

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

**Meeting Date:** 17 January 2024  
**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:** Patricia White, Bev and Geoff Phillips, Diana Corlette, Robyn Kerves, Melanie Guise, Michael Brungs, Cecilia Brungs, Fran Shanahan, Margaret Furness, Rob Furness, M and P Schoonderwoerd, Kenneth Simms, Stan Cowle, Donna Loon, Jenny Tallon, Geoff Maxworthy, Jill Maxworthy, Kelly Pollack, Lynne Wright, Dirk Treloar, Beth Britton (SCC), Rob Wright, Leigh Hubbard.

**Apologies:** Hannah Bennett (SCC), John and Judy O'Dwyer

-----

A new item was added to the top of the agenda by the Secretary who read out the following note of thanks from John and Judy O'Dwyer:

*"John and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Conjola Fire Brigade on the quick and professional way they handled the call out to our home at 10 Esme Street on early Sunday morning. Thanks to their swift response the fire did not spread to our studio, garage and other buildings and our surrounding neighbourhoods. We are eternally grateful and acknowledge the added pressure there was on the Brigade and our wonderful friends to attend such a fire in our small local community. We live in such a caring and beautiful community, please accept our heartfelt thanks."*

**Post-meeting update** Unfortunately, their gorgeous cottage, Iris, and contents could not be saved. John and Judy celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in March and are starting afresh with a positive outlook. All of Judy and John's neighbours and friends hope for a speedy rebuild as they are greatly missed in the local area.

-----

- 1. Minutes from the previous meeting** – Accepted M Guise 2<sup>nd</sup> D Treloar
- 2. Matters arising from the previous minutes** – Nil.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** - as of 21 June 2023 – Accepted M Guise 2<sup>nd</sup> D Treloar (tabled next page)

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (CCA) - TREASURERS REPORT 16/01/2024**

DATE	GENERAL ACCOUNT	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	TOTAL
	Balance from Previous Report 1/6/2023	\$ 4,042.98			
20/07/2023	Payment to Service NSW		\$ 60.26	\$ 3,982.72	
17/08/2023	Shoalhaven City Council	\$ 500.00		\$ 4,482.72	
28/09/2023	Payment to Service NSW		\$ 385.68	\$ 4,097.04	
28/09/2023	Payment for Weebly Account		\$ 204.60	\$ 3,892.44	
6/10/2023	Hire of Community Hall		\$ 36.00	\$ 3,856.44	
11/01/2024	Hire Community Hall		\$ 34.00	\$ 3,822.44	
		\$ 4,542.98	\$ 720.54		\$ 3,822.44
<b>PETTY CASH</b>					
		<b>CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
	Balance from Previous Report 1/6/2023	\$ 47.00	\$ -		\$ 47.00
					\$ 47.00

## 4. Agenda items

- A. Community Centre Updates - Beth Britton
- B. Flooding and Coastal Management Plan Update - Dirk, Mel
- C. Council Rates variation - Diana
- D. Conjola Improvements Update - Diana, Dirk
- E. Rescue Station updates - Mel
- F. Fishermans Paradise updates - Donna / Stan
- G. Website update - Lynne
- H. General Business

### A. Community Centre Updates - Beth Britton (SCC)

Beth provided an update on upgrades to the Community Centre (hall). In the event of an emergency, instructions for access to the hall will be presented on the external Community Info Hub screen. This will include the code for the 'Council Only' lockbox at the entry, which contains a key for access to everything in the hall. If you use the key, please be mindful of your responsibility for users in the hall, eg. keep the cleaners' storeroom locked at all times as it contains hazardous chemicals. There is another lockbox located next to the communications box in the meeting room – it uses the same code as outside to provide access to the satellite phone. Emergency Services such as RFS have priority access for the phone, followed by the CCA Executive and potentially a local community response group (should one be formed for the Lake Conjola area).

There is satellite internet and WIFI access for up to 150 devices within the centre, providing support during emergencies. Energy is provided by solar panels and a battery, which can power the lighting, fridge and screens when mains power is down. Council is currently seeking additional quotes for an upgraded projector. The audience noted their thanks, with one comment made that taps in the kitchen are much easier to use for those with arthritic hands.

If you have any requests for information to be displayed on the screen, please send these to [council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au). The screens can advertise local events and promote community groups and activities, eg. information about upcoming events in the reserve, local RFS etc.

## B. Flooding and Coastal Management Plan (CMP) Update – Dirk

Dirk told the meeting that the 29 November 2023 flooding demonstrated a clear failure of the current CMP or any CMP that allows the entrance to close. The community meeting arranged by Allison Hopkins in late November helped to demonstrate to Council and local MPs the depth of local anger due to Council's continued failure to act.

The CCA met with Council's Environmental Services Director, Manager and Coastal Engineers in early December to reiterate community safety and risk to life concerns associated with this continued failure to mitigate flooding. The CCA informed Council that this flood event very nearly claimed the life of an elderly resident who stumbled and fell into the flood waters. Further to this, the CCA explained to Council the financial hardship caused to residents, many of whom are faced with excessive insurance premiums. The meeting covered discussion of unprecedented rainfall over Porters Creek dam and the requirement for additional upstream rain gauges with low set trigger levels to activate advance clearance works at the entrance. This included lower downstream trigger levels to activate entrance clearance works due to the extent of the sand berm and length of the pilot channel excavation – over 300m in this flood event, thus reducing the effective time to a breakout. The most immediately useful outcome from the meeting is that Council agreed to provide updated flood certificates for locals to send to their insurers. Please follow up with Council if you are impacted. Adequate management of the lake would greatly improve the insurance situation.

In further follow-up, the CCA (Dirk) met with State MP Liza Butler on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for a 6-hour debriefing on entrance processes, failed entrance management policies and successful policies (Managed Entrance 1999 – 2011) based on scientific studies and validated scientific evidence. The crux of the problem being that Lake Conjola is incorrectly deemed an Intermittent Closed and Open Lagoon or Lake (ICOLL) and therefore managed as an ICOLL. Ministerial briefs were prepared in this meeting and sent to Stephen Kamper, Minister for Lands and Jihad Dib, Minister for Emergency and Disaster Services. That information was then provided to a panel reporting to the Premier's Department and NSW Environment Minister, Penny Sharpe.

Liza then arranged a meeting between the CCA, herself, Janelle Saffin (Lismore MP, Deputy Whip, Secretary of Emergencies) and members of the NSW Reconstruction Authority on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. In this meeting the CCA again raised concerns regarding the need for all levels of government to take long overdue and appropriate action to prevent both **further flooding and bushfires** impacting our local area. Janelle and Liza were highly receptive and said that they would make it a priority to follow this through. The Reconstruction Authority also noted in that meeting that they will arrange a meeting with the local community in 2024 to support resilience activities related to bushfire preparation (and flooding).

Liza subsequently arranged a meeting with coastal engineer, Greg Britton, author of preeminent study on entrance processes by Patterson, Britton and Partners 1999, who has consulted to Commonwealth and State Government on coastal management practices over the last 30+ years. The question as to whether Lake Conjola should be classified as an ICOLL and therefore managed as one was raised by Liza and discussed at length. The CCA's preference is for a managed open entrance and southern ebb channel; the latter requiring periodic dredging, the timing of which is determined by a Decision Support Tool, known as the M2, not guesswork on the part of Council or their interpretation of weather events. This is the option that the CCA recommended that residents vote for (option 3 – dredging with use of a Decision Support tool to clearly identify when to open the lake) as part of submissions made in 2023 to the new CMP.

With NSW Ministerial support, the CCA hopes to see dredging written into the next Lake Conjola CMP as an approved activity with the appropriate conditions set. We note that there has been no further information provided by Council regarding Stage 4 of the CMP, in which the CMP goes to public exhibit.

**Qn from floor** – does the huge removal of sand impact the natural flow of the lake and its historic sand dunes?

Dirk noted that poorly considered works have created erosion and impacted the dunes, but that maintaining an ebb channel on the southern side behind the sand berm mimics the natural entrance condition and process of the lake, known as the Regime State per PBP1999. The rocks on the Cunjurong Point side act as a natural breakwall, providing scour to minimise sand build up and wave washover (while in contrast, the construction of an artificial breakwall on both sides of the northern entrance would exacerbate flood heights and duration of outflow). Records show that going back to 1916, the lake has naturally been open over 88% of the time.

### **Further comments**

It was noted that the Central Coast Council adopted a management strategy for Lake's Entrance in 2019. That strategy sees the entrance cleared by dredging works and sand placed on nearby Karagi Point (much like our southern sand spit), a breeding and nesting site for the Little Tern (again like our site). The purpose of this management strategy is to also stabilise these breeding grounds by raising them to minimise possible flood impacts on these shore bird populations. Central Coast Council and DPIE have reported record breeding seasons in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 for this Endangered Species. Whereas the November 2023 flood event in Conjola destroyed 17 of the 22 recorded nests, and 34 of the 44 recorded eggs.

The CCA is aware of a group of Shoalhaven lawyers considering an open letter to media regarding the NSW Government's / Council's destruction of a Threatened Species and its habitat – a criminal act under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. This further supports the requirement to act on lake management.

Patricia White also noted that rainfall in the upper catchments typically impacts the lake over the following hours and days – eg heavy rainfall at Porters Creek Dam and flooding at Gooloo Creek across the highway. The impact of rainfall activity is not always picked up in time, partly due to the location of rain gauges and subsequent rates of rainfall, run off into the upper catchment area and impact on lake water levels. Trigger levels to open the entrance are currently read from the downstream lake level gauge opposite Holiday Haven Tourist Park. By the time flood waters begin registering on this gauge, low lying properties and businesses in Edwin Avenue, Milham Street, Garrad Way, Aney Street, Entrance Road and Carroll Avenue are already underwater. It is worth noting that the November 2023 flood rose twice as fast as the February 2020 event – 200mm per hour v 100mm per hour. Ocean tide heights did not interfere with or prevent the outflow of flood waters.

### **C. Council Rates Variation - Diana**

Diana passed around a copy of a factsheet containing analysis prepared by a group of local finance professionals in the Shoalhaven LGA, opposing Council's application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 44%. She noted that some other local Community Consultative Bodies (CCBs) have written to Council stating that they would not support rate rises and that efficiencies which can be implemented immediately should be the first priority, and that failing that, those CCBs would make their own submission to IPART.

During discussion, Patricia White confirmed that she and some of her fellow councillors were working through suggestions for efficiencies that Council could implement. She also noted that installing an Administrator, answerable to no one, is not necessarily a good solution; noting very large rate increases made by the Wingecarribee administrator in the Southern Highlands.

**Resolved** – that the CCA would send out an update to local Facebook pages the following day suggesting that residents write to Council/Councillors stating any personal objection and including their name and residential address to carry more weight.

**January post-meeting update** – Following huge email opposition, attendance and hours of discussion at the Council meeting of 29 January 2024, Shoalhaven Council resolved not to proceed with their application to IPART for a Special Rates Variation. They resolved instead to pursue “a range of workshops to improve efficiencies, asset management planning practices and increase revenue through immediate sales of underperforming assets, fees and charges as advised by AEC and establish a financial advisory committee to maintain priority over financial sustainability”. This is quoted per Council’s media release of 31 January 2024.

## **D. Conjola Improvements update – Diana, Dirk**

Because the CCRA funding has been a controversial topic for the last 4 years, coupled with comments from attendees in the January 2024 meeting that the CCA is a “closed shop” and does not communicate well to its members, we have taken that to heart. We agree a link to the CCA minutes has not been posted to the CCA Facebook page since a changeover of the committee, but it has always been sent to CCA members and posted to the CCA website page (those who commented were not on the email list).

Detailed minutes have been written so that people could follow what is happening with the CCRA funding and the CCA has repeatedly asked for feedback over the last year. If you are a local resident who has not requested to be on the CCA email list and has not seen updates to now, please note that the prior 2 CCA meeting minutes regarding the CCRA funds are included below in italics. If you are up to date, feel free to skip straight to the January 2024 update.

## **RESTATEMENT OF JUNE 2023 CCA MINUTES (re Jetty & Conjola Improvements)**

### ***C. Jetty and Kayak launch Conjola Park***

*Diana provided an update on this project. Council received \$615K from the Australian Government under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program to fund proposed improvements to the Conjola Park foreshore at Yooralla Bay.*

*Council held a community survey in April/ May this year re a replacement jetty and new kayak launch. Survey responses showed 95% support from residents for a new jetty and 90% support for the new kayak launch. The project is to be completed in 2 stages: the jetty received the highest priority to be Stage 1 with the kayak launch as Stage 2.*

*The project also includes a pathway from Valley Drive to the jetty and continuing to the kayak launch location (which will also include an additional foreshore seat). As this part of the project received a high level of support in the Conjola Improvements Survey results, some of the \$370K donor funding received will be directed to completion of the pathway component of this project.*

### ***D. Conjola Improvements Survey results – use of \$370K donor funding***

*Diana provided an update on the survey and discussions. The most recent survey results regarding the use of donor funding were updated to the Get Involved page on 1 June 2023. The Survey asked respondents to select from a list of 9 Priority projects. The top three results were:*

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

1. Accessible toilet (65%)
2. New pathway from Yooralla Bay Boat Ramp (Valley Drive to Cottee Close, via Hoylake Grove Reserve) (55%)
3. Additional picnic shelter with seating (41%).

The highest result of all items in the survey was **88% support for a bike path (Shared User Path), on a supplementary question** included by request of the CCA Subcommittee formed at the Jan 2023 CCA meeting. What also came through strongly in the survey comments was a) **Fishermans Paradise request for an extension of the bike path** (this was raised to Council by the CCA for consideration in the PAMP) and b) request for **further bushfire preparation measures**.

The CCA has had several meetings to discuss the results with Council, with Dirk also representing the ex-CCRA committee and liaising with donors to ensure donor funding wishes are aligned. Dirk confirms that the wishes of the donors are for enduring items that serve residents and support community resilience.

<b>PRIORITY ranking</b>	<b>DONOR FUNDING PRIORITY ITEMS</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>
1	Shared User Path (88%)	UNFUNDED BY COUNCIL AS ABOVE in 23/24 budget. To commence the initial design work, it needs \$50K
2	Accessible toilet (65%)	The CCA suggested the toilet needs to be funded by Council. Recent improvements to Hoylake Grove – the playground upgrade, picnic shelter, BBQ, children’s path, and upcoming jetty and kayak project – may make the park eligible for a Council funded toilet if Hoylake Grove is redesignated from a “local” to a “district” park (in Council terms). Council has not given a commitment to providing this facility but see that demand is there and the changing nature of the park supports greater usage. July update – requested Portaloo in interim.
3	New pathway from Yooralla Bay Boat Ramp (Valley Drive to Cottee Close, via Hoylake Grove Reserve) (55%)	Donor funding should be applied to this pathway project, which is part of the Jetty and Kayak Launch project. The CCA is awaiting an update on the estimated jetty and kayak launch project

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

		<i>costs, to determine how much money may be needed.</i>
4	<i>Additional picnic shelter with seating (41%).</i>	<i>The CCA noted to Council that a picnic shelter with BBQ and seating has already been delivered at Hoylake Grove and that lack of water impedes its usage (and ability to determine if another shelter is well placed here). Council's response was 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.</i>
5	<i>Basketball court (24%)</i>	<i>This use of funding was a donor request from Granville Boys High. 19K in funding has been approved for design works.</i>

*The remaining five projects are: Additional play equipment (24%); Memorial Garden (22%); Water bubbler and interpretive signage (19%); Exercise equipment (13%); and Mural to pumping station (4%). These are unlikely to be delivered via the donor funding, however there is a small area mapped out at Hoylake Grove already for the garden, which is only missing plants.*

*The CCA has discussed with Council that a "seed funding" approach is an effective way to make donor monies go further. Seed funding means that a small amount of funding is used to complete initial investigations. Once shovel ready, Council can apply for grants to complete the projects. Communication between the CCA and Council is ongoing, and the community is welcome to provide further feedback. See **Appendix B & C** Update and Feedback details at the end of these minutes.*

## **RESTATEMENT OF OCTOBER 2023 CCA MINUTES (re jetty and Conjola Improvements)**

*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).*

*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.*

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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*

<b>Restated PRIORITY ranking</b>	<b>PRIORITY ITEMS (&amp; engagement survey result %)</b>	<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<b>SUGGESTED SPEND (from 383K)</b>
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 <b>308K</b> of donor funds to complete Stage 1, <b>with conditions suggested.</b>
2*	Stage 2) Kayak launch and path from Hoylake to kayak launch (90%)	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 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 <b>50K</b> 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)



## CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

6	<i>Additional picnic shelter with seating (41%).</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>Insufficient funds. Priority for future grant funding, ideally with a lockable component to include emergency equipment.</i>
7	<i>Basketball court (24%)</i>	<i>This use of funding was a donor request from Granville Boys High School (GBHS).</i>	<i>CCA agreed <b>18.5K</b> of GBHS funds to this project.</i>
<b>CCA suggested allocation of funds to 3 priority items totalling [308K+50K + 18.5K], with conditions to be made as below.</b>			<b>TOTAL: \$376.5K / 383K RESIDUAL : APPROX 6.5K</b>

*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.*

### **October 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:
 
  - 1. 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.*

### **JANUARY 2024 CCA UPDATE (re jetty and Conjola Improvements)**

Diana provided an update regarding the Notice of Motion (NoM) that was tabled as above in bold by Councillor White, first on 6 November, and when it did not proceed to a Council vote, was re-tabled by Councillor White on 27 November. The CCA and CCRA Interim Executive again made a deputation in favour of the NoM on 27 November 2023. In this meeting it was approved (by 6 Councillors to 5) to direct CCRA funding money to the jetty, tied to the conditions attached for Council to prioritise additional funding for Conjola Park and the Conjola area.

These conditions require Council to follow through on sourcing additional government grant funding for the Conjola area that will cost far more (into the millions) than the original CCRA funding allowed. Due to state regulations, even a Council toilet block costs well in excess of \$400K, and the CCA was advised that the list for public toilet blocks in the Shoalhaven region would take 20 years to complete.

#### **Qns from floor:**

- 1) Why was information not disseminated to the community about the decision to support jetty funding after the October meeting and before the November Council meeting?**

The decision was made at the CCA community meeting on 11 October, agreed to by all 29 people present and also with CCA subcommittees. Post meeting – it was not clear that the CCA would be able to make everything agreed at the meeting happen in time. We were advised firstly that the NoM needed to be included on the 30 October Council meeting agenda and Council staff separately advised that they needed CCRA funding approval ASAP for the jetty replacement works. We were then not able to reach Councillor White to register a Notice of Motion for more than 3 weeks after the meeting, as she was involved in another urgent project. We were later advised that it was up to the Council to publicly communicate that they had insufficient money for the jetty project, not the CCA.

After Councillor objections on 6 November led to the NoM not progressing to a vote, an urgent meeting was then held by Council to update all Councillors on the history of the CCRA funding. We again made a CCRA/CCA deputation on the 27 November, at which point a previous CCRA member (who was in the October CCA meeting), put forth a deputation opposing the motion.

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Because debates over spending the CCRA funding have been contentious over the last 4 years, the only possible route for the CCA and CCRA Interim Executive to achieve a result that would meet community expectations has been to adhere to the results of the two Engagement Surveys conducted by Council throughout 2023; the first on the Hoylake Grove suggestions (9 items plus the Shared User Pathway between villages) and the Council's Jetty and Kayak launch Engagement survey (in April/May 2023) . The jetty received the highest response of any other engagement items at 95%.

## 2) Why is the CCA and CCRA Interim Executive rewarding Council by providing funding for the jetty replacement, instead of letting them deal with it?

Firstly, the CCA and CCRA Interim Executive believe that the replacement jetty is something that Conjola Park residents want, based on survey responses. In our 27 November deputations to Council, Dirk also noted that the jetty was listed as a priority item for funding by the previous CCRA President and Diana noted that the current jetty is now unusable (see presentation excerpt below). Without this support, the jetty replacement would not be able to progress.

## Conjola Park Jetty – current state

The jetty has been deteriorating and is now unusable. As a one-road-in, one-road-out community, this infrastructure is vital to provide a safe option for exit by water.



November 2023 – CCA Support for Notice of Motion CL23.419 7

Secondly, support for the jetty was tied to Councillors making a commitment to support further grant funding for the toilet block, the Shared User Pathway and progressing an update on the status of the Havilland Boat ramp and roadworks. We believed this was a win /win for local residents, allowing the CCA to leverage Council support to progress the pathway and toilet block, the other 2 highest engagement results. We could only otherwise commit to one project, and the next highest approval project, the pathway, requires far greater \$ than the CCRA funding provides.

## 3) The jetty survey did not include the same large number of responses received by the Hoylake Grove/CCRA survey, so why is this survey valid?

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CCA and CCRA Interim Executive representatives held numerous meetings with Council staff throughout 2023 and questioned them in detail about survey responses. In those meetings, the CCA was told that there were 174 responses received on the Hoylake Grove Survey and 38 on the Jetty Survey. The difference was, as Council advised, that the Jetty Survey only targeted residents in Conjola Park (letterboxing the local area), while the Hoylake Grove/CCRA Funding survey went out to the whole of the CCA catchment area – Lake Conjola, Conjola Park, Fishermans Paradise and beyond. From Council’s perspective, the responses received regarding the jetty (and the 95% positive response in favour of it) was an entirely appropriate level of response indicating local approval (and at a very high level). This was advised to the CCA months before Council became aware of a funding shortfall for the project.

**4) Will the CCRA lose their money, along with the 200K Council stated that they had already spent, if the project is not completed by the grant funding body’s end of March 2024 deadline?**

No, the CCA was advised by Council that substantial commencement was sufficient for grant funding to be retained by Council and that signing off the funds by early December 2023 would ensure this was achieved.

**5) Will the CCRA be required to spend any additional moneys for the jetty?**

No, the CCA was advised that the additional money required by Council to complete the jetty included a contingency amount that would be returned to the CCRA funding pool held in trust by Council, if not required.

Debate then continued throughout the January meeting about whether the CCA and CCRA Interim Executive had done the right thing, including issues raised regarding the previous CCRA committee, which Dirk as CCRA Interim Executive attempted to address, including providing a draft copy of the final CCRA meeting (that was not finalised). The Secretary eventually commented that she thought it was inappropriate for the ex-CCRA member to have made a deputation opposing the NoM because they lived outside the CCA area (i.e would not be impacted by the loss of proposed infrastructure). At this point, the 2 people raising concerns left the CCA meeting. The Secretary withdraws this remark – everyone is entitled to make deputations to Council on any issue they wish, particularly those who did so much to support original fundraising efforts, regardless of where they live.

**Resolved** that matters relating to the previous CCRA committee meetings, minutes and issues have no place in current CCA meetings. The CCA and CCRA Interim Executive acted in good faith to apply the CCRA funds towards the greatest community benefit (as registered by the 2023 engagement surveys) alongside the requirement of CCRA donors for “enduring items that serve residents and support community resilience”. We understand that not everyone will agree and people are entitled to make complaints about current issues. Members of the CCA agreed that they would all rather step down than create further division in the community.

## **E. Rescue Station Updates - Mel**

Mel provided an update that she was intending to apply for a local Community Grant of \$5000 for the purpose of installing a Rescue Station at the end of the Boardwalk at Conjola Beach. Patti Bartlett from Manyana raised funds through a book she wrote called Five Villages and the proceeds from the sale of that book have now installed 7 rescue stations on the Manyana side. We desperately need one on our side of the lake.

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Patti has provided all the costings, and to install a rescue station with a defibrillator and 2 rescue tubes will cost approx \$4250. If successful, the remainder of the grant funding will go towards installing a defibrillator at Hoylake Park in Conjola Park as the actual defibrillator has been gifted to the community by Treading Lightly but we need to pay for the cost to install/signage etc.

We are hoping to one day obtain enough funds to install a second rescue station at Buckleys Beach.

## **F. Fishermans Paradise updates - Donna / Stan**

Donna Loon provided an update re a Fishermans Paradise community meeting scheduled for Saturday 20 January 2024. The meeting is to prioritise resident ideas for village improvements and upgrades. An online survey has also received suggestions including an upgraded playground, a safe meeting place for emergencies, toilets at the park and better management of the swampland near the boardwalk.

Donna also raised sediment and erosion concerns at the SEP1 Wetland lagoon which appear related to the re-development site at the end of Anglers Parade, with some residents noting that they saw sediment drained from the re-development site on 21 December 2023 leading to the emergence of a sediment plume in the lagoon. A video taken on 15 January showed a visible plume (despite minimal recent rain). Council engineers inspected the site on 15 January and advised that “we have determined that the development has not reached any environmental concerns”. Councillor White indicated that she was not satisfied with this initial review and was awaiting a further report. Councillor White subsequently advised that Council Environmental Staff reviewed the state of the SEP1 Wetland Lagoon and determined that conditions within the Commonwealth Act which the DA refers to were broken. Developers and contractors were issued with Clean Up notices on 1 Feb and given 14 days to complete. Extra measures were also to be put in place to protect the lagoon. Environmental staff will monitor closely. We are awaiting an update.

## **G. Website update - Lynne**

The CCA website needs updating to include a section for Fishermans Paradise. A local Fishermans Paradise resident has kindly been working with the CCA to help make updates. The CCA acknowledges that the website needs an update to be able to make quick changes and communicate more effectively with local residents. We welcome the support provided to date and works continue.

## **H. General Business**

**There being no further business, the meeting officially closed at 10:30 pm**

We reiterate that 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 membership / mailing list so that you can receive meeting updates and minutes to your email. See **Appendix A and B for contact details**

## **Nomination for the CCA Executive /Committee**

If you would like to nominate for any positions on the CCA at the April AGM, please send your nomination (your name and the position nominating for) to [conjola.community@lakeconjola.org](mailto:conjola.community@lakeconjola.org)

# CONJOLA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

You simply need to be a resident or ratepayer within the CCA catchment area (map is on CCA website and shown below) and a member of the CCA. Nominations must be emailed to the CCA at least 7 days before the date of the annual general meeting.

## Conjola Community Association Area Map



## **New Meeting Rules**

The CCA Committee notes that new rules will be voted on at the next meeting to limit audience commentary to 2 minutes with audience approval required to extend speaking time. A vote will also be taken to request that items raised to the agenda by audience members under General Business are limited to 5 minutes with audience approval to extend. These rule changes are intended to ensure that meetings do not regularly run over 2 hours (without a majority of members approving continuance).

---

**Next meeting - Annual General Meeting followed by Ordinary meeting – 7pm Wednesday 8 May 2024, Conjola Community Centre**

## Appendix A – 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 B – 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](mailto:conjola.community@lakeconjola.org) on any local matter including Conjola Improvements OR
- **Council** via email at [council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au) This will be forwarded to appropriate team and generate a Customer Contact Request number.