

COTTESLOE COASTCARE ASSOCIATION (INC)
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 24 July 2022 at 4.00pm
Lesser Hall, Cottesloe Civic Centre
MINUTES

1. Apologies

Dieter & Robyn Benken; Jan Beissel; Greg Boland; Keith Chambers; Rob Freeth; Martin Gelgyn; Cr Melissa Harkins; Russell King; Adeline Morrissey; Emma Saikovski; Greg van Schie.

2. Present [20, as per Attendance List]

Chilla Bulbeck; Frauke Chambers; Julie Cox; Valdene Diprose; Matt Davis; Ryah Eastman; Marion Ewing; Megan Ewing; Mike Ewing; Peter Ewing; Sue Freeth; Mike Gregson; Vanessa McGuinness; Austin Prentice; Bernie Renwick; Juliet Renwick; Cr. Helen Sadler; Belinda Taranto; Richard Thomas; Mayor Lorraine Young.

3. Minutes of the AGM on 15 August 2021 were accepted, signed and filed.

4. Election of Committee Members and Office Bearers

All current Committee Members agreed to continue to serve. Chairperson remains Prof Michael Ewing, Vice-Chairperson Robyn Benken, Secretary from 2022 Sue Freeth, Minute Secretary from 2022 Frauke Chambers, Treasurer Marion Ewing. Committee Members Valdene Diprose, Martin Gelgyn, Mike Gregson and Juliet Renwick will continue as Committee Members. Julie Cox was nominated and elected to the committee.

Cottesloe Coastcare Association Committee 2022 – 2023

Chairperson	Dr Michael Ewing
Vice Chairperson	Robyn Benken
Secretary	Sue Freeth
Minute Secretary	Frauke Chambers
Treasurer	Marion Ewing
Committee Members	Julie Cox; Valdene Diprose; Martin Gelgyn; Mike Gregson; Russell King; Juliet Renwick
Council Representative Town of Cottesloe	Cr. Chilla Bulbeck
Coordinators Environmental Projects	Adeline Morrissey and Emma Saikovski

5. Special Business Item – Proposed Constitutional Changes

Proposed change – Item 5

Item 5 currently reads:

“The associations’s financial year will be the period of 12 months commencing on 1 April and ending 31 March of each year.”

It is proposed to change this to:

“The association’s financial year will be the period of 12 months commencing on **1 July and ending on 30 June** of each year.”

The reason for the change is to align the Association's financial reporting with its operational reporting.

6. Reports

6.1 Secretary's Report

During 2021/22, most relevant communications among committee members were conducted electronically. A few face-to-face meetings were held and well attended.

For the year 2021/22 CCA had 73 financial members and an active mailing list. CCA also has a very lively Facebook page with regularly renewed, beautifully taken photographs by Robyn Benken of CCA's events and activities. It reaches ca 1,500 people with each of its postings and has had almost 1,000 'likes'. Posts are often shared and frequently commented on. We believe we have considerably increased our community support and included many younger people through our Facebook page.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

The bank balance on 1st April 2021 was \$20,586.80, on 31st of March 2022 it was \$ 30,352.12. For this period the income was \$27,427.66, expenses \$17,662.34; difference \$9,765.32. A detailed report is attached.

The report was read out, accepted and filed.

6.3 Chairperson's Report/Power Point Presentation [with input from Peter Ewing]

Dr Mike Ewing began his presentation by thanking Robyn Benken for the photos and Sue Freeth for the statistics, graphs and images he was to use in his presentation. These are the results of the very comprehensive records Robyn and Sue maintain of all CCA activities.

Mission

To restore areas of remnant natural vegetation in Cottesloe by 2030 through our direct efforts, our advocacy and the support of the wider community.

Shared Operating Values

The group operates with shared values including being open, friendly, inclusive and supportive; volunteers serving the public good; strategic, focused and outcome oriented; well organized and efficient; apolitical; collaborative, considered and flexible.

New issues emerge from time to time and are discussed and consensus is generally achieved.

Current Status

Cottesloe Coastcare is a small stable volunteer group of mostly long-standing members (about half actively involved, others in more passive support). It has a strong and highly active committee with a strong sharing of organisational and operational functions, drawing on individual skills and interests. Group 'size' is augmented by involving partner groups (corporate, educational, social). There is a close functional partnership with the Town of Cottesloe. The Natural Areas Alliance is a new 3-way relationship between CCA, Town of Cottesloe and Perth NRM which includes new initiatives with local schools. CCA's typical annual on ground activities are centered on an externally funded project, usually by Coastwest. Contractors are used in targeted roles including hole digging and weed spraying.

2021/22 Activities

51 Events: 29 regular working bees, 22 community events. 401 people from the wider community engaged (schools, corporate and community groups). 1,863 volunteer hours rated at \$30 per hour is valued at \$55,890. This with \$43,017 in grants means that Cottesloe Coastcare contributed \$98,907 to the natural areas of Cottesloe.

The 1,863 volunteer hours comprise 845 hrs weeding; 370 hrs planting; 337 hrs mulching, rubbish collecting, on-ground work; 171 hrs planning, liaison, setting up; 95 hrs watering; 45 hrs seed collecting and cleaning. 5,100 plants planted this year.

Key On-Ground Activities

- Grant St dunes – major planting from north of the Surf Club to Grant St beach access path –2,500 seedlings planted (current funded project)
- Salvado St to Pearse St dunes – infill planting –1,500 seedlings
- Vlamingh to Sydney St –infill planting – 500 seedlings
- Grant Marine Park –infill planting –200 plants
- Cottesloe Native Garden –infill –100 plants
- Railway reserve South Cottesloe –planting –400 plants.

We use plant numbers as a metric of our activity –in fact planting is the easy bit –success is largely determined by the time and effort taken in preparation and subsequent management:

Coastal revegetation is a complex multi-faceted operation and requires 12 Key steps that require detailed and active management

- Site selection - flows from strategic plan
- Determine plant species - landscape position and soil type
- Source locally adapted plants - seeds/cuttings 12 months in advance
- Pre-planting weed control (remove perennial weeds and undertake seed set control of Annuals; can be in spring/summer/autumn prior to planting depending on the target species).
- Create planting niches (dig, fertilise and water holes – more details to follow)
- **Plant tube stock into prepared holes**
- Mulch around plants if feasible
- Post plant weeding - manually and/or herbicide
- Watering in first summer (typically 3-4 times depending on rainfall, starting in early summer)
- Maintain weed control in year 2 (site specific)
- Infill planting to compensate for losses (typically 20%, but seasonal)
- Continue weed monitoring/control for 2-3 years.

Need to do all these steps at the right time

Vlamingh Nature Discovery Space an Award-Winning Development

CCA was the winner of the 2022 Parks & Leisure WA Awards - the Prize is for 2022 Best Playspace Award in WA - under half a million dollars category!

Plant of the Year: Quandong

There are several sites in Cottesloe where this semi-parasitic plant has re-established itself [i.e. some 100 plants near the Deaf School and a successful spread of new plants at Grant Marine Park]; CCA is very supportive of this exciting development.

Osprey Nesting Platform [report by Peter Ewing]

A new and ongoing CCA project managed by a small sub-committee [Peter Ewing, Matt Davis, Mike Ewing and Robyn Benken]. The design requires a 12m high pole and a 2m wide stainless steel nest support with especially collected sticks [*'Stick Sculpture of the Sea'*] as well as a mounted camera. Ground work is visibly progressing – concrete foundations are cast and the pole will soon be erected by a specially commissioned crane. The project is hoped to be completed in before the end of the year. Signs and explanations will be provided by Robyn. It will be possible to observe the ospreys in the nest from the Vlaming Memorial look-out.

Future Challenges

- Our 'mature' group needs fresh ideas and new boundaries to retain the involvement/engagement of members
- Recruiting new members - particularly younger members - is a requirement for continuity
- We must examine whether our current committee system (large and inclusive) is the best option for the future
- We must continue to develop new operating processes with key existing partners (possibility of large project with Town of Cottesloe and Perth NRM for JBDP), identify and engage new partners
- It is essential that we capture, preserve and disperse the critical local knowledge on restoration technologies within and beyond the group
- We should adapt the role of CCA as the balance of better new initiatives and maintenance of current areas shifts.

Examples of Successful Fund Raising

North Cottesloe Primary School for Containers for Change for the revegetation of John Black Dune Park.

Acknowledgements

CCA gratefully acknowledges the support of its members, partners, funders, donors and the committee. The President expressed a very special thank-you to Robyn Benken who has been at the very heart of our activities for many years.

7. Any Other Business

Mayor Lorraine Young expressed her appreciation to CCA for their support in the future development of John Black Dune Park.

Close of Meeting: 5.10 pm.