

FINAL/Dangar Island League Public/General Meeting Saturday 21st June 2014 in Community Hall

Those in attendance: Bronek Karcz (President) Judith Doyle (Secretary) Peter Wolfe (Executive), Hans Pols, (Treasurer) Michael Liebenberg (Executive), Joanne Karcz, Vanessa O'Keefe (Co-opted Executive) Sue Merrick, Lynda Dryden, Susan Adams, Elizabeth Trevena, Jenny Rowe, Brenda Hal, Garry Mahony, Bill Lyn-Robinson, Georgia Lyn-Robinson, Ron Barrelle, Kathy Merrick, David Ruppin, Lars Gunderlach, Alec Pratt, Jenny Turner, Tom Garvey, Trevor Kanaley, Skye Bower, Domenic Di Dato

Apologies: Wally Bower, Margaret Bower, Greif Horman, Lindee Horman, Judy Nikola, (Executive) Jude Pritchard, Craig San Roque, Sara Galvin, Tony Partridge, Arn Storch, Ross and Lyn Higgins, Yvonne Terklisden, Ant Schinckle (Vice President)

Meeting Commenced 2.12pm

1.1.) Correspondence In/Out: Majority of correspondence pertained to administration. HSC written response recently received regarding two items raised at previous General Meeting. Both covered under agenda. i) DI Public Wharf and ii) Wildlife signage).

1.2.) Previous Minutes proposed by Jenny Rowe Seconded Lynda Ryden.

2) League Constitution: Vanessa outlined the aims of the changes and reminded members of the process undertaken to date.

To re-cap the motion: *That the existing Constitution of Dangar Island League Incorporated be replaced by the proposed new Constitution of Dangar Island League Incorporated annexed to this Special Resolution and available on the Dangar Island League website and the Dangar Island Café.*

That the new Constitution apply to the operations of the Dangar Island League Incorporated as from its adoption by the general Meeting pending final approval by the Director General in accord with the provision of the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

~March community (was this at the last Public Meeting) recommended changes – no comment received.

~ Further confirmation of recommended changes were mail dropped and posted on website. Some comments around typos and re-organisation of points had been requested. Several emails had been exchanged with Ron Barelle.

~21 days notice given in lead up today's meeting no other comments received other than general support.

Main points of change in summary as follows. The proposed changes incorporate the 2009 Associations Act.

~ Allow 5 rather than 3 non office bearing members to be apart of Executive Committee

~ Amendments to make voting proceeedure easier

~ The new act does not require Audit

~ A dispute resolution also include as per the new act

~ Member communication channels included (– email will be utilised but NOT a requirement of the Constitution)

~ Notice of meetings 14 days for ordinary resolutions and 21 days for special resolutions

There too had been some reformatting and wording changes to ensure better clarity and inclusion of all points from the 2009 Assoc Act.

Bronek asked for any comments / questions. There were none. He asked that for those that had not yet posted their ballots to do so now so that the votes could be counted.

Bill Lyn-Robinson – acted as Returning Officer.

1:6

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER LATER IN THE MEETING (See section 6 below) AS FOLLOWS:

37 in favour, 4 informal and 0 against.

The Motion to approve the new Constitution was passed.

3.) Finances: Hans Pols advised that DIL cheque account held \$3.557 and the Term account \$12.321. Main recent expenditure had been \$350 contribution towards the Jetty signs. Householders had met the majority of the costs for this item.

4.) Membership: Hans also advised that current membership numbers total 273. There had been a large swell of membership at back end of 2014. There are 129 about to expire on 30th June 2014 he asked those present to renew and confirmed that reminders will be send out later this month. He also suggested that 5-year memberships help with administration.

Bronek K asked that if any members felt that there were any appropriate projects that might need funds from the League then they should put forward proposals for Committee and Community consideration.

5.) Presidents Report and progress Updates:

Constitution Changes / Jetty Signs & Ausgrid works

5.1. Bronek **thanked Kathy Merrick** who had spent many many hours on the **Constitution amendments** along side **Vanessa** who had driven the project on behalf of the Executive Committee.

5.2. **Thanks also to Judy Nikola** who had managed the **Jetty sign project** – designed to assist easier property locations in case of medical Emergencies.

5.3. He confirmed that in addition to these two League projects nearing completion, **Aus Grid** had finally **replaced the two substations** on the island. The old transformers had still to be removed and this item can be moved off agenda. Bronek also thanked all members of the Dangar Community for co-operating so well during the disruptions caused by the Ausgrid work.

5.4. Parking in Brooklyn:

There had been a meeting in Brooklyn at 10am (today) where Councillors Nathan Tilbury and Mick Gallagher were present. This had been organised with Brooklyn Residents Association and they agreed for Dangar and other local residents to attend.

On behalf of Dangar residents it was asked that ALL river communities be included as the parking as any changes within the Brooklyn hub effects more residents/rate papers than Brooklyn people. Cogra and Wobby fall into the Gosford Council but Brooklyn still remains their 'disembarkation' point.

Bronek said in summary the message from HSC was that \$250k was available and budgeted by HSC to instigate the Brooklyn Master plan.(previous requests at State level had not met with success).

This request to approve the Brooklyn master plan process would be put to the HSC I meeting in next two weeks. Councillors confirmed that if feasibility funding is approved the program will proceed and River Communities will be consulted and involved during the process. Parking is at the nub of the current concerns however it was agreed that during the Master planning process State Rail and other State authorities should be approached by Council in order that issues such as railway lift, Jetty wharf, and impending Peat Island sale are considered.

It was felt that there must be more consideration with regards to Brooklyn over and above the Parking issue. Pressure on all Brooklyn facilities and a longer term approach should be factored in.

2:6

David R made the point that whilst we might be different 'suburbs' we all shared the same postcode and that should count for something.

Those who attended this mornings meeting thought that Rob Arnold ran the morning meeting well and asked **that thanks be passed back to him. Bronek K.**

Bronek again confirmed that he met with other presidents of community residents associations – Mooney, Milsons and Brooklyn and that joint letters had been sent to various authorities where they power of more residents had impact.

It's considered important that authorities might look at a Lower Hawkesbury Master Plan: collective residents on the river from Spencer down numbers are significant. This approach was tried in early discussion re Peat Island and could be adopted again when seeking State/Federal funding.

5.5. Railways Lift – Hawkesbury River Station: Michael L confirmed that he had received terrific compilation of cases from the community re their difficulties with NO lift at the station. Petitions and letters had been forwarded.

The consistent reply from State Railways has been: 'HRRS is on the list but you are way down the list – it might not happen until 2018 if not much later.

Other stations with more passengers would take priority.

Member(s) asked where and how did the handicap access ruling fit with these timetables – Vanessa answered that they have to have 90% compliance.

Trevor K commented that the BMP should cover ALL access points TRAIN, BOATS and CARS.

5.5. Dangar Island Ferry Wharf/Pontoon upgrade: Peter Wolfe confirmed and read out letter just received from HSC with regards to timing of the upgrade of the Public Wharf/Pontoon delivery programme.

HSC letter extract:

I refer to your letter of 19.05.14

Planning for the constructing of this pontoon has been in place since 2004. After successfully applying for a grant to enable construction of the Pontoon from Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) in 2-01 Council engaged a consultant to examine various options and the selected design has arisen from this investigation. Attached for your information is a general arrangement plan showing this design.

Although this facility was scheduled for 2013/14 it had not proved possible. Tender documentation has been prepared and it is scheduled to go to public tender in July 2014 with a view to having the facility in service by December 2014.

The facilities had been designed to accommodate all known commercial and domestic craft, meets all the current requirements for disabled access as well as providing a number of mooring spots for casual users. This casual mooring provision was required by Roads and Maritime Services to meet funding requirements. The proposed commuter berthing facility does not form party of this project. The pontoon is a stand-alone project and does not depend or rely on the construction of the mooring facility. As indicated previously by Council the provision of the mooring facility is a decision for the residents of Dangar Island themselves.

You are welcome to forward any comments on the proposal to Council. Should you require further information in relation t this matter, please contact Councils Senior Asset Engineer, Alan Boyd on 9847 6672.

Member asked if we had heard when the handicap access would be completed on the Brooklyn side. The League had no knowledge of timing and suspected that works might be tied up with either the Brooklyn Master Plan or unresolved maintenance required from Lands department.

3:6

5.6. Ausgrid Works: Bronek asked at this point in the meeting if members were happy for the League to write and thank Ausgrid for their good planning, communication with residents to minimise disruption during these major works.

Tom G said that they had experienced some problems as the LX had not been switched off at the club and things had consequently broken when power turned back on. Another member pointed out that Ausgrid had advised residents to turn appliances/switches off.

It was a general agreement that a thank you letter be sent **Bronek K.**

5.7. Peat Island: Previous lobbying from combined River Settlements (Bronek, John A, Lindsey J and Rob A) with the State government where a favourable outcome looked to be accepted and since been reversed. The current word is that the whole of PI area will be offered up for tender.

Opposition group(s) will have to re-convene and start again from scratch as Government Ministers had recently changed roles and essentially previous communications and discussions would need to be replied.

5.8 e-waste: Hans presented plan that Judy N had been working on. There will be another e- waste clean up at the end of July. Notices will be put in mailboxes and posters up to confirm date and what will and won't be accepted.
Judy N

Torsten had agreed to help on the collection and delivery to Council depot and Geoff G to assist with the river transportation. By brining over Torstens truck this would save on double/treble handing.

The League (Judy N) had made investigation with regards to a Chemical Clean up by there are to many restrictions on handling and indentifying each individual chemical being disposed of.

Vanessa volunteered to look at metal waste recovery and how this might work.

League asked to confirm details of where and when the annual Chemical waste depot and individuals might be reminded that they are personally responsibly in the mean time to dispose of their chemicals in the correct manner.

5.9. NBN/Telstra: Alex Pratt has been investigating this looming issue on behalf of Islanders reported the following findings:

Dangar Telco Report (Some Facts/Some Hypothesis)

- My hypothesis is that Dangar will have no NBN until after 2020
 - How the Island is serviced
 - 2 cables each supporting 60 (full) connections (Fact)
 - My hypothesis is that one cable supports the island east of Neotsfield Road and the other supports the west side of the island.
 - My further hypothesis that Telstra got the balance wrong and the West side of the island have outgrown the capacity of its cable.
 - In order to support more telephone connections on the west side of the island Telstra has selectively used a technique which prevents support of services other than voice.
 - I believe that Telstra have run out of capacity to add Internet services in the Brooklyn exchange and that they accepted my order on the basis of expected "churn" in the Lower Hawkesbury area, which has not occurred.
 - I intend to do two things
 - Meet the two technicians who come to the island from time to time and try to establish more about the technical status of the Brooklyn Exchange.
 - Wait for 80 days and then start to make a fuss about not having received the service I ordered.
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4:6

Cont/...

- In order to improve service, we somehow need to persuade Telstra to install more bandwidth to the island either through a third cable or perhaps a dedicated Brooklyn to Dangar microwave link to service part of the island. There also appears to be a need to upgrade the exchange in Brooklyn.

Alec will report back to the Committee as and when more facts/information emerge.

5.10 Jetty Signs: Bronek asked that those that had ordered and paid (\$35) for their Jetty signs to collect them from Michael L today. Those that are not collected will be posted in mailboxes.

Bronek had made individual painted white wooden backing boards.

The sign should be put on the post at the end of individual's jetty. Should anybody require assistance with erecting please contact Michael L.

5.11 Conservation & Heritage Signs:

Peter Wolfe presented proposed Wildlife/Bird Protection educational signage. This is a matter that follows from the 9th February General Meeting in 2013 where there was much discussion on protection for birds and companion animal management on Bradley's Beach.

It was agreed and requested that signage would be appropriate to help inform and education the importance significance of the migrational birds on Bradley's.

HSC graphic designer visited the island and designed sympathetic signs. Similar to those in McKell Park.

These had been presented to the LHEC and accepted. The convenor of the LHEC has passed on the ideas discussed at the LHEC meetings to the Dangar Community for consideration and comment.

Peter Wolfe presented the proposed signage to the members. There was discussion as to the look, materials, and wording and where they might be located (proposal was one at the ferry shed and other on the beach).

Comments from the floor.

Don't want to encourage more tourists - It was thought that the signs would not encourage but educate once they are on the island.

Dangar Island is a suburb and anybody can visit

Residents enjoy the interaction with visitors – and would not want signage to replace this

Bronek suggested that it would be impossible for everybody to agree on all the points above and reminded members that this was the conclusion to what was a very heated meeting in 2013. The proposed signs satisfied the residents, who felt most strongly about this issue and those that sit on the LHEC Committee.

He re-enforced that these had been proposed at the request of islanders from previous General Meetings and that this was a conclusion to what a group strongly fought for and that it should be accepted in concept and a motion be proposed.

Peter put a motion to the members that he:

On behalf of the League take comments back to HSC that in principal, the Dangar Community agree with the signs but ask for inclusion of a map and for final draft artwork/wording be presented to the community before implementation. There was a majority show of hands in favour of the motion. **Peter W to follow through.**

5:6

6. Constitutional Changes Vote:

Bronek asked Bill to announce the vote:

37 in favour, 4 informal and 0 against.

The Motion to approve the new Constitution was passed.

Bill was thanked for his assistance as Returning Officer.

7. Any Other Business:

7.1. Pre-School – Scout Hut – Brooklyn: The League had been alerted to discussions between parents from Brooklyn and Dangar regarding the proposed closure of the Scout Hut currently used for pre-school. Nathan Tilbury had visited the site and met with parents. It had also been discussed in council chambers.

It is hoped that repairs might be undertaken and that the hall might be use for other activities to gain more income to pay for the same.

Skye Bower advised that there was a planned sausage sizzle / fund raiser between 10am and 1pm on 12th July and would encourage supporters to attend.

7.2. Public Toilets: Bronek raised concerns regarding the cleanliness of the public toilets. One lady islander had taken on responsibility for 'extra' cleaning of the ladies. It was hoped that a male equivalent might come forward to gurney down the gents on a regular bases.

Whilst this is considered the HSC responsibility – Geoff G 'cleans' twice a week – the Committee did not want to put more pressure on Geoff who already does a lot for the Community.

Member asked if we could employ or pay somebody to do this weekly.

It was agreed in the first instance to talk with Geoff – before talking further to the Council. **Peter W.**

As previously presented - there are plans in the pipeline for a new toilet block along with other park works.

7.3. Community Hall: Jo K informed the members that some money had been spend on providing blinds for the hall to help with temperature and also blackout. 30 outside chairs had also been purchased.

7.4 Buggy: Jo also advised they would be a bbq 'thank you' breakfast for buggy drivers on 12th July – more details to follow.

7.5. DIMC and FRG: David R asked if the DI Mooring Co-op and the First Responders group fitted in with the League. Bronek confirmed that both were now set up and independent from the League.

DIMC was a separate registered entity and that FRG was part of the Ambulance Association.

7.6. Next General Meeting:

The next Public Meeting would be on Saturday 30th August 2014 at 2pm in the Hall.

Meeting Closed at 3.45pm

6:6

