



## **Scotland Island Residents' Association**

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** February 8, 2015

**Venue:** Scotland Island Fire Station

**Apologies:** Alan Grundy, Marion Grundy, Greg Roberts, Louise Roberts, Adrian Matthews

**Meeting opened at 10:25 am**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The President, Bill Gye (BG) thanked everyone for coming and announced the lunch and the lucky door prize at the end of the meeting.

**Previous minutes:** The AGM Minutes 2014 were tabled. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting by those present. Moved JR, seconded DH.

The minutes of the SGM (November 30, 2014) were tabled. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting by those present. Moved JR, seconded HVM.

**Treasurer's Reports** were tabled. PG asked the annual budget for the community vehicle. CG replied that we get a grant of \$27, 328 and we expend those funds. PG also asked about profit for the hall; CG replied there is no profit, it breaks even. Lisa Ratcliffe moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted; seconded Marie Minslow. Bill Gye thanked George Gaal and Deryn Vokins for their assistance with auditing and accounting.

### **SIRA COMMITTEE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: BILL GYE**

#### **GUEST SPEAKER: RON BARRELLE FROM DANGAR ISLAND**

Ron Barrelle from Dangar Island spoke about the adoption of the sewerage system on Dangar. These notes are an abbreviated form of his talk.

A sewerage system is essential on the island; topography shows that the southern side – half of the island – can't absorb much moisture. Also the soil structure is half a metre of soil, then rock, so the septic system is not effective. The spray system is not suitable for a heritage spotted gum forest. So it is logical to have a system that does not have health and environmental disadvantages.

The health disadvantages are giardia; the population is increasing so the demands on the system have increased. In particular, with an evaporative system you get wet and damp areas which promote mosquito breeding. The upcoming climate cycles of El Nino and El Nina, the latter of which gives you widespread rain and flooding, means that septic systems are becoming less viable.

Environmental disadvantages – the major pollutant in Pittwater is Scotland Island; the clay from the unmade roads – 100 tonnes per year from rain runoff. Some roads are now on a lower level. The dieback caused to native trees is also a problem. Rain plus septic systems means that soil is perpetually wet, so trees fall over. In short, there is no doubt for the necessity of a sewerage system.

On Dangar, about 10-20% of people did not want to change; some because they had recently purchased septic system and others felt they were living on a rural retreat. However the blocks of land are very close to each other. When Sydney Water went ahead with sewerage on Dangar, those who didn't want to participate didn't have to. There was a period of grace of 5 years for those people to change their mind at the same cost.

How the system works on Dangar: you can see it on the website. A tank is installed, all your sewerage comes into that tank which is about a fifth of the size of a septic tank. Waste is macerated: a float device turns on a pump when it is full and the macerated material is pumped out in a 50 ml pipe. The pipes do not have to be dug deep. The pipes go to the main pipe, then to the treatment plant at Brooklyn and then is diluted into the river, which is fast-moving. As Church Point was connected to the sewerage not that long ago, SI waste could be pumped over there. Therefore the cost should be lower here because construction of a treatment plant is not necessary.

(RB asked BG if there has been a plan done for the island. BG replied that no plan has not been done, in spite of our requests. There is a very high cost quoted but without a plan. RB commented that Sydney Water makes a lot of money from selling waste sludge.)

Costs: the 82 million seems extraordinarily high. \$25,000 per lot has been the average cost and we are being quoted \$250,000 per lot. For the Dangar scheme - Dangar, Brooklyn, Moonee Moonee – the average per lot cost was \$50,000. RB found a 2005 letter from Frank Sartor in support of Moonee Moonee getting a sewerage system; started out at \$20,000 but came down to \$6,000. This was inequitable – Dangar and other areas did not have to pay anything. The letter from Frank Sartor pointed this out. No one has ever paid for sewerage systems.

At a guess, the total cost would be \$50-60 million. There will have to be access to Sydney Water given at the same time. Profit for Sydney Water last year was \$415 million dollars.

Running costs are negligible; if there is something wrong with your pump a little alarm goes off; you ring Water Board and they send out an accredited plumber – they actually own the pump area, so they do the maintenance. Disruption was minimal. Total time line for the whole thing was about one decade. Categorized as PSP – as in Scotland Island; then plans –SI could have it in 8 years given this timeline; the last two years at Dangar were construction.

## **Q & A SESSION**

SK: Were septic systems kept?

RB: No

SK: Did there have to be changes to home plumbing?

RB: You had to get a plumber (costs \$800) to check your plumbing to verify that it was working and compliant. If you've had licensed plumbers and electricians to do your work there should be no problem.

EC: Are the costs high because of the offshore factor? Was there funding from other grants?

RB: No funding was given – Water Board did its own. Regarding cost per lot in offshore areas, it was about twice that on mainland properties.

JC said that Dangar Island already had mains water. Pressurised water systems would also be needed on Scotland.

BG said there was a meeting that said we do not have to have mains water.

JC said that a survey was done years ago. Jenny Cullen said that the health risks are not the same as have been recently mooted. There are low levels of bacteria. Run off is not an issue unless you play in it. Asked that a second study be done; this study was 20 years ago.

Jane?: Were payments on Dangar Island made in one installation?

RB: There were no payments.

Boyd Attwell asked HvM about website. HvM had prepared a prezi presentation. Information about traffic to the website:

- We get about 2000 visits per month and 9000 page visits.
- Visitors stay on average 3 minutes and view 4 pages.
- 88% of traffic local. 57% access from desktop, mobile 27%.
- Most popular pages *About the Island, Island life, Community, SIRA*.
- 66% of traffic from Google, 23% from email, 5% from FB.
- SIRA email campaigns increase traffic significantly.

HvM called attention to the Directory, Calendar, Map, and Document features and asked people to contribute – Guest blogs, etc. ; other ideas for sections e.g. we are thinking about books, wildlife observation, and kids.

CH asked if there was a conflict between PON and the website – HvM and CF mentioned the features of the website that are not on the PON – and said that the two were complementary.

Izza to RB: What happens to the macerates if there is a blackout?

RB: there is enough overflow capacity in the tank and it can continue to fill up in a blackout.

PK: Is there a potential to put gas pipes in the trenches?

BG: I have researched multi-use trenches; there is a reluctance to use this.

RB: These days mechanical excavation is pretty cheap so they tend to keep it separate.

SM: Is there a vision for the island for the sewerage including roads and other inconnected issues?

BG: These are indeed inconnected; Sydney Water has said that we need to implement the Roads & Drainage Master Plan to improve drainage before they put in the sewerage.

RB: They usually leave suburbs in a better condition than they found them in: Sydney Water are fastidious in fixing damage, such as putting in paving, planting.

EC commented that the road verges are generally weed-infested so it would be nice to achieve a collaboration between Sydney Water and PWC to plant natives on road verges.

## MOTIONS

**Motion 1:** We ask Pittwater Council that Church Point parking permits only be sold to offshore residents.

– Moved: Jenny Cullen    Seconded: Sharon Kinnison

– **Rationale:** *There is an extreme shortage of parking spaces at peak periods, yet Church Point parking permits are currently available for purchase by anyone.*

- **Amendment to Motion 1:** : We ask Pittwater Council that Church Point parking permits only be sold to offshore residents, **but are able to be purchased by offshore residents for non-offshore residents.**

– Moved: Iza Foster    Seconded: Rachel Carter

- **Rationale:** *There are circumstances in which we may wish to purchase permits for our family members or friends. For example, I am aware of one couple who purchases a permit for their mother, who comes and babysits their children regularly.*

Speakers to Motion 1:

1. Jenny Cullen: Parking situation is very bad; the intention of the permit was for offshore resident parking. 488 public moorings with no parking associated with them – this could be a source of offshore parking. BG said last year there were 4 offshore permits sold.
2. Sharon Kinnison; As we move forward we have to be very clear to the PWC that we do not just pay more and more.

Speaker to Amendment to Motion 1 (Motion A)

1. Iza Foster: this could affect our lifestyle as well, because for instance, a local family bought a permit for their regular babysitter.

Rachel Carter: It could be that each ratepayer is entitled to 3 permits. This is a separate motion so was not debated here.

Speaker for Motion 1:

Hubert van Mierlo: We should get priority for the parking spaces – we should add conditions and should keep it separate.

Question about Motion 1:

CF asked about Waterfront staff and ferry drivers. JR said there is a trade permit for them.

**Vote: For Amendment to Motion 1 (Motion A). Amendment lost.**

**Vote for Motion 1: Motion 1 passed.**

**Motion 2:**

- **Motion 2:** We ask Pittwater Council that all the spaces in the Church Point Reserve car park which are currently available for either Church Point permits or Pay and Display, be made available **for Church Point permits only from 6pm to 6am.**

– Moved: Jenny Cullen    Seconded: Sharon Kinnison

- **Rationale:** *Offshore residents returning home in the evening compete for parking spaces with large and increasing numbers of visitors. Other areas of Sydney experiencing a similar problem have granted residents priority over visitors. This would seem even more appropriate for offshore residents who have to travel home by boat.*

- **Amendment to Motion 2 (Motion B):** We ask Pittwater Council that they direct their Rangers not to fine illegally parked cars displaying current Church Point permits from 6pm to 9am.
- Moved: Iza Foster    Seconded: Rachel Carter
- **Rationale:** *These times align with first and last ferry runs, enabling people without boats be able to get to their cars on time. Introducing the 6pm to 6am measure will have no impact unless it is enforced. If it is enforced the problem is a lot of late finishing offshore residents rely on the fact that there will be no rangers between 6pm and 7am.*
- **Second amendment to Motion 2 (Motion C):** We ask Pittwater Council that **50% of** the spaces in the Church Point Reserve car park which are currently available for either Church Point permits or Pay and Display, be made available for Church Point permits only from 6pm to 6am.
  - Moved: Iza Foster    Seconded: Rachel Carter
  - **Rationale 1:** *100% of the spots is excessive, as our friends and family need to be able to park somewhere as well.*

Speakers for Motion 2:

1. Jenny Cullen: It is time for PWC to face up to demand management because the Pasadena DA called for a development that will result in more parking. Our need for parking when we get home is vital – in other areas residents get priority. PWC has the power to approve this. It costs nothing but it starts to make businesses see Church Point differently – they have to find parking for their clients. One possibility is to allow free parking for Pittwater resident ratepayers during the day.
2. Sharon Kinnison: It is important that we have had backing from onshore resident associations.

Speaker for Second Amendment (Motion C) to Motion 2:

Iza Foster: We have friends and families who sometimes stay overnight.

Speaker against Amendment to Motion 2 (Motion B):

Ian White: The amendment is illegal.

**Vote on Amendment to Motion 2 (Motion B):** Amendment lost.

**Vote on Motion 2:** Motion passed.

**Vote on second Amendment to Motion 2 (Motion C):** Amendment passed.

- **Motions D:** If Motions C is successful we request that the 50% of spots available to Church Point Permit holders only are on the two water side rows.
  - Moved: Iza Foster    Seconded: Rachel Carter
- **Rationale:** These are spots last to be filled by cars... as it's pointless otherwise (as can be demonstrated by the current 6pm to 6am zones near the commuter wharf, which fill first because they are closes to commuter).

Motion D not voted on.

- **Motion E:** If the Motion with the 100% option is the chosen by this meeting, that SIRAC put this to a community wide vote via survey before proceeding.
  - Moved: Iza Foster    Seconded: Rachel Carter
  - **Rationale 1:** *This is a big decision and we should check what our whole community prefers*

Speaker against Motion E:

Sharon Kinnison: Unless all the motions are included, this should not be done.

Jenny Cullen: We should not do this because surveys take time and demand management is a current issue and the AGM has voted for this.

Marie Minslow: The motion was advertised and people could have come to vote on it.

Speaker for Motion E:

Iza Foster: SIRAC represents the community and this is not the whole community:

**Vote on Motion E:** motion lost.

## **ELECTION PROCESS**

Returning Officer: Ian White spoke: he is a member of the association but a non-voting member.

Election procedure has changed:

**Prior nominations** were reviewed executive nominations; only 4 people have nominated for five positions – President – Bill Gye; VP Hubert van Mierlo; Secretary HvM, Treasurer, Cass Gye. HvM has stated that he withdrew his Vice President nomination in order to ensure that there would be five people on the executive. The committee members nominated were Shona Forsyth, Colin Haskell, Sharon Kinnison; Colin Haskell, David Hegerty, Marie Minslow. Colin Haskell withdrew his nomination.

**Nominations made at meeting:** Sharon Kinnison nominated Emmie Collins, Marie Minslow seconded; Robyn Iredale nominated Roy Baker, Carol Floyd seconded; Sophie Haythornwhite nominated Rachel Carter, Iza Foster seconded; Emmie Collins nominated Ian Laughton, Jenny Frazer seconded; Shar Jones nominated Iza Foster, Carol Floyd seconded; HvM nominated Phil Pryor, Skip Miller seconded. No further nominations were received, meaning that all of these people are elected. Bill Gye congratulated the nominees.

**Nominations for Vice Presidents:** Robyn Iredale nominated Roy Baker, CF seconded ; Sharon Kinnison nominated Rachel Carter, Emmie Collins seconded; Alan Gaines nominated David Hegarty, Robyn Iredale seconded; Shar Jones nominated Iza Foster, Brian Senate seconded; Hubert van Mierlo nominated Phil Pryor, Skip Miller seconded; Jenny Cullen nominated Ian Laughton; Ian declined to accept.

IW checked if all candidates accepted after the nominations. Roy Baker declined: four candidates remained; Rachel Carter, David Hegarty, Phil Pryor and Iza Foster.

Boyd Attwell explained the new electronic voting system which could be done on paper, by mobile phone, or on the laptops provided in the Fire Shed.

The four VP nominees spoke briefly about who they are and their aims for the island.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ian White spoke about PWC issues:

- sewerage issue (taking SI off the priority sewerage plan); PWC disagreed with this happening;
- Tree Preservation – Category B has been scaled back; SI is all category A so covered by 10/50 legislation.
- Report on user management for carpark may be before PWC in March or April. Roads budget 1.04 million; If special rate variation budget for the island over 7 years is 1.04 million does not get passed there will be more than 200,000 for roads this year. Some people have been told that the fixing of the sinkhole will come out of special rate variation; this is not appropriate and should be out of maintenance funds. Hairpin – getting money for it is really problematic. It is not a road, nor is it a fire trail. It must be done, but it is tricky. It may be that the road should go up the other side where there is an existing road reserve. Development cannot go ahead without road reserve access. SIRA could build its own road on a road reserve, but possibly not in a bush reserve. SIRA needs to have conversations about this.
- It is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fire Brigade this year.
- Re motions passed today: the car park is crown land, so any changes to parking has to be approved by Crown Land. The decked car park will be on council land so will be controlled by PWC.

## **VOTING**

Voting took place. Results were announced after the meeting. The two Vice Presidents were David Hegarty and Phil Pryor.

## **LUCKY DOOR PRIZE**

BG drew the lucky door prize. JR won the car park sticker, to be given in September.

## **AWARDING OF SIRA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

BG announced Life Memberships awarded this year: Carmel Patterson; Ron Barrelle, Greg Roberts, Emmie Collins.