

PEARL BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - Approved

3RD FEBRUARY 2024 at 5.00 pm

Attendees

Karina Stafford (in the Chair), Nigel Tisdale (Secretary), Kay Williams, Victoria Crawford, Gabby Crompton, Steph Wood, Keith Wood, Alison Phillips, Gary Phillips, Karen Moses, Cathy Lancaster, Lynette Rich, Phillip Rich, Peter Doddrell, Caroline Kenny, Klass & Aafke Woldring, Russell Grove, Pete Richardson, Lisa Ritchie, Margaret Moore, Cally Osmond, Bronwen Young, Peter Connor, John Haymes, Malcolm McDonald, Dorothy McDonald, Vic Brown, Paul & Pauline Toohey, Di & Bruce Swalwell, Gerarda Luck, Peggy Todd, Jill Easterbrook, Stephen Parsons, Peter Romey, Jeanne Albretch, Jane Borton, Kathy Fortes, Mary Knaggs, Barbara Grantham, Amanda Winley, Annette & Bill Blinco, Carolyn Blackburn, Terry Byrnes, (via zoom) Ross & Kate Lindsay

Apologies

Amanda Thomson, Marianne Hulsbosch, Margaret Brown, Mimma Barila, Tanya Masters, Malcolm Davison, Adrian & Helen Thurlow, Bev Lapacek, Carolyn Marks, Barry Marks, Robyn Stafford, Vicki Powell, Mark Kenny, Ian Farmer, Jenny Farmer, Gaby Porter, Lorelle Savage, Larry Savage, Ann Parsons

Business Item

Acknowledgement of Country

Karina acknowledged the traditional owners –

“As we gather in the name of the Pearl Beach Progress Association, we acknowledge the GURINGAI people as the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet, and pay our respect to their Elders-past, present and emerging; and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of this area.

Minutes of Previous General Meeting (2nd December 2023)

Matters Arising

It was proposed that the Minutes from the December meeting be accepted.

Proposed: Gerarda Luck Seconded: Malcolm McDonald

Matters arising – Russell Grove asked if the grants and sponsorship position on the

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executive committee had been appointed. Karina Stafford responded that this would be covered later in the meeting.

Correction to reference in the minutes – Michaele Archer (not Kylie Archer)

Confirmed that “Draft Terms of Reference” for Sub committees had been circulated a week earlier with the agenda.

Financial Reports

The Financial reports for the quarter October. November. December 2023 were emailed to members on 27th January 2024

A summarized version was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer Amanda Winley.

Amanda alerted the meeting to several specific items;

- December month income \$\$47,280, expenses \$22,256, surplus of \$25,024
- Year to Date (to Dec 31st) Total Income \$99,047; Total Expenses \$71,811; Surplus of income over expenses being \$27,236
- Large expenses such as insurance and rates for the year had been incurred early in the year leading to a surplus of expenses over income in those early months. Good surpluses in later months have now resulted in a year to date overall surplus (\$27k)
- Question from floor : what events contributed most to the \$17,270 event profit in Dec : Santa Photos \$7,054, Jams/Chutney & BBQ \$3,811, Raffles \$2,519, Book Fair \$2,455, Carols \$1,013, etc.
- Balance Sheet items: Cash at bank \$195,105 being an increase month on month of \$26,841. Total assets of \$2.342 M, Liabilities of \$22k resulting in net asset position of \$2.320M

Amanda confirmed that funds of \$7,202 shown against SAG subcommittee are held within the bank account (question Paul Toohey).

Moved that the financial reports be accepted. All agreed.

Proposed: Paul Barclaire Seconded: Russell Grove

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Karina explained that updated Terms of Reference for the sub committees and working parties listed below had been circulated to the members on the 27th January 2024, and asked for a show of hands to accept them.

- Subcommittees
 - Hall Committee
 - Events & Fundraising

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- Environmental Group
- Working Parties
 - PBPA Guidelines and Code of Conduct
 - Council Liaison

Passed/Accepted unanimously.

No updated Terms of Reference were provided for the subcommittee Safety & Advisory Group. The reason for this to be explained by Nigel Tisdale later in the meeting.

REPORTS SUB COMMITTEES

Hall Management; Report - Victoria Crawford

Hall Hire Fees

- After a review of current hall hire fees and comparing with other venues on the central coast it has been decided to reduce the fees from \$80 ph to \$60 ph.
- New weekend package rate: \$800 for 2 hours Friday night and all Saturday and 2 hours Sunday morning to clean up.
- Commercial hires for things like Yoga, Pilates etc. have been increased by \$5 ph. An extra half hour is available at \$17.50. New contracts are being sent out.

Hall Maintenance

- List of tasks (pest inspections, fire safety etc.) have been identified and people allocated to them. Paul Barclaire to organize working bees – one due in March.
- Bookstore / office. After a trial (6mths) of combining the bookstore and office in the back storeroom and having conducted a survey of the users of those areas, the office has for been moved back to its location in the hall. Other long-term options continue to be considered, some involving the relocation of the disabled toilet – but these options will not be happening soon and require more granularity of the overall masterplan (stages 1,2,3,4 etc)

Hall refurbishment

Victoria explained that this topic that has been discussed in detail over a long period of time and presented at general & public meetings, and the committee were keen to start the work on stage 1.

- Insulation between rafters with panelling on top, whilst leaving the purlins (beams running the length of the hall) exposed. Panelling to be painted – current suggestion being off white although opinion is still divided on the colour.
- Following a selection process and multiple quotes potential builders have been identified
- Quote is \$40k with recommended contingency of 10%. There will also be a

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cost for electrical work – repositioning lights, power points etc. A figure of \$5k has been included for this.

- Timeline – (1) Preparatory work without serious hall disruption. (2) 2 weeks of build when the main hall area will be unavailable for hires etc., (3) post clean-up work. Commencement in April 2024.
- Kitchen, deck & office should be available throughout the build.
- Ongoing investigations include:
 - Possibility of air conditioning
 - Ceiling vents which some believe would be more effective in cooling the hall than the current fans (Paul Barclaire has an old quote for \$8k for the vents)
 - Possibility of electric wall heaters to replace the current freestanding gas heaters

Victoria then asked for a show of hands for approval for stage 1 to proceed (ceiling insulation, panelling, painting and associated electrical work). Budgeted cost no more than \$50k.

Passed by majority – 4 people voting no.

Malcolm McDonald raised if it was constitutionally correct for the vote to have taken place as the motion had not been shown as an agenda item. Based on legal advice sought, Victoria believed the vote was permitted.

(Note: Subsequent to this meeting, the Executive Committee decided to put the matter to the members again as a formal motion for vote at the next General Meeting on 2nd, March.)

PBSAG Update : Report Nigel Tisdale

It was explained that due to several members of the PBSAG subcommittee leaving Pearl Beach and the desire by others not to continue on the subcommittee, a decision had been reached to dissolve the current subcommittee. Ongoing roles and responsibilities are to be reviewed and reallocated where possible. New Terms of Reference for a Safety Committee are to be investigated and when appropriate presented to the members for consideration.

Nigel thanked the outgoing members for their considerable contributions: Paul Toohey (chair), Russell Grove, Nigel Tisdale, John Allan, Jan Steinbeck, Helen Thurlow, Ben Kearney.

Also thanked were Greg McPhee, Carolyn Everett, David Wright, Greg O'Neill, Vic Clarke & Richard Stewart for the establishment of the Neighbour Alert System and the public access Defibrillators 2016/17

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SAG roles & responsibilities have over time included: -

- Beach Safety (rescue tubes, emergency beacon, pool cleaning)
- First Aid kits and Hall Safety Review
- Neighbour Alert System / Street Contacts – ceased in 2022 due to the Hazards Near Me app being the most relevant and reliable emergency communication source
- Establish Community Support Centre / Neighbourhood Safer Place with grant of \$96k
- Establish CFU (Community Fire Unit) in close relationship with RFS, however the CFU future is bleak due to lack of volunteers
- Mobile Phone connectivity issues – Despite much lobbying Fed Govt members, Ministers, Telcos – no resolution in sight
- Fund raising \$35k Sept 2020-Jan 2021

Outstanding Community Support Centre tasks to be completed by Paul Toohey & Ben Kearney

- Complete Spearpoint installation (funds available \$8,315 + \$2,615)
- Complete end of project reports to Fed & NSW Governments by 31st March 2024
- Complete training of community on use of Centre

Kay Williams raised the idea of re-energizing the concept of the “Street Contact” or the “Good Neighbour”. People at street level who have an awareness of who lives in their area, any special needs etc., and who can keep up to date with what is going on. These are not street wardens but simply good neighbours. Nigel commented that the best up to date warnings can be found on the Government app “Hazards near me”, but this does not negate the concept / usefulness of “Good Neighbours”.

Vic Brown then reminded everyone the importance of keeping gutters and gardens clear of leaf & other combustible material. He expressed his concern that whilst walking around the village he has noted many properties which present fire hazards due to the huge volume of dry material on the roofs / in gardens etc. Flying embers landing on such material present the greatest risk of fire spread.

In conclusion Nigel thanked again Paul Toohey for chairing SAG over the years, his considerable efforts, especially in recent times working with Ben Kearney to obtain government funding to create the Community Support Centre. The meeting expressed their thanks with a round of applause.

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Events and Fundraising: Report- Gerarda Luck

Gerarda reminded the meeting of the Dec events results with some \$30k income (gross) raised. A key event as mentioned early was the Santa photos and thanks was expressed to all the “Santas” who turned up and performed their duties even on some days with 38/40 degree heat.

Thanks, also expressed for all the volunteers who made the events so successful – BBQs, Jam making, raffles, etc etc.

The meeting expressed their thanks with a round of applause.

January Events highlighted: -

- Community BBQ & local produce market
- Jam & Chutney making
- Kids Disco
- Bingo
- Barefoot Bowls & Tennis – Cancelled due to inclement weather
- Australia Day

Thanks to Alison Phillips for her work with the Book Fairs – the Next Book Fair to be held on the 30th March.

Malcolm McDonald spoke about Australia Day events – with thanks to Russell, Duncan Bridel (official photographer), Nigel BBQ + first aid. Malcolm read out an email received from a visitor (Matt Palmer):

“I wanted to thank you for another great event this morning on the beach. It’s rare to see community run programs and events that are so well done and bring so many people together. My family and I really enjoyed it and I wanted to make sure we informed you how grateful we were for the morning you all organized. Thanks again.”

Peggy Todd commented that Australia Day is not a fundraiser but a heart raiser. However, the BBQ held in support of the Mingaletta Aboriginal Corp. did raise \$1,600

Gerarda concluded by welcoming the new members onto the subcommittee:

- Ruby Slade, Margot Ryan, Vicki Powell, Stormey Hine, Amanda Thomson, Cally Osmond

Business Item

Environment Group : Report – Mary Knaggs

- Cathy Lancaster has joined the subcommittee
- Jeff Burrow helping with legal advice
- Copies of the Environment Guide available for \$5
- Meeting in Ourimbah 13th Feb : Planning on the Central Coast

Objectives for 2024

- Continuing to develop a more effective working relationship with Central Coast Council.
- Comment on relevant council & state government environmental policies and strategic issues in a timely manner.
- Comment on relevant development and planning proposals in a timely manner.
- Educating the local community about relevant environmental issues including:
 - low impact and sustainable design for new housing in bushland suburbs
 - landscape design for conservation of native flora and fauna.

Recent Activities

- Submission to CCC regarding the Deferred Lands proposal.
- Submission to NPWS requesting better enforcement of regulations affecting the use of National Parks eg no access to dogs.
- Request for 'no access for dogs' note for sensitive areas on the proposed Pearl Beach area map on the amenities block.
- Submission to CCC regarding draft Central Coast Thematic History.
- Submission to CCC regarding unauthorised building works and tree removal at a property in Cornelian Road.
- Multiple submissions to CCC regarding unauthorised removal of vegetation on beach foreshore dune area in Tourmaline Avenue.
- Submission to CCC regarding opening of southern lagoon and Green Point Creek.

Finally: *Formosa Lily Ilium formosanum*

This plant is rapidly becoming a naturalised weed in many states of Australia infesting roadsides, disturbed areas, wastelands and even bushland. Please get rid of it where you can. It is a weed.

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REPORTS WORKING PARTIES

Updating of PBPA Constitution and Guidelines: Convenor Victoria Crawford

- Guidelines: Working party to assemble again in March and put a draft together in April, prior to being sent out to members for their comments. Guideline originally created in 2016 so things are bound to have changed. Any thoughts or feedback at any time – please send to Victoria
- Draft Code of Conduct has been sent to all members. Once again, any thoughts or feedback at any time – please send to Victoria, with a view to having a final version for March.

Central Coast Council Liaison: Convenor Peter Richardson

Roads Maintenance Update

- 50+ hazards/potholes reported to CCC in 16th 17th January
 - Council teams out on 2nd Feb filling some of these potholes
- CCC Roads team carrying out Emerging Defects survey across entire network during February

Road Upgrades

- Final Surfacing of Diamond Rd likely February 24, awaiting drainage remedials
- Upgrades to Tourmaline/Crystal, others. Awaiting CCC Grant applications.

Public Amenities

- Discussion ongoing with CCC about Foreshore defects – timber edging to paths, beach retaining walls, cracked picnic tables / benches
- Awaiting update on Public Toilets upgrade – New toilet block on CCC list but some time into the future – should include changing rooms
- Bus Shelter repairs completed PB Drive

Kay Williams expressed her thanks to Peter for getting the council to carry out works in Jade place so that the downhill edge of the road can now be seen at night.

Comments / Concerns / Issues about the roads then send an email to roads@pearlbeachprogress.org.au

Karina thanked the convenors of the subcommittees and working parties for their reports and informed the meeting that Gary Phillips and Cathy Lancaster have agreed to look into available grants, sponsorship, donations & bequests as part of their role on the

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Executive Committee in raising funds for things such as the hall renovation.

Welcome New Membership

Karina welcomed the following new member to the PBPA:

- ❖ **Stormey Hine – Beryl Boulevard**
- ❖ **Hazel Treble – Cornelian Road**

RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND COMMUNITY FIRE UNIT

Nigel Tisdale spoke on behalf of the RFS.

There have been a couple of callouts since the last meeting:

- False Alarm: Tree lights on the slopes going down to Umina that from a distance looked a bit like a fire
- Small fire caused by fireworks at the end of Green Point Road

Fire Danger presentation jointly by RFS / CFU held on January 13th, including the use of a Table Simulation on loan to the RFS. This meeting was extremely well attended by 150 + people. All commented how useful the presentation was, in particular the simulation showing how quickly fire can spread through the village and surrounding roads, under a range of conditions.

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Dune and Bush Care

- Stephen Parsons reported that only 4 people came to the last care session so new volunteers definitely welcome.
- Phil Rich discovered a new area of infestation of Okra and council help will be sought to try and eradicate.
- Clean Up Australia day is the 1st Sunday in March (3rd) and Stephen is working with Lynne to get the word out as to what people can do.
- Yes : **Formosa Lily** *Ilium formosanum* is a problem that needs to be tackled but Stephen warned volunteers of the traffic danger when trying to clear road verges or slip hazards near cliff edges.

Karina thanked the group for their work.

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Arboretum

- Victoria reported that the next month or two will be fairly quiet, however there are working bees every 3rd Sunday of the month.
- New members of the Arboretum group are welcome and membership forms are available.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karina advised that:

- Community Meeting on the 2nd March would have Chris Masters, award winning journalist, as guest speaker ****Note: Chris's presentation will now start at 5.15pm, with a short General Meeting to vote on stage 1 of the Hall Renovations starting at 5pm.***
- General meeting in April
- Community meeting on May 4th where the guest speaker will be Stephen King (talk on technology – useful Apps, keeping safe from scams etc.)

Alison Phillips spoke to the next Book Fair on the 30th March - 9am – 5pm

- Looking for Vinyl Records, CDs, DVDs, Puzzles, books
- NO cookery books or encyclopedias or magazines
- Also holding the “Made By Locals Stall” - looking for Cakes, Crafts, whatever you want to make – need lots of items as last year they ran out by 11:30am (made \$927 last year). Please give an indicative price so that items get sold at appropriate prices.
- Café on the deck will again be operating

Formal Meeting finished at 6:30pm at which time the meeting was addressed by Benny Agius a co-founder of “Words on the Waves” festival.