

WONGA PARK AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held at 8.00pm, Friday November 12, 1993

1. PRESENT:

Barry Box, Glenda Ballinger, Drew Diamond, Carol Gionavetti, Philip Glenister, Carol and Alastair Traill, Sue and Murray Couper, Martin Francis

2. APOLOGIES:

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Moved BB/GB

"That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as true and correct" - Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

i. Incoming

- a. Melbourne Water: Advising that pumping equipment control failed on August 7 and some sewerage may have escaped.

ii. Outgoing

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance as at November 1, 1993 is \$497.82

Moved GB/DD

"That the Treasurer's report be accepted and that an amount of \$25 be approved for advertising in Who Does It In Wonga Park" - Carried.

7. COUNCILLOR REPORT:

No Councillor was present

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Martin Francis, a local CFA member addressed the meeting and the following points were made:

The Wonga Park CFA was formed after the 1939 bush fires. The Wonga Park unit is entirely made up of volunteers - about 23 in number (A lot of work by very few) who train every Wednesday evening during Summer. During Winter they only train twice a month.

In the event of a fire **RING** the local emergency number **7221822**. This will save valuable time. If this procedure is followed the local brigade can turn out in less than 5 minutes. The phone rings at 5 homes and Beagleys store. Whoever answers the call can activate the siren and pagers. If there is no answer after 30 seconds the siren is activated automatically. Callers must hang on until someone answers. If necessary ring a second time.

The CFA is concerned that too many calls are going to 11441 or 000. Based on the prefix (722) the call is routed to CFA headquarters in Dandenong who check to find the responsible brigade then calls them. This can take up to 10 minutes before the call is received by the local brigade.

Summer Fire Restrictions are instigated by the CFA Administration depending on conditions at the time. Once in effect no fires are allowed in the open without a permit from the Shire Fire Prevention Officer. There are special exceptions for BBQs.

As well as all the training and fire fighting the brigade members give up their time to visit local fetes, etc. perform the local Santa run at Christmas as well taking visiting groups of school and pre-school students on a station tour.

On top of all this, to help raise funds for the brigade, members service fire extinguishers in the locality. They also perform the annual letter box drop of the envelopes requesting a donation. It was disappointing that, despite all the efforts by this small team to protect our community, only about 10% of households make a contribution. This money is used to buy new equipment so it is a cheap form of insurance. Although the CFA provides the overalls members still have to buy their own boots.

The brigade is always looking for volunteers (sixteen years or over) but locals who do not want to commit themselves for a long time may elect to attend for just a few months to learn how the brigade operates and how to protect their own and other local properties. Visitors are welcome any Sunday morning so wander up and have a look around.

The meeting thanked Martin for giving up his time.

The possibility of the CFA delivering a copy of News and Notes to every household during December when they deliver the donation envelopes was discussed. A donation of \$100 was suggested. Martin will discuss this matter with other senior members and get back to us.

There was a meeting of the Jumping Creek Road Resident Working Group on Thursday, November 4. A report will be included in the next News and Notes.

9. Meeting Closed at 10.04 pm