

## **Final Minutes Dangar Island League Public Meeting – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Attendees: Bronek Karcz, (President) Hans Pols (Treasurer) Michael Liebenberg (Committee) Judith Doyle, (Sec) Antony Schinckle (VP), Ron Barrelle, Sue Merricks, Rick Stockley, Brenda Hall, Heather Dorrough, Terry Dorrough, Gerard Putt, Cybele Shorter, Ross Higgins, Wally Bower, Jackie Morgan, Christine Sanderson, Ted Ranft, Vanessa O’Keefe, Peter Nikolls, Tony Partridge, David Ruppin, Trevor Kaneley, Peter Glennie, Louise Ormord, Mario Castiglioni, Chabela Torres, Therese Rutledge, Kim Wilson, Yvonne Terkislden, Sarah Galvin, Kathy Hobbins, Yvonne Leichi

Apologies: Judy Nikola (Committee) Peter Wolfe (Committee), Lynda Dryden, Lyn Higgins, Chris Innis, Jenny Rowe, Bill and Georgia Lyn-Robinson, Margaret Bower.

---

### **Meeting Commenced 2.05pm.**

**1). Previous Minutes** – Moved Sue Merricks, Seconded Brenda Hall.

**2). Correspondence:** Aus Grid, Brooklyn Residents Assoc, out per last mins. Correspondence with HSC re DI Public Jetty correspondence/contact with four residents. Detail covered later within agenda item.

Bronek thanked members for their attendance and stated for any non-financial members they could join/continue membership today.

**3). Finance:** Hans advised - deposit account held \$12k+ and cheque account \$3.4k. Margaret K assisting with submission to the Office of Fair Trading – statement of accounts to be presented at the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**4). New League Constitution:** Following the June General Meeting the new constitution was adopted and submitted to NSW Fair Trading on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Written confirmation of registration received back on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The League is now managed according to the new Constitution.

Bronek also explained that in addition to ‘specific’ changes (previously outlined) it brought the Constitution up to date and in line with the Current Association/Incorporations Act.

The new Constitution is available on the League website.

**5). Brooklyn Master plan/Parking:** Bronek reported that this item is planned to be tabled at this coming HSC meeting (Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> September). He, Rob Arnold (Brooklyn) and Lindsey Johnson (Milsons Passage) will be attending the meeting.

It was expected that HSC will be looking to allocate some \$250K to fund feasibility studies etc., The project might take 6mths – 2 years. PARKING is and integral part of a master plan.

The League would need to continue to support this project and there may be some overlap with the Peat Island Project (see later on the agenda). Mooney Mooney community should also be included in discussions – suggested by Ross Higgins.

He also stated the intention of setting up a ‘joint river group’ – *Hawkesbury Committee Association(s)* - who’d work together to represent the collective community needs to the Council on issues like BMP and Peat Island.

The first of these (monthly) meetings would take place next Saturday at 10am in Brooklyn and the League will attend

**1:7**

Kathy H advised of rezoning of Wamble (?) Place in Brooklyn.

Sue M asked if only the East of Brooklyn railway was being considered in the Master Plan. Bronek confirmed that it would be the entire area of Brooklyn

**6). Dangar Island Public Wharf:** (HSC Tender for Disability Access Wharf).

Bronek confirmed the League had followed through with correspondence to the Council requesting updates and that the Community be informed accordingly. Rick S passed on to the League information regarding tenders having gone to contractors for these works.

Bronek outlined as background for members in attendance, the background to recent issues that both the League Executive and individual residents had regarding the process, brief and current proposal.

In summary the concerns raised by members to the League:

\*Excessive Length of Jetty      \*Structure unstable/unsecure      \*No protection from elements

\*Difficult for the impaired or elderly      \*Ferry Operations could be curtailed      \*Lighting

\* Curtailed ferry operations in bad weather at new location

Having presented details around the above points he asked for residents who wanted to talk, to identify themselves and asked they each talk for 3 mins and please only make new comments rather than repeat points already covered. 7 residents elected to talk.

Bronek continued – showing drawing of the proposed structure together with his PowerPoint (not to scale) elevations of the plan for further context.

Costs of the build are met via shared funding between HSC and the RTA/Maritime. Part of maritime funding would require there be a facility for visitor berthing - hence length of jetty (35m from end of existing one).

Rick S advised that he had talked with several people within HSC/Maritime and locally and it appeared that 'all the connections' between various parties had possibility not been consulted or informed of this tender document. Rick mentioned that he had talked to Maritime officers who were unaware of any Maritime involvement in the Dangar Public wharf.

Bronek and Terry D responded that there was no doubt that Maritime was involved and Maritime accounts in the "Better boating program" publish that \$51,000 has been spent so far on the upgrade of the Dangar Public Wharf. (Probably design costs)

Member speakers from the floor: (summary of points)

Vanessa O'K:

*Process was not clear and councils have been poor in not having direct communication with both ferry operator and community as a whole. Their 'chosen' option did not take on any community consultation. There should be an independent peer review study against any proposal – this in itself would give community confidence. It was all about the process!*

**2:7**

Kathy H:

*Talked of 30 years of living on island and experience of time when dam opened up and debris (caravan and telegraph poles) on her wharf and Bradley's. With current proposed structure -westerlies could cause fatalities.*

Ron B:

*Basic problem apart from the length. Without maritime funding we could loose this block (indication to the middle one). The criteria for the brief was for disabled access – however appears to have been briefed incorrectly. Not designed for disabled in mind. Ron stated that in the Council tender documents there was no mention of disability standards. Spending money unnecessarily. Reference to 30-page document. Ron challenged wave-modelling system used (old tech) in making their calculations. The program used was an old US military program that is out of date. Ron suggested that the impact of the waves on the pontoon structure would cause it to tip resulting in flooding over the top of the pontoon. The fact that the pontoons had square corners (to the waves was aa design fault. Concern that HSC and SMEG say that it's all okay!*

Sarah G: (amended min to read).. ..The community has been waiting a long time for disability access as recommended by Council Access Committee as the jetty only has steps – disability access is to enable access which is a barrier free environment not only for disables but also frail, elderly and parents with young children. The slide diagram (shown) said that the area for temporary visitors berths was not designed for disability access. Also pointed to different areas that one could and would have to wait for the ferry as the pontoon is the furthers point away from the wharfs shed for protection and distance to have to travel for ferry passengers.

Terry D:

*Possibly used the HSC plans submitted along with the DIMC plans. If the DIMC goes ahead there would be some protection for the existing wharf proposal. Disability is wide ranging and these have not been taken into account; possible consideration for wheelchair access but not disabled in the broader context. 13.5m section not necessary. Cheap materials spec. Aliminum ramp / black concrete. Slippery surfaces. Reference to similar wharfs around Sydney Harbour: design and material far superior. Current proposal inadequate. Contractors/engineers need to come to the island. More attention and new design. **Suggestion of setting up Ferry Users Group.** What affect the DIMC in or out?*

Ant S:

*Meant for disabled and does not take some basic needs into account. There are some superior wharfs around other parts of Sydney but the 'traffic' they carry is significantly much much higher. Many facets but one universal element is that it will be a pontoon structure. Comments around its stability need to be justified as in my naive view as an engineer and physicist it seems pretty stable. Length driven Better Boating. This design it appears was taken from one of the SMEG options for tender but would appear not have any section included in the brief with regards to disability requirement. Width of new gangplank is a little wider than existing section. There are three private wharfs around the island that are as long/longer than this.*

Rick S:

*Had talked to council – they had taken 2B design from SMEG proposal for the tender process. Issues around the wave heights – the 30 page document in response to his queries stated the wave heights at the end of the current ferry pick-up and the new proposed one are the same – this is challenged along with the tidal current. There's concern that restrictions of ferry deemed not to be safe in gale conditions – they state 34knots – no account for wind speed. It appears from the SMEC document that the river current has not been considered in the calculations. Terry commented that at the proposed ferry point standing waves of 1m occur when strong NW winds and opposing tide flows interact.*

*HSC now not coming back with any information. Terry D had some good photos from Google showing 'weather shadows. Offered copy of 30-page document to Bronek.*

3.7

Bronek thanked everybody for his or her view and contribution. He said he felt some progress had been achieved in his deliberations with Council in the previous three weeks.

He confirmed that he'd had lengthy conversations with Terry in last few weeks and that he had included Terry's comments/letter with the Leagues submission to HSC dated 18/8/2014

In follow-up conversation to the letter he'd been advised that there would be Public Consultation – after the 14<sup>th</sup> September when Bob Stephens returns from leave. He was also assured that there would be NO further action until after this Community meeting had taken place

**Bronek confirmed that he would on behalf of residents push hard to ensure the verbal promise of a Community Meeting does happen.**

He too suggested **that the Community – 'Ferry Users Group' need to get 'it's case' together for the meeting** be able to facilitate progress towards the provision of a safe, secure, appropriate disabled wharf structure to be re-tendered (if necessary).

There was concern that the tenders were closed and had been submitted. Rick S stated that he was informed that the tender had already been selected by Council. It was pointed out that this is the first part of a tender process The next phase is the award of the contract – it is understood that this decision has not been reached.

Louise O – Commented that follow up letter to council as well as the necessity for Community Consultation Meeting should highlight brief missed fundamental point 1) disability access and 2) engineering should also listen to 'local knowledge' re the winds and current in the waterway.

Susan H: suggested that HSC should know at their peril the importance of the safety of this structure.

Terry D: Asked if the DICM scheme was planned to go ahead and if this design had been put forward allowing for this.

Bronek - In answer to the question he read out the letter from HSC (as stated in last minutes – on your chairs!) Extract follows:

*..... The facilities had been deigned to accommodate all known commercial and domestic craft, meets all the current requirements for disabled access as well as providing a number of mooring sports for casual users. This casual mooring provision was required by Roads and Maritime Services to meet funding requirements. The proposed communter berthing facility does not form part of this project. The pontoon is a stand-alone project and does not depend or rely on the contruction of the mooring facility. . .....*

**In summary then – Bronek again confirmed that he would write letter advising of concerns raised with regards to the current proposed new DI Public Jetty and push hard that the verbal offer of Community Consult meeting take place as soon as possible after the 14<sup>th</sup> September – he would obviously confirm to community a date when informed.**

Again he urged that **those with comment should put together a list of concerns prior to the meeting. Asked for volunteer to take this on – Terry said that he would be happy to be a part of that.**

Sarah G (amended min to read) – advised that Councillor Antony Anisse said council offers were going to discuss the plan with Roads and Maritime services next week and he was going to request that SMEC be present at that meeting.

**4:7**

Ron B: commented on letter to HSC disability officer and policy request, who had not been involved

Sue M – commented re reassuring the community that any builder that takes on such a project would be taking on their own consultations to ensure the safety.

### **7). Peat Island: The recent mailbox drops “signals the start of a formal process of re-zoning to sell to a developer”**

The proposed concept plan was shown on screen and it was pointed out that every inch was covered with residential and commercial building.

The marina had been position over a mud flat and houses in close proximity to an emergency safety ramp. Clearly not practical and a political game - purely a concept to commence process for re-zoning and to possibly evoke early community concerns.

Bronek then talked through in some details the Development Process which will take one to two years;

- \* Land re-zoning \* Gosford ‘gateway’ determination. \* Back to Minister for decision
- \* Assessment Process (state proposal) \* Land Sold to Developers
- \* Development submission plan > Council DA Process

Earlier lobbying and general agreement to split the site has since been re-negged due to Financial Minister, head of Government Property and Gosford General Manager changes. HSC did not know this was coming either.

Appears to be much facebook activity (own page). CEN also now active in lobbying against.

### **8). Upcoming AGM and Nominations for Officers and Executive Committee:**

All positions, per normal, become vacant. The new constitution allows for 4 Officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasure and Secretary) plus 5 Executive Committee Members. Bronek stepped through the procedure for persons to be nominated and elected onto the League Executive Committee.

- Each nominee must be supported by two League members and also indicate acceptance.
- Nominations in writing must be in by closing date - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September to Secretary of the League
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September Public Notice will be posted
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September AGM at 2pm in the Hall
- Note proxies can be submitted prior to the AGM

Bronek advised the attendees that he would be stepping down and not be standing for re-election this time around.

Sue Merricks – On behalf of members thanked Bronek for his hard work during his term as President.

5:7

Bronek commented that the League Executive needed new nominations and diversification; balance on the Committee is a good thing and reflects the island resident views and needs.

**9). NBN/Telstra:** Nothing to report on this. Waiting for a Riverview connection request to be delivered by Telstra, this would give an indication of any possible progress or change.

**10). e-waste collection:** The organised League e-waste collection was minimal this time around – possibly most households had replaced their televisions since the switch to digital. It was decided that this would now be considered as a 24-month collection rather than annual.

Metal Collection – this was raised at last General Meeting – following some exploratory work it was considered not that much in need on Dangar Island - unlike Scotland Island.

**11). Jetty Signs:** Kathy H said thanks to the League for getting this initiative completed – she'd had comment from off islander that this was a great idea and finally enabled some directional assistance to emergency services.

60 jetties on Dangar and only 24 on last count appear to have signs erected – **a call to all residents with Jetties to get their sign up post haste. If they need assistance – please contact a League committee member who will organise help.**

**12). Fire Hazard Bush Clearance regulations: 10 & 50m zones**

This was considered by the League Committee and it suspects the majority of residents too, that if this were to be actioned by resident/owners it would be more than detrimental to the island. This new legislation is so open to abuse. We should not encourage liberal acceptance and action.

It was clarified that trees cannot be cut if the slope is 18% = to 1:3 ratio and also only within 10m of a residence. Only applies to Bush fire areas – not everybody on the island is in a bush fire area

**13). Wildlife Protection Signs:**

Artwork /impressions of signs and location was shown and discussed. One near DI Wharf will now replace the Council metal road sign in front of the green bins. The existing metal sign there will be re-located to the small storage shed to the right, by the ramp. It's proposed that the one on the beach be positioned on north side. Bronek asked for contact details of the owners of 'close by' property. **Ross H to provide.** This is a courtesy matter to inform them since they are currently overseas.

**14). Australia Day 2015:**

Bronek confirmed that last year the Australia Day Team (more Volunteers) and the League thought it would be good to have a break in and for this to be a bi-annual event.

He asked those present for a show of hands to supported it. There was mixed response and a few hands raised.

It appears now that the Club and to an extent the Café rely on this to boost their income. It seems now to have taken on 'a life of it's own'.

**6:7**

**15). Membership Renewals:** Those present reminded again that they might **like to renew their membership if it's expired.** Memberships funds are the only League income.

**16). Diary Dates:** AGM Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2pm in the Hall

**17). Updates from other Community Groups:**

- **Fire Brigade** – Cybele informed everybody of a function on **19<sup>th</sup> October-** Official opening of the new fire shed – more information will be posted nearer the date.
- **Bush Re-Gen** group – Terry asked that more volunteers might like to join this group – who meet monthly – if interested please talk with him or Cybele to get more details.
- **Community Hall** – Chabela advised of Hall AGM coming up and that they too looking for people to get involved in the management of the facility and process.
- **Mullet Mail** – Michael advised that Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September last opportunity for any inclusions in Spring edition

**18) A O B:**

**18.1** Kathy H asked if the **League/Community** might do something as a **thank you to Geoff Gausla.** There was general consensus in the room that this would be good thing.

It was suggested that **Australia day might be a good opportunity to do this.**

**18.2** Ross H – asked on the timing of **landscaping in the park.** Bronek advised/cross checked with Cybele that this would not be until next years budget 2015 at the earliest.

**18.2** Michael L – informed everybody that a **Pantomime** was being scripted **and cast with adults for the children on the island – this would take place** at the club on **13<sup>th</sup> December.**

**18.3.** Jackie M raised the **drainage problem** from outside the Hall along the path almost up to the club, which had been severely waterlogged in recent times and asked that **the League inform Council to provide some remedial work. Bronek agreed to report the problem.**

**18.4.** Kathy H – said there was a **drainage problem also with the gutters on Riverview** close to her house that need some attention. **Bronek said he'd mention this to HSC same time as 18.3.**

**18.5 ipart ferry fares:** Public submission re the new ferry fares closes on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The current one-way full fare is \$6.40. Rick advised that Transport Authorities have hired a consultant firm this year to assist submission as there was a new section : 'efficiently costs' within the tender. It was even possible that if successful the fares may even go down as there is now a different way to calculate fares on ferries and buses.

Bronek again thank those who'd attended.

Meeting closed at 4pm.

7:7

