

**NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 8 February 2014 at the Community Hall commencing 10.06 am**

Stephanie Hunter opened the meeting at 10.06am and welcomed all present.

Present: Fourteen members including committee members Stephanie Hunter (Chair), Doug Kohlhoff, Kath Kohlhoff, Len Yearsley, Annette Searle

Apologies: Lawrie Searle, Susan Carter, Maureen Kelly, and Cheryl Yearsley

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2013 have been published.

Moved Doug Kohlhoff that minutes of last meeting be accepted. Seconded Len Yearsley. Carried.

Business arising from General Meeting 14/12/2013

Nil

1. Motions on Notice

Nil

2. Correspondence

General:

4/12/13	Letter of resignation from Executive Committee member, Barry Young
12/12/13	Letter from Craig Baumann re proposed changes to NSW Planning Legislation
20/12/14	Letter from Roads & Maritime approving BBP Grant of \$31,375
15/1/14	From NSW Office of Communities, remittance advice for \$5,200 tank grant
30/1/14	From Roads & Maritime Service, BBP Conditions of Grant
9/12/14	To Craig Baumann, thank you email re Garden Club Grant approval
Jan 14	From Barry O'Farrell re NSW Community Cabinet visit.
Jan 14	To NSW Dept. of Premier and Cabinet: Request forms for above Community Cabinet visit.
31/1/14	From Maria Pickles to NACRA re quotations for water tank

Great Lakes Council:

13/12/13	Email to Joan & Col Williams re stormwater and meeting with Glenn Handford, GLC.
13/12/13	Email to Steve Gee re stormwater issue advising of meeting with Glenn Handford, GLC
14/12/13	Letter from Joan & Col Williams re stormwater damage and issues with Council.
14/12/13	Copy of letter to Ron Hartley, GLC from Col Williams re stormwater damage.
16/12/13	From Duncan Gay GLC advising approval of funding for BBP of \$31,375
17/12/13	Email from Doug Kohlhoff to Lisa Smith, GLC re Waterfront Amenities Grant progress and her reply.
19/12/13	Email from Doug Kohlhoff to Lisa Smith enclosing pics of work in progress
19/12/13	Email from Doug Kohlhoff to Lisa Smith re grant extension and her reply.
24/12/13	Email from Lisa Smith confirming grant extension deadline to 31/8/14
19/1/14	From Tony Hann and Len Yearsley to GLC re Fame Cove development Jetty Stairs and Boardwalk
Jan 14	To GLC Acceptance of CBBP grant and invoice
Jan 14	To GLC Acceptance of BBP grant
18/1/14	Email from Stephanie Hunter to Glenn Handford re street widening and tree removal.
Jan 14	Reply from Glenn Handford re above, has been passed to relevant section.
Jan 14	Email from Lisa Smith GLC re approval of Water Tank Grant.
4/2/14	Email from Stephanie Hunter to Glenn Handford GLC re progress report for General Meeting
Feb 14	Replies from Glenn Handford re progress report (x2)

Moved Annette Searle that correspondence be accepted. Seconded Pat Brennan. Carried.

Reports

3.1 Treasurer

Treasurer's Report		
from 1/12/2013 to 31/1/2014		
Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	750.22	750.22
NACRA	4595.80	4359.13
Proj Garden Tank	0.00	5200.00
Proj Map Sign	2000.00	2000.00
Proj Waterfront Amen	17025.00	10579.00
Website cost provision	95.00	86.50
	24466.02	22974.85
Beyond Bank	24513.62	23020.75
Unpresented Cheques	-69.6	-45.90
Undeposited Funds	22	0.00
Total	24466.02	22974.85
Plus Income to 31 Jan		
NSW CBP Grant	5200.00	
Interest	32.57	
Member subscriptions	40.00	
Total Income	5272.57	
Less Expenditure to 31 Jan		
NSW CBP Grant	6446.00	
Social function	98.55	
Website fees	148.50	
Gen. expense NACRA	70.69	
Total Expenditure	6763.74	
Closing Balance	=	22974.85
Financial members	=	75

Invoice for insurance received for \$630.26. Kath Kohlhoff to write to Glenn Handford and follow up on whether Council can assist with this.

Moved Kath Kohlhoff that the Treasurers report be accepted. Seconded Tony Hann. Carried.

3.2 Social Club

With the Executive Committee down to five members, it has been decided to suspend regular social functions and consider holding one large event later in the year to raise funds for a specific purpose.

3.3 Website

A major system upgrade has been carried out, but this has necessitated further work still to be done.

4. Other Reports

4.1 Firewise

No response to advertisement in Cove News to people who don't have booklets.

4.2 Grants

Garden Grant: Money has been deposited in our account. Maria Pickles has ordered the tank.

BBP grant. Paperwork has been completed. Funds will be provided as work is undertaken.

4.3 Status of road map

Stephanie Hunter has contacted Glenn Handford re progress, but there is nothing to report as yet. Installation of the map needs to be finalised by the end of February, so Stephanie will continue to pursue GLC for completion. Richard Old, who was our previous contact, has resigned. Tony Hann questioned why Council are so slow and Stephanie replied that the State Government is passing more and more projects on to local government to implement but not providing additional funds or staff. This has increased Council workload considerably.

4.4 Grant applications

There may be a need to apply for supplementary funds for current major projects. Options to be kept open for other grants as they become available.

4.5 Boat ramp and water access

Dinghy racks at Casuarina and Water Street have been installed and are in use. David Reid is making up signboards for the racks advising they are free to use. Dinghy owners have been advised they have until 28 February 2014 to get dinghies up off the ground. Parking is now an issue at Water Street and signage is required to prevent illegal parking. Stephanie has requested metal signs from Andrew Stanilands, GLC. Andrew is also organising a surveyor to determine whether a small turning circle can be made and some additional parking provided. Stephanie Hunter to

put laminated signs up in the interim.

Doug Kohlhoff suggested phone number be written on the boats so owners can be contacted during the erection of the dinghy ramp. Doug also mentioned that all boat racks are in use at Water Street and the installation of Kayak racks may be a possibility.

The CBP grant has been extended so any landscaping etc. can be left until last in case of damage to plants by truck movements.

More formal plans for the ramp are to be drawn up so they can be submitted to other authorities (Marine Parks, Fisheries etc) for approval.

Tony Hann asked if there was any feedback from the community re work at Water Street and Casuarina. Stephanie replied that one resident very pleased and was happy to mow the area. However, another resident was most unhappy that Council had not contacted him re work to be done.

Jim Pegram asked if racks are allocated to particular owners and Stephanie replied that at present they are not, however this could become an issue later on. Other Councils deal with this by charging a small rental fee to provide ownership of the rack. If problems do arise, NACRA will take it up with Council, who will then need to formalise this.

The committee have been trying to establish ownership of a wrecked dinghy currently on site. Pat Brennan suggested that a notice be put on the dinghy requesting its removal. Tony Hann is to organise this.

Medina Bay surveys are complete and costings underway for Civil Works. Although progress is slow, it is happening.

4.6 Stormwater/Drainage

Drainage strategy is not completed yet. A Survey was done just prior to Christmas and NACRA is waiting on the draft report. This will be put on public exhibition for comment.

4.7 Heros Beach

Nothing at present. This item is on the agenda for the GLC February council meeting. Will await results.

4.8 Hall Committee

Nothing to report

4.9 Community Garden Network

Water Tank Grant approved for \$5,200.

4.10 Fame Cove

Len Yearsley advised on Public Meeting with Lisa Schiff at GLC where stage one of a five-stage development schedule was presented. The meeting was well represented by residents from North Arm Cove, Bundabah and Pindimar. Council are keeping NACRA well informed on progress of this project. Planning schedule is to be published on the website and open for comment.

Len advised the 200 lot subdivision will not be included and is now a 40/60 unit eco-tourist resort development (details on NAC website). Next step is to go to the State Government for Gateway Approval.

A proposal has been submitted to for a large jetty to take 100ft. boat at Fame Cove. North Arm Cove residents have raised objections, as the proposed site is unsuitable for weather exposure. In his letter of objection, Tony Hann requested that Council review this DA and suggested the jetty could perhaps be moved to North Arm Cove and the Cove dredged accordingly.

4.11 Aquaculture – OISAS report - Janine Reid

We have had no further news about the review of the OISAS. Twenty submissions were received, ten from North arm Cove. Thank you to everyone who took the time to write. We are not expecting a speedy reply to the review and North Arm Cove was lucky to be informed and have their say. Other communities were not so fortunate.

We were told in November that the southern end of OL86/140 would be rebuilt and worked from February. There had been no activity at least until the end of January. One oyster farmer is re-establishing his lease, located in the vicinity of Number 70 Cove Boulevard.

Several rows of oysters in lease OL86/140 were removed in October. We have noticed a firming of the mud over summer. We have been wading out into the mud every summer since 1987. This is the first time that my 80kg husband has not sunk to his knees. It seems a strange coincidence that the mud appears firmer

just after some of the oyster racks have been removed. There has also been some erosion visible at low tide with a sandy bar building up a bit closer to shore. The erosion has exposed some old oyster posts. I suspect that full removal of the racks would result in more changes, probably for the better.

Port Stephens oysters have been in the news. Oyster farmers have reported losses of millions of Pacific oysters, nearly the entire production. There is no clear evidence of a transmissible disease. All tests were negative for POMS (Pacific oyster mortality syndrome). Fisheries do not believe that environmental factors were the cause, but the problem is still under investigation. This is a serious blow for the Port Stephens oyster industry. Although we are opposed to the oyster leases off the residential area of North Arm Cove, it is in the best interests of the whole community to have a sustainable and profitable industry.

There has been a new book release about the oyster industry. It is called "Oysterman" by John (Stinker) Clarke. It has some very good photos of North Arm Cove taken about 40 years ago. It details the history of the oyster industry in NSW with a substantial part of the book covering the pioneering families in Port Stephens. It is a good book for your coffee table and can be purchased at the newsagent in Tea Gardens. I would recommend a copy for our library.

Water quality continues to be an issue with oyster farmers. Janine is aware of at least two houses with pump-outs on the water that are not being emptied. Tony Hann noted that Port Stephens Estuary committee are going to start monitoring e-coli levels in the Cove and that pump outs will come under much greater scrutiny. Stephanie Hunter suggested that NACRA write to GLC re this problem inviting them to come out and do an inspection. If the problem persists, Stephanie warned that mandatory council pump-outs could be on the cards.

Tony Hann has been in touch with group in Maitland who supply water testing kits free of charge if we are interested in doing it for ourselves.

It was decided that Stephanie Hunter should write to Council on this issue, advising of possible breaches and requesting that they be investigated.

Stephanie Hunter moved that reports be accepted. Seconded Kath Kohlhoff. Carried.

5. General Business

5.1 Response from Glenn Handford following meeting.

Stephanie Hunter has not heard from Glenn on all points raised and will follow up.

5.2 Cabinet invitation.

Stephanie Hunter received a letter from Barry O'Farrell offering the opportunity to address a Minister for 10 minutes. At a meeting with the Hall Committee, it was decided to raise the issue of fire safety. The submission was made, but there has been no response so it is presumed that North Arm Cove will not be offered an appointment with the relevant Minister. Doug Kohlhoff suggested we approach Craig Baumann for a meeting on the issue of Fire Safety.

5.3 Guest speakers

Stephanie Hunter asked for suggestions for guest speakers at the General Meetings. Doug Kohlhoff suggested the local member and Annette Searle suggested a health professional.

5.4 Clean up Australia

Tony Hann reminded the meeting about Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 2 March. Clean up volunteers to meet near Tennis Court at 8am. Bring a hat, gloves, fly spray and a trailer if you have one.

5.5 NOTA newspaper

Ralph Schirk advised that he and Angelique can no longer pick up the NOTA newspaper and asked if anyone else would be interested. Jim Pegram kindly volunteered. Stephanie Hunter thanked Ralph and Angelique for providing this service and Jim for offering to continue it.

Meeting closed at 11.10am. Next General Meeting Saturday 5 April, 2014

Submitted: Annette Searle

Approved as a true and correct record

Stephanie Hunter (Chairman)

Date