

## Mins of Dangar Island League ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

**Those in Attendance:** Bronek Karcz, Ant Schinckel, Judith Doyle, Hans Pols, Judy Nikola, Michael Liebenberg, Peter Wolfe, Joanne Karcz, Gareth Tilson, Sue Merricks, Valentina Gluszko, Tony Partridge, Jimmy Jaggs, Jane, Jaggs, Alec Pratt, Janel Pratt, Elizabeth Trevena, Stephen Curtis, Jane Drummond, Philip Doggett, Cynthia Bobst, David Ruppin, Michelle Ramage, Kim Wilson, Lisa Hayes, Dean Finnnigan, Henry Innis, Domenic Di Dato, Peter Sabatino, Andrew Marr, Peter Godbolt, June Savage, Paul Savage, Charlotte Godbolt, Jodi Thiessen, Michael Hutak, Taynya Rojasfortd, Georgia Lyn-Robinson, Wally Bower, Margaret Bower, Stuart Allen, Susan Adams, Kate Barrett, Vanessa O'Keefe, Warren Brown, Vicki Worthington, Cindy Smith, Stephanie Oak, Matthew Johnson, Christine Sanderson, Rochman Reese, Lynda Dryden, Paul Ryder, Jane Wilson, Veronica Anderson, John Anderson, Debbie Barker, Laurie Strommer, Anne Mahony, Garry Mahony, Claire Smith, Ron Barelle, Ross Higgins, Helen Cook, Bill Lyn-Robinson, Lyn Higgins, Kylie Fitzmaurice, Grahame Parker, Richard Stockley, Heather Dorrrough, Terry Dorrrough, Cybele Shorter, Steve Fitzmaurice, Wendy McMurdo, David Tilly, Nicola Weddin, Sarah Galvin, Chabela Torres, Thomas Weddin, Leanne Brenner, Judy Recher, Phil Sargent, Chris Sargent, Kathy Merrick, Jenny Turner, David Turner, Sharon Ebbeck, Tim Ebbeck, Mark Cole, Judy Lattas, Thomas Garvey, Marina Garvey, Lars Dahl, Martin Lloyd, Nardia Keenan, *Some members attended the meeting but did not sign the attendance register.* Dimi Lattas, Leonie Findlay, Ross Spence, Pauline Foote, Michael Dean, Wynn Webber, Ana Pollock,

Apologies : None

Bronek opened the meeting at 2.40pm.

### Michael Dean immediately raised a point of order.

Michael demanded that the President (Bronek) hold a Public General Meeting before the AGM as this was called for (according to Michael) in section 8.2 in the Constitution of the Dangar Island League. Bronek responded that that was not his understanding of the Constitution and that there was no requirement for a General Public meeting. Bronek advised that the AGM would proceed and that Michael, if he wished, could take the matter further with the Office of Fair Trade.

### 1.1 Acceptance of minutes: of the preceding AGM;

Minutes were circulate and accepted by Sue Merrick and seconded Michael Liebenberg

### 1.2. Presidents Report:

**Bronek covered off the EIGHT programmes that had been completed during the year and outlined those on the current agenda and progress statements:**

### 1.3 Dangar Island League – Presidents End of Year Report 2013

I am pleased to be able to report on a very busy and productive twelve months of work by the League Executive. This was my first year as League President and I wish to thank everybody for their support and help.

**The Brooklyn Sewerage Plant** was upgraded with tertiary filters, commissioned on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. This was as a result of our leading submission to Government that was also adopted by other community organisations. Sydney Water was stopped from being allowed to change the license discharge limits from the Brooklyn plant and degrading the quality of the discharge into the River.

**The Australia Day** festivities were a fabulous success. Feedback from visitors and residents was strong. Particular thanks and commendation must go to Michael Liebenberg who organised the **Sculpture Walk and Competition** that enthused so many on the Island to demonstrate their artistic talent.

The **Dangar Island Historical Society** is back in action having been resurrected with the help of League funds and the efforts of Peter Wolfe, who is acting as Interim Society President, and Judith Doyle. In the past few months the Society has grown with over fifty new members joining.

**The Island roads** have been resurfaced and made more comfortable for both pedestrians and buggy traffic. This is after several years of Island debate followed by negotiation with Council Officers who were very accommodating by agreeing to an initial 200 meter test strip on Riverview Avenue, significantly adding to the total cost of the job. The heritage values of our lower roads have been preserved while the surface of the upper Riverview loop has been substantially improved. Our roads should be good for a few years to come.

**The Mullet Mail** has been re-energised by the dynamic duo of Michael Liebenberg and Mel Anderson. The latest editions of the Mullet Mail speak for themselves.

Four years of work and dedication by the **Dangar Island Mooring Co-op**, a subcommittee of the League led by Antony Schinckel was brought to a close. Much had been communicated to residents on this issue through 16 public meetings, numerous letters and Mullet Mail updates. On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013 a vote was held to gauge the majority view of the Island regarding the final draft proposal presented by the subcommittee. The DIMC subcommittee was closed at the completion of the vote.

Other programs completed were **sorting out and upgrade of the membership register** and the **appointment of an Honorary Auditor**. Margaret Kepert audited and signed off the accounts presented today.

There are a lot of programs of work that are still in progress and will continue into 2014.

A revamp of **Island emergency procedures** is being driven by Christine Sanderson. A First Aid training course has been completed with a second scheduled later in the year. A successful community meeting and consultation with Emergency Response Authorities was held on the Island. There is a high level of interest and the work will result in a much stronger and more reliable emergency response capability on the Island. Jetty signs are being organised by Judy Nikola so that emergency authorities will find it easier to navigate around the Island and cut down the time required to reach emergency situations.

There are many serious issues facing Dangar in the next year. Most of these will need strong negotiation with Government and Council authorities. The League Executive has already started the dialogue. Issues include the protection of our car **parking at Brooklyn** which is under threat, the provision of extra **Telstra lines** or the alternative supply of NBN connection capability as the Telstra copper lines have run out and the upgrade of the Island public toilets and park. An ongoing issue is the protection of **Peat Island** and the adjacent River shore from inappropriate development such as heavy residential building.

The recently registered Native Title Land claim that includes Dangar Island will need to be managed.

I thank everybody on behalf of the League Executive for their continued engagement and interest in the affairs of our Community through the Dangar Island League, our Community Organisation

*Bronek Karcz -President Dangar Island League -2013*

#### **1.4 Financial Report and Auditors Report:**

Hans Pols handed out copies of independent audited accounts, for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

He highlighted main income and expenditure items.

- Total income \$1,508. -Total Expenditure \$1,226 for the year. - Assets: Cheque a/c \$2788 Term Deposit \$11,868.

Monies that had been loaned from the League to the DI Historical Society, to assist with its re-instatement and start up equipment purchases, at the beginning of 2013, had been repaid in full. This would show in next years accounts.

Accounts were accepted by Tim Ebbeck and seconded by Lynda Dryden

All Office Bearers and Executive members stepped down.

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## **1. Election of Office-bearers and members of the Executive Management Committee**

Bronek welcomed Charles Hill who was to act as Returning Officer for the Election process.

Bronek explained the format of meeting, election process and the ballot papers, that members received on registration. A list of the candidates was displayed on the wall.

The Returning Officer addressed the meeting and asked if there were any further nominations of candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Executive Committee Members. There were no further nominations.

### **1.1. Office Bearer Nominations and Ballot**

Candidates for Office Bearers positions introduced themselves and gave their views regarding their candidacy

President:	Bronek Karcz, Rochman Reese,
Vice President:	Ant Schinckel, Cybele Shorter
Secretary:	Judith Doyle, Christine Sanderson
Treasurer:	Hans Pols - this position was unopposed.

Members were asked to cast their votes for the League Office Bearers and the count took place.

The result of the first ballot was:	Bronek 145	Rochman 41	President
	Ant 144	Cybele 45	Vice President
	Judith 137	Christine 46	Secretary

### **1.2. Committee Member Nominations and Ballot (Only THREE positions available).**

Vanessa O' Keefe, Judy Nikola, Michael Liebenberg and Peter Wolfe introduced themselves and gave their views regarding their candidacy.

Candidates contesting for three positions as Executive Committee members were as follows:

Peter Wolfe, Michael Liebenberg, Judy Nikola, Vanessa O'Keefe, Rochman Reese, Cybele Shorter, Christine Sanderson

The result of the second ballot was:	Peter Wolfe	123
	Michael Liebenberg	123
	Judy Nikola	120
	Vanesssa 'O Keefe	45
	Christine Sanderson	41
	Cybele Shorter	37
	Rochmann Reese	14

*Wally and Georgia assisted the Returning Officer Charlie for both vote counts.*

During the counting of the Committee members votes.

### **1.3. Election of the Honorary Auditor**

Hans Pols asked that Margaret Kepert be re-elected as independent Auditor. Accepted Sue Merrick and seconded by Jo Karcz. Thanks to Margaret are to be passed on to her by Hans.

*During the counting Bronek asked the remaining members if there were any questions from the floor and the following items were discussed:*

#### **2.1) 2P Parking at Brooklyn:**

A petition against the Council Brooklyn 2P parking proposal had received an incredible response in a short space of time. Islanders were encouraged to write to council with objections. Bronek advised that he'd be taking the petition and a formal letter to Council next Wednesday.

#### **2.2.) Use of email to contact members:**

The recent 2P parking issue was the first time that the current database had been used to communicate to members about an 'issue'. It was decided to use member's database as the councils' proposal would impact the, overall majority of, islanders in some way. The council had not written or advised the League or residents directly. It was felt that this important issue to be communicated speedily as the council response time was short.

The possibilities of using member's emails more would be **put to the next General meeting** to ask if they would like for this to become another regular Communication vehicle. It would not replace any of the current channels in use i.e., mailbox drops, posters, website and Mullet Mail.

#### **2.3.) Next General Meeting:**

Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> – would be a suggested date for the next General Meeting, which is due before the year-end. Bronek first would convene with the Executive Committee, asap and then mail drop/poster a date.

#### **2.4) Electricity Sub-Station change over's:**

There are two on the island one near the corner of Neotsfield and Riverview and other up top near 94R. Both stations have to be upgraded. Work would be carried out in the next 6 mths.

Assistance of a helicopter would be used to install the equipment at the top of the island, as roads won't pass road weight restrictions.

It was asked if this would stop the occasional blackouts experienced. Bronek responded that the new transformers would improve the electricity supply on the Island but the effect of failures in the grid off the Island would remain the same.

#### **2.5) Election of more than three members on the Executive:**

Whilst the League constitution does set out that there are just seven Committee positions; 4 office-bearers and 3 Committee members. This would be one thing that could be changed in the Constitution.

In the recent years, there had been 5 Committee Members. This number allowed the work load to be more efficiently and evenly spread and gave enough cover for those volunteers that are not able to attend every monthly meeting throughout the year.

Any changes to the constitution would have to be put in a motion at a General Meeting and receive a 2/3-majority vote.

## **2.6) Phone & Internet Lines:**

As previously informed there are no more phone lines to the island and this would increasingly become a problem as we rely more on internet facilities.

Discussions and meetings had taken place with State and Federal minister. Waiting now with new government changes to settle and then a plan to follow through with new Minister of Communications who is responsible for the NBN.

There are only 3 possibilities for more lines, via : fibre optics, towers or satellite - towers probably being the most practical one for the island.

This will become a bigger issue as time goes on and lobbying NBN/Ministers will be a task for the League and residents alike.

Other River Settlements are being brought into discussion on this subject so that we have larger numbers to lobby with.

*At the end of these topics the count for the Executive Members was announced – stated above.*

Bronek thanked Charlie for his role as Returning Officer and Wally and Georgia for their assistance.

He also thanked those members who had stayed to the end of the meeting (on a very hot afternoon) to hear the results of the second ballot.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

**Next meeting – tbc in mailbox drop in next 2 weeks.**