

North Arm Cove Residents Association: Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 14 October 2017 at 10:00 am at the Community Hall
MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies 12 members and 1 non-member were present. There were 6 apologies.

2. Minutes

Moved: Gary Sylvaney	Seconded: Len Yearsley	Carried
That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 13 August 2016 be confirmed		

2.1. Business arising from the 2016 AGM. - nil

3. Reports

3.1. Treasurer's Annual Report

Annual Report from 1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017		
Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	675.22	536.06
NACRA	4281.58	3653.24
Proj Stronger Comm.	0.00	19938.01
Website cost provision	119.50	119.50
	5076.30	24246.81
Beyond Bank	5076.3	24246.81
Total	5076.30	24246.81
Plus Income to 30 Jun		
Donations	300.00	
NSW B.Boating Grant	34212.40	
Stronger Comm Grant	47940.00	
Interest	285.38	
Member subscriptions	920.00	
Product sale	960.00	
Website Sponsorship	635.00	
Total Income	85252.78	
Less Expenditure to 30 Jun		
Fair Trading	54.00	
NSW B.Boating Projects	34289.40	
Stronger Comm Proj	28001.99	
Hall Hire	85.00	
Insurance	596.89	
Project	2033.95	
Social function	208.88	
Gen. exp. Fame Cove	139.16	
Gen. expense NACRA	673.00	
Total Expenditure	66082.27	
Closing Balance	=	24246.81
Financial members	=	69

Moved: Kath Kohlhoff	Seconded: Pat Brennan	Carried
That the Treasurer's Annual Report be accepted and submitted to Fair Trading.		

3.2. President's Report for the year 2016/17

This past year has marked a significant milestone in the history of our village.

In August we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of our Association with the publication of the Book about the Cove and a well-attended function. We were of course celebrating 50 years of community achievement - and the attainments of this past year, our Association's 50th, are themselves a wonderful illustration of what can be achieved when members of a community like ours are prepared to work as one.

Amongst this year's achievements:

1. We were successful in gaining a sizable Stronger Communities grant from MidCoast Council leading to the opening of our new park, Yallarwah, in August;

2. After three years of bureaucratic struggle, the Dinghy Launching Ramps at Casuarina and Water Street Reserves were finally installed earlier this year; and
3. The work on landscaping Casuarina Park has transformed it into a much more welcoming place.

Of course even the best efforts of the Association do not always bear fruit.

Around 3 years ago, multiple Association submissions, both written and in-person, led to our need for a boat ramp and jetty being formally recognised by the RMS and Government. That small glimmer of hope was seemingly snuffed out in June this year when Council rejected even the possibility of a boat ramp within the village area. Pressure must continue to be applied to Council to come up with a solution.

We were less surprised though when our application for a grant for a barbecue in Casuarina Reserve was unsuccessful in late 2016. We knew the cost of electrical connection that Council quoted us at the last moment was exorbitant. However that grant application has been resubmitted this year as staff on the merged Council were happy to approve the use of a gas-fired barbecue instead.

There is an ongoing struggle getting Council to respond to local concerns and sometimes even to implement works that were allocated funding several years ago. One such example is the construction and sealing of The Esplanade East which received federal funding way back in 2014.

Setbacks and rejections do not deter this Association from seeking to fulfil the needs of our village community. And there are always new challenges and new projects for it to address. Experience has taught us, that waiting for Council to act is not a productive use of our time, energy and resources.

The Association has just submitted an application for some solar lighting around the Community Precinct. As this Federal Government Stronger Communities grant requires a dollar-for-dollar contribution from the applicants, we are delighted to have been joined by the S355 Hall Committee and the Tennis Club in supporting this proposed venture.

I called this project “Light up our heart” because its purpose is to provide lighting for people, our community members, to move safely to and from functions and gatherings. The focus is, as it should be, shining the light on the needs of our community.

As I wrote in last year's successful “Give us a heart” application “Our village's true heart is found in the generosity, empathy and community spirit of its inhabitants”.

And it is those many generous, empathetic and community-minded people that I now need to thank.

Firstly a big thank you to the most important people to this Association – our members. Thank you for being willing to put your hands in your pockets year-after-year to pay the annual membership fee. Without you, our Association would not survive. Our ten dollar payment may be considered by some to be insignificant, but its symbolism of commitment to our community is huge. And collectively those fees are needed to help pay the insurance, hall hire and government fees.

Fortunately we also have some businesses from Tea Gardens, Karuah and beyond who are willing to sponsor our website and support our community. They deserve our gratitude because their contributions cover the remainder of our annual costs as well as provide some funds towards local projects.

We, as members, need to do our best to persuade those local community members who have not yet signed up, that their village needs them. When it comes time to argue on behalf of our village, there is most certainly strength in numbers.

Thank you too to those many people who volunteered their time to assist at our various working bees and in individual efforts to support community initiatives.

Our Friends of Casuarina: Gary, Pat, Pattie, Tony and Bill - ably assisted by David Read and his team - have laboured hard in Casuarina Park. We should follow this successful model and form similar “Friends” groups for Heros Reserve and Yallarwah. We also need a larger pool of volunteers for mowing, trimming and weeding. The more volunteers, the easier those tasks become.

Thank you to the YESS committee which has put forward \$1000 towards exercise stations in Yallarwah – once again David Read is adding in his own contribution towards this welcome initiative.

We are heavily indebted to David who has contributed in a big way to almost every Cove project. He has forgiven me, I think, for ringing him at unsociable hours and for giving him an hour's notice when I needed urgent quotations for grant applications. David has also been an inspiration to his team who in turn have put their heart and soul into the work they have done for our community.

Thank you to Robert who earlier this year took over from Tony the local responsibilities for Clean up Australia Day and to all of those volunteers who turned up to assist on that rainy day or at other times during the year.

I have often been critical of Council and government departments, but I should record that there are also some Council and RMS staff who have been very supportive of our Community and a pleasure to deal with.

Our local MP, Kate Washington has always been both a willing listener and an active advocate on our behalf.

It is just over three years since I took on the role of President and, as most of you are already aware, I have decided it is now time for me to step back from that role. I need a break, but my belief in this Village and this Association is not diminished.

Throughout my time as President, I have had the support of an excellent executive committee. Our secretary Susan and treasurer Kath have worked hard on behalf of our Cove community as have committee members Tony, Gary and Bill. Bill was co-opted to that role when Maureen stepped down late in 2016. I take this opportunity to thank Maureen for her previous committee contributions as well as her on-going support of the Association through Cove News.

The remaining member of our Association Executive Committee is our Vice President Len. Len has been a tower of strength to me and has continued to give so much to this community. When it comes to volunteering he is so often the first to put his hand up and the last to leave.

Where to now for our village Association? Our new Council covers 10,000 square kilometres and over 90,000 people. The big population centres around Forster/Tuncurry and Taree lie in its north. The General Manager and four Directors are also based in the north. We are a village of less than 500 people lying right on the council's southern border. We have a set of newly elected Councillors most of whom live up north and know nothing of our needs. Clearly our village needs a strong Association and an effective Executive Committee. If you can put your hand up to contribute, please do.

It has been my privilege to serve as Association President for the past three years but now it is time for me to hand the baton on. I thank you all for your support.

Len Yearsley thanked Doug and Kath for their work for NACRA, ensuring that projects got underway and drawing parts of the community together.

4. Elections (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 committee members)

Doug vacated the chair for Maureen Kelly who declared all positions vacant.

The following people were nominated and those who accepted were elected unopposed:

President – Len Yearsley (Pat Brennan). Len declined the position. Position left vacant.

Vice President – Gary Sylvaney (Doug Kohlhoff, Phil Anderson) - accepted

Secretary – Susan Carter (Doug Kohlhoff, Gary Sylvaney) - accepted

Treasurer – Doug Kohlhoff (Len Yearsley, Kath Kohlhoff) - accepted

Committee members – Trevor Vandenburg (self, Gary Sylvaney) - accepted

Len Yearsley (Doug Kohlhoff, Kath Kohlhoff) – accepted

It was noted that Bill Moller had been nominated as committee member (Susan Carter, Kath Kohlhoff) on 11 September and so was declared elected.

The new Vice President took chair, announced the next AGM would be held on 11 August 2018 and declared the meeting closed at 10.30 am.

Submitted – Susan Carter

Approved as a true and correct record

..... Date

Chair