



**Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.**

**Your Community Consultative Body for**

**Shoalhaven City Council**

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## **DRAFT MINUTES OF VRRRA/CCB MEETING HELD 15 JUNE 2017**

**Venue:** COMMUNITY CENTRE, VINCENTIA

**Time:** 7.30PM

**Attendees:** 27 people signed the attendance record, with 24 indicating that they were financial members.

**Apologies** Angela Johnstone, Barbara Liddle, Rob Dunn, Sue Walsh, Lance Sewell, Tony and Jaz Vuelkic, Terry Bowman, Keith Howard, and Councilors Watson and Proudfoot

**Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous minutes were accepted without amendment.

**Correspondence**

**Correspondence In:**

- 24 April Lavinia Karam re local journalism story
- 26 April Council re Disability Inclusive Action Plan
- 26 April Shelley Hancock thank you re Federal Financial Assistance letter
- 26 April Berry Forum thank you
- 27 April Shoalhaven Transition re in CCB processes
- 27 April John Bond (Vincentia School)
- 30 April Vincentia Matters
- 1 May Council re Chief Planner leaving
- 1 May Council re CCB Executive Meeting 11 May
- 2 May Mark Crowther re SCC Delivery Plan
- 2 May Council re DPOP Exhibition
- 4 May Council re close stairs at Nelson Beach
- 9 May Council re IPART decision on SRV
- 12 May Council re No Stopping Zones
- 15 May D Hanlon re No Stopping Zones
- 16 May Council re DPOP, Naidoc Week Awards, Sustainable Futures Committee, Road Updates
- 17 May Jan Buck, Steve Murphy requesting VRRRA support Vincentia Matters Forum
- 17 May Ken Price re closure of Captain St
- 17 May Council re DPOP Submissions
- 18 May Shoalhaven Transitions re retailers survey
- 19 May Council re pest control program
- 19 May Council re road works
- 22 May NSW Dept of Industry re review of local impact assessment scheme for gaming machines
- 23 May Basin View Forum re DA in Anson St

**Correspondence Out:**

- 25 April Lavinia Karam re local journalism story
- 26 April Ann Sudmalis re Federal Financial assistance to Councils (this has been reinstated)
- 26 April Shelley Hancock on same issue
- 26 April to other CCBs in Shoalhaven on same issue
- 27 April to 12 local community groups inviting them to participate in CCB processes
- 8 May Council re CCB Executive Meeting
- 16 May Council forwarding D Hanlon's comments re No Stopping Zone
- 21 May Shoalhaven Transition re Banning the Balloon
- 25 May Ken Price forwarding Council's response re closure of Captain St
- 26 May Council forwarding 11 DPOP Submissions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 May Council re Smart Cities Innovation Grant Think Tank</li> <li>• 26 May Council update on Captain St</li> <li>• 6 June Council re No Stopping Sign in Duncan St</li> <li>• 7 June Elite Energy re running events</li> </ul> |  |
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### **Bay and Basin Community Master Plan**

Renee Koonin and Fiona Picot gave the following update on changes to the plan as a result of community feedback:

- Basketball courts numbers increased to four, with double markings to make them suitable for netball;
- A skate park
- Pedestrian and disability access improved from Vincentia Marketplace.

### **CCB Executive Meeting 11 May 2017**

Attended by Peter Livingston and Peter McVay. The follow issues were noted:

- IPART decision – The special rate variation proposed by SCC was agreed for one year. This was because the proposal put by Council met only 4/5 criteria. Funding need was established by Council, with community engagement. The impact on ratepayers was assessed as significant but reasonable, and Council had proposed productivity improvements. IPART considered that Council had not exhibited the documents relating to the proposed rate variation.
- Jessica Rippon discussed the Community Strategic Plan;
- There was a timely reminder that CCBs may be subject to legal action collectively and individually for defamation and libelous comments. Public liability insurance provides only limited coverage, and no defamation costs are not covered by Council insurance. Council is looking at the CCB Guidelines to make this clear.
- Citizen Juries options were considered by Council, but would not go ahead.

Peter Livingston and Bob Pullinger agreed to look into Director's Insurance when considering renewal of our Third Party Liability Insurance.

### **DPOP Submissions**

Following a meeting attended by Peter Livingston and Bob Pullinger on the DPOP process, they had 4-5 days to put together submission. In total 11 submissions were put to Council, including reworked submissions from last year. The following submissions were put to in to Council for funding:

- Bayswood Estate Issues
- Coastal Management Planning Storm Water & Beach Erosion
- Pathways/Cycleways (Council has advised that the Berry St to Baywood path would be covered by the Maintenance Budget.)
- Plantation Pt Reserve Facilities
- Plantation Pt Reserve Flooding
- Vincentia Village Proposal
- Water Filling Station at Village
- Pedestrian Refuge Elizabeth Dr and Berry St
- Inclusive Access Path to Beach

- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan

### **Replies from Community Groups**

The following groups responded positively to the VRRRA's letter inviting a cooperative approach:

- Vincentia Matters
- Shoalhaven Transition
- Vincentia School
- Bush Care

### **Treasurer's Report**

See Attachment 1. Bob Pullinger reported that the projected balance at the end of the year is \$2172, down approximately \$40 from last year. The VRRRA currently has 74 financial members. Treasurer's Report accepted.

### **CBPG Report / Save Collingwood Beach Update**

Bob Pullinger provided a progress report from the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group. The meeting accepted this report as reflecting the work of the Group, and agreed to include the update to Council as part of the meeting minutes (see Attachment 2).

Renee Koonin provided an update on the work of the Save Collingwood Beach group, with a response to this paper from Bob Pullinger on behalf of CBPG relating to the dunes. The meeting noted both these papers. They are attached to the minutes (Attachments 3 and 4 respectively).

**Bayswood Report** Held over to next meeting in Angela Johnstone's absence.

### **Report from May 2017 Committee Meeting**

The focus of this meeting was the DPOP submissions. *(see also draft minutes on website <http://www.vrra.org.au/meetings-and-minutes/>)*

### **Other Business**

Elite Energy has advised of upcoming events that provide an opportunity for fund-raising should any VRRRA members wish to volunteer:

- Husky Running Festival 20 Aug
- Long Course Weekend 27-29 Oct
- Big Husky Triathlon 16-18 Nov

Vincentia Matters Forum Report has been prepared and we have offered to place an extract on the noticeboard. The next step is to prepare a Strategic Plan for Vincentia Village. The contact for this is the Secretary, Vincentia Matters. There is another meeting on 28 June at the Golf Club.

A bus service is being trialled by the State Govt to enhance the connection between Kiama and Bomaderry to address the gaps in the train services between these stations.

**Guest speaker – Judi Dean, Shoalhaven Transitions.**

Judi outlined the plans for the Plastic Free July initiative. There would be a Music-to-Make-By-Event to make Boomerang Bags at the Huskisson Community Centre; a box at Vincentia Marketplace where people could donate their excess use-again bags (a borrow box); a survey of shop owners in Huskisson and Vincentia to get baseline data; and agreement from Woolies to give away a number of reusable bags. Shoalhaven Transition had received funding from Council to make signs for the occasion.

The presentation that Judi did for the Council on Plastic Free July is on our website (see <http://www.vrra.org.au/current-news/> under 'Calender').

The presentation was well received and provoked numerous questions. The meeting thanked Judi and Shoalhaven Transitions. **Meeting closed at 9.50pm**

**Attachment 1 – Treasurer’s Report**

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT - VRRRA Inc - 2017 JUNE GENERAL MEETING</b>			
LAST YEAR -Full Year		THIS YEAR TO 31/15/2017	FORECAST Full year 2017
1627	Everyday Account Start of year	2215	2215
	<b>Income</b>		
485	Membership subscriptions 2017	730	740
40	Pre-paid subscriptions following year	0	0
0	Bank Interest	0	0
500	Grants - SCC	0	500
0	Grants - other	0	0
577	Donations	149	149
<u>1,602</u>		<u>879</u>	<u>1,389</u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
599	Public liability insurance	0	600
0	Bank Charges	40	10
54	Fees Dept Fair Trading	84	100
240	Room Hire etc - VRRRA meetings	0	240
121	PO Box rent	124	124
0	Postage, Printing stationery & supplies	179	203
0	Computer & Peripherals	0	0
0	Internet Website	0	55
0	Dog Bags - Plantation Point	0	100
<u>1,014</u>		<u>427</u>	<u>1,432</u>
2,215	Balance in bank account end period Everyday Account	2,667	2,172
<u>2,215</u>		<u>2,667</u>	<u>2,172</u>



## **Collingwood Beach Preservation Group Monthly Report – June 2017**

### **1. The Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan “CBDVMP”.**

NGH have updated the Plan. Council are to appoint a Coastal Expert to make sure the new plan is not a threat to the resilience of the dune.

It is recommended Council hire an appropriate expert who is independent of those currently or previously involved with the SCC CBDVMP. The appropriate engineer should have many years of Coastal Engineering experience including experience with the appropriate methodology for recovery of a dune system from sand mining versus a narrow dune strip on an accreting beach like Collingwood Beach. A report is expected to be tabled by Council in July 17.

### **2. Coastal Zone Management Plan “CZMP”**

This is work in progress. The completion of the review of the 2012 version of the CZMP and mapping is still work in progress for the OEH. The deputation made by CBPG to SCC when consideration was being given to accepting the CZMP advised against acceptance because of obvious flaws in the CZMP. That advice was ignored by a slim majority of Councillors.

It is understood the 2012 version has been returned to Council for further updating. Once the 2012 CZMP is approved Council is expected to commence to update the plan for the revised Coastal Hazard Mapping and sea level rise policy.

### **3. Sea Level Rise Policy.**

The briefing given to Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> March by Dr Howard Brady, a scientist with expert understandings of sea level rise and the Shoalhaven can be found from the following link

<http://www.collingwoodbeachpreservation.com.au/>

### **4. Coastal Hazard Mapping**

Council has collaborated with the CBPG and accepted the recommendation to put the technical questions raised in the CBPG submission on the Advisian report back to Advisian for clarification from a technical perspective.

It is expected the outcomes from the submissions on the Advisian report will be put to Council at the full Ordinary Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

The CBPG will make a deputation in relation to the Advisian report.

### **5. Coastal Reforms – Stage 2.**

Confirmation is awaited from Shelley Hancock’s office as to the appropriate Minister(s) to be responsible for the Coastal Reforms handed over from the previous Planning Minister Rob Stokes.

## **6. Beach Erosion signs.**

DPOP submission has been made on the options to handle the storm water discharge which is the cause of the erosion and has resulted in signs being erected at 3 of the road heads along the beach.

## **7. Safety Signage.**

Further to collaboration with Council the “Hold My Hand” signs have been dismantled on completion of the Easter school holidays and placed into storage until the next end of year school holidays.

The large sign at the Moona Creek entrance which was replaced by the Huskisson Chamber of Commerce “Thanks for visiting Huskisson” has gone astray and yet to be located.

J Stuchbery Chairman

Collingwood Beach Preservation Group

## **MOTION:**

**Collingwood Beach Preservation Group – Sub Committee Monthly Report**  
**The CCB adopts the sub committee’s report and that the Minutes including the report are distributed to All Councillors.**

## **Attachment 3**

### **Update Save Collingwood Beach (SCB) May 2017**

#### **Collingwood Beach: the next steps**

As the next stage in the ongoing saga of Collingwood Beach approaches, it's timely to remind ourselves of the outcomes from the community consultation late last year and what we might expect from the upcoming management plan from Shoalhaven City Council (SCC).

Save Collingwood Beach (SCB) was formed as a result of widespread community anger at ongoing vandalism along the beachfront. Since late last year, the SCB partnership has grown to seven and we have welcomed the National Parks Association Milton Branch, Shoalhaven Bushwalkers, Lake Wollumboola Protection Association and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW as new partners.

#### **Save Collingwood Beach's position**

In late 2016, prior to the local government elections, SCC exhibited two draft plans for vegetation management at Collingwood Beach. SCB rejected both plans, because we believed that neither was adequate to protect the natural values, and therefore not in the best interests of the community as the dune is Crown (public) land.

In a time of climate uncertainty, we need to see native vegetation as a friend that can help us avoid the worst impacts of intensifying and unpredictable storms. This is especially important on a beach identified as one of the most vulnerable in the Shoalhaven. So taking a precautionary view and retaining the taller vegetation to intercept wind-blown sand and minimise erosion best serves the interests of Shoalhaven residents, because it's ratepayers that will have to foot the bill in the event of storm damage.

SCB's position has been consistent in saying that the vandalism should be stopped by SCC, a vandalism policy developed to avoid future issues, the dune vegetation restored and Collingwood managed consistently with other popular beaches on Jervis Bay outside of national parks where filtered views are the norm. As we stated in our submission to SCC, we will consider supporting designated viewpoints along the beachfront, provided they're done in an ecologically and visually sensitively manner. Councillor Wells expressed strong support for this compromise approach at the SCC meeting where Collingwood was debated.

#### **The outcome of the consultation process**

Of the 520 submissions considered, 71% opposed both plans while 19% supported one or other vegetation management plan. The community response was therefore strong and emphatic in rejecting the plans.

Of those submissions from within the Shoalhaven (comprising 77% of all submissions) 79% opposed both plans. Submissions from outside the Shoalhaven (comprising 19% of all submissions) 40% opposed vegetation management, while 47% supported either the CBPG plan or the Shoalhaven City Council plan. This is in contrast to a study of 168 visitors conducted by Macquarie University students in Easter 2016 which found 47% supported managing the dune for stability (i.e. to prevent erosion), 41% for animals and just 2% for views.

Other key outcomes from the consultation were:

- The receipt of two petitions opposing the dune vegetation plans, one of 1500 signatures, the other of 946;

- The receipt of seven submissions from community groups, all but one of which (that of the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group who authored one of the plans) strongly opposed the proposals;
- The receipt of three opposing submissions from government agencies, including Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Lands;
- The receipt of 511 individual submissions;
- One of these individual submissions was from the Tasmanian author of a dune management manual who said his work had been used selectively to advocate for the removal of taller vegetation.

To have Lands point out that SCC has a duty to manage public land in accordance with law, DPI raise concerns over impacts to the Jervis Bay Marine Park and OEH highlight inconsistencies with the new *Coastal Management Act* was extremely embarrassing for SCC. Due diligence would have saved lots of community angst, lots of time and lots of money.

### **Anger**

When the staff report was debated in SCC, Councillor Proudfoot spoke of the palpable anger the community directed towards Council over the issue. He's right, people were angry and they still are as the vandalism continues. The issue likely had a bearing on the last council election as the new Mayor and Greens Councillors were all vocal opponents of the vandalism during their campaigns.

### **Where to next?**

SCC is currently developing a new plan based on the feedback from the community to the consultation. SCB hopes that the new plan can herald a fresh start for the beachfront, where the vandalism ends, the vegetation can be sensitively restored and viewpoints can be formalised. We know that Mayor Findley wants a good outcome for the vegetation and wildlife and to end the vandalism. She showed overdue leadership on the issue by ensuring that any plan would explicitly consider a policy to stop the vandalism.

The Shoalhaven community will be asked to comment on the new plan when it's released, probably in July. SCB is ready and willing to engage when the time comes. It would be great to see the silent majority along Collingwood and across the Shoalhaven who reject the vandalism, accept the threat of climate change and value the natural beauty of our area speak out and help end this saga.

**ATTACHMENT 4 – Reponse to Save Collingwood Beach Presentation from Collingwood Beach Preservation Group**

The key here is the NSW Government Coastal Dune Management Manual (from hereon referred to as the Manual). In the first instance it is important to point out Collingwood Beach consists of an incipient dune and foredune with the hind dune now occupied by houses. The Manual states trees (and makes specific reference to banksia trees in that regard) are only suitable for hind dunes.

The reason is obvious and supported by historical evidence at Collingwood Beach. In the 1974 storm there are eye witness accounts (which have been provided to Council) that the storm washed away trees and used them as battering rams to demolish the beach.

The existing trees were planted by self interest groups around 1993 contrary to the dune vegetation plan developed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management Nowra on behalf of Council, and circulated to the community in a information pamphlet at the time. The pamphlet stated, and I quote "the shrubs now being planted on the dunes and adjoining areas are low growing varieties which will not obstruct people's views".

Views of Jervis Bay are what the community and tourists want to see. The current coastal walkway was relocated from Elizabeth Drive to the beach front because of community protest.

People state the trees are necessary to stabilise the dunes however the Manual tells us this is not the case for incipient dunes and foredunes. Trees cannot resist constant wave action. This is a fact expressly stated in several government publications such as the publications from the Queensland Environmental Protection Authority and Beach Protection Authority and confirmed by Council's Environmental Services Manager to Councillors in an email back in December 2015.

The consultant's previous proposal for the Dune Management Plan went some way towards achieving compliance with the Manual by reducing the number of trees. Trees will fall in a future major storm, they then batter and demolish the beach.

The CBPG (hereon called "Group") proposal goes further and is more aligned with the intent of the Manual. To the knowledge of the Group there was only one submission by an expert in relation to the previous draft Dune Vegetation Management Plan.

That submission was made by Dr Howard Brady an eminent scientist who stated that trees planted on Collingwood Beach do not belong in that ecosystem and actually destabilise discrete areas. His submission further states that the Group submission is heading in the right direction although his preference would be to remove high trees completely and plant additional low lying dune vegetation to strengthen the dune system.

It should not be forgotten that on 17 November 2016 the New South Wales Legislative Council unanimously passed a motion put forward by the Hon. Paul Green in relation to Council's proposed draft Dune Management Plan and Group amendments stating that the prime purpose is to secure views from the shared cycleway across the 1.5 kilometre beachfront.

Council staff for reasons only known to themselves have recently recommended that a Coastal Hazard expert review the proposed Dune Management Plan. Having managed the development of the plan for nearly two years and having exhibited the plan one would have thought that the need to involve an expert would have become apparent much earlier.

It is puzzling why an opinion is being sought as the Coastal Hazard Management Plan adopted by Council at the recommendation of Council staff already addresses dune vegetation at Collingwood Beach. The plan states with regard to Collingwood Beach:

"Select and maintain coastal vegetation to protect coastal views, stabilise the dune surface, provide habitat for small birds and other species and provide shade at key locations for coastal pathway users. After major storms scrape sand from the lower beach face of Collingwood Beach to reinforce the toe of the eroded dune scarp."

Subsequently correspondence from the consultants in response to community consultation stated:

“A diverse array of groundcover and shrub species is critical – to maintain ground cover, to trap sand and to provide a visual buffer. Tree species are not essential for these functions, but could add diversity. I would not want to see all the vegetation a uniform height, but neither do I think that dense stands of tall shrubs or small trees extending along the dune crest (such as Banksia integrifolia) are the best species for a narrow dune crest in an urban area”.

The consultant who developed the Coastal Hazard Management Plan was against dense stands of tall shrubs and small trees. However the situation at some locations along Collingwood Beach would be the consultant’s worst nightmare. It is estimated that between the beach access way at Susan Street, and 50m north of the access way there are approximately 100 banksia trees, all of which will grow to in excess of 15m and ultimately implode due to the density of the trees, thus destroying the dunes. The situation is so bad that one property on the beach is now classified as being in a bushfire prone zone.

In context of dune vegetation management it should not be forgotten that Collingwood Beach is an accreting beach, that is sand is deposited on the back on the beach after a storm event thus providing a buffer against the next storm event. This is in addition to sand trapped by low growth vegetation.

Survey measurements by the Group (which have been provided to Council) show this with the edge of the dune vegetation now 8m further seaward of what was the Mean High Water Mark on the original subdivision built in the 1950s.

The Group’s surveyor has referenced historical records and calculated that between the 1974 and November 2016 some 93,165 cubic metres of sand have been deposited on the beach, this being significant with the June 2016 East Coast storm event taking place in the interim. More recent measurements show between 21 November 2016 and 29 January 2017 a total of 13,320 cubic metres of sand was deposited on the beach.

Finally, the scourge of Collingwood Beach I am sure you will all agree is the vandalism of their vegetation. Despite best efforts Council has not been able to stop the vandalism. The Group proposal is the only proposal that has any chance of achieving what was stated to be the primary objective of the new Dune Management Plan, namely stopping vandalism.

The Group takes great pride in the work that it does to protect the integrity of Collingwood Beach and the technical expertise of its members that allows the Group to analyse all proposals put forward by Council staff and their consultants on a scientific and engineering basis.

The Group welcomes open and informed discussions on the best means to maintain the resilience of the dunes however statements made by some members of the public that contradict the CBPG proposal have not been supported by any scientific evidence and cannot be taken at face value.

The primary concern from government authorities (actually expressed in open correspondence) and Council staff is that any major clearing works will set a precedent and affect the budget bottom line. The health of the dunes is however more important than the budget bottom line.

A link to an illustrative explanation of the Collingwood Dune System is:

<http://www.collingwoodbeachpreservation.com.au/>

Thank you for your attention.

I move this “understanding of the Collingwood Beach dune system” be attached to the minutes.