

NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, 13 June 2015 at the Community Hall commencing at 10:00 am

MINUTES

1. Present: Twenty one members and five non-members including committee members Gary Sylvaney, Susan Carter, Kath and Doug Kohlhoff, Len Yearsley

Apologies: Tony Hann, Pat Brennan, Jim Hunter, Christine Sylvaney

Doug welcomed guest, Kate Washington.

Trish Peters – the passing of Trish Peters was noted with sorrow and her contributions to NACRA as former treasurer/committee member and to the website were acknowledged.

2. Minutes

Moved: Gary Sylvaney	Seconded: Len Yearsley	Carried
That the minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2015 be confirmed		

2.1. Business arising

a) Radio reception

Doug Kohlhoff noted that the correct frequency for ABC1233 on FM is 95.9.

b) Mobile reception

Gary reported on his interactions with Telstra. Telstra have advised Gary that they have no plans to improve mobile coverage for the Cove. To alleviate his own problem Gary acquired a Telstra 9750BT LONG RANGE cordless phone with Bluetooth facility. (Similar phones cost between \$30 and \$120 depending on model.) This allows him to pair up to two mobile phones to the Telstra phone. By locating the mobile phones against the front windows (where a minimal weak signal is available), mobile calls can be made and received via the cordless phone. This is a cheap solution compared to Telstra's offer of a "Smart Antenna" costing around \$730.00.

3. Correspondence

To Jamie Condie re <i>re-install of Village sign/map</i>	11/4/2015
From/to Robert Fish, GLC re <i>install of Village sign/map</i>	14/4/2015
To Glenn Handford, GLC re <i>cleanup</i>	23-25/4/2015
To/from Telstra re <i>their communications during the recent storms</i>	28-30/4/2015
To/From Gerard Tuckerman GLC re <i>Foreshore Erosion</i>	5/5/2015
To/from/to Matthew Taylor, Maritime re <i>Better Boating Grant</i>	7/5/2015
To Ron Hartley GLC cc Len Roberts re <i>Dinghy Ramps project</i>	7/5/2015
From Len Roberts re <i>Dinghy Ramps project</i>	7/5/2015
From/to Andrew Staniland GLC re <i>Dinghy Ramps project</i>	8/5/2015
To Len Roberts re <i>Application to burn off dead vegetation in village</i>	11/5/2015
To Glenn Handford, Clrs McWilliams, Roberts re <i>Boating Now Ramp/Jetty investigation</i>	14/5/2015
From Andrew Staniland GLC re <i>Dinghy Ramps project</i>	4/6/2015

Moved: Kath Kohlhoff	Seconded: Stephanie Hunter	Carried
That Correspondence be accepted.		

4. Reports

4.1. Treasurer's Report

Membership renewals are now being taken. These can be paid by cash, or cheque or direct deposit: Beyond Bank Australia BSB: 805-022 Account No: 38609949 Remember to include your name in the description so we know who has paid.

4.6. Hall Committee Maureen reported that the Trivia night held raised \$4000 for SES. Plans for Christmas in July will go ahead if there is sufficient interest. People need to phone Moira Hooper on 4997 3074. The Hall committee has started collecting items needed to make the hall a place of shelter in a disaster eg emergency kit with battery radio and lights, blankets etc. And from Monday, 15 June arborists are starting work to prepare hall surrounds as an Asset Protection Zone. They have been given permission to have a caravan parked on the Hall site.

4.7. Fame Cove Lisa Schiff will be meeting with the Fame Cove subcommittee later this month. Len reported Council had been approached by a developer – plans may include 4 x 200 bed hotels, golf course, 3000 sq m house on top of hill and access road.

4.8. Aquaculture Janine reported that oyster production improved last year. Many oyster leases were damaged during the April storms. As information about water quality that we receive from the Safe Food Authority is usually about 12 months old, Janine suggested NACRA write requesting more current information be made available. Further, because Janine has kept data since 2002, it will be possible to correlate water quality with rain levels in order to show the role of pollution and bad weather. Janine also suggested NACRA write asking for preliminary results from the University of Newcastle study. Finally, Janine pointed out that the Cove is not safe for swimming for several days after heavy rain.

Moved: Maureen Kelly
That reports be accepted.

Seconded: Gary Sylvaney **Carried**

5. General Business

5.1. Cove issues from Council Community Meeting

After considering report from Government-recommended consultants, both Great Lakes and Gloucester Councils have recommended against a merger.

Rates are being pegged at 2.4% this time but Council are seeking 6.5% for next year then 4.25% for the following three years.

The Esplanade East is still scheduled for sealing in 2015-16 and funds have been allocated towards work on the Stormwater Plan. Ian Cook (RFS) is still hopeful that the two sections of The Esplanade can be linked.

Senior council officers and the Mayor were unaware of the funding allocated in the Boating Now grants towards finding a site for a jetty and boat ramp in the Cove.

5.2. Proliferation of caravans and tents in Village area – Jim Pegram noted the impact on residents and people selling property. Doug pointed out that while people can camp for 60 days a year on non-urban blocks, this is not permitted on urban blocks.

Moved: Jim Pegram

Seconded: Maureen Kelly **Carried**

That a letter be sent to Council requesting action regarding caravans and tents in the Village area.

5.3. Guest Speaker Kate Washington

Kate described her experiences since election day: waiting for polls to be declared; learning about parliamentary procedures; organising the electoral office; and then coping with the storms which hit on the following Monday. She explained that she organised the storm forums because of her concerns that people at risk might have been overlooked. She was able to pass information on to Brigadier Norman who was responsible for reviewing the recovery process.

Kate acknowledged that there was an on-going issue re removal of fallen trees, and said that there were RFS and SES workers available and willing to remove trees but they don't have the authority, insurance or resources to act outside the emergency period. She said the Brigadier was aware of this.

Kate pointed out the needs of primary producers for disaster relief. For example, she said oyster farmers pay for most of testing of water quality but bear the burden resulting from pollution of waterways. They have to continue with testing even when they can't sell oysters.

Kate said the pre-election commitments to infrastructure and roads were to be funded from the sale/lease of poles and wires so, given the sale has now been approved, these should go ahead. However, the \$20m allocated for the Hexham link road would probably only pay for scoping studies.

Addressing what can be achieved when in opposition, Kate noted that she is able to place questions on notice, and that many important issues anyway cross party lines. As an example Kate mentioned her own concern that there are no controls over the use of the term 'surgeon' – eg cosmetic 'surgeons' may be GPs without any surgical training. There is need for policy change.

Further, Kate said she had instructed her staff to monitor the availability of grants and pass the information on to community groups.

Jim Pegram asked who is responsible for damage to foreshores when oyster leases are damaged by storm. Kate noted that oyster farmers are unlikely to have insurance covering this. Doug pointed out that damage came from multiple sources eg some from boats torn from moorings bumping over leases.

There was a discussion about the decrease in property valuations in the Cove which lead to comments about rates and services.

Stephanie Hunter asked whether Kate could offer any tangible assistance re boat ramp. Kate noted the frustration at lack of Council and government response and undertook to contact RMS.

5.4. Committee Vacancy We still have a vacancy on the committee.

6. Next Meeting Note: There will be NO meeting in August.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 10 October 2015 at 10am

7. Closure

Minutes prepared by Susan Carter
Approved as a true and correct record:

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Doug Kohlhoff (Chairperson)

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Date