

Linden Citizens Association
Minutes of Meeting
held Thursday 21st March, 2013
at the Linden Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Station, Burke Road, Linden

Opened: 19:45 hours

Welcome: President Barbara welcomed all and special guest Bruce Cameron.

Guest Speaker: Bruce Cameron – history of the Blue Labyrinth (an overview of his book of the same name, now out of print). Bruce grew up in Glenbrook. His best mate's dad was ranger in the National Park. He got to know the National Park very well. The book started when historian John Low encouraged him to write it and include his collection of photos. The Blue Labyrinth is the south-eastern section of Blue Mountains.

There's a real connection between the landscape and the settlers. 70 million years ago there was a lot of volcanic activity in the area creating volcanic diatremes [diatreme: a volcanic pipe, filled with breccia, formed by a subterranean gaseous explosion] – St Helena, Euroka, Sun Valley, Tobys Glen, Murphys Glen and several others that are unnamed.

Aboriginal and white occupation was attracted to these volcanic areas that produced open grasslands, caves around the rim, water, raw material for stone tools. Aboriginal occupation continued well after white settlement in the general area. Aboriginal tools and implements made from glass are evidence of this.

Bushwalkers also concentrated on those volcanic areas for similar reasons.

Stone piles similar to the original Caley's Repulse are found throughout the Blue Labyrinth.

There are 600-700 recorded Aboriginal sites between Wentworth Falls to Glenbrook and Warragamba. Red Hands cave is just one.

Eugene Stockton has found evidence of Aboriginal occupation from at least 40,000 years ago.

White travellers would have camped with Aboriginals in shelters, particularly around Springwood.

Euroka Clearing – in 1826 Sir Francis Forbes, the first Chief Justice acquired Euroka Valley.

Euroka is an Aboriginal word for sun and warmth. It is one of the first Aboriginal names to be used in the Mountains. Stone implements can still be found throughout the area. The area was farmed with wheat, vegetables, fruit, cattle, sheep, horses bred for Boer War for the likes of Breaker Morant. Euroka was mined for coal and diamonds and other precious stones.

The area has been in constant use and attractive to all people. Euroka had many owners. The Last owner was Alfred Edward Bennett (who Bennett's ridge is named for). He blasted and cut a track from the Nepean River to Euroka.

The Circles, a spot along the Oaks fire trail has an Aboriginal rock engraving of big concentric circles. The wheel on the Oaks Fire Trail is a place where several ridges join (like the spokes of a wheel). A wheel is bolted to a tree to mark the spot and as a guide post/marker for what can be a confusing place for navigation.

Behind the Weemala property in Linden there are large rock platforms with post holes cut that were used to make a fence.

Although it all looks like virgin bush, there has been a lot of activity throughout the area. We live in a very special, under-rated area. There's never ever enough time to know the country that is on our doorstep.

The attractions of the volcanic diatremes in the Blue Labyrinth have supported many people over many thousands of years, both Aboriginal and European as farmers and/or bushwalkers. It is still a fascinating place with amazing stories.

Barbara thanked Bruce for his presentation and welcomed the idea of him returning to a future meeting with slides of the area and its amazing points of interest.

Apologies: Bob & Olive Young, Warwick Hall, Robbie Beale, Philip Moss.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes were displayed in the noticeboards and on the Yahoo Groups web site http://groups.yahoo.com/group/linden_cits.

Minutes confirmed, moved Greg North, seconded Jane Grundy.

Business arising from minutes: nil.

Correspondence Outwards:

22/11/12 **BMCC** (Virginia Field) Email – thanks for presentation at recent LCA meeting. Minutes.

22/11/12 **John Low** Email – thanks for presentation at recent LCA meeting. Minutes.

28/11/12 **BMCC** (Jeff Allwood, Cheryl Taylor) Email – request for waiver form for Christmas party.

29/11/12 **BMCC** (Jeff Allwood) – signed hold harmless waiver form for Christmas party.

01/12/12 **Linden Residents** – Linden Family Christmas Party flier.

02/12/12 **Linden Residents** (on email list) Email – Christmas Party and Australia Day Barbecue.

02/12/12 **Brian Stokes** (Linden Resident) Email – enquiry asking if any response was received regarding closure of fire trail into Dawes Park.

07/12/12 **Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – thanks for raising the issue of improving the fence and other amenities in the park in West Linden and for inviting us to comment and possibly attend the meeting of Council where the issue will be discussed. Back in touch shortly.

10/12/12 **Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – two LCA members coming to BMCC meeting regarding park fencing and improvements notice of motion.

12/12/12 **RMS** (Sam Wijekoon) Email – upper Tollgate Drive is the higher, more westerly intersection closest to Woodford.

20/01/13 **Linden Residents** – invitation to Australia Day barbecue (sent as email too).

04/02/13 **Clrs Hollywood & Van Der Kley** Email – follow up on park fencing risk assessment.

04/02/13 **BMCC** (Alan Cattermole) Phone call x2 – follow up on gate on Cox's Road near Hepburn Road. Survey listed to be done, will let us know progress.

07/02/13 **Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – LCA meeting dates for 2013

12/02/13 **Bruce Cameron** Email – invitation to be LCA guest speaker.

21/02/13 **Better Planning Network** (Leonie Dean) Email – LCA accepts your invitation to be affiliated with the Better Planning Network.

22/02/13 **Roza Sage MP** Email – copy of letter received from RMS regarding Tollgate Drive and Great Western Highway intersection. Expressing dismay at letter containing track changes and saying RMS does not support rumble strips that have since been installed.

22/02/13 **BMCC** (Tony Moore) Email – request for copy of consultant's risk assessment report on Kings cave Park.

27/02/13 **Bob Young** Email – availability for LCA Christmas party Sunday 8 December 2013.

27/02/13 **John Budin** Email – invitation to be guest speaker at a future LCA meeting.

27/02/13 **Linden RFS** (Jenny Anlezark) Email – request for LCA to hold a function at RFS shed on Sunday 24 March 2013.

28/02/13 **John Budin** Email – invitation to be guest speaker at LCA meeting 16 May.

02/03/13 **Linden RFS** (Jenny Anlezark) Email – request for LCA to hold a function at RFS shed on Sunday 28 April 2013.

04/03/13 **Linden Residents** (on Mailchimp email list) Email – Better Planning Network public meeting 7 March, next LCA meeting 21 March.

17/03/13 **Linden Residents** – Newsletter march 2013.

19/03/13 **Linden Residents** (on email list) Email – meeting reminder, newsletter download link.

20/03/13 **Conexim Australia** – online registration application for domain name lindencitizens.asn.au. The tracking number of application is: EN1137645-15496.

Correspondence Outwards endorsed, moved Greg North, seconded Jon Rickard.

Business arising from Correspondence Outwards: nil.

Correspondence Inwards:

- 22/11/12 BMCC** (Virginia Field) Email – a detailed information package should be ready by the first week in December, including directions for how to make a submission or nominate a representative for the February community Forum. A copy will be sent to the LCA.
- 25/11/12 John Low** Email – thanks for message. Corrections for minutes of previous meeting.
- 25/11/12 Brian Stokes** (Linden Resident) copy of Email sent to NPWS regarding closure of fire trail behind Caley Lane through Dawes Park.
- 26/11/12 BMCC** (Virginia Field) Email – addition for minutes of previous meeting.
- 28/11/12 BMCC** (Jeff Allwood) Email – Hold Harmless Agreement form for Christmas party.
- 28/11/12 RailCorp** (Mal Decker) Email – revegetation of the top of the embankment above the land slip site has been scheduled for track work weekend of 2-3 March 2013.
- 02/12/12 Brian Stokes** (Linden Resident) Email – NPWS received several responses and the fire trail into Dawes Park to remain open until NPWS consults with BMCC and RailCorp.
- 05/12/12 BMCC** (Jeff Allwood) – acknowledgement of receipt of use of Council Park application.
- 06/12/12 Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – motion on notice regarding report on the feasibility of improving the fence and other amenities at Kings Cave Park. Going to Council meeting 11/12/12.
- 10/12/12 Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – great that LCA members are attending Council.
- 12/12/12 RMS** (Sam Wijekoon) Email – which is upper Tollgate Drive?
- 20/01/13 Jane & Tony Lennon** Email – apology for inability to attend Australia Day barbecue.
- 22/01/13 Ron & Judith Hansen** Email – apology for inability to attend Australia Day barbecue.
- 22/01/13 RMS** (Jagtar Rakkar) Email – The length of the deceleration lane at this location (upper Tollgate Drive and Great Western Highway) is approximately 70 metres which is consistent with the length required under the Road Design Guide. Since there have been no crashes in the area between 1 January 2007 and 18 December 2012, the provision of raised profile line marking rumble strips between the merge lane and the through lane at this location is not supported at this time. The suggested sign from the Linden Association (warning of sharp turn at Tollgate Drive) is not an approved RMS sign and is considered inappropriate.
- 24/01/13 Roza Sage MP** (to Jon Rickard) – a representation on behalf of the LCA has been made to the Roads minister regarding the speed limit in Linden. Will let us know when a response is received.
- 29/01/13 BMCC** (Virginia Field) Email – invitation to Our City, Our Future Community Forum on Saturday 16/02/13 at Lawson Community Centre.
- 04/02/13 BMCC** (Clr Chris Van Der Kley) Email – will find out about park fencing assessment.
- 04/02/13 BMCC** (Michael Kocoski) phone call – survey has been completed and site found for gate on Cox's Road near Hepburn Road.
- 06/02/13 Clr Romola Hollywood** Email – park fencing assessment expecting in the following months. LCA meeting attendance and 40km/h zone enquiries.
- 12/02/13 Bruce Cameron** Email – acceptance of invitation to be guest speaker at next meeting.
- 12/02/13 BMCC** (Tony Moore) – Fence and other amenities at Linden Park. Risk assessment was undertaken and repairs to the existing strand fencing by Council's operations branch have been requested. Seating will be further assessed for replacement and/or relocation in the draft 2013-14 Asset Works Program.
- 23, 24, 28/02, 06, 18, 19/03/13 Better Planning Network** Email (4x) – BPN Information; Welcome to the Better Planning Network, platform and list of affiliates; Imminent release of White Paper and what you can do now; RAIA letter supports NSW Planning Reforms; White paper delayed; Good News; Urban Activation Precinct announcement; petition handover to Jamie Parker MP.
- 27/02/13 Linden RFS** (Jenny Anlezark) Email – Sunday 24 March 2013 is a brigade training day and availability of shed for a LCA function will have to be confirmed. Other dates available: 17/3, 7/4, 14/4 and 28/4.
- 28/02/13 Bob Young** Email – available for LCA Christmas party Sunday 8 December 2013.
- 28/02/13 John Budin** Email – able to be guest speaker at a future LCA meeting.
- 13/03/13 BMCC** (Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow) – Linden Park fencing risk assessment report copy.

19/03/13 Linden RFS (Jenny Anlezark) Email – RFS open day is on Saturday 28th September.

Correspondence inwards received, moved Greg North, seconded Jon Rickard.

Business arising from Correspondence in: nil.

Reports

Treasurer:

No report.

Linden Rural Fire Brigade: Colin Anlezark

Standby days: Members spent a number of days on standby at station. It is painful waiting but it is really critical on blow-up days to be ready to roll the truck immediately. The importance of this was graphically explained at a Com Engagement presentation I attended the other week. 1957/68/77.

Strike team: one of the bad fire weather days was spent at Katoomba as part of a strike team.

Fortunately we had only one little fire and about 10 trucks.

Coonabarabran RRG: A Crew went to Coonabarabran and I went to Cooma. It's great experience for the newer members.

Kedumba Walls Fire: We sent crews to a fire at Kedumba Walls as well. A spectacular fire on and below a very high cliff 20 km south of Wentworth Falls. It took a number of days to contain.

Hazard Reductions: Linden attended a large HR at Glenbrook today. Many more are expected across the mountains if the weather holds. A large burn between Linden and Woodford around Bulls camp is still being prepared and will probably go ahead next spring or autumn..

This Year - Next Year? The mountains had a very fortunate fire season unlike other areas. We must all be preparing our homes for next year. Brigade training will continue and we always need more members.

Clean Up Australia Day: insufficient numbers this year. LCA will endeavour to be involved in 2014 on a different date.

Moving Safely Around Linden: Jon Rickard

Barbara Gow, Jeremy Leather, Warwick Hall and Jon Rickard met with State MP Roza Sage on Friday 14th December 2012.

We are expecting a reply on our appeal against the RMS decision against a 40 km/h speed limit. No reply as yet. Roza was to present our case to the Local traffic committee. Jon to follow up.

Tollgate Drive Great Western Highway intersection is another cause for concern as far as RMS communication and safety.

Maybe we should put up our own signage: "Take care. Merge lane beyond crest." An obviously community-made sign. "Resident's speed limit 40 km/h".

To be discussed at next meeting.

Bushcare Group: Greg North. The new workday is the third Sunday of the month from 1:30-4:30 pm. Although no one could make it to the last workday, bushcare officer Tracy Williams was able to spray some Turkey Rhubarb seedlings and Jasmine along Caley Lane, and Fishbone Fern, Japanese Knotweed and Crofton Weed in Caley's Repulse. She also helped a resident of 6 Caley Lane de-seed and dig out the bulbs of Turkey Rhubarb plants on her property. It would be great to have some more residents involved in bushcare to prevent weed invasion and beautify the village.

Kings Cave Park:

On Tuesday 11th December 2012 Phil Moss and Greg North attended the regular Blue Mountains City Council meeting where Phil addressed Council regarding fencing and other amenities in Kings Cave Park (called Linden Park by Council) Following Phil's presentation, Councillors voted unanimously for the recommendations in the business paper regarding the park. They were essentially to conduct a risk assessment regarding barriers around the park and if that assessment recommends additional fencing that it be included in the 2013-17 works program.

Thank you Phil for informing Council about some background of the park and thanks to Robbie for providing it. Phil outlined the existing situation, the issues arising from it and our request for better fencing, a shelter, trees and a bin.

In speaking for the motion:

Clr Romola Hollywood said she welcomed the report, that she was shocked by the state of the fence when she saw it and agreed it was unsuitable. She noted that Linden has narrow roads and gave her support for the risk assessment. Her hope was that the fence made it into the work program. Romola said that the request for a shelter and trees was news to her.

Clr Chris van der Kley said that it was one of the Mountains "pocket parks" and that he and previous Councillors have been working on gaining a 40 km/h speed limit in Linden that was still pending with RMS. He said that if Council had a spare \$10,000 - \$15,000, the park should be on the priority list. Chris said that Linden doesn't get very much and that he had been trying for several years to do something about the park.

As mentioned, it was carried unanimously. A good result.

The risk assessment report recommended repair of the existing wire strand fence and a review of seating. Fence repairs have been requested of Council's operations branch. Seating will be further assessed in the draft 2013-14 Asset Works Program.

General Business:

Noticeboard backing board is warped.

Website for LCA is being developed. It will contain meeting dates, minutes, historic articles, photographs, neighbourhood watch, events. Suggestions welcome.

Raffle: Letter to shopkeepers will be distributed in local business areas seeking prizes. Secretary to write a thank you letter to Jazz Apple cafe thanking them for their last raffle prize donation.

Garage Sale: to be further discussed.

Welcome new residents event: Sunday 28th April at fire station. Personal invitations will be distributed. Longer term residents also welcome to meet new residents. A native plant will be given to new residents. A welcome pack is also being developed. Ideas welcomed for things to be included in the pack. Bus and taxi information.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16/05/13 at Fire Station.

Meeting closed: 21:30 hours.