Trinh, sec. Nityama; 9 for 1 against).

Justin and Paul have different versions of how the car window was broken. Rob presented Justin's version of events in his absence.

A motion confirming the exclusion of logging trucks on Goolawah roads was voted unanimously (prop. Anne VV, sec. Nityama)

Ralph E discussed the incident by phone with Chris Robbins, who undertook to pay for road damage caused by any future operations, and to meet with us next weekend. Relevant members are not available then, so the following weekend will be proposed. Concern was also raised about possible damage to Illa Langi ("corduroy road" base of tree logs) from a high volume of heavy vehicle traffic, estimated at 100 trips by logger Matt. Ralph E will obtain advice from our engineer Mike Dutton about possible weight limits to safeguard those road foundations. The meeting with Chris R will address access issues and possible legal documents.

Advice from our lawyer M. Young is that the Co-operative has full right to control access to the Frog Hollow road section, which is located on our land. The meeting agreed that the Co-operative is very keen to build and maintain good relations with Chris R, and is open to discussions.

- Anne requested that Co-op dispute resolution procedures with her and Justin be invoked. The Secretary will invite him to take part in mediation, with Trinh offering to act as mediator.

### Other issues

Discussion of the designated fire & access trail on Justin & Leah's lot, and agreed that the Secretary should write to them about opening it up.

Following 'Gratitude Round' the meeting closed at 1 pm.



## June Board & Community Meeting Minutes

3rd June 2017

Minute Taker: Rose Mahar

Chair/Facilitator: Craig Singleman

Commenced: 9:05

**Attendance:** Craig Singleman (D), Rob Hewitt, Belinda Ball, Roger Ball (D), Nick Reid, Paul Martin, Alan Blake, Daniel Rose, Trinh, Anne Wilson, Todd Henshall, Gemma Dowell, Michael Clancy, Bron Little, Ralph Van Hulst, Alwyn "Alby" Hunter, Julica Jungehulsing, Peter O'Hara (D), Nityama (D), Chris Jones, Peter Horne, Stuart Pougher (D), Ralph Erthel (D), Rose Mahar, Larry Knight, Kevin Harper

**Apologies:** Denise & Dennis Cobourn, Louise & Tony Roberts

**Visitors:** Jac Larsen, Ric Marie

### Confirmation of minutes of May 6th, 2017 C/M

Some discussion about minutes of meeting re incident involving Paul & Justin. Section read. No amendments were suggested.

*Proposed:* Ralph

*Seconded:* Julica

3 abstentions

**Business arising:** Discussion & instructions from meeting re Chris Robbins.

Chris Robbins (new neighbour, formerly Wauchop's block) attended the meeting and presented his plans. He also answered questions and listened to suggestions from the community. There followed a lot of discussion about the situation and possible impact on the community with the main problem being protection of our roads. There was also a lot of concern for the environmental impact of a large logging operation. Chris has offered to pay for any road damage. Voting on whether to allow logging trucks to use our roads was deferred until the July GM.

Most members present felt it would be better for all concerned to encourage Chris towards a smaller and more environmentally sustainable logging operation using a Lukas/bush mill on site.

**Proposal:** To give permission for Chris Robbins to transport sawn timber from a Lukas mill via Illa Langi/ Frog Hollow Road.

*Proposed:* Rose

*Seconded:* Ralph E

*Carried* 1 abstention

**ACTION:** Ralph E., Nityama & Anne to work on a proposal allowing limited access for logging trucks to be sent out 2 weeks prior to the next meeting. Ralph will contact Chris to discuss outcome of this meeting Sattwa & Nityama to provide contact details for bush mill operator.

### Business arising from Meeting 6th May:

- Cemetery area delineated. There is an area marked out with blue tape on the western side of Goldmine Hill. The next step is to do a DA. WE

have to provide access to the public and get a geotech sample done.

- Vision Statement – Mairead is going to look at the data from the survey.
- KSC – no action since, no response to hurry up. Ralph to write a letter to the council demanding a response particularly in relation to our problems with Crown Lands over Illa Langi Road. It was suggested we check council rules re time frame for responding to DA. Possibly approach Melinda Pavey, minister for roads.
- Keenan request re waiving of fees (deferred in May) Deferred to July meeting.
- Update on items re Justin B.: mediation; Zen's paperwork; clearing F.A.T.
- 1. Trinh reported there were no grounds for mediation. Justin's letter re his side of the story tabled. Trinh put forward a proposal to rescind her motion from the previous meeting to pay for Anne's car window. She said she felt she reacted emotionally to the situation reported but on reflection was not comfortable with using the community to action a motion that can be seen as taking sides.

*Proposal:* To rescind the motion to pay for damage to the car window.

*Proposed:* Trinh *Seconded:* Gemma 4 for, 2 against, 5 abstentions

**Trinh also added the following statement:** The community has a code of conduct that was created to ensure that Goolawah is a safe and pleasant place to live and visit. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of members and visitors. In the logging truck incident, it was brought to the community's attention that key members involved breached this code of conduct. Behaviour that was violent and offensive was witnessed by other members and children. By registering this statement into this meeting's minutes I hope to compel members to stand by the community's code of conduct. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and integrity and feel safe where they live.

2. A letter was sent re Zen's membership.

3. Fire Access trail. Justin has blocked the trail with a mound and has planted trees. Discussion followed. It was felt members should be able to go thru to access the beach road. Trinh will talk to Justin about the FAT.

### Secretary's Report

Letters will be sent to errant members re non-payment of fees and will include a suggestion to consider selling their shares.

**DA Report** – as above

**Road Report** - nil

**Membership & Guest Report:** Ric & Jac almost completed their membership process. They are still looking for a share. Their membership will be proposed at the next meeting. A few other people have made enquiries.

**Machinery Report:** The tractor is OK at the moment. The fire striker isn't running properly at the moment. Roger will contact a diesel mechanic to come and fix it.

**Fire Squad Report:** There is some burning off to be done. There is a new captain for the local fire brigade. Paul is looking into getting him to come out and look around for possible risks.

### Treasury Report and Current Work Claims

*Proposed:* Ralph *Seconded:* Roger

*Approved*

### Work and Expenses Claims

Paul Martin – 6 hrs work on fire striker

*Approved*

### Review Approved Community Job List

*Proposed:* Phone tree to go on approved jobs list.

*Approved unanimously.*

Vote of thanks to Dan & Stuart for running the phone tree.

### General Business (Items raised by membership at meeting): -

- Working Bee- jobs for next working bee on 17th June
- Community garden
- Pot holing
- Last Resort
- Camp kitchen power: The battery needs replacing, new cabling, fuses etc and existing panels need to be moved. Discussion – keep at 12 volt or go to 240 volt. A lot depends on the cost – anything from \$2000 - \$8000
- ACTION:** Anne & Roger to work out a quote so a proposal can go out before the next meeting.
- Farmgate Tour – Paul Hastings Landcare Network running 3 tours on Saturday & 3 tours



on Sunday of the long weekend. Will meet at camp kitchen then cycle around to view relevant sites.

- Peter & Julica away for 2 months. Kevin will deputise for Peter as a director.
- Avocados – Paul will try growing some in the sandy soil.
- Nesting Boxes – 23 up so far in various spots
- Koala trees – Rob and Michael to plant near sandpile going south – mostly tallowood, swamp mahogany and white mahogany
- Tool share book – if you have tools you don't mind sharing please put in book.

Meeting closed 1pm.



## July General Meeting Minutes

1st July 2017

Minute Taker: Rose Mahar

Chair/Facilitator: Paul Martin

Commenced: 9:12 am

**Attendance:** Craig Singleman (D), Peter Horne, Nityama, Anne Wilson, Tony Roberts, Louise Roberts (D), Ron Ringrose, Lyn Ringrose, Rob Hewitt, Ralph Van Hulst, Dave Launt, Dennis Cobourn, Denise Cobourn (D), Michael Clancy, Harvey Creswell, Greg Ryan, Justin Fitzpatrick, Belinda Ball, Roger Ball (D), Wayne Ellis, Wayne Skinner, Rose Mahar, Anne Tennock, John Tennock, Ralph Erthel (D), Paul Martin, Kevin Harper (D)

**Apologies:**

**Visitors:** Shannon Ryan

**Opening circle.**

**Revisit Code of Conduct:** The decision to read the code of conduct was queried by several members. MOST members follow the code of conduct without needing to be reminded of it. Denise left in protest.

**Confirmation of Previous minutes:**

*Proposed – Roger, Seconded – Paul*

2 abstentions 17 for

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

- Vision statement. Following Mairead's analysis of the data Anne Tennock extracted the 'story'. Came up with a list of things we do well & a list of things we could do better. Results to go on the website. Thank you Dan, Mairead, Anne W. & Anne T.

- Cemetery. There is a site marked out as discussed at last meeting. Suggestion we look at other sites such as Gold Mine Hill. Before any final decision can be made the council will need to look at the site and a soil core sample and report will need to be done. Site must have public access so needs to adjoin a crown reserve. John Tennock will mark out alternative sites.
- Fire & access trail near Justin & Leah's lot. Access trails were designed to provide walking and bicycle access to residents, not for car or motorcycle use, and for emergencies. Wayne Skinner, Roger, Dave Launt, Tony Roberts & Justin Fitzpatrick offered to look into access trails marked on the map (some have been moved) & how they are used in reality.
- Power supply for camp kitchen – Anne W. Anne completed a costing of power supply. To run lights, fan, pump and for basic power use such as recharging a phone the quote came in at around \$4000 without a battery box. Anne will purchase the stuff & Ralph van Hulst will do most of the installation with Anne as support.

**Proposal:** Community to spend up to \$4000 on the camp kitchen power supply.

**Proposed - John Seconded – Ralph Vote - Unanimous**

**Secretary's Report:**

- Bee keeper wants to put bees on Goolawah
- Overdue fees – letters going out to people who are overdue with their fees.
- Same debacle with letters from council regarding waste management as last year.
- KS Council – still no action on roads. 2 council directors can't agree. Ralph wrote to Melinda Pavey about the crown road issue and spoke to some staff members. No reply as yet.
- Public Liability insurance – Miller Alexander will act on our behalf with the same insurer for the same cost.

**DA Report:** Nothing new

**Road Report:** Signs needed for Forest Way – do not use in wet weather. Get Mick Conomos to fill in the deeper holes next time he is out at G.

**Membership Report:** Jac Larsen & Ric Marie have completed the membership process. Nityama moved they become eligible as members.

*Seconded - Tony. Vote - Unanimous*

They will be ratified once they have a site.

**Machinery Report:** Tractor running fine. Machinery shed will need to be cleaned up after the hay has been removed.

**Fire Squad:** Fire striker injectors needed cleaning. It was full of algae. Discussion about possible solutions to the problem may include using a fuel additive, running the engine more often, drain the tank and refuel, keep fuel tank full.

Paul will pop rivet cover for holes in floor.

Roger tried to get more fire safety booklets but there were none available. Fire officers will come out to do individual assessments if requested.

**Treasurer's Report:**

*Proposed – John Seconded – Roger Vote - unanimous*

18 members overdue with fees. Letters to be sent out as per our policy. John has been working on our 2017- 18 budget. Road maintenance \$20000, Tractor and machinery - \$5000. Fire striker & AP2- \$4000. The updated budget will be ready for the next meeting.

**Proposal:** John proposed that the community spend \$800 on a single user licence for Filemaker Pro 16+ so he can customise our receipting system.

*Seconded – Roger Vote – unanimous*

Vote of thanks to John for all his hard work.

**Resolutions:**

- 2 resolutions proposed by the treasurer (relating to road levies) at the last general meeting were not published in the newsletter so cannot be voted on at this stage. They must go in the newsletter as a proposal so they can be reviewed and voted on by all. Resolutions to be forwarded to newsletter coordinator.
- Proposal – that a draft set of minutes go on the website before the next community or general meeting so they can be read prior to approval at the next meeting. *Moved – Louise, Seconded – Ralph, Vote – unanimous*
- Proposal regarding logging truck access for Chris Robbins. Ralph read out and email from Chris. He has decided to go with a bush mill and will operate this himself. There will be some logs taken out on a flatbed truck from the clearing of his house site. This is a welcome outcome for all of us. Motion to withdraw the motion regarding logging truck access. *Proposed – Craig, Seconded – Kevin, Vote – unanimous. Motion*

to send a letter of welcome to Chris Robbins and to include a sum of \$800 towards the cost of surveying our southern boundary as a sign of goodwill. *Moved - Dave Launt, Seconded - Craig,*  
*Vote: against - 5, abstain - 1, for - 13, passed.*

Some allegations and complaints were made about the behaviour of some members during the resolution writing process. It was mentioned that as a result of the actions of some members Peter O'Hara has resigned as a director and will be replaced by his delegate Kevin Harper. There followed a sometimes heated discussion. It was suggested we revisit the decision making process and see if we can't come up with a better way of doing things at a subsequent meeting. Members are encouraged to think about possible solutions to make our decision making processes more equitable and less negative.

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

- Greg Ryan reminds us to focus on the positives. He holds up Goolawah as a positive example at Bundagen.
- Bees. Paul suggested that people interested in bees get together and come up with a bee management plan. Group to include Roger, Paul, Gemma, Todd & Nityama.

#### **Closing circle.**

*Gratitude Round:* Thank you Paul for facilitating

*Meeting Closed: 1:10pm*



## **August Board & Community Meeting Minutes**

5th August 2017

**Minute Taker:** Denise Cobourn

**Chair/Facilitator:** Louise Roberts

*Commenced: 9.05am*

**Attendance:** Denise Cobourn (D), Roger Ball (D), Kevin Harper (D), Louise Roberts (D), Craig Singleman (D), Ralph Erthel (D), Dennis Cobourn, Wayne Ellis, Rob Hewitt, Michael Clancy, Lexie Gonzalez, Tony Roberts, Ralph Van Hulst, Nityama Martin, Mohini Browngedge, Sattwa Horn, Daniel Rose, Belinda Ball, Justin and Cynthia Fitzpatrick

**Apologies:** Bronwyn, Peter and Julica, Alby, Frank, Rose

**Visitors:**

**Confirmation of Previous minutes:**

*Proposed - Roger Ball Seconded - Ralph Erthel*

*Approved Unanimously*

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

- Cemetery - alternative sites (John T).

*ACTION:* Carry forward to September CM.

- Fire & access trails - Wayne Skinner, Roger, Dave Launt, Tony Roberts & Justin Fitzpatrick offered to look into access trails marked on the map (some have been moved) & how they are used in reality.

*ACTION:* Carry forward to September CM.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Land Services bill received; rates unchanged from last year; Insurances - marginal increase; letter from Chris Robbins (tabled and read) - thanks for reimbursement of survey costs (\$800 cheque to be forwarded), currently overseeing tree removal for building site, offered to contribute to Road Levy, road repairs will be carried out if required; burn pile behind Justin and Leah - can it be held over to next season as it is on Crown Road reserve (need permit from Crown Roads to burn). Fire restrictions may come in early.

*Proposed Secretary's Report - Tony Seconded - Wayne*

*Approved unanimously*

#### **DA Report:**

Council and Mike Dutton contacted - no news. Should we go back to councillors to discuss no action? Northshore Progress Association - submission being put forward to seal Maria River Road - members to contact NSPA if they have any incidents to report, including trades, deliveries to use the road. Both councils are involved. Will this impact on our DA issues?

*ACTION:* Ask Mike Dutton for his opinion on Maria River Rd developments. Contact Robert Pitt for some feedback.

#### **Road Report:**

Nothing to report

#### **Membership Report:**

Dharma completing Guest Application. Discussion regarding targeted advertising for attracting new members eg. *Earth Garden*. We have done this in the past. Cindy advertised on *Gumtree* and *realestate.com*. Marion Arent share sale still not finalised. 2 or 3 shares are currently available for sale. One enquiry from a Kempsey person. We need to be mindful of all kinds of discrimination, including age.

*ACTION:* Nityama to do some research.

#### **Machinery Report:**

Minor problem with hydraulics from jammed stick - seems to have rectified itself.

#### **Fire Squad:**

Now is the time to burn - early fire restrictions are anticipated. Mark would like a small triangle burn near his share. Pile near Dan's share needs burning. Lower North Coast Community Engagement Brigade have written report (post on website). The following need attention; all shares require a number, some shares need slashing and mowing of long grass, some shares have a lot of 'stuff' with long grass close to buildings, dam walls need slashing, one share with plies of gum leaves will cause ember attack if ignited, meshing under houses recommended, low intensity burns of leaf litter recommended (will not impact flora and fauna), some properties considered 'undefendable' given the condition. They have offered to talk to groups / individuals regarding Fire Survival Plans. Will complete a post check after we have acted on recommendations. Need some way of putting out small spot fires - Roger recommends buckets, water cans, start small and add to your Plan.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

3 members have now been contacted by debt collectors.

*Proposed - Roger Seconded - Lexie Approved Unanimously*

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

Work Claims for approval - Gemma and Todd \$150, Peter and Julica \$500.

*Proposed - Dan Seconded - Lexie Approved Unanimously*

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

**1. Code of Conduct** - complaints and concerns received by Directors after the July GM regarding Paul's behaviour.

Directors gave an overview - Following the July GM Directors received a number of complaints regarding Paul and Anne's behaviour. A letter was sent inviting them to attend a meeting with Directors on the 29th July. Only Anne attended - she was encouraged to bring a support person. 5 Directors attended. The recent logging issue and the writing of the proposal triggered singling out of Directors and inappropriate, disrespectful and abusive behaviour. Paul's chairing of the July GM and 'waving' of the *Code of Conduct* upset a number of members who'd been bullied and intimidated by Paul both in the past and up to present day. These complaints have been coming for years. Being a Director is a difficult enough job, without having to deal with such serious behaviour complaints. Paul went into Craig's space and was very disrespectful in front of his family



(since apologised). Given Paul didn't attend the meeting, an email was sent to him advising his behaviour would be discussed at today's meeting. He has singled out Ralph E, by lodging a referral form with the *Community Justice Centre* requesting Ralph attend mediation with him sighting the main issues as continued harassment and abuse of an office position.

Members have taken out AVOs against each out in the past.

Both Michael and Rob wanted to know how to make a written complaint against Paul. At the meeting attended by Chris Robbins, Paul referenced a study by David Lindameyer?. Michael was familiar with the study and felt the community was being misled. Craig confirmed reference to this study was removed from the logging issue proposal as it was irrelevant. Rob spoke about Paul's aggressive and rude behaviour towards him over the years, and was deeply offended regarding his chairing of the July GM. He also spoke about the meeting when John Harkin was publicly humiliated by Paul. Denise and Dennis have been singled out and experienced inappropriate emails, unwanted and unwelcome visits from Paul and Anne in the past related to expressing opinions over the extension of the camp kitchen and the Red Hill Fire Shelter. Denise put these complaints into an email to Directors at the time. She suggested this is a pattern of behaviour that occurs when others disagree or express a differing opinion. Lexie commented we have no process for lodging complaints, and asked if members would be interested in training a team in conflict resolution. Nityama felt a process was essential, and it wasn't useful to drag up issues from the past. She reminded members Paul and Anne were separate people with separate interests. Dan was very concerned regarding fracturing in the community. Russell mentioned psychological insights into bullying, and in the past he'd taken action against a member by going to the police (member is no longer at Goolawah). Kevin felt acts of past bullying remained very relevant and should be raised. Need a process to raise specific incidents.

*NOTE:* As minute taker I wouldn't normally be so specific, but given the seriousness of the issue, I tried to capture what each member said. If there are any inaccuracies they can be amended at the September CM.

## **2. Code of Conduct - proposal for implementation.**

Round the circle comments on how to move forward:

"Tension has made me withdraw, need to listen to each other; everyone has a right to be heard; we need volunteers to be trained as mediators; take responsibility for your actions; KISS principal, formulate a simple process; training could help; being listened to is very important; keep to the speed limit – this is simple thing, and some can't even do that; safe and neutral environments are important to express concerns; I would volunteer time and energy to help develop a fair process; written complaints are important; need members to be trained in conflict resolution; need to stick to our processes and agreed strategies; need simple steps for implementing a process for breaches of the Code of Conduct; By-laws mean nothing if we don't have consequences; need a mandatory process with consequences; any action needs to happen quickly; stay conciliatory; identify behaviour problems; since dawn of time individuals have been breaching codes; enforcement is needed; be mindful of a kangaroo court; Board has really struggled to deal with this; need consequences for bad behaviour; fines may be an issue for some".

*ACTION:* Form a committee to discuss the draft proposal/process for implementation of the *Code of Conduct* (Denise has already drafted a proposal for Implementation of the *Code of Conduct* and circulated to Directors). Denise, Mohini, Dan, Ralph, Nityama, Roger. Committee is open to all and meeting will be put on phone tree.

*Question* – Are all committees open to members, including Directors meetings. Some commented they should be.

## **3. Complaints to Directors regarding breaches of By-Laws - speeding and dogs.**

*ACTION:* Code of Conduct Implementation committee to discuss this.

## **4. Membership Application Process - feedback.**

New member complained to Craig regarding inappropriate comments from a committee person (verbal). Need to be careful not to allow personal biases and judgements to be voiced to prospective members. Entire community sets these protocols, not the committee person. We have a Feedback form – it is difficult for new members to give negative feedback if it is about a particular committee member. As a Director members come to you in trust with all kinds of issues, and we can't reveal their name without consent. They concerned regarding some kind of backlash.

*ACTION:* Nityama wanted further information regarding feedback from new members. Denise and Craig are open to further discussion.

## **5. Rehabilitation of the dam behind Paul and Anne's share.**

Rob has given a written statement to Directors. An area of

approximately 1 acre behind the dam has been planted with giant structural bamboo. Clay piled up around mature trees has resulted in the trees dying from collar rot. Swamp mahogany and other generating natives are being slashed. Mahogany is a vital food source and is important to the ecosystem. This planting is clearly a commercial quantity of giant bamboo for personal gain, and has been planted by the very people who claim to be conservationists. Rob has successfully rehabilitated on clay around his dam. Bamboo should only be planted on shares, not on community land. Our *Code of Conduct* states 'Respect the environment including land, fauna and flora'.

*ACTION:* Site to be inspected by Justin, Ralph E, Denise, Rob, Mohini. Report on at September CM.

## **6. Decision making processes** – Louise has drafted a suggested idea. Mairead has previously compiled 'Our Rules on Decision Making at Meetings'

*ACTION:* Code of Conduct Implementation committee to discuss this.

## **7. Beehives** – Peter's proposal (the Bee Man). Peter's proposal to be posted on website. He has the required insurances, specialising in bioactive ingredients (like Manuka), willing to pay an annual fee of \$1000 for sites, suggested 3 sites away from residences, discount honey for residents.

*Comment* - we need to be sure there is no impact on environment.

*Proposed* – Roger: We allow a trial site at North gate for 6 months.

*Seconded* – Kevin. *Abstained* - 2

## **8. AGM Chair / Facilitator**

Craig volunteered

## **9. Adult of a Child Agreement** and slight amendment to Membership Policy

*ACTION:* Post on website for voting on at the September CM.

## **10. Director resignation** – Stuart.

Sighted personal reasons and challenges associated with recent issues.

## **11. PIGS** - clarification of what's happening?

Rose took over coordination some time ago when Jake was involved. There were some communication issues with Jake. Bernard has indicated he is willing to help – he uses dogs and guns. Need to sight insurance. Bernard has a good reputation in the broader community and contracts with National Parks as a pig eradicator. T raps didn't work last year. *ACTION:* Ralph Van Hulst to contact Bernard and coordinate.

## **12. Camp Kitchen Door**

Men's Shed are replacing the door in a couple of weeks.

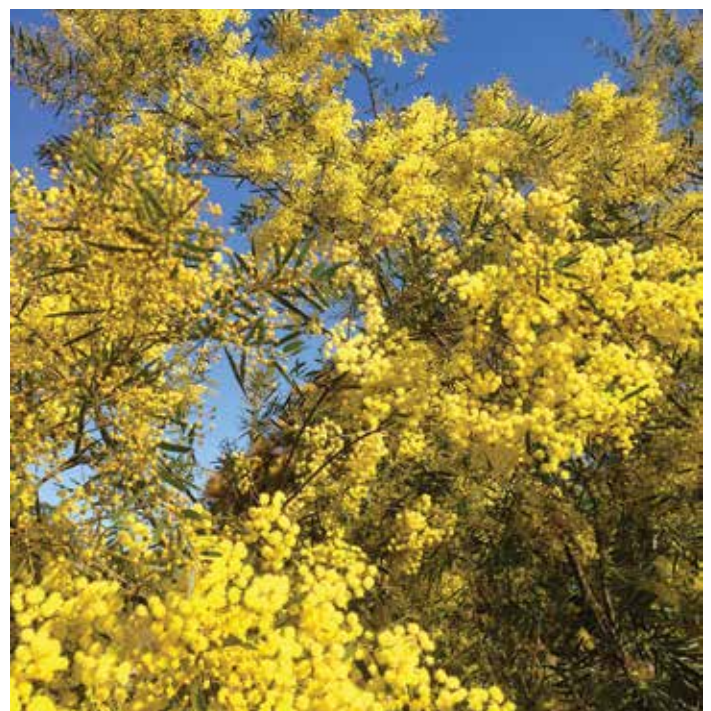
## **13. Director nomination for AGM.**

Kevin will be away for the AGM – would like to nominate for Director.

## **14. Bonfire and pizza night** – Friday 11th August (instead of Bonobo Bar).

*Gratitude Round:* Thank you

*Meeting Closed:* 11.30am





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Harvey also noticed a Jabiru at the same spot the other day, a bird he hadn't seen outside the NT before. The Jabiru's official name "Black-Necked Stork" is a misnomer - as the photo shows, it's green!

#### Newsletter Team

Editor - Julica Layout - Griff Printer - Ralph

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