



# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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## Secretary's Report for year July 2014 – June 2015

### Introduction

2013/14 has been a particularly active and interesting year for the NRA overall. Peter Middleton continued in the Secretary role, backed up with thanks by Martha Gee and Gavin Butler for their ongoing essential involvement in disseminating all our NRA communications. Gavin and Sue Young also kindly deputised for Peter during a couple of monthly meeting absences.

### Real representation for Newport

We continue to be fortunate to have our two Central Ward Councillors, Kylie Ferguson (Deputy Mayor) and Sue Young, participate as active NRA members. The NRA also affiliated with 17 other community associations to form *Pittwater Forever!*, a wider community force dedicated to maintaining the essence of the Pittwater region.

### The year in brief

As customary, the NRA met in every month but January (with April delayed to first week May to avoid a community conflict), and the December meeting devoted to a seasonal social evening.

The 2014/15 involvement of the NRA in local and regional matters has included:

- Active representation in *Pittwater Forever!* plus Gavin Butler as group Secretary;
- Lobbying and direct representation at public meetings and with submissions on the NRA's agreed stance against any forced amalgamation of PWC;
- Representation on all 4 PWC Community Reference Groups;
- Participation in the Mayor's Resident Association Design (RAD) Workshops, including the extras on the future development of Mona Vale retail/commercial centre;
- Representation at ad hoc gatherings of Pittwater's various resident associations on matters of common or mutual interest, such as Planning laws;
- Representation on other ad hoc committees, events and at various functions;
- Participation as public representatives and with formal resident presentations and questions at the majority of PWC meetings throughout the year;
- Reviewing in excess of 100 DAs and Section 96 applications, directly affecting the Newport community, making written submissions and, additionally, verbal presentations at PWC Development Unit meetings and other planning forums as appropriate;
- In particular, making detailed written and verbal submissions and L&E hearings representation on major matters, including DAs for inappropriate development proposed on the Old Caltex site, for the property on the southern boundary of the Coles supermarket, the old Liquorland site and a consolidated site connecting Seaview & Foamcrest Aves & Barrenjoey Rd;
- Monitoring the situation on the 6 year old matter of the proposals for the Woolworths / Foamcrest Ave carpark;
- Supporting a member initiative to PWC & State Parliament to upgrade Newport Oval as an important village gateway;
- Community and financial support for the *2014 Newport Sculpture Trail* event;
- Lobbying and supporting establishment of first Community Garden in Woollcott St;
- Supporting and/or leading community involvement in critical matters such as the nature of a heritage register, unleashed dogs on Newport beach, footpaths & traffic, parking, intersections, foreshore building alignment, use/development of parkland, community gardens, bus zones & shelters, air quality.