



General Meeting Minutes Saturday 11th November 2023

after the AGM at 2pm
St Andrew's Uniting Church Hall
61-63 Soho Street Cooma

Committee members present: Andrew Thaler, Alisa Thaler, Shanwy Joynt, Nicole Vlug, Matt Nolte, Charles Kolano
Members present: 15
Members online: unknown
Recorded or televised: live broadcast
Apologies: 10 members via email, facebook or in person
Visitors: none identified
Previous Minutes: not tabled, available online
Treasurer report: There is \$200 being held.
Bank Balance: no current account

Meeting opens 2:25pm

Business arising from AGM: Bank account to be applied for. Signatories President, Secretary and Treasurer > Andrew Thaler, Alisa Thaler, Shawny Joynt.
Bendigo Bank Cooma preferred due to in bank services. Agreed.
Mick Newman: welcome Bendigo Bank for their services, once account opens.

A reminder to promote SMRRA as you can. There are many issues in SMRC that relate to other shires, so share far and wide.

November SMRRA Business Paper:

Snowy River Hostel - Berridale Assisted Living Facility: SMRC says its higher cost than income, it runs at a loss, a reason to close the Home. SMRC is not open in its conversation with the community.

> There are many different types of costs or loss borne by councils, for example pools and libraries, but they are seen as offering a community service. The Service of Aged Care seems not a priority to SMRC.

Yallambee Hostel is said to be 'given' to Aged Care company, by SMRC. New SMRC CEO Hogan will have to follow this up as it has an unknown outcome.

> Audit on *Yallambee* > location failed in many aspects. Former Mayor Narelle said *Yallambee* had passed with 'flying colours', when asked during her recent term. Awaiting overall outcome.

> SMRC says that it is UNACCEPTABLE to run the Berridale facility at a loss, however other activities are set to do so, for example Bombala Stand at showground to run at a loss. Cooma Sports building set to run at a loss. These ideas are being promoted by SMRC.

Michelle Wolfenden: Berridale nursing home will have a speaker at the SMRC meeting. Not the proposal as per the letter from SMRC.

Cooma Sports Hub expenses proposal, a speaker required at the SMRC meeting. Compare to other losses in the shire.

> New fees and charges to be published - objections to be considered and discussed.

- > Fees: commercial ½ court fee \$115, community ½ court fee \$57.50. Full \$230.
- Meeting room \$45 per hour, Kiosk fee when sports in use. \$350 weekday, \$400 weekend.
- Consultant Comparison to a similar facility by size and location (in Ballina)
- Balina 46k people in 485 km shire.
- Cooma 21K people in a 5,000 km shire. 110 km from Queanbeyan and Yass competitions.
- >\$6 to watch, if a sports event, fee for weekly kids sports.
- Prices do not compare with Ballina or Queanbeyan.
- >\$15 million build. Estimated revenue \$337,000. Expected Donations and Sponsorship \$200. Estimated Expenditure \$860,000, equals an expense to SMRC of \$520,00 p.a.
- >Cooma Basketball association> SMRC has not received any recent response from them.
- They have a building already with Cooma Gymnastics.
- >Total revenue for this large build with no business case for it. There is a severe funding short-fall.
- >Andrew Thaler recommends that SMRC Mayor Hanna hands the keys to Monaro High School Principal, to have as an asset and save the ratepayer \$650-\$800k a year. Keep SMRC losses for other services!

Shawny Joynt looks at the demographic breakdown of SMRC shire.

- > Services to meet the demographic.
- > In Jindabyne an entire street left the region due to no aged care facilities. Went to be near family or services. SMRRA sees aged-care as a critical service.

Kalkite Development: Michelle Wolfenden - general opinion that the development should not have advanced so far. The proposed reason by SMRC to approve it “to give certainty” is not a valid reason.

SMRC suggestion to allow the subdivision, to approve the re-zoning allows the RU1 to be changed to Residential. Sets a precedent.

- >There are 42 sites already released in the Berridale area.
- >Concerns those at Kalkite not for general housing but holiday homes.
- >Relevant services needed where development happens.

- >Snowy River councils old plans - an expectation Jindabyne SAP happening, to update sewage and drinking water, to cover basic services. This is not guaranteed.
- >The Kalkite developer wanted to use the bike track development to piggy-back on these works, across the Jindabyne wall, for sewage. This is not suitable.
- >The need for power line upgrades are often missed.
- >we are on the cusp of a de-merger of the three shires.
- >sewage upgrade should state the volume it services. Kalkite development plus existing housing will overwhelm the sewage service there now.
- > It would cost over \$12M to pump all the waste over to East Jindy and Jindy. \$3.3M form developer. \$8M shortfall.

Berridale Aged-Care: \$1.2m cost. Community could ask SMRC to refurbish the facilities allowing the current residents, of which there are six, to stay. Ask to keep it open 3 more years. Ageing in place has benefits. Realisation that as they age more services are required.

- >SMRC says move to more suitable Aged-Care - community group to repurpose location to provide respite care.
- >SMRC councillors don't know what they should do, they are seeking recommendations.
- >The former CEO pushed for its closing.

Matter 9.2 Finance “Nil”: SMRC has this in their November report.

- >There are no financials to review.
- >Regulation ACT 2021. Quarterly budget review statement of financials within 2 months.
- SMRC repeatedly asks for extensions on reports. CEO - pressured to not have business as usual.

*Other business:

Wild Horses in Kosciuszko National Park, aka Brumbies.

- >SMRC neighbours with others in Kosciuszko National Park, KNP.
 - >Carcass management, or lack of management, a major concern.
 - >The situation of Guy Fawks many years ago was a concern then and relevant to now.
 - >The horse control guidelines are not being fulfilled now, in KNP.
 - >SMRC brought the four metal horse sculpture installation (called 'On the Edge', in 2017). They were installed on the northern (ACT) border of SMRC. This sculpture set are often recognised as Brumby horses from KNP.
 - >Brumbys in the wild are seen as a tourist activity. A photo opportunity. SMRC has not said anything about the current handling within the KNP.
 - >The Feral nature of the wild horses is overrated.
 - >The horses eat grass and can be part of land management and fire control.
 - >What are we, as locals, allowing to happen in our neighbourhood?
 - >Steve Whan pushing for shooting of the horses, this is not representative of the people.
- >Other KNP management: 1080 baiting is poisoning native animals. Second killing of quoll, birds etc. It is very quiet in KNP, especially after the bushfires in 2019/2020 killed many grass eating animals and their predators.
- >Murrumbidgee is Cooma's drinking water and it flows through KNP.

Monaro Rail Trail:

- >SMRRA will continue to oppose this idea if it recommends the removal of railway line tracks.

News & Media: David McBride, a Military WhistleBlower. The Brethren Enquiry. A community concern as charged for doing the right thing, holding others to account.

Close 3:30pm.

Thank you to St Andrew's Church for hall hire.

Please stay for a light afternoon tea. Thank you to the members contributing to that.