



Scotland Island Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date: March 2, 2014

Venue: Community Hall

Meeting opened at 3:45.

INTRODUCTION

The President, Judy Readman, (JR) thanked everyone for coming and welcomed the large turnout. Apologies for Paul Burchall and Ron Wandless; both are ill and our thoughts go out to them and their families. Welcomed Paul Davies, Principal Engineer – Strategy Investigation and Design, Pittwater Council.

Previous minutes: The AGM Minutes 2013 were tabled. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting by those present.

The Agenda was reviewed.

Procedural matter: Last AGM nominating procedure reviewed; was confusing and chaotic. A recent Community Forum on the Constitution and community engagement supported a process of written nominations. Advice was that this is consistent with the constitution as the wording is 'may...' undertake the various nominating activities.

Nominations and voting process: JR asked if the meeting wished to accept a late written nomination; e.g. Rachel Carter. Vote by show of hands agreed to accept this nomination. JR asked everyone to write Rachel Carter's name on the bottom of the voting form.

Query: what happens if someone is elected for a higher position – what about their votes for the general committee election? BG explained the preferential voting system. Votes will be reranked when someone is eliminated by virtue of being elected to a higher position.

Scotland Island Traffic Management Plan: Paul Davies

PD gave a presentation on two draft proposals: 10km/h Shared Zone; Traffic Closure of All Public Roads. He provided information to the meeting and a Q&A Session was held at the end of his presentation.

SIRA Committee President's Report: Judy Readman

It has been a year of difficulty but also of achievements.

Whilst Church Point was not the only issue on our agenda, it has been a dominating feature of our community life. Through our surveys and long history of community discussion, we are very clear of the broad community consensus, however, this issue has also been divisive.

The divided opinions and emotions about Church Point have not always brought out the best in people. As a result, for me this year has been a difficult one personally as SIRA President. Even though I came into the role after 2 years on the SIRA Committee I was not prepared for the very rough ride we had this year. The

problem is not diversity of opinion, but of gossip and conspiracy theories. This is what has caused the most hurt and some very stressful times for all members of the Committee. This is a shame because there were so many other things on the Island that needed attention that we all should have been working on together.

We should also acknowledge that the Church Point issue has been divisive and difficult for our Pittwater Councillors as well. We sincerely thank Selena Griffith for her support and considerable forbearance on this difficult issue. Ian White, of course, and the other supportive Councillors as well as many key Council staff for their extensive contribution to moving this issue forward. Thank you also to all those that contributed in so many ways supporting us with this issue through to the final decision.

The Committee is a group of volunteers undertaking a large number of tasks, and though some balls have been dropped as we are only human, there have been many positive achievements as you will see in a moment when some of the Committee members give their reports. I would like to highlight just a few of these achievements for the year:

1. The installation of a pontoon at Cargo Wharf for 18 commuter boats which resulted in the rejuvenating beach area at Cargo for all
2. The decision to build a decked car park by Council to help alleviate the parking issues for offshore residents
3. Some progress in implementing the Roads and Drainage Master Plan
4. A newly designed website to allow easier uploading and access to SIRA documents and general Island information
5. A published decision making process for the SIRA Committee

With respect to improving our Island infrastructure, our relationship with Council is critical and right now it is constructive and strong. This is a good thing. I do not believe that being aggressive and attacking Council will be ultimately good for the Island. A collaborative approach is always best.

At the same time, Council needs to do their job on the Island and at Church Point with regards to compliance and maintenance of what little infrastructure we have and we frequently prompt them. Whilst we work closely with Council, ironically, a few times the SIRA Committee has taken the blame for some Council actions. We do work hard to promote the Island's interests, however, at times Council makes decisions that affect the Island in a way in which we may not agree. Keeping the relationship courteous and collaborative as much as possible always gains more respect and better outcomes in the long term.

One of the challenges that the new SIRA Committee will need to work on this year will still be the Church Point car park and demand management strategies.

There is also a need to move into a major consultation stage with the whole community. Sydney Water has just now made clear that, with their latest technology that allows onsite primary treatment, we have an opportunity to have mains sewer installed on the Island within the next few years. However, not mains water for the present. This issue will require community consultation and again a collaborative relationship with Council, Sydney Water and the community. This is another key issue for the future.

Roads and drainage improvements need to continue and, as you will hear from Paul Davies from PWC, a Traffic Management Plan has been drafted for the Island which will help guide how we want to deal with vehicles, road safety, access and the state of our roads.

There are, and always will be, challenges to living on an island. The questions we face are how much infrastructure and improvements does everyone want without changing the unique environment in which

we live? And at what cost, financial or otherwise? These are the issues that the future SIRA Committee will need to continue to tackle in consultation with the community.

The new Committee must work even harder to ensure that communication is even more effective within the community as well as doing the work. In that regard, the current Executive on the Committee is making a recommendation to the new incoming Committee that draft minutes of all meetings be made available and published as soon as possible after a meeting. These minutes will be approved at the next Committee meeting and may need amendment after which the final document can be republished.

As I said above, please always remember that Committee members are volunteers, donating personal time away from families to support the Island community. For all community members we should endeavor to be respectful and understanding.

In spite of my difficult year as President, I continue to enjoy being an “Islander” and believe we live in a very special and unique place and I wish to thank the Committee and all those who have been a positive support throughout the year.

Treasurer’s Report: Cass Gye

CG reported a successful audit 2012-2013 Financial Report and the Auditor’s Statement was tabled. One extraordinary item of expenditure, the removal of the pontoons at Tennis was \$8,628.00 with a contribution from TUG of \$1,300.00. Community Vehicle funding from NSW Transport continues and required Budgets and Financial Statements were provided by due dates. Emergency Water Term Deposit was \$79,979.96, interest for the year \$1,733.95. Community Hall continues to receive regular bookings. All insurances renewed until June, 2014. The meeting resolved to accept the Financial Report and Auditor’s Statement. CG will lodge the Annual Summary of Affairs with NSW Fair Trading.

REPORTS FROM SIRA SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP LEADERS

1. Communications/Website: Jon Maxim

The last year has been frustrating for the community; and for the committee in getting our message across. Problems can often be solved by communication, and we did try. In the midst of the conflict, Ruth Gaines wrote some articles that reminded us that although there are bumps in the road, we do get things done. One area in which we kept hitting a roadblock was in the website. The website needs to be more user-oriented and needs a content-management system: i.e. so that anyone with a password can update it. JM showed a preview. The new website is built on Word Press; easily updated. It will save money as well –from \$1000 per year to \$30 per month. It also tackles the issues we have had this year.

JM then showed visuals of the new website. Roll over menu bar to show full navigation.

2. Roads and Drainage Subcommittee: Alan Gaines

For the past several years, the focus of the Subcommittee has been the Scotland Island Road Reserve and Stormwater Management Implementation Plan, adopted by Pittwater Council in July, 2011. We have developed a good working relationship with Council staff, including Paul Davies, in assessing priorities for capital works within the plan. At the outset, we agreed that within the limitations of available budget, the highest priority should be improved drainage measures, to alleviate erosion and the consequent pollution of Pittwater. It was also agreed that all works should be properly constructed according to engineered specifications, and therefore part of a permanent solution. Council staff has consulted us each year, and specific priorities have sometimes changed according to emergency needs, but the program has proceeded

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with installation of properly engineered drain pits and other drainage measures. The Traffic Management Plan development is also part of this Program. In addition, the Island has over the past couple of years received a disproportionate share of Council's Road Maintenance budget, in recognition of our needs. Although maintenance provides only temporary solutions, care is now being taken to include drainage measures as part of all maintenance work. I trust that this good working relationship with Council will continue, and that we will see continuous improvement in our roads.

3. Water and Wastewater: Judy Readman

Gave Sydney Water a tour of the island to acquaint them with the needs of the island – fire risk etc. It has taken a year to get them to come to talk again. Brief background: there is a NSW Govt sewerage scheme, funded by State government and Sydney water. Previous advice was that mains sewerage was not available without mains water; however, it now appears it is possible to use a pressurised system as on Dangar Island. This is a step forward. There are only two towns plus Scotland Island still to get onto mains sewerage. We have had assurance from Rob Stokes that we will stay on the list from now on. It will be a \$70 million project. Roads and drainage still needs to be improved so that trenches will not be flooded. This is a big project, and will require community consultations. However, the island needs it – there is tree dieback and other issues from sewage pollution. At least we have a way forward now. With regards to mains water, there is no money in the State budget and the quote given was not realistic. There is still work to do to address a better water system for the island.

4. Parks and Reserves: Sue Dickson

A special thanks to Graeme for his support, trips to the tip and repair work to the BBQ, Tim for his gentle guidance and assistance, and Sharon, Jenny and Emmie for their help throughout the year. Achievements for the past year were:

1. Catherine Park: The play area level was raised to prevent flooding, and fresh sand was laid. The swale and drains were cleared of debris. Following complaints SIRA sent a letter to council regarding parking in the reserve. A new sign was installed on the slip rail. Plants were planted alongside the slip rail. Water bars were positioned on and at the bottom of the stairs. Clean up of rubbish around the kindy and park attended throughout the year. Council inspected the drainage pit following a complaint, we are still waiting for the pit to be fenced. Council inspected an area behind the retaining wall that has collapsed, still awaiting remedial works. Floating Landcare came to the island last May and spent a day on bush regen on the bank above the play area. Boats stickered.
2. Pathilda and Elizabeth Reserves: General rubbish removal attended throughout the year. Boats stickered in Pathilda
3. Bells Wharf Steps and Foreshore: Steps were resurfaced. Locals attended timber repairs on the access route to Bells Wharf.
4. Harold Reserve: Light replaced. A special thanks to Margaret Stanley for her generosity. BBQ repaired and new plate installed. Four dead trees removed, chipping has not taken place yet. Picnic table installed. PWC replaced and extended the rotting hand rail, with Harold Reserve sign attached. PWC engineers/ landscape architects came last Friday to assess the possibility of a footpath accessing Carols Wharf. Small rest seat built half way up the stairs. PWC to install water bars on the bank to prevent further erosion. Old kayak racks removed. Boats stickered. PWC to plant out banks when the weather is cooler.
5. Cargo/Leahvera Reserve: A community forum was held to gather ideas from residents, neighbours, contractors and tradies for presentation to PWC for a Plan of Management. All information gathered was in the PON for community feedback. SIRA then presented this to PWC for their consideration. Over the next 12 months council will liaise with SIRA and hold community forums as the process progresses. Residents built new kayak racks to tidy up the foreshore.

Mooring lines and boats were removed from the beach. A general clean-up of rubbish was attended. Boats stickered

6. Bush Care Report: Sue tabled a report from Emmie Collins for upcoming 2014 events. These will be announced in the PON.

SD also thanked past and present Committee members for their support and friendship over the last 7 years, and wished the new committee all the very best wishes for the year ahead.

5. Community Vehicle: Graeme Crayford

SIRA operates the CV vehicle with a NSW government grant. GC thanked drivers, particularly Karmel who does weekends. We need additional drivers who can do a regular shift. Thanks to Cass for doing the books. Managing the vehicle is now more difficult because drivers have to have a health check and a police check. The Association will pay for these checks. Use over the last 18 months has been quite consistent: about 400 trips with about 700 people carried per quarter. One issue is safety due to the state of the roads: the hairpin bend is nearly at the stage that we cannot continue to authorise use of this road. Another issue is unlicensed buggies and golf carts: this is a worry for drivers in regard to insurance in the case of an accident.

6. Community Hall: Carol Floyd

This year the hall was the venue for yoga and other fitness classes, fundraising events, the Dog Side of the Moon concerts, the Hallelujah Girls play, a number of birthday parties and two weddings. Also, the committee liaised with Pittwater Council on the installation of our beautiful new kitchen. The kitchen now complies with Council requirements for operating a café, but, although we placed notices in the PON, there has not yet been any interest expressed – if anyone here is interested please approach the next committee! Carol also thanked Kerry Borthwick for her efficient managing of the hall bookings, and Sue Dickson for working on various hall matters, especially for her hard work in helping to prepare the hall for the new kitchen and in the post-installation phase.

7. Church Point Subcommittee: Bill Gye

Short update at this stage. Thanked Ian Souter, who sadly died; also Mark Eriksson, who had a bad accident last year but has now returned to work. Also thanked the councillors who supported us in the council vote. The CP decision process was a survey which resulted in clear support for Option 2. The decision which went through was great, but not over until implemented. A recent meeting was held with council and the following discussed: In the original schedule for works back in 2011 the intention was For PWC to apply for the earlier 2012 round of the cheap state government loans (LIRS Loan), but due to extensive delays in the process the earlier Round 2 was missed and indeed PWC just made it in time to submit an application for Round 3, unfortunately this round has become much more competitive and we will not know the results for a month or two. There is a Part V assessment – environmental assessment – still to come. From recent discussions with PWC it is clear they are taking a more low risk strategy on the loan that will need to take out to construct the new parking area. If this goes ahead this will push up our fees and we will have to go back to the community for a new mandate. BG asked those who disagreed with the general community view to not keep trying to undermine the process as we are still in danger of losing the project, it is disrespectful of the broad community view and if this initiative fails it may take many years for an alternative plan to be developed. Bill briefly spoke about Demand Management issues such as dispersal, exclusivity, public transport and alternative transport options and price. One easy way to manage demand is to push up the price – this is a danger for those with on low incomes. Pay and Display is already at the high end.

8. Governance: Bill Gye

This year we came up with a draft process for decision-making; this was distributed and feedback received, the original draft was modified on the basis of that feedback and was then adopted as the committee's working document for decision-making. The process now is that significant decisions that affect everyone are made by community consultation, usually by survey; decisions that affect particular groups involve consultations with those groups, and minor decisions are made by committee. While having a diversity of opinion in our community is natural and healthy, the ethic of democracy is that if the majority of people in our community have clearly supported something, the rest should respect this decision.

ELECTION OF SIRA OFFICE BEARERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Attendees voted using the ballot form. Ian White was Returning Officer and collected all votes in a box. Bill Gye invited Hubert van Mierlo to nominate a scrutineer; he selected Scott Frazer. Ian White, Carol Floyd, Scott Frazer, Tracy Smith and Karin Krueger, and Ruth Gaines left the meeting to count the votes. See Appendix 1: List of nominees and results.

9. AOB: no AOB

10. MOTIONS

- 10.1. That all SIRA Committees should be open for all members to attend. moved Jenny Cullen; seconded Sharon Kinnison
 - 10.1.1. Motion be amended to add: "the attendance would be for observation only, not participation, unless by invitation of the committee" Moved: Marjolyn Batt
 - 10.1.2. Motion be further amended to add: "that there be an open Q&A session at the end". Moved: Jon Duhig
 - 10.1.3. Marjolyn Batt accepted that this amendment could be incorporated with her amendment.
 - 10.1.4. Amended Motion: "That all SIRA Committee Meetings should be open to all members to attend as observers, not as participants, unless by invitation of the Committee, and that meetings should conclude with an open Q&A session". Moved: Marjolyn Batt, Seconded: Jon Duhig. Amended motion carried.
- 10.2. That all SIRA Subcommittees or working groups should be open to all members . Moved: Jenny Cullen, Seconded: Sharon Kinnison.
- 10.3. It was noted that these meetings still need to have structure and that this should be left to the new committee.
- 10.4. Motion carried.

11. Lucky Door Prize draw was held; Sue Dickson was the winner.

Meeting closed at about 5:30 p.m.

Appendix 1: List of nominees and results

Nominee	Nominator	Seconded	Position	Result
Bill Gye	Shar Jones	Michael Bell	President	Elected
Hubert van Mierlo	Jillian Dellamonache	Sharon Kinnison	President	
Hubert van Mierlo	Jillian Dellamonache	Sharon Kinnison	Vice-President	
Alan Gaines	Juha Havukainen	Martin Readman	Vice-President	Elected
Judy Readman	Robyn Iredale	Martin Readman	Vice-President	Elected
Jenny Frazer	Sharon Kinnison	Scott Frazer	Vice-President	
Jon Duhig	Annette Ritchie	Robert Finkeldey	Vice-President	
Philip Pryor	Jenny Frazer	Scott Frazer	Vice-President	
Cass Gye	Karin Krueger	Louise Roberts	Treasurer	Elected
Hubert van Mierlo	Jillian Dellamonache	Sharon Kinnison	Treasurer	
Carol Floyd	Paul Kininmonth	Sharon Kinnison	Secretary	Elected
Hubert van Mierlo	Jillian Dellamonache	Sharon Kinnison	Secretary	
Shar Jones	Roy Baker	Margaret Hughes	General committee	Elected
Shona Forsyth	Carol Floyd	Boyd Attewell	General committee	Elected
Philip Pryor	Jenny Frazer	Scott Frazer	General committee	
Jenny Frazer	Sharon Kinnison	Scott Frazer	General committee	Elected
Sharon Kinnison	Carol Floyd	Robert Finkeldey	General committee	Elected
Adrian Matthews	Judy Readman	Cass Gye	General committee	Elected
Alan Gaines	Juha Havukainen	Martin Readman	General committee	
Jane Rich	Colin Haskell	Rosemary Haskell	General committee	
Carol Floyd	Karin Krueger	Louise Roberts	General committee	
June Lahm	Paul Kininmonth	Sharon Kinnison	General committee	
Tim Turpin	Robyn Iredale	Lisa Ratcliff	General committee	Elected
Jon Duhig	Annette Ritchie	Robert Finkeldey	General committee	
David Hegarty	Cass Gye	Richard Hughes	General committee	Elected
Karl Mallon	Jon Duhig	Ruth Tedder	General committee	
Graeme Crayford	Richard Hughes	David Hegarty	General committee	Elected
Matthew Gardiner	Tanya Costin	David Shirley	General committee	
Hubert van Mierlo	Jillian Dellamonache	Sharon Kinnison	General committee	Elected

Judy Readman	Robyn Iredale	Martin Readman	General committee	
Tanya Costin	David Shirley	Matthew Gardiner	General committee	Elected
John Cave	David Richards	Brett Paterson	General committee	
Colin Haskell	Carol Floyd	Sharon Kinnison	General committee	
Cass Gye	Karin Krueger	Louise Roberts	General committee	
Ray de Smeth	John Marshall	Melanie Marshall	General committee	
Rachel Carter			General committee	