

Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group, 17 February, 1997.

Present.: D. Barrett (Minutes); Linda Thomas; Neil Stuart.

1. Court Case:

The meeting opened at 1pm and was closed at 3pm.

The Working Group (WG) discussed the letter received from John Sheehy on costs associated with the recent court case. Neil had spoken to John to clarify the matter. It seems that the developer and the BMCC have not accepted the court costs and so the matter has (or will) come before an independent legal assessor for determination. The assessor, Mahlab, has requested an up-front payment of \$3,000 before work can begin. Neil reported that John Sheehy is still investigating the matter with Mahlab and also with Legal Aid.. Neil advised John that presently the Friends, if necessary, could pay between \$1,000-1,500. The WG discussed the overall costs of the court proceedings, and on the basis that Mahlab fee represents about 8% of the total costs, the overall costs of the legal proceedings would be in the order of \$240,000.

2. 'Australia Day' clean-up campaign.

It was agreed that the Friends would take part. Les and Rosemary will organise with Council for the delivery of rubbish bags. The campaign is on Sunday, 2 March.

3. Burn of MacReas Paddock.

Linda reported that the local volunteer bushfire brigade have proposed to burn the paddock. The WG discussed the matter and it was agreed that Linda would write to the appropriate authorities expressing the Friends' concerns about the matter.

4. Brochure and Newsletter.

It was decided by the WG that a quarterly *Newsletter* was not sustainable. However, it was agreed that a *Yearly Environmental Bulletin* would be produced shortly after the annual general meeting and delivered to residents living around the Valley. The *Bulletin* would express important items of interest and the Friends' activities for the year. It was also decided that the Friends' brochure be updated to include a map showing the relationship between private and public lands (see Connell Wagner report), a section which new members could 'tick' to indicate their interests, and retention of the existing historical material. Des will contact Nicky and Nigel who previously offered to produce the new brochure.

5. Documents from John Sheehy.

Neil agreed to retrieve a number of documents which belong to members of the Friends (e.g. *The Bell Report* and EDO documents).

6. 'Devon'.

Neil agreed to have further discussions with Malcolm Ryan (BMCC) about the 'status' of this house in relation to the Valley.