

PEARL BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

6th APRIL 2024 at 5.00 pm

Attendees

Victoria Crawford (Chair), Donna Higgins (Secretary), Jeanne Albrecht, Bev Allan, John Allan, Paul Barclaire, Robert Bellamy, Mary Bellamy, Annette Blinco, Bill Blinco, Paul Blinkhorn, Jane Borton, Joe Bowers, Lindsay Boyd, Arthur Brandwood, Margaret Brown, Vic Brown, Kerry Caloyannidis, Vic Clarke, Jane Clarke, Peter Connor, Andrew Cordwell, Ian Crawford, Paul Darwell, Jo-Ann Davey, Malcolm Davison, Vickii Davison, Van Davy, Peter Doddrell, Matthew Dusting Fallow, Susan Dusting Fallow, Kathy Fortes, Barbara Grantham, Marijke Greenway, Michelle Greenway, Russell Grove, Marjory Hathaway, John Haymes, Tony Higgins, Bev Hughes, Don Hughes, Geoff Hurst, Sabine Kirchke, Mary Knaggs, Bev Lapacek, Lynne Lillico, Robert Lillico, Matthew Logan, Gerarda Luck, Penryn Maddrell, Barry Marks, Carolyn Marks, Dorothy McDonald, Malcolm McDonald, Judy McFarlane, Margaret Moore, Catherine O'Reilly, Cally Osmond, Dean Osmond, Deidre Page, Ann Parsons, Stephen Parsons, Muriel Petersen, Alison Phillips, Jennifer Price, Lynette Rich, Phil Rich, Peter Richardson, Lisa Ritchie, Peter Romey, Margot Ryan, Aileen Samios, Nick Samios, Jan Steinbeck, Luke Stevenson, Diane Swalwell, Cathy Talty? Adrian Thurlow, Helen Thurlow, Neil Thompson, Amanda Thomson, Paul Toohey, Pauline Toohey, Kylie Washington, Kay Williams, Peter Willis, Amanda Winley, Keith Wood, Stephanie Wood, Bronwen Young, Sophia Zachariou, **87**

Zoom attendees

Barbara Hastings, Leanne Stevens, Kate Steinbeck, Sam Tapp, Melinda Stewart, Peter Doddrell & Vicki Powell, Helen O'Loughlin, Susan Poulsen, Diane Orton, Meryl Duke, Robert Eidus, Russell Grove, Kate & Ross Lindsay, Caroline Evans, Tom Glynn, Meg McLaren, Pru Thomas, Barry Kay, Mr Malpa, Helen Kirby, Alan Willis, Ramaswamy Nagarajan (Nagi), Raymond Scott, Jenni Aldrich, Cate Nagy, Tam Boucher **26**

Apologies

Gary Phillips, Gaby Porter, Judi Hurst, Cathy Lancaster, Peter and Ruby Slade, John Steinbeck, Chris Masters, Douglas McDonald, Tanya Masters, Aafke and Klass Woldring

Business Item

Acknowledgement of Country

Victoria Crawford, who chaired the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners – I begin this evening by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we are meeting on here today – the Guringai. I pay my respects to 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 land.

Pearl Beach Progress Association Inc.
9 Diamond Road Pearl Beach NSW 2256
www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au
ABN 33 688 265 112

Business Item

Minutes of Previous General Meeting (2nd March 2024)

The minutes were not passed due to significant changes needed and are deferred to the next General Meeting.

Business item

Welcome to New Members

Victoria Crawford welcomed the following new members, or rejoining members to the Association, and also welcomed both Members and non-Members attending tonight.

Don and Bev Hughes	Jeni Aldrich
Dean Osmond	Nicholas Samios
Michelle Greenway	Paul Darwell
Arthur Brandwood	Flavia Darwell
Kieth Elvy	Melanie Tait Comin
Peter Dunphy	David Barrow
Lesley Stern	Suzanne Lea

Business Item

Rural Fire Service

Captain Lindsay Boyd announced that the Fire Season has closed and that we have been very lucky to have avoided the bad season that was expected.

Some hazard reductions have been planned for the coming year.

He also announced that the PB RFS has several new members and may possibly be getting a 2nd truck. The unit has been joining with the Umina RFS for some training sessions and this will continue. Unfortunately, the Community Fire Unit has been disbanded due to lack of members.

Lindsay Boyd also thanked the PBPA for the donation of the blue markers which have been installed on most of the PB roads. Approximately 20 more will be needed to complete the task. The “cat’s eyes” are placed as indicators of the next fire hydrant in the street. During this process, the working order of the hydrants was checked and any needing maintenance were reported to CCC. He advised that the hydrants are painted yellow. and it is vital that people do not park on top of a hydrant.

Karina Stafford thanked Luke Stevenson, the Community liaison officer from the PB PFS for his updates on RFS call outs on the HUB face book page

Business Item

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

Following the resignations of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, the remaining Executive Committee has:

- Published the resignation letters of the president and secretary as requested
- Appointed Donna Higgins as secretary
- Appointed Malcolm Davison as the public officer
- Decided at this stage the Executive Committee could continue without a president
- Accepted the resignations of one vice-president and the treasurer
- Appointed Victoria Crawford as Treasurer
- Arranged for new signatories on accounts
- Began the process to deal with complaints

Victoria Crawford stated that the Executive Committee was very appreciative of the contributions of the resigning members and that it is a sad loss. She also asked if the meeting had issues with the appointment of Donna Higgins as Secretary, Malcolm Davison as Public Officer and Victoria Crawford as Treasurer.

There were no objections raised.

Victoria clarified the implications of the Executive Committee all standing down.

If the remaining committee were to resign, as, under the terms of the Constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (2009)*, at least four members must remain: a Secretary, Treasurer and two ordinary members to be able to form a quorum and operate until an election could take place. One of these would take on the role of Public Officer.

She also explained that if we were to call an election now, the organization of this would take at least six weeks, and would be very close to the end of the financial year. PBPA would then be required, under the terms of the Constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (2009)*, to have an end of financial year audit and another election.

The Executive Committee has decided to continue to operate as is, with the appointments made above.

Victoria Crawford said that a member of the Executive Committee had met with some of those who had resigned to try and understand more fully what the issues were so as to learn and implement any improvements.

The question was asked about the possibility of mediation. Victoria replied that this was an option, but it may not be appropriate to use anyone in the community, and

Business Item

therefore the Association would need to identify someone from outside Pearl Beach or employ a mediator. Mary Knaggs commented that this would only be worthwhile if any of the resigning members would like to return to their positions.

In response to a question regarding the reasons for the resignations, Victoria asked if any of the members who had resigned would like to speak, and reminded everyone to be respectful.

Karina Stafford, who resigned as President, said she would like to speak. She said that she had two main reasons for standing as President. Firstly, she felt that a strong sense of community was lacking, and that she wanted to create new activities to bring in new volunteers, a new demographic and new fundraising.

Karina then stated that the reason she stood down was the level of harassment she experienced in the form of emails and the critical article posted outside the café. She also expressed complaints about Executive Committee members -undermining her by breaking away from an Executive Committee agreement -felt some Executive Committee members did nothing and undermined what was being done.

Amanda Winley, the ex-treasurer then spoke of her two reasons for resigning, accountability and transparency.

Re accountability: one committee member wanted to look at some of the accounts, and that the information wanted was onerous to provide and confidential. The member was asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and has not yet returned documents. The chairperson explained that the member still had the information as she was still trying to understand it but had not shared it with anyone. She also said that asking a member of the Executive Committee to sign a confidentiality agreement had caused distress and should not have been required.

Karina Stafford said that asking for the documents indicates a lack of trust in the Treasurer.

Re Transparency: Amanda referred to her concern over books being donated to PBPA being sold on a personal eBay account and believed that people donating books should be advised that this is happening., and also, she was unable to find deposits made since 2022.

When asked from the floor if she was accusing some one of fraud. Amanda replied "No"

Victoria Crawford interrupted Amanda Winley and said that the Executive Committee had agreed to use the personal eBay account as it had a high rating.

Amanda Winley stated that as Treasurer, there was no way she could report on that income.

Business Item

When asked by a member of the Association if she has donated the required stall holder fee from her own stall at the Wine and Food fair she categorically replied yes.

Van Davy then spoke. Van Davy referred to the email he sent to many people in the village which was critical of the ex- President. He claimed all of his arguments related to comments she had made. He said the way speakers were “guillotined” at the previous General Meeting was dirty politics, and that he said nothing for 31/2 weeks until he saw the “pile on” on the HUB face book page crucifying the executive.

Victoria Crawford apologized to Amanda Winley for interrupting her while she was giving her explanation.

Victoria Crawford stated that all Executive members had confirmed that they had not released the Membership email addresses to anyone. Nor had they been involved in any anonymous publication or activity.

The discussion was then closed and the meeting moved on.

Business item

Complaints

Victoria Crawford explained that when formal complaints are received, according to the Constitution the named person has 14 days to respond.

It is possible to remove an Executive Committee member, and where the Executive Committee can dismiss some complaints as vexatious, it cannot do that in the case of a motion to remove an Executive member from the Executive Committee, and the process must proceed. However, natural justice must prevail and the person needs a reasonable time to reply. It could be that the 14 days to respond to a complaint against a member should be applied.

Victoria quoted a legal site, Justice Connect, which advises that the first step in any of these complaints should always be affording the two parties an opportunity to discuss the issue or mediation, and if that fails, the next step could be a special meeting as the issue is of such significance

A member stated that all the comments on Facebook just throw kerosene on the issues, rather than help them, and need to stop.

Victoria Crawford replied that many people who commented on line perhaps did not understand the issues and that speaking with people usually solves problems rather

Business Item

than using emails and Facebook.

Proposed Corrections to the Minutes 2nd March

As there were still issues with the minutes, Adrian Thurlow proposed a motion to defer this until the next General Meeting. A show of hands supported this.

Business Item

Financial Report

The Financial reports for February were emailed to members on 30/03/24. These included the Profit and Loss YTD for February as well as clear details of income, expenses and profit for each fundraising activity year to date.

A summarized version was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer Victoria Crawford, who thanked Amanda Winley, the outgoing Treasurer for the financial statement.

A visitor from the floor asked if there were any plans for the Jam Makers to return. Victoria Crawford replied that it was a very successful initiative and we do want it to return. She acknowledged that there are still unresolved issues that need to be talked about but that this meeting was not the place for that to occur.

Business item

Sub Committee Reports

Hall Management

Peter Romey announced:

- that although Stage 1 of the Hall upgrade has commenced, progress to date has been slow due to the hospitalisation of one of the contractors involved.
- that a small team of people with colour knowledge will recommend a ceiling paint colour. It will definitely be a light colour but not white.
- that the passive thermal effects of the insulation will be assessed before moving on to the next stage
- the next stage will be presented to the General Meeting for approval before commencement.

Victoria Crawford expressed her appreciation for Peters' extensive work for this project.

Community Support Centre

Pearl Beach Progress Association Inc.
9 Diamond Road Pearl Beach NSW 2256
www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au
ABN 33 688 265 112

Business Item

Victoria Crawford (for Paul Toohey who was not expected to be present)

This Project is now completed – report submitted to CCC 29 March. The last stage was the Spear point, which goes down into a bore.

Volunteers will be needed to manage the system and training will take place in September.

The Budget overrun of \$833.23 – covered by BBQ at Bunnings with some money left over for landscaping, so ideas for how to disguise the big water tanks are welcome.

Paul Toohey then thanked all who participated in the project, and Helen Thurlow and Victoria thanked Paul Toohey for his massive contribution.

Events, Fundraising and Publicity Committee

Lynne Lillico

With the very sad resignations of many of the Fundraising and Events Committee we are seeking new members or the return of those who left.

- Robyn Barrett has agreed to convene the sub-committee.
- Some ongoing activities are currently not occurring - monthly breakfast and jam making being major ones which we all enjoyed and will miss.
- A Beach Safety program is to be run by Umina Surf Lifesaving Club members during the School Holidays teaching rip current safety skills for unpatrolled beaches.
- Malcolm Davison is organising Anzac Day and would appreciate donations of Anzac Biscuits.
- Trivia will return in the holidays so people are encouraged to book tables early before they sell out.
- The Cinema Club will resume 1st May and movies will be shown 1st and 3rd Wed of the month.
- The Monday Lunch Club will meet again 6th May and on 1st Monday of each Month
- The PB and Irvine Family Junior Showcase and Scholarship will take place Sat 26th May.
- As the Conservatorium organises for a grand piano, which will still be in PB on Sunday, Lynne has organised a special pianist recital for that next day.

Publicity

PB Bowlers will bowl at Ettalong with Ettalong bowlers to raise funds for Guide Dogs. Sunday 5 May 2024.

Business Item

Working Parties

Guidelines – Code of conduct consultation

Victoria Crawford announced that the Draft Code of Conduct which had been sent out in January and again with General Meeting notices for 6 April for revue and so far, she has received very little feedback.

- Please provide feedback so we can consider amendments before the May meeting
- Feedback to vfc1951@gmail.com or the secretary

Council Liaison – Peter Richardson

1. Roads Update

- CCC has confirmed that they will address water pooling issues on Diamond Rd this financial year
- Roads team continues to monitor and report road safety defects to CCC. Please use roads@pearlbeachprogress.org.au
- - Proposals for major patching/rehabilitation of a number of our roads have been discussed with CCC, but to date no funding has been confirmed.

2. Foreshore defects and upgrades

- Proposals to remedy defects/improve area around the amenity block and playground have been submitted to CCC and a meeting with Officers is expected shortly.
- - Public Toilet Strategy Consultation expected April 24, seeking input from residents
- Ocean Pool cleaning took place 5 March, with next cleaning due 24 August.
- - Discussions held with Craig Healey CCC regarding a number of pool upgrades, namely
 - Additional hand railing
 - Resurfacing of floor surfaces
 - Improved pool access.
- Unlikely unless significant funding can be achieved
- missing bike racks to be reported to CCC.

Business Item

3. Beach Safety

- CCC is proposing to install 4 new yellow flotation tubes in boxes shortly
- CCC is reviewing signage on the Emergency Response Beacon.

- Discussion ongoing with CCC regarding improved signage/mapping of location of beach safety equipment
- Beach Safety Education 16th/17th/18th April

Business Item

Community group updates

- Bushcare: cancelled due to the weather this month. Meets 1st Sat /month
- Dunecare: meets 2nd Saturday/month
- PB Singers: have been practicing for Anzac Day. They are planning for another Community Singalong later in the year.
- Plodders: 16th April Plod from Gosford waterfront to new RSL Club for lunch
Trip to Myall Lakes 5-10 May, Contact Bev Lapacek
Bev is organising 26th Biggest Morning Tea 22nd May in the Arboretum
- Tennis/ Bowls. Contact Judy McFarlane to book. Toilets have been repaired.
- Arboretum: Mary Knaggs gave brief history. Building new verandah. Area will be available for education groups or to hire for functions.
- 12 October History of British Rock Concert joint project with PBPA.
- Environment Group: Has been notified that Koalas will not be released in Arboretum as studies have shown they are only in the north of the area of Central Coast.
- Dogs not allowed in National Parks/Arboretum (danger to native animals) Please take photos of number plates of people not complying and send to CCC

Business Item

Other Business

□

- PBPA has been trialing General Meetings every 2nd Month. The Executive Committee proposes returning to monthly General Meetings, to process the quantity of business, with special meetings for Guest speakers. A show of hands indicated support for returning to monthly General Meetings.
- A suggestion was made that a non-executive person may be suitable to hold talks with the Jam Makers and Breakfast BBQ organisers to see if it is possible for them to return by the next month. Victoria Crawford asked for anyone interested in this role to contact her.

Meeting closed at 7:00pm