



We would like to extend a welcome to Katoomba residents and business people who would like to come along and participate in future meetings or as a way of keeping in touch with recent issues by receiving a copy of the monthly minutes.

For more information, please contact Vanessa Crump at [info@katoombachamber.com](mailto:info@katoombachamber.com).

Annual Subscription fees for membership of the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community are just \$100 for companies, \$50 for a sole traders and \$10 for individual community members.

*Please join and help us grow our membership and our voice for Katoomba*

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### **NEXT MEETING – 13th June 2013**

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Ordinary Meeting opened at 6.15pm, at The Library, Carrington Hotel, Katoomba.

#### 1. Attendance and Apologies

Present: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Michael Begg (MB), Paul Cashel (PC), Vanessa Crump (VC), Lynne Curan (LC), Anton Curnow (AC), Christine Davidson (CD), Shane Desiatnik (SD), Anne Elliott (AE), Saskia Everingham (SE), Guy Fordy (GF), Juliet Green (JG), Yvonne Hellmers (YH), Amelia Hope (AH), Matthew Hope (MH), Mark Jarvis (MJ), Dan Long (DL), Robert Stock (RS), Christine Killinger (CK), Robyn Parker (RP), Karim Razkilla (KR), Zita Robinson (ZR), Carl Salat (CS), Joanne Samuel (JS), Franklin Scarf (FS), Anna Stephens (AS), Nick Varkas (NV), Bill Swan (WS), Roxanne Weaver (RW), Margaret Wetherill (M\_W), Maree Wood (MNW).

Apologies:

Stephen Crump, Bruce Ferrier, Louise Florence, Lui Friscione, Robyn McAdam, Lyn Rodda.

#### 2. Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

No amendments. Moved accepted (YH), seconded (AC).

Other matters arising from the previous minutes will be covered below.

#### 3. Correspondence

- BMCC Local Environmental Plans meeting is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May. The State Government is looking at standardising planning across all LGA and transferring LGP to the State. A one size fits all approach may be a two edged sword as some of our buildings may be able to be developed under the new model (eg: Elgin Building), where it has been difficult to get approval in the past. Nonetheless, we don't want to see a lot of insensitive development in the Blue Mts. This is a hot topic.

*Information is available on the BMCC website. The new legislation was published for comment on 16*

*April 2013 and submissions can be sent until 28 June 2013 at [New Planning System NSW](#).*

- Susan Templeman gave us the name of a contact in Telstra and MJ wrote to him regarding the ugly and unnecessary barbed wire fence around the Telstra building on Katoomba St. We asked for the air conditioning unit to be hidden and for the fence to be replaced with something more aesthetically pleasing.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – Bill Swan

- Wines of the West raised a final total of \$8668.20 - slightly less than last year.
- Two new membership fees.
- \$200 donation for graffiti removal from the old post office received from John Lekkas.
- \$14403.54 closing balance.
- MJ indicated that future expenses will include the replacement of some CCTV cameras and pots for the street. For the cost of a small search fee we are currently collating a list of the landowners in order to be able to lobby them and ask for donations etc. MJ aims for \$5K more in the kitty.

5. Dan Long – BMCC Program Leader Operations

- DL introduced himself. He is in charge of the maintenance of parks, sports grounds, bush care, bush regeneration, horticulture in general, buildings, and asset condition reports for BMCC. The Cultural Centre has its own maintenance team and is not DL's responsibility.
- MNW had written to DL on behalf of KCCC. DL reported that the BMCC has a list of approved trees, which can be planted. There used to be trees all down Lurline St, but they were cut down.
- BMCC recognises importance of trees and has a program to maintain and improve plantings all over the mountains. There are plans for 12 trees in Lurline St, and 15 for Katoomba St. Some trees will be replaced; some spots are not suitable because of sight lines. BMCC are sourcing flowering cherry trees from Victoria and these will be planted shortly. Plane trees will be planted outside the RSL. BMCC can't landscape the motel area on the corner of Foster Rd near Echo Point as it is private land.
- DL is waiting on a quote for the cost of moving the railing in Lurline St which will result in better access for gardeners. The plan is that this Winter they will rip out the weeds and plant lavender or rosemary. MJ assured DL that we would be delighted and that by Spring the street will look better. St Canice's school has planted some lavender further down and it already the area looks better.
- There are also plans to improve the look of other high profile areas. The Council has succeeded in getting funding from the pay and display parking in order to pay for a full-time gardener.
- DL pointed out some of the resourcing problems he faces. The team is flat out mowing in the Summer months, and Winter is the only time for maintenance and planting. He feels the level of support in BMCC is better, thanks to Damien Drew.
- There are plans for improvements to streetscape of Katoomba. Some trees in poor condition and this winter an audit will be conducted, with view to replant any trees too damaged to save, and to

continue directional pruning (to accommodate the awnings) of those in good health. DL will keep us in the loop. There are lots of inclusions in the trees and many are damaged. Any replacements would be as mature as possible.

- MJ raised the issue of the poor appearance of the landscaping at the Aunty Dawn Colless Bridge, which is a gateway to the town. MJ has previously written to the RTA, and each time the weeds and plantings are removed, but nothing suitable is put in place. At the moment it is too dangerous for us to have a working bee.
- BMCC doesn't usually remove graffiti etc from public property unless it is easily accessed from private land. DL takes the attitude that if it is easily accessed then it *should* be removed. BMCC is potentially liable for any damage caused to that property, but if it is highly visible it is a 'no brainer' to remove.
- The new principal at KHS has met with MJ and will be coming along to our next meeting. We will continue to engage with local youth groups and community groups regarding murals, local artworks etc. There was discussion about how much youth will be involved if they feel that the style of art to go on the murals is dictated to them. MJ points out we want an overall theme, and it must be tasteful and acceptable to the community. Nonetheless we need to accommodate the young people's taste.
- Graffiti is a particular problem at the moment. Three boys from KHS were spotted with spray cans in the Carrington car park this afternoon. YH points out that the graffiti artists come from all sorts of schools, not just KHS. She knows of one boy who now channels his talents into legitimate art. She will have a word with the Principal about the three lads from KHS.
- MNW spoke to Farid Nayer, the Director of the Waradah Aboriginal Centre at Echo Point about the poor state of the area between the plaza and the car park, which is choked with weeds. Farid has cleaned up his area, but the garden is private property. MNW suggested DL could work with the tenants to help organise some volunteers to tidy the garden up. She has tried to contact the owners but got nowhere. Echo Point needs to look its best for the Crossing.

## 6. Joanne Samuel - KTC

- The Youth Theatre is being launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August at KHS. It will be headed by Helmut Bakaitis - actor, director and theatre educator who is now a local resident. The KTC wants to work with KHS and for the program to be inclusive and accessible to all. Rotary (or similar) may help those who can't afford to access workshops. Helmut first wants to connect with the kids, produce and direct a play, which they'll workshop, and then find other kids to work in technical support. There are also many youths who have left the mountains and done really well and we should celebrate them.
- A reminder that the fundraising dinner will be held at the Carrington on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August with Ita Buttrose. Ita is a KTC patron along with Bruce Beresford and Jack Thompson. KCCC will subsidise a table, so please contact VC for a place.
- The play reading season was a great success. The Carrington donated the space, the actors gave their time, and the BMCC has given the space for the theatre. Some funds have been raised, and it has been a tremendous effort and a lot of hard work. The calibre of the local residents in the arts is a great asset for the BM. Helen Thompson is an STC actress, for example, and a local resident.

The KTC is lucky and excited to have someone of the calibre of Helmut involved.

- JS thanked the Carrington and the KCCC for our support. The KTC is very grateful.

7. Matt Hope – The Black Dog Waffle Weekend

- MH explained how the League of Jolly Gentlemen came about, a group of. Rather than just play video games, this group of 10+ gamers meets on Tuesdays to play board games in person. This turned into a support group. They realised there aren't a lot of avenues for men to support each other. With the work of the Black Dog institute at the front of their minds, and the recent sad loss at the Carrington, they decided to run a fundraising event.
- True to the Bean will open for 48 hours straight 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May. Fish Roasters have donated the coffee, Gershgoods the food, the milk, uniforms etc were also donated, so there are no costs and all money raised will go to the BDI. Awareness is more the goal as there is so little in the way of mental health services in the mountains. Meeting with a group of like-minded people on a regular basis is a real help.
- \$200 MJ gave on behalf of the KCCC.

8. Saskia Everingham – Pop Up Update

- SE believes that if we set a good positive precedent, people will follow. The lavender planted by the school in Lurline St has been well received, and exemplifies the principle.
- Mind the Gap has Anton Duke acting as the pro bono lawyer, the website is on the way, as are business cards, a business plan etc. BMCC is coming to the party, there is very positive talks occurring about the various ways support can be offered.
- Once the administrative stuff is sorted, there will be a public meeting, information session and initial call out for submissions and project applications. These will go before a board, made up of community, business and arts representatives, who will assess for viability. From there, discussions with landlords will occur. Mind the Gap has applied for several grants, but also will do crowd funding to raise funds.
- MJ assured SE of the KCCC's support and sees our role as helping to raise awareness, continuing to talk to landlords etc,

9. Tom Colless – Cleaning Update

- TC did not attend.

10. Robert Stock – BMCC Update

- RS gave some more detail about the Standard Instrument LEP. He explained that the State government was trying to standardise rules and regulations regardless of where you lived. The concern was that special variations would not be allowed for the Blue Mountains, but as all councils have expressed similar concerns, it appears that the changes aren't going to be as bad as people were expecting. The process should mean it is easier and faster to get development approval.

- Densities are to be increased, due to housing shortages, but this may not adversely affect BMCC. Zonings might change their name to be more uniform, but not the actual zonings themselves – the changes represent a standardisation of names, more than actual changes. The changes may allow some developments to occur that would be beneficial to some of our buildings; the previous LEP has protected some of our heritage buildings, but has also hindered development.
- There are upcoming BMCC meetings. The café at the Cultural Centre is losing \$1000 a week of rate payers' money. Tenders are being sought, and it is an unusual commercial lease. There needs to be some discussion as to how the tender should be structured, what happens to the equipment etc. This is an opportunity to make comments/suggestions for another use, such as an information centre. The BMCC wanting to reduce the liability for a future lessee.
- The traffic study is complete. As the budget is fixed (\$729K), it seems that the likely outcome for the bottom of Katoomba St/Waratah St will be a roundabout.
- MB and MJ met with Graham Green (BMCC - Traffic and Safety Engineer), showed him where there are some parking problems. The issues are recognised when we point it out in the street, but the report may not be positive. Since there is no timeline to get the same parking system as Leura, MJ asks why we cannot have some line marking to rationalise parking spaces in the 2 or 3 bays where parking is a problem? Things that are obvious, cheap and easy seem to not happen. RS feels we may not get this. LC has sign she puts on the cars pointing out that they have parked badly and taken up two spaces.
- KCCC would also like to have a sign prohibiting huge trucks coming down Katoomba St, but it appears this also hasn't made it into the report. RS says that \$2 million a year is spent on consultancy fees and he is keen to analyse the worth of such a figure.
- MJ suggests we take the opportunity to go along to the Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. The issue of coach parking to drop more visitors in the retail precinct and to the theatre is also on the agenda. RS encouraged us to come along and have a voice.

#### 11. Mark Jarvis – Crossings Update

- MJ praised the efforts of Phil Hammon and Tom Colless in organising the celebrations. That only two local people have to underpin so much of the funding seems extraordinary. The Ball at the Fairmont raised \$20K.

#### 12. Yvonne Hellmers – Community Fire Stories

- The community fire stories have been published each week and the story in next week's review is the very sad story behind the monument at Perry's Lookdown.
- YH reminded us that the 30 minute documentary will be shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the Edge Cinema. Entry is free, there are four sessions and the BMWHI wants as many local residents as possible to go and see it. During the 2010 fires there were 1000 hits in an hour to the RFS website to download fire plans but it is too late to do this during the emergency. A reminder that it is not a question of *if*, but rather *when*.
- See the film, meet with the agencies afterwards, then go home and develop a fire plan.

- CD reminded us that she has fire plan templates in her shop (Katoomba Workwear), as well as a display of suitable clothing etc.

### 13. Other Business

- MNW asked why the community bus is no longer able to go to Katoomba. VC reminded that as the bus cannot access the Coles car park, the temporary arrangement is to go to Woolworths at Leura. A dedicated parking space will be available at Woolworths Katoomba once it opens.
- The Country Target refit has begun and will be open by June.
- Franklin Scarf (FS) – is meeting with Bob Debus regarding a positive graffiti plan. Will also meet with MJ before the next meeting. Even two of our murals have been targeted lately, although this has been quickly removed.
- The status of the old Katoomba bowling club, now owned by the RSL was raised. The site is very badly maintained. It seems a waste that no development such as housing is yet to occur. FS has discussed with Peter Polous the idea that to could be used for a community market in the meantime.
- The old Empire Theatre building (Rivers) went to auction but there were no bids and very little interest. The sale price is \$1.75 million. The rent paid by the current tenants justifies the price, but the state of the building doesn't. Excessive rents, and poorly maintained buildings continues to be a problem in Katoomba. MattH reported that the owner is redeveloping – spending \$6 million over 6 years to upgrade the wiring, plumbing etc in all the flats and shops around 123 - 127 Katoomba St. Work has started.
- CD raised the poor state of the Studleigh place toilets. There is no bin and no paper towels. There have been emails from MJ to Ken Phillips and a bin audit was promised. MJ has asked for them to be cleaned, it happens for a few days, but then stops. There is especially a problem with cigarette butts. DL will raise again with Ken Phillips.

Councillor Michael Begg suggested we email him or Robert Stock when we have an issue. Any resident can call 4780 5000 and lodge a Customer Service Request (CSR) if they see anything that needs attention from the BMCC – we need to keep continual pressure up.

On a positive note, there is a bin now outside the Coles and in the new easement to the CC. PC reported that the butt bins are due to be installed and the tenants of the buildings have agreed to empty them.

- LC pointed out she was unable to organise a shopping trip of Katoomba for the visitors at the Trannies Ball due to the lack of numbers of nice shops in Katoomba St.
- Although the footpaths are nicer in appearance, there is no budget to clean them. Call the number to report.
- Thanks to Mayor Daniel Myles, Councillor Van der Kley and NJ along with volunteers from the KCC. Two weekend working bees have been held and there is not a weed in Froma Lane at the moment.
- Christine Killinger has been given an annual award, BM Local Woman of the Year, for her

ongoing work with Cancer Help, the Health Trust Board, Slow Food, and as a KCCC committee member. CK missed the presentation at Government House. Flowers were presented tonight as a token of our appreciation.

Meeting closed 8.05 pm

Next meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 6.15pm – Carrington Library - all welcome.

Signed by President Mark Jarvis ..... Date .....

Minutes by Vanessa Crump, Secretary