

FINAL Minutes of Dangar Island League Public/General Meeting –
Saturday 11th February 2012 - Meeting Commenced a 2.10pm

1. Those Present : Antony Schinckel (President) Judith Doyle ,(Sec) Judy Nikola, Broniek Karcz (VP) Hans Pols(Treasurer), Michael Liebenberg, Kim Wilson, Michael Dean, Wally Bower, Ron Barrell, Ross Spence, Jo Karcz, Heather Dorrough, Gary Mahony, Anne Mahony, Sue Merricks, Tony Partridge, Jane Drummond, Yvonne Liechti, Jane Putt, Terry Dorrough, Chris Sanderson, Mark Cob, David Pakes
Apologies: Ana Pollock

2. **Previous Minutes:** Attendees to be added. Two minor work/spelling amendments made. Moved for approval C. Sanderson seconded B. Karcz.

3. **Presidents Report:** Ant Schinckel stated that two key items would be discussed in detail later – Broniek K would cover Peat Island Development and Sydney Water/Brooklyn Treatment Plant.

Water Access would be covered in separate Public meeting, which was to commence at 3.30pm.

3.1. The long awaited **notice and dog pooh bag dispenser** had finally been installed by the wharf shed on the Council sign.

3.2. **Repair to the (heritage listed) sea wall** to the side of the ferry shed was still outstanding. Council are aware and the League has been informed that this is in the HSC 2012 budget. League to follow through to ascertain more specific timing as to when works will be carried out.

3.3. **Trees : Blackbutt on Grantham Avenue** – Ant S asked that Michael Dean comment on this later in the meeting.

3.4 **Know your Island Project:** Instigated by Ana P. The activity was considered a success. The League had sponsored this activity for \$80 and confirmed that the League would be extremely happy to support similar initiatives in the future.

4. Treasurers Report :

4.1. Hans Pols confirmed financial balances: Long term deposit held \$12k, the cheque a/c \$2.3K. Expenditure for the period had been \$150 (stationary, mailings, etc).

4.2. The **accounts are to be certified** by and independent person. Margaret Keppart, an accountant, has agreed to do this for the League.

Hans P confirmed that all membership payments are now manually recorded and official receipts issued.

4.3. Ant S put a motion to the meeting re: the need for independent certification of the account by Margaret K. That: **we elect Margaret Keppart as the League's auditor**. It was unanimously agreed that Margaret's assistance with this was accepted and greatly appreciated.

5.Membership Report: Hans P. advised the meeting that there were now 80 members – a significant increase over past months. It was noted at the meeting that this is some 40% of households on the island now represented. Michael D commented on this substantial number of household representation, as good, when compared to similar ‘resident associations’.

ITEMS 1 – 5 Vote on acceptance: moved by Ron B and seconded by David P.

6. Sub-Committee and other reports:

6.1. **Water Access** – to take place at 3.30pm after this meeting with separate minutes – prepared by Ron B.

6.2.Peat Island / Mooney Mooney Development Plan Update

Bronek K informed the members that there had been several meetings, various correspondence and press coverage with SPA and Government Bodies and other interested parties over the past months.

SPA are still responsible for disposal of the land, though with the change of government had come the change of process. This would mean:

- That full community consultation would take place alongside more detailed surveys e.g. Environment, Marine, Heritage etc.,
- SPA have indentified there is little money to be earned from the Mooney Mooney and Peat Island adjacent land.

Member Matt Kean, whom visited the island in recent weeks to meet with community continues to listen to local views and will be meeting with Brooklyn Community on 25th FEBRUARY 2012.

Brooklyn community appear to be in favour for development as they feel it will help with local business and may lead to installation of an elevator at the Hawkesbury railway station.

Mooney Mooney community may also be in favour of PI development, as it may result in increases in their own land values and the re-opening of the school.

Due to the government change and new legislation, ‘urgency’ on this project had now slowed down.

Bronek K stated, that whilst the heat is off, it is **critical that the matter be closely monitored** and that a continued comprehensive planned campaign representing Dangar Island residents position; lane to be used as - *RECREATIONAL GATEWAY TO THE HAWKESBURY / Leisure /National Parkland/*

This thinking is currently in line with a number of relevant Environmental bodies.

It was agreed that **League should write letter to M.Kean MP** thanking him for his support in the Brooklyn STP matter

6.3. Sydney Water/Brooklyn Sewerage Plant update

Bronek K reported it appears that Sydney Water has backed down through a combination of residents, media & political pressures. They have still not come forward with a definite statement to confirm precisely what they are going to do. Therefore there was still some caution around the current 'congratulatory outcome'.

Harry Recher and the Lower Hawkesbury Management Committee are following through to keep the pressure up.

Tony P proposed thanks to Bronek K, Yvonne L & Harry R for their efforts and continued monitoring of this important issue

Yvonne L asked if Bronek K knew of Cowan's position he did not but would investigate further.

6.4. DIL Website and Community Communications:

The new refreshed website had been greeted very favourably. Ant S explained that it would be used and kept alive with fresh and new information and encouraged regular 'visits' to site.
dangarislandleague.net

Ant S confirmed, that alongside the website, the Mullet Mail and other printed matter would continue to be produced as additional/alternative League & Community communication vehicle.

Ant S also proposed that the League would like to use email to communicate, on occasions, with residents, for any future important urgent issues arising.

It's appreciated that some members may wish not to have this form of communication and individual permission should be requested for such printed 'mail-outs'.

6.5. DI Historical Society:

Ant S reported that the League was keen to assist the Historical Society with the safe storage/ duplication/ cataloguing and archiving of the Island's historical materials.

Chris S stated that David Reynolds was overseas at present and that he has plans to put on Dangar Island Historical Exhibition in the Community Hall on his return in March.

It was thought that it had been some time since the Historical Society Members had met and this too should therefore be organised for the early part of 2012.

Nobody at the meeting appeared to be current members of the Society, but there is support and interest in the preservation of the Island's historical materials.

6.6. Blackbutt – Grantham Avenue

Michael D updated the meeting on the initial council plan for the Blackbutt and the subsequent council meeting at which several residents attended and it's outcome, at the back end of 2011.

There have been two separate arborists reports, one written the other verbal.

The council continues to be concerned with the safety of the tree and the branch overhanging Grantham Ave. The proposal to close the road is not an option.

Ana P asked that Michael move motion to a vote at the meeting that:

- in line with Mark Hartley's report the tree be pruned of minimal of 10% - 15% ,which should maintain good health of the tree, and include the removal of the overhanging branch.

The meeting agreed that this request was acceptable. It was further suggested and supported that Mark Hartley should be present to supervise the work and the Council should advise the League/Residents of the proposed date that this work would be carried out.

This motion was passed unanimously.

Ana P to write to Stephen Federow, acting executive manager of Environment and confirm the Leagues view - Members would trust the language and wording to comply with agreement.

6.7. RIVERVIEW Road Maintenance: There was much discussion on this topic. In Summary :

- Overdue Council re-surfacing work of Riverview Ave started in September 2011. It was in the early stages of the work that it became apparent that the materials being utilized were not appropriate - heavy rain, at that time, washed away the surface and the run off caused "clay clouds" in the river. Work was halted and sandbags placed in gutters to act as filters.

Ant S has subsequently been in contact with Mike O'Connor at HSC, with a view to organising an onsite meeting. It was expected that the Council, as the on-going road engineers, would come forward with a proposal of suitable materials in line with previous similar works on the Island.

A site meeting was set for Feb 1st. Tony P and Judy N met with Mike O'C.

It appears there was no conclusion, at this site meeting, as to what surface material should be used.

Much discussion took place in the Public meeting with regards to various materials that may or may not be appropriate some due to potential river pollution and others that could be considered most suitable.

There was reference to the 1993 Knox & Tanner document, which was funded by islanders and accepted by Council for inclusions for specific DI DCP. It appeared that whilst 'accepted' has not being enforced. As an ongoing issue The League might consider resurrecting its importance and validity.

It remains now for the League to go back to the Council with definitive request / suggested materials taking into consideration Mike O'C's very recent reply to Tony P email.

In conclusion at the Public Meeting - having heard all the various views - Michael D, Ron B and Tony P to **make a collective and positive response to the Council** with a view to achieving a quick resolve. The general principle was to have Council present to us the options it sees as viable for the top road surface on Riverview.

From the Fire Brigade there is urgency around the road getting fixed. Wally B stressed that whilst the roads continue to be in bad condition, and the ongoing wet weather, the fire hydrants are currently below road levels and getting covered in mud, and therefore not visible – **it is of great importance that they are visible should there be a fire emergency.**

7. A.O.B

7.1. **Community Hall:** Jo K advised the meeting that the Hall Committee had been notified that they will now be charged for Rubbish and Utilities. To minimise these new costs:

- Those using the hall should bag up and remove their rubbish and place in the public bins in the park area.

- The Hall Committee will pay \$3 per hall activity towards utility costs; therefore there will need to be a small increase on hire charges during the 2012/2013 year.

Jo reminded everybody that the Hall is NOT a profit making facility.

7.2. **go get Car :** Jo K Reminded the meeting that some time ago there was a proposal to try to apply for a GO GET car share scheme at Brooklyn. She stated that it required 20 people to register interest and then an application can be made and considered.

Jo suggested that people check out their website (she also made brochures available) and asked for those that do register to advise her so that she can keep track of the numbers.

7.3 Ant S mentioned that he'd been approached by 2 residents to arrange basic training and exam needed to get a boat licence. There was minimal support at the meeting for this, so no further action will be taken at present.

8.1. **Next Meeting:** Ant S asked if there was a preference for these meetings to be held in the morning or afternoon. Generally it was felt that pm was better.

Next PUBLIC MEETING SATURDAY 5TH MAY 2pm in the Hall

Meeting Closed at 3.25pm