

Minutes of the NORTH ARM COVE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
held at the Community Hall on 13 April, 2013 at 10am.

1. Welcome: Stephanie Hunter opened the meeting at 10.03am.
 - 1.1 **Present:** 15 members and 2 non-members including committee members Stephanie Hunter, Tony Hann, Kath Kohlhoff, Doug Kohlhoff, Annette Searle
 - 1.2 **Apologies:** Len Yearsley, Sandy Chappelow, Barry Young, Lawrie Searle, Maria Pickles.
 - 1.3 **Minutes** of General Meeting held on 9 February 2013 have been published

Moved Tony Hann, seconded: Deirdre McCulloch that the minutes of the meeting of 19/2/13 be confirmed. Carried

1.1 Business Arising
No business arising .

2. **Motions on Notice**
Nil

3. **Correspondence**

Great Lakes Council

24/2/13 To Glen Handford GLC re pump-out trucks
25/2/13 To Glen Handford GLC re roads and drainage
13/2/13 To General Manager GLC re Fame Cove Project

Storm Damage

8/3/13 From Col Williams re storm damage
19/3/13 To Col Williams re storm damage
10/3/13 To Jamie Condie GLC re storm damage

Invitations

February 13 From Catchment Management Authority re Marine Discovery Series and Project Aware

Email correspondence

March 13 to sponsors/prospective sponsors for renewal of website advertising
March 13 various to Wade Holmes GLC re road map and signage for North Arm Cove
March 13 various from Wade Holmes GLC in response
Mach 13 various to Jamie Condie re Col Williams storm damage
March 13 various to Col and Joan Williams

3.1 Business arising from correspondence:

Late correspondence – email from Premiers Department that grant for \$25,000 approved.
Doug Kohlhoff explained that this would provide for around 15 dinghy racks at Water Street and eight at Casuarina plus seating, landscaping and restitution of the area. The grant will need to be supplemented and Council will contribute by supervising the project. The community will also assist where possible. Quotes have already been obtained for this work and designs sourced for the racks.

Meeting with Glen Handford and Lisa Schiff – response now to hand. Many of the issues have still not been addressed and are awaiting Council feedback.

Letter from Bob Baldwin advising that Volunteer Grants programs now available for applications. NACRA to see if there is any criteria applicable for a grant.

Letter to Glen Handford re Roads and Drain damage, result of last meeting where people submitted their issues, which were then reported to the Council. After the storm Council spent some time here. It is obvious drainage system totally inadequate and letter sent to Glen Handford accordingly. Received reply

from Ron Hartley who advised Council in process of seeing how they can allocate funding for drainage work for North Arm Cove. They recognise the pressing need however likely to be very expensive due to surface rock in North Arm Cove.

Moved Doug Kohlhoff, seconded Maureen Kelly that correspondence be accepted. Carried.

Deirdre responded that Council was very responsive after the storm. A motion was moved that a letter go to Council thanking them for their quick response in carrying out repairs after the storm damage.

Moved Pat Brennan, seconded Peter Chappelow that a letter go to council thanking them for their response. Carried.

Stephanie suggests any future roads and drainage problems are directed to Jamie Condie at Tea Gardens rather than direct to GLC.

4. Reports

4.1 Treasurer

NACRA Income	To 31 Mar
Member subscriptions	60.00
Website sponsorship	670.00
Donations	5.00
Maps	45.00
Council Grant	2000.00
Interest	4.31
Total Income	2784.31

Expenditure	To 31 Mar
Insurance	621.46
Stationery	29.00
Social events	97.14
Total Expend.	747.60

Balances	As at 31 Jan	To 31 Mar
NACRA	3274.36	5311.07
Friends of Fame Cove	775.22	775.22
Petty Cash		
Total	4049.58	6086.29
Credit Union	4104.55	5793.40
Awaiting deposit	10	435.00
Less unres chqs	-64.97	-142.11
Total	4049.58	6086.29

66 financial members at 31 Mar 2013
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a) Insurance: Susan Carter queried whether we had contacted Council re better Public Liability Insurance rates through a community-based approach. Kath Kohlhoff stated that the present rates were the best NACRA could get. Andrew Braybrook GLC is still to respond to NACRA's queries re public liability coverage.

b) Membership Fees: Kath Kohlhoff reported that the cost of each General Meeting is \$119.75 and to recoup some of these costs, non-members will be asked to contribute a gold coin donation. In relation to membership fees, as the financial year ends 30 June, people joining after the beginning of April only have two meetings before this date and as from this April, will be charged \$15 to cover their membership for the current year and the following financial year.

Moved Kath Kohlhoff, seconded Pat Brennan that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

4.2 Hall Committee

a) Introductory event held for Pizza oven on Friday 11th April which was very successful BBQ now has power with isolating switch until transformer is upgraded.

b) Public toilet grant soon to expire, but has been extended. Council in discussion with Tennis Group as to location of toilet, which ideally will be near tennis court. Some concern as to who will be responsible for cleaning the toilets.

c) July event will be the annual "Christmas in July"

d) **September event** will be an international food night, starting with Mexican. This will be a regular event featuring different cuisines.

e) **No Cove news** for May as Maureen Kelly on leave.

Moved Deirdre McCulloch, seconded Kath Kohlhoff that the report be accepted. Carried.

4.3 Firewise

a) **Burn off:** RFS Inspector Darren Briggs advises all preparation for the burn off to the north and west of the village are completed and approved for the brigade to commence when ready and conditions suitable. May 4 has been set aside for first burn off. Three areas involved: North of village past old library area. Northwest from Ridgeway back for several blocks and behind Community Hall. Burn will only take place if conditions suitable.

b) **Village Protection Plan:** Still a work in progress and expected to be completed by Spring 2013. To be presented to the community prior to next fire season.

c) **Assisted evacuation list:** To be held by Darren Briggs for implementation in an emergency situation.

d) **Fire restrictions:** Have been lifted

e) **Village fire trails:** Darrin Briggs suggested NACRA put in a written request re maintenance and day lighting of strategic and designated fire trails around NAC. Some sections are becoming rutted, dangerous and in some cases, unusable following recent heavy rain. GLC will be requested to provide funding for maintenance as part of the village fire plan.

Stephanie advised a letter to go to Darren Briggs re condition of fire trails. They are very overgrown. Darren will then write to council asking that they be maintained and as part of overall protection plan they need to be maintained.

Moved Maureen Kelly, seconded Jan Carter that the report be accepted. Carried.

4.4 Fame Cove/North Arm Cove Sub Committee

a) **Hilltop Development:** Lisa Schiff GLC Director of Planning advises that all details requested from the developer have not yet been completed and are undergoing final assessment. It is anticipated the application will be before April or May Council meeting. All those who have made formal comment will be advised.

b) **DA for Fame Cove dwelling:** Still relevant. Minister revoked only Part 3a provision of the Act not the DA as previously believed and this is of some concern. No response from Developer as yet.

c) **Footprint for balance of land:** GLC has not yet met with the developer to discuss his requirements, however they now have stronger understanding of the portions of the land worth of conservation. With new planning legislation, Rural Land is to transition to Environmental Land statewide. This will apply to GLC Local Environment Plan (LEP). Legislation remains basically unchanged.

d) **Paper subdivision legislation:** New legislation affecting the Rural Land and Paper Subdivision surrounding the village of North Arm Cove has been enacted by the State Government. Details now available on their website.

e) **Eco Network:** NACRA is currently a member of the ECO Network (representing 20 organisations). Tony Hann recommended membership be renewed and the \$25 fee paid from the Fame Cove fund.

Moved Kath Kohlhoff, seconded Peter Chappelow that the report be accepted. Carried

4.5 Boat Ramp, water access

Sub-committee to prepare an action plan and look at issues that will affect the public. This project will require a great deal of work by the sub-committee and involvement and co-operation of local residents. Council's response still pending on survey of Medina Bay.

Medina Bay survey: Stephanie contacted David Bortfeld re survey for Medina Bay. Glen Handford advised some funds now available for this survey and it will be carried out in the near future. An Action plan is to be developed now the grant has been received. Peter cited example of a well-designed boat ramp at Manly Cove. Local resident Jim Parnell will take pics when next in the area.

Casuarina Jetty: Tony noted Council plans to build the long jetty at Casuarina and it would be more suitable to have smaller jetty at Medina as a combined facility (boat ramp and jetty). This should be taken up with David Bortfeld. The committee is meeting with David next Wednesday (17/4) and this issue will be raised at the meeting.

Moved Pat Brennan, seconded Maureen Kelly that the report be accepted. Carried.

4.6 Social/fund rising

The 'Sausage Sizzle' planned for 22 February was cancelled due to bad weather and will now be held on 24 May. Maria Pickles has been invited to show pics and give a talk on her recent trip to Iran.

4.7 Website

The website sub committee decided to increase sponsorship advertising from 12 to 18 places and increase subscription to \$50 per spot. Existing sponsors to be signed up and six more sourced. Flyer sent out and response good to date with nine of existing 12 signing up again (no refusals), three still to be contacted. Other local businesses to be contacted

Doug Kohlhoff advised that website is being redesigned to take the increased advertising and so it can also be accessed via mobile phone. Doug also suggested an email newsletter to be sent out on each Friday listing events/news to encourage people to access the website. Default setting on comments changed to encourage more comments.

Kath wanted to Thank Tony for his work in getting new business and renewals for website advertising. Total to date is over \$1,000. Stephanie Hunter endorsed and congratulated Tony on his efforts.

Tony pointed out that Doug has put in a lot of work on the website as well. The meeting thanked Doug for the work he put in on the recent Grant submission.

4.8 Environment – Janine Reid

Aquaculture: The Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAD) was reviewed last year. In 2011 NACRA made a submission with a follow up in June 2012. The review was to be on public exhibition in 2012 and gazetted in September that year. I have contacted Fisheries re progress of this review and was advised that it has been delayed. Fisheries will advise when it is on public exhibition.

The NACRA submission questioned why the area covered by the two oyster leases of Cove Boulevard and Eastslope Way should remain "priority lease" areas when large sections have not been used for over 20 years. If anyone would like to make a personal submission, it is not too late to do so. Fisheries have called for nominations of areas to be included/excluded from the priority zones. Write to Tim Gippel, Senior Policy Officer, Aquaculture, Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay NSW 2315 or email tim.gippel@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Further information can be found on the aquaculture pages of the Department of Primary Industries website.

Oyster Leases: The oyster leases are normally inspected in January when tides are low. Unfortunately the weather was unfavourable at the times I was available, so the inspection was made over Easter, however low sun made it difficult to see structures below the waterline. Lease OL86/140 is currently fallow and many posts are becoming overgrown with shells. Signage is OK. Lease OL86/138 has a small area on the southern end that contains trays of oysters. It was surprising to see that the posts have been removed in the unused area of the northern section of the lease. Apparently this occurred in February. The lease boundary posts are still in place but the smaller posts have been removed. Careful navigation is required in this area, as many posts have previously broken off below water level and there is no guarantee that partially submerged posts have been removed.

The majority of the remaining lease areas in North Arm Cove are not cultivated and most leases have areas of derelict posts. There are small areas of oysters on the leases either side of the channel leading into Bundabah Creek (OL96/076 and OL01/030) and some near the shoreline south of Bundabah. The remaining leases have no oyster trays or cages. The lease markers are mostly in place but it is difficult to be certain in the south area of Bundabah and during the inspection we hit a post with the propeller just west of Bundabah in an area outside the oyster leases.

Tony Hann pointed out that Janine has campaigned for years to get old leases removed.

5. Other Reports

5.1 Clean up Australia

Tony Hann reported that Clean up Australia was postponed from 3 March to 10 March due to bad weather. Seven volunteers collected approximately a tonne of dumped rubbish, mainly around main roads from highway. This year there was less building rubble due to reduced building and renovation activity in the village. Tony Hann would like to personally thank the faithful few who contributed their time and effort.

5.2 Draft LEP

Tony Hann reported that this document was placed in public exhibition between June and August 2012. When passed by Council it will provide the framework for future developing and planning, covering zoning, building design regulation, foreshore building lines, heritage constraints, coastal risk areas and flood planning. It is a very important document for anyone wishing to develop land in the shire. Of particular interest to Cove residents are new building design controls, foreshore lines, zoning and flood risk prevention.

On 12 March, Tony Hann attended a meeting at Council to consider draft recommendations for flood planning and coastal erosion and a flood level datum was agreed allowing for a 0.9m rise in sea level by 2100 plus 0.5 freeboard and an allowance for a 1:100 year storm event. Implications for landowners wanting to build in flood-affected areas are not clear and while this is not prohibited, it would be wise to look at Council's flood maps and seek advice from Council Planning. Now that a flood line has been published, selling low-lying land may now also be problematical.

5.3 Foreshore Erosion

Tony Hann reported that many Cove properties are affected by wave and wind erosion. At a public meeting in November 2011, NACRA asked Council for advice on suitable sea wall structures to counter this problem. Despite several repeat requests, the only advice we have received is that a DA is required for any work (with the exception of simple repairs)

5.4 Road Map

NACRA has received a \$2,000 grant for the erection of a street map to direct visitors and contractors around the village. Proposal put to council re content and position of map, together with some changes to existing signs. On approval in principle from Council, a DA can be lodged.

Tony Hann had a meeting with Richard Olds from Council and viewed the proposed site for the directional sign. Local sign writer John Wright will prepare artwork when approved. Richard will put in DA for map. Changes to other signage still not resolved

5.6 Grant Application

Stephanie Hunter proposed putting in more grant applications e.g. Better Boating, Credit Union. Need to ascertain what kind of projects they will fund and whether NACRA have a suitable project.

6. General Business

6.1 Council Grant: A meeting has been scheduled with David Bortfeld, GLC on Wednesday 17 April to discuss action on the grant and the Casuarina/Medina Bay issue. The NACRA Executive Committee will meet prior to this date to formulate an agenda.

6.2 Heros Beach survey: Good response to the survey and David Bortfeld advised draft landscape plan nearly complete and will soon be on public display. The public will then be able to comment. Watch Council website for more news on this project.

Meeting closed at 11.02am

Next meeting: Saturday 8 June 2013, 10am at the Community Hall.

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

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Stephanie Hunter (Chairperson)

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Date