

**SUFFOLK PARK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**October 21, 2015, 7pm**

Attendees: Donald Maughan, Patsy Brosnan, Margaret Wiles, Charlotte Harrison, Peter Wegner, Barrie Peters, Christine Guinand, Helen Brown, Yan Hagen, John Harrison, Helena Maughan, Linda Holland, Prue Regan, Roy Giles, Diana Ridoutt, Bernie Petry, Pam Rose

Apologies: Dudley Leggett, Shelley Taylor, Harald Ehrlich, Greg Miller

Welcome to country

Minutes last AGM approved, moved by Peter Wegner, seconded by Barrie Peters

**Treasurer's report**

Opening balance	\$	1999.49
Income from memberships and donations	\$	178.50
Expenses this year	\$	232.00
Closing balance at 30.09.2015	\$	1946.15

The report prepared by Margaret Wiles was approved - moved by Donald Maughan, seconded by Peter Wegner.

**President's report**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for coming this evening to the AGM of the SPPA 2015.

I acknowledge the Arakwal people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet.

In some ways this year has been frustrating and disappointing for the SPPA in that only a few of our goals for 2015 have been completed.

These Goals were:

# To complete the sportsfield amenities upgrade

After much lobbying with council and trying to get a response from relevant council staff we found out last week that this project has been shelved / modified due to the possibility that the lease on the sportsfield may not be extended and the council do not want to spend capital on an amenities block which may be redundant if the Department of Education don't renew the sportsfield lease. However the toilet block should be getting a facelift in the near future.

# Skate park Upgrade extensions

1 1/2 years down the track the engineering drawings are on hand and the work is ready to go, council are waiting to allocate staff to do the work and a possible starting date of October 26 is now being put forward by the works committee.

# Investigate and support the team trying to get the Pump track up and running.

After some planning work with selected community members we were ready to go on this Pump track without Council approval. We were planning to use community volunteers and pro bono equipment contractors to build the track. Then we were give legal advice that if we proceeded to build it without permission and down the track a child was injured then all those involved with the construction were liable so we had to back out - very disappointing. Thank you to Philippe Soria and Ian Milgate for their assistance on this project even though it did not come to fruition

# Pursue more footpath seating to assist the elderly and others throughout beachside and hillside Suffolk Park

We could not proceed on this as we did not follow the correct procedures and protocols to access Section 94 funds. More on this later.

# Work with SCU on the lake water quality improvements

This project has been long and is ongoing. We negotiated with the School of environmental science at the SCU to have a final year student do a lake survey testing water quality and possible causes. This paper took approx 9 months to be completed and was passed on to the SPPA in August. We have forwarded it to Council and requested that they do some follow up work and get back to the SPPA on possible remedial action to make the lake water safe. Ongoing.

# Interact with the Suffolk Park Village community how to best utilise our / your section 94 Funds.

This is proving surprisingly difficult to do because we are struggling to get the appropriate forum so that the community can tell us their wants and needs and also to get enough community interest to make comment. We have a plan for 2016 to try and get better engagement with the community.

# Continue to lobby Council and the Dept of Education to purchase the leased sportsfield land.

The lease is due to expire on 31.12.2018 and the land may then go to sale. Council may have an opportunity to purchase the land at Non Commercial rate at that time, however we are unable to obtain a lease extension from the Dept of Education despite several approaches to them both from the SPPA and Council.

# Consult with Council and Roads & Maritime Services and the Police regarding the intersection at Clifford St and Broken Head Rd

We have had several meeting with the relevant bodies (Council RMS and Police) both at the council chambers in Mullumbimby and on site at Suffolk. The council applied for a grant under State Govt black spot funding for 2014/ 2015 but was unsuccessful due to traffic movement figures and lack of reported accidents, however Council have reapplied for funds and hopefully in the 2016 State budget we might be more successful. In the meantime Council has allocated approx \$600K towards supporting works on the intersection in this area. We live in hope.

# A big positive this year

Big thanks to our committee member Peter Wegner who has been waging an ongoing battle over many years with Telstra and the Council. \$50,000 has been given to the community of Suffolk Park. This money can be used on a community project of our choosing, outside of section 94 funds. We the community need to decide how these funds should be used .

Other activities that the Committee have been involved in this year:

# Completion of the two large shaded seating picnic tables on the east side of the sportsfield

# Ongoing maintenance of the community garden near the sportsfield

- # Quarry  
Representation to Council and government bodies relating to the proposed sub-division in the Quarry development. This representation helped in stopping the development and ordering the quarry owners to complete their legal responsibility to rehabilitate the site. However the developers have again challenged this decision by the council and have again taken the proposed development to court.  
I (Donald Maughan), on behalf of the SPPA and the community, have appeared before the Land and Environment court which was convened in the Byron Bay Courthouse today October 20th to oppose the development and request that the quarry owners complete their legal responsibilities to carry out regeneration and rehabilitation work under the term of their original quarry license.  
The decision is pending.
- # Boules  
The committee has lobbied the council to build a Boules court (petanque/bocce) for community use at Gaggin Park using section 94 funds - no response yet
- # BBQs  
We are requesting funding to build some BBQ's at the sportsfield near the newly constructed shade shelters. No response yet
- # We have attended three Mayoral Roundtable meetings that bring together the other community groups in the Byron shire to discuss common community issues.
- # Plaza ramp  
We have lobbied the owners and managers of the Suffolk Park shopping complex on behalf of the community to upgrade the entry/exit ramp on the west side of the Plaza. We had received reports of customers and staff slipping and falling on the ramp. The owner and real estate agents did not seem to be taking action to remedy the situation, however after some strong negotiations with the real estate agent remedial action is now under way
- # Masterplan  
We have attended many of Byron Bay town centre master planning meetings .

- # We have liaised with Byron Shire works department to coordinate some maintenance projects in the Suffolk Village and the bike path running behind the sand hills into town.
  
- # 3 weeks ago the SPPA committee met with the Council Financial and Works team to build a closer working relationship between both parties and to get a clear understanding on how to access section 94 funds. This was a very fruitful and informative meeting and should help with proposed projects in 2016

The SPPA committee would like to acknowledge and thank the other Community organisations that operate in the Suffolk Park village to support our community:

- RFS Greg Miller, Rod Halpin and their team who do a wonderful job developing and educating on fire safety and keep the Gaggin park area so spick and span.
- The Dune Care team Helen Brown and Miles Shorten and all the wonderful volunteers who do such a great job maintaining our fragile coastal dune system
- The Suffolk park Soccer club Paul Sharka and his committee who provide an organised playing activity for our youth.
- The Byron Bay Youth Services and the YAC who hold regular skatepark activities in the sports field complex and support our young people
- Special thankyou to Margaret Wiles and her helpers for looking after the rental of the Suffolk Community Hall
- Finally I thank the SPPA committee - Patsy, Christine, Margaret, Charlotte, Peter, Shelley and Barrie who have supported and assisted me in the operation of the SPPA. It has been a challenging but fun year and you are a great group of concerned community members who I am proud to be associated with.

Thank you  
Donald Maughan, President

## **Elections for the next term of the SPPA committee**

President Donald Maughan  
Vice Pres Patsy Brosnan  
Secretary Christine Guinand  
Treasurer Margaret Wiles  
Members Peter Wegner  
Charlotte Harrison  
Shelley Taylor

Barrie Peters stepped down, and was thanked for his contributions this past term.

Patsy Brosnan in name of the committee thanked Donald Maughan for his tireless work during this last year, and Peter Wegner for his Council Watch role and his Telstra success.

## **Donald Maughan presented SPPA goals for 2016**

- Hold a public community forum to set up a budget plan and allocate priority on works that section 94 funds can be used on. This is planned for some time in February 2016.
- Lobby for pedestrian crossings on Broken Head Road and Beech Drive to facilitate safe crossings
- Build more seating for the public in relevant locations around the village.
- Build a “Boules” court at Gaggin Park.
- Complete shade cloth over new children’s playground .
- Have BBQs installed at sportsfield
- Beautification of Clifford St and possibly relocate the bus shelter further back the street.
- Develop traffic control; measures around Clifford St and Broken Head Rd
- Try and develop more bike paths into the Bay along Broken Head Road
- With Community input develop a project or projects to utilise the \$50,000 Telstra payment
- Try and get water connected along the back of the sand hills using section 94 funds to assist Dune Care team
- Ongoing discussion with council to maintain and improve beach access particularly Clifford St entry

## **Questions and suggestions from the floor**

- Helen Brown (Dune Care) requests a water pipe along the front of Tuckeroo Estate, possibly from the caravan park, to assist survival of plants. This is on Crown land.
- Prue Regan pointed out the poor condition of Clifford St beach access shower and wonders if something modern and functional could be designed and implemented.
- Prue Regan - would it be possible to upgrade Gaggin Park.
- Diana Ridoutt - dog signage should be clearer/larger/less confusing.
- Diana Ridoutt - would like to see community bicycles for rental as in various cities. Unfortunately Section94 funds cannot be used for this.
- Helena Maughan - suggests approaching the school kids to find out what improvements they would like in their community.

Meeting closed at 8pm.