

# PEARL BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES-

1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2023 at 5.00 pm

### Attendees

Karina Stafford (in the Chair), Tanya Masters (Secretary), Amanda Winley, Nigel Tisdale, Gerarda Luck, Kerry Caloyannadis, Cathy Lancaster, Lynne Lillico, Robert Lillico, Heather Brown, Vic Brown, Di Swalwell, Carolyn Marks, Barry Marks, Bev Hughes, Penryn Maddrell, Malcolm McDonald, Dorothy McDonald, Victoria Crawford, Ian Crawford, Mary Knaggs, Peter Romey, Klaas Woldring, Aafke Woldring, Peter Richardson, Lisa Richardson, Paul Blinkhorn, Margaret Westcott, Alison Phillips, Gary Phillips, Helen O'Loughlin, John Haymes, Coralie Kenny, Lorelle Savage, Larry Savage, Rachel Shea, Bronwen Young, Catherine O'Reilly, Peter Connor, Paul Toohey, Pauline Toohey, Margaret Moore, Valerie Taylor, John Allan, Bev Allan, Andrew Alter, Annette Blinco, Bill Blinco, Kay Williams, Chantal de Brauwere, Simon Krohn, Helen Thurlow, Adrian Thurlow, Gabby Crompton, Duncan Bridel,

### Apologies

Malcolm Davison, Vickii Davison, Karen Moses, Stephanie Wood, Keith Wood, Naseema Sparks, Amanda Thomson, Bev Lapacek, Bruce Swalwell, Gaby Porter, Mark Kenny, Paul Barclaire, Glenn Taylor

### 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.

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#### Minutes of Previous General Meeting

A link to the Draft Minutes of the previous meeting in May was included in the notice sent to members on 19<sup>th</sup> May and then again with the notice of meeting sent to membership on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and will be available on the website once ratified.

## Business Item

### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

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

Proposed: Malcolm McDonald      Seconded: Pauline Toohey

### Financial Reports

Sections from the Financial reports for April and May were emailed to members on 22/06/23. These included the Profit and Loss YTD for April and Balance sheet for May.

A summarized version was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer Amanda Winley. These included the Income and Expenses for April and May and the cash movement for April and May. May is showing a slight reduction in the closing balance due to expenses eg hall rates.

A question from the floor was asked about why the expense balance is high when not a lot had been going on in May. This was explained as being related to the accounting procedures with regard to profit and loss. Victoria also explained a large cleaning bill had been paid due to the current cleaners not presenting an invoice for seven months.

Moved that the financial reports be accepted. All agreed

Proposed: Vic Brown      Seconded: Gerarda Luck

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## REPORTS SUB COMMITTEES

### Hall Management: Report - Victoria Crawford

Victoria thanked all those that had provided feedback about the renovation of the hall. She explained the 3 -stage process of refurbishment.

#### Stage 1

Installing plasterboard insulation in roof ; Painting the ceiling ( white).

This will initially require an electrician to disconnect the electrical work in the ceiling.

The sub-committee estimates that electrical work will be around \$15,000.00 as this will be a time-consuming process. A second quote for the electrical work is currently in process.

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### Stage 2

Floor sanding and painting the hall interior. Victoria explained the subcommittee had gained 3 quotes for sanding and finishing the floor.

### Stages 3 and 4

Exterior work and beyond, including the back area of the hall ( kitchen, storerooms etc)

Victoria explained the proposal to remove the wall between the office and the hall, relocate the photocopier and other essential equipment to the “Book Store”. It is likely that the current cupboards in both the office and in the back of the hall will remain in place as they are essential storage units.

Heather Brown asked about the location for the letterbox if the office wall is knocked down and had there been a pest inspection recently?

Victoria acknowledged the need for an updated pest inspection given all the proposed building works. She advised that a new locked letter box would be placed at the front of the hall.

The expected costs for Stage 1 and 2 to be in the vicinity of \$65,000.00 and that work would start on Stage 1 as soon as possible.

Vic Brown asked about insulations and current air vents which Victoria explained would be replaced.

Victoria also explained that consideration was being given to removing the gas heaters and possibly putting in air-conditioning.

This would be considered further once new insulation was evaluated.

Vic Brown raised the issue of the cost of air-conditioning. Paul Toohey explained that it was highly likely that the new solar panels on the roof would provide enough power for this, Victoria indicated that Vic would be welcome on the Hall sub-committee if he chose.

Gary Phillips asked “where the money” would be found. Amanda replied that we have sufficient in the bank; and that fundraising by the community over the current and many previous years has enabled us to build up sufficient funds.

Unfortunately, it now seems the CCC will not provide a grant for the building work, however we may be able to obtain a small grant of \$5000 for a specific purpose. The Committee would be looking at all sources of Grants.

Malcolm McDonald asked about the purpose of the refurbishment? Victoria explained it is predominantly for the community to enjoy the new refurbished hall. However, it would hopefully also mean that the hall would be more attractive to renters, as this is one of our sources of ongoing revenue.

Victoria asked if anyone had any contacts regarding efficient cleaning services to please contact her or anyone on the sub committee, as they were not happy with the

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current cleaners.

Victoria further advised that the large overgrown strelitzias have been removed and we will now proceed with repairing and/or replacing the fence on the northern boundary.

Karina then thanked Victoria and her sub-committee for all their dedication and hard work to keeping the hall and its environment in good stead.

A round of applause followed.

## **Safety Advisory Group; Paul Toohey**

Paul advised that the SAG had finally received a works license giving authority to install the final stage of the CSC; a Spearpoint. Two quotes have been received and are being evaluated. The Spearpoint will be used to “top up” the tanks at the beginning of the fire season. There were no further updates on the mobile phone issues or Neighbour alert. The “yellow rescue tubes” are about to be relocated to the northern end of the beach with new signage showing the location of ERB and AED. Paul responded to a question from the floor regarding the recent king tides and the impact they might have on the Emergency Response Beacon by explaining the ERB was powered by solar. However there are batteries, which are well housed and inspected monthly throughout the year and in swimming season checked weekly.

Karina thanked Paul and the Safety Advisory Group for their continuing tireless efforts. A round of applause followed.

## **Events and Fundraising : Report- Gerarda Luck**

Gerarda displayed a list of events and community functions that were coming up over the next few months.

In particular she drew the meetings attention to the Pearl Beach Singers event on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August. The local singers have been working tirelessly to present a fun night of 70’s and beyond music. Please support them.

Pauline briefly spoke and encourage attendance; bring your own food and beverages and have some fun. Pauline also advised that a well-known local singer, Michael Archer will perform with other guests from the Conservatorium.

Gerarda thanked Lynne for her continuing hard work with publicizing local events with lots of events receiving local print and radio support.

All agreed and round of applause followed.

The Garage Sale took over \$5000 on the day. The committee has held a review and will speak to stall holders about their experiences.

Gerarda also reminded all that the Community BBQ breakfasts were continuing to thrive with 100-150 people attending; and local produce selling well.

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Thank you to Chris Gibson who has been managing the BBQ. We do need more helpers, so if you are able to help out at the breakfast please contact Gerarda.

An impromptu raffle was held today with takings of \$640 and 96 jars of chutney and jam (made by local volunteers) being sold. All agreed this was an excellent result.

### **Environment Group : Report - Mary Knaggs**

Mary reported that the previous PBEG would be sponsoring a "tree photo" competition in recognition of "Tree Day". Additionally there will be a tree planting and workshop on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July. The regular working bee will be postponed on this day. The committee is continuing to write to CCC about the destruction of trees on properties and in particular as they relate to development proposals.

Mary reminded the meeting that the environment pamphlet that had been excellently put together by Chris O'Brien is still for sale for \$5. Please read this as it provides a helpful overview of the flora and fauna in our environment.

## **REPORTS WORKING PARTIES**

### **Updating of PBPA Constitution and Guidelines: Convenor Victoria Crawford**

The final draft version of the updated Constitution was sent to all members and friends on 23/6/23, together with an explanation of the changes.

It is proposed that the final draft will be put to the members at a Special General Meeting to be held immediately prior to the next General meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members require a 3 week notice period prior to a Special General meeting, hence it is imperative if anyone has anything further to comment about the Constitution to please contact Victoria asap.

Victoria advised that during the discussions about the Constitution, the issue of a possible name change was raised with the suggestion being to substitute the word "Community" for "Progress".

Victoria indicated that this would not be part of the current revision to the Constitution but she was raising it as a possibility in the future.

Victoria then briefly outlined the history of "Progress Associations".

Many 100's Progress Associations were formed in 1929 across NSW prior to the formation of local Councils. Since then many have amalgamated to maintain local issues.

On the Central Coast there are approximately 8 Progress Associations, but no known "Community" organizations. Victoria indicated that everyone's idea of "progress" was

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different.

Further she noted that the Pearl Beach Arboretum's official name is "The Crommelin Native Arboretum." It is similarly possible that PBPA could become "known as" the PBCA.

### **Central Coast Council Liaison: Convenor Peter Richardson**

Peter reported that following the joint meeting with Rik Hart ( CCC Administrator), a written update from Boris Bolgoff ( Director of Infrastructure) had been received and subsequently Peter and other members of the community had walked almost all the streets of Pearl Beach alongside Boris and his Construction manager.

Peter thanked Duncan, Stephen, John and Doug who helped identify road and drainage issues. Large sections of heavy patching have been proposed in the 23/24 budget including to several sections in Amethyst and sealing from Beryl Bvde to Crystal Ave. There is no further update on other heavy patching promised previously.

However in another role as Director of infrastructure ; Boris reported that

- There would be additional waste bins and increased servicing during the summer and holiday season.
- There would be increased mowing of grass at 3 weekly intervals in peak season between Agate and Coral Cres.
- There was no update of the request for additional public amenities cleaning.
- It was further advised that despite previous assurances that the stabilization of Pearl Beach Drive was budgeted for, ( having reportedly set aside \$ 150,000, this has now been assessed by Geotech as non critical. There will be a further investigation in 2023/2024 fiscal year.
- There has been no update on the Lagoon CZMP stormwater action plan to include silt traps. This is despite \$200,000 being initially set aside for this rectification process. This is apparently a 3 year program commencing 24/25 and dependent on grant funding.
- An update on the Mt Ettalong Lookout renewal is budgeted for in 2023/2024. Depending on available budget may include retaining wall to car park etc.

Regarding Traffic Calming that has been proposed by PBPA over a number of years, Boris has indicated that CCC forwards all such request to the state government, but likely to a "way off" yet.

Peter indicated that his working party and had made some progress but there was still a "way to go"; and believed it vital to maintain the personal relationship with the CCC that has been established.

Kay Williams raised the issue of the garbage collection in Jade Place, which is severely

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impeded by residents regularly and permanently leaving their bins in the street . This prevents car parking in the street, and also prevents the garbage truck from actually coming up the street. Kay suggested a dialogue with CCC about “No parking “ signs might be helpful.

The issue of residents and part-time owners permanently leaving their unsightly garbage bins in the street has been discussed multiple times before. Unfortunately, apart from assistance from neighbors, the CCC seems powerless to manage this.

Kay also raised the issue of the double lines at the exit from Mt Ettalong lookout, which essentially means that all traffic is required to turn left.

Karina thanked Peter and his team which was followed by a round of applause.

## **Welcome New Membership**

Ruby Slade  
Chris and Karen Scott  
Bruce and Jenny Dennis

## **RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND COMMUNITY FIRE UNIT**

Neither Lindsay Boyd nor Luke Stevenson was able to be present at today’s meeting.

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS:**

### **Dune and Bush Care**

Stephen Parsons apologized for his absence. However, Andrew Alter reported a very productive morning was held at Paul Landa reserve with removal of many weeds. Steven passed on his thanks to all those who attended, and reminded the meeting that new volunteers are always welcome . Please contact Stephen on 0448 75 1595.

### **Arboretum**

Victoria reminded all that there would be an Anniversary Picnic Day in the Arboretum on 20<sup>th</sup> August. A working bee will take place the morning and BYO picnic will start at 12noon with music, tea and coffee and cake provided.

A further reminder about PBEAT with expressions of interest closing on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Only your “ideas’ are needed to enter, not the completed project. Prizemoney is substantial.

### **Plodders**

Bev apologized for her absence but reminded all that Plodders generally meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. The next walk on 18<sup>th</sup> July will be around Crackneck Point

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lookout, where it is hoped to see some whales.

Lynne thanked Bev for once again organizing the “Biggest Morning tea” which raised \$ 1900.00 towards Cancer research. Lynne thanked Bev’s daughter -in-law Nicole. for opening up her home for the morning tea.

Lynne also briefly spoke about an additional film screening of the Oyster Farmer, after it became known that the producer, Tony lives locally. The screening will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 2pm, with Tony on hand to discuss the film and a fresh oyster included with your ticket.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Meeting with the Administrator

Karina reported that a very constructive meeting had been held with Rik Hart and members of the Executive Committee.

Several important issues have already been covered by Peter, however in one on one conversation Karina reported that Rik was aware that the PB community were essentially self supporting. His reply to the Executive following the meeting will be on the website shortly.

He acknowledge the problem of “over full” garbage bins and suggested that if you see an overflowing garbage bin to take a photo and forward to Peter or Karina which can then be forwarded to the correct personnel.

Victoria reported that she had previously had a very constructive conversation with Rik about supporting the Arboretum community to replace the “flood destroyed” bridge in the Arboretum.

However, she subsequently received a disheartening letter saying that the CCC would not facilitate replacing the walkway as it was deemed “unnecessary”.

## Future Monthly Meeting options

The proposed resolution to change the frequency of General meetings ( on a trial basis) was sent out to members on 19<sup>th</sup> May and the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Karina spoke to the reasons for the proposal:

1. Essentially allow more time for committees to get on with their work
2. Avoid excessive repetition of committee reports
3. Constitution requires a minimum of six meetings. We currently have 10; there is generally no meeting in January or June. The proposal is for 11 General and Community meetings per year:
4. There would be a Community event on each month with talks and forums proposed on the months when there is no general Meeting.
5. There is a capability to hold a specific General Meeting should it be required,



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by providing 7 days notice to the membership.

The proposal 2023 -2024 for the next 12 months was displayed with ;

General Meetings being in September; October (AGM) ; December; February; April; June and August .

Community talks/forums for the next 12 months August; November; March and May.

Karina asked for comments from the floor. Malcom asked about the reason for extending the trial from to 12- 18 months.

Another suggestion was to just hold a Community event on the back deck on the alternate months.

Mary indicated there would be refreshments following each talk or forum.

In addition a monthly email to all PBPA members would provide updates on events etc.

Karina requested a show of hands for the trial change of meeting timeframe to go ahead. Approximately three quarters of those in attendance agreed to the trial. Hence the next General meeting will be in September prior to the AGM in October.

### **Proposed Talks/ Workshops on the alternate month.**

Some ideas suggested included

- a greater understanding of the Voice referendum. When this suggestion was voted upon; very few people agreed this would be appropriate ( approx. 10 people)
- preparation for bushfire season
- maintaining the tree verge
- suitable plants to grow in the area
- history of the Pearl Beach/ Patonga area
- workshops

*All suggestions welcome ; please email your ideas to the Secretary*

### **Demerge NSW Alliance**

Karina spoke about the formation of a new organization that Jane Smith ( ex CC Mayor) was leading.

They had written to PBPA to garner or support for:

1. Central Coast Council elections to be held as soon as possible in 2023.
2. At that election a plebiscite be held on a possible demerger.

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Several members from the floor spoke about the merger process with viewpoints expressed including:

- \*\*The demerger process has been very successful in some areas.
- \*\* would this be a “special resolution” requiring 75% of votes.
- \*\* problems in our area relate to the small number of Councilors who are then not representative of the whole area. In particular Pearl Beach is at the very edge of the proposed division.
- \*\*is the public aware that the old Gosford Council was in serious debt?
- \*\*some Inner West councils are keen to demerge and have been told they will have to pay the cost which is likely to be in vicinity of \$160 million.

Karina indicated that PBPA would only support the above proposal if the majority of the Membership agreed. This is not a special resolution but rather a simple anonymous questionnaire to be sent to all members by email, requesting a YES or NO to the above questions.

The motion to support an anonymous questionnaire being sent to members was put: with a clear majority supporting the proposal by show of hands.

For those interested the Demerge NSW meeting will be at Terrigal on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.

All present were invited to stay for refreshments and general community socializing.

Next General Meeting Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.

There is likely to be a Special General Meeting called prior to this meeting to formally vote on the Constitution revision.