



**4.2. Firewise** Ian Cook rang through updates on implementation of the Protection Plan and promised a more detailed written report for Cove News and website soon. Ian said

- Slashing of areas cleared around hall site will commence soon but a local community working bee will probably be needed to pick up chunks of wood etc.
- Council has quotes for work on hall building to make it a neighbourhood safer place, and Ian is encouraging them to progress work asap. A water tank (50 000 L) has been ordered to be situated behind library.
- Telstra has been asked again to complete asset protection around their exchange. Concern has been expressed re amount the of leaf-matter on the roof.
- Clearing either side of The Ridgeway between fire station and main road is to be undertaken by same contractor who did clearing of land around the hall.

**4.3. Waterfront Amenities Project** Andrew Staniland has nominated the newly appointed Andrew Morris to deal with us over the Dinghy ramp project. Andrew Morris has been in contact. Worimi Land Council has given its acceptance. The formal okay has not yet come from Crown Lands but is expected soon. Andrew Morris is keen to start action on the project. Hopefully the Quarry is still prepared to commit to the same generous offer that they made more than 30 months ago.

Five companies responded to the RMS invitation (issued 30 November 2015) to undertake boating development planning studies in the Great Lakes region. The studies included a development plan for North Arm Cove. The results of the tender are about to be announced.

There was much discussion about the lack of local involvement in ceremony held on 4 February in Casuarina Park re-announcing the boating study. Also discussed was the need for Council and Maritime to be aware of the long history of investigation into feasibility.

**4.4. Water Tank project** This has now been completed. Thanks to Gary Sylvaney for his management of this project.

**4.5. Hall Committee Council** – Maureen reported that the play equipment adjacent to the hall should be erected soon, that a celebration is planned in October because it is 20 years since the hall was given to the community, and that a break-in early in February had resulted in no damage. The alarm alerted people, police attended and details of the vehicle involved were given to them.

#### **4.6. Community Site Management Plan sub-committee**

The outcomes of the discussion at the December meeting were forwarded to Council.

**4.7. Fame Cove** Len reported that there had been two fines related to the clearing of land near Pindimar for the access road. The building permit and construction certificate issued in 2002 were still current and during February a master plan for the \$200 million development is to be presented to council. Len noted that Google Earth cannot be used to monitor progress because it is some three years out of date.

**4.8. Water quality** Janine Reid reported that results from the Food Authority had been received and water quality and rainfall data going back over 10 years is now available and will be analysed. She reminded people that water pollution is usually rainfall linked and the Cove is not safe for swimming when water is brown. Generally, however, water quality in the Cove is good. Janine said that the oyster industry in Tasmania, the Hawkesbury and Georges River was suffering from Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) probably due to warm currents, but it had not been found in the Cove.

Moved: Tony Hann

Seconded: Maria Pickles

**Carried**

**That reports be accepted.**

## **5. General Business**

**5.1. Appreciation of Stephanie Hunter** Stephanie and Jim are leaving the Cove to move to Tea Gardens. Doug expressed, on behalf of the Association, appreciation for Stephanie Hunter's work in the Cove particularly in her roles as NACRA President, Secretary and committee member.

**5.2. Clean-up North Arm Cove/Container Recycling** A reminder that Clean-up Australia Day in the Cove will be on Sunday 6 March. Assemble at the Hall. Wear good protective clothing, footwear and hat. Bring sun cream and insect spray.

The NSW Government is proposing a *Container Deposit Scheme* to discourage littering. Any responses to their discussion paper are required by 26 February. The paper and details how to respond can be found at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-consult.htm>

**5.3. Non-urban land issue** Trevor pointed out that although people with non-urban lots pay rates and observe the limit of 60 days a year, Council seems determined to deter non-urban land owners imposing draconian fines for shelters. Trevor said that land zoned 1A should be treated the same as land zoned 2A. He pointed out how much non-urban land owners do to monitor and clean up illegal dumping.

**5.4. Garden group** – Maria Pickles invited people to take part in a raffle to raise money to repair the shed damaged in the recent storm.

**5.5. Passing of Dean Myers** – Maureen recognised the passing on 1 January 2016 of Dean Myers who had done much in the Cove including being instrumental in the establishment of Casuarina Park.

**5.6. Guest: Daniel Brauer** Group Manager, Planning and Development with MidCoast Water gave a half-hour presentation which included an overview of MidCoast water, the only county council in NSW providing both water and sewerage. It services 40,000 households.

Daniel explained that there are seven high priority unserved villages within Great Lakes including North Arm Cove.

Options include connecting to existing networks or providing small treatment plants built specifically for one small village. Finances are always an inhibiting factor. He referred to the Crowdy Head Sewerage Scheme which was delivered in 2009 with funding from State, MidCoast Water and new customers.

Sewerage would cost \$11.4 million for NAC. Considerations included on-going operational costs, what Government subsidies were available, the need for equitable provision of services across villages and the level of customer contributions which were estimated at between \$7,000 and \$12,000 per connection.

Daniel mentioned other sources of funding:

- The State Government has some funding available but MidCoast Water has four major projects that it considers higher priority than the unserved villages.
- Cost sharing arrangement may be possible with Fame Cove Development but that is still subject to approvals.

There were many questions from the floor including:

- Are we obliged to connect if sewerage became available? Daniel explained there would be an unconnected fee,
- Can the customer contribution be paid off over a long period? Answer: yes.
- What is the long term risk of not having proper control of septic systems? Daniel referred to the worse case scenario as in Wallis Lake in late 1990s where 200 people were hospitalised, and one person died.
- Is anything likely to happen soon? If the community were to get together and lobby for action then it might occur sooner but it is more likely to be many years before implementation.

Daniel encouraged responses to the MidCoast Water draft strategy document: Our Water Our Future. (<http://www.midcoastwater.com.au/site/our-water-our-future>)

On behalf of the Cove community, Doug thanked Daniel for his presentation.

**6. Next General Meeting** will be held on 9 April 2016 at 10am.

**7. Closure** 11.55 am