

Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 2019

Old Cheese Factory 7.00pm – 9.00pm

1. Statement of acknowledgement

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendees: Cr Damien Rosario (Chair), Ian Chisolm, Randini Dissanayake, Robin Dzedins, Linda Moon, Hailey Molina, Barbara Perkins Jobi Petty, Anthony Pietrosanto, Ricardo Simao, Kay Taranto, Thelma Wakelam, Simon King (Council officer)

Apologies: Don Jewell and Tony Patti.

3. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest

4. Minutes of the September 2019 Meeting

The Minutes of the September meeting be accepted as written.

Moved – Robin Dzedins

Seconded – Kay Taranto

5. Tour – Old Cheese Factory – Kristy Pole, Coordinator Old Cheese factory.

Kristy Pole, Coordinator Old Cheese Factor presented to the Committee on the heritage and history of the Old Cheese Factory.

Kristy informed the Committee the site was purchased in 1854 by William Clarke and included five square miles, known as the Springs. In 1865 William's son took over management of the property and it was leased to Murdock McDonald who built the homestead, kitchen, washhouse and servants' quarters. Kristy highlighted that seven of the 10 rooms remain today.

Kristy touched on the site's history as a cheese factory which produced 150 cheeses per week and employed 100 staff. The cheese was of such quality that it was mainly sold in Queensland. It is not known exactly when cheese production ceased, however it is believed to be between 1895 and 1900.

In 1904 the Clarke family decided to sell the land to the adjoining landowners, splitting the Cheese Factory, homestead and 652 acres, which was sold to William Wilson. This land then became known as Springfield and was used to breed and train racehorses. The remaining 1620 acres was sold to Edwin Greaves, who took the original property name (the Springs) as the springs were on his land.

The State Government purchased the land in 1925 as a soldier settlement and in 1928 Charles Hatten took up residence in the homestead. In the 1930's Charles was given the opportunity to purchase the land, which he did not take up. Charles lived at Springfield until his death in 1980, at which time the land was returned to the State Government. The land remains as crown land and the City of Casey was appointed the Committee of Management in 1983.

Today the property consists of nearly 30 acres with approximately 10 acres of gardens and open lawns. The site is managed by a dedicated team of nine staff including, the café, office and ground staff. A Heritage Overlay protects the Homestead, washhouse/kitchen and the Old Cheese Factory and is a well utilized community asset. Kristy highlighted the various community uses including weddings, birthdays, engagement parties, christenings, community group meetings and community education programs.

The Committee agreed and thanked Kristy for an informative tour of the Old Cheese Factory and for making the time to meet with them outside of business hours.

6. Items of Other Business

Kangaroo Virtual Fence – Kay Taranto

Kay thanked the City of Casey for trialing virtual fences along Churchill Park Drive in Lysterfield South. Kay highlighted here was a high incidence of wildlife and vehicle collisions and the fencing seeks to reduce the risks to both wildlife and motorists. The Committee commended Council on their approach and willingness to trial new technologies.

The Committee discussed how the fences may impact other wildlife including koalas, Southern Brown Bandicoot and reptiles. Due to the lack of technical knowledge on how the fences operate the topic was referred to the Natural Resource Management Sub-committee for further discussion and investigation.

The Committee provided recommendations for other trial sites which will be discussed in more detail at the Natural Resource Management Sub-committee

Action: Council officers to send Information on Virtual fence to Committee

Action: Council officers to include virtual fences as a topic at the first NRM Sub-committee meeting in 2020 including any findings available

7. Sub-committee meeting notes

Under the new Terms of Reference Sub-committees meet on alternative months to the Conservation Advisory Committee. Notes of the four Sub-committees follow.

8. List of Actions

- Council officers to send information on virtual fences to the Committee
- Council officers to include virtual fences as a topic at the first NRM Sub-committee meeting in 2020 including any findings available

Meeting close: 9:00pm