

North Arm Cove Residents Association: General Meeting
Saturday 10 June 2017 at the Community Hall commencing at 10:00 am
Minutes

1. Present 29 members including committee members Doug and Kath Kohlhoff, Tony Hann, Len Yearsley, Gary Sylvaney, Susan Carter, Bill Moller and 7 non-members.

Apologies: Christine Sylvaney, Cheryl Yearsley, Phil and Sue Anderson

2. Minutes

Moved: Pat Brennan	Seconded: Tony Hann	Carried
That the minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2017 be confirmed		

2.1. Business arising - nil

3. Correspondence

To/from Indeewa Chandrawansa, RMS re progress on dinghy ramp project	10/4/2017
To Tracey Farrant, Lyndie Hepple MCC re re Council support for booklet	18/4/2017
To/from From Andrew Braybrook, MCC re Council support for booklet	1/5/2017
To Dan Aldridge, MCC re Action on Engineering items for Community Precinct	1/5/2017
To/From Malcolm Hunter, MCC re Review of pumpout/onsite disposal/sewerage	1-19/5/2017
To/from Daniel Brauer MC Water re Status of Sewerage Proposals for village	1/5/2017
To Drew Morris, MCC re location of signs in Casuarina and Water Streets	3/5/2017
To/From Daniel Aldridge, MCC re approval for work on Precinct roadways/drainage	10/5/2017
From MidCoast Council re Advice of Bundabah Private Quarry DA Public Exhibition	23/5/2017
To/from Chris Jones, Librarian MCC re Support for Cove booklet	5-8/6/2017

Moved: Jan Carter	Seconded: Bob Reid	Carried
That the correspondence be accepted		

4. Reports

4.1. Treasurer's Report

Memberships for 2017-18 are now open. Please note our bank has assigned **new account details** for payments.

Direct Deposit: Beyond Bank Australia
BSB: 325-185 Account No: 85064916

Don't forget to include your name in the description!

Or of course you can pay in person.

You can also reserve now one or more copies of the 50th anniversary limited-edition booklet for \$20 per copy.

Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	675.22	650.22
NACRA	4927.88	5207.04
Proj Stronger Comm.	47940.00	29978.48
Website cost provision	119.50	119.50
Total	53662.60	35955.24
Beyond Bank	53612.6	35955.24
Unpresented Cheques	50.00	0.00
Total	53662.60	35955.24

Plus Income to 31 May	
Interest	72.33
Member subscriptions	40.00
Website Sponsorship	250.00
Total Income	362.33

Less Expenditure to 31 May	
Stronger Comm Proj	17961.52
Social function	83.17
Gen. exp. Fame Cove	25.00
Total Expenditure	18069.69

Closing Balance	=	35955.24
Financial members	=	69

Moved: Kath Kohlhoff	Seconded: Gary Sylvaney	Carried
That the Treasurer's report be accepted.		

Maureen Kelly apologised the lateness of Cove News this month as, although it had been printed by Council it was "lost" in transit. It should be in letterboxes shortly.

Maureen then read a letter of support for the booklet and presented, on behalf of Cove News, a \$100 donation towards book publication expenses – and expressed appreciation for NACRA's contribution. The Cove News contribution was acknowledged by acclamation from the meeting.

4.2. Waterfront Amenities Project Mostly now just waiting for signs to be erected.

4.3. Boat Ramp & Water Access sub-committee The consultants' report with Council staff response and recommendations will be going to the Council meeting on 28 June. Papers will be available on line from around midday on Friday 23 June. Copies of the full boating plan document will be made available in our Library during that weekend. We await the recommendations with interest but it appears that given the massive dollar costs involved, reportedly in the vicinity of \$1.3 million, Council will be unlikely to give support to the boat ramp as proposed in the consultants' report.

4.4. Casuarina Park – A great improvement thanks to our volunteers. Council is paying David Read to remove the piles of green matter.

4.5. Hall Committee Maureen mentioned Christmas in July on 22nd with live band Sage and mini Trivia.

4.6. **Community Precinct** We had a wonderful roll-up at the working bees in late April and early May. Some impressive and intensive effort since from members of David Read's team, has meant progress on implementing the Community Precinct is currently ahead of schedule. Work on the walking track and play area is well advanced and a BMX track is being shaped at the southern end of the reserve. The new parking area behind the hall is also taking shape.

Steve Howard has been successful in gaining an allocation of Council funds towards a new larger mower, a trailer, a shed for storage of mower and an enclosure for a trailer to be located behind the Hall. David Read has been engaged to do the associated work. The mower and trailer will be for use at all reserves in North Arm Cove and Carrington.

Hopefully we can build a large pool of trained volunteers to share the workload of maintaining our reserves.

4.7. **Fame Cove** Len Yearsley reported that LDF Enterprises lost one case in the Supreme Court but other cases continue.

The DA for the large private quarry proposed just south of Bundabah has been placed on public exhibition. A public meeting to consider this DA will be held at 10am on 17 June. There will be significant impacts for the Cove community from such a development including noise, dust and pollution. For example, will Cove locals need to keep their windows shut when the refreshing afternoon NE winds arrive? Members are encouraged to attend the June 17 meeting if possible and to lodge their objections with Council before 26 June.

4.8. **Council Southern Area Reference Group meetings** Issues of local concern were taken to the meeting held on 1 May 5 June. No advice yet as to whether the work on The Esplanade (East) will occur this month or what work will be undertaken in the coming year as part of the implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan.

4.9. **Child/Youth Survey Results** *Report from Gary Sylvaney:* It was a little disappointing that only 6 replies were received from a relevant family population I estimate to be around three times that number. However, as one objective was to assess resident attitudes then silence may be accepted as a negative response to the propositions. Whilst only one of the six replies gave a negative response to the propositions, the other five indicated interest and full support. Those five positive replies covered twelve children aged between 5 and 15 years.

The Survey has identified five Cove families who would support activities for their children on weekends and additionally grandchildren during holiday periods and all six replies support actions by NACRA to achieve improved play facilities. We thank those families who took the time and showed such interest in improving life in the Cove for their young residents both permanent and transient.

Where does this leave us now? Since we started raising the survey issues last year, it is very pleasing to note Cove interest groups have announced and indeed completed some projects of significant benefit to our younger residents. Two examples are the improvements to the tennis court surrounds and the BMX tracks inclusion in the Village Green Project. Residents, both adult and child should and no doubt will be most grateful for these excellent new facilities.

Gary acknowledged work done by Tony Hann, Pat Brennan, and the Bill and Pattie Moller to clear Casuarina Park.

David Read's contribution to the BMX track and Peter Chappelow's role in gaining a \$12 000 Sport and Rec grant to provide the new sporting facilities near the tennis court were acknowledged.

Moved: Pat Brennan

Seconded: Tony Hann

Carried

That reports be accepted.

5. General Business

5.1. **Guest Speaker: Malcolm Hunter, newly appointed Environmental Health Coordinator** with Mid Coast Council.

Malcolm spoke about his new position and the outcome of detailed studies into the quality of water within the North Arm Cove catchment Council has undertaken in conjunction with the University of Newcastle.

He said that testing was carried out for sources of bacteria that may impact on aquaculture activities, including the new experimental technology associated with whitening agents which doesn't need the 48 hour incubation period in a lab. Results of testing showed that there was no correlation between bacterial levels and rain amounts. A number of other possible sources of contamination have been identified and Council is investigating possible solutions, liaising with other involved bodies eg NSW Health, Fisheries and Marine Parks etc and planning community consultation. Properties with pump out systems as well as those with envirocycle and transpiration pits will be affected.

Possible solutions include mandatory weekly or fortnightly pumpouts, upgrading on-site management systems to advanced secondary treatment, better handling of storm water, improved record keeping by licensed pump out contractors and council subsidies to help pay for solutions. Already implemented are increased fines for non-compliance – from \$330 to \$4000.

Questions from the audience with Malcolm's response are summarised below:

Is the life-time of transpiration pits being monitored? *Each one depends on use and maintenance*

Why has there been no response to a report from residents of a large area of brown sludge in the Cove? *Malcolm will investigate why no response has been made. The issue was investigated.*

Is Council aware of road crews dumping in the bush blue metal and tar which leach into swamps and ultimately into the Cove waterways? *Malcolm will refer on the Engineering Department.*

How soon after significant rain is Cove water safe for swimming? *NSW Health says after 48 hours – but that is for fresh water – salt water kills bacteria more quickly. Need to wait longer in winter.*

What is Council's policy on systems close to the High Tide mark – some are within 6 inches? *Where land is available, occupants may be required to upgrade to advanced secondary treatment.*

What are the indicators of a failing transpiration system? *Spongy land, boggy water on surface, records of maintenance, visual inspection of tank.*

Are there audit procedures to ensure contractors are doing the right thing? *Yes – it is in their interest to do so. Council has limited resources – two inspectors for 4,500 tanks.*

What about a moratorium to give owners of transpiration pits opportunity to repair damage from roots? *A licensed plumber is required – Council policy is to provide opportunity for land owner to replace what is already in place. Now a much greater area is required for transpiration than previously and greater buffer distances eg 100 m from waterway and 40 m from drains and boundaries. Further, it is costly – about \$8-12 thousand for a new transpiration pit.*

Why are the records of pump-out the same whether the tank is half-full or full? *Currently operators do not have the equipment to measure volumes accurately.*

Is there some way of recording how full the tank is? *Council is looking at a barcode system and maintaining better records as well as overflow alarms. Commercial systems have these already.*

When will NAC get town sewerage? *The cost is huge – about \$45,000 per property. There are problems because of bed rock and the distance to the treatment works.*

Would you summarise what had been said so far? *Current Council policy doesn't support an increase in pump out systems but where there is no room on site for other systems, it is the only option.*

Because renters of holiday houses leaving tanks overflowing are a large part of the problem, is there a information sheet on managing a septic system? *Information is available in Council website. New owners are given information. Renters are potentially a problem - particularly with Airbnb.*

What is the timeframe for Council to implement some solution? *Malcolm's personal opinion - within 5 years because studies showed something needs to be done. But the solution must be cost effective, and within resourcing restraints.*

What should do you do if you become aware of systems causing problems? *Contact the Council Office. Your information will be treated confidentially.*

Malcolm Hunter was thanked for his contribution to the meeting.

5.2. Dumping continues to be a problem Trevor Vandenberg mentioned dumping of green material, iron bark, palm trees in middle of Glen Innes Road recently, Alligator Weed has contaminated the intersection of Glen Innes and Nemingah Street and intrudes some 20 metres into bush. Eastslope Way still has an old trailer full of rubbish dumped there, there is still an old BMW on the electricity access road off Gooreengi Road, and rubbish dumping continues off Gunnedah Road approx. 10 metres into bush approx. It is currently 50 metres long and spreading.

6. Next: 50 year Celebration Function to be held on 20 August 2017 at 2.30pm. All members will receive an official invitation. Please RSVP to nacra@northarmcove.nsw.au for catering purposes or call Kath on 4997 3341. If you are able to assist with setting up, making sandwiches from 12.30pm or bringing a plate of food, please see Kath. This function will be in lieu of our regular August meeting.

Moved: Janine Reid

Seconded: Len Yearsley

Carried

That the AGM be moved to 14 October 2017 so August meeting can be the 50 year celebration.

AGM: 14 October 2017 at 10am

7. Closure: 12.05 pm