



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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Hon. Treasurer – Glenn Moore 0418 609 207

www.newport.org.au

Minutes of Meeting Held 17th May 2022 at Newport Community Centre

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm

Members present:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary:

Committee members:

As per Covid19 attendance sheet

Gavin Butler

Kyle Hill

Glenn Moore

Wendy Dunnet (apology: Peter M deputised)

Simon Barlow (apology), Sue Young (apology)

President's Note

Gavin Butler welcomed members and special guests Karen Bond & Simon re Newport Community Garden and Trish Chaney from NBC.

Apologies: Wendy Dunnet, Simon Barlow, Sue & Tony Young, Greg & Sue Ross

Approval of Minutes: of previous meeting held 19th April 2022.

Moved: Kyle Hill

Seconded: John Harston

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as @ 01/04/2022	\$1910.68
Add Receipts	nil
Sub total	\$1910.68
Deduct Payments	nil
Net assets as @ 30/04/2022	\$1910.68

Moved: Selena Webber

Seconded: Ron Seldon

Guest Speaker Karen Bond – Newport Community Garden

Karen described the garden's concept and showed a brief, very recently made video of our Newport garden in Woolcott St Reserve. Featured were: the scope of the garden and its plantings; an attractive display of 'fairy houses' plus 'pet rocks'; a native bee hive; a great array of harvested vegetables, & fruit, including some native species.

Further information and discussion revealed: The garden was approved by PWC in 2014 as a Not For Profit group to grow organic vegetables, fruit & herbs, on a communal basis, ie not individual plots; the approximate dozen current members are all hobby gardeners learning as they go; it is funded by membership subs (\$70 on joining, \$50pa thereafter), lobbying for grants, support from Bunnings, ANL, & NBC; it is frequently used for videoing the online show "*Garden Guru*"; any local is welcome to join to enjoy connecting with nature, learning & sharing and benefitting from the best organic produce; members communicate via WhatsApp; long-term NRA members Di Cook & Selena Webber, supported by our arborist VP, Kyle Hill, were key initiators in securing the location and establishing the garden.

The group meets weekly c9.30-11.30 each Saturday, with at least a monthly appearance by each member; visitors (and their compost) are always welcome.

Selena W will liaise and give assistance to involving local children with a couple of dedicated garden beds for their activity. Links to the presentation and a Membership Application Form can be found via the NRA website.

Kyle H gave a vote of thanks and will also supply Karen with a 1l container of a newly developed professional organic fertilizer, "Populate", for use in the garden.

ADDENDUM: At the conclusion of the meeting it was suggested the NRA follow up on and then monitor the current status of any other small, publicly-owned, lots for possible additional use for community gardens or other similar community serving purposes.

Correspondence & Matters Arising:

Newport Pool: Gavin B reported that nature had returned sand more swiftly than anticipated, so that access to the pool was now feasible without crossing the rockfall area at all but the highest tides.

Deerin Park: Glenn M reported that the concrete footprints were now in place for the first 2 seating set-ups, as previously advised by NBC. There had been an email from an adjoining resident querying the near-road location and a lack of communication with residents abutting the park.

351 Robertson Rd DA: The matter, raised by Sue Y in April, of this DA being very difficult to find via the NBC system, was raised with Council and has since been rectified.

ANZAC Day Service: Kyle H and Gavin B arranged purchase and then placed wreaths on behalf of NRA at the traditional Trafalgar Park Memorial Dawn Service.

Illegal mollusc harvesting on the marine rock platform: Raised at the last meeting, after a member challenging a group of immigrants with buckets of shellfish, it was suggested that anyone seeing similar activity immediately contact the Fisheries Hotline. It was also suggested that signs in a couple of key asian languages be erected by NBC to educate on the prohibition of the harvesting.

Items for Discussion:

Robertson Road Update

GB advised there was nothing new to report since the end-March meeting with NBC but feedback is anticipated by next month.

Newport Planning Applications

Wendy D had passed on advice of 10 new applications, 9 of which appeared to be straight-forward alterations and additions. However, 20 Karloo Pde N'port is for subdivision of land incorporating boundary adjustment, lot consolidation & driveway works. Previously this applicant had applied for a subdivision of 3 lots in 2021. The above is DA2022/0566 and may be worth further investigation.

Pittwater Ward Councillors Forum

Some who had attended the April meeting commented that the format might benefit from a Convener, to dissuade more assertive attendees from talking over Councillors and making excessive comment. Counter to this is the concept that this is a Ward Councillors initiative, seeking as broad input as possible from residents attending but noted the desirability of more balanced discussion. The May forum, next Thursday, will be at Terry Hills. The June forum will be at the then newly opened Mona Vale Surf Club.

PCA Update

The Federal Candidate Forum went as planned, with c100 attending. Thanks was given to past-Chair Craig Boaden for deputizing at short notice due to GB's Covid isolation.

There was 29 April 2022 meeting between R Stokes and reps of the northern 3 resident associations re the new State planning controls being developed. Main discussion was:

Lobbying to ensure local character statements are incorporated into the new LEP

- Stokes felt desirability for concluding NBC LEP input by year's end was paramount because a 2023 change in Government could increase densities if not finalized. Our reps remain very concerned that current Government is reneging on prior commitment to incorporate character statements into LEP.

The "simplifications" proposed for rezonings are favouring developers over communities.

Stokes was also equivocal on this matter and ambivalent on the views expressed by the Local Gov't Association.

PCA had proposed a face-to-face meeting with NBC heads for community input on a number of points prior to formal presentation to Council. Director of planning L Kerr had responded that nothing would be shared prior to presentation to Council but that the questions could be put to NBC for a written response. This was felt to be grossly inferior to an open discussion with PCA reps.

Cr Miranda Kerr indicated she is liaising with community groups to draw up a list of favoured controls, etc to put to L Kerr (Director of Planning & Place) but it was felt that this would still be less constructive than the hoped for live discussion, even if via Teams or Zoom.

Marina Safety & Houseboats on Pittwater

This continues to be an active issue.

Glenn M advised the Horseshoe Cove Association will be meeting with RMYC exec in mid-June to discuss community concerns, especially re fire safety.

Newport Activation Group

There is planning for a Robertson Rd closure for a June event and a proposal for possible grants towards future events.

General Newport Maintenance Matters + General Business

Melaleuca St Steps

Plans are in place for installation in 2022-23 new FY.

South Bilgola Headland steps repair

Residents' concerns have been lodged with NBC.

Goodwin Reserve & Track connection between Goodwin & Nullaburra Sts.

Concerns re lack of maintenance have been mentioned previously but now the track is completely overgrown. Trish Chaney agreed to follow this up.

Beach Carpark surface

Kyle H reported a vehicle-eating size hole in the carpark adjacent to the viewing platform. Council to be notified.(TC will follow –up)

4 Nooal St change

Glenn M reported that this property was now up for sale, hopefully putting to bed for the future, any further over-development proposals for the consolidated block including this property.

Eric Green Reserve – a wildlife reserve

Selena W commented on the significant loss of birdlife in this zone over the last decade, emphasising the fact that it was dedicated as a wildlife reserve. She observed that the majority of dogs being taken through this area (including the headland track) are not restrained on leads and the less obvious impact this (and the spore left behind) has in deterring many birds from staying and breeding here. She suggested the erection of educational signage to inform on the animals which exist there, the dangers to their continued occupation and ways to prevent this deterioration.

Cr Miranda K advised of a recent report that dogs going through nature reserves are materially affecting the survival of many small mammals and birds, not just small ones but even apex predators such as Powerful Owls.

Glenn M suggested encouraging Newport resident participation in the October Aussie Backyard Bird Count project. Link for information and registration: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

Newport – Bilgola section of Shared Pathway

Current status of this NBC project was raised. Trish Chaney advised it is yet to be presented to Council and that she will follow-up and advise.

Newport Southern Changerooms – Graffiti

Several members have commented on this recent degradation of the building. Trish C will follow-up on our behalf.

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Next Meeting: will be 21st June 2022 at the Newport Community Centre at 7.00pm

NRA annual membership renewal falls due end June: \$20 per person or \$25 per family