



## DSRA General Meeting

**March 30, 10.30am, Swansea Courthouse, Noyes St**

### Reports

1. President's report – thanks to Neville Stewart acting as President, 98 financial members. Other information will be covered in upcoming reports, eg working group reports.

2. Police report by Sergeant Marcus Pearce

In the last 12 months, there have been 5 reported crimes at Dolphin Sands – three this year; two last year. In previous years (back to 2004), there's normally 2-3 per year. On that basis, there's been a higher than average crime rate this year. Interestingly, the crime is focused at a specific area of Dolphin Sands between the 9 and 12 km mark. As those who've seen the security camera footage (shared on Facebook) will realise, there's a lack of forensic evidence from these crimes due to using facemasks and gloves.

At a crime scene police talk to witnesses, examine the scene and check for forensic evidence. With crime at Dolphin Sands, there's often no witnesses, a lack of forensic evidence and, as is typical with areas of intermittent occupancy, a delay in reporting the crime. Witness evidence includes from video cameras, but this is often poor quality. All of these factors make the police's work difficult.

Another issue with holiday or shack-type burglaries is that people often don't notice that things are missing because multiple family members use the property and store things in different places.

Local police have had more success with catching the perpetrators of burglaries in Swansea (two in the last year).

On the night of one recent burglary in Dolphin Sands, two officers were in the area in anticipation. Because houses are so far back from the road, if Police go down one drive way, they won't see what's happening at next house. It can help to have chains across driveways because burglars are required to leave their vehicle on the road (unless they cut locks or come from the beach). In this way, it's not easy to burgle at Dolphin Sands but it's easy in other ways – less visible from road or neighbouring properties. The recent burglaries at Dolphin Sands are a significant concern to local police.

David Swifte asked if any particular items tend to be stolen. Marcus replied this it's like grazing – fishing rods, basic tools, but no common thread apart from that. Marcus' view is that, overall, crime has dropped because the value of commodities has dropped. There's less cash and less fencing out of the back of hotels. However, the medium of Gum Tree conceals this to some extent.

David Swifte also asked how they break in. Marcus noted that they were 'sympathetic', causing minimal damage. For example, at Dolphin Sands significant force wasn't used, ie they gave up when couldn't open a door with a screwdriver.

Trish Jay raised the on-going debate about whether it's better to put the chain up or not, ie chain up signals that you're not home. Marcus didn't have a firm opinion, but felt that with no chain, people are able to drive into the property to check it out. If anyone is home, they can say they're looking for their dog or they have the wrong address etc.

Tricia Jay asked about filming onto a public road so we can find out who's driving round at that time of night. Marcus isn't aware of any problems with doing this. Camera shots are invaluable as witness statements can be unreliable. Villains can have maps of where there are dogs, alarms, cameras etc. So, it's best if cameras are concealed.

Marcus emphasised that fear of crime can be worse than actual crime. We live in one of the safest places in the world, where the likelihood of any danger to anyone is extremely remote. Becoming overly concerned about crime can impact quality of life. We need to find a balance without being overly fearful.

Paul Walker explained that he gets a text message if there's an intrusion and then checks his camera feed. He asked what the situation is with rapid response. Marcus replied that Police policy is not to attend if there are no keyholders present. Also, Police policy is to have multiple respondents. However, due to low crime in our area, local policy are likely to attend.

Gary Stoward requested clarification of the best number to contact Police. Marcus said to always ring 13 1444. Don't ring stations.

Robyn thanked Marcus for his report (Marcus left following his report).

### 3. Secretary's report

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|--------------------|---|
| Correspondence in  | Sergeant Marcus Pearce – crime at Dolphin Sands<br>Corporate Affairs – registration of change of Rules<br>Tasmanian Planning Commission – change of dates for submissions<br>Bendigo Bank – grant application refusal<br>Mayor Wisby – Council articles published in local papers |
| Correspondence out | Corporate Affairs – notification of change of Rules<br>Bin Springs – enquiries & order<br>Councillors – invitation to DSRA AGM/GM<br>Shane Wells – request for meeting re: Meredith River bridge  |

Rule 4(2) requires that the committee is satisfied that those applying for membership are eligible (ie are residents or ratepayers). For new members, the membership form has been updated to request applicants provide evidence (eg rates notice, electricity bill).

Should we ask current members to also do this or 'grandfather' everyone?

What about future renewals?

John Barker suggested that people can join on the day of a meeting under the proviso that they send some verification within a reasonable time.

Motion for next meeting: In response to Rule 4(2), that the membership form be updated to request applicants to provide evidence of eligibility such as rates notice or electricity bill as proof of ownership/resident status.

Moved: Kate Shield. Seconded: Dave Cooper. Carried

Motion for next meeting: In response to Rule 4(2), that members who renewed their membership by March 31, 2019 are recognised as eligible.

Moved: Kate Shield. Seconded: Danny Allford. Carried

Robyn reminded people to register their burns to prevent unnecessary call outs from volunteer fire fighters. Also suggested borrowing the DSRA fire trailer to have on hand.

Gary Stoward advised us that the fire permit season currently applies, ie any fires larger than 1m<sup>3</sup> must apply for a permit.

Neil Wiseman explained that he's changed the access to the fire trailer, so people don't have to come all the way into his property.

Acceptance of Secretary's report

Moved: Robyn Moore; Seconded: Kate Shield. Carried

#### 4. Treasurer's report

Robyn presented provisional statements for the first quarter of 2019. As it's not yet the end of the month, additional transactions will be added before the statements are uploaded to the DSRA website (within the next week).

Profit from Bin Springs: \$51.87. There was no intention to profit from this service. However, once our order went above 40, the price per spring was again reduced. Average profit per Bin Spring: \$1.24. A good outcome.

Acceptance of Treasurer's report

Moved: Robyn Moore; Seconded: Neville Stewart. Carried

#### 5. Working group reports

##### Bushfire prevention

Robyn explained that there'd been a suggestion of organising a mulcher to be in the area for a few days for any community members who wanted the green waste from their properties mulched. This would make it cheaper for each individual by sharing the overheads, such as travel time from Launceston. There was little interest initially. We also applied to Council and, later, Bendigo Bank for funding to cover the overheads to reduce the costs for everyone using the service. Both requests were refused. Steve Barrett will keep communicating with Council for a better system for dealing with green waste and (depending on results of upcoming motion) clearing of roadside verges before next fire season.

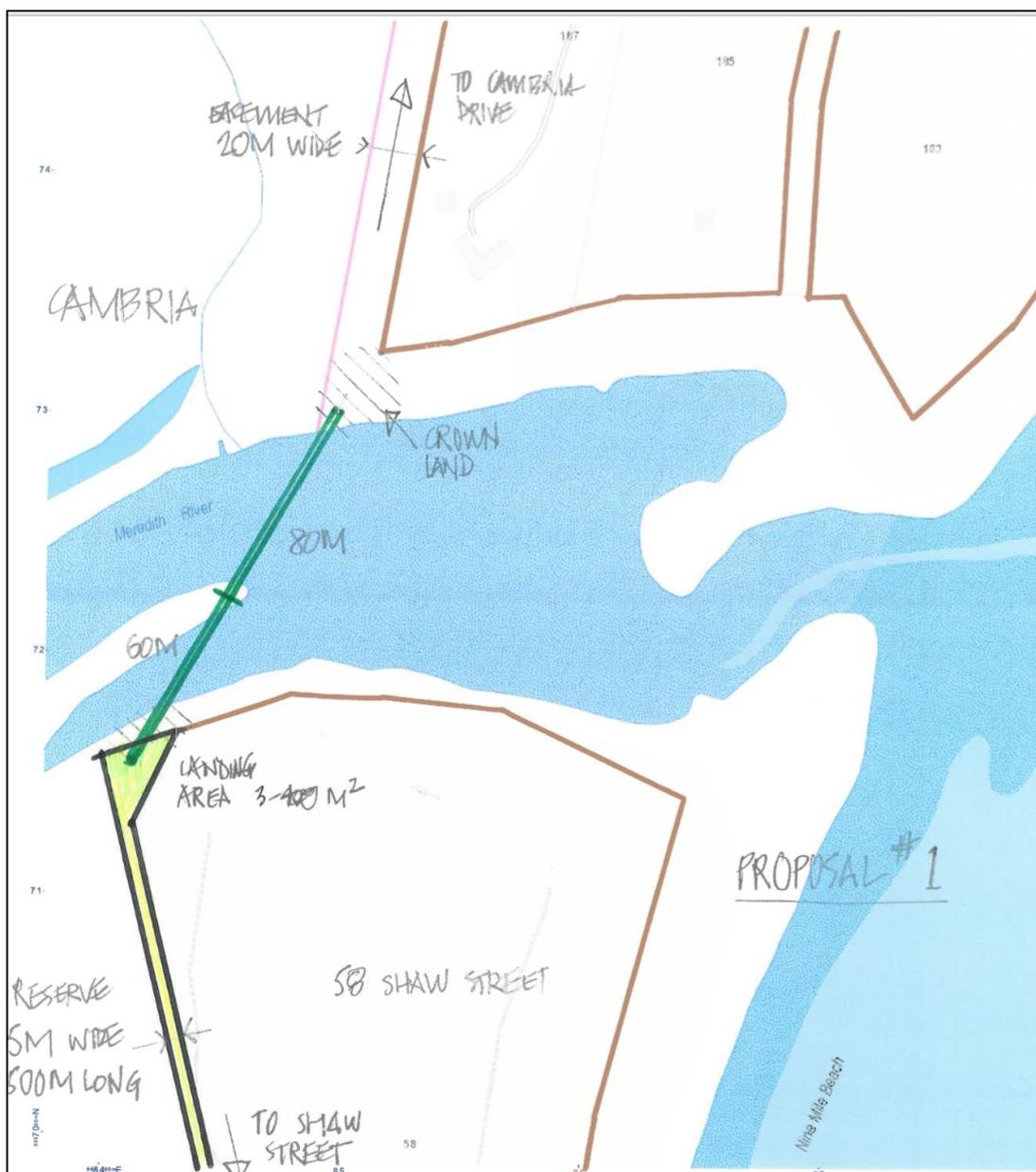
Thanks to Steve for his work to make our community safer.

Acceptance of bushfire prevention group report

Moved: Robyn Moore; Seconded: Paul Walker. Carried

##### Meredith River pedestrian/cycling bridge

Rob Curran explained that the group had their first meeting on 16 January on the banks of the Meredith to look at likely positions (see map below). The proposal is to use the 20m reserve that runs around the Cambria subdivision as the take-off position for the bridge. Another meeting was held a week later. This meeting identified that 58 Shaw St was the only place to land the bridge. This land is private property, held by a family company. Rob contacted the company to arrange a meeting. Rob and Robyn met with a representative of the owner on March 14 to seek in-principle agreement.



Back in 2013 (?), the company has put in a proposal to subdivide some of the land and donate a portion adjacent to Great Oyster Bay to Council. It was refused due to objections.

We'd be asking for access to about 3000 m<sup>2</sup> of land. The proposed location of the bridge is based on avoiding the river mouth which changes all year round. The idea is to use the 20m reserve that runs around the Cambria subdivision as a maintained cycleway.

Dave Cooper asked if we would be seeking to create an easement, assuming Council were in agreement. Rob replied that he and Robyn would be speaking with Council's planner next week to discuss options. The owners of 58 Shaw St already lease part of their land to Council to provide a turning circle and car park at the end of Shaw St.

Robyn emphasised that we don't yet have 100% agreement from the owners of 58 Shaw St. However, they are favourably inclined. Robyn explained that other stakeholders hadn't been contacted yet as it's still very early in the process.

Gary thanked the working group for the progress they've made.

## Motions

1. That a working group is established to apply for a grant for a shelter to be built at the Swan River Rd jetty area.

Moved: David Swifte

Seconded: John Barker

Discussion about levels of interest in driving this project.

Motion: to bring the above motion to the next general meeting of the Association.

Move: Brett Harrison; Seconded: Neville Stewart. Carried

2. That the committee request Council to clear the verges along Dolphin Sands Rd of coastal wattle to property boundaries to increase the possibility of being able to safely drive out if the event of bushfire.

Moved: Robyn Moore; Seconded: Gary Stoward. Carried

Gary suggested that it'd be good to have the mulch left on the nature strip so we can use it

3. That the committee request Crown Land Services to replace some rocks at Bagot Point with a locked boom gate to allow emergency vehicles to access the beach.

Moved: Sallee Allford; Seconded: Danny Allford.

Danny said that it was important for authorities to be able to access the beach. For example, there was a dead whale on the beach recently. When National Parks people turned up to remove the whale they were unable to get onto the beach. Danny had to use his own tractor and trailer to go over the dune to remove the whale for Parks.

Yon said that it would give police access to beach if necessary, to patrol for burglars accessing properties from the beach or if there was a boating accident.

Wes suggested that it might be easier to get access to the beach at existing fire trails. As a resident at Bagot Point, he's concerned about locks being cut.

Yon replied that it's problematic to destroy the frontal dune at the beach end of the fire trails.

Robyn stated that the land is managed by Crown Land Services who, if they do anything, will determine the particulars of how to create access so the focus should be on the motion.

Motion to amend motion to: That the committee request Crown Land Services to install a locked boom gate to allow emergency vehicles to access the beach at a location to be determined by Crown Land Services.

Moved: Brett Harrison; Seconded: Kate Shield. Carried

Vote on motion as amended:

Moved: John Barker; Seconded: Kate Shield. Carried

John explained that he moved the motion because he'd seen photos of the whale retrieval on Facebook and thought it was ludicrous for authorities not to have access to the beach, but he felt that the access needed to be at a central point.

4. That the committee prepare a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission reiterating our request for a written guarantee regarding use of aquifer water.

Background:

This motion is in response to the following extract from page 23 of Council's S.39 report:

'The proponent has advised that they have no need or desire for aquifer water.

Groundwater use is regulated by DPIPWE and the inclusion of any SAP clause on this point would be inappropriate notwithstanding that [sic] the fact that it would resolve some of the concerns.'

Moved: David Cooper; Seconded: Robyn Moore

Danny explained that he was concerned about the water usage of a 36 hole golf course for dry periods if there were no written guarantee.

Yon explained that the proponents had put in writing that they were prepared to enter into Part V agreements about not extracting water. These agreements go on title, so they apply to future landowners. They are similar to covenants, such as protection for eucalyptus viminalis.

Brett asked how the already existing 18-spear arrangement on property owned by the consortium would be covered.

Motion to amend motion to: That the committee prepare a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for Part V agreements preventing use of aquifer water on all titles subject to the draft planning scheme amendment 2018/03.

Moved: Brett Harrison; Seconded: Yon Kikkert. Carried

Motion: That the committee prepare a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for Part V agreements preventing use of aquifer water on all titles subject to the draft planning scheme amendment 2018/03.

Moved: Brett Harrison; Seconded: Yon Kikkert. Carried

**Any other business**

Issues before Council:

- Access ways
- Litter bins
- Bushfire safety – clearing verges to property boundaries
- Living at Nine Mile Beach booklet
- Dolphin Sands Emergency Management Plan
- Markers at 5km beach access

Robyn noted that no Councillors were in attendance despite all being invited. Kate suggested inviting Councillors to next meeting. Robyn explained that the next meeting might not be for a while. If we don't continue to contact Council, we seem to get nowhere but if we keep asking, we risk annoying people.

Dave offered take over communication with Council and suggested that we may need to ramp up face-to-face meetings.

Danae suggested organising petitions, eg for litter bins.

Danny stated that Council receives over 300 lots of rates from Dolphin Sands and that we need something back for it.

Motion – that committee follows up with Council about the above issues as they see fit.

Moved: Robyn Moore; Seconded; Danae Stewart. Carried.

Meeting closed: 12.26pm