

MINUTES: ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on Tuesday 4 February 2025, Commencing at 11.15AM.

1 PRESENT

Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Helen Elizabeth Davies, Michael David Smith, Nigel Davies, Rodney Haigh, Marcus Rodrigues, and Sally Langridge

2 IN ATTENDANCE:

Cr Richard Archer, Cr Alison Andrews, Deputy, Vivien Tan – NMC Executive and Communications Officer.

GUESTS:

Ross Harrison

3 APOLOGIES:

Nil

4 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

5 DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 5, S48A – S56, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member:

- a) has an interest; or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment. **It should be noted that any person declaring an interest is required to notify the General Manager, in writing, of the details of any interest declared within 7 days of the declaration.**
NIL

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: M Smith Seconded: R Haigh Carried

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **Tuesday 3 December 2024** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to the amendment that the motion for the Forgotten Battalion should read Doomed Battalion.

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

	Description		Action
7.1	¼ court Basketball /Netball	State Gov't Open Spaces Program Round One	Works to be started before winter
7.2	Wi-Fi Access at Ross Reading Rooms	Installation in Town Hall	Works to be scheduled
7.3	Disabled Parking	Committee unanimous decision to Layout 1 Layout 1 – 1 disabled, 3 parking spaces, the left hand or 4 th space is for access to the pool and for Taswater for maintenance of the pump station	Monitor
7.4	Information Board – Ross Directional signage	Capital Works allocation of \$5,000 set aside for this project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map design to be outsourced to Brett (map designer) for quotation • Location of the map discussed to put flush to the side of the fence at the Village Green • Put to Council for rough est of cost • Email existing QR codes for investigation 	D Cadogan-Cowper to pass draft to Brett M Smith
7.5	Ross Community Library Upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of equipment and resources \$5000 budget to be allocated before June 2025 • Report presented to District committee 	Request sent to IT

			M Smith
7.6	Gorse on Church Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> landowner to remove the Gorse. Noted that 50% of the Gorse has been cut. NMC to issue abatement notice if not removed 	Monitor
7.7	Uniting Church Damaged Gate posts	Repairs to be paid for by offender	Monitor
7.8	EV Charging Station in Ross	<p>Motion to Council 20/01/25 Council Meeting</p> <p>7.3.1 EV Charging Station Design</p> <p>MINUTE NO. 25/0010</p> <p><u>DECISION</u></p> <p>That Council note the recommendation and liaise further with the Committee as the matter progresses.</p> <p>Committee Recommendation</p> <p>Skins of the EV charging terminals</p> <p>That the Council offer the Ross District Committee to input into the designs of the Skins of the NRMA EV charging stations before the final design is made.</p>	Monitor
7.9	<p>Bicycle parking location priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near the playground – next to the trees and seats on Bridge Street (between 6 and 8 Bridge Street) 	<p>Council meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0345</p> <p><u>DECISION</u></p> <p>That Council notes the committee’s recommendation and assesses the viability of the location</p> <p>That Council install the bike rack at the Bridge Street Playground at the entrance area to the pool and use a finish to the concrete slab to help it blend more harmoniously with the surroundings and have a more visually appealing and subtle appearance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee prefers dark grey concrete to match the existing driveway. <p>Works Manager - will continue to use a “dark brown” colour in keeping with the ironstone paths in Ross.</p>	Action: Request sent to Works Manager to alter the concrete on the bike pad to make it more sympathetic to the Ross Heritage
7.10	Dark Sky Place International Certification	<p>Council Meeting 21 October 2024 MINUTE NO. 24/0346</p> <p><u>DECISION</u> Carried Unanimously</p> <p>That council supports Ross Township’s bid to be a Dark Sky Community.</p> <p>Ross District Committee Motion 6/10/2024.</p> <p>Moved: N. Davies Seconded: M Smith Carried Unanimously</p> <p>That council supports Ross Township’s application for Dark Sky Certification as the 5th location in Australia due of Ross’s unique position of a dark night sky and unrestricted horizons and request to formally ask TasNetworks to install a shade on the light pole of Church Street to block out light on the Southern and Western sides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bronwen COUNING – Facilitator Dark Sky Collaborative Contact Chris Beach, Campbell Town, Astronomical Society Additional Dark Sky support – Destination Southern Tasmania DST, Alex Heroys Alex@southerntasmania.com.au <p>1 Established a relationship with Landon Bannister, President of Dark Sky Tasmania. Landon has provided a letter of support for our application.</p> <p>2. Gained the unanimous support of Northern Midlands Council and a letter of support from the mayor.</p> <p>3. Taken several Sky Quality Meter readings at 54 Church Street</p>	<p>21 /10/24</p> <p>18/10/24</p>

		<p>to confirm the suitability of the location for night sky viewing – 21.06 mpsa is the best reading to date. The readings were recorded on the Globe at Night website.</p> <p>4. Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner, one of Tasmania’s two main newspapers.</p> <p>5. Been awarded a Paddy Pallin Foundation ‘Dark Sky Place-Making Grant’ of \$600 and complimentary registration to attend the Valuing Darkness Symposium in Melbourne, March 2025.</p> <p>6. Promoted Scott Bennett’s 22-page, full-colour booklet that lists the five best night sky viewing locations in Ross and provides advice on night sky and aurora photography.</p> <p>7. Dark Sky International advises that it may take 30 – 60 days to process the enquiry and proceed to the full application.</p> <p>8. Application has been processed and the \$407 (\$250 USD) fee to be paid.</p> <p>9. RSCC to seek funds for payment of the application fee.</p>	<p>N Davies M Smith to discuss with RSCC</p>
7.11	Significant Tree Register	<p>Significant Trees Project. – community consultation will start in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note, the National Trust Tree Register nomination form – available at National Trust - Nomination Form (trusttrees.org.au) is a good starting point for survey inclusions. Local Provision Schedule contains C6.5 Significant trees page 198 Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Current Version 	<p>Community consultation beginning. Calls for nominations will start end of February. Monitor.</p>
7.12	Uniform Concrete Colour	<p>Motion to Council 21/01/25 Council Meeting Moved N Davies Seconded D Cadogan- Cowper Carried Unanimously</p> <p>That for any new concrete slabs in Ross to be laid that the council maintain a uniform dark grey cement to be less visually obtrusive and to have a more consistent look.</p> <p>Background: The dark grey driveway is aesthetically pleasing and consistent with the look of the town.</p> <p>7.3.2 Uniform Concrete Colour MINUTE NO. 25/ DECISION The current concrete colour used is preferred to maintain a more consistent and seamless look in the township.</p>	<p>Works will continue to use a “dark brown” colour in keeping with the ironstone paths in Ross Heritage Precinct</p>
7.13	Ross request for Commemorative installation recognising the 2nd /40th AIF The Doomed Battalion	<p>Motion to Council 20/01/25 Council Meeting Moved N Davies Seconded D Cadogan- Cowper Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Motion: That council supports the request in principle, investigates funding application to add an additional plaque/stone to the existing memorial subject to community feedback.</p> <p>7.3.3 Forgotten Battalion 2/40 Memorial MINUTE NO. 25/0012 DECISION Carried Unanimously That Council supports the Committee request subject to RSL approval.</p> <p>Background: Letter of Request was sent to Mayor and Councillors by Rod Stone for a place of respect in Ross (see correspondence attached – letter from Mr. Rod Stone and Letter from Hon Guy Barnett MP)</p> <p>The Doomed Battalion was made up of many Tasmanian members including Bob Davis from Ross who passed away. An option could be to add the 2/40 AIF story to the War Memorial</p>	

		<p>in Ross Village Green. This keeps the information in a centralized area in the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details for former Ross RSL Sub Branch was contacted and has given contact details for John Macleod. Amanda Barden amandabarden1971@gmail.com 0431 399 642 Contact details for RSL: Northern Tasmania John Macleod, the organiser of the 80th reunion to be held in Ross 23/02/25 raasaymacleod@outlook.com 0417384694 80th Reunion of the 2/40 AIF will be on the 23 February 2025 	<p>07/01/25 emailed 07/01/25 emailed 23/02/25 Temporary Plaque will be laid</p>
7.14	Heritage Highway Road signs - entry into Ross.	<p>These have faded beyond recognition. Is there an opportunity to get new signs.made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> email has been sent to Fiona Dewar, Events and Tourism Officer to follow up 	Fiona Dewar Ongoing
7.15	Winter Tourism	<p>Ross Passport – visitors can have their passport stamped at various tourist related spot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is then a souvenir of their travels to Ross. Can extend to the Heritage Highway. email has been sent to Fiona Dewar, Events and Tourism Cost is prohibitive 	Fiona Dewar Ongoing

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Ross Harrison.

- Name change for Ross Village Green to include Memorial Gardens – Ross Village Green and Memorial Gardens. [This was not supported by the committee.](#)
- Interpretive Memorial Panel – possible location to be at the Cenotaph / pavement area between seat and cenotaph.
[Action: There will be some investigation as to whether this can be where the seating is or at the cenotaph](#)

8.2 Bollards at Convict Coffee Bakery

The bakery owner would like to install bollards outside the front of the bakery. Landowner would need to notified and Council permission and permits required.

[Action: Bakery owner will need to speak to Council planning department to understand process.](#)

8.3 Box Hedge – Watering

- Box hedge needs to be watered /previous person is no longer tending.
- Committee to speak to Candy / Michael to see how they used to water the hedge.

[Action: Committee member to request previous person to find out tap connection and how they used to water the hedge. If necessary, a works request to council to advise the location of the irrigation /TasWater asset.](#)

8.4 Dog Park – addition of dog agility equipment

- Committee Member requested that dog exercise equipment be installed in the dog park
- Non-permanent agility training equipment is available online.

[Action: Project officer to see if there is any budget for this equipment](#)

8.5 Sewerage Ponds – Smell

Ponds have begun to smell.

[Action: committee to call TasWater to report the smell](#)

8.7 The Red Phone Boxes

- Historical recordings at the Red phone box – not functioning. This needs connection to cellular network to work.
- Glass panel is shattered and the base of the phone boxes is rotting
- Maintenance is undertaken by the Tasmanian Wool Centre

[Action: Wool Centre to be notified by Committee member.](#)

8.8 Footpaths

- Committee members proposed the extension of the footpath from Bond Street to Waterloo Street along Badajos Street.
- This is a popular route for residents accessing the Ross Community Sports Club.
- Many Dog walkers use this route.

Action: Include in Budget submission as a priority for the District Committee.

8.9 Improving Street Signs in Ross Township

- Committee discussed including street signs with a unique motif for Ross Township.
- Improvements to the signs along the main street.

Action: Include in Budget submission as a priority for the District Committee

8.10 Female Factory - seating

- Committee discussed additional seating to be installed in the vicinity of the Female Factory.
- Under the trees
- Benches along the bank

Action: Include in the Budget submission as a priority for the District Committee

8.11 Budget decision

Budget Items can be submitted by March then presented during the Bus Tour.

Action: Budget wish list to be emailed to council. Form has been sent to the committee.

9 NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chair closed the meeting at 1:00pm.

Next meeting – Tuesday April 1, 2025, commencing 11.15am in the Ross Reading Room