

Minutes

Suffolk Park Progress Association Annual General Meeting Tuesday 1st March 2011, 7pm, Suffolk Park Community Hall

1. Annual General Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm with a welcome from SPPA President Karin Kolbe

1.1. Present

SPPA Life Members: Helen Brown, Dudley Leggett, Margaret Wiles

SPPA Members: Karin Kolbe, Greg Duggan, Eric Bridgeman, Bernie Petry, Helen Revis, Trish Denoon, Linda Holland, Margaret Wright, Annabelle Sinclair, Yves Deyris, Margaret Van Kleef, Patsy Brosnan, Pete Brosnan, Nell Burhich, Lyn Burhich, Prue Regan, Donald Maughan, Helena Maughan, Noelene Plummer, Susan Rosedale, Paul Davies

Others: Cr Jan Barham, Cr Richard Staples, Ian Cohen MLC, Dailan Pugh, John Vaughan, Taina Hauri, Miles Shorten, Andrew Mignot, Andrea Vickers

1.2. Apologies: Pam Rose, Peter Wegner, Diana Ridoutt, Margaret Suffolk Mc Bride, George McBride, Jos Benner, Sandie Duggan, Cr Basil Cameron

1.3. Minutes last AGM - Taken as read and correct

Moved Eric Bridgeman, Seconded Helen Revis, Carried.

1.4. President & Secretary's Report - Read by Karin Kolbe

Moved Helen Revis, Seconded Dudley Leggett, Approved.

1.5. Treasurer's Report – Prepared by Diana Ridoutt, read by Margaret Wiles

Moved Eric Bridgeman, Seconded Greg Duggan, Approved

1.6. Election for Committee Positions

President Karin Kolbe declared all committee member position open and called for nominations. Past President Bernie Petry was appointed Returning Officer. The following nominations were received and voted on unanimously:

President:	Karin Kolbe	Nominated by Greg Duggan, Seconded by Eric Bridgeman
Vice President:	None	
Secretary:	Greg Duggan	Nominated by Karin Kolbe, Seconded by Margaret Wiles
Treasurer:	Margaret Wiles	Nominated by Karin Kolbe, Seconded by Helen Revis
Committee Members:		
	Donald Maughan	Nominated by Eric Bridgeman, Seconded by Bernie Petry
	Patsy Brosnan	Nominated by Eric Bridgeman, Seconded by Bernie Petry
	Prue Regan	Nominated by Eric Bridgeman, Seconded by Bernie Petry

President Karin Kolbe thanked returning officer Bernie Petry, welcomed new committee members Donald Maughan, Patsy Brosnan and Prue Regan, and then declared the AGM closed at 7.20.

2. Guest Speaker Dailan Pugh

The guest speaker was respected North Coast conservationist Dailan Pugh; former president of BEACON and a member of the North East Forest Alliance. Key points from Dailan's address were:

Dunes; Suffolk Park's Cyclone Defence System

- *The dunes are the visible "tip of the iceberg" of an active sand system that extends from the beach up to 45m depth and 4.5 kms out to sea. There is a northward sand migration with 450,000 cubic metres estimated to be passing Suffolk Park each year.*
- *The Inter-decadal Pacific Oscillation influences our weather in a cycle of 15 to 35 years, and is overlaid on top of, and accentuates, the more familiar El Nino / La Nina cycles which occur over a shorter time frame.*
- *The last negative phase of the Indo-Pacific Oscillation was in the 50's, 60's and 70's, when La Nina events became more frequent and several cyclones hit Byron Bay. It has now entered a negative phase again, so we can expect more cyclones over the next 10-20 years. At the same time one of the effects of global warming will be that the East Australia Current will intensify, meaning that cyclones will tend to move further south and get bigger, and sea levels will rise.*
- *Storm surges driven by the wind and low pressure of cyclones can raise sea-levels by up to 1.2m, wave set-up can increase sea-levels by a further 1.4m, and waves will run up the face of dunes by another 3-6m. When combined with a 1.1m maximum high tide, waves can even go over the top of 9m high dunes.*
- *Dunes absorb the energy of large waves by sacrificing the face of the dune, which is then replenished over time (as we have seen recently). However problems can occur if there are two or more cyclones in a season and as sea-levels rise.*
- *The dune system is constantly changing in line with the coast. In the past the dunes have been both much further inland and much further out to sea. The current dune wants to move west and is heading towards Brandon St over the next 100 years. Beach scraping to increase dune height and bulk, as at New Brighton, can slow down this process, but only temporarily*
- *On sandy coasts, for each metre rise in sea-level the coast (and dunes) will move 70-125m inland. Sea-levels can be expected to rise at least 1-1.5m this century. If dunes are stopped from moving inland, they, and the protection they provide from storm waves and Tsunamis, will simply erode away*

3. Dunecare

Helen Brown Mentioned that at least one small dune has disappeared over the last 20 years, where she remembers sunbaking between two dunes.

Helen then gave an update on the activities of the Suffolk Park Dunecare are group.

- Suffolk Park Dunecare has been going for more than 20 years.
- All are volunteers, and more are needed.
- Grants have been received or applied for to work on the dunes in three phases:
 - First Opposite Tuckeroo Estate to opposite Midgen Park
 - Current Opposite Midgen Park to opposite the start of the walking track
 - Next Walking Track to opposite the bridge over Tallow Creek

Some Alcorn St beachfront residents have encroached on the dunes with illegal structures and created pathways over them, which is detrimental to the health of the dunes system.

Byron Shire Council has started to remove these encroachments and Cr Barham confirmed that this action was in accordance with a resolution of council. The property boundaries between the beachside houses and the crown land of the dunes have all been surveyed and GPS'd and will be monitored and enforced by council.

Unfortunately some Dunecare volunteers have received abuse from property owners over this issue. Cr Barham reiterated that enforcement on encroachments was council policy, and nothing to do with the Dunecare group.

Our Dunecare groups meet for regular working bees and training days. Information is shared amongst participants and lots of invaluable work is completed. Everyone is welcome and participants benefit from the rewards of becoming involved in an active community environmental group like Dunecare. Why not give our beaches a hand and get involved.

Suffolk Park Dunecare Group

Meets monthly at various places as announced in the 2 local papers Community News

Contact Helen Brown 6685 4964 hellyh@bigpond.com

4. General Business

Items of current interest in Suffolk Park, and for possible action by the Progress Association this year, were discussed:

- **Caravan Park – proposed re-classification**

There was an encouraging result last October when a motion was passed by Council for staff to draw up and exhibit a Plan of Management for the Caravan Park based on a PoM produced in 2003 with SPPA input. We are however still waiting for this new PoM to appear, and no consultation has happened so far. Cr Braham confirmed that she had heard nothing further either.

- **Beachbreak Development**

Bernie Petry raised concerns about the current construction and works associated with the new development on Broken Head Road, next to the BP Station, in particular:

- a. the dewatering pump on site and noise associated with the pump
- b. the disposal of water into the creek from the dewatering that appears to be happening and has a sulphur smell, which raises concerns about ASS
- c. a query about water quality monitoring in relation to the dewatering and possible disposal of water and potential pollutants in the Tallow Creek system
- d. whether council is monitoring this work and particularly the water quality
- e. whether the development is proceeding in accordance with the approved DA plans
- f. a query about the maintenance of the open space areas, in relation to the management of the long grass and the requirements for the revegetated buffer either side of the waterway

This matter is considered urgent in relation to the protection of the waterway.

Cr Braham said she would follow-up with council staff on behalf of SPPA (and has since done so), to find out if these issues are in accordance with the approval and whether or not there is a need for referral to the Compliance division.

- **7-13 Clifford Street DA**

The 7-13 Clifford Street DA was put on public exhibition late December 2010. The owners had consulted the community in a public meeting and then later met the committee with a revised plan. This is still being determined by council staff. Cr Barham advised that the DA would go to council once the staff report has been completed.

- **Clifford St Entrance**

There is insufficient room for a roundabout at the intersection with Broken Head Rd. Council staff had suggested a traffic light instead, but no one seems to be in favour of this.

Cr Barham said that a new bus stop is proposed to replace the unsightly current one. Approval had been given some time ago for a second level to be added to the shops, and a general site makeover, but work had not commenced.

- **Telstra Tower on Suffolk Park Reservoir**

Greg Dugan reported that former SPPA Vice President Peter Wegner had spoken in Public Access at the February 24 Council meeting on an item relation to access to Telstra's "Low Impact Telecommunications Facility on Suffolk Park Reservoir"; another matter which dates back to 2003.

Peter had said that:

"This issue is important because it involved the community of Suffolk Park agreeing to allow Council the use of about \$350,000 worth of Section 94 monies for other purposes in exchange for the right to use a decommissioned water tower and a small parcel of community land around it for recreational pursuits, such as building a viewing platform for visitors, get-togethers of community members, perhaps a barbecue for the locals in a relaxed environment. This issue is contentious because Telstra failed to consult the community . . . and Council's administration failed to object at an early stage and at the appropriate times. "

Thanks to Peter's intervention, the following resolution was subsequently passed by council:

1. *That the item be deferred and Council receive a report detailing other options for the land to include: a) Sale of the land b) Community use c) historical information contained in memo #421422 dated 31 October 2003 d) Plan of Management Community Land Suffolk Park - Quality Solutions Sustainable Future document #463298.*
2. *That the community be consulted in the preparation of the report. (Tabart/Barham) The motion was put to the vote and declared carried. Crs Tucker, Woods and Heeson voted against the motion.*

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8.35, and everyone gathered for refreshments.

Greg Duggan, Secretary
6th march 2011