

Minutes of NACRA General Meeting, 13th Feb, 2010.

Meeting opened 10,05 am.

Committee Present: L. Yearsley, S.Hunter, L. Harvey, J. Cabban, G. Kilby, M. Nolan, P. Chappelow, S. Gee, B. Dirou.

Previous Minutes: (Tabled).

Business Arising:

1. Fire wardens have agreed to amalgamate with the Firewise Group. The meeting at 2.00pm today will be a general explanation of what the Firewise Group has for the information of all residents who wish to attend. Meetings comprising residents in smaller groups will be conducted throughout the Cove.
2. Insurances – the President explained that the cost of premium works out at over \$100 per meeting. There is a proposal that the Theatre Group be de-incorporated and be incorporated into NACRA in order to share insurance costs. NACRA will also talk to GLC re the impact of such an expense on a small community. NACRA is no longer taking out insurance to protect Committee members as it is not necessary.

Motion on Notice: that the NACRA subscription be increased from \$5.00 per person to \$10.00 per person and \$15.00 per couple. To be voted on at next meeting.

Moved: P. Chappelow, seconded S Gee that previous minutes be accepted. Carried without dissent (CWD).

Treasurers Report: Balance at Dec. Meeting \$4139

Moved: J. Blackbourn, Seconded, S. Gee, that Treasurers report be accepted CWD.

Correspondence: As circulated, with addition of letter from J. Brigden which was distributed at the meeting, and a letter from GLC enclosing Minutes of Dec Sport and Recreation 355 Committee and advising that next meeting to be held on Wed, 10th Feb.

Business Arising: Peter Chappelow is the contact for Clean Up Australia day.

Moved: J. Cabban, seconded M. Nolan that correspondence be accepted. CWD.

Reports:

1. Tennis Court. Peter Chappelow reported that usage of the court has been high, especially during the holiday period. There is still work to be done around the court. Landscaping is being carried out with 120 plants being planted. Still waiting for the RTA to respond re the Shelter Shed.
2. Fame Cove. Peter Chappelow reported that proposals have been submitted for an Eco Resort, 200 building sites, golf course. The trade-off may be that the remainder of the area be given to National Parks.
3. Janine Reid reported that leases in the Cove have been sold to Excel Oysters in Lemon Tree Passage. Pearl, Sydney Rock and Pacific oyster are all being grown off Cove Bvde. The Pearl Oyster industry in Salamander Bay has folded. Janine has records of all leases in North Arm Cove. She has checked oyster production in Port Stephens and also NSW. Total production has

decreased, yet the State Govt. had allocated sites solely for oysters based on a 65% increase in production.

4. Hall Management Committee. Maureen Kelly reported that there had been a break-in at the Hall 2 weeks ago with a window being smashed and locked cupboards being broken into. There will be a Trivia Night on 20th March, cost \$5.00

5. Moved: J. Blackburn, seconded D. Read, that Reports be accepted.

Business arising from Reports: J. Blackburn suggested that a letter go to GLC thanking them for their co-operation with the tennis court and mentioning the usage. Agreed.

General Business.

1. Block of land on corner of Eastslope Way and Water St. has been cleared by Council, however trees are obstructing the fire trail. Council has been notified, also the RFS.

2. Brian Dirou gave the background to the search for a boat ramp site.

A survey done several years ago showed there were 550 boats in the Cove and there has been a significant increase since then, demonstrating a clear need for a ramp. GLC met with NACRA committee and Brian to try and further agreement on a boat ramp site. Brian prepared a conceptual plan for a dinghy stowage area and launching facility at Water St., similar to the one at Tanilba Bay. A Consultant has been appointed by GLC to review all possible sites. David Bortfeld of GLC believes that Water St. is too narrow for a full boat ramp (it is 20m wide). Planning recommendations are for a 15m turning circle and that parking surfaces be turfed not sealed. The storm water system at Water St. is fed by 1.7km. of 900mm drainage which at Water St. narrows down to 400mm. This would need to be addressed. There is a Significant Tree (Fig) that must be preserved, but existing Casuarina and Ironbark trees would need to be removed.

Comment from the floor: The concerns of residents of Water St. need to be considered in any development.

The Chairman thanked Brian for his presentation and introduced **Mr. David Bortfeld**, Manager, Parks and Recreation for GLC as guest speaker.

David commenced by saying that the Walter Burleigh Griffin Plan for North Arm Cove does not reflect the needs of a present-day community. Council took the decision to review all public reserves for suitability to meet a suite of community needs (eg. Dinghy launching and storage, boat ramp, open space, childrens play areas, picnic and BBQ facilities etc.). A consultant has been engaged, (landscape architect) to assess each reserve. No decisions will be made without input from the community, and any proposed development will be put in display for comment and input from the community.

So far, two reserves have been looked at. Water St. is considered too small for a boat ramp as there is an inadequate turning circle for a boat and trailer. It is however an adequate site for dinghy storage and launching facilities. Casuarina Park is another possibility but has many trees and mangroves. Other reserves are currently being reviewed. Beauty Point would be ideal, but is privately owned and it is unlikely that the owner would give it up without a substantial "quid pro quo" from Council. Council will follow up this site with the owner, and the possibility of leasing will also be followed up. David pointed out that there will be certain limitations at all reserves when trying to meet all the needs of the community.

Comments and questions were taken from the meeting:-

Comment _ Heros Beach could be an ideal site for a boat ramp.

David - this reserve has not yet been reviewed, and it is important not to pre-empt anything at this stage as nothing has been decided.

What is the projected timeline for any decisions?

The remainder of the reserves will have been reviewed by October, and suggested usages will be proposed. However with regards the boat ramp, it is expected that it will be at least two years before this development is completed.

Has the boat ramp at Bundabah caused any conflict or complaints in the community.

As far as GLC is concerned this ramp has not caused any problems.

Has a site been chosen for a childrens play area?

The most suitable locations will emerge from the reviews.

Council owns land in the non-urban areas. Is it possible that some of this could be used to meet some of the communities needs?

If the public reserves prove unsuitable for community's suite of needs then this land will be looked at.

The Hall Committee currently has development approval for a pergola and BBQ attached to the Hall. However the construction of the Cultural Annex has impinged on this. Does the DA still hold?

An amended DA can be submitted. If the Tennis Club also requires a BBQ then they would need to show reasons.

Is the community able to put limitations on the usage of a boat ramp? (eg. Restrict hours of use).

It can be managed in any way the community decides. Problem is policing it.

Who is responsible for roads to Beauty Point?

Not GLC. (Privately owned)

The president thanked David for attending, and for his co-operation and his sensitive handling of delicate issues

No further business.

Meeting closed at 11.25am.

DA. 10/4/10

Correspondence 13/2/10 to 10/4/10.

In:

18th Feb. Notice of Port Stephens EcoNetwork General Meeting.

22nd Feb. Letter from Craig Baumann announcing that nominations for Port Stephens Volunteer of the Year Awards had opened, and also that NRMA Insurance Community Grants were open.

March Flyer from GLC requesting volunteers to attend a working bee to help with restoration of Pacific Palms Wetland.

30th Mar. Minutes of Port Stephens EcoNetwork General Meeting held 20th March.

30th Mar. Account from Australia Post for renewal of Post Box - \$84.50.

Out:

Letter to GLC thanking them for their assistance in the construction of the tennis court.