

GIDGEGANNUP PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC. – November 2005
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Meeting dates: 21st November, 16th January, 2006, 20th February at 7.30 pm
at the Agricultural Society Hall.

There are still several issues where we seem to be knocking our heads against an extremely thick stone wall but we are still trying, and eventually, generally, someone does listen!! Many thanks to all those members who have rejoined the Association and to new members who are now supporting us. You don't have to come to meetings, you will be kept fully informed of what is happening and have every chance for input. We do need your support and so please take out a membership (\$10 per person). Forms are available online, at Gidge Newsagency, or by ringing 9574 7065.

Rates: The Valuer General has finally said he has had enough of us and if people are unhappy with their assessments to appeal it to his office. We are not happy with this and support the view that rate rises should be limited to 10%. Whether we achieve this through the Valuer General or the City we will pursue this end.

Eat the View: By the next issue of the Gidgegram this will have a new name. We were overwhelmed by the response to our name and logo prize draw. Winners drawn out of the hat were:

D. Chapman – Gidgegannup
G. Elkins – Gidgegannup
Julie-Anne Elkins – Gidgegannup
Andrew Crocker – East Perth
Ben Croker – Bedfordale
C. Barker – Mundaring

Thank you to all those who took part. We hoped you liked our tent, we know we need to make improvements next year. We were extremely encouraged by the feedback and by the number of people who want to be involved in this project. It is a very positive effort to promote Gidgegannup for the benefit of those living and producing here. We need your backing and your input.

Gidgegannup producers will be present at the Pearce Airforce show on 19th/20th November and in the Mid-Summer Feast in the Swan Valley. Gidgegannup has also been showcased in the latest edition of the Swan Valley magazine. The 52 page full colour magazine is available at the Swan Valley and Eastern Region Visitors Centre in Guildford.

Wildflower tour brochures are now available from outlets throughout Gidgegannup and the new map has been put up on the Tourist Information Board opposite the Nursery.

More initiatives from the reference group will be announced in January.

Targa West: The Debriefing meeting was relatively a damp squib for a number of reasons. Most people from the first meeting either didn't get notification in time for

this one or felt Why waste an evening when the City didn't listen to them the first time round? Those who had been at the first meeting reiterated their feelings and some present who had taken part in the organization of the rally expressed their support, also representatives from businesses in the townsite, were present who expressed their support because of the tourism potential this would bring in to our community.

True we are trying to promote tourism, but sustainable tourism for every day of the year not just one. This time Targa West have promised we will have a community fund raising opportunity. Their suggestion is to hold the event mid day on a Friday to be less disruptive to the community.

In Gidgegannup we have many businesses, some situated in the townsite, a large number operating from properties scattered around our 35,000 ha. We have to be fair to all these businesses because they all support each other. Those most directly affected are the landowners, businesses and residents whose roads will be closed for this rally. There were definite indications that Targa West wanted this Rally to grow in size, and why wouldn't they? They also indicated that only a few roads in Gidgegannup are suitable for this type of Rally.

The suggestion has been made that Targa West should identify these roads and the City should send a letter to each potentially affected resident asking their view – If they object, don't object, have no opinion, and reasons if they wish to give them – accompany this with a sae for return to the City and follow up with a phone call to those who don't respond. Then we will know much better than any meeting, what the situation is with those most affected.

Let's not start divisive factions as we all need each other, let's try and get the true picture and represent that to the City whether it is for or against this rally continuing in Gidgegannup.

The latest on this is that Targa West have sent a letter to all residents on the route used this year asking for their opinion. The answer is that residents support this rally in 10 cases, 2 don't and 4 don't care. We assume that the rally will take place over this same course next year. Targa West have also contacted the Recreation Club with a view to holding a fund raising event there.

Dams: It is very encouraging that the Construction of Dams Policy is now being used and is working. Dams are being approved that comply with this policy and remove most of the problems that have occurred in the past. People are being saved money, time and stress by this process.

Walk and Bridle Trails: The EMRC have brought out their long awaited Walk and Bridle Trails book and website. Unfortunately, not many Bridle trails have been publicized and we are asking the City of Swan and local Riding and Pony Clubs to help with this so that the next issue can be updated. Well worth having a look at the EMRC site and also at www.gidgegannup.info which, as usual has all the up to date information.

Walyunga Lookout: We are informed that CALM has developed a Recreation Master Plan for Walyunga National Park. The plan sets out a direction for redevelopment of facilities within the National Park and aims to:

1. Provide better quality facilities for visitors by addressing degraded facilities and poor visitor services,
2. Provide better management of sensitive environmental, historical and cultural sites,
3. Address safety issues and visitor risks,
4. Ensure better resources are allocated to the park for maintenance and better visitor services.

The Plan also identifies priorities for redevelopment. The highest priorities being:

1. Walyunga Pool recreation site,

During the 2000/2001 financial year approximately \$25000 was spent on restricting access in and around the Walyunga Lookout area, with the installation of fencing and gates to prevent unauthorized access by four-wheel drives and motorcycles.

During the 2004/2005 financial year the Department completed redevelopment of the Walyunga Pool site at a cost of \$250,000. This financial year the Perth Hills District will be preparing plans for the development of the Indigenous Heritage Site within Walyunga National Park at a cost of \$20,000.

We have asked the Eat the View Reference Group to meet with CALM staff re. Walyunga, as an important part of our Tourism initiative.

Council Minutes:Council Agenda 9TH November 2005
Item 2.2 – Final adoption of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy
www.cityofswan.com/council/agenda/docs/b2-2.pdf

Recommended for adoption

Item 3.12 – Proposed Dam – Lot 45 Old Coach Road (East), Gidgegannup
www.cityofswan.com/council/agenda/docs/b3-12.pdf

Recommended for Approval.

Council Minutes 19.10.05

Item 3.11 Application for Review of Council Decision (State Administrative Tribunal) – Parking of Commercial Vehicles – Lot 518 Crest Side Close, Gidgegannup
Council moved to rescind the revegetation requirement but to refuse the application for parking and advise the State Administrative Tribunal accordingly.

www.cityofswan.com/council/minutes/2005/October/19October2005/b.3-11.pdf

Our very many thanks to Denice Kilpatrick who is leaving Gidgegannup. Denice has been a member of our committee for the past nine years and Secretary for the last three years. Vicki Hammersley has bravely volunteered to take her place.

A very Merry Christmas to you all and an extremely Happy and prosperous New year.