



The Cygnet Association Incorporated

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COMMITTEE MEETING **MINUTES**

MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015 6.30 for 7.00pm
Cygnet Tennis Club, 17 Louisa Street

1 ATTENDING:

Trent Cowen (TC CHAIR), Andrew Blaxland(AB), Kraig Carlstrom (KC), Steve Cumper (SC) Greg Coad (GC), Roger Hart (RH), Pat Syngé (PS), Robin Winter (RW), Jack Synnott (JS), Judi Willoughby (JW)

APOLOGIES: Martin Eaton (ME), John Diment (JD), Elizabeth Haworth (EH), Kevin Sawford (KS),

ALSO ATTENDING: New members: Jeremy Wright (JW), Peter George (PG), Liz Smith (LS), Lisa Plohl (LP), Carolyn Mason (CM).

2 MINUTES from the last meeting on Mon 23 February 2015 at Cygnet Bowls Club, circulated by email on 21.03.15, were accepted.

3 Trent welcomed us to Cygnet Tennis Club with a brief history of the club and its buildings. He then invited Lisa Plohl (LP), HVC Communications Officer, to speak first, which she thanked him for.

4 TOWN BANNERS:

LP briefly summarised Council's recent banners, which are standard size in Cygnet and Huonville. The previous order had delivered an inferior fabric which weathered badly. A two-bar mounting had been changed to a top-bar-only mounting, with a looser tie-off at the bottom, which reduced wind damage. HVC has a graphic designer (Emma). Standard size is 2 metres long (high) and narrow.

LP showed the Huon Show banner with photographic images, which received 14,000 Likes on council's FaceBook page. It included images from every part of the show. She then showed the red & gold Christmas banner ("Seasons Greetings"). The reason for her visit to talk to TCA was to ask for local ideas for banner designs for Cygnet. This generated a vigorous discussion for about 30 minutes:

JW suggested a sail-shaped banner to reflect Cygnet's maritime history and present. Some commented this may look off. LP noted a preference for limiting designs to 6-8 visual elements.

KC noted that the blue Cygnet banner poles are not very big and slightly overshadowed by trees. Kingston has bigger poles with mountings that flex at the base. His experience working on City of Sydney banners showed that a simple image was better and the visual power of a strong repeated image down a street was really significant. He has years of experience with this.

Asked if HVC only wants to work with Emma?

LP said no, HVC is very happy to look at local designs but wants to progress this ASAP please. Lisa is not sking for solutions and proposals "by Friday" bit does any to move this along.

KC said we can do this 100%, we have the experience and design capability. Needs just a couple of words, a catchphrase: "Creative Cygnet"?

LP noted that local companies already sponsor banners for specific events like Huon Show, Taste of the Huon. The show banner was very effective. She and HVC are happy to look at any design proposals provided they have elements on it that we're all agreed on.

LP said there are funds for banners: Council's budgets for 8 banners I Cygnet. Cost varies around \$120 each or \$1,000-2,000 including cherrypicker installing, size and method being standardized with the Huonville banners.

KC and CM said the vinyl banners used in Kingston were stronger, more durable, non-fading. Polyester is fine for temporary short-run event banners like Taste-of-Huon but does fade.

CM asked if council has a preferred printer? LP said yes, in Melbourne.

Someone(?) commented there's a local printer that may be cheaper.

RW said Perth (WA) used vinyl banners painted by children, so all different bit of a common child-art style, and they lasted for years.

AB asked whether the use of the bland "Seasons Greetings" is for political correctness, ie: Christmas doesn't get mentioned.

A Banners Project team of KC, SC and JW was agreed.

Since this meeting, KC and JW have met with AB to look at possibilities along Mary Street, including the positions of the existing blue steel poles, possible options for banners on two-storey buildings (town hall, old bank), options for banners on light poles in front of the main carpark (piazza) area – and also noting that it would be unfortunate if the trees behind the north-end banner poles (uphill from the BP) were removed, as these form a very good visual background and new planting there would take years to grow.

Town Theming was raised: LP said the broader Huon Valley theming has gone out to tender. There will be one Huon theme and local variants with subtle differences. SC described the draft theme – stencil, hills, catchphrase, attendees at theming workshops weren't allowed to photograph anything or take copies away.

5 STREET PLANTING:

RH read out an exchange of correspondence with Hannah Matthews (HM) at HVC. HM has been lobbying to include the whole proposed planting program but advised that if the cost of over \$17,000 then (HVC's position is that) it won't start this autumn.

RH has proposed that 3 trees for Loongana Park be removed from the first stage to bring the cost down so it can start as planned – and the project fall back to more stages each with fewer trees. HM had advised that the \$18,000 for street planting will be drawn from the (approx.) \$40,000 of Cygnet town funds, despite earlier comments by GM Simone Watson (meeting at KC's house last November) that planting was to be covered from other council funds.

HM noted that tree supply is only part of the cost – HVC is concerned about ongoing maintenance expenses.

RH will pursue the costs and scheduling issues further with HM. JW noted that HVC had urged TCA to prepare tree recommendations urgently "by January" so this project could go ahead quickly.

6 PIAZZA PROPOSAL

For various reasons including inability to meet with new Father Michael Tate and JD and EH not able to be present, no further discussion on this.

7 FRENCH SHIP MONUMENT

PS noted that various ideas have been discussed, including a formal garden, an interpretive wall, then earlier Mike Jagoe ship proposal, a full size ship, a half size ship, locating the ship in Burton's Reserve, and building a full size ship was a huge project – huge but also a huge drawcard. It is difficult to do something like this well on land, but for practical reasons it probably needs to be on land. The Mayor has suggested that TCA put forward the project and request that HVC do a formal feasibility study. Mayor Coad agrees that Cygnet needs a significant tourist attraction. Mayor has made no decision yet.

PS has looked at Burtons: It has the space, quite near the barbecue area on the bank of the wetlands (the creek). If the ship was (say) about 36 metres long, when visitors looked towards the bay with the open water in the background it could look realistic – but once you were actually on board the replica ship it may not look as realistic.

A formal garden has the problem that it would need to be very formal (neat) to represent the style of the day (in France) and that level of upkeep is very expensive, or it could tend to look shabby and sad.

An entry fee could be charged for the ship and a museum (if there was one). Bruny Island has a museum on the same subject. But it would be a tourist attraction.

RW: asked if it could double as a Cygnet Visitor Centre?

PGE: said we need to think big to attract the level of sponsorship required and take the time to do this properly. Make it a hub.

RH: noted that there is a wooden “ship” replica in Malacca (Malaysia) which was built by local carpenters – and is symbolic, rather than a realistic exact replica (*ie: so it could be less costly and also be a local employment project*). It’s on land and attracts lots of visitors – **open this link:**
<http://asiaforvisitors.com/malaysia/peninsula/melaka/museums/maritime.php>

PGE: – it’s got to have scale.

PS: It wouldn’t need to be so big - the actual French ships (Recherche and Esperance) were only about 36 metres long. Also the “garden” could be expressed differently, not as actual planting, and could use sculptures.

SC: The garden and the ship could be done as silhouettes – think of the cutout steel bushranger silhouettes on the Midland Highway around Kempton which are very realistic and very durable.

PS: The Mayor is asking for a proposal from TCA.

A working group was agreed: JD, EH, RH, KC, PS, PGE.

LS commented that it may be difficult to do anything commercial on Burtons reserve because of the nature of the trust that manages it – and the wetlands.

8 A NEW TYPE OF TOWN FORUM:

TC has spoken to local police, SETAC, Fire Service, health people and will talk to market people (Julie), Folk Festival – about participating. Proposed that organisations be able to set up small stalls or displays – and different groups be invited to make short speeches (5 minutes or so, not lengthy).

Proposed date is Sunday 18th October 2015 – which is a market day – combined with a sausage sizzle. Possible venue – Carmel Hall.

9 A NEW EVENT FOR CYGNET: A FRENCH DAY !

AB introduced new member Jeremy Wright and circulated JW’s notes on the proposed “French Day” event. The idea is to create a new annual drawcard day for Cygnet, to bring local people together, celebrate our history, attract visitors to the town and have a lot of fun. Also to be scheduled on a Market day. Cygnet French Day (provisional name) for 2015 can also celebrate the centenary in 1915 of the renaming of “Lovett” as “Cygnet” – bit focus on our

early French origins – the town that might have become a French colony.

The Day should include food and wine - a dinner by local chefs, pre-sold by tickets. SC proposed that this needs a large venue, such as the new St James multi-purpose hall to allow for lots of bums on seats.

PS said that one food even doesn't obviate others – there can also be a lunch event and other things. JW's proposal includes all things French, cars, fashion, music, even the loan of French artworks to display for the day or weekend. And inviting the French ambassador or Consul General. There was a French even years ago and the Lady Nelson was sailed down and did several local trips for people to great enjoyment. There was dinner on that occasion in Carmel Hall and there was assistance from the Maritime Museum. Other elements could include a French movie (Friday or Saturday evening), Alliance Francaise, French cars, Saturday lunch at Beaupre Point, a Sunday Parade (or cars, local tractors, motorcycles). A cycling bent could be arranged for the day – the Tour de Cygne !?, with a yellow jersey. Cygnet has a number of French residents.

The proposal was well received by acclaim, support and suggestions.

A Working Group was agreed: JW, AB, SC, PGE, PG, JD, EH, PS, and
To have first meeting after Easter
Cygnet French day provisional date – November 2015 late spring.

10 TCA WEBSITE & EMAIL:

PS: We have a website host (www.asmallorange.com)

KC and SC to liaise on a draft website design as soon as they can.

11 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:

AB spoke of his concern about the risk of injury or worse to seasonal fruit pickers staying at Balphs Hill who have to walk along the roadside to the town for food and internet access. Channel Highway is a DIER road, not HVC, but AB proposed requesting council to lobby DIER (now State Growth) to assess the risk to pedestrians along the 2 kilometres from Balphs Hill (Sandhills Road) to Silver Hill Road. About 50% has footpath or safe road verges but the remainder does not.

RH said he will talk to his contact at DIER about how best to approach this issue.

GC said there has been three recent vehicle accidents on Lymington Road.

10 HISTORIC PLAQUES:

AB is redesigning the draft St James plaque to include the current Spanish style church at Father Tate's request and will then re-present it to Fr Tate.

Waiting for responses on A&O Stantons and McSherry's stores plaques.
Waiting for response from Scott Turnbull at Cygnet Hotel.
Proposing new designs for Harvey's Apple Store (Mitre10), St Marks Anglican Church) and Commercial Hotel (new owners are very supportive).

11 TOWN EVENTS BOARDS:

KC asked why do we need to wait for Council's branding program – we should design a simple inexpensive block of apple boxes (crates) and just get it built at the roundabout. He will also talk to the Cygnet Mens Shed about this. Use apple rates are available cheaply or at no cost.

12 OTHER BUSINESS:

RW has to talk to PGE about the Book Town proposal.

13 NEXT MEETING: Last Monday of each month...

Monday 27 April Venue to be advised...

Monday 25th May

Monday 29th June,

Monday 27th July

Monday 31st August

Monday 28th Sept

Monday 26th October

Monday 30th Nov

→ and no meetings in December or January

Venues: To be advised later by email – suggestions welcome.