

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 9 March 2021

Minutes

Present: by Zoom - Chris Mobbs, Greg Hughes, John Carty, Barbara Mobbs
At meeting room FDC hall Brook Clinton, Scott Obara, Bruce Smith

Apologies: Kay Murphy, Terry de Luca, Brett Davis, Claire Davis

Chris welcomed people to the meeting.

Minutes and matters arising – The minutes from November 2020 were accepted. Bruce agreed to consolidate the 2020 minutes as a PDF for posting on the website.

Treasurer's report – Brook reported on the three accounts:

- **Main account:** a balance of \$6,752.94. Payments included funding for the Gilruth Park Christmas event; the printing of the Annual Report to Hackett; and the renewal of the Domain name. Incoming included payments from NCCC for the development of the logo and Annual Report printing; and receiving a payment from the ACT House of Assembly for the Hackett Book.
- **Bragg St park and Hackett shops garden account:** balance is \$12,240. There has been one transaction (\$600) for consultation and design of the Bragg park swales.
- **Capital Scraps:** balance is \$3,022.96. Given that the grant period has passed, Brook will seek a variation to pay for raking up autumn leaves in Hackett to be used for compost.

Hackett shops – Chris reported on the installation of the mural done by Blue Gum school. Everyone agreed that it looks great and is a very positive addition to the shopping centre. Chris will proceed with the \$300 donation to Blue Gum toward the costs of the mural (previously agreed). There was also discussion about the upgrade to the shops, including the current work on footpaths. We will look out for the installation of a new picnic table.

Grants

- **Gilruth Park:** there have been a number of working bees to undertake weeding and maintenance. The support group is also considering how to spend the remainder of the grant.
- **Capital scraps:** Brook will seek agreement with the ACT Government on spending the funding variation. They will also be collecting autumn leaves and will also do some further work on the flower gardens on Mill St.
- **Bragg St Park:** a draft plan has been developed and has been sent to the ACT Government for approval.

Communications -

Website: Scott reported on the website, including:

- It is not working correctly for publishing events – this may need some work
- There have been a large number of views (779 in the last few days) but we need to get a better idea of what they are and what they mean
- There is still a fair bit of spam coming through.
- We need to clarify with Lance what the scope of his and our work on the website is. The best way to go may be conversation between Chris, Lance and Scott. In the first instance Chris will clarify with Lance what his role is and can be.

Facebook: Barbara reported on how we handle the issue of small notices on the page (eg. lost dogs etc). She has been looking at other local residents pages, and noted that some (eg. Scullin) have separate groups for those things. It was agreed to trial this for a few months to see how it goes for us – Brook agreed to be the facilitator.

Book sales – Chris dropped the last 6 copies of the book to IGA and there are now 3 left. Once those go, they are all gone. There was discussion about whether to put the book on the website as a PDF and, if so, whether to charge for downloading it. No decision was taken.

Tree register – Chris sent the submission (previously approved by the Committee) to the ACT Government in September 2020 but has not heard anything back yet.

New residents Welcome Pack – Bruce spoke to the paper (attached) on the proposal for the development of a welcome pack by the HCA for new residents. It was agreed that:

- The best approach would be to produce a short document (something like the CBR publication – A3 size printed all sides and folded to A4) which would be easier to store and distribute than a larger ring folder, and less likely to be out of date
- In this form it could go to new renters as well as new owners
- It could be distributed by real estate agents
- The publication could have references to the HCA website for further information and also to a range of other Government and community websites etc

Chris offered to work with Bruce to develop some draft content and bring it back to the next meeting for consideration.

Letter of support for Blue Gum School – Chris wrote a draft letter of support from HCA for Blue Gum School to support their applications etc by showing their links to the local community. The draft was approved by the Committee.

ACT Budget – Chris talked about the November 2019 bid from the HCA to the Government for funding for additional picnic tables for parks in Hackett under the 2020-21 budget (they have already provided one each for the Gilruth and Bragg St parks).

Project list – the Committee noted the updated project list.

North Canberra Community Council – Bruce reported on recent activity by the NCCC, including a meeting to be held about the proposed development by the Academy of Interactive Entertainment on the old Watson High site. The meeting will be held at St Margaret's Church in Hackett at 7.30pm on 10 March. The key issues are noise from the new student body (up to 600 students in residence), traffic and the removal of trees. The meeting will be co-sponsored by the Watson, Hackett and Downer associations.

Other Business

Clean Up Australia Day – The Committee noted that Clean Up Australia Day in Hackett (Sunday 7 March) had been successful. There were 24 volunteers, who collected around 20 bags of rubbish, particularly from the SES Depot/oval area, Phillip Avenue and the Antill Street nature strip.

Next meeting: Tuesday 13 April.

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 13 April 2021

Minutes

Present: by Zoom - Chris Mobbs, Terry de Luca, Barbara Mobbs, Brook Clinton, Scott Obara, Brett Davis, Bruce Smith,

Apologies: Greg Hughes, John Carty, Kay Murphy, Claire Davis

Chris welcomed people to the meeting.

Minutes and matters arising – The minutes from 9 March 2021 were accepted.

Treasurer's report – Brook reported on the three accounts:

- **Main account:** a balance of \$7,123.54. Include a \$500 payment from Hackett IGA consisting of \$120 from book sales and also a donation of \$380, which was very generous. Chris has sent a letter last week thanking them for their support over the years.
- **Bragg St park and Hackett shops garden account:** balance is \$12,262. Chris moved across \$22 from the main account to the Bragg St project. This was collected in 2019 during a Music in the Bragg St park event.
- **Capital Scraps:** balance is \$3,022.96. No movement since we last met.

Hackett shops – The Committee commended the Blue Gum mural installation. It noted that we have yet to make the \$300 donation – Chris will chase that up to get the bank account details. It would be useful to have a little plaque on the frame telling people about who did it. This could be part of a formal opening. The pavements near the shops (walkway on north side of IGA to Mills St and along Mill St) have been improved, and we are expecting the picnic table to arrive soon.

Grants

- **Gilruth Park:** The main focus recently has been on weeding. The group is still considering how to spend the remainder of the grant.
- **Hackett shops gardens** – Chris has contacted Lucy and Marie – they need to acquit the funds by the end of April. They have indicated that they will seek an extension, and are hoping the government will be flexible on this.
- **Capital scraps:** Brook has written seeking agreement to use the remaining funds to construct leaf towers. The Government has agreed but they have asked for a list of the 10 locations (there may be more than 10 depending on how far the money will stretch. One possibility is Holy Cross/St Margarets. There will be a working bee on 8th May to build towers.
- **Bragg St Park:** Chris reported that there have been some delays. He has filled out the works schedule and risk assessment forms in consultation with the swales designer. They will submit forms to ACT Government next week. Subject to approval the swales should be built in May or June.

Communications -

Website: Scott has updated the main logo. He has also posted the 2020 minutes. He will also put a link to the new Dickson Residents Group webpage, and to the newly formed Hackett Hounds which is for dog owners.

Facebook: Barbara reported that numbers have increased a little and now stand at 648. We need to see if we can find someone who has social media skills who is willing to take on the Facebook role.

Hackett Book – Chris spoke to his written report (Attachment A). Options for putting the book on the website as a PDF were discussed, and it was agreed to do this and not to charge for it. Chris will provide it for the website.

Get together for elderly Hackett residents: Brett reported on his idea for organising a regular social occasion for elderly Hackett residents. He made contact with the Campbell Coffee Club – they have about 20 people turning up for a fortnightly event - mainly unemployed and old. They rotate between coffee shops. Campbell advertises it on their Facebook page.

Brett has asked about sites at the Hackett shops, but needs to have confirmation about public liability insurance. Bruce said he would confirm whether this would be covered under NCCC insurance.

Brett said that Claire Davis could help to facilitate the events. It would be in the daytime and during the week. The idea is to start small and then hopefully build up. It could be advertised through a letterbox drop, the HCA and HNW newsletters, Facebook, and a sign at the shops.

Brett also said that he would make contact with nuns who are already doing catchups with some residents.

Welcome pack for new residents: Following the discussion in March, Chris drafted a welcome leaflet for new residents and circulated it to the Committee for comment (Attachment B). The Committee thought the draft was excellent and approved it. It was agreed to proceed with printing an initial run of 100 in colour. It could be distributed by real estate agents to new owners and renters, and also by HCA members directly (when they are aware of new residents arriving).

Proposal by Ray White real estate agent to include updates in their quarterly report about Hackett: Chris has been contacted on this matter – they are seeking to include information about Hackett, in a quarterly report. The Committee agreed that they could draw on information from the HCA website e.g. from newsletters on the basis that it is appropriately acknowledged.

Invitation to contribute ideas for 2021-22 ACT budget: Chris spoke about a letter he had received from the Chief Minister seeking input to the 2021-22 ACT Budget. The closing date for submissions is 22 June 2021. This would be a good opportunity to seek funding for tables for Hackett parks. People can submit ideas individually and through Associations. Chris will put something in newsletters and Facebook to gather ideas.

North Canberra Community Council: Bruce reported on issues which have arisen at NCCC meetings including: potential future pressure on school enrolments in the inner north; the redevelopment of the old Watson High site; the development of the Morisset Road extension from Mitchell to Antill Street; the Wings over Dickson exhibition; and the incorporation of the Dickson Residents Group.

Other business

Acknowledging the contribution of Terry de Luca– Chris presented Terry with a certificate from the HCA recognising his essential contribution to the establishment of the

HCA in 2002 and its operation since then through his roles as Chair and Treasurer. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for Terry's wonderful contribution to Hackett.

Theft from gardens: Barbara reported that there has been a wave of thefts from gardens in Hackett, including statues, equipment and plants. ACT police have been informed, and they have suggested that HCA work with Hackett Neighbourhood Watch to coordinate a meeting between police, these Associations and affected and interested residents. It was agreed to do this. Scott indicated that he is happy to assist with Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Next meeting 11 May 2021

Report on printing and sales of Hackett book at 1 April 2021

First print run

Funding

At the August 2018 meeting, the Committee agreed to allocate \$2,000 towards printing the book and that subject to contributions from sponsors, we would print between 200 and 250 copies.

Sponsors would be offered a number of books subject to their level of contribution - \$1,000 (30 copies), \$500 (15), \$200 (6) and \$100 (2).

One real estate business contributed \$1,000 towards the book. After inviting businesses at the shops, two each contributed \$200 and two contributed \$100 each. The North Canberra Community Council contributed \$750. All up there was \$4,350, which covered the printing costs.

Printing

The book was printed by New Millenium Print 1/38 Kembla St, Fyshwick in early October 2018. They printed 250 copies for a total of \$4,229.50 which equates to \$16.91/copy. They provided an additional 3 copies without charge, which most printers do. Selling them at \$20 gave us a small profit of \$3.09/copy for a total profit of \$772.50.

Launch and sales

The book was launched by Andrew Leigh, Federal Member for Fenner, at the Party at the Shops on 27 October 2018. We sold 86 books on this day, with the remainder sold:

- on two days when we set a table outside IGA on 22 November and 7 December;
- direct requests to Chris Mobbs from notices in the Hackett Neighbourhood watch newsletter, the HCA newsletter and by word of mouth among residents;
- ten copies through IGA in December 2018.

By the end of December 2018 all hard copies (160) had been sold. People were directed to the E-version on the Hackett Community website. The site advised that a reprint may be done if there is sufficient demand and that people can register by sending an email to chris mobbs.

Free copies

Free copies were provided to the ACT Library (one for the general collection and one for the Heritage library), one copy to the National Library of Australia, Blue Gum School, Preschool, Samaritan House, St Margaret’s church, Folk Dance Canberra, Dickson College, persons who provided personal recollections and other contributors to the book. All up 46 copies were given to institutions and contributors.

Sales

A total of 160 books were sold, 47 to sponsors and 46 to contributors and institutions – total 253. As at the end of December 2018, three e-versions had been sold via the website.

Income from sales (hard copies)	\$3,000
IGA sales of 10 books	\$200
Hard copies via paypal*	\$307
e-book sales paypal	\$45
TOTAL	\$3,552

* includes some postage fees

Second print

In June 2019, we reprinted another 150 copies for a total of \$2,537 = \$16.90 each. These were sold at the 2019 Party at the Shops and then through the IGA for \$20 each.

The last 6 copies were sold In March 2021.

Both print runs

In total 403 copies were printed and either sold ($160+150 = 310$), provided to sponsors (47) and 46 to contributors and institutions like libraries.

Profit from both print runs was $\$772+\$465 = \$1237$

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 8 June 2021

Minutes

Present: by Zoom - Chris Mobbs, Scott Obara, Barbara Mobbs, Greg Hughes, Brook Clinton, John Carty, Bruce Smith,

Apologies: Terry de Luca, Kay Murphy, Claire Davis, Brett Davis.

Chris welcomed people to the meeting.

Minutes and matters arising – The minutes from 13 April 2021 were accepted. (note – no meeting was held in May)

Treasurer's report – Brook reported on the three accounts:

- **Main account:** the current balance is \$6,658.54. More plants have been purchased for Gilruth Park, and funding has been provided to Blue Gum for their mural costs. There has been an unexplained deposit of \$100 - we have filled in a form to remove the money, but it hasn't been taken out yet.
 - Chris proposed, and it was agreed, to move the remaining Gilruth Park funding to the Capital scraps grant account which has no funds, as this would provide an easier way for acquitting funds in both accounts..
- **Bragg St park and Hackett shops garden account:** the current balance is \$12,350. A donation of \$88 has been received from Music in the Park for work in the Bragg St park.
- **Capital Scraps:** The grant has been acquitted and now has a \$0 balance.

Hackett shops – The new table has been delivered and installed. Blue Gum is finishing off the mosaic structure by sealing the perimeter, providing a narrow cover to protect it and an explanatory plaque beneath it.

Grants progress

- **Gilruth Park:** the Support Group successfully applied to be part of Floriade Community 2021 and received a large number of bulbs and annuals. Many have been planted but there are some left over. It was suggested that some could be put into the pots at the Shops and in the raised garden beds near the compost unit.
- **Hackett shops gardens** –The request for an extension of the grant to the end of October has been approved. The next stage will involve consultation and then engaging the designer.
- **Capital scraps:** The funds remaining in the grant were spent on erecting leaf towers, which have worked well. The composters are still going strong, so the core of the grant is proving successful. There have been many sign-ups in Watson, and Brook is looking to expand to other suburbs. Brook thanked the HCA for its support.
- **Bragg St Park:** Chris reported that he has submitted work plan, Dial Before You Dig documents and risk assessments and these have been approved by urban parks. Work looks like it will happen late June or the first week of July.

HCA Communications -

Website: The website is working well and looks good but could do with some minor tweaks:

- the focus on COVID can be reduced;

- the Committee details need to be updated;
- there should be a clearer link to the Facebook page.

Chris and Scott noted the need to get clear procedures for making changes. Chris to compile a list of proposed changes and circulate for comment before asking Scott to do.

Facebook: Barbara reported that there are 668 people following the HCA on Facebook, including several organisations and politicians. We can make further improvements, but it will take some time and expertise – we will need to be careful not to over-commit.

Newsletter – the Committee noted the April Newsletter and the need to put out a newsletter for June soon.

Hackett book – the PDF version is now on the website.

Get together for elderly Hackett residents: the Committee noted that this is still under development.

Welcome pack for new residents Chris spoke to the latest draft of what is now a welcome leaflet (A3 folded to A4). He noted that the ACT Parks and Conservation Service have agreed to provide us with a new map of Mt Majura when they release it. The latest draft includes a photo of map of Mt Majura provided at the main entrances to Mt Majura.

Discussion included:

- we should provide a virtual copy to real estate agents;
- in addition, we could print 50-100 copies. These could go to real estate agents and be for the Committee to provide to new residents.
- It was decided not to put artists in the leaflet but list them and other Hackett based businesses on the HCA website
- We should look at making references to the businesses on the HNW newsletter
- The photo of the Party at the Shops should be updated
- We should fund printing ourselves – we do not need additional funding from NCCC for this.

Welcome to new owner of Rusty Mals – the Committee welcomed the arrival of Alex the Pizza Guy and his establishment of 3rd Space at the shops.

Stanley Street Park – Chris reported that he had received an email from a resident about the Stanley Street park, raising the possibility of provision of a BBQ and car parking to stop cars being parked in the park. Chris has responded to the letter, making it clear that the Government is highly unlikely to provide a carpark or BBQs – but suggested getting a park group together to get more community engagement. The Committee noted its opposition to the provision of parking in Hackett parks.

Petition for toilets at Hackett shops – The Committee has been made aware that there is a petition circulating to support the provision of toilets at the Shops – approximately 21 people have signed so far. The Committee noted that this is a long-standing issue and expressed the view is that there is not an appropriate space for toilets at the shops; that the Government is unlikely to provide the funding (in the order of \$30,000) without strong community support; that it will potentially compromise plans for gardens at the Shops; and that effort should be made into improving the existing toilets serving the businesses (which has partly happened).

Tree register – Chris reported on additional information on the Hackett Oval trees, which provide further support to the application for the trees to be placed on the Tree Register. The trees were apparently planted from 1931 onwards as a backdrop for a planned 24 hectare Northside Cemetery. We may be able to find out more by publicising what we now know –

Chris will approach Tim the Yowie Man about the possibility of doing an article in the Canberra Times.

Draft Submission for 2021-22 ACT budget: The Committee supported the draft submission, which argued for the provision of picnic tables in those Hackett Parks which do not currently have them.

Party at the Shops – The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion about possible new approaches to the Party at the Shops for 2021. There was a general feeling that it would be good to explore new approaches to make it something that more people want to attend. Ideas included:

- strengthen the visibility of the HCA. Make it clearer what it does, the benefits of membership and highlight the website (possibly through setting up a monitor)
- new approaches to entertainment could be tried – we could get ideas from, for example, Magpie Hill and Light up Lyneham
- highlight Hackett Neighbour of the year – Warren King – one of the founders of Capital Brewing
- moving the timing to make it a twilight event (noting this may limit family participation somewhat)
- perhaps a range of events through the day, aimed at different demographics (eg. a continuation into the early evening, after break of couple of hours) which could take place at different places in Hackett
- We could combine it with Music in the Park, and/or with the trees at the oval.

It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

HCA budget – Chris noted that we have substantial funds in our accounts, and that we should think about how to spend this. Possibilities include a map at the shops, with facts about the suburb and something about Sir John Hackett. Brook raised the idea of a social media internship, which could be auspiced at SEE-Change. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

North Canberra Community Council: Bruce reported on the formation of two new resident groups in the NCCC: the Braddon Collective, and the Ainslie Residents Group.

Other business

- Blue Gum School is talking to the ACT Government about doing mural on the wall behind the Hackett shops. It may be undertaken by an Indigenous artist on an environmental theme.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 July 2021.

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 13 July 2021

Minutes

Present: by Zoom - Chris Mobbs, Scott Obara, Barbara Mobbs, Brett Davis, Brook Clinton, Maureen Dawes, Bruce Smith,

Apologies: Terry de Luca, Kay Murphy, Greg Hughes, Claire Davis, Judy Putt, John Carty,

Chris welcomed people to the meeting. Chris noted some matters arising:

- Not many people have signed the petition about toilets at the shops
- Chris stopped in to say hello to the people at 3rd Space on 11 June.

Treasurer's Report Brook reported that there had been two transactions since the last meeting:

- \$100 has been debited, addressing the error in April when we were mistakenly given the money.
- There has been a donation to the Bragg Street Park account of \$150.

The main account has a balance of \$6558.54, while the Bragg St Park/Hackett Gardens account has a balance of \$12,500.

Grants progress

Adopt a Park grant 2019-20 – Gilruth St park – Bruce reported that a meeting of the support group had recently been held which agreed on a social event to be held in early October, and that it had also been agreed to hold monthly working bees for weeding and maintenance. Brook offered to follow up the issue of access to the North Ainslie School BBQ for social events.

Adopt a Park grant 2019-20 – Hackett shops garden – Chris reported that the group is planning to have a get together at the Shops in September/October, subject to Covid restrictions.

Capital Scraps – Brook reported that the grant was now acquitted and that she will produce a short report on key achievements – this could go in the July newsletter

Nature in the City 2020-21 – Bragg St park – Swale creation – Chris reported that rocks had been delivered earlier today (for no charge) and work on the swales should start the last week of July. Chris has taken “before” photos and will take more as construction goes on and finishes.

HCA communications

Website updates – Scott reported that the changes to the website have been made. Data storage is running at around 80%. He will keep an eye on it. Chris should still be getting all website emails about comments/questions, but Scott will get technical emails. Scott is happy for people to make minor edits and would be willing to show people how to do it.

Facebook – Barbara reported that numbers following the Facebook page are consistent 660. There was a discussion about the possibility of HCA accessing an intern arrangement auspiced by See-Change and funded through NCCC. Bruce and Brook will work up a scoping paper for this, to go back to NCCC for consideration.

June newsletter – Chris has done an analysis of the numbers opening the newsletter – it is about 35%. However, this is not bad by general standards, which show that 20-25% is typical across not- profit organisations.

Get together for elderly Hackett residents Brett said that he has not had the chance to take this further forward at this stage but is still interested and will pursue it.

Hackett oval trees nomination for ACT Tree Register – Chris has done an interview with Megan Doherty at the *Canberra Times* about the new information coming to light about the origin of the trees east of the Hackett Oval, including that they were planted in the 1930s as a screen for \ a planned cemetery for North Canberra. He sent a report of this research to the ACT Government in further support of having the trees included on the Tree Register – they have informally indicated that there is a strong case for putting trees on the Tree Register from a heritage point of view. It will also be important to get the Government thinking about how it will manage the trees in future e.g., a number of the pines have died.

Chris is now considering options for a poster at the shops and an interpretive sign at the oval – this could be put in a similar series to signs at the shops and other parts of Hackett. Brook suggested a sign about the Grayson St medium density houses could be another one.

Welcome pack for new residents – Chris has sent digital copies of the welcome leaflet to several real estate agents selling or renting houses/units in Hackett and suggested to them they may wish to print them off and use them at open days – they have expressed appreciation for this. We are still waiting to get a new map of Mt Majura Nature Reserve – the current maps are old and not very accurate. Once we have a new map we could print a small number e.g 500 copies A3, folded to A4 in colour would cost \$340.

New membership form –Chris spoke to the draft he had circulated. The existing brochure is somewhat out of date and very few in stock. It would be good to have an updated one (A4 size) which includes a listing of HCA achievements. It would cost about \$290 for 1,600 to print. HCA members would then be placed in every letterbox in Hackett with the aim of getting more people to join us. Spare copies could be placed outside IGA. There was a discussion which focussed on the desirability of the form raising the profile of the HCA and giving people a better understanding of the difference between being a member and following the Facebook page. Being a member means that you can put ideas forward and more actively participate. This could also help with the confusion with Neighbourhood Watch. Committee to provide comments back to Chris on the content of the form.

Party at the shops – Barbara proposed that we hold the Party on Neighbour Day (which is sponsored by Relationships Australia) in March 2022. This would have several advantages:

- It would push the timing out, which would help with Covid uncertainty
- It would provide a slightly different focus, linking to HCA themes around neighbourhood and place (possibly including around parks or streets)
- It could include activities at the Shops, but also at other sites in Hackett if that worked
- Key elements of the existing Party, such as activities by schools, could still be included.

It was agreed to hold the Party in March 2022 and to link it to Neighbour Day. Will include a note in the July newsletter

HCA budget – Chris flagged the need to think about how we spend HCA funds. The focus could be on signs highlighting the geography and history of the suburb. We would, however, need to think about costings, including applying for ACT Government grants. A further possibility would be a sunshade for the paved area at the shops.

NCCC – Bruce reported on the June meeting of NCCC, which focussed on the ACT Government Demonstration Housing projects. These are aiming to address the “missing middle” between suburban housing and apartments, with a focus on older people being able to age in place. Other issues flagged included:

- Light up Lyneham is planned for 24 July
- There are several developments being proposed by NGOs in North Canberra using land given to them for community purposes
- The O’Connor Association has now got going again.

Date and location for AGM – it was agreed to hold the AGM in the middle week of October. Chris will tentatively book the meeting room at Maitland House, noting that it may need to happen by Zoom in the same way as last year, if Covid spreads.

Other business.

Redevelopment of units in Grayson Street - Maureen raised the planned (and approved) redevelopment of a set of units on Grayson Street caused by loose-fill asbestos in their roof cavities. It is not clear why these were not addressed earlier, or what exactly is being planned, and whether it will be sympathetic to the rest of the Grayson Street housing. Details of the plans are not available as comments closed at end of December 2020, but Chris will follow up with ACT LPA to see if the plans can be accessed.

University of Third Age – Chris reported that Judy Putt had raised with him (before the meeting) the possibility of Hackett becoming a hub for University of the Third Age activities in Canberra. Possible venue could include Maitland House, St Margaret’s, the Downer Community Centre, and Dickson – Northside Community Service. HCA could facilitate and promote the locations. Judy had suggested the formation of a working group to develop this further.

Alicia Payne, MP, at the Shops– Ms Payne visited the shops in the morning of Saturday 10 July. Chris and some other members got to speak with her about key issues, including removing Monash Drive from the National Capital Plan. .

Bookcase at the Shops – Bruce raised the issue about whether the current position of the bookcase, on the blank wall at the east side of the shops, is optimal. He or Chris will talk to shop owners about possibly moving it closer to the main traffic areas e.g. nearer entrance to IGA.

Microforest in Hackett? – Brett raised the issue of whether it would be possible to develop a microforest in Hackett similar to the one in Downer and the one planned in Watson. It was noted that:

- Edwina Robinson runs workshops on how to do this – her Climate Factory website would be a place to start.
- Possible locations could be at the northern or southern end of Hackett Oval, or on one of the parks in Hackett
- Watson has raised over \$40,000 for their micro-forest. It is doable but it’s a huge commitment

Meeting finished 9.15pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 10 August 2021

HACKETT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 10 August 2021

Minutes

Present: by Zoom - Chris Mobbs, Scott Obara, Barbara Mobbs, Brook Clinton, Greg Hughes, Brett Davis, Claire Davis, Maureen Dawes, Richard Brasier, Maureen Hartung, Judy Putt, Bruce Smith,

Apologies: Terry de Luca, Kay Murphy, John Carty,
Chris welcomed people to the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the 13 July meeting were accepted. Chris informed the meeting that, following up the item in July on the bookcase at the shops, he had spoken to shopkeepers and that they were strongly of the view that it should not be moved from where it is. Chris also noted that he had sent the Committee some of the Development Application documents for units in Grayson which are being knocked down due to presence of asbestos.

University of 3rd Age (U3A): Judy talked about how she is interested in the idea of setting up an inner north U3A in Hackett. There is a Hughes hub on the southside which is operated by a core of volunteers who run courses etc. Their role is to get people with knowledge and expertise to run courses and also to organise appropriate travel opportunities. There is a lot of discretion about how U3A operates in practice. A U3A initiative in Hackett could be a valuable resource for older people in Hackett.

One possible venue would be Maitland House, depending on availability and cost. Maureen H said that Blue Gum School would be delighted to join with the initiative in whatever way worked.

Judy will talk to the people in Hughes about how to set it up, what finances are involved etc, and then report back to the meeting in a few months.

Treasurer's Report: Brook reported that the balances of the two accounts are \$10,160.60 for the Bragg St Park account, and \$6558.54 for the General Account. There have been two transactions, both to the Bragg St account, since the last meeting:

- a \$300 donation; and
- a \$2,639.40 payment for the work on the swales.

Blue Gum Community School – leasing arrangements: Maureen H. spoke about the plans that Blue Gum School has for a new building between the existing school, Hackett oval and Madigan Street. She began by providing background information on the School:

- moved into the rooms on the Hackett site 16 years ago;
- Now have a little building out the back where 36 families attend a play group for 0-2 year olds;
- The pre-school program operates all year round. They got a grant from Better Schools program and built a pre-school which accommodates 25 children at any one time.
- A primary school and a high school. Students then typically go to the College system, usually Dickson College.

- There is also an after-school programme and a school holiday program
- Most of the students are from inner north Canberra and Belconnen. Other children come from Gungahlin, and outside Canberra e.g. Wamboin, Sutton.

Maureen talked about how the school had been successful over time in obtaining grants, from programs such as the Building Better Schools program, to expand its activities. They have now got to the point where they have obtained a number of grants to enable some infrastructure building and have put together a masterplan of how all of this could fit together. Elements include a remake of old toilets in Maitland House into a science laboratory and black and white photography darkroom (currently underway).

The school has applied for a direct sale of part of Block 12 (Block 12 includes the area between the school, the oval and Madigan St) to undertake an expansion to build a Sustainability Centre, Music and Sound pod, and a materials and work studio. This will exclude the avenue of trees that run between the oval and Madigan St. (see attached Block and Section Plan of the oval and school precinct). They have put in an application and are waiting to hear back from ACT Government. The school also plans to extend into the whole of Maitland House (it currently has the two ends) but will honour the leases of the current tenants. Ultimately it could have around 300 children in primary school and 300 in secondary.

Maureen emphasised that the school loves being part of the Hackett community, and has been especially pleased by the cooperative art projects in the community – the mural on the oval buildings, the mosaic at the Hackett shops, and, most recently, the mural behind the shops.

Grants progress

Adopt a Park grant 2019-20 – Gilruth St park – Bruce reported that a working bee on weeding has just taken place, along with a lunch, and that a celebration is still planned for early October.

Adopt a Park grant 2019-20 – Hackett shops garden – no update.

Nature in the City 2020-21 – Bragg St park – Swale creation – Chris reported that digging has commenced, with 6 swales completed and one more tomorrow. The Volunteer group will be seeking government approval for the planting scheme and will aim to do the planting in September and also have a get together soon to celebrate the work on the swales.

HCA communications

Website updates – Scott reported that there are no major changes. Chris can now do more straightforward amendments. Scott noted that there is scope for more work on what membership of the HCA actually means. Authors have also been added to artists and musicians under links to other organisations.

Facebook – Barbara reported that Facebook numbers have not changed – 698 following.

July newsletter – Chris noted that 32% of recipients are opening the newsletter – this is quite good by social media standards which is usually around 23% open rate.

Inclusion of Rosella St page on HCA website and newsletter <https://www.heyfritz.com>

Brook reported that Rosella Street is an online platform in the sharing economy. It enables people to hire out personal items and share household goods that might be useful for other people. They are keen to get community groups on the platform. HCA could hire out equipment and get a small amount of money. The platform can keep track of items. We can link to their website and their website can link to ours. We can also specify that they are only for use by Hackett people. Brook noted that Sharable Hackett is no longer in operation.

It was agreed to put the HCA equipment on Rosella St, for access by Hackett residents.

Get together for elderly Hackett residents: Brett gave some background to the idea of a get together, including that he had contacted the Campbell Association about their Coffee Club. He has been too busy to take this forward, but it is still on the agenda.

Hackett oval trees nomination for ACT Tree Register: Chris reported that while officials connected to the ACT Tree Register have been positive about our application to have the Hackett Oval trees on the Register, for their heritage value, we haven't heard back from them – we are almost there but waiting for the final decision. He noted that we need to get a decision because some pines are dying, and we would need to engage with the Government in regards to what the pines would be replaced with given that they are classed as an invasive species.

Microforest sites in Hackett: Chris and Brett spoke to their paper (attached) which sets out background to microforests and canvasses options for where one could be located in Hackett. After discussing the pros and cons of a range of sites (as per the paper), it was agreed that probably the best site would be Hackett oval south. But getting an initiative like this going will require a lot of energy, particularly regarding fundraising (producing videos etc).

Brook noted that there is also a view that microforests may not be only way to proceed - our suburbs have replaced open grassland and woodland rather than forests.

It was agreed that the initiative would only be viable with a team of at least three people to drive it. Chris will put material in the Hackett Neighbourhood Watch and the Newsletter to see if there is interest in the project.

Hackett history signs – draft concepts, text and costs: Chris spoke to his paper (attached) on this. He had given thought to suggested topics and locations, drafted text and got quotes. The Committee supported the idea but noted the relatively high cost of the signs (around \$2,000 each) and thought that we would need to look for opportunities for grants, such as ACT Heritage grants (they open in March 2022) and possibly sponsorship. Chris noted that we have existing funds to do one sign (e.g. the cemetery and trees at the Oval), which could be a “proof of concept” and strengthen our case for further funding.

Welcome leaflet for new residents – printing costs: Chris reported that he has sent the leaflet to four real estate agents, who have welcomed them. The Committee agreed to Chris's proposal to print 400 colour copies for \$300, so that new residents could have hard copies. It was agreed to seek this funding from NCCC. Note – Chris is waiting for the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to provide a new map of Mt Majura Nature Reserve to include on the back page – the latest map is on the new sign at the entrance to the reserve on Mackenzie St.

New membership form - printing and distribution costs: Further to the discussion at the last meeting, Chris proposed that we print (\$224) and distribute (in all Hackett letterboxes - \$231) 1600 copies of the new membership form. It was agreed to seek the funding for printing from NCCC and to fund the distribution from HCA resources.

NCCC: Brook spoke to a proposal being developed for a social media internship to be funded by NCCC. The position would be responsible for developing a social media strategy, and also producing a range of social media content for both the NCCC and resident's associations (including HCA). The proposal will be considered at the NCCC meeting to be held on 18 August.

Bruce informed the Committee that the major issues currently concerning the NCCC were the new arrangements for District level planning in the ACT, and the construction work being undertaken at the Dickson shops for the new Coles supermarket.

Date and location for AGM –It was agreed that:

- It would be preferable, if possible, to hold the AGM face-to-face. Maureen H. will look at options to use the Blue Gum meeting room at Maitland House if it is possible to meet in person in October. Depending on availability, the face-to-face meeting could be on 12, 19 or 26th October.
- If the meeting is held by Zoom (for reasons of Covid etc) it will be on 19 October.

Other business.

Toilets – Chris noted the article in the latest *City News* 5-11 August on the lack of toilets at several shopping centres across Canberra, including Hackett. It was noted that the online petition requesting a toilet at the Hackett shops has around 25 signatures, but this may increase before it closes in October.

Community facilities - Maureen H. noted the lack of community facilities available for community groups – many old school sites have been taken over to be redeveloped. This, and insurance coverage for small community groups, was a concern for the NCCC some years ago. We should go back to Government to see if they can provide more.

Brook noted that SEE-Change and other incorporated organisations can auspice smaller groups. HCA has performed this function as well. Bruce noted that it is not such a pressing issue just now with the greater use of Zoom and people’s increasing comfort with it.

School places - Richard raised the issue of the constraints on school places in the inner north, given past school closures and the increasing numbers of children in the area. Bruce noted that NCCC has raised this issue with the Education Directorate, and they said that they will provide information to the NCCC once they have completed their consultations with school communities. He said he would follow up to find out where this is up to.

Meeting finished 9.15

Next meeting Tuesday 14 September 2021

Section 12 – Hackett oval and Blue Gum Community School

