



**Draft Minutes of Dangar Island League General Meeting
Saturday 25th February 2017**

Those in attendance: Sophia Walsh (Chair), Bronek Karcz (Committee), Vanessa O’Keefe (Committee), Sue Merricks (Committee), Ross Spence (Minutes), Judith Doyle (Committee), Hans Pols (Committee), Brenda Hall, Joanne Karcz, Susan Adams, David Pakes, Ross Higgins, Lyn Higgins, Jacky Korner, David Ruppin, Mark Agnew, Josh Ginty, Ron Barelle, Suzann Mead, David Turner.

Apologies: Trevor Kanaley, Marina Trompetter, Graham Ley, Wally & Margaret Bower, Jude Pritchard, Craig San Roche, Dennis and Helen Cook, Jenny Rowe, Antony Schinckel, Robert Bickerstaff, Judy Nikola, Jenny Pakes, Paul Ryder, Jenny Turner.

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Meeting Commenced 2:05pm

Sophia Walsh welcomed new members Josh Ginty and Jacky Korner.

1. Acceptance of Minutes of Last General Meeting 23rd July 2016: Proposed by Brenda Hall/
Seconded by Ross Higgins. Carried. No business arising.

2. Communication In and Out: Ross Spence indicated it had been a busy time communicating with Council over a range of matters with very little progress in some cases. Island residents have also been active in drawing attention to issues of concern.

3. Dangar Island League President’s Report – 2016 (prepared by Sophia Walsh but presented with Bronek and Vanessa)

1. Brooklyn Master Plan Update
2. Mullet Mail Update
3. Garbage and Park Issues
4. Roadworks on Island
5. Dangar Island Wharf Upgrade
6. Council Ute Update

Points presented were as follows – discussion points raised from the meeting to follow.

1. Brooklyn Master Plan – Update

Bronek indicated the League Executive has set up a subcommittee to focus on the development of the Brooklyn improvement Master Plan by HSC. Members of the subcommittee are Bronek Karcz, Trevor Kanaley and Hans Pols.

The League has been very active in engaging with Council members and planning staff as well as other river communities to ensure that the needs of Dangar residents are fully considered in the process. A letter to Mayor Steve Russell detailing our concerns with the process to date is on the League website.

As a means of coordinating and integrating the issues related to river communities a new coordinating committee, the Lower Hawkesbury Communities Group (LHCG) has been established and will meet monthly. Representatives from the following communities are invited to attend: Milsons Passage, Bar Point, Mooney Mooney, Dangar Island, Little Wobby, Cogra Bay and Mullett Creek.

The LHCG met with Mayor Steve Russell and staff from the planning department on 15 February to raise the areas of concern of the river communities. Points raised were:

- The scope and importance of the BMP to the river communities
- Lack of structured and numerical data related to parking needs and economic activity
- The importance of economic sustainability
- The impact of Peat Island on Brooklyn and the BMP
- Possible amalgamation of the northern Hawkesbury communities into the Hornsby Shire Council

Mayor Russell assured river residents that their needs would not be ignored and there is a recognition that river residents are dependent on Brooklyn to manage their lives.

Points made by Mayor Russell and staff included:

- The township of Brooklyn is rundown after years of neglect
- The master planning process aims to develop a long-term plan for the future development of the town
- The economic viability of businesses in the township needs to be addressed
- There is no set agenda or preferred outcome for the BMP program
- The Mayor stressed there is no barrier to individuals or groups contributing to the process
- So far 50% of the program budget has been spent – the first draft of the Masterplan is expected in mid to late 2017
- During the first half of 2017 there will be several public “Drop in sessions” – One was requested for Dangar Island and tentatively agreed
- Two consultants have been appointed to the Masterplan team to collect and analyse statistical data on traffic and economic activity in Brooklyn.
- The development of Peat Island is not directly included in the BMP
- There is no overwhelming demand for the amalgamation of northern river-side communities into the Hornsby Shire Council

It is clear that the Brooklyn Community, the River Communities and Council need to work together to achieve a good and lasting outcome. It is less clear how trade-offs will be identified and negotiated in practice.

Ron Barelle expressed concern that a town planner should have been involved in the process to date as to increase population numbers a rezoning process would be needed. He also commented that progress to date showed no consideration to sea level changes due to climate changes and new technological developments.

Other participants commented on the lack of attention to fire escape routes or the lack of discussions with State Rail concerning potential land for new parking spaces.

2. Mullet Mail Update

The Autumn edition of the Mullet Mail is due out 10 March and this will be the first edition With Marina Trompetter as editor. Contributions to the paper are warmly welcomed and add to a lively discourse about island life.

3. Garbage and Park Issues

Vanessa reported on the long process that had involved Judith, Jane and Paul Ryder, Suzanne Mead, Harry Recher and others in preparing a submission to Council and meeting with council officers on Our concerns regarding the revised garbage service. While the service was regarded as an improvement for those on the lower part of the island the problems remained and were significant for those living in Riverview Avenue and at the end of Grantham Crescent.

A copy of the letter sent to the Mayor is included in the website and details the safety and legal issues as they relate to residents.

At this point a detailed response to the concerns is yet to be received. We understand that a consultant, Anne Prince has been appointed to review options for improvement and to consult with residents by the end of March.

There was discussion about ways to hasten the review but in the end it was decided to await the discussions with the newly appointed consultant before taking further action.

4. Roadworks on Island

Bronek reported on the scope of work that had been agreed with the Council maintenance team and it is to commence on 6 March. The scope of works includes;

- Scarifying and compaction of the existing road surface – 480m (Grantham Crescent and section of Baroona Street).
- Asphalt road to be widened – corner of Neotsfield Avenue and Baroona Street.
- Section beyond Yallaroi Parade causing ponding – rutting sections to be filled or raised to ensure water flows towards the park side.
- Open channels near culverts to be lined with asphalt for 2 culverts.

Ross Higgins asked that the residual rubbish behind the club from a prior contractor be removed.

Bronek indicated he would take this up and asked that any questions about the work be directed to him and not to any individual workers.

5. Dangar Island Wharf Upgrade

Vanessa reported that Petra Fowler of Elton Consulting had indicated some minor adjustments were being made to the tender documents before being issued.

6. Council Ute Application

We understand Council is presently considering whether to continue to keep a utility vehicle on Dangar Island. The Dangar Island League considers this long-standing arrangement should be continued. Removing the ute would result in increased costs to Council and to water, sewerage, electricity and other utilities working on the Island. It would be hopelessly inefficient and expensive to have to barge a vehicle every time. It would also have negative results for Island safety and amenity.

A letter was sent to Mayor Russell on 13 February but to date we have not received a response.

Any other Business

David Turner advised members of safety issues at the Parsley Bay boat launching ramp and a hole in the wire mesh at the Brooklyn pool. He has advised Council in January of these issues.

David also asked that islanders respect the 30 metre rule which requires vessels to travel at 6 knots within 30 metres of jetties or moored boats.

Future Dates

- **General meeting – 24 June 2017 2:00pm**
- **General and Annual Meeting – 23 September 2017 2:00pm**

Sophia thanked present members for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 3:15pm.