

**SUFFOLK PARK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**November 21, 2023**

Attendees: Donald Maughan, Christine Guinand, Philippe Soria, Margaret Wiles, Helen Revis, Tony Christy, Lynne Richardson, Richard Mordaunt, Patsy Brosnan, Ann Mosey, Antony d'Orsogna

Apologies: Matt Cotter, James Norton, Karin Kolbe, Helena Maughan, Peter Brosnan, Jos Brenner

**Acknowledgment of Country**

**Approval 2022 AGM minutes**

moved by A. Mosey, seconded by T. Christy

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

Move to accept President's report by M. Wiles, seconded by A. Mosey

**Treasurer's report** presented by Philippe Soria (see below)

Move to accept Treasurer's report by M. Wiles, seconded by T. Christy

**Committee nominations** for next term:

Seven nominations were elected unopposed.

President	Donald Maughan
Vice President	Philippe Soria
Treasurer & Secretary	Christine Guinand
Members	Margaret Wiles
	Matt Cotter
	James Norton
	Karin Kolbe

**Treasurer's report**

Report from 30/09/22 to 30/09/23

Opening balance: \$2578.29

**INCOME**

memberships \$90

**EXPENSES**

Crazy Domains \$43.54 (domain name)

Tekwizard \$65.70 (website)

Suffolk Hall hire \$20

Closing balance: \$2539.05

## **President's report by Donald Maughan**

This is the 64th AGM of the Suffolk Park Progress Association, covering the period from Nov 2022 to Nov 2023.

The ongoing saga of the pedestrian crossing on Broken Head Rd near the RSL Aged Care facility: we still have no answers when we might expect action. This is frustrating and disappointing. I have spoken to Council representatives regarding this several times, however I can get no clarity on proposed action. We must just keep trying

### *Clifford St development Lot 9 - 15*

As reported at last year's AGM there was cause for concern with the scale and impact of the Clifford St DA on the Suffolk community.

SPPA was fortunate to get involved with a very focused and capable group of community members who formed to challenge the proposed DA.

This group lobbied the Council and State Government and were able to negotiate a Land and Environment court to hold a sitting on site. Thanks to their very professional and thorough researched presentation the Court rejected the current site DA and it now appears that the development is on hold until the developer submits a DA that will hopefully be more empathetic to the site and the community's concerns.

SPPA committee thank this group for their efforts in protecting our community's values.

### *Linda Vidler Park*

This is the good outcome story for this year. As many of you know this has been a very long journey dating back to 2016 when we successfully lobbied the Council and the Education Department to purchase the land for community use.

After that we worked with Council and community to develop a masterplan for the design of the land to facilitate a broad range of community usage.

There were many difficult discussions that had to be worked through with several community groups who all wanted their priorities recognised. This resulted in several redraftings of the site masterplan by Council and the landscape architect.

Then we had to find funding to bring these plans to fruition.

Fortunately, we and other Suffolk community groups, the soccer club, the community garden group and the tennis club were able to obtain some government grants and were also able to utilise some of the section 94 funds that were still in the Council budget.

The process has taken approximately 7 years to get to the point we are now, we knew at the start back in 2016 that it was going to be a long process, however with perseverance the park is now looking very good, and the fruits of our combined efforts are visible.

Things like the new drainage system and landscaping on the northern side of the park is almost complete, and Council land care group will, early next year, tidy up the undergrowth in the little forest on the northern side.

There is now a landscaped northern drain which leads to a water retention pond behind the community garden. This can be used in times of drought to augment water for the gardens. There is an overflow spoon drain running from this pond down the eastern side of the community garden that will connect to another spoon drain on the southern side of the park area, and take water run-off all the way down past the tennis courts into the paper-bark forest between the tennis courts and Broken Head Rd.

All of the parkland next to our very popular pump track has been graded, contoured and re-turfed so that families can enjoy the space in dry comfort. Additional seating is being in-

stalled at the take off point of the pump track.

The soccer fields have had ag pipe drainage installed to make the ground an all-weather surface, new change rooms and toilets have been constructed on the eastern side of the playing field with good tree and shrub plantings around the building.

It's worth reflecting on all the changes that have happened in this park area since back in 2016.

Back then we had a poorly maintained tennis court and very second-rate skate park, an old toilet block and virtually no paths, and can you remember that overgrown snake infested paddock adjacent to Beech Drive next to Baz & Shaz, what a mess that was.

Now the tennis courts are top quality new surfaces with a functioning committee running the club. The skate park has been upgraded and expanded to allow for street skating and there is a big new shaded children's adventure play ground.

BBQ facilities with covered tables and chairs are in place and much appreciated. A pétanque court has been built. Trees have been planted around the park, soccer field upgraded and change rooms for both women, men and referees, with a canteen facility added to the block, a thriving community garden with a quality lockable shed for their equipment. We have improved pathways, a lovely drained grass park land for families to utilise and a much loved pump track.

Sometimes we can forget what has been achieved but when we, the community, have a vision and work together, that vision after a lot of hard work becomes reality, and that is what we are seeing now. True, it's not all the doing of the SPPA, but we have been in the thick of it, trying to build community spirit and working to improve our village's facilities, and looking at where we are now compared to where we were then.

Well, I think we all should feel proud and satisfied with the outcomes

Again, SPPA have benefited by working with some of the other Suffolk Park and Byron Shire community groups which include CABS (Community Alliance for Byron Shire), Byron Shire Council Roundtable discussion group, Byron Town Centre masterplan team, Bay FM, Byron Bay Historical Society, Suffolk Park Football Club, Suffolk Community Gardens, the Suffolk Park Hall committee, and the Suffolk Community Tennis Club.

It has been rewarding working with these groups.

I thank and acknowledge the local businesses who support and assist our SPPA team. SPAR, the Park Hotel, Baz & Shaz, The Suffolk Bakery and the Suffolk Physiotherapist. Our little Suffolk Park community is a good community but unless we support and acknowledge each other to keep our community active we can so easily lose it.

I acknowledge and thank the committee of the SPPA: Christine Guinand, Philippe Soria, Margaret Wiles, James Norton and Matt Cotter. You have been a good and supportive group to work with and make it fun to be involved

Thank You

### **Other business**

- Tony Christy spoke of the success in obtaining traffic calming in Brandon and Jarman streets, following a petition with 126 signatures.

- The Suffolk Park Dune Care (SPDC) group has been resurrected by Rebekah O'Flaherty and will meet monthly on the 4th Sunday of the month starting November 2023.
- Philippe Soria proposes we lobby for a bike path between Suffolk and Lennox.
- Richard Mordaunt would like to see more events in our Suffolk hall, such as Historical Society talks.
- There was a general consensus to ask the RFS to put on another talk with advice to residents of Suffolk Park before the bush fire season.
- SPPA will seek to offer assistance to the Arakwal mob with the official opening event of the Linda Vidler Park, also with the aim of increasing community engagements.