

WALKERVILLE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Inaugural Public meeting at Walkerville North Community Hall
Sunday 12th March 2006 7:00pm

AGENDA

- Welcome - Convenor- Steve Graham
- Rules of Debate

FORUM- About the need for a new association

Possible Outcomes

- Name of association
- Committee
- Membership criteria
- Constitution
- Fees
- Communications
- Contact Lists
- Website
- Formation of subcommittees
- Wish list

FORUM- Coastal Engineering Coastal Erosion Study

Possible Outcomes

- Consensus view of what is the best option for a boat ramp
- Consensus view of that is the best option for beach protection
- Methods by which the community can make submissions to the foreshore committee on these issues.
- Next steps in this ongoing campaign

General Business

- Improvement of facilities for residents/ tourists and holiday makers
- Working Bees?
- Social Gatherings?
- Other

Background of Management and Associations at Walkerville

March 2006

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management. WFC

Overall control of the reserve is the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The WFC is the land manager for the foreshore reserve from the Northern limit of the caravan park to Riddlers Creek at SouthWalkerville.

A four hundred metre section of beach and hinterland which includes the Bluff and the Lime kilns is excluded from this area. This is managed by Parks Victoria.

The WFC has been responsible for many positive improvements in the camping ground and on the foreshore over many years and a lot of good things have been achieved.

However the Department of Sustainability and Environment is by definition "green" and the outcomes are generally limited to environmental constraints in many instances. The committee members are appointed by the DS&E and the majority appear to have been appointed because of their "green" overtones.

Walkerville Blue Water Boating and Angling Club. WBWB

About a 100 or so members who enjoy boating and fishing at Walkerville. They generally represent the majority views of most boat users with regard to boat launching facilities.

Understandably their interests are limited to fishing and boating and they leave other issues to the Foreshore Committee.

The Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association WRRRA

The organization formed in 1985 to maintain a working brief on the natural environment and "to attract and not repel possible recreational holiday makers"

The WRRRA's mission these days seems to be totally focused on environmental issues. It is anti boat ramp, anti wind towers and anti anything that will attract families to enjoy this beautiful place which is in contradiction to the second half of their charter mentioned above. They represent their own personal interests and those residents who disagree are not welcome in the organization.

For the families who can't afford properties, visit or stay in the caravan park their interests are certainly not represented by the WRRRA.

The WRRRA currently has about 90 members.

Friends of Walkerville FOW

An organization of about forty members formed solely to protect the natural environment at Walkerville. Their mission is to about planting trees and removing weeds. They have no interest in improvements for the families that use the area.

Conclusion

The Walkerville Foreshore Committee has achieved many good things but its current make up is increasingly anti development and the majority of members views are focused on environmental issues.

There is no group with unbiased views on general improvements for the benefit of all users of the foreshore.

This new organization is necessary to give government authorities, councils etc. a truly representative, unbiased and objective view of what the majority think and not the narrow, sectional biased views that are currently being put to government representatives or press.

Progress Association Proposal

12th March 2006

7.30pm

Venue: Walkerville Hall
Convenor : Steve Graham

Opening Welcome
 Rules of Debate
 Background Sheet

Steve explained should a Progress Association be formed it would indeed be a fifth association in the Walkerville area. He discussed the need for this association was to give those who do not have a voice in the area a chance to be heard.

- Photos were passed around the room showing bouquets and brickbats; photos of development.
- A Progress Association would not be “instead of” the other associations, but complement them by revealing the needs for progress to them.
- If people sit back the environmental issues will continue to dominate and other issues may not be addressed.
- Progress means a “doing stuff association”.
- To form a group to encourage the Walkerville Foreshore Committee to think outside the square and work within the existing groups.

Issues raised from the floor that

- Parking in the peak seasons
- Safety issues for children and families
- Walkerville is getting busier and busier
- We need to ensure that Walkerville is here for all to enjoy now and in the future
- This association could be here to start thinking about the future now.
- We need an organisation to make the WFRC accountable – to have a voice.
- We need to tap into the expertise of all in the area

- Would like to see more facilities for family.
- No-one wants to spoil what we have, however, we need to be safe/ a lot of people don't know the area and get into trouble.

- Launched boat off the beach – large and small; no problems.
- Member of WRRRA but disappointed at lack of any info from WRRRA.
- 20 years experience of Walkerville

- Can launch no problems however increasing activity on beach leads to safety issues.

- Likes simplicity of what is proposed in the possibility of separating boats and tourists. To free the beach for swimming and use unused area for boat ramp and parking outside the hall.
- If not gaining a fraction each year we are closing down and going backwards and will end up with no beach for boating.
- With the East Link being built we are bringing Melbourne closer to Walkerville. People will be in Walkerville in 1hr 45 mins and we need to be able to facilitate them. Anything under 2 hours is prime real estate.
- No toilet facilities that are satisfactory
- Need more parking

Surfer

- Boat ramp will provide a break which may be good for this.
- Older people finding it harder to launch. People can get hurt, damage boards, need to rescue people.

Day Trippers

- Often drive down and don't get out of the car because they see the facilities as inadequate.
- 45 years coming down to this area.
- Does not want this association to be only about the boating ramp – wants upgraded facilities.

Progress is a good idea whatever the reason. Progress is progress and if you want this to happen you need a progress association.

- If you want progress consolidate all other organisations and work with one body rather than many.
- Need to look to the future
- Just retired and got a boat license – would be scared to launch here. These people who say they have been coming here for 20,30+ years and have no problems are being selfish
- Who pays for all these facilities?
- I have written to WFRC and I know we don't get replies to letters.
- We need a body that brings all these bodies together (bring a representative from each group together and start planning together)
- Progress can go either way, either back or forward.
- Aim at bringing people together. Have different associations; but bring them back together for joint funding etc.

Re WRRRA – 30 people tried to join and were rejected after sending in their forms and money. They changed the format of form without a formal meeting or discussion with members. Now you need a stat dec that you are a rate payer.

- This Association would be about a consensus view and issues will be put on website and notice board so everyone is kept honest.
- South Gippsland Shire only take notice of WFRC (who are DNRE appointed). They are the designated body and therefore there is no say for people who are not ratepayers or permanent locals.

- Everyone owns the beach; all got kids who swim here; make the facilities appropriate so we can all use the different facilities here including boating.
- On progress for everyone; improve amenities.
- 35 years in caravan park. Needs to be a committee to work with the other committees to pull together and to put pressure on WFRC when they are not acting in the best interest of all.
- WRRRA Achieved many positive improvements eg walking tracks. This association seems to have lost some of its direction and is not using its power to sway the WFRC to move things forward.
- Wants it better and friendlier for all people who come here. Cited the closing of the Gap Camping Ground; now ivy and blackberries) This is not being kept for our descendants it is lost to them. Need an organisation that is as natural as we can get it and friendly as we can get it.

- To join the Progress Association you can be a camper. Day tripper etc. To join WRRRA you need to be a ratepayer.
- If enough good people say nothing there will be no improvement at Walkerville. We need a ginger group.
- WFRC may only be hearing the voices of those on the committee and not the general view.
- Many people start coming here as day trippers and then buy a house here.

FORMAL MOTION:

That this meeting form as association called the "Walkerville Progress Association" moved Don Atkins, seconded Laurie Pincini. Majority vote in favour, 1 against. Motion carried.

All opinions are valid

- debate is good
- cannot get on other committees
- check to see that the other committees are being kept honest.

FORUM 1

Name of Association Walkerville Progress Association
Open Meetings internet passed.

MOTION To form a Steering Committee of 6 until Constitution is written and passed.
Moved Bob Jones, seconded John Slane. Carried.

Steering Committee

President	Steven Graham
Secretary	Mary-Anne Revell
Treasurer	Don Atkins
Members:	Mike Comrie
	Laurie Pincini
	Greg Elleman

Jason Pincini

Moved Bob Jones, Sarina Constanzo. AIF no objections

MOTION That due to the time constraints the Interim Steering Committee of the Walkerville Progress Association draft a Constitution to be presented at the next meeting to be held over the Easter weekend 2006. moved Bob Jones, seconded Greg Elleman carried.

FORUM 2

Options put on whiteboard and explained (Coastal Engineering Erosion Stud) followed by debate and discussion. A vote was taken on all options 3a 2 votes, Option 5 – majority. Do nothing 1 vote. A straw pole was taken and option 5 was the valid option. Option 5 will bring boating away from the swimmers/pedaestrians etc. This is a big problem at the moment and is creating friction.

It was moved that the meeting be extended 30 minutes until 930pm Moved John Slane, seconded Greg Elleman.

Discussion was held on the offshore groins off Waratah Street and the caravan park and the possible effects of these barriers.

MOTION "That the WPA supports the WFC proposal to do a trial for the offshore groins opposite Waratah Street only." Moved Sarina Costanzo, seconded Greg Elleman.

Application Forms, recommend fee structure, social gatherings, and working bees, will be discussed at a later date.

WISH LIST from those at the meeting.

1. Fish cleaning table/facilities regardless of option
2. Pedestrian footpath and bike track along Bayside Drive
3. Shower facilities
4. Reduce speed limit along Bayside Road
5. Clarification of sign regarding NO driving on beach unless launching boats.
6. Sign for unsafe cliffs

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Jason Pincini

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