

MINUTES OF NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
held at the Community Hall on Saturday, 12 June 2010 at 10.00am

MEETING OPENED at 10 am

ATTENDANCE: 15 as per attendance sheet including the following committee members:
Len Yearsley, Louise Harvey, Mike Nolan.

APOLOGIES Peter and Sandy Chappellow, Steve and Robyn Gee, Stephanie Hunter,
Julie Cabban

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of meeting held Saturday, April 2010 as circulated were adopted.

Moved: Peter Freeman Seconded: Mick Nolan Carried

CORRESPONDENCE IN and OUT as recorded on Minutes for 10 April 2010

Additional correspondence: From NAC Theatre Group – declining offer of joint insurance.
Motion that Correspondence be received.

Moved: Susan Carter Seconded: Louise Harvey Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT - The balance as at 12 June 2010 is \$3044.60

Moved Mick Nolan Seconded : Umi Freeman Carried

MATTERS ARISING

Firewise – Darren Briggs, RFS officer in charge of Firewise, advised there will be burns offs in August and September along the central part of the Cove and the top end. Before the burn off, all affected residents will be notified by mail and allowed opportunity to respond. Firewise street walks with Darren Briggs have been organised to identify problems as follows:

For North Arm Cove residents: on 24 July at 10 am meeting at Medina Bay

For East Slopes Way residents: on 31 July at 10 am meeting at Casurina Reserve

For Promontory Way residents: on 31 July at 1 pm meeting at Heros Beach.

Len clarified that Firewise groups will **not** be called to assist the RFS fighting fires and he requested secretarial help to type out lists of Firewise group members.

Insurances – Len reminded the meeting of his concern about cost of insurance and explained he had sought clarification from Council and Fair trading. Apparently Council had not realised there was new legislation relieving directors of not-for-profit organisations of financial responsibility. Currently, Council requires NACRA to be insured because it is an incorporated body although there is the possibility that insurance requirements could be waived or like-organisations amalgamated to share costs. Council will probably get back to Len within the month.

Len explained that the last NACRA meeting had agreed to increase subs to \$10 but if insurance decreases then \$5 subs may be sufficient.

Action - the new decision was held over till the August meeting or when Council advice is received.

Boat ramp

Len explained that council had allocated \$4000 for preliminary landscape plans to be drawn up for Water Street and Casurina Reserve. Plans should be available for the next NACRA meeting. Len commented on the following sites:

Water Street - not enough room for turning circles (15 m required) and no room for parking. **Medina Bay** is also too small – 12 m waterfront – and the land across road is not council reserve so not available for parking.

Wide Bay is too small for parking.

Heros Beach will be surveyed to investigate the possibility of a boat ramp and other facilities.

Casurina Park – as Waterways require 30 cm of water under a pontoon, Council will provide a long jetty with a pontoon on the end for dinghy launching and community access to water for fishing etc.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Bundabar Echo Tourism Resort

Pete Freeman provided a summary of the current proposal for the eastern shore of the Cove – attached in Minute Book.

Len added that he thought the \$50 million facility was to be an executive retreat for Chinese dignitaries, not open to the public.

Concerns from the meeting included

- noise (as the development will only be 350 metres from North Arm Cove),
- affect on the oyster leases
- impact on the Karuah Aboriginal community (which must be consulted)
- smell from the sewerage treatment with prevailing winds blowing directly onto NAC.
- lights at night
- water required for fire fighting as well as general use by the facility.
- Setting of a precedent which would allow the development at Beauty Point.

Action people were encouraged to write to the politicians listed. The sub-committee is to be re-activated to follow up.

AGM – Len reminded the meeting that the AGM will be held in August and all positions will be declared vacant. He added that most of the current committee was willing to stand again and others are welcome to nominate.

Old Library - Jim Pegram asked whether the committee had any knowledge of what is happening with the old library. He mentioned a large solar installation had been erected.

Action: Len will inquire of Council.

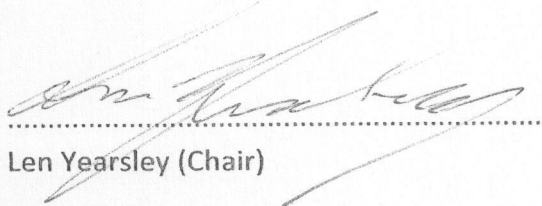
Kangaroos - Kerryan Griffin raised the issue of the number of kangaroos hit recently by vehicles and suggested signs could be put up to warn motorists.

Action: Len volunteered to follow up with the Council Engineer as he is also following up moving the decrease in speed sign before the corner.

MEETING CLOSED at 11.00 am.

SUBMITTED – Susan Carter

Approved as a true and correct record:


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Len Yearsley (Chair)

14/10/2010
.....
Date

NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
INTERIM TREASURERS REPORT
10TH APRIL - 12TH JUNE 2010

TOTAL BALANCE AS OF LAST MEETING 3114.10
FRIENDS OF FAME COVE 868.22

PLUS

INCOME RECEIVED

NAC MAPS

15.00

TOTAL INCOME

LESS EXPENDITURE

P.O. BOX

84.50

TOTAL BAL INCL. FOFC

3044.60

Proposals for Fame Cove and the Eastern shore North Arm Cove

- The 400 hectares running from near Bundabah around to Fame Cove has been the subject of a number of development proposals. The latest one is in the process of being finalised by the current owner, Tea Garden Farms Pty Ltd, a company run by Mr Dong Fang (Phillip) Lee.
- Tea Garden Farms Pty Ltd, acquired the site in 2006 after the previous owner ran into difficulties getting approval for the construction of around 60-70 dwellings.
- In 2007 Tea Garden Farms submitted a development application to Great Lakes Council for the construction of a large dwelling – the size of a small hotel – on the south west headland, along with a range of other buildings scattered over the rest of the site.
- Due to the environmental significance of the site the then Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, intervened. As a result the minister, not the council, now has the power to refuse or approve any future development.
- Last year the owner approached the current Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, seeking permission to lodge an application for a much bigger development, including approval for up to 200 housing sites, an eco-tourist facility (possibly some sort of resort hotel) and 18 hole golf course.
- The current plan is for the houses to be located along the eastern shore of North Arm Cove and the eco resort on the south western headland.
- Mr Kelly granted this permission in late April and the owner is currently in the process of preparing the formal development application.

More information is available on the Department of Planning's website (www.planning.nsw.gov.au). Click on the Development Assessments tab, then on the Major Projects register, and then type the proposal's reference number (09_0153) in the search area. You can also contact the relevant Department of Planning officer, Stuart Withington, on 9228 6546.

The final development application should go on public exhibition for 30 days, although there is no indication of when this might happen. While it should be advertised in the Newcastle Herald some may want to track the progress of the proposal on the website or by contacting Mr Withington.

One way to demonstrate the community's interest in what happens to the site is to write to one or more of the relevant politicians. These include:

- The Hon. Tony Kelly, Minister for Planning, Level 34, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.
- The Hon. Frank Sartor, Minister for the Environment, Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.
- Mr Brad Hazzard, Shadow Minister for Planning, Shop 3, 637-642 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why 2099.
- The Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for Environmental Protection, Heritage and the Arts, PO Box 6022, Parliament House, Canberra 2600.
- Mr Craig Baumann, Member for Port Stephens, PO Box 82, Raymond Terrace, NSW 2324