



Voice of our Community Update. Autumn 2019

PO Box 51, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782 ABN 68 127 530 898

Summary of regular Meeting Minutes held on February 4, 2019

Lanterns On The Lake event – Wentworth Falls food outlets should be aware of increased visitation and demand for takeaways on Saturday, April 6.

CCTV update – The meeting moved that members consider the draft policy for CCTV as circulated. If there are any suggested amendments, these are to be conveyed to WFCC&C to determine whether these issues are substantive. If so then the Draft Policy be brought to the next meeting with amendments. If not substantive then the Draft Policy will be accepted. Faults with some cameras are to be addressed by technicians. The maintenance costs of the CCTV system are of continuing concern and are being investigated.

Pedestrian Safety on rail bridge, Station Street, Wentworth Falls – A news item in the Blue Mountains Gazette dated Wednesday 30th Jan 2019 indicated that meetings were to be held with Sydney trains and that \$100,000 had been allocated by Council to address the safety concerns for traffic and pedestrian safety. An email was sent to the General Manager requesting participation by WFCC&C in this meeting. No response from Council has been received. If there has been no action by the next meeting of WFCC&C, a public petition will be invoked. It was noted that \$100,000 was a paltry sum to address the safety issues of the three high risk bridges (inclusive of Wentworth Falls) identified in the LGA. The Engineer's report to Council in June 2016 indicated that these high risk safety issues should be addressed within six months.

Central Blue Mountains Rotary and WFCC&C - Australia Day celebrations at Wentworth Falls lake were well organised and attended. Ongoing close communications between Rotary and WFCC are very worthwhile.

Police Community Precinct meeting in Katoomba – Crime across the LGA generally is trending down however in Wentworth Falls break and enter of non dwellings is relatively high together with theft from motor vehicles. This appears across the Mountains to associated with commuter car parks where no CCTV is available. Police indicated that there appeared no correlation between reduction of crime and CCTV however, CCTV increased the apprehension rate. WFCC raised the matter of CCTV and whether police could provide an NBN cable to access the system directly. It was suggested at the meeting that this is the job of Council as is the case at Hawkesbury. Concerns were also raised about the maintenance costs of CCTV for all towns and villages in the LGA.

Blue Mountains Combined Chamber of Commerce - The MCCC is hosting speakers at meetings who are candidates in the upcoming State and Federal elections. Katoomba has been identified as a city by the Western Planning Committee to receive tourism infrastructure funding for the upgrading of Lurline Street as a thoroughfare to Echo Point. This is unmatched funding for the planting of trees and street furniture.

Updated WF Village Brochure – The meeting discussed the merits of an updated brochure for the village and indicated the value of the brochure for customers of local businesses. Jane Canfield (former designer) will be approached to get a costing on the graphic design changes and the printing of 10,000 copies. Costings can then be put to business owners for advertising inclusion to see if this reprinting is viable.

Anzac Day Memorial service - A meeting of the Memorials and Coronation Park Committees and other members assisting with this year's service will be held 6th March at 6pm at Silvermere Guesthouse to organise arrangements for Anzac Day. Assistance from any members is always welcome.

Coronation Park Gardens Subcommittee – The Memorial Gardens look wonderful as are the pots in Station Street attended to by shop keepers. Council is mowing on regular basis. A vote of thanks by the meeting was conveyed to Graeme Hudson and his wonderful team of volunteers. It demonstrates a sense of pride and care in our village.

Housing Needs - The BMCC is hosting meetings later this month and in March to discuss the housing needs and preference of residents. 25% of community live in single or couple-only households which includes the aged yet, 92% of the housing is a detached car-dependent family house. Council's policy is that alternative housing should be confined to Katoomba and Springwood as they have the infrastructure. WFCC&C considers that Blackheath, Leura, Wentworth Falls, Lawson, Hazelbrook, , Winmalee and Blaxland also have sufficient infrastructure. **People want to age in place and the smaller the town, the easier it is to walk to the shops and facilities such as rail where lifts provide access. WFCC&C also considers that more medium density in close proximity to the towns and villages will make businesses more viable.** Council is also pushing for "hidden density" which means granny flats. WFCC&C considers this is hardly a solution for people who want to live in a house they own and which is bigger than 60sqm. The risk is council will use the meetings to try to prove that the community does not want alternative housing i.e. medium-density and aged housing. These housing choices need **not** be multi-storey but can be designed as townhouses or duplexes which present to the streetscape as an acceptable residential dwelling within the mountains villages. **So, you need to get along to voice your opinion on Housing Choices. <https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/>.** Council is calling on people to register for one of the following focus group sessions on this topic:

- 27 February | The Hub, Springwood | 10:30am-1pm
- 28 February | Cultural Centre, Katoomba | 10:30am-1pm AND 2:30pm-5pm
- 7 March | Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson | 10:30am-1pm
- 10 March | Blaxland Community Centre, Blaxland | 10:30am - 1pm
- 24 March | Katoomba Leura Community Centre, Katoomba | 2:30pm-5pm

Council is due to present its housing strategy and updated proposal for land available for R3 (medium-density) **development by 30 June 2019.**

The next quarterly meeting is due to be held on Monday, May 6 at 6.00pm. Venue TBC.

Contacts: President: Lew Hird 0409 075 554 **Treasurer/Public Officer:** Bill McCabe 0422 449 732