

# Patonga Beach Progress Association Inc

## Minutes of General Meeting

**Date Held:** 3 February 2024. Time opened: 10:05am. Chaired by: David Nash.

**Apologies Received** Peter and Karen Crook, Dain Simpson, Maria Quigg, Vanessa Ashcroft, Andrew Foster, Amanda and Ric Porter, June Musgrave, Allen Parker, Margaret Kirkwood, Aimee Paquette, Annie Karbowskiak, Alison and Robert Gardini, Judy and Andrew Mack.

**New members/extension members:** Applications for membership of the Association from Monika Gatti and Peter Gatti were received and approved.

**Notice of any items to be discussed in General Business was given by the members:**

**Errors and Omissions:** Nil

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Moved by: Steve King; Seconded by: Peter Henderson. All in favour.

**Tabling and confirmation of correspondence:** Moved by: Peter Henderson; Seconded by: Steve King. All in favour.

**Presentation and confirmation of the Financial Statement:** The following information was provided by Helena Boden

a. Community Solutions Account:	\$12,646.93
b. Cash Management Account:	\$14,332.34
c. PoM Fighting Fund Account:	\$34,408.73
d. Community Fundraising Account:	\$ 9,309.67

Moved by: Jo-anne Quirk; Seconded by: Paul Guignard. All in favour.

### Matters arising from the minutes:

- 1. War Memorial light:** The Council contacted the Association by email dated 9 January 2024 advising that the War Memorial Grants were open with a closing date of 11 February 2024. The Council suggested that the Association may wish to apply for a grant to repair the light on the Memorial. Jo-anne Quirk is working with council to submit a grant application but advised that she is waiting on additional information from Council to complete the application. It may be that the information will not be received before the closing date of this round but there will be another opportunity to apply for the next round in the middle of the year. Jo-anne advised that the maximum grant amount is \$10,000 and the expected cost of repairs to the light is \$15,000.
- 2. Abandoned boats on creek front:** This item was included in a letter dated 7 December 2023 to the Administrator. The Administrator responded on 21 December 2023 and advised that placement of abandoned watercraft identified in the Association's letter "at the Patonga Creek foreshore was not a current priority" for Council. He also advised that Council is working on employing a new staff member to investigate encroachments on public land and that this will include the creek foreshore and the Patonga Jetty." Zak suggested getting people who owned boats on the creek to place their names on them. It was agreed that a stronger letter be written to Council advising that this issue was raised in December 2022 and that it was also previously raised without any action being taken.

3. **Speeding on the M1:** An email was received on 2 November 2023 attaching a letter of the same date from Liesl Tesch. The letter attached a copy of a letter dated 27 October 2023 from Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads advising that the Association's nomination "for an average (point-to-point) speed camera to be installed on the M1 from Wahroonga to the Gosford exit will be assessed, along with crash data and other road safety information, to help prioritise which locations across NSW need cameras to take appropriate action. No further advice has been received." *David Nash suggested that as this matter may progress slowly it be taken off the agenda and monitored. When some action has occurred, it will be raised at the next meeting.*
  
4. **Opal card for the Ettalong ferry:** In an email to Liesl Tesch dated 7 December 2023 the Association requested that she make representations on its behalf to have the Opal card accepted on the Ettalong to Palm Beach ferry. In a letter dated 19 December 2023 she confirmed that she had made representations to the Minister for Transport. No further advice has been received. *David Nash suggested that as this matter may progress slowly it be taken off the agenda and monitored. When some action has occurred, it will be raised at the next meeting.*
  
5. **Ageing care workshop:** No contact has been received from Will Burkitt to advise when he would like to make his presentation to the community. *Item to be closed until Will provides a date.*
  
6. **Meeting with Pearl Beach executive committee:** No date has yet been set for this meeting. *David will Liaise with Pearl Beach Progress Association.*
  
7. **Safety issues in Patonga:** A letter dated 7 December 2023 was sent to the Council Administrator regarding a number of ongoing issues. These were: abandoned watercraft (see item 2 above); unsatisfactory response from Council to previously communicated illegal parking and camping issues and failing to honour a commitment to keep the Association informed of the Plan of Management and camping ground tender processes.

In a letter dated 21 December 2023 the Administrator advised that he has requested the "Ranger Services Team to schedule additional patrols where possible that may be more commensurate to those times where venues may be more patronised or where alleged unlawful camping may be more prevalent." He advised that "Council's Economic Development and Property Unit will provide a further update on the Plan of Management and the Campground Tender in March 2024 and again in June 2024 (i.e., quarterly) if anything is still outstanding." See Item 2 for the Administrator's response the abandoned watercraft issues.

In relation to the unlawful parking and camping it was agreed to write to Council requesting evidence that the additional patrols had occurred as advised in the Administrators letter.

8. **Lighting in Jacaranda Avenue:** In a letter dated 6 December 2023 the council was requested to arrange for an additional street light, together with a light shield, near the corner of Jacaranda Avenue and Patonga Street. A response from Council was received on 20 December 2023 advising that there is potential for an additional street lighting in the area. Due to significant street light funding for the current LED roll-out Council is not installing any additional streetlights and that the extra streetlight has been listed for consideration when funding becomes available. *To be placed on the "Monitoring" list.*

## General Business

- 9. Telstra exchange building:** In a letter to the Telstra CEO dated 7 December 2023 the Association advised that the exchange building in Patonga Street had peeling paint and broken gutters and requested that the condition of the building be improved. A response was received on 20 December 2023 advising that the broken guttering would be attended to in the first several months of 2024. It was agreed that a letter be written to Telstra requesting that as well as replacing the gutters the building should also be painted.
- 10. Representative from the hotel:** The new manager of the Boathouse Hotel addressed the meeting prior to the commencement of business. He advised that he had been the manager for 8 weeks, that he has been listening to the views of the local community and taking them on board. He stated that he comes from a small village in New Zealand and can appreciate how a business can impact a small community. He advised that he was brought in as manager to make a reconnect with the community. He wants to implement things that assist to build the relationship between the Boathouse and the community and has a list to focus on. He is aware of how people feel about the quality and cost of the food. He stated that there are certain matters which he doesn't have control over but he will take these to the management of the Boathouse Group. He is happy to talk to people about any issues they may have. He is working on the food issue and is looking for a new head chef. He was asked about the removal of the ATM and he advised that is looking at getting it returned. He advised that people can contact him on his email address which is alexr@theboathousegroup.com.au.
- 11. Provision of fresh water tap(s) at Dark Corner:** David advised this area is a popular part of the Great North Walk, is popular with families with small children and a busy boat access point. Access to fresh water will enhance the safety and cleanliness of all users of the area. There was some discussion that providing fresh water at Dark Corner would encourage camping and toileting there. It was agreed not to pursue this issue. *Item closed.*
- 12. Easter fete:** Helena advised that the Easter Fete would be held on Saturday 30 March 2024 with the usual stalls being available. She asked for donations for prizes for a raffle as well as items for the white elephant stall and book stall. She requested that where possible these items not be delivered to the hall prior to Friday 29 March 2024.
- 13. RFS:** It was noted that Steve King is now a qualified firefighter and a member of the Patonga RFS.

## Reports – Sub-committees, Delegates, Special

- 14. Plan of Management/camping ground:** In a letter dated 5 December 2023 Council advised that contact with the Association “about the form and content of the Crown Land Plan of Management in its initial draft form can be expected to occur during the first quarter of 2024, most likely during March.”

In a letter dated 22 January 2024 Council advised that it “has opted against accepting any offers that were put forward during the tender process relating to the management of Patonga Camping Ground. The Patonga Camping Ground will continue to operate as per current practices, with Council staff managing the day-to-day operations. Council will also look at improving the current infrastructure at the Camping Ground.”

**15. Electricity:** Steve King provided the following:

*The sub-committee engaged in a follow-up meeting with Liesl Tesch that included representatives from other community groups and Enosi. A letter outlining the advantages of community trading has been provided for the minister.*

*The primary outcome from the meeting is that Liesl will look to host a community meeting with multiple representative groups invited to further explore the advantages and opportunities around energy trading and other sustainable energy initiatives.*

*Our current focus is to continue to grow the community of Peninsula residents who have signed up to Energy Locals and Powertracer and support them in using the platform. In addition, there has been significant positive feedback from residents re the benefits of installing rooftop solar and heat pumps for hot water. The sub committee will look to host a Patonga/Pearl Beach workshop for residents interested in gaining further insight into the future of electrification.*

**16. Koalas:** Peter St Vincent Welch provided the following:

*The Koala story is going along rather slowly. Pete Holland, Broken Bay Manager is waiting for a report regarding if there are any Koalas on the Peninsular. To prove a negative response is very difficult.*

*We just need to be patient.*

**17. Social:** Helena Boden provided the following:

*The morning teas will recommence on 9 February 2024;*

*Sips on the Sand will be held on 18 February 2024;*

*Star Wars Karaoke will be held on the night of May 4<sup>th</sup> ; and*

*A winter get together will be held on a date to be confirmed in August or September 2024.*

**18. Character statement:** Mark Austin was unable to attend the meeting.

**19. Creek siltation remediation:** Linley Hindmarsh was not at the meeting but provided the following information by email:

*Not much difference from the last meeting: the erosion of Larkins Creek is to be included in the Coastal Management Plan, and rates as 6th in overall priority for CCC. The next step is for CCC to apply for funding from NSW for a report to be done, to confirm that the shoaling is being caused by this erosion, and identify what can be done about it. Since the last PPA meeting, I've requested a timeframe for this from Liesl Tesch's office, and they've told me they're onto it.*

*I've heard from Liesl's office who have approached CCC. The timeframe for CCC campaigning for funding, report written, strategy decided upon etc up to any remediation work actually starting is 'one to two years'.*

**20. Aboriginal recognition and flag:** Paul Guignard reported as follows:

*Date has been locked in for 23 March 2024;*

*There will be 12 or 13 official invitees;*

*The flagpoles will be delivered on Tuesday 6 February 2024 and will be installed by John English and Rodney;*

*The duration of the ceremony will be about 50 to 60 minutes commencing at 10:30am. It will include a welcome, smoking ceremony, dancers and speeches by Robert Tickner, Gordon Reid and David Nash.*

*The revised budget is:*

<i>Flagpoles and installation:</i>	<i>\$4,500</i>
<i>Ceremony including food and memorial programs</i>	<i>\$1,750</i>

*Costs of \$3,000 had been approved at the April 2023 meeting. It was proposed by: David Nash and seconded by: Helena Boden to increase the budget by an additional amount of \$2,800. Carried by a show of hands.*

**21. Association website:** Steve King provided the following:

*The committee has met twice since the agreement was finalised and has provided significant feedback to Naked Digital on the requirements for the site. We now have a draft template and are working on the content required for the website. There has been some delay but we plan to have the website go live in February.*

**Meeting Closed at: 11:30am**

**26 Attendees**

**18 Apologies**

**Next meeting: 6 April 2024**