

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: 11 October 2023
Location: Conjola Community Centre
Time: 7pm

CCA Committee

President: Melanie Guise	Vice President: Dirk Treloar
Secretary: Diana Corlette	Treasurer: Fran Shanahan
Public Officer: Mike Brungs	Media and Grants: Lynne Wright
FP representative: Donna Loon	FP representative: Stan Cowle

The Meeting commenced at 7-05 pm

Attendance: Diana Corlette, Lesley Lees, Fran Shanahan, Michael Brungs, Melanie Guise, Jenny Tallon, Geoff Maxworthy, Geoff and Bev Phillips, Mandy Ferretti, Alan Gardiner, Donna Loon, Nickie Lynch, Stan Cowle, Kim-Ashlee Winter, Dirk Treloar, Mardi Hempstead, Gaven Hempstead, Carly Ommundsen, Dianne Simms, Gail Duncombe, Megan Nicholson, Judy O'Dwyer, John O'Dwyer, Christine Taylor, Patricia White, Kenneth Simms, Dale Humphries

Apologies: Robyn Kerves, Sandra Pitchfork, Margaret & Robert Furness, Matt Loft

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting** – Accepted M Guise 2nd F Shanahan
2. **Matters arising from the previous minutes** – Nil.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - as of 21 June 2023 – Accepted M Guise 2nd D Treloar (tabled next page)
4. **Agenda items**
 - A. Financials confirmed to Fair Trading for last 3 years - Fran
 - B. Confirmation of Fishermans Paradise representation on CCA (and subcommittee) and any updates (Diana / Donna /Stan)
 - C. Basketball Court / Conjola Community Centre updates - Mel
 - D. Conjola Improvements update - Diana
 - E. Update on Coastal Management Plan - Dirk
 - F. Update on Street Hub pilots - Diana, Lynne
 - G. General Business

A. Financials confirmed to Fair Trading for last 3 years - Fran

Fran confirmed that the Financials for the last 3 years have been advised via sign-off to Fair Trading, as required for an incorporated association. Treasurer's Report is tabled overleaf.

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC, (CCA) - TREASURERS REPORT 11/10/2023

CCOUNT		INCOME	EXPENDITUR	BALANCE
GENERAL ACCOUNT	Opening Balance			\$ 4,042.98
	Service NSW Registration change to Constitution		\$ 60.26	\$ 3,982.72
	Weebly Web page account		\$ 204.60	\$ 3,778.12
	Service Fee NSW Annual			
	Summary of Financial Affairs - Tier 2		\$ 385.68	\$ 3,392.44
	Hire of Community Hall		\$ 36.00	\$ 3,356.44
	Annual Donation to CCB from Shoalhaven City Council	\$ 500.00		\$ 3,856.44
NETTY CASH	Previous Balance(current)	\$ 47.00		

B. Confirmation of Fishermans Paradise representation on CCA (and subcommittee)

Donna Loon and Stan Cowle were introduced as the new CCA committee members representing the Fishermans Paradise Subcommittee and FP residents. The FP Subcommittee prepared a comprehensive document outlining their delegated duties which the CCA was happy to approve. See Appendix A) Delegation document.

Stan and Donna noted that virtually no upgrades have been made to their area over the last few years and they and the FP Subcommittee are keen to make progress for their local area, working with the CCA, recognising that existing networks, structures and experience will be of assistance.

C. Basketball Court / Community Centre Updates – Mel

Basketball court

Since the last meeting, some concerns were raised regarding the potential location for the court within the Conjola Community Centre precinct, partly due to its site abutting Aney St and Lake Conjola Entrance Rd. It was suggested by the CCA to Council's project officer, that the court may be better located beside the tennis courts, potentially displacing the old playground which could shift to the other location. Council noted that this playground is their number one priority for replacement in the list of playgrounds they manage in lower Shoalhaven. N.B. first priority does not necessarily mean it will happen soon however.

2 residents from Lake Conjola Entrance Rd (who support a local basketball court) have raised concerns to the CCA regarding both locations, suggesting that the court instead be moved to the bottom beach carpark on the western side of the covered BBQ area (past Holiday Haven). The CCA raised this in a meeting with Council 11 October, and Council noted that that this location is sub-optimal due to sea level rise and flooding impacts. Council also noted this is an area where access can only be made through the HH caravan park. They noted that the Community Centre precinct is more readily accessible to the community and is a designated sporting precinct. Council noted that impact to trees in the tennis court adjacent location, has not yet been reviewed.

With any change of location, next steps continue to be as noted at the CCA meeting in June – Council to complete further investigations and reports (re impact to trees, Review of Environmental Factors and outsourced Native Title Assessment etc). If all OK, this would be followed by community consultation (in the local area) and geotechnical reports. Once shovel ready, a grant could then be applied for by Council.

Community Centre

Further works on the Conjola Community Centre are pending budget decisions, including BBQ shelters and solar roofing options.

D. Conjola Improvements update – use of \$370K donor + 13K interest funding = 383K - Diana

At the last CCA meeting on 21 June, we noted that the CCA is awaiting an update from Council on the estimated jetty and kayak launch project costs, to determine how much money Council needs, specifically for the new pathway from Valley Drive to Hoylake Grove and beyond (which was priority 3 in the Hoylake Grove donor funding engagement survey results).

As noted, Council received 615K in grant funding (under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program) for a replacement jetty and new kayak launch at Conjola Park, including a connecting pathway. The CCA attended a meeting with Council 11 October in which Council advised that the tender process has been completed and a bidder selected for the project.

Costs for Stage 1 alone (the replacement jetty and path section from Valley Drive to Hoylake Grove) came in significantly higher than expected – exceeding the total budget (615K) for both stages by approximately \$308K. Costs for Stage 2 apparently came in close to Council estimates at about 330K. Council has advised us that currently they cannot progress the jetty replacement project without receiving additional funds to complete Stage 1 of this project.

Patricia White (Ward 3 Councillor) also advised the meeting that due to budgetary pressures and cost over-runs in this (inflationary) environment, Shoalhaven (and other) Council(s) have found themselves unable to deliver projects. As grant funding is stipulated on completion, Councils across NSW have been forced to hand back grant funding. Patricia advised that there is no appetite to consider changes to grants already approved, with the response tending towards “if you haven’t scoped the project properly, give the money back”. Patricia also noted that Council’s current Budget cannot be delivered, with a sizeable amount to be cut out, meaning that any previously budgeted works are under threat.

Re-statement of all 2023 engagement survey results (including jetty and kayak launch)

When engagement surveys were completed for the jetty and kayak launch project, the jetty (stage 1) received 95% local support and the kayak launch (Stage 2) received 90% support. Although the expectation was originally that Council would fully fund these items, these results are now shown below with the Hoylake Grove engagement results, with donor funding priorities suggested accordingly.

*Items not previously ranked together with other donor funding engagement survey results

Restated PRIORITY ranking	PRIORITY ITEMS (& engagement survey result %)	CURRENT STATUS	SUGGESTED SPEND (from 383K)
1*	Stage 1) Jetty and path from Valley Drive to Hoylake (95%)	Costs for Stage 1 exceed total grant funding for both stages by 308K	CCA suggested we apply 308K of donor funds to complete Stage 1, with conditions suggested.
2*	Stage 2) Kayak launch and path from Hoylake to	Costs for Stage 2 (approx. 330K) are completely un-funded. This would be subject to Council’s receipt of future grant funding.	Insufficient funds (over 330K required). It is up to Council to seek

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

	kayak launch (90%)		additional grant funding to progress this.
3	Shared User Path (88%) – LCE Rd and Conjola Park connections	UNFUNDED BY COUNCIL AS ABOVE in 23/24 budget. To commence the initial design work, it needs \$50K. Council have noted support for the pathway in their meeting of Monday 9 October, which should assist with further grant funding.	CCA suggested we apply 50K of donor funds to commence initial design works this financial year. CCA to request that Council progress further design works in 24/25.
4	Accessible toilet (65%)	The CCA previously suggested the toilet needs to be funded by Council. CCA's request for interim Portaloo denied in September due to lack of funding. Patricia White noted the list of toilet requests to Council is LONG.	Insufficient funds (over 400K required). CCA to request that jetty funding is conditional on toilet works
5	New pathway from Yooralla Bay Boat Ramp (Valley Drive to Cottee Close, via Hoylake Grove Reserve) (55%)	Donor funding should be applied to the portion of the pathway project linked to Stage 1) jetty.	Included with priority 1 (jetty replacement project)
6	Additional picnic shelter with seating (41%).	One picnic shelter with BBQ and seating has already been delivered at Hoylake Grove. Lack of water currently impedes its usage. Council noted that a watering point for Hoylake Grove Reserve is currently being assessed through Shoalwater's annual watering point programme and should eventuate in 2024 latest.	Insufficient funds. Priority for future grant funding, ideally with a lockable component to include emergency equipment.
7	Basketball court (24%)	This use of funding was a donor request from Granville Boys High School (GBHS).	CCA agreed 18.5K of GBHS funds to this project.
CCA suggested allocation of funds to 3 priority items totalling [308K+50K + 18.5K], with conditions to be made as below.			TOTAL: \$376.5K / 383K RESIDUAL : APPROX 6.5K

In providing this update to the meeting, community concerns were again raised about a lack of public toilet facilities in Conjola Park, impacting the Park and Play group at Hoylake Grove. This discussion in the community meeting led to a suggestion to tie the release of donor funding for completion of the jetty to securing Council consideration for funding other items of pressing concern to the community. This way further works are commenced with the donor funding than would otherwise be possible.

It was agreed in the meeting that this would be a great outcome. Community members in the meeting tasked the CCA with working to achieve this outcome, working with Councillor White to table a Notice of Motion to Council. There were no dissenting voices regarding this approach.

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Post Meeting Update – CCRA Funding – 28 Nov 2023

The CCA and CCRA Interim Executive worked with Councillor Patricia White to file a Notice of Motion re the CCRA Funding, which was then considered at two separate Council meetings in November. The CCA and the CCRA Interim Executive (represented by Dirk Treloar) jointly made deputations in favour of the Notice of Motion which was eventually carried (6 Councillors for, 5 against) with no amendments at the Council Meeting of 27 November 2023.

The Notice of Motion advised of the CCA and the CCRA's joint support for:

- 1) 308K to be allocated to completion of Stage 1 of the Conjola Park jetty replacement project;
- 2) 50K to be allocated for preliminary investigations for a shared user pathway to connect Conola Park to Lake Conjola (with option to be further extended to Fishermans Paradise; and
- 3) 19K to be allocated for preliminary investigations for a half-court basketball court to be installed at the Lake Conjola Community Centre.

The release of funds being agreed to by the CCRA Interim Executive and CCA on condition that:

- a) A report be provided to Council on the status of works at the Havilland Street Boat Ramp (stage 1 and stage 2) and related roadworks along Havilland Street and Lake Conjola Entrance Road.
- b) Council gives further consideration to the allocation of sufficient funds in the Delivery Program Operational Plan 2024/25 to enable:
 - I. Commencement and completion of detailed design works for a shared user pathway between Conjola Park and Lake Conjola (with option to further extend to Fishermen's Paradise), including consultation with directly affected property owners and communities along the proposed route.
 - II. Commencement and completion of investigations and shovel ready detailed designs for a toilet at Hoylake Grove Reserve (including provision of a watering point for the picnic facilities at Hoylake Grove Reserve).

Further background re the CCRA funding

Prior to approval of this Notice of Motion, Council tabled a formal update on the CCRA donor funding in their ordinary meeting of 9 October. This provided an official record of engagement surveys undertaken this year (also documented in the CCA's June 2023 minutes). The Council minutes officially confirm their support for a pathway in the Conjola area, which will support future grant funding for the pathway.

In the 9 October meeting, Council also rescinded a previously approved motion put forward by Councillor D'Ath to apply the CCRA donor funds to a local memorial (rescinded because Councillors cannot decide on use of the donor funds). In accordance with the rescission of the "memorial" motion, Council has determined to pursue a commemoration outcome via separate funding, also noting the complexities and sensitivities of this task. We suggest that anyone who is keen to make their thoughts known on this, should approach Council in the first instance, or the CCA if preferred.

The 9 October Council minutes also confirm that "the CCRA's Interim Executive and CCA are considered the custodian of these funds" held in trust with Council, with Council's role primarily being to facilitate community engagement and to apply funds as directed by the CCA and CCRA Interim Executive on behalf of the community.

Council's 9 October minutes also reiterate Council's previous acknowledgement of the efforts of all involved with the CCRA and the hard work and commitment involved in previous plans, which have been instrumental in helping subsequent efforts. These plans have assisted Council in gaining grant funding for the Hoylake Grove upgrades to date (playground upgrades, shade sails, a BBQ, shelter,

seating and small area of sealed pathway) and for the currently planned jetty replacement at Conjola Park.

E. Conjola Coastal Management Plan (CMP) update

Dirk provided an update on the CMP. During the recent Stage 3 community feedback stage, the CCA provided a recommendation (given none of the options were ideal) that Option 3 occasional dredging (but including use of a Decision Support Tool to keep the lake open) was preferred based on the recommendations of previous engineering reports. We know and appreciate that many people in our community provided feedback to Council supporting Option 3 (including use of the DST).

The CCA also noted that some previous attempts to keep the lake open were stymied by government agencies, who are required to step in when lake openings are not done during emergencies. A meeting was arranged with Fiona Phillips MP and CCA members, Dirk Treloar and Mike Brungs on 6 October. Further efforts will be made to seek an audience with Liza Butler and potentially with Penny Sharpe, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Heritage in the NSW Government.

Stage 2 reports for the Shoalhaven CMP were released on 4 October, after Stage 3 feedback was already completed (the CCA was previously advised that they would not be made available). Stage 2 reports identify key risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities for the long-term management of Lake Conjola. The Executive Summary written by engineers, Royal Haskoning DHV, notes that based on their review of background information, "it is evident that: Government Departments would not support any entrance management policy or need for entrance works based around water quality triggers except in exceptional circumstances" and that managing the risk associated with flooding is the primary reason for entrance management."

Stage 4 is upcoming, which means that the CMP will go to exhibit and be gazetted as legislation for NSW, with no changes then possible to the CMP for 10 years.

Post Meeting Update – Lake Conjola Flooding – as at 4 Dec 2023

Following the flooding event which impacted Lake Conjola over the night of Tuesday 28 November and Wednesday 29 November, the CCA has arranged an urgent meeting with Liza Butler on 5 December to provide an update on best-practice lake management as determined over years of engineering reports in the local area, with that information also being provided to a panel which will report to the NSW Environment Minister, Penny Sharpe. The CCA also has a meeting arranged with the acting CEO of Council on 6 December to relay in person their concerns re the current approach, which is clearly not working. The CCA also notes that the population of critically endangered tern eggs in nests at Lake Conjola has been decimated (from 44 eggs down to 10) due to lack of timely entrance management. We will continue to make representations on behalf of local residents and endangered shorebirds. It appears optimal entrance management would benefit both populations. There is a precedent on the Central Coast where a managed open entrance has supported a thriving population of endangered shorebirds.

F. Update on Street Hub pilots - Diana, Lynne

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) has recently provided support for the emergence of two Street Hub pilots in our local area. The Street Hub concept is based on the Red Cross's Community-led Resilience Team (CRT) model in which local residents get together and discuss their priorities and approaches to plan for future emergencies and local issues. Other local

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

areas, including the Little Forest Rd group have previously emerged and have a website up and running. Lynne noted that Kangaroo Valley had a CRT running before the fires and they found this enormously helpful. Both of these groups are rural.

FRRR has funding (which runs out in February 2024) to support the creation of further street hubs. We urge you to put your hands up to receive support to connect with your neighbours and chat about what is important for your streets. Support is available through FRRR and Alasdair Stratton, Red Cross and other support agencies. Contact Lynne or Diana or make contact via the CCA email.

G. General Business

- a) It was mentioned that Community Building Partnerships Grant Funding were open in October. The CCA investigated several applications, however we were not eligible for the suggested items (restoring boardwalk at Fishermans Paradise and securing water carriers for fighting spot fires).
- b) It was noted that Shingles Vaccines are now free for everyone aged 65 and over, First Nations peoples 50 and over and immune-compromised people 18 and over at high risk of herpes zoster infection.
- c) Diana noted an application was made to Rewiring Australia in September to have Conjola included in an Electrify My Community program. Rewiring Australia is keen to support and accelerate rooftop solar and bulk purchasing of electrical appliances etc. They had 75 applications across Australia with only 10 placements available across a mix of community demographics and location types. We missed out on this round, but some resources may be shared with us.
- d) Jenny Tallon and Kelly Pollack arose to address Dirk Treloar about issues they had hoped would be addressed in relation to the previous Conjola Community Recovery Association (CCRA), and particularly a desire for “reputation repair” for some who had been involved with the CCRA and management of donor funds. They noted their concern that if misinformation continued after the bushfires, that the community would not heal.

Both Jenny and Kelly confirmed their previous understanding that a statement would be made after the final CCRA AGM by Dirk and Chris Ryan (2 of the ex-CCRA’s Interim Executive following the wind up of the CCRA) which would acknowledge the support they and others had provided after the fires. Dirk agreed that he was happy to put a statement on record in these minutes and noted that “we could not have got so far as we have without the work of Moo and Kelly”, noting the support Kelly and others provided both to the community and in reconciling donor funds.

Kelly and Jenny raised a question relating to the wind-up of the CCRA and location of its records. Diana confirmed that she had sighted the CCA meeting minutes dated April 2022 that referenced the CCRA members’ decision to wind up the CCRA and noted that the CCRA’s registration with Fair Trading has been cancelled. The CCRA’s ABN does continue to exist and is referenced in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) agreed with Council when the CCRA’s Interim Executive handed over the CCRA donor funds now held in trust with Council.

There being no further business, the meeting officially closed at 9.20 pm

In closing out these minutes, the CCA extends our thoughts to all locals who have suffered and all who provided support during and after the fires and floods (again). During the fires, many lost homes, possessions and in some cases, friendships and a sense of belonging to the community. For

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

residents of Lake Conjola, the need for constant flood clean ups is dispiriting, particularly where flooding is avoidable depending on timely entrance management.

The CCA's role is to represent all community members constructively and to fairly represent community wishes to Council as best we can. We encourage all residents to come to meetings, or just drop us a note and get on the CCA mailing list so that you can receive meeting updates and minutes to your email. See **Appendix B and C for contact details**

Next ordinary meeting – 7pm Wednesday 17 January 2024, Conjola Community Centre

Appendix A – Fishermans Paradise Subcommittee delegation

CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FISHERMANS PARADISE SUB COMMITTEE TERMS OF DELEGATION

Submitted 27 September 2023
Approved 11 October 2023 meeting

It is agreed that Conjola Community Association (CCA) establish a sub-committee for Fishermans Paradise as follows:

The purpose of the Sub-committee is to:

- Provide input and support to the CCA to influence improvement to all areas and villages represented by the CCA in line with the needs of each community;
- Seek and represent the views of the wider Fishermans Paradise community regarding issues of concern, improvements and projects;
- Work with the greater Fishermans Paradise community to identify priority issues and improvements for the village and its community;
- Provide advice and recommendations to the CCA for endorsement and further advocacy or action;
- Regularly communicate outcomes to the greater Fishermans Paradise community;
- Engage with Council representatives in a constructive manner to advance improvements and projects for Fisherman's Paradise and the greater Conjola area;
- With CCA support and involvement, advocate for upgrades and projects to improve the facilities, infrastructure, amenity and liveability of Fishermans Paradise, including a safe gathering space and community hub suitable for a range of community activities;
- Undertake and contribute to local projects and activities which strengthen community connection, resilience and disaster preparedness and/or improve village facilities, infrastructure and amenity;
- Facilitate community access to and use of the existing community room and noticeboard;
- Establish and implement a process involving identified sub-committee member/s to manage access, keys and care of the Fishermans Paradise Community Notice Board and Community room.

Composition and Operation. The sub-committee will:

- Represent the community of the village of Fishermans Paradise and its immediate surrounds;
- Be formed by nominations at an annual community meeting to which all community members are invited and otherwise nominated as deemed necessary by its members;
- Call wider Fishermans Paradise community meetings as it sees fit for consultation, information and/or activities;
- Select two of its members as its Conjola Community Association (CCA) Committee Representatives who agree to attend the meetings of the CCA to represent the sub-committee for a period of one year;
- Conduct all interaction with the CCA Committee through its Fishermans Paradise sub-committee representatives or their nominees;
- Provide minutes of all formal meetings of the sub-committee to the CCA for its records.

Appendix B – Receiving Updates on Conjola Improvements

If you are keen to follow updates on Conjola Improvements, go to

<https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/hoy-lake-grove> and type in your email address under the STAY INFORMED heading. These updates are also posted to the CCA's Facebook page.

Appendix C – Providing Feedback on local issues and projects.

You can also provide feedback at any time to:

- **The CCA** via email at conjola.community@lakeconjola.org on any local matter including Conjola Improvements OR
- **Council** via email at council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au This will be forwarded to appropriate team and generate a Customer Contact Request number.