

Conjola Community Association CCB

Annual General Meeting,

Monday 16th April 2018 @ Conjola Community Hall

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

Present: - Clr Patricia White, Robyn Kerves, Dirk Treloar, Fran Shanahan, Mike Brungs, Col Ashford, Kristen Bird, Bill Hackett, Marion Devitt, Eddie Gratzer, Dagmar Gratzer, Carol Hodgetts, Rebecca McKelvey, Bob Millar, Jenny Moffat, Sandra Robinson

Apologies: - Hon Shelley Hancock, Elaine Caswell, Neville Wearne, Mark Albiez.

Minutes from last AGM: - The minutes for the previous AGM Meeting were not readily available. A copy is available on the website.

Presidents Report:

D Treloar summarised the key achievements of the Conjola Community Association in the past 12 months. The key points are:-

1. Dredging – The main objective of dredging, to provide sustainable navigable channel from the Cunjurong Boat Ramp into the main body of the Lake has not been achieved. However, since dredging has been completed there has been no flooding or inundation despite several significant rainfall occurrences. A detailed analysis of similar rainfall occurrences prior to dredging did result in flooding, which indicates that dredging has contributed to safety and protection of property from flooding. The analysis was included in a review submitted to Council for consideration in November 2017. Future efforts by the Conjola Community will include liaison with the communities of Manyana and Cunjurong both of which are concerned with erosion from the beaches
2. Boardwalk – Despite several unplanned challenges/variation to the original plan, the replacement of the treated timber pine boardwalk with a composite and stainless steel structure was completed in Feb 2018. The new boardwalk complies with relevant safety, disability, and emergency access standards, and was delivered under budget.
3. Havilland St Boat Ramp (Regional Boat Ramp) – Although the new boat ramp is regarded by Council to be “shovel ready”, and remains the #1 priority RMS for Conjola, funding for the \$1.9m has not been forthcoming. NSW Boating Now Round 2 grants offered \$400,000, however, Council required the full amount of funds required for completion should be available, and will submit a request for further funding. In the meantime, a Council Meeting in Feb 2018 carried a motion for the Council General Manager to seek approval from Boating Now to redirect the \$400,000 to 2 other high priority projects

Treasurers Report

The current bank balance with the Commonwealth Bank is \$1824.45, Petty Cash is \$6.95.

Opening Balance (20 Feb 2018)	\$1,933.29	
Interest Received	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$1933.29
Less:-		
AGM Advertising in MUT	\$58.64	
Fair Trading	<u>\$50.20</u>	<u>\$108.84</u>
<u>Closing Balance (16 Apr 2018)</u>		<u>\$1824.45</u>
<u>Petty cash</u>		<u>\$6.95</u>

Election of Office Bearers:

Councillor White facilitated the election of Office Bearers for 2018/19.

After positions were declared vacant and nominations for the vacancies accepted and seconded, all positions were filled (including the new position of Public Officer).

The Conjola Community Association Executive Committee for the 2018/19 is:-

President - Robyn Kerves,	Vice President - Dirk Treloar
Secretary - Elaine Caswell (proxy)	Treasurer - Fran Shanahan
Public Officer – Mike Brungs	Community Liaison Officer – Kristen Bird
Environment Coordinator – Col Ashford	Infrastructure Coordinator - Dirk Treloar
Media & Grants Coordinator - Fran Shanahan	Technology Coordinator – Bill Hackett

Incorporation of Conjola Community Association

B Hackett briefed the meeting on the information from the NSW Fair Trading website on what is required to incorporate an Association under the “NSW Associations Incorporated Act 2009”, including reporting and fee requirements.

Following a discussion the following motion was proposed by B Hackett and seconded by F Shanahan – “That the Conjola Community Association proceeds with incorporation under the NSW Associated Incorporations Act 2009”.

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

The AGM meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Conjola Community Association CCB

General Meeting Minutes.

Monday 16th April 2018 @ Conjola Community Hall

Executive:	President:- R Kerves	Vice President:- D Treloar
	Secretary:- E Caswell	Treasurer:- F Shanahan
	Community Liaison:- K Bird	Public Officer:- M Brungs
	Infrastructure Co-ord:- D Treloar	Environmental Co-ord:-C Ashford
	Media & Grants Co-ord:- F Shanahan	Technology Co-ord:- B Hackett

The meeting opened at 7:55pm.

Present: - Clr Patricia White, Robyn Kerves, Dirk Treloar, Fran Shanahan, Mike Brungs, Col Ashford, Kristen Bird, Bill Hackett, Marion Devitt, Eddie Gratzner, Dagmar Gratzner, Carol Hodgetts, Rebecca McKelvey, Bob Millar, Jenny Moffat, Sandra Robinson

Apologies: - Hon Shelley Hancock, Elaine Caswell, Neville Wearne, Mark Albiez.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** - The minutes for the previous General Meeting were not readily available. A copy is available on the website and will be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. **Matters arising from previous minutes:-**

Incorporation of the Conjola Community Association - Attached is a summary from the Fair Trading website of requirements for an association to be incorporated. The benefits of incorporation include the ability to apply for grant funding independent of the Shoalhaven Council; e.g. from the NSW Department of Tourism. There was some discussion on whether Conjola could use another incorporated community association's Public Officer (e.g. Red Head) to request grant funding. One issue raised was the limitation on funding for one association which potentially could impact both associations - e.g. Red Head and Conjola – the question requires further investigation. If Conjola is to apply for incorporation then in addition to the requirements for registering incorporation (a) a "Master Plan" (of projects) must be developed, and (b) Liability Insurance must be obtained and paid for (in addition to Fair Trading fees).

Action: Following the unanimous approval at the AGM to proceed with incorporation, a detailed list of requirements, including all fees and charges will be prepared and distributed to the community for comment.

3. **Treasurers Report:-**
As at 16 Apr 2018, the bank balance with the Commonwealth Bank is \$1824.45; Petty Cash is \$6.95.

Opening Balance (20 Feb 2018)	\$1,933.29	
Interest Received	<u>\$0.00</u>	\$1933.29
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<u>Closing Balance (16 Apr 2018)</u>		<u>\$1824.45</u>
<u>Petty cash</u>		<u>\$6.95</u>

4. **Havilland St Boat Ramp** - Although the project is regarded as “shovel ready”, at the Shoalhaven Council Strategy and Assets Meeting on 20 Feb 2018 a motion was carried to seek approval from NSW Boating Now to redirect the \$400K grant to projects at Berringer Lake and Greenwell Point (refer to the mentioned Council Meeting Minutes for details of the motion on the Council website). The decision was made because the final estimate for the Havilland Ramp is \$1.9m and funds are not currently available. Further, Havilland St Ramp will not be considered a candidate for grant funding until Round 3 of Boating Now Grants – expected in 2019.

As an aside, Councillor White informed the meeting that Federal funds are already available for the Berringer Lake and Greenwell Point Projects. Council is now reviewing its priorities for the \$400K grant.

5. **Ingenia Development:** - B Mitchell raised a concern regarding a significant amount of dust from development activity on Saturday 14 Apr 2018 affecting his home. He noted (and took photographs) that water trucks were not operating on site at the time. He has spoken to Council and sought the Association’s assistance to prevent a recurrence.

Action: The Executive will raise the issue with Ingenia

6. **The Leaning Oak Development:** - J Moffat from The Leaning Oak briefed the meeting on the development. Key points:-
- The development is classified as a Caravan Park (under the NSW Local Government (Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 1995);
 - Council have approved 71 cabins and 25 camping sites for the development;
 - Cabins will be privately own but the land is leased (similar to onsite cabins at the other caravan parks);
 - The development gives priority to employing local tradespeople;
 - Sales are listed through Bella Coastal Property, Milton;

- Visitors are welcome to inspect the site – contact The Leaning Oak;
- The Leaning Oak is on Facebook – a link to the page will be added to the Conjola website.

7. **Safety on Lake Conjola Entrance Road**:- Two matters were raised:-

- a. **Speed Limits**: Many drivers continue to exceed the 80 kph limit, which is dangerous at several blind intersections. **Action**: The Leaning Oaks have offered to raise the matter with Council (Traffic Committee).
- b. **Traffic Island Hazard at intersection with Norman St and LCE Road**: The island is difficult to see in certain conditions (night time and when driving into the sun). The meeting agreed that the installation of brighter street lighting would alert drivers of the hazard. **Action**: R Kerves will raise the issue with Council (Traffic Committee).

8. **Car park at the Boardwalk**: - The meeting discussed a Council Plan (from several years ago) to upgrade the car park with curb and guttering, bitumen sealing, and line marking. K Bird requested that Council provide a copy of the upgraded design for review by the community. **Action**: At the suggestion of Councillor White, R Kerves will request Council for a copy of the design.

9. **Water Filling Station**: - The station has been installed adjacent to the disabled ramp at the Boardwalk. The water is filtered.

10. **Community Meeting Dates**: - M Devitt raised the frequency/infrequency of General Meetings. In the past 12 months 3 meetings were held (Apr, Oct, Feb), whereas in previous years meetings were held every 2 months. Discussion centred on the small number of attendees at meetings, especially during the colder months. A request for community members to attend the Ad-hoc Exec meetings was agreed. The meeting also agreed to a suggestion by B Hackett that 4 General Meetings per year plus the AGM be held, and the community given advance notice to submit requests on topics for discussion at the meeting – this will enable the committee/relevant working group to be prepared for the meeting. Community requests can be raised via the website, Facebook page, or by contacting a Committee member.

The meeting also agreed to follow-up requests to the Bowling Club to post meeting dates and agendas on the Club Noticeboard.

Action: B Hackett to submit to the Exec Committee a suggested meeting date schedule for 2018/19.

11. **Council Update (Councillor White)**:-

- a. **Special Rate Variation**:- Council expects to receive a response in early May from IPART (Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal) on its submission for a Special Rate Variation – i.e. retain the 13.2% variation approved for 2017/18 and

further approve a 5% increase for the next 3 years (2018/19 – 2021/22). Note, an error in the latest Email Update to the Community which incorrectly stated a 5% increase for the next 5 years – it should read for the next 3 years

- b. **Princes Hwy Duplication**: - Council is lobbying Federal and State Governments to give priority to the duplication of the Princes Hwy from Wollongong to the Victorian Border. Land for the proposed corridor for the duplication has already been purchased. An RMS report has recommended that all bridges, apart from the new Burrill Lake Bridge, should be replaced. Council has identified the highest priority as the section of Highway between the Jervis Bay turn-off and Tabourie Lake.
- c. **Council Staff Changes**: - In the last 3 months, 3 of the 4 Council Directors have departed Council. The new Finance Director is from Woollahra Council and he will start in the next month.
- d. **NSW Amateur Fishing Association (NAFA)**:- Denis Donald , President of the NSW Amateur Fishing Association (NAFA) is lobbying South Coast communities to establish a united group to collectively approach the state government for additional investment in coastal waterways infrastructure.
- e. **Grant Funding**: - At the last Council Meeting (refer to the Supplementary Reports), Council submitted a request for \$2.5m for community projects.

12. **The next General Meeting**:- TBA

Meeting closed: 9:00pm

Conjola Community Association CCB

General Meeting Minutes,

Monday 20th Aug 2018 @ Conjola Community Hall

<u>Management Committee:</u>	President:- R Kerves	Vice President:- D Treloar
	Secretary:- E Caswell	Treasurer:- F Shanahan
	Community Liaison:- K Bird	Public Officer:- M Brungs
	Infrastructure Co-ord:- D Treloar	Environmental Co-ord:-C Ashford
	Media & Grants Co-ord:- F Shanahan	Technology Co-ord:- B Hackett

Attendance:- R Kerves, E Caswell, B Adams, F Shanahan, M Brungs, I Spiers, M Devitt, J & C Quill

Apologies:- D Treloar, M Loe, K Bird, B Hackett, C Ashford, P White (Cr), J Moffat

Meeting commenced:- 7:35

Minutes of previous meeting:- Presented and accepted - F Shanahan 2nd M Brungs

Matters arising from the previous meeting:- Nil

- 1. Drainage Reserve on Pattimore's Lagoon:-** 21 properties on Pattimore's Lagoon have been given notice that they may have illegal structures constructed around the Lagoon. They all received letters stating that because of Insurance concerns SCC has contacted them because DAs were not applied for and therefore the structures are deemed to be illegal.

Councillor Patricia White has been contacted and is prepared to meet with those affected residents and a meeting is to be arranged at 5pm on one of the following dates August 28th, 29th or 30th. It is also requested the Ms White bring a copy of the SCC survey along with her so that it can be scrutinised by the residents and can then be compared to their own block plans.

- 2. Access to Shoalhaven Council Area Community Halls:-** Meeting discussed access to Community Halls and the following motion was proposed - All CCBs across the Shoalhaven have free access to the Community Hall in their local area for their scheduled meetings. Proposed M Devitt 2nd E Caswell - Carried Unanimously

- 3. Speeding and Bus Shelters with Lake Conjola:-** The issue of speeding within the village is considered to be of a major concern and considering that the Shoalhaven is now proven to be a major tourist area the SCC should do something about this issue before there is an accident. There was a suggestion that speed humps be constructed along Entrance Road.

Concern was voiced about children having to stand out in the rain waiting for their school bus and SCC should be contacted to construct shelters in various locations within the area.

- 4. The surface of the Boardwalk steps:-** It was pointed out that the surface of the steps was not the material as was to be provided by the original tender and it was thought that the material was sourced from China. It was pointed out that the contractor would be the one to make that decision.
- 5. Bushfire Control:-** The local Rural Bushfire captain addressed the meeting and urged all residents to have a Bushfire Survival Plan in place due to the predicted dry summer ahead. He also stated that there had been hazard reduction taken place along parts of Lakeside Drive 7 years ago. He told the meeting that a major problem with hazard reduction is the number of agencies that have to give their consent for this to happen and it could take years for this to occur.
- 6. Incorporation Certificate:-** The cost of being incorporated was \$130 52cents and this money was donated by Michael Brungs

- 7. Ingenia Development:**- There was concern about the amount of dust being created by this development. The problem was due to the fact that the water truck was immobile for a period of time and there is a guarantee that there will be no further problems in the future.
- 8. Seats on the Boardwalk:**- Alister Stratton(SCC) was contacted regarding this and has not been back in contact at this time.
- 9. Lighting on the Bowling Club corner:**- This has now been put in place
- 10. Havilland Street Boat ramp:**- SCC is to be contacted over what is to be done about this development because boating infrastructure is needed now in order to prevent future problems with boat launching areas
- 11. Coastal Zone Management Plan:**- It was noted that Michael Brungs had provided a report to be discussed at a SCC meeting but the report was never presented. It is significant that other issues were tabled which were presented after Michaels report was emailed to Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-20pm.

Next meeting October 15th 2018

Conjola Community Association CCB

Minutes of the General Meeting

Monday 15th Oct 2018 @ Conjola Community Hall

<u>Management Committee:</u>	President:- R Kerves	Vice President:- D Treloar
	Secretary:- E Caswell	Treasurer:- F Shanahan
	Community Liaison:- K Bird	Public Officer:- M Brungs
	Infrastructure Co-ord:- D Treloar	Environmental Co-ord:-C Ashford
	Media & Grants Co-ord:- F Shanahan	Technology Co-ord:- B Hackett

Meeting opened at 7-35pm

Attendance: -E Caswell, F Shanahan, J Newby, S Newby, G Reddacliff, G Phillips, B Adams, D Treloar, J Hudson, B and L Farmilo, S Williams, T Rolls, J Rolls, C Hodgetts, D Ardron, C Ardron, H Greslak, M Nove, M Albee, M Brungs, C Ashford, R Kerves

Apologies: -M Devitt, K Bird, B Hackett, P White (Clr), Jenny Moffatt

Minutes of previous meeting:- Passed and accepted T Rolls 2nd F Shanahan

Business arising:- None

1. Managed Entrance Policy –

- Bill Hackett, Michael Brungs and Dirk Treloar have been doing research on this issue
- On 21st July 2018 a proposal from the CCB to review the Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013 regarding this issue was not tabled at a SCC meeting even though it had been sent 2 weeks prior to that meeting
- On 24th October 2018 the SCC disbanded the Southern Shoalhaven Natural Resource & Floodplain Management Committee that represented the community regarding flood plain management within the Southern Shoalhaven
- Phil Costello is now the person to contact over the Lake condition and Kelly Clarke is the team leader.
- The Interim 2013 policy dated 2013 and the SCC will not opening the Lake because the lake level has not reached the policy trigger levels of 0.8-1.00m. On 15 Oct 2018 the water level was 0.55m
- Currently the shortest point from the closed Lake to the ocean is 100m. The Lake is currently at 0.55m and the ocean is at 0.9m
- There is suggestion that an opening should be dug at -0.5m
- Surveyors for Council always organise an opening on the Northern side of the Entrance
- The last dredging that took place was for a Navigational Channel because that was the objective of the grant that SCC received. The entrance remained open for over 18 months following the dredging.
- Consultants and SCC have estimated that when tidal the nett increase of sand into the lake's delta is 10,000m³/yr – ie the flood tide moves 30,000m³/yr into the lake, but the ebb tide only moves 20,000m³ out.
- The Committee should contact the State Government to request assistance with the management of Lake Conjola Entrance.
- Incorporation will allow the Committee to apply for grants independently of SCC.
- This Committee will request a meeting with Councillors and SCC department heads and give Phil Costello 14 days to reply to that request.
- In addition, a meeting will be organised with representatives of the State Government over this issue.

2. Jetties on the Drainage canal: -

- A meeting will be arranged with 2 representatives from Aney Street to discuss the problem with Council.

3. Boardwalk Car park: -

- SCC will not fund improvement to this parking area.

4. The Cottage on the reserve near Island View Caravan park: -

- Young people are using the cottage as an assembly place for parties and the cottage contains asbestos and obviously this is a health-related issue.
- Is the cottage heritage listed?
- The Island View Caravan park is not prepared to take on responsibility for the building.
- It is understood that an individual representing Council stated that the building would be demolished.

5. General Business: -

- a. Committee to investigate the construction of a health and fitness centre within the grounds of the Community Centre.
- b. There should be a map drawn up for a cycle way that directs cyclists throughout the village.
- c. There is concern that should the bus service that operates every Tuesday and Thursday leaving at 9am from Lake Conjola village not have more users then it is highly likely that it will be cancelled

Meeting Closed at 9:15pm, next meeting 7:30pm, 21 Jan 2019

Conjola Community Association CCB

Minutes of the General Meeting

Monday 21st Jan 2019 @ Conjola Community Hall

<u>Management Committee:</u>	President:- R Kerves	Vice President:- D Treloar
	Secretary:- E Caswell	Treasurer:- F Shanahan
	Community Liaison:- K Bird	Public Officer:- M Brungs
	Infrastructure Co-ord:- D Treloar	Environmental Co-ord:-C Ashford
	Media & Grants Co-ord:- F Shanahan	Technology Co-ord:- B Hackett

Attendance:-

D Simpson, L Simpson, R McKelvey, H and L Van der Haas, A Hopkins, S Dunn, J and J Dale, B Hackett, J Henderson, K Henderson, C Brungs, M Garetti, A Gardiner, P Fitzsimons, Prof. K Black, R Lonsdale, K Bird, L Rutledge, A Rutledge, G Nelson, K Henry, M Nove, L Travis, N

Travis, C Murphy, L Murphy, L and H Gillies, J Wood, A and P Golland, M Devitt, K Gartner, G Taylor, K Duncan, J Camilleri, R Cokin, P White (SCC Cnclr - Deputy Mayor), T Jones, K Webster, B Guise, R Davies, P Perry, L Hubbard, D Bird, F Skinner, D Skinner, K and G Fardouy, L and M Browne, H Geslak, A and J Jessop, R and J Jones, D Chapman, B and E McKinnen, R Walton, G and H Chaplin, S and K Dodimead, M Furness, R Furness, I Spiers, T Maddick, D Clifton, R and J Keelan, L Hobbs, A Colvin, E Macmillan, D Taylor, D Gratzer, S Camilleri, B and M Collison, G Phillips, D Jones, P Webster, D Webster, M Guise, G Adams, Greg Phillips, R Kerves, E Caswell, F Shanahan, D Treloar, M Brungs, C Ashford ,A Findley(SCC Cnclr - Mayor), K Gartner (SCC Cnclr)

Apologies:-

Mark Albiez, David Ardron, Nola Atkins, Kurt Austin, Adam Ballard, Barry Barnes, Dorothy Barnes, Bel Beck, Suzanne Betts, Kathy Blake, Donna Brooks, Greg Brown, Jye Brown, Maree Brown, Glenn Butt, Glenda Byers, Greg Byers, Betty Byrd, Greg Carroll, Leeann Chant, Kim Coleman, Robyn Coote, Ron Coote, Simone Cordy, Vanda Correia, Haylee Dale, Jamie Dale, Tom Dale, Margaret Dalziel, Darren Dee, Tracey Dennis, Gina Dimech, Diana Dodd, Marea Dreis, Bo Duke, Michelle Duncan, Gail Duncombe, Wayne Duncombe, Andrew Dunkerley, Karen Dunkerley, Natasha Eaton, Jennifer Edgell, Groves Family, Amy Fennell, Christopher Fennell, Linda Fennell, Mandy Fennell, Stephen Fennell, Barry Fenwick, Sandra Fenwick, Janine French, Craig Frew, Jacqui Frew, Virginia Frew, Warren Frew, Bianca Fuller, Brian Fuller, Joanne Fuller, Coralie Galle, Julie Gander, Stuart Gander, Sharryn Goff, Gail Gossage, Ian Graham, Alan Gratzer, Dagmar Gratzer, Edi Gratzer, Robert Gratzer, Amanda Hackett, John Hales, Kevin Hamilton, Lesley Hamilton, Carol Hands, Megan Harapa, Sabreena Mary Harris, Danny Hartley, Nerissa Hartley, Scott Heatherington, Mardi Hempstead, Chris Hennessy, Jamie Heweston, Karen Hooten, Kay Howe, Nicola Howe, Janette Hudson, Peter Hudson, Cheryl Ann Hunter, Mark Hunter, Alan Jones, Deb Jones, Graeme Jones, Ian Jorgenson, Shane King, Steven Krinks, Keith Lambert, Denise Langtip, Jeff Langtip, Jan Lawrence, Terry Lawrence, Andrew Leighton, Jo Lovett, Kylie Lucas, Graham Lyons, Ronda Lyons, Jenny Marshall, Ann Mason, Scott Mawson, Isobel McLachlan & Family, Glenda Milham, Rick Milham, Kristy Misios, Daniel Monforte, Matika Montgomery, Diana Mosca Oliveri, David Neill, John Newby, Sue Newby, Jennie O'Donoghue, Lucy Oliveri, James Peters, Debra Polock, Mr Polock, Robert Reis, Sandra Reis, Jemma Roach, Lindsay Rowland-Smythe, Peter Ruetman, Elizabeth Salz, Sandra Sampson, Robyn Savage, Marie Sawczuk, Jai Sharman, Jo Simmons, Jarrod Simpson, Leeann Simpson, John Sotiri, Phil Stanton, Wendy Stanton, Tony Stapleton, Dick Stockwell, Pam Stockwell, Peter Stone, Rosemary Stone, Craig Stratton, Jo Stratton, Darin Sullivan, Earl Tanks, Liane Thompson, Carlene Timbs, David Tregonning, Graham Tunks, Lynne Tunks, Shez Tunks, Steve Turton, Terry Turton, Monica Veitch, Paul Veitch, Katherine Waldron, Helen Wallder, Paul West, Judy White, Les White, Leanne Whitehouse

The president of the Association, Robyn Kerves welcomed and thanked the 3 Ward 3 Councillors present at the meeting for their attendance.

Minutes of previous meeting :-

Read and accepted J Dale, 2nd F Shanahan

Treasurers Report:-

Balance as of 20 th August 2018	\$2324.45
SCC Donation	\$500
Annual subscription	\$138.31
Hire of the Community Hall	\$34
Balance as of 21 st January 2019	\$2,652.14

1. Council charge for hire of the Conjola Community Hall

Motion:-

That the SCC waiver the hiring fee of Community Halls throughout the Shoalhaven to all CCBs. -- E Caswell 2nd I Spiers **carried**

2. Status of Lake Conjola:-

Dirk Treloar and Robyn Kerves have been attending several meetings with South Coast State MP, Hon. Shelley Hancock, Shoalhaven City Council and various government agencies in relation to current problems being experienced by local residents and tourists.

Dirk presented a comprehensive explanation of the present state of affairs as it stands at the moment in relation to flood mitigation and that the current management is obviously failing. The recent opening of the Lake was the first planned opening in 10 years but that did not prevent low level flooding.

The question remains was the opening as a result of water quality?

We need more flexibility with the entrance management policy but government agencies actions and policies are dictated by the Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013. It is believed that any managed opening should mimic natural processes.

History shows that with the current volume of sand in the delta, scouring of the entrance is destined to fail regardless of the height of the water level.

According to SCC Consultants, in August 2015 when the water level reached around 2.00m, the highest level since the 1970's, 100,000m³ of sand was transported from the entrance to just beyond the surf-line. The lake only remained open for 4 month. However, in 2016 when only 20,000m³ of sand was dredged along the northern shore (which many accept was not in a natural channel location), the entrance remained open for over 18 months. Scouring will not work with the current volume of sand.

The Feb/Mar rainfall events with over 400mm of rainfall (in March alone), with the entrance open, the water level did not exceed 0.75m, whereas significantly less rain with a closed entrance has caused significant flooding.

Ideally a review of It is felt that an approach to the State Government is necessary and they be asked to look at the Entrance Management Policy and to be involved in the development of the proposed Coastal Management Plan for Lake Conjola.

There have been 8 closures in the period 1937-1998, and 13 for the period 2011-2018. Following the December 1998 dredging, the entrance remained open from January 1999 until March 2011.

Water quality is tested weekly, according to the SCC Annual Groundwater Monitoring Rept (2013-2017) Conjola Regional Sewerage Scheme, groundwater nutrient plume is expanding, with groundwater wells showing high nutrient concentrations due to the effluent trench. The Report states that a substantial change since 2012 in the nutrient plume (primarily Total Nitrates) may pose a risk to the aquatic ecosystems, and recommends precautionary measures be taken during times of entrance closure.

The Conjola Community Association (CCA) has tabled a report with Council outlining proposed changes to the Interim Entrance Management Policy – the CCA have on several occasions attempted to table the proposal but it was not until Dec 2018 that the proposal was tabled.

Robyn Kerves suggested that the Lake should be managed by a state authority rather than the Council. However, that is unlikely to gain traction because the NSW State Govt has recently disbanded the Lake Illawarra Authority and handed responsibility for managing the lake to the Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils.

Next Steps

Dirk stated the next step, as passed by a motion at the Council Development & Environment Committee Meeting 21 Jan 2019, is to review the Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013 in accordance with the recently enacted NSW Coastal Management Act 2016. The approved budget is \$150,000 which CCA challenged as being too high given the significant number of investigations/studies and reports and Council documents into the Lake (refer to Council website for a copy of the Minutes of the Council D&E Meeting)

Note, Point 7 of the approved Council motion states “Any resident who believes that their infrastructure has been damaged due to increased water levels should write to Council and relevant agencies, outlining their concerns.” Contact details are at the back of these minutes. The relevant agencies are Shoalhaven City Council, NSW Dept of Primary Industries (Fisheries), NSW Dept of Planning and Environment, NSW Roads and Maritime Services

Comments from the Floor

Prof Black - addressed the meeting and stated that he believed that the Lake should be opened at the Southern end of the entrance and all of the sand removed should remain at Lake Conjola and used to raise the level of the low level developed shoreline.

Mayor Findley – stated

- that the total cost of the entrance works was \$8000 for the 18-21 Dec 2018works, and \$60,000 for the 8-16 Jan 2019 Works,
- that the initial works were constrained by proximity to Christmas
- that Shoalhaven Heads have a “dry notch” that can be quickly opened if flooding is forecast. Similarly the Conjola “channel” can be quickly “unplugged”,
- that water quality testing indicates the water is safe for swimming
- that opening the lake is very dependent on forecast rain

Councillor White – stated that Facebook comments are driving Council and she personally apologised to the community for the current Policy and the condition of the Lake. Paricia also referred to:-

- the many health concerns;
- that she believes the cost of the 8-16 Jan Channel was greater than \$60,000 based on an estimate she received from the contractor;
- how Conjola has been fortunate that the very heavy rainfall in the surrounding district has not occurred in Conjola, otherwise severe flooding may have occurred – eg 300mm at Montague Island in 24 hours;
- that it is unacceptable to boat owners must wade and carry children through water because the ramps are flooded;
- that it is unacceptable and dangerous for caravans and campers to have their sites to have lake water on their sites with electrical cords lying in the water;
- that the safety of residents and visitors is at risk due to the high water level;
- that it is unacceptable that Council is not listening to the community;
- that Council had approval to remove the “plug” on 16 Jan but Fisheries stated there was a risk of a “fish kill”; and
- that the community must remain resilient and united and to support the CCA.

Further information in relation to the meetings and reports can be found on our web site.

3. Motions Proposed at the Meeting

- a. Informal motion proposed by Mike Brungs –

That Council implement an Managed Open Entrance Policy for Lake Conjola

Carried by an overwhelming majority

- b. Proposed by Robyn Kerves, seconded by Elaine Caswell –

That the responsibility for future management of the Lake be taken from Council

Carried

- c. Proposed by Robyn Kerves, seconded by Mike Brungs –

That the channel plug be removed and the entrance opened within the next 2 weeks

Carried – 2 voted against

Mayor Findley informed the meeting that Council must respond to motions within 28 days of receiving the minutes of a community meeting

Meeting closed at 9-30pm

Next meeting :- 15 Apr 2019

Contact Details for Council and relevant NSW Government Agencies

NB: All agencies can be contacted online from the respective websites

Shoalhaven City Council Email - council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
P.O. Box 42 Nowra NSW 2541
Ph: 4429 3111 (Nowra) or 4422 1816 (Ulladulla)

Dept of Planning and Environment Email – Refer to web site for registering a complaint
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Contact-Us>
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.

Dept of Primary Industries (Fisheries) Email - information-advisory@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay NSW 2315
Ph: 1300 550 474

NSW Dept of Roads and Maritime Email – SouthernProjects@rms.nsw.gov.au
PO Box 477 Wollongong NSW 2520
Ph: 13 17 82

