

Theme Camp Information Session
At the Nest, Sunday 20th October, 2019

Meeting Chaired by Tim Viljoen (Blazing Swan Committee, with resp. for Theme Camp issues)
Also present - Vida (Blazing Swan Incorporated President) and Erin Bell (Theme Camp Sub-Committee Lead)

Also present - approximately 30 Theme Camp Leads and members.

A remote computer link was available and advertised, but not utilised on this occasion.

Note that this is a best-effort account of the actual meeting. No guarantee is given that the information presented here is (or remains) official Blazing Swan policy.

Tim opened the meeting at 2.15pm

Tim explained his role in representing Theme Camp issues within the Blazing Swan Incorporated (BSI) Committee. He then introduced the members of the Theme Camp Sub-Committee who were present - Erin Bell (Lead), Ken Lee, Ryan A and John Mack.

Tim asked on behalf of Deric if the attendees were ok with photographs being taken. There was no objection.

Tim said he'd read through the Theme Camp Support Package that had just been announced....

GRANTS.

Blazing Swan Incorporated has advised that there is \$10,000 to be shared equally among the registered 2020 Theme Camps. It is a condition of the grant that there be at least one member of BSI in any Theme Camp receiving the Grant. The relevant dates were as follows...

December 1st, 2019 - Theme Camp Applications close

January 3rd, 2020 - All Theme Camp registration steps must be completed

End of January - Likely date for distribution of grants to Theme Camps.

Tim said that that BSI well understood that Theme Camps had large expenses and this was not a large amount of money. It was, however, as much as BSI could afford this year and he hoped it would be some help. The available money would be distributed equally among all the eligible Theme Camps - anticipating that there would be around 50 (or so) Theme Camps this would be around \$200 each.

Tim said that it was understood that different camps had differing abilities to do their own fundraising, and that small and large, and new and established Theme Camps had different needs. It may be that BSI could look at some kind of assessment of Theme Camps needs and contributions when allocating grant money for Blazing Swan 2021, but given the time frame it was not possible to put anything like this in place in time for Blazing Swan 2020. After considering many options, the equal distribution of funds was seen to be the fairest arrangement we could put in place this year.

Q. Is the cash component the same for all Theme Camps?

A. Yes. It's a pool, and the money will go out evenly across all Theme Camps.

Q. Do we have to apply for the Grant?

A. There will be a form you will need to fill in - mostly to give us your bank details. That will be part of the registration paperwork each Theme Camp will need to have completed by January 3rd. We need this form for accounting purposes, to show where the money went.

Q. So a big camp will get the same as a small one?

A. Yes. We've talked our way around all of this. We discussed many methods, but every one had pluses and minuses. For instance large Theme Camps had more expenses than most others, but also usually had greater ability to fundraise for themselves. Older Theme Camps might have earned the right for more support by giving so much to the Blazing Swan experience over the years, but new Theme Camps often needed the most help during their first year setting up. In the end the 'even distribution' was the fairest we could manage in the time frame this year.

Q. Will the money be given prior to the event? Or will it be given after the event, after the Theme Camp can be shown to have delivered on its promises?

A. Point taken, but at the time the money is distributed the Theme Camp will have already submitted to all of the registration process, and satisfied BSI that it is viable. It is not a huge amount of money, and we have the extra assurance that we have BSI members in the Theme Camp.

Q. Couldn't we do the Theme Camp grants on the same basis as we do the Art Grants - by assessing them and allocating the money according to how much they need and how much they contribute to the Blazing Swan event?

A. Yes, we have talked about this. In the time frame available we didn't believe this was an option this year. We hope to have more money to allocate next year, and we hope to have more people working as volunteers in BSI and the Theme Camp Sub-Committee next year. Doing an assessment process involves a lot of work - we could only do it if we have extra people 'on-board' helping us. We have talked about laying the groundwork for a possible assessment process for grants at Blazing Swan 2021. We plan on asking Theme Camps to do a self-assessment following the Blazing Swan 2020 event, as the start of a conversation about how they went in 2020. We need to build up more information if we are going to start thinking about assessing Theme Camps for different levels of grant money support. This post-event assessment in 2020 would only be part of the information that would be considered, but it would be a good starting point.

POWER

Tim noted that in previous years money intended for Theme Camp Grants had been diverted into paying for Electrical works across the site. This year was the beginning of the pay-off for that sacrifice, as we were now able to offer free power to all Theme Camps that were located near the power cables now buried across the site. Each Theme Camp could expect to be able to access two 10Amp power points. If a Theme Camp has 3-Phase or other special power requirements they should contact BSI as soon as possible to discuss their needs. BSI expects to be able to assist all Theme Camps with power, but if a Theme Camp elects to be placed more than 50m from the existing power 'grid' they may need to provide their own power. The recent tragedy at Burning Man reminds us that generators can be dangerous when used or placed incorrectly, and our commitment to providing power through our grid is not just about saving money or having less impact on the environment, but also about participant safety. When we come to discuss placement of Theme Camps you will be able to see the power grid displayed on maps of the site. Power can be hard to understand if you haven't worked with it before. You can ask for help - there is a lot of expertise among existing Theme Camps and many people willing to assist you with understanding what you will need.

Three Added notes (additional to the discussion at the meeting)....

(1) Each 10Amp outlet is able to supply a maximum of 2400 Watts total. You can 'add up' your power requirements by looking at the Wattage of all of the products you connect to that plug. You can usually find this information on the product or its packaging. Hair dryers and heaters can easily run at 1,000 to 2,000 Watts. A 60 Watt light bulb uses 60 Watts, but an LED light producing the same 'brightness' can do this for just a couple of Watts. Be aware that if you have electric motors in things such as fridges or freezers they can use very large amounts of Watts when starting up, even though once they are running they use much less.

(2) You will need both 10Amp plugs if your total power requirements exceed 2400 Watts, but even if you don't you might arrange to have half of your equipment connected to each plug - particularly if you are using long extension cables to get the power from where BSI locates the plugs, back to your Theme Camp. The cheapest long power cables will get so hot if they are being asked to carry anywhere near 2400 Watts that they can start to melt. If you share the load between two long power cables, each of them will only have to work half as hard.

(3) No matter how you arrange your power you MUST have an RCD protection device plugged in between the BSI power outlets and your cables. This is a life-saving device and must be used. If you use both 10Amp outlets you will need a separate RCD device on each outlet. 10Amp RCD devices cost between \$50 and \$100. They last for years if protected from the weather, and are literally the difference between life and death. It is up to Theme Camps to purchase and install them.

Q. Will the power be available during the setup phase?

A. Yes, we hope so. It should be available on the Saturday prior to the Blazing Swan event. This will improve safety by enabling more lighting at night. Theme Camps should be mindful that we might encounter unexpected problems, and they should make plans in the event that power is not available on the Saturday.

Q. When do we tell you if we have a requirement for 3 phase power?

A. During the registration process you will be going through.

Q. Will you be providing power for Art Works?

A. If they need it, and if they are close enough to the grid, yes. One of the issues that will be considered when placing Art Works is whether they need power. Some Art Works might need, or choose to, consider providing their own power. These issues can be discussed in the Art Works group which is meeting soon.

Q. BSI is providing the power outlets in distribution boxes placed at intervals along the power grid. Do these boxes contain circuit breakers that cut the power if too much is being used by a Theme Camp?

A. Yes. If more than 2400 Watts is being drawn from a 10Amp plug your cables will be on the verge of melting, and the power will be cut by these circuit breakers in order to keep you and your equipment safe. But you should avoid getting anywhere near this point by using low Wattage devices in your Theme Camp (LED lights instead of old fashioned ones for example). You can also avoid having too much load on any one 10Amp outlet by splitting your total electrical load across two 10Amp outlets (and using two RCD devices).

TEST and TAG ELECTRICAL CABLES and EQUIPMENT

Once again Blazing Swan Incorporated is offering a free 'Test and Tag' service at the Nest. We expect that this will be available throughout the month of February. We expect that there will be a calendar/booking system Theme Camps will need to use. Theme Camps will (for the first time) also need to provide someone to work with our person doing the 'Test and Tagging'. The Theme Camp person will be writing out Tags - simple enough but very time consuming. More details about the Test and Tag process will be sent out to Theme Camps during the registration process.

If anyone has Test and Tag qualifications (or knows someone who does who is willing to help out) BSI would like from you.

Q. What equipment requires 'Test and Tag'?

A. Any electrical device or cable used on the 'public' side of your Theme Camp, including any power cables that bring the power from BSI's 10Amp outlets to that part of the Theme Camp. And any RCD device that's connected to those power cables. Even if something was 'Tested and Tagged' for last year's Blazing Swan event it will need re-doing for the 2020 event.

Q. What about Lasers?

A. These need more than 'Test and Tagging'. These have to be registered/certified, and this can take up to 3 months. If you are bringing lasers to the 2020 event (and note that Hand-Held lasers are completely BANNED) contact BSI as soon as possible.

TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

As in 2019, BSI will provide for uplift of one IBC container or equivalent from the Nest to Kulin and back to the Nest. If you're not sure what an IBC is or looks like, google it. If you have an unusual shaped load, contact BSI. Tim suggested that this service was ideal for the very heaviest items that Theme Camps might need to transport - which was often water. BSI was not able to pick up or drop off your loads at your door, even if you are 'on the way' to Kulin. We suggest Theme Camps work together and share transport to get their loads to and from the Nest.

When bringing items to the nest in trailers or vehicles take care to make sure that they can be unloaded by a forklift. Make sure the 'slots' in the base of the IBC or pallet are facing the 'right' way so that the forklift prongs can get to them. Keep your gear neatly packed and packaged. The IBC loads will be stacked 'two high' in shipping container for transport out to site and back.

DO NOT INCLUDE any gas bottles or fuels in this load. **ABSOLUTELY DON'T DO THIS.** A driver was killed in Melbourne recently when the truck he was driving exploded due to a leaking gas cylinder packed in the gear in the back of the vehicle. Vibrations can easily loosen the valves on gas cylinders.

If you are packing your gear on a wooden pallet make sure it is a good quality one. Pallets you find on verges often have broken slats. If your pallet breaks on the way to, or at the event, BSI won't be able to use it to bring your gear home again. The advantage of the IBC container is that they have a steel base and are fairly 'unbreakable'. BSI does not have any IBC available to gift to Theme Camps, but check with other Theme Camps on our community social media - if you know the right people used IBC's can be found very cheap.

We will advertise when you can bring your IBC's into the Nest, but note that BSI can't predict exactly when your IBC load will arrive at Kulin. Even if we think we know which day it will be, this can easily change and we have almost no control over that. So **DON'T** pack perishables in

there, and DON'T pack anything that might be damaged by rain or dust (or wrap it extremely well...).

If you are bringing loads yourself make sure they are tied down safely, and that you take time well before the event to get your car (and trailer) check out for tyres, brakes etc. Police in the Kulin shire were checking on loads at the last Blazing Swan event and certainly will be doing so again. Take the time and make the effort to ensure your safety and that of other road users. BSI will be posting driving and load carrying tips and reminders on social media closer to the event.

Q. Rather than using this service to transport water for our camp, can we fill up empty containers with water at the Blazing Swan event site?

A. Generally no. Self reliance! But in the case of Theme Camps which are effectively gifting huge amounts of water (think Black Lagoon's coffees...) the BSI will help. But generally no.

Q. Can BSI assist in getting Art Cars from Perth to Kulin (and back)?

A. Not if it is car-sized or larger. You are best looking at a car trailer or a flat bed truck. However... talk to us about sharing the cost of hiring some space on the trucks that BSI use to get our gear up to Kulin. These rates are generally cheaper than you'd be able to get elsewhere. Contact us as soon as possible to talk about this.

Q. What about odd-shaped loads that don't fit on a pallet or in an IBC?

A. We have talked about an IBC or equivalent load. If it is roughly equivalent and we can carry it, we will. Contact us as soon as possible to talk about your requirements.

SAFETY BRIEFING PACKAGE

This is the Safety package that can be used by Theme Camps to brief their own members. It's not compulsory to use this package to brief your members on safety, but if you use your own package, or don't brief them at all, you may be required to tell investigators - in the event of an accident - what steps YOU took to ensure safety in your Theme Camp. You could be prosecuted or sued in that event if you don't have satisfactory answers. Normally you would have to pay for a Safety Briefing Package, or pay someone to write one. But you get this one to use for free. Note that this is quite separate from the compulsory safety briefings that BSI run for Theme Camp Leads when you arrive on-site.

DPW (Department of Public Works) SUPPORT

DPW 'build' the Blazing Swan event. They have massive and powerful machines, and a large team of expert workers. They might - might - be able to help you with your constructive (build and tear-down) needs prior to and following the Blazing Swan event. HOWEVER, because their priority is building the entire event infrastructure, your Theme Camp's needs can't be addressed if you don't tell DPW about it EARLY. Even then, DPW might not be able to fit in helping you. So contact them EARLY to talk about your requirements. Note that this is for seriously 'heavy' assistance only. Moving a pallet might not rate on their radar... Note that if you get in early, and get

agreement from DPW to assist you, you may still need to arrange your build plan around DPW's availability. So if they can't schedule to help you erect your dome until pre-Blaze Tuesday, that's when it's going to happen and have your people and material on that day - and not before unless they have some other work they can do.

Q. Is it safe or OK to bring Kids with us during the set up period.

A. Setup is from the Saturday prior to the Blazing Swan event, up until opening time at noon on Wednesday. During this time the Blazing Swan site is a construction zone. It is not safe for children. If you need to come out during this period and have children you should have a discussion within your Theme Camp team about having someone look after them.

Q. Does Blazing Swan's insurance cover Theme Camp members during this construction period.

A. No. The BSI volunteers (Rangers, DPW crew, etc) are covered by Blazing Swan's insurance, but anyone working in your Theme Camp setup is not covered by BSI. Theme Camps might consider arranging their own insurance for anyone on-site working on their Theme Camp construction during this period. BSI can help Theme Camps by directing them to BSI's insurance brokers. Once the event 'opens' BSI's public liability insurance will cover Theme Camps for liability for anything that happens to visitors to the their Theme Camp. Theme Camps should think about insurance for their own members carefully.

DISCOUNTED TICKET ALLOCATION TO THEME CAMPS

A decision was made this year to allocate ten discounted tickets (at Super-early bird prices - \$210 each) to each Theme Camp. As with the money grant, this allocation will be made to Theme Camps that have applied and been properly registered. Unlike the cash grant, Theme Camps are guaranteed ten tickets each, no matter how many Theme Camps are ultimately registered. Noting that there is a transfer fee that applies this year, BSI will waive the transfer fees that would otherwise apply to these Discounted Theme Camp Tickets. It would help hugely however, if Theme Camps were able - when the time comes - to tell BSI whose names these tickets should be issued in, so that there'd be no need to go through the time-consuming transfer process further down the track.

As with the Grants, BSI acknowledges that large and small Theme Camps, and new and established Theme Camps have different needs and might reasonably feel that they should receive a larger (or smaller) number of discounted tickets. Once again, BSI was working with limited resources and budget, and for every argument could be viewed from different angles and used to justify completely different approaches to allocating tickets. In the end an equal distribution was the fairest result that could be achieved in the time frame available. As with the grant money, we can look at this again next year.

One Added note (additional to the discussion at the meeting)....

If any of your Theme Camp members have been volunteers (Rangers, DPW, Greeters etc) at the previous year's Blazing Swan event, those members would be eligible to purchase discounted tickets through the Volunteer Discounted Tickets program. 2019 Volunteers were contacted by email a month or so ago with their ticket details. This is a good argument for Theme Camp members to volunteer with BSI where they are able to.

Q. Our Theme Camp bought a number of early bird tickets to use for fundraising, will we have to pay the transfer fee.

A. The transfer fee is 5% for the seller, and 5% for the buyer. Yes you will have to pay that yourself, or build that cost into the price you sell them for. BSI appreciates that this might make using tickets to fund-raise a less attractive option, and BSI - specifically Comms in BSI - is looking to support Theme Camps to set up and participate in fund raising events.

Q. How close to the event can we continue to arrange these 'free' transfers of the discounted Theme Camp tickets? Sometimes we don't have final numbers until the 'last moment'.

A. We will get back to you on that.

THEME CAMP FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

The Comms team within BSI have now set up a Community Events Calendar on the Blazing Swan website, and will assist you in getting your event listed there and mentioned in the BSI social media pages and BSI newsletter which reaches 5,000 people. Check out the Calendar on the website, and contact Comms if you need assistance or have any questions about publicising your events. Note that the Community Event calendar is separate from Blazing Swan Key Dates calendar which is all about BSI and BSI processes - including many that Theme Camps need to keep an eye on.

One Added note (additional to the discussion at the meeting)....

Theme Camps have started talking about - and doing - shared fund raisers. This is particularly useful for small Theme Camps which might otherwise not have the resources to set up Fundraisers on their own. We suggest that Theme Camps use social media to contact each other and make arrangements between themselves.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Q. Is membership still on fixed terms (AGM to AGM) or is it now 12 months from when we sign up? And how can we check when we were recorded as having signed up?

A. Yes, membership is now for 12 months from the date you join. With a month 'grace period' to get your renewal in. The BSI Secretary can advise you what your dates are/were.

Q. Will we need engineers / construction sign of on structures?

A. As part of the registration process we identify which structures need certification, and what sort of certification. It is up to the Theme Camps to arrange - and pay for- certification when it is required, and we know this can sometimes take months to complete. So get your Theme Camp applications into BSI as soon as possible, so the registration process can start for you as soon as possible. So you can arrange certification with sufficient time to spare. Particularly if you have large and/or custom built structures.

Q. Camps seemed to be more spread out in 2019. They were packed in more tightly (it seemed) in 2018 and this seemed to look better. What's the plan for 2020?

A. There were some slight street changes in 2019, they should remain the same for 2020. It's been an issue for Blazing Swan for some years that we want people walking down the streets to have the

richest possible experience - lots of Theme Camp public spaces, and not so many private accommodation spaces and vehicles. When we do Theme Camp placement for 2020 we will try to maximise the amount of frontage taken up by Theme Camps public space, and as far as possible have the private camping areas 'behind' the public areas, away from the street. We are encouraging Theme Camps to move vehicles out of their Theme Camp areas unless people are actually living or sleeping in them. All that said, we still have a requirement for access lanes between Theme Camps to allow emergency vehicles to 'get into' the back areas of Theme Camps, and these will take up space along the street frontage. Theme Camps can come together to share resources particularly in their private 'back areas' - things such as shared kitchens - which will allow us to fit more Theme Camp members into our space, without them intruding onto the street frontages.

Q. When will the maps be available this year.

A. As soon as possible. If we hope you can get together with your neighbours and form neighborhoods to work together on facilities, shared transport and things like street decoration, you need to know who your neighbours will be. You will also need to know the shape of your allocated spaces so you can arrange to have the public areas at the 'front' and the private areas at the 'back'. If you are preparing plans for electricity on your site you will need to know where the power grid will run, and where BSI will place the 10Amp outlets. We will get those maps out and start talking about placement as soon as we can.

Q. Is Centre Camp going to be an official BSI location for BSI services?

A. It's a private Theme Camp. They will be doing 'information' and referrals, but the Rangers will still be based at the Camp Hart location, alongside Medical. The location for ice distribution hasn't been settled, BSI recognises it wasn't ideal in 2019 - they're working on a solution. Can't say at this stage if it will be Centre Camp. Centre Camp is new, and how it will operate and what it will offer is evolving. It is a very welcome addition to the Blazing Swan Theme Camp community.

Q. Will Art Cars be allowed to access Infinite Loop this year - if they are electric and hence silent? We often had people asking us for 'lifts' who otherwise might have had trouble walking, but we couldn't get in there to drop them off. If we don't play music, and our vehicle isn't noisy, should we be excluded from moving through the Loop?

A. We will still have quiet zones in 2020. You need to talk to the Art Car group about this. Sometimes it isn't the Art Car that is noisy, but the people on it and the people following it.

Q. Will we have exclusion areas around Art Works?

A. Yes, if that is appropriate.

Q. Are we giving new Theme Camps support? As an experienced Theme Camp, can you tell me who is 'new' so I can reach out to them?||

A. Comms advised that they'd published a list of Theme Camps which had applied for 2020. They would publish a fresh list, and people could see from that who was 'new'.

OTHER MATTERS

Karyn Lisignoli offered - as a gift to Theme Camps - to provide free Leadership and Mentoring training to Theme Camp Leads and members. Her observation, based on long experience in many roles and Theme Camps - and supported by many people at the meeting - was that Theme Camp Leads were often exhausted as much by the 'people issues' as the many other calls upon their time and effort. If they could learn methods of better dealing with these people issues, then we might reduce the level of 'burn-out' and bring out the best in everyone's experience in putting together and

presenting Theme Camps at the Blazing Swan event. The session would be two ninety minute blocks with a fifteen minute interval. It could be offered on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons at the Nest, or at private residences at other times to groups by arrangement. The idea was taken up enthusiastically by meeting attendees and Karyn passed around a booking form. Karyn can be contacted at - karyn@karynlisignoli.com if you'd like to make a booking or have any questions.

Safety Shaz had a few items -

(1) Radios. BSI was looking at setting up a separate UHF channel just for Theme Camps to talk with each other. Also possibly a 'family/kids' channel. The idea was to keep the radio traffic on the channel dedicated to emergencies to a minimum. Even then, Theme Camps should understand that if there is an emergency don't JUST rely on the radio. Call it in on the radio, and send a runner. BSI was now recommending that Theme Camps have at least one high quality 5 Watt radio. Lower powered radios were cheaper, but often didn't carry voices as clearly, and as their batteries ran down (fairly quickly) their power and range drastically reduced.

(2) BSI will be issuing an information sheet on how to make your regular 3m x 3m gazebo shade/shelter stronger. These are a major casualty each year in high winds.

Vida advised that there might be some involvement by Art Cars in the Festival of Perth next year. Art Car builders/operators should contact BSI for more details.

Hana advised that Fire Tribe was now the contact point for all Fire issues, including fire performance, fire art, fire facilities (burn barrels) and fire safety. This was to 'uncomplicate' things by replacing several points of contact with just one. Gas Flame Effects were 'still up in the air' regulation-wise this year, after being cancelled last year. We were now bound to follow a path of strict compliance as we were on the regulator's radar. They would be watching us in 2020 and if we can not be compliant we will not be doing gas flame effects. At the same time we were still working towards it as best and as fast as we can. No promises for 2020. The situation with fuel flame effects is not so difficult. And it may be possible to hire gas projection equipment from pyrotechnics companies that has been pre-certified. Burn Barrels in Theme Camps (never in the general camping area) can be signed off by two members of Fire Tribe. They will be checked during the event and must remain compliant throughout. All burn barrels must be provided with the means to be able to be immediately extinguished, and their use is always subject to weather conditions and fire authorities directions. Burn barrels in the Infinite Loop will be subject to all these conditions, and as in previous years their use in the Loop might be banned if the nearby bush block is particularly dry and/or carrying a high fuel load. Local Fireys will be in attendance throughout the event in 2020.

Tim asked Theme Camps to start thinking about their placement NOW. He asked that new Theme Camps particularly, and Theme Camps wishing to move from their current location, get in touch with BSI to discuss their needs. Feedback from Theme Camps at the meeting suggested that noise was a major issue in 2019, and that if the noise wasn't controlled some Theme Camps would have no choice but to relocate. Safety Shaz advised that BSI is finalising new sound standards for 2019 and that sound issues would be a major factor in registration, placement and compliance. Any Theme Camp with particular placement issues or preferences is encouraged to bring them up with BSI in their application and through the registration process.

Tim encouraged all Theme Camps to keep an eye on the Blazing Swan website which was developing rapidly and being updated with useful and essential information for Theme Camps. Tim also encouraged Theme Camp Leads to consider BSI membership if they were not already members, and to encourage membership and volunteering among their Theme Camp members. If

you have any questions check the website, and you can also contact BSI with Theme Camp questions at the email themecamps@blazingswan.com.au

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm.