

# GENERAL MEETING NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Community hall (Library annexe) Saturday 9 August 2014 commencing 10.35am

The minutes are subject to confirmation at the next General Meeting on 11 October 2014.

### Attendance

14 members as per attendance sheet including President Doug Kohlhoff, committee members Len Yearsley, Annette Searle, Kath Kohlhoff and Gary Sylvaney.

### Apologies

Lawrie Searle, Pat Brennan, Jan Carter, Susan Carter, Peter Chappelow, Sandy Chappelow, Tony Hann, Jim Hunter, Cheryl Yearsley.

The meeting opened at 10.35am with an address by incoming President, Doug Kohlhoff

*I want express my appreciation to all of you for your attendance at our meeting today. I want to record my thanks to all of those who turn up to contribute to our meetings throughout the year, those who attend our functions, plus all those who are happy to keep paying their \$10 annual membership.*

*Without this support our association would cease to exist. And that would be a massive loss for our village community. Not just for visible things that can be achieved like parks and facilities; not just for the many representations made to Council and governments on behalf of the community or individual members.*

*The most important role for our Association is us working together to develop:*

- community cohesion and a sense of belonging,
- the shared "ownership" that arises from contributing to our community-initiated projects,
- a collective pride in and care for the local environment and
- a neighbourly community that cares for its fellow members in need of help.

*So what we are really building is a healthy, vibrant, caring and enduring community.*

*And that is certainly something worth volunteering for.*

*I know that when people volunteer to work in the interests of their Community there can sometimes be a few naysayers who are ready to throw brickbats or even question altruistic motives. That can be unsettling and may even deter some people for participating or joining.*

*We have been so lucky in North Arm Cove that our Residents Association has consistently achieved higher membership numbers than similar associations in many much larger communities. We are fortunate too that we have had over the years so many volunteers willing to serve in our Village through this Association.*

*Speaking of volunteers, I would like to thank you Maureen for again acting as Returning Officer. Many of you will know that Maureen was herself a member of the Committee of our Association for many years serving as its Secretary.*

*I was reminded of this as, over this past week, I perused old records of the Association, some dating as far back as 1985. Maureen's name appeared at the bottom of countless letters to Councillors and Parliamentarians amongst others.*

*One thing that struck me in reading these old and fading records was that most of the issues that concerned our little community over twenty years ago sound very much like the same ones that concern us today: Boat ramps, jetties, the need for more land in public ownership, roads, drainage, children's playgrounds, fire risk – all topics still of concern to us now; still appearing on our agendas in 2014.*

*At first glance it might seem therefore that we have achieved little for this community over the past two decades but that would be so wrong. It is true that there are some big items that we have yet to achieve - like an all-tides boat ramp and jetty. But even on these items we are at last getting some serious consideration.*

*At this point I want to specifically acknowledge the achievements of the past two years under the stewardship of our retiring president Stephanie Hunter. Thank you Stephanie for all the hard work you put into the role. I do hope you realise now that all that stress and exhaustion, and all those tears, have paid real dividends for this community.*

*Stephanie's leadership has seen a number of important achievements ticked off our wish list and the seeds have been successfully sown for others. Stephanie tactfully, yet successfully, dealt with Councillors, MPs and Council staff in the interest of our Community. Our Village has a lot to thank her for.*

*I am a reluctant recruit to this position. In my time on the Committee, I have seen the workload and achievements of Stephanie and before her Len Yearsley and cannot hope to match them. Plus, as a chairperson you will find I am seriously flawed. I must beg your forgiveness in advance. I have a real problem recalling people's names even having known them for years and sometimes I can't see past the end of my nose. But with your help and prompting I am sure this year can become yet another successful one for our Association.*

### Minutes of last General Meeting held 14 June, 2014

*Moved Stephanie Hunter that minutes of the last meeting be accepted. Seconded Gary Sylvaney.*

*Carried.*

### Business arising from last General Meeting

Kath Kohlhoff asked whether there had been any response from Community Neighbour Initiative and Stephanie Hunter replied that only one response had been received. Doug Kohlhoff suggested we need to put some

feelers out around the community. Len Yearsley said we could use the old Firewise list as a starter. David Paulette said that people might be reluctant to ask for help and a doorknock might be warranted and Len replied that this has been done previously. The Committee will review the old list and look at new approaches.

### 1. Motions on Notice

Nil

### 2. Correspondence

#### General:

#### Council/Local Government:

24/6/14 To Andrew Staniland and Steve Howard re CBP grant  
 27/6/14 To GLC re Street signage  
 17/7/14 To Jamie Condie re village map pullover area  
 17/7/14 From Andrew Staniland re picnic settings for CBPP  
 19/7/14 From Len Roberts attaching Regional Boating Plan  
 19/7/14 To Andrew Braybrook GLC queries regarding Community Hall policy and practice in relation to insurance.  
 26/7/14 From Andrew Braybrook GLC in response to the above  
 22/7/14 From David Surplice Transport NSW re Hunter Regional Boating Plan  
 4/8/14 To NAC Rural Fire Service re Uralla Street sign  
 4/8/14 To Community Building Partnerships re extension for waterfront amenities project.

*Moved Stephanie Hunter that correspondence be accepted. Seconded Kerryan Griffin. Carried.*

### 3. REPORTS

#### 3.1 Treasurer

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>		
<b>from 1/6/2014 to 31/7/2014</b>		
<b>Balances</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>Closing</b>
Friends of Fame Cove	750.22	725.22
NACRA	4413.84	4435.46
Proj Garden Tank	952.00	752.00
Proj Map Sign	1157.95	315.90
Proj Waterfront Amen	10579.00	10579.00
Website cost provision	86.50	86.50
	<b>17939.51</b>	<b>16894.08</b>
Beyond Bank	17939.51	16874.08
Undeposited Funds	0	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17939.51</b>	<b>16894.08</b>
<b>Plus Income to 31 Jul</b>		
Interest	18.60	
Member subscriptions	40.00	
Website Sponsorship	50.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>108.60</b>	
<b>Less Expenditure to 31 Jul</b>		
NSW CBP Grant	200.00	
GLCouncil Grant	842.05	
Gen. exp. Fame Cove	25.00	
Gen. expense NACRA	86.98	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1154.03</b>	
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>16894.08</b>
<b>Financial members</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>79</b>

*Moved Kath Kohlhoff that Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded Annette Searle. Carried*

#### 3.2 Social Club

Nothing to report.

#### 3.3 Website

Discussion to be held on future of website. Tony Hann is away at present but when he returns the committee

will put together some plans to hopefully boost website usage.

#### **4. OTHER REPORTS:**

##### **4.1 Firewise**

Annette Searle referred to the hazard reduction notice sent out almost a week after the burn-off had been done. Stephanie Hunter said this information should have been put on the noticeboard in advance. Stephanie suggested a letter should go to the RFS pointing out that residents need to know about burn offs in advance and that a notice be put on the board. Doug Kohlhoff proposed that they should also be thanked for the hazard reduction work done to date as steady progress is being made. David Paulette suggested we get Mark Lewis to come to a meeting and give an overview of hazard reduction. There is a map of planned hazard reduction work on the community hall noticeboard. Kath Kohlhoff also suggested a donation of \$100 from NACRA to the local fire brigade. Len also pointed out you can donate by becoming a paid member without being a volunteer. Jim Pegram suggested fire station have a sign up when hazard reduction is taking place. The Brigade should also be made aware that NAC website is available to them for passing on information to the community and that messages could be sent to registered users.

*Moved: That the local RFS Brigade be thanked for the excellent hazard reduction work they are undertaking, that the Resident's Association make a donation of \$100.00 to the Brigade and that we ask the Brigade if it could look at ways in which residents can be alerted when hazard reductions are planned or about to begin. Carried unanimously.*

##### **4.2 Road Map – pullover area**

Jamie Condie advised workmen have been tied up at Pindimar but pullover area will be completed as soon as possible.

Gary Sylvaney noted that people turning off at Uralla Street will not see the map and queried its current placement. Stephanie Hunter advised that Council chose this spot and had ruled out our suggested alternative placements prior to Uralla considering these too dangerous. Stephanie said an information (i) sign to be placed in some distance in advance of the road map.

Jamie Condie also advised he does not require the remaining grant money for the pullover area and suggested these funds could be put to good use elsewhere. Stephanie approached GLC and the General manager has given approval for these funds to be used to put up signs at Water Street and Casuarina.

##### **4.3 Grant applications**

Nothing to report

##### **4.4 Boat ramp and water access.**

“Transport for NSW” has produced a consultation draft Regional Boating Plan for Port Stephens – Hunter Region accessible from the maritime.nsw.gov.au website. The draft Plan shows a reasonable grasp of and some sympathy towards North Arm Cove's needs. The Committee has already responded to an earlier version of this draft Plan and some small amendments (with some errors) were made as a result. An information evening will be held in Nelsons Bay Bowling & Rec Club on 12<sup>th</sup> August 6-7pm and any (further) responses would be required by 24 August. The report is quite positive for North Arm Cove. NAC and Tahlee are identified as areas lacking in boating facilities. The Minister stated at a boating show recently that the government was to put \$14 million towards addressing deficiencies in the boating plan and they will be working with Councils on this. Doug Kohlhoff advised reports are available online.

##### **4.5 Heros Beach**

Council advise they have no funds for infrastructure work and would not support a grant application until this was done, so this project is on hold. Ralf Schirk asked whether NACRA can advise their position on meetings with local members and Council and Doug advised that we have spoken with Craig Baumann about these issues and will keep in touch. North Arm Cove has done well out of the local allocation. We have also taken the Federal Member to Heros Beach and other village waterfront areas to show him the problems, however he referred these issues back to Craig Baumann. Both Bob Baldwin and Craig Baumann both have a positive attitude to North Arm Cove, but funds will have to come from State Govt or Council. Doug has also spoken to Andrew Staniland and he feels that the community grant is not sufficient to do the work at Heros.

##### **4.6 Hall Committee**

The Hall committee has some funds to put towards children's play facilities. The current proposal from council is to put them near the tennis court, and reclaim some parking area by removing a tree. Proposal is for two swings and a slippery dip.

##### **4.7 Community Garden Network**

Dave Read has dug irrigation ditches and irrigation pipes are installed. Still \$750 grant money remaining.

**4.8 Fame Cove**

Council has prepared a full summary of approved site work, however Lisa Schiff advised there is no progress at present as the owner is currently in China.

**4.9 Aquaculture – OISAS**

Nothing to report at present.

**4.10 Waterfront Amenities Project (Water Street & Casuarina)**

Outdoor picnic settings/seating and kayak racks for Casuarina/Water Street have been ordered and David Read has quoted for their installation. This work will consume all available grant funds plus will require a contribution from the Residents Association and from Council. (A contribution of around \$1000 from the Association was proposed as part of the original grant application.) Stephanie, Doug and Len met with Andrew Staniland recently re plans and latest news is that the work on dinghy ramps will be progressed quickly to meet the grant deadline.

*Moved: Kath Kohlhoff that the Association pay \$1000 towards this work on the Waterfront Amenities Project. Seconded Stephanie Hunter, carried.*

**4.11 Street signs**

Great Lakes Council and the RTA have been contacted re relevant street signage. Wade Holmes at GLC advised he has initiated action on the signage. This includes street numbers for Eastslope Way and speed limit signage at the entrance to Cove Boulevard. No response as yet from RTA

**5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5.1 Community Neighbour Initiative**

A formal note about this was distributed throughout the community enclosed in Cove News. Thanks to Jim Parnell for arranging printing.

Meeting closed at 11.30am

**Next Meeting**

Next General Meeting 10.00am Saturday 11 October 2014

Minutes prepared by Annette Searle  
Approved as a true and correct record:

.....  
Doug Kohlhoff (President)

.....  
Date