

SIRA Annual Report 2022-23



SIRA serves the residents of Scotland Island NSW
Founded in 1955
Scotland Island Residents Association, registered in NSW
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Contents

About Us	5
SIRA Committee 2022-23	5
SIRA Subcommittees	5
President's report	6
Subcommittee Reports	8
Finance and Insurance	8
Church Point.....	9
Communications	9
Scotland Island Recreation Club and Halls.....	11
Wharves and Watercraft.....	13
Roads, Drainage and Environment	14
Water and Wastewater.....	15
Emergency Water	16
Services: Community Vehicle.....	17
Governance.....	18
Reviewer's Independence Declaration	20
Financial Reports.....	21
Detailed Statement of Profit or Loss.....	21
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	25
Committee Declaration.....	27
Independent Reviewer's Report	28

About Us

Scotland Island Residents Association, or SIRA, is collectively the voice of the Scotland Island community and a key provider of services to island residents living on the island. The SIRA committee advocates for residents in addressing issues relating to offshore living and community wellbeing. SIRA also manages the Emergency Water supply, the [Scotland Island Community Website](#) and the [SIRA Self Service members portal](#), the two venues of the Community Hall and the Recreation Centre, and an active Recreation Club that runs cafés, festivals and events, and co-manages the Community Vehicle.

SIRA was established in 1955 at a meeting at Bangalla and since then has become a vital part of island life. The SIRA Committee (SIRAC) welcomes observers at its meetings, as well as questions and submissions from island residents.

SIRA Committee 2022-23

Robyn Iredale: President and Team Leader SC Recreation & Halls
Sharon Kinnison: Vice President and Team Leader Roads and Drainage
Carol Beth Floyd: Vice President and Team Leader SC Communications
Julie Cooper: Treasurer
Deb Wood: Secretary
Colin Haskell: Team Leader SC Water & Wastewater
John Marshall: Team Leader Wharves
Ian White: Team Leader Services – Waste and Recycling, Community Vehicle
Georgina Orr: Team Leader Governance and Island Vision
Robert Fox: Team Leader Emergency Water
Basil Daher
Peta Jacobsen
Steve Seidman
Boyd Attewell: Accountant
Mark Martin (until September 2023)
Jessica Robinson (until September 2023)

SIRA Subcommittees

Much of the work done by SIRA is performed by subcommittees, and any SIRA member is welcome to join a subcommittee. For contact details and information on subcommittees and working groups, please refer to the SIRA website: <https://www.scotlandisland.org.au/sira/sub-committees/>

President's report

Managing a community organisation is a role that requires input and cooperation from many people. I have been extremely lucky to have a very committed and competent group of individuals who have been on the Committee of SIRA this year. It is demanding work and as volunteers we all try to do our best, though inevitably we will not please everyone.

To those who have helped throughout the year I say thank you for making it a pleasant and fruitful year. To those who would like to help in the future, please put your hand up. Volunteerism is an essential part of our way of life as we cannot rely on governments to provide all services or meet all needs. We all need to contribute in some way or other, at some time in our lives. I know it is not easy for people who are working hard and looking after a family, but every little offer of help is appreciated.

The March state election resulted in Rory Amon becoming the new Member of Parliament for Pittwater. We have engaged with Rory to discuss major issues affecting Scotland Island. The delivery of water and wastewater services is a priority for us and has been the subject of discussion with various state governments for 40 years. Rory agreed to conduct a survey of households to gauge the current level of support. Once we know that more than 60% of island households support this initiative, he will go to the Minister for Water to press our case. Members of the Water and Wastewater Subcommittee have been working hard on this issue. We hope that by becoming more active in the Pittwater Community Alliance, which is made up of 13 residents' groups in the area, we can put more pressure on Sydney Water in the future.

Rory Amon was aware of the issue of possible conditional registration of buggies, as he had been a Councillor on Northern Beaches Council. We discussed our community's preference for small vehicles, over cars, but that we had been waiting for over two years for a Transport for NSW decision on conditional registration. He undertook to ask a question in Parliament to try to get a decision on this matter.

SIRA has continued to liaise closely with Northern Beaches Council on many issues of importance to our community. The major developments and achievements in the past year have been:

- The board walk around the Church Point Waterfront store was completed;
- Roadworks have been undertaken at various places, especially around Catherine Park;
- The draft Catherine Park Management Plan was released in early 2023 and submissions from the community were received;
- The installation of kayak racks at Harold Reserve, Carols Wharf, was done by NBC;
- The five performances of the Two Catherines play in June 2023 revived amateur theatre on the island.

SIRAC will continue to work towards the goals as laid out in the Vision Strategy. I wish to thank the members of SIRAC for their dedication and hard work, especially the subcommittee leaders. CB Floyd and Sharon Kinnison, as Vice Presidents, do a huge amount of work to keep things running.

Other people from the community who participate in subcommittees are also very much appreciated. This is one way to become involved with specific issues that are of interest or concern to residents.

One of the essential services that SIRA provides is emergency water. This system is no longer an emergency one but has come to be the main source of water for some households, as well as a top-

up service for households that collect tank water. This has put extra pressure on the water manager and water monitors, as well as on Hubert van Mierlo. I am aware of how much time and effort goes into keeping this system running and I very much appreciate this input. Brian Rodgers has also made a major volunteer contribution to this service.

The community vehicle is another service provided by SIRA and the management team under Cass Gye and John Morgan keep the car running. Lisa Francis and Steve Valenti put in a lot of effort, along with the drivers: John Marshall, Sharon Dwyer, Branko Kristevic, Roy Baker, Billy Dwyer, Ian White, Cameron Nicol, Greg Taylor and Duncan Watts. In September 2023, Cass Gye stepped back and Sharon Dwyer is now managing the vehicle along with John Morgan.

Many other people have contributed to island life in the past year and I am very grateful for their contributions:

- Roy Baker for editing the PON, managing the halls and promoting the play;
- Café volunteers: CB Floyd for managing the Café, and also Amber Ellis, Peggy Havukainen, the bakers and all the workers, especially Maddy Banfield;
- Jane Rich and Roy Baker for running the Tuesday Discussion Group;
- Branko and Annabelle Kristevic for conducting the International Folk Dancing evenings;
- Rosemary Haskell and Gail Mackenzie for the Newcomers' Welcomes;
- The Fire Brigade team of Peter Lalor, Roy Baker and others

Residents' associations play an important role in filling the gap between local councils/state governments and communities. They are conduits of information as well as providing a central place for bodies to liaise. I encourage people to become involved if you wish to influence the quality of life on our island.

Robyn Iredale, President

Subcommittee Reports

Finance and Insurance

SIRA had a record high turnover of \$166,464 which eclipses both the 2018 year that had record drought-induced water sales and Elsie Street steps funding, and the 2019 year which included the Emergency Water Booking project funding. 2023 was so fruitful because it included solid water sales, the completion stages of the Recreation Centre refurbishment funding, café sales, the remarkable success of the Two Catherines stage production as well as the healthy recovery of the Australian Ethical Investment Fund.

The final result was a surplus of \$6,498 but that represents a small margin on such a large turnover and should not be taken for granted. Had world markets not recovered then SIRA would have made an overall loss. Had it not increased the price it charges for water, as discussed below, it would also have made a loss. In the previous financial year SIRA did indeed report a loss of \$17,377.

During the year the SIRA committee made the difficult decision to increase the price charged from \$5 to \$6 per kilolitre of water, effective 1 January 2023. This was the first increase since 2016. The booking fee prices were not increased. The increase in the kilolitre price was due to CPI and the increases in the various costs of supplying emergency water. Sydney Water had increased the kilolitre cost that is borne by SIRA by 25% over the same period since 2016.

There are many other costs associated with managing the water lines. Electricity for the pump is around \$450 per quarter, depreciation on the pump is \$500 per month, line clearing and maintenance of the line and equipment is around \$6,500 per annum, booking software and IT is \$7,000 per annum and the transaction charges on invoice payments is around \$2,200 pa.

SIRA also needs the emergency water income to cover a share of its overheads, as the water activity increases its insurance expense, and the activity requires IT and accounts support. This explains why SIRA purchases at \$2.50 per kilolitre and sells at \$6 per kilolitre with little or no profit during periods of modest water sales. A straightforward calculation of the Emergency Water result and of the overall financial result for SIRA reveals that if we assume that the water price had not been increased on 1 January 2023 and 8,400 kilolitres were sold between 1 January and 30 June 2023 at the price of \$5 rather than the increased \$6, we would have had \$8,400 less in income. That substantially reduces the profitability of the emergency water activity, and it flips SIRA's positive 2023 result into a loss for that year.

During the year, the SIRA Committee also resolved to adopt a practice of increasing the water price annually in line with CPI. This will avoid the need for larger one-off increases in future. It also puts SIRA in line with the pricing policy of Sydney Water.

The Treasury team ensures that full sets of management accounts are prepared each month and are made available to the SIRA committee and all SIRA members via the website. Treasury work includes the formulation of full year budgets. Those budgets are shaped and formally adopted by the full SIRA committee.

Julie Cooper, Treasurer

Church Point

Last year was a quiet year for Church Point, though a number of sleeper issues have progressed that will result to some big changes over the following year or two.

Firstly, a renewal plan for Thomas Stevens reserve is under review and receiving public submissions and comment from various community organisations.

Secondly, Pasadena has recently had a ruling from the liquor and gaming authority that should lead to a reduction in the noise that some people offshore and onshore find intrusive.

Thirdly, re-payment of the original loan for the new car park at Church Point is nearing completion. Once the loan had been fully paid, Council's original agreement was to revert the dedicated car spaces on the top level to general usage for all those with Church Point parking permits. What Council's current intentions are in that regard is now the question.

Fourth, the location of additional commuter boat wharf facility parking is still under review by Council and has been somewhat stalled by the contrasting views presented to Council on the matter from different community organisations.

Ian White and Bill Gye, Team Leaders Church Point

Communications

The Communications Committee

The Communications Subcommittee in 2023 had the following members:

- CB Floyd (Team Leader)
- Lisa Ratcliff
- Sharon Kinnison
- Peta Jacobsen
- Alec Beckett
- Juliet Wills
- Kay Reaney
- Shane O'Neill

The last three members resigned before the end of the year. All are warmly thanked for their subcommittee participation.

SIRA News, Facebook and PON

Three main channels are used to communicate regularly with residents.

- 1) SIRA News: approximately 50 newsletters were emailed to residents during the year, covering topics such as island events, Council communications, upcoming meetings, the Community Vehicle, Emergency Water and many other matters.
- 2) Scotland Island Residents and Scotland Island Offshore and Community Page are the two Facebook pages used by our community and they continue to be managed by Shane O'Neill. A team of offshore residents, currently CB Floyd, Shane O'Neill, Jess Kristevic, and Josephine Carter

May, monitor the page daily and delete posts that do not comply with the page rules. Lisa Ratcliff recently left the team of monitors but can support emergency fill-ins. She is warmly thanked for her diligent monitoring since the beginning of the monitoring system. In addition, these pages extend SIRA News communications, as each SIRA News is posted and linked to on both these Facebook pages.

- 3) PON: Communications and the Recreation Club continue to liaise with the PON to ensure announcements are seen across multiple channels but without unnecessary duplication.

Website

The Scotland Island Community website is maintained and updated by the Communications Team. Alec Beckett is the IT specialist for SIRAC and the team extends its thanks to Alec for his very responsive and proactive work on the website. Early this year, he flagged the need to increase the data capacity and this was accomplished on May 5, after approval was given at the April SIRAC meeting for the added expenditure (\$354 annually instead of \$240). We thank Julian Muir for enacting this change.

Updates have included the timeline on the [Current Issues Traffic Management Plan](#) page as well as the uploading of many RDE documents to the document library. The document library continues to be updated on a regular basis.

General survey of SIRA members

A major project of the Comms team over the year has been working with the Governance Subcommittee to design a survey of SIRA Members. SIRAC agreed to issue a survey with the aims of gathering information on:

- 1) demographics
- 2) what matters/issues are important to islanders
- 3) how SIRA is performing on these matters and issues.

The Communications and Governance Subcommittees developed a survey and is managing its implementation. These SCs had two joint meetings and issued a proposal in late July for consideration during the August 20 SIRAC meeting. This did not occur due to other pressing issues but was considered at the October 15 SIRAC meeting, and the decision was made to issue it in 2024.

Other activities

Survey on parking needs: following a resolution at the August 20 SIRAC meeting, a survey on parking needs on the foreshore and opposite the fireshed was issued by the Communications team. The open-ended question was analysed using thematic coding and the results communicated to members via a [SIRA News on September 23](#).

Speakers at café mornings: along with the Recreation Club, the Comms team arranged for speakers at the café, including a talk on Emergency Water issues (May), Sophie Scamps (June), and Rory Amon (July).

CB Floyd, Team Leader Communications

Scotland Island Recreation Club and Halls

This financial year has seen the development of new initiatives to try to engage more of the community and make wider use of the halls. We have kept previous activities going, most notably the Two Catherines Cafés, but we have added a wider range of activities.

We feel there is still room to engage with young people more and to seek out more volunteers to help with our activities.

Financials

The total income for this financial year was \$24,160.52 which just exceeds the expenses of \$23,237.40. There was a net profit of \$923.12. Please see Financial Reports in this document for a full profit and loss statement for the Recreation Club and Café.

Major Activities

- 1) The café has been held on the fourth Sunday of every month and this seems to be a reasonable balance. It requires considerable organisation and we are very grateful to CB Floyd for managing much of the café. Amber Ellis has become the cake organiser and is doing a fine job of this. Our chief barista, Maddy Banfield, continues in this role and is assisted by various others. Other young people take it in turns to take orders and serve and Cam Catchlove is very dedicated and reliable in setting up and dismantling the furniture. The cafés have proved to be a handy venue for staging other activities: the Christmas and mid-year market stalls, talks by political candidates/politicians, book launches, and other events.



Cast members Sophie Lebowic, Juliet Wills, Josephine Carter May, Betsi Beem and Sophie Blackband

- 2) 'The Two Catherines: A twisted Scotland Island tale' was staged in June 2023 on five occasions. From all reports it was enjoyed by all, especially the performers. Our biggest thanks go to Sophie Lepowic (Elvina Bay) for stepping up to direct the play, as well as playing the role of Catherine Bouffier. The whole cast was a pleasure to work with throughout the months of rehearsal and my thanks go to Kay Reaney for helping me to produce the play. Music was composed by Markus Plattner and sung by Lisa Day (Church Point). Boyd Attewell and Mark Martin managed the lighting and sound. Numerous other people contributed in many different ways and they were all highly valued: Roy Baker, Gil Unwin, Jane Matthews, Nettie Lodge, stagehands, bar attendees, food waiters and Lisa Atkins and Rosemary Haskell for cooking. On balance, the play was a huge success and the earnings covered all the costs.



Cast and crew of the Two Catherines: A Twisted Island Tale

- 3) Renovations to the Recreation Centre kitchen and bathroom. With the encouragement of Northern Beaches Council, SIRA applied for a Community Building Partnerships grant from the NSW Government. We were successful and received \$48,000: \$30,000 went to the purchase of awnings around the lower part of the Community Hall, and the balance went towards the renovations. NBC contributed a large amount of labour to pull out the old walls and furniture and redo new walls and the bathroom. A team effort, led by Tim Turpin, installed the new kitchen and appliances. We wish to thank Tristy and Andrew (Frog Hollow) for donating an almost new fridge to us for the Rec Centre. In July a plaque was mounted on the wall to honour people who built the Kindy, initially, and those who renovated.
- 4) Sound equipment was purchased this year for use in both halls. This makes it much easier when we stage events as we no longer need to borrow and transport heavy items.
- 5) A new Halls Manager, Roy Baker, was appointed in March. Since then, he has also been engaged as the halls cleaner. His jobs include managing the online bookings for the two halls, liaising with NBC about repairs and maintenance, advocating for improvements and upgrades to the halls, maintaining the key register, cleaning, water provision to the halls and many other small tasks. Roy, as a lawyer, has also turned his attention to some of the hall documents.

Other Events

This year we arranged a number of new concerts/entertainment, including:

- July 2022, Celebration of 40-year Anniversary of the Community Hall;
- 26 March 2023 The third Graeme Crayford Memorial race, organised by Roy Baker;
- 20 May 2023, Seafarers' Shindig, with the Bay Boys and Maxine Rickman and Jon Ryan;
- June 2023, five performances of the Two Catherines play.

Ongoing events also feature in the island calendar:

- International folk dancing continues to attract a small bunch of dedicated dancers on the last Saturday night of each month. Branko and Annabelle Kristevic have introduced us to an exotic range of dances from all over the world. New participants are welcome.
- The Tuesday Discussion Group meets at 11.00 am, on the third Tuesday of each month. Participants take turns to select a topic for discussion and provide a list of relevant reading materials.

Finally

My thanks to the very active members of this subcommittee: especially CB Floyd, Sharon Kinnison, Roy Baker, Rosemary and Colin Haskell. Suggestions for new activities, events are always welcome.

Robyn Iredale AM, Team Leader Recreation and Halls

[Wharves and Watercraft](#)

There are not many items to report this year.

March

There were concerns regarding Cargo Wharf at Church Point being closed overnight and not being opened on time. This seemed to be being handled by WPCA who had asked transport companies to send details of issues, so we asked them for results; at this stage no further information is available.

June

We were asked by NBC to put up flyers at three wharves to canvas any comment re NBC installing/modifying screens around bins. The links to the plans were also issued in the SIRA News of June 14, 2023.

Only one resident contacted us, asking if their spot on the Eastern wharf would be impacted. This was relayed to the engineer who had asked for flyers to be put up and he indicated it would take a year or two to get approval for the changes at Eastern.

Subsequently NBC started modifying Eastern wharf soon after with no notification to residents and there was reportedly damage to some mooring lines. NBC said there was no damage to mooring lines however it has been reported that NBC reimbursed one of the affected residents.

July

Ben Johnson of Johnson Brothers Marine reported that he believed there was corrosion being caused to motors due to the steel wall at Church Point Commuter Wharf. NBC's expert said that there was no issue with the wall.

Having spoken to some other boat mechanics, advice was that there were issues with boats parked near slipways and that the best way to resolve the issue is to keep servicing up-to-date and have all anodes replaced before they corrode.

This was a solution that Ben Johnson had suggested and that he would put some YouTube videos up and do a talk at the coffee morning at Tennis. Neither of these have occurred as of now.

John Marshall, Team Leader Wharves and Watercraft

Roads, Drainage and Environment

The Roads, Drainage and Environment Subcommittee (RDE) is fortunate to have representation from persons of all ages, residents with and without buggies as well as individuals from around the island. The Subcommittee has benefited from the input of new members and would welcome additional participants as there is so much to do. Rarely are projects crossed off a check list. Generally, project completion occurs over years and is budget dependent. Outcomes are based on previous studies, management plans and consultation with community and stakeholders.

2023 has been both a success and challenge for the Roads, Drainage and Environment Subcommittee (RDE). On the plus side was the completion of the road and drainage capital works running behind Catherine Park. The funding, design and construction was completed in-house by Council and was the outcome of over two years of work. This project is significant in that it is a stepping stone for improving the management of stormwater flowing into and through Catherine Park and will facilitate park improvements.

Catherine Park, the Island's major community recreational and meeting place, has after about 20 years of effort been identified in the Council's forward budget process. A Catherine Park Landscape plan will guide improvement to function and aesthetics. Following the initial consultation, plan development will continue as Stage 1 (the park general) and Stage 2 (the foreshore). The latter will involve further consultation and the completion of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP). Consultation has benefited from detailed design by a *Local Expert Panel* of architects, landscape designers, bushland managers and a hydrologist. On completion the Catherine Park Landscape plan will not only guide future initiatives but will assist with a commitment to maintenance and continued funding and will serve as a model process for other reserves.

Stage 1 of the Catherine Park Landscape Plan will include a hydrological study focusing on the best solution for management of stormwater flowing across the park and into the bay. In the meantime, Council has improved stormwater management into Catherine Park at the outlet to the central gully and below the outlet on Pitt View Street opposite Florence Terrace that carries stormwater along the swale behind the playground. Remediation by Ausgrid having finished the cable connection to the Western Foreshore is largely complete with restoration at the centre outlet, reseeded of the park surface and restoration of the emergency access road. All these initiatives are critical to the success of future works to improve recreational facilities and function.

A significant accomplishment this year has been an allocation of additional funding by Council to safeguard and enhance the Island bushland reserves. Continued commitment of volunteers including residents targeting Madeira Vine in Harold Reserve and the Catherine Park Bushcare Group has prompted ongoing funding from Council for contract work to support volunteers and restore high quality bushland. Catherine Park and Harold Reserve are greatly improved. Both locations provide a bushland setting and can showcase the Island's biodiversity including the Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest community and those of a rainforest gully. Council has also continued its efforts to survey the boundary of Elizabeth Park and to prevent ongoing encroachment by park neighbours.

Ben Dray, a team member, is working with the NBC Bushland Management team targeting the highly invasive Madeira Vine. At a community presentation he discussed his methods and success in the removal of Madeira Vine from road and bushland reserves as well as private land. The improvements within Harold Reserve as well as the commitment of residents with a heavy infestation are a tribute to his efforts. The Catherine Park Bushcare Group and residents have

benefited from the work of Hazel Malloy, our local botanist, who has provided plants and guidance in the growing of Australian native plants. Hazel is sharing her knowledge and learnings in her new book *Sydney Local Native 150+ in-depth native plant profiles for gardeners*.

A major challenge for the RDE Subcommittee since 2015 has been working with TfNSW (previously RMS) and Council to facilitate registration for non-compliant vehicles. A letter from TfNSW (Sept 2023) has reiterated that these vehicles will not be registered for use on the Island as the roads are not safe. SIRAC continues to support smaller vehicles but has voted to not pursue the matter further. SIRAC will, however, support any group of individuals with information as needed. In moving forward, the RDE subcommittee along with others will consider alternative long-term strategies to facilitate travel to and from the Tennis Court Wharf for those in need, especially those persons with mobility issues. More recently Council has also restricted vehicle access to Catherine Park due to safety concerns. Access to the waterfront, however, remains an ongoing issue with very different points of view among residents.

Sharon Kinnison, Team Leader Roads, Drainage and Environment

Water and Wastewater

Update On Sydney Water's Operating Licence Review 2023-2024

IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) are undertaking an end-of-term review of the 2022-2024 Sydney Water NSW Operating Licence (Licence) to assess if it continues to meet its objectives. This review will inform their recommendations to the Minister for Water for a new operating licence to commence on 1 July 2024. They will investigate any issues that have arisen during the licence term, which may impact its effectiveness.

An Issues Paper has been published discussing some preliminary positions on how the current Licence could be improved. They are seeking comments from stakeholders to inform our draft recommendations for terms and conditions in the new operating licence (which we will consult on later in the year).

You can read further information on the IPART website:

<https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/review/water-licensing-waternsw/waternsw-operating-licence-review-2023-24>

SIRA has made a submission and will register to speak at the hearing in November, as it has done for previous Reviews. SIRA would like to thank Marie Minslow for putting this together, as well as the entire Water & Wastewater subcommittee for all their work.

NBC Council have also made a submission and Sydney Water has responded to the Review.

All these documents: the Issues Paper, SIRA's submission, the Northern Beaches Council submission and Sydney Water's response [are available to read here](#).

Colin Haskell, Team Leader Water and Wastewater

Emergency Water

History and Costings

The committee reviewed the records of the Emergency Water system from 2002 when it was taken over from council. SIRA is responsible for the integrity and maintenance of the lines which show their age.

Earlier this year we estimated that the cost of replacing the whole Emergency Water system was \$171,000.

Water Pressure and Pumps Stoppages

In late March we started having technical issues with the booster pump and various tests were done to isolate the problems from just customer errors. The water monitors were actively involved and had to physically go to Bells to restart after stoppages. Most of the problems were identified as being caused by Sydney Water variations in pressures at Church Point that cause our pump to exceed its set parameters and shut down for safety reasons.



Solenoid valves at Bells pump

Water Monitor Contracts

New contracts were negotiated to take effect from 1 May 2023 with the main change allowing them compensation for extra alarm call outs each month.

WhatsApp

A new group involving the subcommittee, monitors, Brian Rodgers and software support was established to report on stoppages and problem-solve delivery issues.

Meeting with pump supplier

In early July a group met with the representatives of the pump suppliers, Malcom Thompson Pumps, to check the water delivery flows from Church Point and review pressure parameters. They complimented the work of Brian Rodgers who has made restricting washers to increase water pressure in standpipes close to Bells and stopped the pump from tripping. The committee is still following up possible solutions and ideas that came from this meeting and Hubert, our software expert, is very involved in making a more robust emergency water system.

Newcomers' Information Day

The subcommittee put together a PowerPoint presentation for a July community centre morning tea and had hopes that older resident users would also come to "refresh" their knowledge, but it was poorly attended.

Conclusion

There are still problems at a technical level dealing with pressure changes and at a user level with people taking a complicated system for granted, not walking the line and having the wrong lines from standpipes to their tanks. However, most of the time the system is working well, and users are able to achieve water flows of 4,800 litres per hour consistently. The water monitors Nikki and Ian have the subcommittee’s full support and appreciation for the work they do in delivery of Emergency Water.

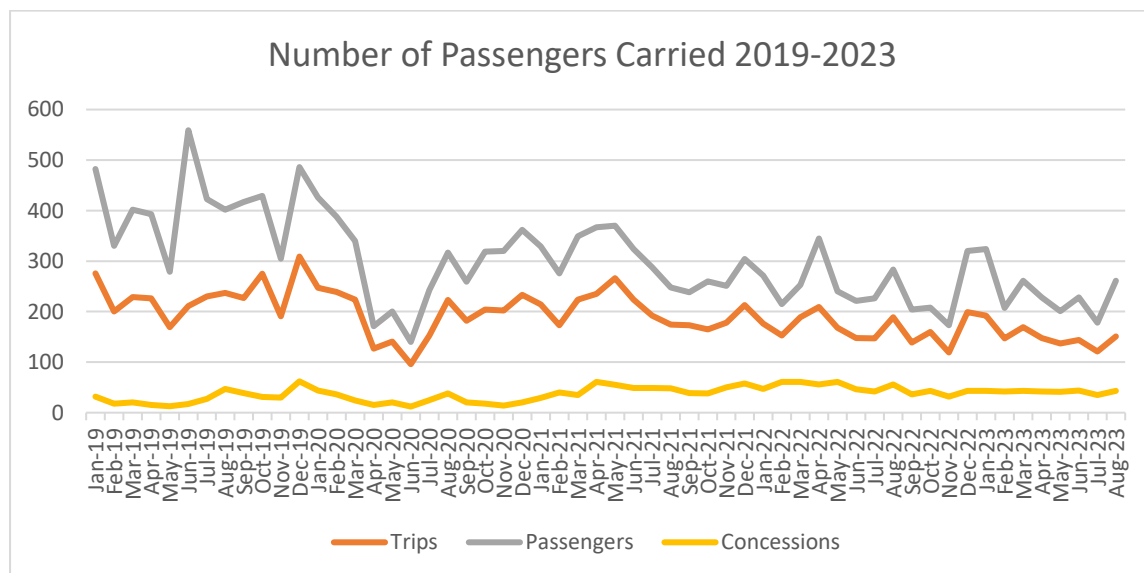
Robert Fox, Coordinator Emergency Water Service Group

Services: Community Vehicle

The Community Vehicle continues to be a valuable service to Island residents. The service is supported by funding from Transport for NSW, through Easylink Community Services who lease the vehicle from Northern Beaches Council whilst the day-to-day operation is managed by SIRA.

Patronage has been at a stable level over the past year, but considerably down from 2019 as shown in the graph. The vehicle relies on passenger trips and numbers to justify the funding, so we encourage residents to use the service to keep it viable.

One change that has been implemented is the cessation of the concessional fares programme. The community vehicle is already funded to the maximum level for all residents under the state government’s Community Transport Programme and to ensure viability for the service Easylink have advised that no new applications for concessional fares will be accepted. Those residents who currently receive concessions will continue to be eligible for the reduction in the fare, funded by the drivers and not Easylink.



The success and efficiency of the service relies on residents following the operational guidelines and your co-operation is appreciated. The guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

We have a great team of drivers who give their time to keep the service running. We welcome anyone to apply to Easylink Community Transport and be trained to come on board. For more information on requirements, you can email communityvehicle@sira.org.au

Thanks to all the drivers for their continued assistance in keeping the vehicle available: Branko Kristevic, Billy Dwyer, Sharon Dwyer, Ian White, Cameron Nicol, Greg Taylor, Duncan Watts, John

Marshall, Roy Baker, and John Morgan, who also does the statistical reporting. Cass Gye and John Morgan managed the CV, while Lisa Francis has done the cleaning, and Steve Valenti the maintenance.

Lisa Francis has moved north, so Roy Baker has taken over the cleaning duties. The drivers thank Lisa for being part of the team and wish her well in her new life.

Cass Gye, who has been involved with the Community Vehicle since its inception in 1995, has finally handed in her key! She will remain as backup driver when she is available and be in the wings to assist. The role of Co-ordinator will be shared and is in the capable hands of Sharon Dwyer and John Morgan.

Cass Gye, former Co-ordinator, and John Morgan

Governance and Vision

Governance relates to the way an organisation achieves its **purpose**. This includes its processes for decision-making, and the accountability and behaviour of its officers.

Accountability exists in a relationship between two parties where one has expectations of the other, and the other is obliged to provide information about how they have met these expectations.

For accountability to be achieved, there must be **transparency**.

The [SIRA Constitution](#) sets out the purpose of SIRA. There are a number of objectives of SIRA, including to:

- secure, manage and administer improvements in matters concerning the welfare, facilities, comfort and convenience of residents of the District;
- encourage and promote any necessary development of Scotland Island and adjacent mainland areas;
- encourage and promote civic pride and interest in community affairs;
- secure reforms, prevent abuses and preserve rights and privileges of the residents as part of the community at large;
- protect and cultivate native flora and fauna and to generally preserve the natural beauty of Scotland Island.

SIRA works continuously to make life easier for island residents, most importantly in the area of facilitating access to water and managing the community vehicle. SIRA also does a lot of behind the scenes work to improve infrastructure that is taken for granted on the mainland, such as roads and drainage. In addition, SIRA plays a significant role in bringing the community together, through the Island Café, promotion of the arts, maintaining and improving community meeting places and other community activities.

The purpose of SIRA is to secure improvements for the residents of Scotland Island, which brings to mind the old adage “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” – what might be an improvement for one can amount to a derogation of rights for another. Managing competing interests and views is a difficult task, in part because it is not always clear what all the views are, and when known, how they should be weighed up relative to each other. Tradeoffs and compromise are required.

At times, residents are frustrated with the efforts and/or outcomes of SIRA in relation to particular issues. SIRA recognises this and has committed to software that will allow it to survey residents more easily in order to understand better residents' views on matters with which SIRA is involved.

At the beginning of this year, the Governance subcommittee was merged with the Island Vision subcommittee.

This subcommittee met a few times throughout the year; initially to begin preparations for an island-wide survey, similar to that undertaken in 2016, to gather residents' views on a wide range of topics. This work is progressing, under the management of the Communications team.

More recently, the Governance subcommittee met to consider what changes, if any, the SIRA Committee needs to make to ensure good governance of SIRA.

As noted above, ascertaining residents' opinions in relation to matters with which SIRA is involved is fundamental to good governance, to ensure SIRA is delivering on its purposes. Where the objectives of SIRA potentially come into conflict, it is particularly important that residents participate to help SIRA understand their needs and preferences.

Next year, the Governance subcommittee hopes to facilitate greater use of surveys to gather opinions and establish fact bases for various lobbying efforts, as well as to prioritise the efforts of SIRA. In addition, the Governance subcommittee will continue to improve transparency through better record-keeping and document management in relation to SIRA's activities and records.

Reviewer's Independence Declaration

Reviewer's Independence Declaration

Under s43 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 to the Directors of Scotland Island Residents Association Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

The reviewer independence requirements as set out in the Associations Incorporations Act 2009 in relation to the annual review, and

Any application code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. G. Stanley'.

William George Stanley FCA
1 Harold Ave.
Scotland Island NSW Australia

Dated: 12 October 2023

Financial Reports

Detailed Statement of Profit or Loss

	for the year ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Income		
Memberships	7,759	8,046
Emergency water sales		
Line 1 income	45,110	45,610
Line 2 income	36,134	32,099
Line 3 income	13,383	13,504
Line 1 booking fees	3,335	3,550
Line 2 booking fees	2,775	2,830
Line 3 booking fees	960	985
Late fees charged	596	490
Total Emergency water sales	103,293	99,068
Emergency water upgrades	-	161
Community vehicle	680	680
Community hall	1,998	2,956
Rec Centre hire	766	327
Donations - Rec Club	2,745	3,644
Donations - Two Caths play	1,550	-
Box office ticket sales	7,214	1,649
Theatre bar sales	1,783	-
Theatre food sales	572	-
Grants received	500	-
CBP grant - Recreation club	18,034	27,932
Cafe sales	9,418	10,130
Festival workshops/stalls	378	110
Interest and distributions	1,564	4,432
Investment fund re-valuation	8,208	-
Total Income	166,464	159,135
Expenses		
Accounting	10,688	10,125
Bad debts	-	506
Bank charges	1,512	1,257
Bank charges - Stripe fee	1,293	2,149
Cleaning	5,628	3,644
Two Catherines play - development	3,545	1,040
Two Catherines play - production	1,782	-
Two Catherines play - fees	3,000	-
Theatre food and bar	1,172	-
Two Catherines play - other	835	-
Community projects - Cafe	7,971	12,151
Community projects - Rec club other	4,851	3,085
Community projects - Hall awnings	-	27,932
Community projects - Rec Centre refurb	18,034	-
Depreciation	6,371	6,371
Electricity, gas, fuel	3,137	3,039
Emergency water monitors		
Monitor line 1	6,036	6,856
Monitor line 2	4,122	4,815
Monitor line 3	2,006	2,026
Line 1 booking fees	430	1,532
Line 2 booking fees	304	1,248
Line 3 booking fees	108	414
Total Emergency water monitors	13,006	16,890
E water - lineclearing	2,068	3,750
E water - line mtntnce	5,741	5,076
E water - rates at \$2.04 per kL	43,614	44,282
Fees for Hall Bookings and PON	1,000	750
Insurance	4,239	3,733
IT Manager	4,275	4,050
Maintenance	1,652	1,000
Meeting costs	182	147
Print and post	47	77
Reimbursement allowance	3,100	2,400
Software - Accounts/office	689	649
Software - Emergency water	7,335	6,628
Software - Membership	1,719	1,698
Telecoms and Internet	1,480	1,210
Website design, maintenance	-	236
Loss on Investments	-	12,637
Total Expenses	159,966	176,512
Net Profit/(Loss)	6,498	17,377

Scotland Island Residents Association Inc
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Detailed Department Reports
Emergency Water only

	for the year ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Emergency Water		
Income		
Line 1 income	46,110	45,610
Line 2 income	36,134	32,099
Line 3 income	13,383	13,504
Line 1 booking fees	3,335	3,550
Line 2 booking fees	2,775	2,830
Line 3 booking fees	960	985
Late fees charged	596	490
Emergency water upgrades	-	161
Total Income	103,293	99,229
Expenses		
Bank, Paypal & Stripe charges	2,585	3,419
Depreciation	6,000	6,000
Electricity, gas, fuel	1,849	1,829
Emergency water monitors		
Monitor line 1	6,036	6,856
Monitor line 2	4,122	4,815
Monitor line 3	2,006	2,026
Line 1 booking fees	430	1,532
Line 2 booking fees	304	1,248
Line 3 booking fees	108	414
Total Emergency water monitors	13,006	16,890
E water - lineclearing	2,068	3,750
E water - line mntnce	5,741	5,076
E water - rates at \$2.04 per kL	43,614	44,282
E water - SIRA fee	9,996	10,000
Maintenance	-	967
Software - Emergency water	7,335	4,935
Telecoms and internet	862	964
Total Expenses	93,054	98,113
Net Profit/(Loss)	10,239	1,116

Detailed Department Reports

Recreation Club and Two Catherines production

	for the year ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
<i>Recreation Club excluding Two Catherines production</i>	\$	\$
Income		
Donations	2,745	2,644
Ticket sales	-	1,649
Grants received	500	-
CBP grant - Recreation club	-	27,932
Cafe sales	9,418	10,130
Festival workshops/stalls	811	110
Total Income	13,474	43,465
Expenses		
Bank charges	81	126
Cleaning	-	140
Cafe wares and set up	633	1,649
Cafe barista	1,818	1,994
Cafe supplies	1,431	1,538
Cafe helpers	1,660	3,302
Cafe bakers	1,937	2,807
Cafe hall hire	450	860
Table tennis hall hire	60	520
Table tennis other	-	24
Folk dancing hall hire	150	120
Other Rec club activity - performance	780	2,140
Other Rec club activity - hall hire	290	
Other Rec club activity - equipment	2,740	140
Rec Club - other	874	142
Comm Hall awnings	-	27,932
Total Expenses	12,903	44,473
Net Profit/(Loss)	571 -	1,009

	2023	2022	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<i>Two Catherines production</i>			
Income			
Donations to 2C play	1,550	1,000	2,550
Ticket sales	6,781	-	6,781
Theatre bar sales	1,783	-	1,783
Theatre food sales	572	-	572
Total Income	10,687	1,000	11,687
Expenses			
Two Catherines Play - development	3,545	1,040	4,585
Two Catherines - production	1,782	-	1,782
Two Catherines - fees	3,000	-	3,000
Theatre food & bar	1,172	-	1,172
Two Catherines - other	835	-	835
Total Expenses	10,335	1,040	11,375
Net Profit/(Loss)	352 -	40	312

Scotland Island Residents Association Inc
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Statement of Financial Position

	as at 30 June	
	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	38,092	51,119
Floats	300	300
Total Cash	38,392	51,419
Paypal account	9,965	6,717
Distributions accrued	0	4,249
Australian Ethical Fund	153,186	144,978
Debtors	2,516	2,012
Grant receivable	-	-
Prepayments		
Equipment	35,100	35,100
Accumulated depreciation	(16,467)	(10,096)
Total Current Assets	222,692	234,378
Total Assets	222,692	234,378
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	5,954	17,733
Accruals	13,750	3,075
Deposits held	480	380
Memberships in advance	6,218	5,000
Community building partnership grant	2,034	20,068
Recreation club donation reserve	850	1,215
Total Current Liabilities	29,286	47,471
Non-Current Liabilities		
Reserve to replace waterline	171,500	171,500
Total Liabilities	200,786	218,971
Net Assets	21,906	15,407
Equity		
Retained Earnings	15,407	32,784
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	6,498	(17,377)
Total Equity	21,906	15,407

Notes to the Financial Statements

The financial statements cover Scotland Island Residents Association Inc (SIRA) as an individual entity that is incorporated and domiciled in Australia. SIRA is an incorporated association.

The financial statements were authorised on the 15th day of October 2023.

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. The Committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on it. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (the Act). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Act and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Committee has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise.

The association has no legal obligation to have its financial statements audited. The Act defines the association as a Tier 2 (small) association and as such there is no requirement for an audit. The association Committee has elected for a Review to be carried out by a suitably qualified accountant (refer to the Independent Reviewer's Report).

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Note 2. Goods and Services Tax

The association is registered for GST, therefore income and expenses are recognised exclusive of GST. Where appropriate, certain assets and liabilities are inclusive of GST.

Note 3. Income Tax

The association has been granted exemption from income tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act.

Note 4. Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date

There have been no events that have occurred after the balance sheet date which require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

Note 5. Key Management Personnel Compensation

No Committee member has received any compensation during the financial year other than as outlined in the following table;

Name	Role	Description	Amount (excl GST) for year to June 2023
Boyd Attewell	Accountant	Engaged for 2 days per month for accounts processing	\$10,687
Colin Haskell	President until November 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$600

Juliet Wills	Secretary until November 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$600
Sharon Dwyer	Treasurer until October 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$200
Robyn Iredale	President from December 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$700
Julie Cooper	Treasurer from December 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$350
Deb Wood	Secretary from December 2022	Reimbursement allowance	\$600

It is noted that Colin, Juliet and Deb donated their reimbursement allowance back to the Scotland Island Recreation Club.

Note 6. Entity Details

The registered street address, and principal place of business of the association is: The Scotland Island Community Centre, Catherine Park, Scotland Island, NSW 2105.

Note 7. Members' Liability

The association is registered as an incorporated association in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. If the association is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership fees, towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity.

Note 8. Australian Ethical Investment Fund

The association has for the last four years invested some of its funds with the Australian Ethical Investment Fund (AEI). AEI have a solid record for investment performance over many years. They invest funds in a diverse range of Australian and overseas companies, and they ensure that those companies meet their ethical standards in relation to people, the environment and animals. The financial year ended 30 June 2023 has seen a return to positive growth after a challenging year immediately prior to that. There is discussion of this and SIRA's investment practices in the Treasurer's Report on page 8.

Note 9. Funded projects

The association had one government funded project underway during the year to 30 June 2023, being a NSW State Government, Community Building Partnership grant for Recreation Club activities. The title of the funded project is "Sun shelter, safety step lights, kitchen equipment for Halls". The total grant was \$48,000. \$18,034 was spent during the year to 30 June 2023 on refurbishment of the Recreation Centre and its kitchen. The unexpended balance of the grant at the end of the financial year was \$2,034.

Note 10. Reserve to replace waterline

A reserve was created during the year to reflect an estimate of replacement cost of the waterline infrastructure on the island. SIRA has full responsibility to repair and over time replace the Emergency Water Line and Standpipes. The SIRA committee has calculated that the cost of replacement is approximately \$171,500.

Committee Declaration


In accordance with a resolution of Scotland Island Residents Association Inc., the Committee declare that:

- The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 20 to 25 are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and;
- Comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
- Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 of the financial statements.

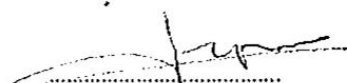
In the Committee's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of the association.

President


.....
Robyn Iredale

Treasurer


.....
Julie Cooper

Dated: 15 October, 2023

Independent Reviewer's Report

To the members of Scotland Island Residents Association Inc.

STATEMENT OF REVIEW

I advise that I have reviewed The Accounts of SCOTLAND ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC (SIRA INC), for the Year ended 30th June 2023 at the Request of its Committee.

I believe they comply with the requirements of the relevant State Legislation for a Tier 2 Association and give a True and Fair View of the Association affairs as at that date.

The relevant Legislation does not require an Audit of a Registered Association whose Annual Income is less than \$250,000, which is the case for SIRA INC.

This Statement of Review is not an Auditor's Report.



William George Stanley FCA
1 Harold Ave.
Scotland Island NSW Australia

Dated: 15 October, 2023