

~ Dangar Island League ~  
**General/Public Meeting – Community Hall – 2pm - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:** Bronek Karcz, Peter Wolfe, Judith Doyle, Hans Pols, Judy Nikola, Michael Liebenberg, Wendy McMurdo, David Pakes, Jenny Pakes, Ross Higgins, Sarah Galvin, Christine Sanderson, Vanessa O’Keefe, Brenda Hall, Jenny Rowe, Andy Marr, Lyn Higgins, Sue Merricks, Heather, Dorrrough, Terry Dorrrough, Ross Spence, Cynthia Bobst, Alec Pratt, Wally Bower, Marina Garvey, Ron Barrelle, Tom Garvey, Yvonne Terkilsden, Jane Ryder, Georgia Lynn-Robins, Mark Cole. **Apologies:** Antony Schinckle, David Ruppin, Susan Adams, Jo Karcz, Lynda Dryden, Ana Pollock, Tony Partridge, Robert & Alison Megarrrity.

**1. Welcome** – Bronek welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted. He thanked members for their active involvement during the year.

**2. Minutes** – Wendy McM asked for there to be name change in the mins Ward to Nickolls on page one. The minutes were then approved by Hans Pols and seconded by Cynthia Bobst.

**3. Presidents Introduction:** - Bronek

Bronek confirmed that he and the re-elected Executive were pleased to continue to act on behalf of the community to facilitate opportunities for views to be aired and discussed. The Executive, as is its role, actively represents community’s position/stance on matters when considered appropriate to do so.

At the last Public Meeting agreement had been give for expenditure of \$500 for a community projector. When sourcing this item – for use in often-light filled environment - the cost was found to be more. Hans Pols asked that a further \$158 be agreed to cover the cost. Approved by David Pakes and seconded by Christine Sanderson.

Bronek continued running through the agenda, speakers and proposed timings.

**4. Parking in Brooklyn** – Bronek

The recent petition signed by islanders opposing the 2P HSC proposal was extremely well supported. Bronek presented this together with supporting League letter to Mayor Russell, Head of Traffic and Cl. Nathan Tilbury.

It would seem that the response received by HSC, from Dangar, Brooklyn, Wobby, Mooney Mooney residents and BMC members had been overwhelming, against, such a proposal.

While his issue is ‘not yet off the table – rather kicked to the back room ‘ it was thought that the matter would be ‘put-back’ and that the Parking issue will be apart of the Brooklyn Master Plan for which Federal funds of \$250k is being sought.

The 2P issue was on the front page of the Brooklyn Community newsheet – calling for a holistic approach to the challenges that face Brooklyn residents and businesses, surrounding river settlements, visitors and tourists alike. - Bronek advised that he had established regular communications with Presidents of the other communities and he would keep DI community advised as and when things surface and or require support/involvement.

**5. Native Title and Dangar name change** – Peter W

Boatshed and jetty/lease owners had been informed of a Native Title claim. The League was asked in October, by a waterside resident, to take a look at this and feed-back to the community the process, issues (if any), timing and effects this may have on the island.

Peter W had spent many hours reading in addition to phone conversations with various parties and was able to present a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation.

Residents at Milsons passage had also been consulted – they have similar information and response.

In summary:

\_ Native tile claim stretches from North Sydney, Central Cost, Newcastle and inland to Cessnock.

- It only covers Crown Land. Freehold land is unaffected.
- Current register determinations: 134 agreed 41 rejected 443 in processes
- Majority of Tile claims are other states / territories i.e., Qld, WA and NT
- If awarded then it does not effect the current usage i.e., jetty for access and fishing remains in place.
- Licences, permits and fees continue to be set by the State
- Island Jetty islands who received communication were asked if they'd like to be a party to the application – if so response was required by 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- Peter advised that it would be unusual for an individual to be 'a party' as NSW Lawyers would be 'the party' acting on behalf of the state.
- He was informed that these 'negotiations' could take as long at 8-10 years.
- It was not recommended that the League had a proposition rather that we should and would take a watching brief and keep the community informed.
- HSC would be making representation on this issue and ongoing liaison will keep us in the loop as things progress.
- Peter thought that any outcome would not be detrimental to existing usage.
- Whilst individuals might be considered out of the 'party' there could still if they wished write as an individual to make their views know.

There were questions from the floor:

- With regards to uninhabited crown land – i.e. the reserve – again it was understood that current usage would not change.
- Granting of new leases
- Could the League look as to why 41 were rejected?
- Recent claims to do with mining rights, remaining descendants,

Peter confirmed that there appears to be a well-established Protocol for these matter and it was a Legal matters for the state and territories to conclude whilst keeping crown leaseholders informed of possible ownership changes.

**Peter closed by repeating that he would continue a watching brief.**

**Dangar name:**

Peter advised that Matt Keane had written to The League, having received correspondence from a Mr Bird who lives in Berowra requesting that consideration be given to change the name of Dangar Island.

The DI Committees view

- Since this had not emendated from island residents and concern that this could become another agenda item that might split the community, it should not be vigorously perused.
- Clearly as care of duty the Community must be informed to ensure that any response via Matt Kean should be representative of community views.
- Mr Birds reasons for this appear to be around the association Dangar Snr had to the Myall Creek Massacre.

There were mixed views received when discussion opened on the floor - discussion points noted :

- Dangar family had, in more recent times carried out some great things and family history should be put in balance. (Peter)
- Changing the name does not change the history. (? Alec)
- The Real Estate agents called DI Mullet Island and it as changed to Dangar when they started selling off blocks in 1921. (Terry D)
- This issue had been raised some 10-15 years ago with a view of changing name to Deerubbin (Sarah G)
- Suggestion of changing to Danger Island. (Alec)
- A wider view is canvasses – maybe a referendum. (?)

Members reminded for such canvassing there would need a special notice and meeting and it was re-iterated since this has not emanated from a resident would it be wise to stir up something that the islanders appear not to have been concerned with. – Bronek K

- Member referred audience to similar notification in Newcastle City Council – published papers on their website, public exchange programme – research from 1838 massacre – In this case there was agreement that Dangar Park at Mayfield be renamed. (Mark C)

- Some months back there had been an ABC programme on the Myall Creek Massacre. (Sue M)

-It was suggested that islanders be notified of this proposal and canvas for a yes/ no opinion. This could be sought through a website mechanism. (Wendy McM)

- General sense was that for people to have an informed opinion then a case would have to be put. Peter asked if there was anybody who would like to put a case to the members at the next Public Meeting in March. There were no volunteers.

- Suggestion that League should not respond other than there are varying views and options and not able to put forward a view at present. (Vanessa O’K)

Bronek – thought Matt Keane passed on Mr Bird’s email he’d received to DIL as practical sense. Since an islander has not raised the suggestion, it was not considered important enough that it should jump the list of current Community issues.

There was general feeling from attendees that they did not want to start ‘another debate’, on an issue, especially one that had not been flagged by the community.

Terry D re-iterated those more recent generations of Dangar family had achieved some good things and did not feel that they should carry blame.

It was decided to leave this matter to 2014 and allow members to inform themselves in the meantime.

## **6). Island Emergency Services - Christine S**

Christine informed the meeting that a formal working group was established to work as an independent body under the auspices of Ambulance Services Australia to provide a fully trained Community First Responders Group. The core group would become apart of the Ambulance service with uniform provided and have radio control contact.

Letterbox drop had recently been made which confirmed Training dates planned for February.

Christine had also made a call for those that want to be involved but not take on all the training / time. These would be “Friends of FRG” who could work alongside. Boat owner for example.

Christine stated that liaison with Buggy and Fire Brigade will be essential.

Sarah G asked how many people in the core group would be regularly on the island. Christine thought from the 10 4/5 would on island ‘full-time’.

The Emergency process would still require that the patient call 000 ... the FRG would be engaged in the process to talk with Ambulance service whilst attending to patient until the Ambos arrived. She insisted that those islanders training would be in addition to, not instead of. In some cases the fireboat might be used to transport patient to mainland.

Christine will continue to manage this process and update the community the FRG progress /details of systems as the programme develops.

## 7. Jetty Signs – Judy N

Judy talked of Jetty signage, which had been under discussion for some months. The need for this was raised by the Ambulance service – who when called to a jetty rescue – have NO numbering reference to go by. Judy confirmed that the proposal then is for all Jetties to carrying a uniform sign with their house number (i.e., 92 R) for attachment to individual jetty post.

A slide showed sample of how they would look, similar to those at Milson's Point. **It was asked if they could be reflective so** as to be seen at night. Current estimates put the cost per sign at around \$22 each.

There was some discussion with regards to every householder getting a house number so houses on the road too are clearly identified. This issue had been raised and discussed at previous meetings and it was thought that this should remain the responsibility of individual householder - if they wished to post their house number roadside they should do so.

Judy explained that she was hoping to have prototype sign for the meeting – Bronek's house number (which he had paid for) would be made and when it is delivered it will be posted on his jetty and 'tested'.

Jetties owners would be contacted in due course with more details of cost and timings etc.; Fixing would be the individual's responsibility.

## 8. Railways Lift: - Bronek K

Bronek reported that the proposed lift at Hawkesbury River Station had been knocked back several times due to HR being considered a station used by too few and therefore becomes lower on the priority list. It's considered a small station.

He advised that it would gain attention if they received 100 complaints per month. And suggested that this should be a campaign that might be followed.

Bronek has written details and steps to follow in current Mullet Mail out on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Complaints can be via phone, or email.

If all riverside residents who use the train made a concerted joint effort it might gain some attention! It was confirmed complaints can come from anybody using the train i.e., they don't have to be residents.

It was also stated from the floor that if there were a lift then MORE people would use the station - and maybe then not such a small station.

Also passengers might not be registering with station ticket sales - as many of the seniors who use the train buy their ticket on the ferry. It was thought that ticket numbers from the ferry might also be useful information.

Alternatives to lift were mentioned: tunnel – apparently watertable too high!

Quick review of other Committee Agenda items:

## 9. NBN/Telstra – Bronek K

As mentioned at previous meetings this is an issue that is only going to get bigger so we must re-start action now. Telstra passed the buck to NBN and NBN have said that in their three yearly planning cycle blocks, Dangar Island does not get mentioned in the next 9 years. Clearly we are off their radar. The Executive will again start working on this.

### **10. Peat Island – Bronek K**

Bronek advised that recent developments look that Gosford County Council are pushing this for Development. When trying to get meetings or any kind of dialogue – silence prevails. This is another issue that would be better served by wider riversettlement residents.

### **11. Parks & Toilet upgrade – Peter W**

It's understood that **toilet upgrade** will be in 2014/15. HSC had wanted unisex toilets and to replace existing building (look) and shell with modern look. Unisex not favoured and traditional look thought more appropriate. HSC will come back with designs nearer the time for further input.

**Parks: i)** Budget works for this is scheduled in 2015/16. Again nearer the time they will consult with the League as to co-ordinate what the community as a whole would like/need. No ideas submitted to date have been agreed.

**ii)** Recently an old bottle dump had appeared in the park, at the corner of the bowling green. HSC are reluctant to carry out a major dig and would prefer to do all park works at the same time. HSC had been asked to make this area safe since shards of glass are appearing - **Peter to follow up Council action.**

### **12. Mullet Mail:**

Michael L reported that the current MM would be posted into boxes on 13<sup>th</sup> December. There had been some feedback that some of the articles were too long so there will now be a restriction of 500 words per article.

### **13. DIL Constitution: Judith D**

The current constitution (December 2002) had been tested in recent months and clearly there are some areas that need better clarity to avoid ambiguity. i.e., nomination of candidates, specific proxy forms, ballot voting, payment of membership, use of email addresses to name a few.

Kathy Merrick was volunteered to help with the process. Member's involvement in the process during first half of 2014 will be sought. Bronek advised that changes would require a 2/3 majority.

### **Current constitution to be posted on the website.**

### **14. Email address – Judith D**

Members email addresses had recently been used to communicate on 2P Brooklyn issue. The response was good. Some off island members had requested to be informed of urgent issues and Public Meeting dates via email.

Recent communication to all members so far had 30% response saying they agree for their email addresses to be used. This will not replace Mullet Mail, Website, mailbox drops and posters.

### **13). Diary Dates – 2014:**

Bronek put up slide of scheduled EC monthly meetings and Public Meeting throughout 2014. The first EC meeting would be held in the Hall – February Hall booked out for FRG.

EC monthly meetings: Saturdays 9am

11<sup>th</sup> Jan/ 1<sup>st</sup> Feb / 8<sup>th</sup> March / 5<sup>th</sup> April / 3<sup>rd</sup> May / 14<sup>th</sup> June / 5<sup>th</sup> July / 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug / 6<sup>th</sup> Sept/ 4<sup>th</sup> Oct/ 8<sup>th</sup> Nov/ 5<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Public Meeting Dates: Saturdays 2pm: 15<sup>th</sup> March / 21<sup>st</sup> June / 30<sup>th</sup> August / 27<sup>th</sup> September (AGM)** To be posted on the website.

Ron B suggested that the AGM be held earlier. The constitution states that the AGM should take place in September. - It was due to unusual circumstances in 2013, which pushed it back to November.

### **Any Other Business:**

**1. Vote of thanks:** Georgia L-R gave a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee for their hard work and professionalism during 2013. Greeted with a round of applause.

**2. 10m clearances:** Ron B advised the meeting that there was new legislation that allows homeowners to clear shrubs/trees within 10m from their houses. It was thought this might be a concern on the island if homeowners took this literally.

New legislation had been in response to the recent Blue Mountains Fires a few months ago.

It was suggested and agreed **that Jonathan (Chief DI RFS) be asked to answer this question at the next Public Meeting.**

**Peter W would also contact HSC to get their 'ruling' on it.**

### **3. DI Disabled Wharf:**

Terry D asked if EC were aware if and when the HSC would be finalising their designs for the disabled access at the Ferry Wharf.

It was understood that there would be a (three month) consultation period. **Peter W said that he would ask council** of expected timings of design / plans / work commencement. Peter would also inquire how Community members can get involved in the design stage.

### **4. Danny & Maureen Davidson:**

Bronek asked if anybody knew of the whereabouts of D & M Davidson who live on Dangar in the 1960s, as he had a request from their family members who were anxious to contact them. Nobody could assist.

### **5. Recent Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Committee (LHEC) meeting:** Bronek reported:

**i)** the study currently being prepared for publication shows the trace elements, heavy metal, insecticide residue and other toxins have shown a decrease compared to a previous study in 2004/6. So good news the river continues to get cleaner.

**ii)** Educational signage for Rocky Point (Bradley's Beach) re migratory birds is being prepared and drafts will be presented at the March meeting of the LHEC>

### **6). Internet connections/reliability:**

Tom Garvey asked the meeting who else might be having great difficulty with internet connections and reliability and stressed that he thought that was a big issue for the Island, and getting more of a problem. Impossible to get ADSL.

Bronek re-iterated that it was NBN/TV and phone lines – all a problem and the League was addressing this but finding it hard to get heard. This was another initiative where numbers have more sway and working with other riversettlers (DI, Brooklyn, Mooney Mooney, Wobby, Milsons Passage) will be crucial if we put forward a joint demand.

Meeting Closed at 3.50pm

**Next Public Meeting 15th March 2014 - 2pm Community Hall**

*A Merry Christmas to All*

6:6

