

# Victoria Park Co-ordination Committee

A Section 355 Committee of the Tamworth Regional Council  
Tamworth Regional Council, PO Box 555, Tamworth 2340

## Contact Information

Chairperson: Martin O'Rourke                      Secretary: Mark Smith  
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## Minutes of General Meeting

Held at the Meeting Room, TAMWORTH REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS on 17 February 2022.

**Chair:** Martin O'Rourke – Declared the meeting open at 3.30PM.

**In Attendance:** Martin O'Rourke, David Scott, Sonya Hardin, Geoff Tall, Gary Copper, Mark Smith, Malcolm Bayliss, Jodie Archer, Doreen Goddard, Keith Riddel, Hugh Lecke

**Guests:** Councillor Mark Rodda Deputy Mayor TRC, Anton Logan

**Apologies:** Bernhard McNamara

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** Minutes of the December 21 meeting were circulated to members – Acceptance - moved by Geoff Tall and Seconded by Dave Scott– Carried.

## Business Arising:

### Weed Spraying – Martin O'Rourke

- Martin O'Rourke reported that he had spoken with Jodie Archer regarding council's requirements for accrediting volunteers to spray for weeds. Jodie Archer advised that council staff would conduct all weed spraying and that volunteers were prohibited from conducting such activities. **This item closed.**

### Dissatisfaction with TRC Governance of The Botanic Gardens

- Martin O'Rourke started the discussion by stating that the gardens appeared to be neglected to some degree with very limited staff numbers and a supervisor who is often not on site. The need for fulltime staff actually at the gardens was reinforced. Unfortunately, a number of trees have died in the past years due principally to lack of care. Weeds are growing throughout the gardens and works are required to make the walking tracks safe for visitors. The risk of injury to pedestrian traffic within the gardens is high in his opinion.

- Martin O'Rourke continued by explaining that communication between the coordination committee and council staff was poor. He used the placement of a kangaroo fence through the threatened species garden as an example.
- Mark Smith asked Anton Logan for clarification regarding who was the best contact between the coordination committee and garden staff. Anton stated that he was the best point of contact. Mark suggested he commit to attending the VPCC meetings every two months. Anton agreed to attend as far as was possible.
- Mark also agreed to use the TRC App for logging issues within the gardens as they became apparent through the committee process. Other tenants of the park should be equally encouraged to use the TRC App if they have issues or challenges that need council attention.
- Doreen Goddard stated that she had been advised that the Tamworth Botanic Gardens had been removed from the NSW Botanic Gardens Tour list due to its poor state. The committee agreed that this was an unfortunate state of affairs and that council should note this as an issue of importance for the town's reputation.

#### **Improved signage – Garry Copper**

- Discussion with council members in attendance concluded that it remained difficult for visitors to find Victoria Park. All tenants of the Park suffered from this issue. Mark Smith presented a 'start' plan for improving the town signage for Victoria Park and provided a copy to Hugh Lecke for distribution to the appropriate staff at council. Jodie Archer and Anton Logan undertook to raise this issue through council channels with a view to getting improved signage fitted throughout the town. An update will be sought at the next meeting.
- Following the meeting, on departure, Mark Smith stopped a couple who stated they were visitors to Tamworth. Discussion confirmed that the Botanic Gardens had been difficult for them to find and that Trip advisor and a pamphlet from the caravan park had been the best resources for them to find the park.

#### **Maintenance of the lawns**

- Jodie Archer advised that the precinct mower was due back for use at the park 23 Feb. A 72" mower may be available for use however Bernie will need to conduct training before using it. It may be too wide for the purpose.
- Lawn mowing continued to be conducted by the council on occasion with Bernie taking on the majority of mowing.

#### **Correspondence In:**

- Emails from Mayor and Deputy Mayor confirming their attendance or otherwise at the February meeting. Councillor Rodda was the only attendee.

#### **Correspondence Out:**

- Emails inviting the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to attend the February meeting.
- Previous meeting minutes posted to Doreen Goddard.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Tamworth and District Model Engineers (TADME):**

- Ongoing maintenance tasks continue.
- TADME has been successful in gaining a \$30,000 grant from NSW Government Crown Reserves Improvement Fund. The grant will be used to improve disability access to the railway.
- The next public running day is 20 Feb 22.

### **Threatened Species:**

- Received a consignment of 40 plants from Mole Station in January.
- The plants have been re-potted ready for planting into the threatened species area of the gardens in the cooler months.

### **Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden:**

- NSTR aside from Doreen Goddard confirming that the Botanical Gardens appeared to be continuing to deteriorate due to lack of care and understaffing.

### **Tamworth Community Men's Shed:**

- Extension slab is complete.
- Received a grant for \$180500 to cover the cost of the shed structure on the pad. Extension project is ongoing.

### **Tamworth Regional Astronomy Club Inc (TRAC):**

- The club ran a trial opening to determine the best times for the public to visit.
- Picked up 30 new members from this trial. (Total membership now 193)
- Radio telescope will be mounted shortly.
- We are open Thursday nights and Saturday nights and the response has been positive from the community.
- The planetarium is now setup and operating using a borrowed projector. A HD projector is being sourced which will improve the clarity.

## **General Business:**

### **Storm Water Control**

- Dave Scott raised an ongoing issue of the control of storm water as it descends the hill to the access gate at the bottom of the park and the top of Piper St. There is gravel located at the top of the bus turn and on the access road to the park which is a hazard to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. He suggested that it

is time for council to apply a genuine fix to this issue. The park has grown over the last decade and is seeing greatly increased traffic by locals and visitors.

- A concrete gutter or underground storm water system is the answer. Council just needs to commit to addressing this safety issue before an individual gets hurt.
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There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 4.35pm

**NEXT MEETING:** 3.30pm 21 Apr 2022 at the meeting room at The Botanical Gardens.