

**MINUTES OF NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING  
held at the Community Hall at 10.00 am on 14 April 2012**

**MEETING OPENED** at 10.am with Tony Hann as chair and Susan Carter as secretary.

**ATTENDANCE:** 15 members and 8 non-member as per attendance sheets plus committee members: Susan Carter, Peter Freeman, Tony Hann, Louise Harvey

**APOLOGIES:** Len Yearsley, Doug Kohlhoff, Kerryan Griffin, Jim Hunter.

*Firstly my apology for being unable to attend this meeting. I am unexpectedly enjoying a trip overseas from 2 April 2012 till 8 May2012 My reports were prepared 28 March 2012, I'm sure Tony Hann will advise the meeting of any updates. (Len Yearsley)*

**New Members welcomed:** Lloyd and Isobel Bennett, Julie Savage, Craig Jones, Greg McNiff

**Notices of Motion and General Business items raised**

- Amendments to admin procedures (Tony),
- General supply tariffs to the Cove (Deirde)

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** held on 11 February 2012 were distributed and accepted

Moved: John Aaltonen

Seconded: Deirdre McCulloch

**Carried**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** - nil

**CORRESPONDENCE IN**

From	Date	Re	Action
Michael Gallagher, MLC	undated	Invitation to community meetings in Newcastle re development of Hunter Region Action Plan	FILE: Gen Correspondence
Local Community Insurance Services	23 February 2012	Acknowledging payment of public liability policy \$613.21	FILE: Insurance
Kris Koch, GLC	5 March 2012	Public meeting on 20 March 2012 re Council financials	FILE: Gen Correspondence
David Bortfeld	27 March 2012	Copy of advice to GLC re Recreation Boating Strategy	FILE: Boat ramp
David Bortfeld	27 March 2012	Copy of report to GLC re Boat ramp	FILE: Boat ramp

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT**

To/From	Date	Re	Action
Myall Coast Nota/LY	26 February 2012	Article re NAC neglect	FILE Media releases
Maureen Kelly/LY	29 February 2012	Progress report 4746 (BBQ hall) and initial payment of \$7000 to Council for stage 1	FILE: Hall BBQ
Article for Cove News/LY	24 March 2012	Reporting on NACRA meeting of 11 Feb	FILE: Media releases
Dept of Planning NSW/LY	30 March 2012	Revised questions submitted re planning of paper subdivisions	FILE: Subdivision
GLC Public meeting of 19 March/LY	19 March 2012	Questions submitted re paper subdivision	FILE: Subdivision

**Motion that the correspondence be received**

Moved: Peter Chappelow

Seconded: Peter Freeman

**Carried**

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's** – Louise Harvey

<b>Total Balance as of Last Meeting</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,913.74</b>
NACRA	\$	24,080.97
Friends of Fame Cove	\$	823.22
Petty Cash	\$	9.55
<b>Plus</b>		
Member Subscriptions	\$	90.00
Interest	\$	110.93
Website Sponsorship	\$	390.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>590.93</b>
<b>Less</b>		
Hall Hire	\$	47.00
Website Expenses	\$	401.98
Insurance	\$	613.21
Payment of Grant	\$	7,000.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,062.19</b>
<b>New Total for NACRA Including FOFC &amp; Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,442.48</b>
<b>Financial Members</b>		<b>93</b>

**Motion** that the financial report be accepted

Moved: Stephanie Hunter

Seconded: Jan Carter

**Carried**

**Firewise** – submitted by Len

The Firewise sub committee has delivered personally Red Cross REDiPLAN booklets to 14 NAC residents requiring Assisted Evacuation. Some people approached felt they did not want to be involved. Once the list is finalised it will be sent to police, fire brigade and GLC and NACRA will hold a copy. Closer to the next fire season NACRA will ask Red Cross to provide a speaker and distribute Bushfire Survival Plan booklets to all village residences.

The planned NAC burn off will not be considered by RFS till next season unless conditions dramatically change.

**Hall /BBQ Area** - submitted by Len

At the time of writing the builder's contract has been completed. NACRA has made payment for Stage 1, the concrete slab \$7000 and expects to make payment of balance \$ 14000 when invoices are received from GLC. The release of these funds should enable NACRA to complete its contracted obligation to Communities NSW.

There are outstanding issues regarding the power supply to the Hall and its ability to cope with additional demand, the provision of an \$8000 BBQ by GLC and materials for construction of Planter Bins and Seating for which \$1000 has been supplied by GLC. Working Bees to be arranged jointly by Hall Committee and NACRA.

Tony added that power to hall and transformer are adequate. Peter Chappelow asked who pays for power costs of using the BBQ?

Action: Tony Hann to follow up

**Boat ramp and water access** - submitted by Len

David Bortfeld's report to General meeting of GLC on 27 March 2012 made the following recommendation to Council.

1. Not pursue the formation of a formalised boat ramp in NAC within the current community reserves.
2. Commence the design and pursue funding for the establishment of long jetties from Heros Bay and Casuarina Reserve.

3. Ensure provisions, where appropriate, for boat launching facilities in any existing or new development that occurs in the area.
4. Develop a Plan of Management for Heros Bay Reserve dedicating the area for passive recreation, excluding other areas.

At the time of writing I have been unable to contact David Bortfeld to seek clarification regarding the inclusion of a long jetty at Heros Bay in his report as this has not arisen in any consultation with NACRA.

(Note: These recommendations were approved by Council at a General Meeting on 27 March 2012, except the reference to establishment of a long jetty at Heros Bay was dropped.)

Draft Recreational Boating Infrastructure Study: GLC will soon place this study on public exhibition inviting comment. There may be implications for NAC. NACRA Boat Ramp and Water Access Sub Committees to keep watch and report.

Peter Chappelow stated that Medina Bay was the only place where deep water access would allow evacuations.

In response to a question from the floor regarding NACRA's next moves on the boat ramp issue, Tony explained a bit of the history of the many initiatives taken over some 15 years to improve water access in the Cove. This includes extensive work by Brian Dirou, Peter Chappelow and others, community surveys, analysis of six sites, and plans drafted for a ramp at a Hardie site north of Merriwa Boulevard. As we stand, Casuarina Park and Water Street have plans already approved with limited dinghy storage/slipping facilities and Heros Beach is to be the subject of a management plan by the GLC to be developed for improved recreational use. But still no boat ramp. Tony pointed out that if the paper subdivision development was to progress, developers would almost certainly have to provide for boat launching facilities for general public use but this would be a long way down the track.

Tony suggested NACRA invite Walker Corp (Jerry Beasley) to come and indicate what plans they may have for this area.

Action: Len Yearsley

Gerry Kilby said we should use different terminology – that we want *access to the water* for local boats which are mainly 4 to 6 metres, *not a major boat ramp*. And we should look at two sites – one on each side of NAC. Tony said NACRA is unlikely to commit further resources to this project, but if individuals came forward with a good new plan, NACRA would provide support.

Peter Chappelow pointed out that improvements to Water Street have been funded and are currently being carried out and that improvements to Casuarina have been approved.

Motion that NACRA should reply to council motion by noting that, although council has rejected all current proposals, NACRA considers the problem of inadequate water access remains.

Moved: David Crawford

Seconded: Peter Chappelow

**Carried**

Action Tony Hann

**NACRA Five Year Plan** – submitted by Len

In accord with motion received at 11 February NACRA General Meeting, Casuarina Reserve Jetty was promoted to category A.

Motion to include the upgrade of NAC access road as category A was not reasonable at this time as GLC allocates no funds for the reconstruction of Rural Roads. These are usually the subject of State Government Grants. GLC conducts repairs only, and the NAC Access road does not currently appear on GLC reconstruction schedule. Therefore, this becomes a Category B item. This item will continue to be perused with GLC and State Government at every opportunity.

The NACRA Committee has not yet fully resolved the description of categories below and will further refine the detail at a future Executive Meeting. At the moment, the proposal is for the following definitions:

Category **A** are items where

- The Community has expressed a strong interest
- Appropriate approvals are possible
- There is a likelihood that necessary resources (e.g. funding from local or state government, volunteer labour etc.) will be achieved.

Category **B** are items where

- There is strong community support but one or more of the above criteria is not fulfilled

Category **C** items where

- Achievement is a long term possibility

### **Re Paper Subdivision North Arm Cove** – submitted by Len

The NACRA Committee has prepared 26 Questions and Comments which were presented to Planning NSW (David Bird) and the GLC prior to a Public Meeting on 19 March and resubmitted with minor amendments as NACRA submission to Planning NSW 30 March 2012.

A verbal response to the questions has been given by Planning NSW and a written response requested by NACRA after consideration is given and the advertised date for submissions closes.

Contact has also been made with Walker Corp Project Manager who has responded verbally to NACRA questions. They advised they have no immediate plans to seek Rezoning and ReSubdivision. They have conducted some investigations with the Infrastructure Authorities concerned.

They expressed a willingness to discuss the possibility of Beauty Point (part of their land) becoming a boat ramp site but would do so only with GLC involvement. GLC has been advised on 28 March 2012, and we await their response.

Tony added that the State Government is interested in having land developed but Mr Bird said any major development would be difficult to justify at this time. Tony added that 455 lots have recently been put up for sale.

**Website** – Tony reported that although it had crashed twice this week, the website was being well used.

**Admin Report** Tony explained that his notice of motion put at the December General NACRA meeting was to insure that people who would be affected by a NACRA decision be involved in the decision-making.

Motion that the proposal for change within the chairing and running of NACRA meetings be adopted was withdrawn and, after discussion, it was agreed that information about a Notice of Motion be put in the Cove News, the Website, and the Library, and that this process should be given a six months trial before being formally adopted.

### **Fame Cove Development** submitted by Len

The Developers ' (Major Project 09\_0153) Part 3A application submission time lapses on 23 April 2012 and any submission is expected to be with the Minister for Planning by this date. If there is no new submission, the current arrangements lapse. A close watch for any submission is required as a response may be required from NACRA within 30 days of Exhibition by Planning NSW. We note that the Developers Application for a two storey dwelling on the eastern shoreline on a Lot adjacent to the National Park and Marine Park within Fame Cove has been revoked by Planning NSW.

It was suggested that NACRA phone Stuart Withington, Dept of Planning to maintain contact.

Action: Tony Hann

Peter Chappelow said NACRA's action to encourage emails to the Minister etc has been partly responsible for decision to revoke the DA approval.

**Rate increases.** Glen Handford, General Manager of GLC, conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, 20 March 2012 at Tea Gardens to provide feedback to an earlier presentation regarding GLC finances and future rate increases. Tony

reported that GLC had applied to iPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Authority) for a special rate variation way above the 2.8% that State Govt pegged limit to offset an accumulated debt projection of \$5.5 million by 2021. iPART rejected the proposal, but agreed instead to an 8% per annum increase over the next three years. Given the work done already in a services review, in cutting costs and in deferring capital projects, the 8% increase enables Council to operate in the black until 2017/2018, with projections of a deficit of \$1.1m in 2020/2021.

**Clean up OZ** – Tony thanked people who participated and said that there was less rubbish than seen in previous years.

**GENERAL BUSINESS –**

John Sage mentioned a problem of heat with the new BBQ area and Tony said this was a matter for the Hall committee to consider.

Deirdre McCulloch mentioned that some communities had negotiated with energy suppliers for a reduced tariff for the participants in a community. Tony suggested it was a cause worth pursuing. He asked if anyone was interested in following this up. No offer was made. However, it will be tabled at the next NACRA General meeting for discussion.

Action: Tony

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING –9 June 2012**

With no further business, Tony declared the meeting closed at 11.50 am.

SUBMITTED – Susan Carter

Approved as a true and correct record:

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Tony Hann (Chairman)

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Date