

PEARL BEACH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

5th March 2022 at 5.00 pm

Attendees – Russell Grove (in the chair) Pauline Toohey (Acting Secretary) Victoria Crawford, Ian Crawford, Malcolm Davison, Vicki Davison, Greg McPhee, Anne Korner, Barbara Hastings, Keith and Stephanie Wood, Paul Blinkhorn, James Boyd, Nigel Tisdale, John Allan, Carolyn Marks, Barry Marks, Bev Lapacek, Stephen Parsons, Peter Connor, Luke Stevenson, Lynne Lillico, Jane Borton, Neil Mathison, Jo Wathen, Douglas McDonald, John Haymes, Gaby Porter, Gabby Pritchard, Malcolm McDonald, Trish Affleck, Jill Easterbrook, John Hill, Kerry Caloyannidis, Val Taylor, Alex Alexander, Lorelle Savage, Larry Savage, Candela Alvarez, William Belfan, Heather Brown, Vic Brown, Paul Toohey, Lindsay Boyd, M Nagarajan, Jeanette Sims, B. Young, Stuart Gan. Troy Rushton

Apologies –

Tanya Masters, Libby & Larry Nelson, Alison & Gary Phillips, Cath and Brendan O'Reilly, Mary Knaggs, Peter Romey, Dorothy McDonald, Andrew Cordwell, Robert Lillico, Glen Taylor, David George, Ann Parsons, Jackie & Duncan Bridel, Adrian & Helen Thurlow, Meryl Duke, Aileen Samios, Jan & John Steinbeck, Margaret Westcott, Aafke & Klass Wolding.

Business Item

Acknowledgement of Country

Russell Grove 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.

Minutes of previous General Meeting

A link to the minutes of the previous meeting on 5/2/22 was included in the notice of meeting sent to membership on 27th February 2022.

Matters Arising from previous meeting minutes - NIL

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed : **Malcolm McDonald**

Seconded: **James Boyd**

Business Item

Covid 19 Update

Russell spoke on the revised Government policy re Covid restrictions. As masks are no longer required and the QR code and social distancing obsolete.

Resolved - **“That given the current situation we dispense with the rules at the Hall and all restrictions be removed”**

Moved: **Russell Grove**

Seconded: **Paul Barclaire**

Financial Reports

Treasurer;

Link to the financial reports for February were including in the notice of meeting email sent to members on 27th February .

Resolved - “That the February 2022 financial reports be accepted”.

Proposed: **B. Hastings**

Seconded : **Vic Brown**

SUB COMMITTEES

Hall

Paul Barclaire said that the shelving has been done and thanked Ian Crawford for his tireless work.

Discussion took place in regards to the purchase of a Master Key.

Resolved “That the Report be accepted”

Proposed: **P. Blinkhorn**

Seconded: **Bev Lapacek.**

Business Item

Safety Advisory Group

Aust. Govt Black Summer Bush Fire Recovery Grants Program –

Paul Toohey acknowledged the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources for approval of funding to the amount of \$91,630 for a **Community Support Centre** at the PB Memorial Community Hall. A great outcome for the grant which was lodged in October, 2021. He thanked the Pearl Beach RFS Brigade and the NSW State Emergency Service for their support. The PBPA thank Paul Toohey and Ben Kearney for the huge effort in obtaining quotes, managing finances, sourcing contractors and reviewing specifications for this project. Thanks also to Ollie Woldring for his assistance from his Canberra office.

This Community Support Centre will become a safe haven for anyone unable to evacuate the village and also give support to the RFS, SES and other emergency services. Paul was authorized at PBPA Exec Meeting of 24 February 2022 to sign the necessary documentation on behalf of the Association and to be a joint signatory on a PBPA separate designated Community Support Project bank account.

The infrastructure used for this service is detailed in the **GEM**.

Resolved “That the report be accepted”.

Proposed: **Paul Toohey**

Seconded: **Russell Grove**

RFS Report

Lindsay Boyd spoke about the difficulties this constant rain has on the RFS

- Trees down
- Assistance to ambulance
- Hazardous road conditions
- Branches falling
- Pot Holes

Lindsay spoke about the donations collected in Jan/Feb 2020 from fundraising from the PB community which we thought was to build resources for Pearl Beach among them being another trailer. Lindsay explained that money has been well spent to the benefit of both the RFS and CFU. He asked Paul Toohey to speak on the CFU. Paul said the CFU needed more members as some members had left disillusioned re the fundraising plus the Covid restrictions prevented any training in 2020 and 2021. Things have changed now and the RFS has allowed the CFU voting rights and there is consistent training. The numbers have increased and we are awaiting the newest

Business Item

members to complete their online course. Greg McPhee commented that not much was given to the CFU. Lindsay explained that the more members we have the more money allocated
Russell asked how much money the local RFS had and Lindsay replied \$90,000

Events

Lynne Lillico listed the coming events which are in the Gem and also in email sent from PBPA.

- Clean Up Australia Day 6th March Thanks to Stephen Parsons for organising. Volunteers most welcome although as I write this it is pouring with rain!!!!
- Trivia March 26th Come along and make up a table.
- Easter Book Fair - Books needed Helpers needed also Alison will send email out
- Anzac Day – Malcolm Davison to organize
- George Washington Machine at Hall 14th May
- Scholarship Concert: Donations gratefully received from Pearl Beach Café - \$1000. Coast Realty - \$500 and Peoples Choice \$500 Frances Grove memorial
- Jazz in the Arboretum Thanks to local residents and local businesses we have covered costs for the Jazz
- Pearl Beach Bowlers went to Ettalong Bowling Club for a Charity Day for the Blind Society – Robert Lillico .
- May 1st - International Guide Dog Day -PB Bowlers will go to the Club and members of our community are most welcome to come along and support both the bowlers and the guide dogs
- Movie Club begins in May
- **These events will be listed and emailed in due course as they occur**
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Resolved "That the report be accepted"

Proposed: **James Boyd**

Seconded: **Heather Brown**

Business Item

Fundraising:

- Easter Raffle on Easter Saturday
 - Adrian Thurlow will be asked to co-ordinate
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Welcome New Membership

RG welcomed
Amanda Winley
Troy Rushton

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Arboretum

Victoria Crawford said rain had played havoc in the Arboretum washing away the Boardwalk and consequently that trail was closed. The new bridge constructed had failed. The wetlands were flooded at the moment, but they did need some water! Tree lopping has been done but only minimal because of the rain
19th March Working Bee - all welcome
Ephemeral Art Trail – Sponsored by Belle Property June 11th – July 17^t

PLODDERS

Bev Lapacek said that the Plodders had been plodding since 1997. She has kindly scanned thousands of photos of the Plodders and has created three photo books - 60 pages!! Bev suggested that the books come out at meetings for people to browse. She is looking forward to taking her Plodders to the Blue Mountains after Easter.

War Memorial Upgrade

DA before Council . Grant application submitted

Other Business

John Hill has a repertoire group that is rehearsing for the Singers concert in August. He is looking for 2 pianists – one to play Honky Tonk music and the other either Chopin or Tchaikovsky! Anyone out there who fits the bill please get in touch with John

Business Item

Pearl Beach Shop and Café - New Ownership

Troy Rushton is one of three new owners of the Pearl Beach Café and General Store. Troy is the Business and Finance Manager at Coast Realty and was asked to speak on the future plans for both the shop and café.

Russell mentioned that some people in the community had very strong views on the changes and we need to put the inuendo and rumours to rest.

Troy said that the café is running at a loss and changes need to be made. Some of the changes proposed are:

- Café to hold from 70 – 120 people
- Improved menu
- Open 7 days
- Extended hours
- Improved food offered
- Have VIP nights - by invitation
- Have a boutique Deli
- Wine Tasting
- A range of gourmet food
- Boutique wine and Craft beer

Proposed Licence Variation

1. Sale of liquor without service of food
2. Take away sale of boutique wine and craft beer

There was much conjecture about the liquor licence which the group are considering applying for. There was concern from the floor by some that we will have people drinking too much, going to the beach and leaving bottles etc. and generally causing trouble.

Troy said the Real Estate business is the primary business and that only a very small space was going to be used to store the wine. The wine will be boutique and priced accordingly and if you want cheap wine then you will have to go over the hill, which of course we already do. There will be no BYO and beer will NOT be sold in carton.

The general consensus was that the changes were readily accepted but Alcohol was the biggest issue and caused a lively discussion. It was suggested from the floor that the new owners let the community know just what they are going to do and maybe put a plan of the renovations etc. somewhere they can be seen; either on the screen inside the shop or in the café window. Stuart Gan agreed. Troy was thanked for his

Business Item

input and said the community will have the opportunity to put their views forward.

Attached to these Minutes is correspondence from some members of the Pearl Beach community relating to their concerns re the proposed liquor licence

Meeting closed at 6.40pm followed by drinks and nibbles and some further lively discussions with Coast Realty.

*Pauline Toohey
Acting Secretary*

Appendix – Correspondence Emails Received

Dear Secretary

Re the new agenda item for tomorrow's meeting, 5th March 2022.

I will attend the meeting by reason of this Agenda Item (and Clean Up Australia), but Ann cannot.

We wish to express our opposition to any variation to the current liquor licence for the General Store and Café.

Residents and visitors have ample means of procuring alcohol, including dining in, on line purchases, or buying from Umina or Woy Woy outlets.

Alcohol consumption in Pearl Beach in private homes does not cause much harm but public consumption could.

We fear the ability to buy alcohol from the Store or Café would lead to consumption across the road or on Coral Crescent picnic areas in 'no alcohol to be consumed' zones, including on the beach, leading to potentially disruptive behaviour not acceptable in Pearl Beach, whether it be 'old timers' such as at Hardy's Bay but more likely groups of young folk out to party and grog on.

We are particularly mindful of the need to avoid bottles and cans being strewn on the picnic areas or in the Dunes OR glass on the Beach. The adverse impact of broken glass on the safety of beachgoers is well known to those conscientious persons who voluntarily clear the beach.

By way of relevant examples, alcohol purchased in local outlets in Umina by younger folk leads to bottles and cans being strewn along Patonga Rd. I have documented the dozens of long necks, port bottles and cans tossed indiscriminately after grog sessions. Six dozen bottles in 4 months. We do not want this behaviour to become the norm in Pearl Beach. If Pearl Beach became a mecca for such groups we will be far worse off than now.

In Pearl Beach, may I ask who will pick up the litter- probably aged volunteers, probably not the Café owners. This is unreasonable. May I instance the impossibility of getting local Maccas to take responsibility for 'their' litter.

Over the years the Pearl Beach Community has opposed this type of liquor licence. The current licence at the Café causes no great concern and Pearls is a good community citizen. Let it remain this way.

The Café owners need to understand the need to maintain a respectful relationship with the community. This community is our home, not a party venue. We value the services provided by the Café and Pearls but we have to be comfortable with the type of services provided.

Stephen is happy to speak to this item.

Ann and Stephen Parsons

I refer to your advice today that the above matter is a late inclusion on the Agenda for tomorrow night's Progress Association general meeting.

As I am unable to attend I would be grateful if could make known to the meeting my following comments.

Over 20 years ago the then owners of the general store sought to gain a 'bottle shop' licence.

The community's consensus objection prevailed and the licence was not granted.

Residents' primary concern was that such an amenity would risk our beach becoming a heavy 'drinking destination' for some day visitors.

In contrast, the reality then, as now, is that when those visitors so inclined wanted further supplies they had to go back over the hill for the purpose but were most unlikely to return that day.

A friend living in coastal Copacabana told me some years ago that their local community rues the day a liquor licence was granted to their general store and the resultant social misdemeanours which at times occur.

Changes to the liquor licence and development of the hotel in Patonga have had dramatic impacts, including, increased daily visitors and traffic numbers.

Less visible, but of major concern, is that local residents feel alienated as the social character of their village is being transformed.

Let us, here, be very careful what we wish for.

David George

To the Chairperson and the Secretary of PBPA,
thank you for the short notice of a representative of the new owners of the cafe attending tomorrow's general meeting. I will not be attending the meeting but I wish to express my opposition to any variation/extension of the current liquor licence.

The village does not need an outlet retailing liquor. Such a retail situation will undoubtedly lead to more unlawful consumption of alcoholic drinks in our village, its streets and on our beach. Also it will enhance leaving empty bottles and cans on the beach and around the communal garbage containers which are often overflowing.

If I am correct, over the years, 2 liquor licences were successfully opposed by the community. PB is a unique and small village with an ageing permanent population. The village is already over commercialised with short term accommodations and day trippers. We don't need to witness the excessive partying, noise pollution and reckless driving inspired by the additional consumption of alcohol.

I have been informed that an extended licence is progress but on the contrary it is all about profit.

I would be grateful if you read my comments to those attending the general meeting.

Sincerely

Andrew Cordwell
current member of PBPA