**Darling Downs Residents Association**

**Minutes from the AGM**

**Conducted on the 27th September 2023**

**DDRA Annual General Meeting**

The Darling Downs Resident Association (DDRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Foxton Hall in Foxton St Oakford.

**Meeting Opened** at 7.30 pm

The chairperson for the meeting was Bruce Hilliard (President of the DDRA).

**The following persons attended the AGM**:

Bruce Hilliard, Pam Hilliard, Peter Benson, Michelle Rich, Laura Strange, John Dawkins, Nathan Bishop, Brian Shupp, Pip Shupp, Robyn Vale, Brian Vale, Eugenie Kestel, Adam Kestel, Karen Nelson, Deb Venturini, Nikki Gusterson, John Watson, Eric Chabros, Sharon Arena, Amanda Smith, Kevin Brimblecombe, Rodney Eden-Street, Keith Ellis, Crystal McMellen, Carol Fawcett, Rob Coales Tricia Duggin, Morgan Bias, Lisa Gliddon, Matt Scofield.

**Apologies**

David Emery, Alice Dawkins, Maggie Dawkins, Shirlie Donders, Jerome Donders, Wendy Stanley, Ian Stanley, Penny Ellis, Katrina Lodge.

Bruce began the meeting by thanking everybody for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Bruce also thanked the shire for their support throughout the year and acknowledged how important the alliance is between the DDRA and the Shire.

**Previous AGM Minutes**

Bruce discussed the issues from the previous AGM such as;

Carriage track proposal which was discontinued due to lack of interest.

White ant control. Bruce has been advised that they should be left alone as they will only migrate to other areas.

Although much of the trials have been refurbished there is still a number within the equestrian park to be completed. More money will need to be sourced to complete the project.

Peter Benson has done a wonderful job of grading the slow track, however it requires additional sand and further grading.

Pine rail crossover completed on Masters West trail.

A 50km sign was requested for Rain lover Court. Bruce has a contact in Main Roads, and it is still being investigated.

A request has also been put forward to widen Rain lover Court turnaround which Bruce has contacted the authorities. It has now been investigated and the area is too small to create a turn around. However, the edges will be upgraded with extra gravel.

Resolution to accept the minutes from the previous meeting:

***Resolution.***

To accept the minutes of the AGM and the outcomes of any matters arising from the minutes.

**Proposed: Keith Ellis**

**Seconded: Adam Kessell**

**Vote outcome: Carried Unanimously.**

Bruce provided a snapshot of the hours and cost which the volunteers have contributed to the maintenance of the Equestrian Park.

Volunteers contributed 2,254 hours of their time in the past 12 months (2022 – 2023 Financial year) which attributed to saving the shire $78,984 (at $35 per hour) in labour costs.

Bruce again thanked the volunteers and the Shire for their support.

To date the volunteers have contributed 662 hours of work, (for the period 1st July to 27th September). At a value of $35 per hour, that is $23,163 worth of work done by volunteers already this Financial year.

Bruce explained briefly about the Deed that has been signed by the Shire and the DDRA. The alliance between the DDRA and the Shire has been extremely successful and contributed to having a very effective working relationship with each other.

Bruce continued to explain the Workstreams in accordance with the Strategic Development Plan and the Committee’s Report which have been completed.

* Trails- 14 Kilometres of trails have been refurbished.
* Day yards completed and are being used regularly.
* Comic Loop has been widened on the bends to ensure riders and drivers of spiders can get through safely.
* All access points in the Equestrian Park have been secured with chicanes and gates.
* Picnic tables have been installed.
* Fencing completed along Thomas Road providing greater safety for riders and walkers.
* Poles have been installed in the carpark creating a greater boundary for cars.
* Slow track has been graded to be more level using the sand which had been pushed to the outside. More sand is required.
* The current notice board has been refurbished thanks to the Men’s shed volunteers.
* Over 2,000 trees have been planted by volunteers. The Shire has provided assistance in ensuring the trees will be watered over summer.
* The shire has provided crossovers on Thomas West trail to ensure that maintenance can be conducted when necessary.
* The grass trial has been successful with the assistance of sponsors and the shire. The shire provided funds to ensure the trial was consistently watered over summer.
* Bow latches have been installed on strategic gates to allow riders to open and close gates more easily. A spring will be added to the gate to ensure it does not swing open to far on the Thomas Road fence.
* The tractor has had some major repairs and maintenance done.
* FESA will no longer allow DDRA to burn off large piles of debris and therefore the existing pile were split into 6 groups (southern pile) and 3 groups (northern pile) and subsequently burnt leaving degraded patches in the adjoining area. Repair needs to be done to the burnt areas to restore the vegetation.
* Debris has been cleared from all of the bridle paths making them safer to ride on and more aesthetically pleasing.

**Identify New Proposed Works**

**Other workstreams which need to be finished**,

**Workstream 1**

* More filling of the chicanes and the crossovers areas with safety rails to be provided.
* The inside arena needs to have the poles removed and graded more evenly.

**Workstream 2**

* The old picnic tables need to be upgraded.
* Additional power poles are going to be placed in the carpark.

**Workstream 3**

* Evening Peal carpark will have the vertical posts removed and replace with horizontal poles.

**Workstream 4**

* Additional plants will be procured through Metronet to add some colour into the area.
* Thomas Road west trail needs to be cleared.
* Grass Trial has survived its first Summer. Thank you to the Local Business Sponsors that provided products for the grass trial.
* The southern grassed area will need to be repaired as it has been damaged by the 6 fires have scorched the ground. The Shire has agreed to refurbish the area.
* **Old Workstream 5**
* The fence has been installed. A spring to be installed o the small gate across from McDonalds.
* **New Workstream 5**

More than 2,000 plants planted in and around the Park. This was a Great Success!

The Shire is engaging a contractor They will water once or twice per week over the first summer This will be coordinated between the DDRA and the Shire.

Next July, a second planting is planned for more low-lying flowering wildflowers and scrubs.

**Workstream 6**

* Bow latches will be installed on entrance gates to car parks and arenas so riders can more easily open and close the gates while mounted.
* Both arenas, car parks and entrance gates will have mounting blocks installed as well.

**Workstream 7**

* A Pegasus Crossing is being planned to be to be installed on Thomas Road when the road is upgraded to double lanes.

**Workstream 10**

* Existing jumps will be refurbished or replaced. New jumps will be built using power poles. Two roll top and three cavelletti jumps have been purchased to improve the quality of jumps in the Park and assist riders with their training.
* Trotting fines will be placed in the take and landing areas of each jump.

**Workstream 11**

* A concrete floor will be laid in the shed to alleviate the dust problem on the equipment in November. The DDRA would like to thank the shire for their financial support in this project.

**Workstream 12**

* Signs advising people that a busy bee is in progress and drive slowly signs will be procured and installed on the car park gates.
* Empire Rose Court and Comic Court Central need additional no through road signs.
* New wooden signs detailing the name of the trails will be made and installed.

A proposal was put forward to support these workstreams.

***Resolution***

To accept the proposal for the committee to initiate and conduct the appropriate tasks need to implement the projects and approve the projects.

**Proposed: Carol Fawcett**

**Seconded: Deb Venturini**

**Vote outcome: Carried Unanimously**

**DDRA Annual Report**

Bruce thanks everybody including the shire for their support throughout the year. The committees annual report listing all the achievements of the DDRA throughout the year has been tabled. Bruce requested for it to be accepted.

***Resolution***

**Proposed: Adam Kestel**

**Seconded: Brian Vale**

**Passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

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| --- | --- |
| Funds at the beginning of the financial year | $,2354.33 |
| Revenue received since the beginning of the FY | $17,000.00 |
| Expenditure since the beginning of the FY | $6,004.08 |
| Calculated & actual balance of working account | **$13,350.25** |
| Funds in S20 account | $1,754.18 |
| Revenue received since the beginning of the FY | $6.32 |
| Expenditure since the beginning of the FY | 0 |
| Calculated balance of S20 Account | **$1,754.18** |

Total Funds Available **$ 15,104.43**

To accept the treasurers report to be accurate.

***Resolution***

**Proposed: Peter Benson**

**Seconded: Rodney Eden-Street**

**Vote outcome: Carried Unanimously.**

**Any Other Business**

* There appears to be an increasing problem with motorbikes on the bridle trails which are a dangerous hinderance to the riders and the walkers. After seeking advice from the forum Councillor Rob Coales (a serving Police Officer) advised everyone to try and take a photograph of their registration plates or the rider and the bike and forward it on the Mundijong police. Or place the photo on the DDRA Facebook.
* With the season now ripe for growing noxious weeds Michelle Rich was going to contact the Bio Security people to seek advice on what can be done to eradicate the weeds. She will then advise the DDRA on how to proceed. In the meantime, residents have been asked to pull them out if they see them to prevent them from spreading.
* Bruce explained the importance of having new members on the committee and asked the forum for volunteers. The Committee would like to welcome the new members which are Crystal McMellon, Eugenie Kestel and Amanda Smith.
* Bruce talked about the changes happening to Thomas Road proposed by Main Roads and how this will impact on the residents and the horses as well as the existing infrastructure. Bruce is still waiting for confirmation from Main Roads on the final plan for the proposal.

**Meeting Closed at 9.48 pm.**