

North Arm Cove Residents Association
General Meeting
Saturday 10 February 2018
Community Centre commencing at 10:00 am

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies: Cheryl Yearsley, Sandy Chappelow

Attendance – 28 members including committee members, Gary Sylvaney, Trevor Vandenberg, Len Yearsley, Doug Kohlhoff, Bill Moller, Susan Carter, and 5 non-members

2. Minutes :

Moved:.....Len.Yearsley..... Seconded:....Pat..Brennan..... Carried
 That the minutes of the meeting of 9th. December 2017 be confirmed

Business arising: There was a resolution to contact Council re arrangements for sewerage disposal. Council have advised that they will not approve any further sullage pits – these may be able to be replaced with Envirocycle or similar.

3. Correspondence

To/from Gary Sylvaney/Trish Gordon re Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association 25/1/18.

.MovedTrevor.Vandenberg..... Seconded:.....John (Jan) Carter

Carried

That the correspondence be accepted

4. Reports :

4.1.Treasurer's Report - Doug Kohlhoff

February 2018 Report from 1/12/2017 to 31/1/2018

Balances	Opening	Closing
Friends of Fame Cove	536.06	536.06
NACRA	5050.77	5464.27
Proj Stronger Comm.	662.53	662.53
Proj Precinct Lights	0.00	5000.00
Website cost provision	194.50	32.50
	6443.86	11695.36
Beyond Bank	6443.86	11695.36
Total	6443.86	11695.36

Plus Income to 31 Jan	
Proj Precinct Lights	5000.00
Interest	3.50
Member subscriptions	20.00
Product sale	340.00
Website Sponsorship	50.00
Total Income	5413.50

Less Expenditure to 31 Jan	
Website fees	162.00
Total Expenditure	162.00

Closing Balance	=	11695.36
Financial members	=	59

Moved:.....Doug.Kohlhoff..... Seconded....Tony Hann.....

Carried

That the Treasurers Report be accepted.

4.2 Update on Mid Coast Council Activities Post Amalgamation. Guest Speaker: Councillor Mr. Len Roberts.

Len affirmed that Council is working well post amalgamation, and is implementing a new Code of Meeting Practice. The resignation of the General Manager, Glen Handford, just before Christmas took many by surprise. The purchase of the Masters Site at Taree opens new possibilities – either to bring together the operations of the current five spaces scattered across the Council area, or as an investment. Len strongly encouraged NACRA to be involved with the Strategic Plan for Community Consultation, emphasising it was a Community, not Council, Plan.

Len responded to questions and comments from the floor including the need to focus on needs of smaller communities in the Council area rather than business and tourism which are concerns of larger communities; the incomplete drainage improvements promised in earlier major works lists particularly at 70 Cove Boulevard, implementation of the 2014 Roads to Recovery grant; plans for allowing development and providing road access to non-urban blocks; issues with road safety particularly at the Carrington turnoff; illegal dumping both on land which is not Council responsibility and on roadsides which is Council's concern; and work on Mr Lee's properties including the 'canals' on the Pine Plantation, clearing and road work at Tea Garden's Farm (Fame Cove), and the effect on Station Creek.

Len explained Council can give NACRA authority to move rubbish from bush sites onto the road side for Council pick up; assured the meeting that Tracey Farrant would be replaced as Communications officer, and encouraged NACRA to meet with Ron Hartley, Director of Engineering, for more definitive answers and a timeframe for proposed work.

One person thanked Council for the drainage work at Point Circuit.

There was a brief discussion about whether joining with Port Stephens Council would better serve the NAC community rather than being on the outskirts of Midcoast Council.

4.3 Casuarina Reserve – Gary Sylvaney reported that Bill and Patty Moller have planted seedlings supplied by Council.

4.4 Community Precinct – Doug Kohlhoff said that solar powered lights have been ordered – Council being asked to put a second light on an existing pole. Allowing for about 4 weeks for delivery, it is hoped to have the lighting project finished by winter.

4.5 Fame Cove Development - Len Yearsley's report follows:

We understand progress toward the preparation of reports to the Land and Environment Court is being undertaken by the developer, Mr Lee, re Soil conservation, the Geotechnical Report, Civil Engineering works, Landscape Architect, the Environmental Survey, and the Aboriginal Heritage survey.

These are to be paid for by Mr Lee and all to be reported to the Land and Environment court by 30 March 2018.

Schedules for restoration of the site are to be made by 28 September 2018. All works of rehabilitation and restoration are to be completed by 31 December 2020. If not, Mr Lee will face gaol.

State Environment Planning Policy states: 13/2(b) that if a project 'has capital investment value more than \$10 million and is located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance or a sensitive coastal location' then it is a State Significant Project, and Midcoast Council would no longer be the consent authority. Fame Cove Eco Tourist Development will likely become a State Significant Project.

Architects are expected to have prepared an overall plan of development for the site by the end of 1st quarter 2018.

Len Yearsley also referred to two related matters already raised in the discussion with Len Roberts earlier in the meeting:

- (a) It is reported the developer Mr Lee has constructed a 16 k x 20 earthworks and trench on the 2442 hectare pine plantation site north of Tea Gardens (SMH 2/4/18). We understand Council and a number of Government Departments are investigating.
- (b) Mr Glen Handford the former Midcoast Council General Manager has established a consulting company, GJH Foster Consulting which may assist the developer Mr Lee in the preparation of future plans for Fame Cove and other sites.

Next meeting of the Fame Cove sub-committee with Brett Peterkin, the appointed mediator and site manager, including Bundabah and Pindimaer representatives to be held on 19 February 2018.

4.6 Southern Area Reference Group meeting held on 5th. February 2018 at Tea Gardens. Gary Sylvaney attends these meetings representing NACRA and sees potential to help with communication between Council and our community. He mentioned the moving of the sign at Uralla Street because it blocks traffic view, addressing the problem with slashing around APZ by showing the contractor where it is needed, and arranging for *no parking* signs to be arranged for Casuarina because of problems with vehicles blocking access. A couple of people asked for speed signs and *caution cyclists and children* signs in Eastslopes.

4.7 Aquaculture – Janine Reid reported that a year ago we decided to write to fisheries re the oyster lease off Cove Boulevard asking if poles could be removed as they have been at the lease off Eastslopes - The permit holder was to do some work in the area, but has recently advised this was not accomplished. Janine is still hopeful that derelict posts will be removed since they haven't been used since the 1980s and noted that the permit holder is not allowed to

dump shells or timber in Cove waters. Janine also reported there is now a sign at the beginning of Bundabah creek warning of rocks and navigation hazard up creek and Bulga creek has illegal crab traps.

4.8 Doug Kohlhoff reported the NAC website was officially launched in early 2012. Since then it has been the major source of income for the Association through its sponsorship ads. This income has kept the Association afloat and facilitated several successful grant applications which have delivered valuable resources to the local community.

The website plays an important role in keeping our community informed on a great many issues. Over its six years there have been over 600 articles plus masses of other content. Weekly newsletters go out to over 200 subscribers.

Doug requested help to keep the website delivering all those wonderful benefits to our community. He said, *Your group has an event? Tell the rest of us via the website. Report on it afterwards. If there is an achievement to admire or a tale to tell, then let everyone know. If something is bugging you, tell us why you are annoyed.*

You don't require great technical skills to contribute to the website. It is as easy as sending an email. Everybody who is logged-in to the site can create articles, add events, photos, comments and more. These can be on any topic. And nobody expects Walkley Award winning productions. You cannot crash the website but you will be doing your bit to keep the Cove the vibrant and valuable community resource it needs to be.

*Perhaps you may even be able to contribute to the website in other roles?
Editors take responsibility for a portion of the site and have capacity to create fancier articles.
Administrators do some of the background tasks that keep the site ticking over.*

If you are prepared to get a little more involved in the functioning of the website that too would be wonderful. Do let us know. These are not onerous tasks and, as with most things, they become even easier the more people share the load.

Moved:.....Doug.Kohlhoff..... Seconded:...Bob Reid... Carried
That the reports be accepted.

5. General Business

5.1 A Call for Volunteers. Gary explained a small number of community minded residents are currently giving their time to maintain our precious few Community areas, namely:

- Community Precinct 3 Volunteers.
- Heros Beach 2 Volunteers
- Water Street
- Casuarina Reserve 5 Volunteers.

Gary said these numbers do not allow for any rostering to ensure volunteers are not needed to do too many hours and encouraged people to add their names.

5.2. Mid Coast Council Strategic Plan Consultation Paper 2017

Gary noted that our Council has invited Residents to complete a survey relating to the above Strategic Plan. Closing date for responses is Friday 23rd. February 2018. The Survey can be completed on line at the NACRA Web Site (www.northarmcove.nsw.au) under "A Council that needs a Vision", or Councils (www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/csp) If you would prefer to complete a hand written copy just ask a member of the Executive Committee here today. Whichever method you choose, the important issue is that you make your opinions known to Council. For each area of the Plan, a simple tick a box format is used, plus an opportunity to add further comment if you wish. This is a valuable opportunity to influence the future of our very special Village and Region.

5.3. Follow up Inspections Of Drainage Works Identified In the Council's North Arm Cove Stormwater Management Strategy of 2014.

Gary also noted that during February, the NACRA Committee is conducting a check on the drainage problems identified by residents and Engineering Consultants in the above report to ascertain what works have been completed and what, if any, works remain uncompleted. A report on the findings will be presented at the next General Meeting and if required, to Council.

5.4 Ambulance Response Times in the Cove.

Gary has met with Alan Walker and will take it further to area command. The question was asked whether signage affected the ambulance's ability to get to an address in NAC as it did for fire trucks attending a house fire in the Esplanade at the end of 2017.

5.5 Clean Up Australia Day 4 March. Rob VanZandvliet said people can participate at any time during the weekend and he needs trailers or 4 wheel drive vehicles to help.

5.6 Gary said that the Child Incident has been reported to Area Command

5.7 Speaking on behalf of Maria Pickles, Kerryan Griffin suggested a petition and a subcommittee to look at road issues in the Cove.

5.8 Again, speaking on behalf of Maria Pickles, Kath Kohlhoff said if we got a petition to the Manager at Karuah PO, , they would deliver parcels to people in NAC. It was pointed out that several life support special needs items are mailed to people in the Cove..

Next General Meeting: 14th. April 2018 at 10am.

Meeting Closed at 12.07

Submitted Susan Carter