

PEARL BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday 7 December 2019 at 5:00 PM

WELCOME

Peter Romey (in the Chair), Russell Grove, Lynne Lillico, Donna Higgins, Bev Kingston, Gary Phillips, Malcolm McDonald, Bev Lapacek, Barbara Grantham, Heather Brown, Vic Brown, Jane Borton, John Hill, Val Taylor, Rebecca Jacobs, Tony Grantham, Paul Barclair, Ann Parsons, Stephen Parsons, Margaret Brown, Lynette Rich, Phil Rich, Sabine Kirschke, Di Swalwell, Cecile Ferguson, Margaret Westcott, Jane Borton, Mary Knaggs, Vickii Davison, Peggy Todd, Graham and Pam Murray, Gaby Porter, Paul Toohey, Caroline Marks, Barry Marks, Perter Connor, Jane and Vic Clarke, Helen and Adrian Thurlow, Duncan and Jackie Bridel, Lyn Cappella, John and Jan Steinbeck, Caroline and Pat Everett, Victoria and Ian Crawford, Tony Nelson, James Collins

APOLOGIES

Libby Nelson, Richard Sims, Dorothy McDonald, Glen Taylor, Gabby Compton, Robert Lillico, Ross Christie, Ros Sumner, Jill Easterbrook, Barbara Hastings, Greg McPhee, Linda McPhee Aafke and Klaus Woldring.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The President acknowledged the original owners of the land, the Guringai people and their elders, past and present.

MINUTES OF 2 NOVEMBER MEETING

The Minutes of the 2 November General Meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ITEMS

1. Neighbour Alert System Briefing (PBSAG)

PBSAG Convenor Paul Toohey provided a summary of this system as follows:

- Communications network set up to provide Fire Alert Information via sms based on RFS alerts.
- Information passed from the RFS→PB RFS→Neighbour Alert→Street Contacts→Residents.
- Neighbour Alert is only one source of information regarding fire danger.

Paul stressed that Street Contacts only pass on information. They do not provide advice or other support.

PBSAG has gathered details from residents who may be vulnerable and may require assistance. This Information is then passed on to the SES and Police in an emergency.

2. Fires Near Me System Briefing (RFS)

Vic and Luke Stevenson from PBRFS and Vic Clarke from PBSAG explained the *Fires Near Me* app, as some members are unfamiliar or unaware of its use.

They explained how to set one or more watch zones, as the system was capable of multiple watch zones, i.e. for your own residence, a relative's home, a beach house etc.

The app displays Bush Fire Alert Levels & Status for fires on a map centred on your location. It uses four coloured diamond symbols. White is for where no alert level has yet been assigned,

Blue is for Advice, Yellow is for Watch and Act and Red is for Emergency Warning (need to take action immediately).

The presenters stressed the importance of preparing a property BEFORE a bush fire occurs, having a Fire Plan and emergency red bags.

3. Hall Upgrade Project

The President announced that the Association had been successful in its application for a grant to fund the Hall upgrade project under the CCC Community Infrastructure Program.

The grant application submitted by PBPA was as advised at the 7 September General Meeting, being \$66,000 from CCC (\$65,000 cash plus \$1,000 to cover fees), with \$33,000 from PBPA (up to \$24,000 cash and \$9,000 in-kind volunteer labour, based on a \$2 to \$1 ratio).

Jane Clarke called a point of order from the floor, referring to the Constitution which she said states that the Executive can only spend up to \$5,000 without approval of the Membership. The President queried this, but agreed that the situation should be resolved before acceptance of the grant can proceed.

Vice President Russell Grove moved that the meeting agrees in principle to accept the grant, and that a further meeting occur to resolve the matter after the proper process has been clarified and members advised in advance. The members present agreed with this proposal.

4. Pearl Beach Road and Traffic Issues

The President advised the meeting that he had received a written response from CCC via Leisel Tesch (whose support had been sought) in response to PBPA's submission regarding a range of road and traffic concerns. However, as the meeting was running over time, the members present agreed to defer this matter until the February meeting.

5. Pearl Beach Amenities Block Upgrade

The President advised the meeting that he had been contacted by CCC to discuss a new disability-compliant amenity block to replace the existing facility. However, as the meeting was running over time, the members present agreed to defer this matter until the February meeting.

REPORTS

Executive

Refer above **ITEMS**.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's report on Income, Expenditure and Accounts Balances for October/November 2019 was
Income \$31,632.02 Expenses \$22,727.82 Balance \$101,746.01

Events and Publicity

Lynne Lillico, Publicity Officer reported on recent and current events of the Association. She also presented a visual summary of the 'Tides of Time' weekend in a series of slides.

It was noted that the Jazz in the Arboretum event was very well received and that the Raffle at the event raised \$926 for the RFS.

Finance Working Group

No report

Policies and Procedures

No report

The Gem

No report.

Hall Storage

No report

Hall Building and Maintenance

No report

PBSAG

Paul Toohey reported that the PBSAG grant application, if successful, would be used to purchase solar and battery systems for the Hall. If Pearl Beach experienced a blackout for any extended period of time, the Hall would then be able to provide some facilities for the Community.

The new mobile community fire unit has 10 volunteers who have been training. Once personal equipment has been supplied for the volunteers, the unit will be Commissioned.

Recently 15 community members completed CPR/AED training, organised by Richard Stewart.

The PBSAG Neighbour Alert group is seeking two more Street Contacts, one for Beryl Avenue and one for Jade Place.

Aboriginal History Group/ Guringai People Working Group

Peggy Todd reported on the great success of the *Bungaree Commemorative Weekend* on 22, 23 and 24 November, and stated that the Deputy Mayor Jane Smith was particularly impressed. She also reminded the meeting about the Aboriginal Film nights being held on the first four Friday nights in January.

Community Groups

The Arboretum

A meeting has been arranged with the CCC Waste Management Manager to look at different ways to dispose of the extra green waste, as concern has been raised over the waste pile as a fire hazard.

The Arboretum has been successful with two grant applications. The first is for a wheel chair friendly propagating shed. The other is for the reintroduction of koalas into the Arboretum and the adjacent Brisbane Waters NP. A survey will need to be carried out first to ascertain if there are still any koalas in the area. The new koalas would be released into the wildlife corridors. In preparation for this, CCC has been contacted for management of foxes, as foxes and dogs pose the greatest danger to koalas.

Bush Care

Due to the hot weather the group held their Christmas Party instead of working.

Dune Care

No report

Tennis and Bowls

The Pearl Beach Music Scholarship winner was organised to play at the Bowls Christmas Party.

Plodders

The Plod on 17 December will be a mystery walk at sunset plus champagne.

Art and Craft

The group raised more than sufficient funds to cover the cost of the new hanging system, and they intend to hang some paintings for sale at the Easter Book Fair.

Pearl Beach Singers

The group will be singing carols at the Community Carols 23 December. Santa will arrive on a fire truck and there will be drinks and nibbles afterwards for a donation the 'Central Coast Family Support'.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Jane Clarke briefed the meeting regarding new rules regarding short term rentals, and specifically party houses in the community.

Under the Gosford Local Environment Plan and Gosford Development Control Plan (Chapter 3.14), short term rentals for properties with 4 or less bedrooms do not require development consent. They do require a written evacuation plan and must have received no more than 2 written complaints to Council from neighbours within 40 metres during the proceeding 12 months. Houses with 5-6 bedrooms require a development consent. For houses with seven or more bedrooms, short term rental is prohibited.

A draft State wide Short Term Rental Accommodation Policy being developed by NSW Planning will hopefully give clear guidelines for all concerned.

Donna Higgins reported on the Community Buddies meeting held in the previous week. The meeting was well attended, with two very interesting speakers. After collecting suggestions from those attending, the steering committee will be collating the information and formulating an appropriate framework before the program commences.

Russell Grove sought support from locals to attend the Bingo nights to be held in January. He also explained that the email address in the GEM for tickets to the Opera was incorrect. Instead go to Opera in the Arboretum.

Russell also suggested that Holiday Pop-up stalls might be a good way to raise funds for the Hall upgrade project.

Barbara Grantham announced that the wine being served after the meeting was kindly donated by Tony and Di McGregor, who are moving out of the village.

NEW MEMBERS

The meeting welcomed one new member: Arlene Gippert.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting at 3:00 PM Saturday 1 February 2020

General Meeting at 5:00 PM Saturday 1 February 2020