

SUFFOLK PARK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
November 23, 2020

Attendees: Donald Maughan, Patsy Brosnan, Christine Guinand, Margaret Wiles, Philippe Soria, Matt Cotter, Helena Maughan, Anne Mosey, David & Kimberley Kyd, Tony Christy, Cleis Pearce, Jos Benner, Leon Norman, Helen Brown, Darlene & Grant McAree

Apologies: Michelle & David Wallace, Anthony D'Orsogna, Francoise Teclemariam, Doug Riley, Liz Levy, Prue Regan, Peter Ormerod

Acknowledgment of Country

Approval 2019 AGM minutes – moved by Helena Maughan, seconded by Christine Guinand, meeting approved.

Treasurer's report presented by Margaret Wiles (see below)

Move to accept Treasurer's report by Anne Mosey, seconded by Patsy Brosnan, meeting approved.

President's report presented by Donald Maughan (see below)

Move to accept President's report by Patsy Brosnan, seconded by Christine Guinand, meeting approved.

Move to thank Donald Maughan for all his work over the past year – moved by Patsy Brosnan, seconded by Christine Guinand, meeting approved.

Nominations for next term:

Eight nominations were elected unopposed.

President	Donald Maughan
Vice President	Patsy Brosnan
Vice President	Philippe Soria
Secretary	Christine Guinand
Treasurer	Margaret Wiles
Members	Magdalena Gustafsson
	Peter Ormerod
	Matt Cotter

Other business

Philippe Soria suggests setting up a booking system for the tennis courts, via an app whereby one would book online and get a code for the gate. Tennis Australia could potentially give grant funding. A project to take up with Council.

Tony Christy would like to get involved with tree planting on the nature strips. He is keen to have a street library put up in the Jarman/Brandon area to improve the amenities.

There is concern that some home owners in Alcorn Street are cutting down trees on the dune in order to get a view of the ocean. The dunes are Crown Land. We discussed possible deterrent action and how best to intervene if we witness such events.

David Wallace contacted SPPA regarding holiday letting. His email is copied at the end of this report.

Treasurer's report

30.09.19 – 30.09.20

OPENING BALANCE	30.09.19	\$2065.85
INCOME		
Memberships/donations		\$166.00
Dept Planning, Industry, Finance (grant)		\$85,965.00
Gaggin Park picnic		\$212.50
TOTAL INCOME		\$86,343.50
EXPENSES		
Website		\$181.30
AGM 2019 Xmas drinks		\$50.00
Dept. Fair Trade		\$47.00
Taxation paid to DPIF		\$7,612.17
Project Management Philippe Soria		\$2,549.69
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$10,440.16
<u>CLOSING BALANCE</u>	<u>30.09.20</u>	<u>\$77,969.19</u>

President's Report

It is my privilege on behalf of our Committee to present the President's report for the 61st Suffolk Park Progress Association AGM covering the period from December 2019 to November 2020.

Clifford Street / Broken Head Road intersection

I again start this year's report with the ongoing saga of the Clifford St/Broken Head Road intersection and associated issues.

We reported at last year's AGM that we were booked in to meet with the Council Roads & Traffic committee in Feb 2020. This committee is made up of Council staff, representa-

tives from Police and State Government, Roads & Maritime Services, and they meet quarterly. We did not get to that meeting as we were not invited, even though it had been agreed that representatives of SPPA would attend.

Since then we have again written to Council expressing our ongoing concerns relating to the significant delays for traffic trying to get out of Clifford St: the fact that this is the only exit from beachside Suffolk, that there is no safe crossing for pedestrians across Broken Head Rd and Clifford Street, and our concerns about speeding traffic on both Clifford St and Broken Head Rd.

Additional to these communications, in September I, on behalf of the Committee, presented at Public Access seeking Councillors support in recommending that this intersection and the related issues are a significant safety problem which needs to be addressed by the Roads & Traffic committee. Following this the Council did pass a resolution supporting our request and directed staff to commence investigation and community consultation on solutions. Councillors also supported that SPPA should be allowed to present in person to the Roads & Traffic Committee.

My concern is that this process is going to spiral into a period of ongoing consultation with no outcome.

I encourage all community members to write and/or ring the Council often to lodge a personal complaint and request for some urgent action on these issues

Gaggin Park toilet block replacement

The Council plan is to have the new toilet block built and operational by March 2021. There was a significant hold up on this project as environmental impact studies needed to be done, the paperbark trees being regarded as koala habitat. Note that no trees will be removed, however there will be some pruning. Once the new toilet block is completed, the old one will be demolished. An automatic time lock of the toilets hopes to discourage overnight camping.

Suffolk Park Community Hall

As reported in last year's AGM, this hall was built by the Suffolk Park community and opened in 1993. Council agreed to rename the hall in recognition of Mr S J Denning, one of the early residents of Suffolk Park and a founding members of the SPPA, he was our first secretary. Mr Denning was a prominent member of many community groups during the early development of Byron Bay, from the 1940s through to the 1960s.

We have installed an addition to the hall sign acknowledging Mr Denning. Mrs Maureen Fernandes, a past secretary of the SPPA, has compiled a brief history of Mr Denning's accomplishments, a copy of this document will be on the premises, and also a carved plaque honouring Mr Denning will be hanging on the wall. We very much thank Mrs Fernandes for her work on this project.

Plan of Management and Masterplan for the Linda Vidler Park and sports field on Beech Drive

SPPA started on this path back in 2016 /17. We held several well published community meetings and canvassed community suggestions for the desired uses of this space, and how some of the section 94 funds could be used to facilitate the community's desires.

In 2018 Council and Dan Plummer & Associates (landscape architects) drew up park plans for consideration, in order to best meet community expectations. SPPA convened a series of meetings where the draft plans were presented to interested community members. I might add that we had a very poor attendance at these presentations.

Another community meeting was called by Council in late 2019, following concerns raised by the Suffolk Park Football Club that there had not been enough community consultation. SPFC wished to use a large portion of the available space for a half soccer pitch.

SPPA then addressed Council in Public Access to argue the case that this park land should have a broader community focus, rather than an extension of the soccer fields, and advocating for the construction of a pump track in the NW corner of the park. The outcome of this presentation was that we did get Council support and approval to build the pump track in the NW portion of the park, and were allocated Council funding to do so.

Today, the final draft drawings for the pump track and its location have been completed (at last) and will go back to Council on the 17th December for final approval. Assuming approval is given, the construction work will commence in February 2021, with an expected 10-week build.

We did report at the last AGM that we expected the track to be completed by May 2020; however with COVID-19 stopping contractors and people moving interstate, and extensive contract negotiation, the projected time frame went out the window.

Latest update on Linda Vidler Park

I received a letter from Council this November 18 advising that Council are now conducting a series of meetings separately with each of the community stakeholder groups to discuss the Linda Vidler Park masterplan.

In this email the Council stated the following:

“The goal of the Linda Vidler Park Masterplan is to create a place and a vision for the park that fulfils the range of community desires for the space. Community desires will be assessed alongside analysis of the site and environmental, cultural and regulatory factors and constraints.

The Masterplan aim is to optimise the park through provision of safe and accessible facilities for the enjoyment of the community whilst maximising recreational opportunities and protecting important environmental and cultural values

It will be an open space for the whole community. A multi-generational space that promotes learning and interaction – a place for repose, relaxation and informal and organised activity. A multi-functional and flexible space integrated through community use.”

I would like to say that these aspirations expressed by Council are very similar to what the community expressed back in 2017 during the community consultation conducted by SPPA.

Other SPPA activities

As stated in the past, the SPPA committee has interaction with many other community organisations throughout the shire, where we attend meetings to help with community networking and lobbying.

Some of these groups are: Community Alliance for Byron Shire (CABS), Byron Shire Round Table, Byron Residents Group, Old Byron Hospital redevelopment committee, Byron Bay Masterplan committee, Bay FM, Byron Shire Heritage Committee, Byron Bay Historical Society, Suffolk Park Hall committee.

On behalf of the SPPA committee I would like to acknowledge and thank some of the wonderful community-based groups that contribute to our thriving little village:

The Rural Fire Service team who give generously of their time and energy, on call 24/7, not just for fire emergencies but also for natural disasters or traffic accidents

The Suffolk Park Football Club who contribute so much to the youth and families of our community,

The Suffolk Park Hall committee do a great job managing the hall. It has just had a major refurbishment financed by the Byron Shire Council, and is vital for many activities in the village.

Also, we must acknowledge and thank our village shops and businesses who help us out from time to time with donations: The Park Hotel, SPAR supermarket, and Baz & Shaz.

I would like to thank our SPPA committee for their support, advice and efforts over the last year.

Patsy Brosnan, VP; Christine Guinand, Secretary; Margaret Wiles, Treasurer; and committee members Philippe Soria, Magdalena Gustafsson, and Peter Ormerod.

And our 4 retiring members: Ann Mosey, Margaret van Kleef, Liz Levy, Prue Regan.

You have all been a wonderful team to work with.

Finally, let's continue to acknowledge and support all those who live in our village because that's how we grow our community

Donald Maughan

President SPPA

Holiday letting in Suffolk Park

email from David Wallace, dated 23 November 2020

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Could you raise the issue of holiday letting in Suffolk Park please. Report 13.21 was presented at the planning meeting last Thursday. Precincts have made their return. I spoke against both sides of Alcorn Street becoming a 365 day precinct on the basis that it did not fit the definition of a precinct or so called tourist hotspot. That is, an area that is almost exclusively taken up with STRA.

On the eastern or beachside Alcorn there are 73 dwellings in the potential precinct. Twenty two dwellings are full time holiday letting. That is 30.1% of dwellings.

On the western side of Alcorn there are 120 dwellings with only 5 being full time holiday lets. That is, 4.17%. I argued that at least the western side should not be included in the precinct.

Council appears to be making an appeasement to the DPIE in an attempt to get the 90day cap for the rest of the shire.

Could there be some support from the SPPA in the forthcoming Council public exhibition about rejecting the Suffolk precinct and encouraging residents to also put in objections. I realise that many residents don't have holiday lets next to them but this could change in the future. The Fair Trading holiday rental Code of Conduct applies from December 18. If any one short term rents their property from that date then they will be required to give contact details to neighbours , be contactable from 8am to 5pm, 7 days and all hours for emergencies. If they don't do this or fail to respond to a call then a complaint can be lodged with the Code Secretariat. Details are meant to be available on the Fair Trading website before the start date. Hosts must also have public liability insurance by December 18. This applies even if they rent for 1 night. The SEPP amendment starts and all holiday lets need to be registered by June 1, 2021.

Hope this brief info is some help.

Regards,

David Wallace