

**BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL
EUSTON BEAUTIFICATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT EUSTON COURTHOUSE
ON TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019, AT 9.00 A.M.**

Present: Barry Watts (Chair), Ben Pupillo, Edna Price, Vivienne McEvoy, Bev Harbinson.

Apologies: Peter Smith, Ian Bolt.

Minutes: Moved Edna Price seconded Ben Pupillo:
That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October, 2019, be accepted as a correct record. *Carried.*

Correspondence: Nil.

Projects on-hold, to be re-introduced into the Agenda, as necessary:

Boat Ramp – Funding was not progressed with, it closed at the end of October. During the “Regent Parrot” walk, the area of a proposed Boat Ramp was pointed out. Meeting advised that a letter of support from Balranald Shire Council, on behalf of the Euston Beautification & Tourism Committee, is required to secure approval from National Parks, as they manage the land.

Gavin suggested there may be opportunities to build a ramp without larger Grant money; still requires approval first.

**Vivienne will follow up regarding a letter of approval.

Lake Benanee fenced area – it has been confirmed that this is a Sacred Site, nothing can be done here. This item will be removed from the Agenda.

Landscaping of dirt mounds; Sturt Desert Pea plantings;

Statue of Sister, Memorial for Bush Nurses – prepare for Grant application;

Financial Report: The Committee’s \$10,000 allocation for this financial year is untouched. There is \$543.30 from the Lake Benanee Honesty Box so far this financial year, plus \$3,966.00 carried over from last year’s Honesty Box.

Medley Park: additional art-works/small animals; paddleboat information.

BUSINESS:

Lake Benanee:

Storyboard:

Boards will cost: \$3,450.00 large, plus \$300.00 design – total of \$3,750; \$1,290.00 small, plus \$150.00 design – total \$1,440.00. The big boards do fit in the shelter. If we get 1 more big board and 2 smaller ones, that will allow easy access for people to walk in and out of the shelter area. It will also be enough room for the current information plus a map. The board that’s there now will be put on the brick wall.

After discussion, it was moved by Ben Pupillo, seconded Edna Price:

That we go ahead with four new story-boards: 1 large, 2 small for Lake Benanee; 1 small board for the Cobb & Co information (Medley Park). The boards will be paid for with money collected from the Lake Benanee Honesty Box (\$3,966) and the balance to come from this Committee’s allocation for this financial year. *Carried.*

Fire Pit:

Is still not installed; the Safety signs have not yet been prepared. A Risk Assessment is currently being carried out. Are we being irresponsible by installing a Fire Pit given the current fire situation? The hold-up at present is the Risk Assessment.

Poplars:

Ongoing.

Regent Parrots:

Barry and Edna, as well as Euston School children, attended the day with Karin and Mick. Both agreed it was a good day. It is now known where most birds are feeding and living; they seem to be right along the river.

Cobb & Co:

Waiting for storyboard.

Cemetery – Toilet, Water Installation, Boundary Trees:

It is believed that the Cemetery boundary fence is in the right place.

Water is there but a trench for irrigating the new trees is needed. This Committee could arrange a working bee, in the New Year, to walk around the boundary to make sure the fence is “rabbit-proof”.

Suggested that Western Australian Flowering Gums (as at the Club) be planted here.

Committee has not received a time-line for the progress of Cemetery works, as requested last meeting.

Street Design:

Barry will be working more with Gavin in the New Year regarding this matter.

Karin Sluiter (LLS) and Mick Todd (OE&H) arrived at the Meeting (9.23 a.m.)

Line Marking (cnr Murray Terrace/Nixon Street):

Committee has been advised this will not be done. It is still a big problem, what can we do here?

** Vivienne will follow this up again.

Walking Trail Seats:

Wood from the dead tree on Bertram Road may not be suitable. Ben advised that the bridge previously over the creek near Des Thompson’s has been removed. Could wood from this be used for seats?

No-one is quite sure who financed the Walking Track from the Club; was it the Club?

Ben will ask Ray about the bridge and try to find out where the timber is.

80 kph Signs:

We have been told there will be no signs after the exits of Bertram and Taylor Roads. How can we better ‘word’ our request as it is a matter of safety? People exit Bertram or Taylor Roads (80 kph roads) and there’s nothing that tells them the Highway in this area is also 80; many believe it’s 100 kph and drive accordingly.

** Vivienne will follow this up.

Dead Tree (Bertram Road):

Vivienne has spoken to the Works Manager and the matter is now with him to work out how to get some of the (dangerous) limbs removed. Vivienne will source blue paint and a cherry picker. We should wait for the “R U O K” Day (or “Blue Tree Day”/week) and have this done at that time.

Eucalyptus Iron Vats:

Location – near the western-side Euston town sign? There would have to be an area where people could pull off the road, easily and safely. Not sure who owns land there.

Inside the Euston Recreation Ground? This is Council-owned and there should be enough room. People already stop here to use the toilets. There is a local Rec-Ground Committee; they would have to be approached. There could be a (brown) Historic/directional marker pointing to the Vats.

Trees outside Football ground:

Vivienne checked and was told these trees are being watered. The trees do not look good so she will ask the boys again today and, perhaps, inspect the trees.

Footpath near Caravan Park:

People are still driving over this and damage continues. It was suggested that a post be installed in the nature strip to eliminate access to the Park from here. There is no drive-way, people just drive over the gutter, kerbing and footpath.

Euston Footpaths:

Some time ago, the DID promised was in line for footpath works this year. What has happened?

Vivienne will follow this up.

Perry Street Beautification:

Suggested Western Australian Flowering Gums replace the straggly trees that are there now. These could be inter-planted with the Sand Hill Wattles (Acacias) and/or “Bluebush”. They need to be plants that will not block traffic views and are not going to be difficult to mow around or keep tidy.

Is there any “tree” money left over (thought to have been put up by the Club)? Advised that LLS has money.

New Business:

Karin was advised that the new Chair of the EB&TC is Ian Bolt. She presented the Committee with a copy of the book "Plants of Western New South Wales". Karin was thanked very much for this gift to the Committee; it will be most useful. It was agreed that the book will be kept at the Euston Courthouse, where it will be safe but available for our use.

A sample of a plant Barry had brought to the meeting was identified as "Sand Hill Wattle", a favourite of the Regent Parrot and is on our list of suitable plants.

Mick and Karin advised that there is money available for Cemetery tree planting; possibly \$5,000-\$10,000. They could (maybe?) guarantee \$5,000. Best time to plant would be April-May and early June. Cemetery infrastructure must be in place before planting carried out. Could School children be involved with plantings along with the Committee? The fence is important. If the fence is structurally sound, to "skirt" it (for rabbit-proofing) could cost around \$2,000; LLS money could be used for this.

Gates need to be improved/replaced. The Club was having an architect draw up plans for new gates. Mick advised that there are "Emu Bushes" at the Cemetery which are flowering at the moment and they have attracted a lot of rare birds, e.g. Pied Honey Eaters. These bushes are towards the western side/end of the Cemetery, near the fence. Any new plantings should go around these bushes.

Vivienne advised that the Parrot design (as on the t-shirts) must be bought; it cannot just be used by us. The company will only use "Australian made" and they must produce whatever is required.

"Eggpicnic" will follow up with the company regarding the Parrot design for merchandising. If this proves to be too expensive, other designs can be sought.

Items could be stocked at all shops/cafes, Club, Service Station, etc.

The Visitor Guide is being updated and will include the Parrot.

An information board could be put in near the Club – the Regent Parrot on one side and other local birds on the other side.

Edna suggested having a Parrot painted on one of the Eucalyptus Vats.

Mick advised that Regent Parrots have been nesting in the big Red Gums behind the Club this year. If at any time branches have to be removed from these trees, bear this in mind. There have also been Parrots in the dead tree near the floating ramp.

Christmas Party: Vivienne will check with Carol and let everyone know when and where.

NEXT MEETING: of the Euston Beautification & Tourism Committee will be held at **The Euston Courthouse** on **Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019**, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

CLOSE: There was no further business and the Meeting closed at 10.05 a.m.