

LIPS committee meeting

Wednesday 7 October 2009 at Port Douglas (Rehab)

Apologies:

Andrew Petrack
Nicole Szalek (Treas)
Valda Reynolds
Danny Vos

Present:

Qamar Schuyler (Pres)
Jan Buchanan (Vice-Pres)
Julia Hazel (Sec)
Alex Mateer

Chair: Qamar

Start: 15:40, end 16:30

No formal resolutions were considered at this meeting.

Meeting was followed by further discussion by those who could stay longer.

Next committee meeting

Confirmed intention to hold next committee meeting on Thursday 15 October at 7:30AM at Java Blue.

LIPS input to November LMAC meeting of Low Isles stakeholders

Consensus that presence of a formally appointed resident Caretaker on the island is very important for long term preservation of the island and the surrounding environment. For the LMAC stakeholder meeting LIPS will focus on caretaker presence and long-term security of caretaker position as the major issue, will mention substantial LIPS contribution over many years in the form of volunteer help with island caretaking and confirm LIPS objective to assist with management in future and to work with the prospective stakeholders committee if it becomes established, in order to address diverse matters of concern relating to Low Isles.

Qamar will draft a written statement and circulate by email to all comm members for further discussion. After review by the committee this statement can then serve as a guide for the LIPS representative to the upcoming LMAC meeting on 16 Nov. After the LMAC meeting the LIPS committee will consider whether to send the statement to GBRMPA/DERM to document LIPS position.

Qamar will also prepare the GBRMPA form that is required to establish participation of LIPS President in the Douglas LMAC.

Public talks

Thanks to Valda for initiating liaison with Doon McColl at GBRMPA as discussed in last comm. meeting. Via email Valda reported that Doon may be able to assist next year if the Douglas LMAC considers it appropriate to include public forums on their next work plan.

Consensus in our meeting today that it would be nice if LIPS could still conduct one public talk this year if a speaker can be arranged. Perhaps Valda can ask Assoc Prof Jamie Seymour whether he or a member of his research team might be available to

talk about their studies on marine stingers as this is a timely topic for November. Julia will forward this suggestion to Valda.

With a view to future LIPS public talks, Alex will ask the scientists who recently commenced research on pigeons at Low Isles if they would be willing to do a public talk about their project next year. Julia has already forwarded to all members the information that the scientists sent to Alex after their initial work at Low Isles recently.

Potential grant application

Qamar will report to the next comm. meeting about her preliminary ideas for a Coastcare grant application relevant to turtle conservation. She thinks that it might be suitable to seek funding for a coordinator to work with operators to conduct turtle counts with tourists.

Coastcare walk signs

Diverse views emerged as to whether LIPS is in a position to authorise additions to public signage in Port Douglas. Recent additions of commercial website address on some of the Coastcare walk signs, as noted at last comm meeting, were not authorised by LIPS. Prior informal discussions by Qamar and Alex with Chris D might have left room for misunderstanding. Alex will discuss these matters with Chris D and report back to LIPS committee. Alex has understood Chris D is interested in paying for professional manufacture and installation of a replicate sign to replace one of the signs that disappeared some time ago. In this context Alex will advise Chris about the uncertain long-term future of the entire series of signs. LIPS may not have the capacity to replace the signs, which are all suffering ongoing deterioration that cannot be reversed. Consequently at some future time (not now) the whole series of signs might have to be removed.

LIPS collection of photos

Many thanks to Jan for completing a huge task involving sorting and organisation of old LIPS photos. Jan has assembled a fascinating collection, now safely mounted in new photo albums. Suggestion at this meeting that we aim to display these albums at a LIPS General Meeting, tentatively in April 2010, and at that time we can ask members for more information about the photos. It will be valuable to get names of people, dates of events and other details from people who were involved during earlier years of LIPS.

Information for LIPS members

Julia has sent email to all members about new LIPS committee and advised them that the President's report and AGM minutes are available on LIPS website.

Julia will make minutes of committee meetings available on the website after circulating draft minutes for review by comm. members.

Julia will draft a clarification note for members about long term prospects for future caretaker training opportunities and will circulate to comm. members for their input.
