

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Pearl Beach Progress Association & thank you all – old & new members - for giving up your time to come.

For those of you who I haven't met, my name is Karina Stafford and I've been the President for the last 12 months.

I'd like to acknowledge the past President's and Life members of the association who are here today & have given so much to the association throughout the years.

## **Review of the Past Year:**

I've tried to summarise the accomplishments of the Association over the past year, of which there have been many & have focused on the highlights:

- **Executive Committee**
  - 2022/2023 has been a busy year with the Executive Committee welcoming 5 new members onto the team.
  - The focus has been on:
    - Productivity & improving processes.
    - Improved communications.
    - Developing working relationships with Central Coast Council.
- **Safety Advisory Group**
  - Completion of the Community Support Centre – emergency backup power (solar, battery, generator), bushfire sprinkler system.
  - Maintenance of the Defibrillators
  - Installation of the Emergency response Beacon
- **Hall Management Sub-Committee**
  - The development of a Hall Masterplan.
  - Landscaping
  - Quotes from builders to start Stage 1 of Hall refurbishment.
  - Ongoing maintenance of an aging building.
  - Hall Hire & community usage.
- **Environment Sub-Committee**
  - Moved under the umbrella of the PBPA.
  - Submissions to council ranging from DAs, unwarranted removal of trees, to opening of Green Point Creek.
  - Meetings with other local Community Environmental groups & Dr Alice Howe, Director of Environment & Planning at CC Council.
- **Events & Fundraising Sub-Committee**
  - Increase in the number & breadth of events.
  - Introduction of new activities to increase community involvement which has also increased fundraising revenue.
- **Constitution Working Group**
  - Revision & update of Pearl Beach Progress Association Constitution – a huge thank you to Victoria Crawford & her team.
- **Central Coast Council Liaison Working Group**

- Strong working relationship being developed by Peter Richardson with the Director of Infrastructure Services (roads, drainage, amenities, parkland) – Boris Bolgoff.
- Increased work on roads, drainage & parkland.
- Publicity Officer
  - A broad range of publicity across all media forms through Lynne's well-established network.
  - Increased attendance at events
  - Information regularly updated on local community events.

### Successful Community Events, projects & Initiatives

- Community Safer Place Project
- Bookfair(s)
- Restoration of the War Memorial & rosemary remembrance hedge
- Monthly Breakfast BBQs
- Implementation of new financial practices & software in line with the Constitution
- Beatles Rebooted in the Arboretum
- Santa Photos
- Updated Constitution & ratification
- Introduction of the Lunch Club
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Pearl Beach Jam Makers

### Challenges:

- Our biggest challenge is our revenue verses potential costs (running costs, maintenance & hall refurbishment). We desperately need more funds through donations, grants & additional people to help with fundraising events.
- We are always very grateful to our volunteers who give up their time to organise and run events. They should not expect to be the target of negative behaviour / comments. Living and volunteering in Pearl Beach should be a collegial experience and a Code of Conduct for members will be part of the Updated PBPA Guidelines.
  - Small number of volunteers across all areas of the Association.

### Financial Overview:

- As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, our net assets were just under 2.3 million (2.14 being the land & assets).

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- We had a revenue of \$133, 000 (fundraising, member subscriptions, donations, hall hire, grants).
- Annual Hall costs – \$52,057

### Membership and Community Engagement:

- We have had 61 new members join in the past 12 months & we welcome them with open arms!
- We've tried to increase community engagement through new initiatives like the monthly breakfast BBQs, additional Kids activities over summer holidays, the joint Beatles initiative with the Arboretum etc .
- Communication to members has improved with the website being regularly updated with local news & the latest events; the long & short addition of The Gem; the Monthly 'What's On' email and more comprehensive financial reporting, and publishing of the Executive Committee minutes.

### 2024 Goals:

- Hall Masterplan Stage 1 – resurfacing of floor, installation of new ceiling with insulation & internal painting to improve hall aesthetics & comfort.
- PBPA Guidelines to support the updated Constitutional framework.
- Improved functionality of the Hall.
- Greater focus on donations, sponsorship & grants to increase revenue to ensure Hall upgrades to increase local usage & hall hire.
- New website & membership software to improve member usage & functionality.

### Thank Yous:

- I'd like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Executive Committee members, Sub-Committees & Working Groups.
- I'd particularly like to thank the outgoing Executive Members – Pauline, Mary, Tanya & Doug for their individual hard work & collective dedication.
- I'd like to thank all those who volunteered for positions on the Executive as we need more people to put their hands up.
- My sincere gratitude to all members & particularly the hard-working volunteers, who contributed to the association's success.
- We desperately need more people– this is your Community & your Hall – we need everyone who can to contribute.
- We have a small group of volunteers that dedicate a great deal of their time to help with the Hall, run events or support other initiatives. Whilst I'm not going to name everyone individually, I would like to mention a few unsung heroes:

- Paul & Greti & their AV team for supporting all events (both private & public) with AV needs in & outside the hall.
- Ian Crawford who quietly goes around repairing all those little things that regularly need fixing.
- Jeanne Albrecht for all her efforts supporting the many activities & functions within the hall.
- Alison Phillips for her amazing Book Fairs.
- Ben Kearney for his expertise & guidance supporting the Safety Advisory Group.
- The members of the CFU & RFS.

We live in an amazing place and many people have commented that they feel the sense of community is growing and engagement across the demographics is increasing with the range of activities & events – we're keen to build on that next year & encourage you to participate.

I'd like to congratulate the new Executive Committee & thank them again for putting their hands up & volunteering their time & services. We have some great plans for the next year including the Hall upgrade & a range of Community Events & Fundraising ideas.

The Memorial Hall is owned by the Community – not the Council, so it is up to us to use & maintain it. I encourage you to get involved, participate, and contribute ideas and skills – regardless of whether you live here or are up on weekends; whether it's on a one-off or regular basis.

I look forward to seeing more newer (& older) faces at community events & thank you for your ongoing support.