



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180

Newport Beach NSW 2106

President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102

Vice-President Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

Hon. Secretary – (wendydunnet@gmail.com) 0418 161 074

Hon. Treasurer – Glenn Moore 0418 609 207

www.newport.org.au

Minutes of Meeting Held 1st April 2025 at Newport Community Centre

Meeting commenced at 7.06pm

Members present:	As per attendance sheet
President	Gavin Butler
Vice-President	Kyle Hill
Treasurer	Glenn Moore
Secretary:	Wendy Dunnet
Committee members:	Sue Young (apology), P Middleton

President's Note:

Gavin Butler welcomed members and guests including Andrew Johnston from NBC.

Apologies: Sue and Tony Young, Ray & Bronwyn Brooks, Sue Ross.

Approval of Minutes: of previous meeting held 18th February 2025.

Moved: G.Moore

Seconded:P.Middleton

Treasurer's Report

Balance as @ 31/01/2025	\$859.77
Add Receipts	\$415.00
Sub total	\$1274.77
Deduct Payments	\$253.73
Net assets as @ 31/03/2025	\$1021.04

Moved: K.Hill

Seconded: R.Seldon

NRA annual membership is \$20 per person or \$25 per family and is now due.

Correspondence & Matters Arising:

We were notified of a Liquor Licence Application for Newport Oval, by the Mona Vale Junior Rugby club and subsequently put in a submission objecting to the application. Northern Beaches Council also objected to the application, as well as other local residents.

Unfortunately, Liquor & Gaming NSW ignored those objections and have approved the application. This is very disappointing for Newport, considering the local licensed businesses adjacent to the oval. It was suggested we ask for the conditions attached to the approval.

After the last NRA meeting there was a community 'Better Cities' meeting in Mona Vale, moderated by Wendy Harmer. Most thought it was interesting but did not really address a number of key issues to do with the NSW Govt planning reforms. The implementation of the Housing reforms is not straightforward. How developers can get appropriate sites together & at what cost, which therefore, is likely that the development will not be viable. In addition, there are infrastructure issues. Council staff are looking at the MV Place Plan & what these changes mean. It will initiate a lot of discussion. The focus though will be further south of Newport.

John Colquhoun raised the issue with Jacqui Scruby, of the lack of being able to identify a bike or scooter & therefore the rider, who may be transgressing the road rules. She responded and confirmed her commitment to improved regulation & better enforcement of the rules. She is waiting on the Report for the Parliamentary Inquiry into Use of E-Scooters, E-Bikes & other related Mobility Devices. She recommends that further community consultation is needed.

It was suggested he asks Harold Scruby, Chairman of the Pedestrian Council of Australia, for his support.

In February, Council placed on exhibition its Draft Tree Management policy, which aims to consolidate the 5 current tree related policies into a single framework. Committee member, Kyle Hill has looked at and made his recommendations. Submissions closed on 30th March.

Anzac Day - the flag pole has been cleaned & painted. There are currently no boats parked near the Memorial since the signage was changed and it is not a garbage collection day. The only possible issue this year is the building site in Beaconsfield Rd and any trucks working on that site, which is unlikely. Kyle to organise a wreath on behalf of the NRA.

Andrew Johnston confirmed Council audit of retail vacancies as discussed at the February meeting. Currently Newport has a vacancy rate of 18.3% or 24 vacancies out of 131 premises.

Also he advised the \$5000 that would have been given to Zonta for organising the Australia Day activities was withdrawn because Zonta had already received funding for another project. They cannot get 2 funding grants in the same year.

Items for Discussion:

Robertson Road

The RR project working group met for the 2nd time on 24th March. Peter Middleton gave a very good summary of the meeting. All the owners of the properties in RR except 2, had a representative at the meeting including Australia Post and Woolworths, so the discussion was constructive.

Simon Barlow & Steve Pearse both attended the meeting under 'Save Robertson Road'. They added to PM's comments. They both thought it was a good start & that the ideals that RR supporters are hoping for, although challenging, are possible.

There is some frustration with Council with what can be done with RR, rather than focusing on what cannot be done.

Discussion centred on the Newport Masterplan and noted there is scope for it to be amended so the owners can achieve what they want. It will be important to have community involvement. The impact on traffic in the area is another major consideration.

The meeting discussed further community input with the possibility of another survey. The developers probably will need 3-5 storeys with possible underground parking but is this good for Newport? Eventually it will be the Councillors who will make the decision not Council staff. Council can only give guidelines.

Other suburbs that have achieved the type of precinct that RR could be eg Lane Cove are worth investigating.

The local Traffic committee meeting held on 4th March, approved the implementation of global traffic management plans (TMPs) for four locations across the peninsular, including Robertson Road, as part of the NSW Govt's Plug & Play activation of street spaces. This is very positive for the RR project. It will facilitate the closure of RR from Barrenjoey Rd to Foamcrest Ave to accommodate events up to 1,000 attendees between 1130am & 5.00pm. without having to submit a traffic plan for each event.

The next meeting of the working group will be in June.

Members at the meeting had a very good discussion about RR. The NRA committee will meet to discuss strategy going forward.

Newport Planning Applications

WD noted all applications advised but all were for Alterations & additions.

NBC Rates Decision

The NBC rates decision will be considered by IPART. Submissions to IPART closed on 24th March. It is possible it will hold a public hearing due to the level of community interest but only after the consultation period has ended.. Their decision is due in May.

A new member (DW) attending the meeting raised the issue of arrears. Council currently has a 15% rise in rates in arrears and with the current economic situation that will increase with the likely outcome of less revenue & reduced services. Council does have in place payment terms. He is questioning what else can Council do. Other States have strategies in place. Weekly, fortnightly & monthly payment plans. One third of the population is estimated to be on the minimum rate. Does NBC benchmark itself to other Councils? Can they confirm what hardship arrangements are in place & provide an arrears concentration report which affects all ratepayers.

The committee to discuss at its next meeting.

PCA Update

PCA has been advised about the adverse impacts of Charter boats on Pittwater, particularly the inconsiderate use of amplification systems. Residents of Morning Bay are affected by loud amplified music from boats anchoring in the bay. The matter is now more urgent as the owner of Zephyr charters asked Morning Bay residents to support an application to vary conditions to one of their liquor licences, specifically to permit amplification whilst at anchor & permit dance parties on their largest boat. PCA intend to take this to the next Hawkesbury Nepean CMP meeting.

PCA will be hosting a 'Meet the Candidates' forum on Wednesday 23rd April, 6-9pm at the Newport Community Centre. Currently 4 candidates have responded to attend. All welcome.

NRA Membership

An idea from one of our members at a previous meeting was to approach some of the strata unit buildings in Newport to inform them of the NRA and that we would welcome them to come to a meeting and be involved in their community. Peter Middleton addressed the meeting and explained a flyer he has prepared which will be delivered shortly to a few of these buildings' Strata committees.

Newport Surf Club

Andrew Johnston advised that although the Surf club building works have been approved there are no funds allocated at Council to do the work. Council is applying for funding.

Shared Pathway to Bilgola

Preparation work is ongoing. The project webpage will be updated as the project progresses.
<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ConnectingNorthernBeaches>

General Newport Maintenance

Pot holes everywhere again. It was suggested at the meeting residents could use Snap Send Solve app to advise Council quickly.

A large pot hole on Robertson Rd & Nullaburra is urgent
(Update: it was fixed the day after the meeting)

Other NBC Matters

Council is reviewing its Alcohol Free zones. Submissions close 27th April 2025. Newport has 2 AFZ (A) the CBD & along to the end of beach carpark, (B) around The Newport & across Barrenjoey Rd. The meeting supports the AFZs nominated for Newport.

General Business

The issue of the Homeless was raised with some discussion. It was noted to the meeting that Council have a Community development team who support the Homeless in our area & across the Northern Beaches.

Meeting Closed at 9.05pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th May 2025 at the Newport Community Centre at 7.00pm

***NRA 2024/2025 annual membership renewal fell due 1st July
\$20 per person or \$25 per family***