

# COOLUM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### CRA General Meeting

Current and prospective new members are invited to attend the general meeting which will be held at **5pm Thursday 5 December in the small conference room upstairs at the Coolum Beach Surf Club.** Please note the changed date and venue for the meeting.

The meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting are provided as attachments at the end of this newsletter. We are hopeful of having a presentation on the SCRC/State Government/UnityWater “Blue Heart” initiative at the meeting. Members are invited to socialize at the surf club after the meeting.

### Update on Activities

#### Nambour to Coolum (N2C) Trail

On 14<sup>th</sup> November representatives from CRA on the N2C Joint Working Group joined with their colleagues to meet with Council Officers out at the Blue Heart project shed on River Road. Council Officers were able to inform the Group that:

- With funding coming available from the \$35M Blue Heart Cities Deal, Council is moving as quickly as possible to commission design, then hopefully construction of the Trail from Coolum to the Blue Heart;



- The initial destination is proposed to be a new Blue Heart Regional Park on the banks of Maroochy River adjacent to the already established Yandina Creek Bird Hide on River Rd. Council already owns the site for the park and design is under way.

- The land over which the new Stage 1 of the N2C Trail from Coolum traverses to the park has already been purchased by Council. The Group were able to walk part of the proposed route, and were excited to see samples of the varied vegetation and terrain it will cross including along parts of the old cane train right of way. There are birds and wildlife aplenty. It is very scenic!
- Council Officers are also very interested in exploring the potential for an associated Blue Heart Canoe Trail on the very picturesque waterways which meander through the site.



As the Coolum end of the Trail progresses, the immediate focus of the JWG will now shift particularly to seeking funding for the design and construction of the Nambour end of the Trail. This section of the Trail is proposed to exit Nambour from Quota Park along Petrie Creek.

CRA representatives are excited that this N2C Trail, which is expected to take several years to complete, has the potential to be a major tourist drawcard for our Region as well as a first class recreation facility for locals. There is the potential for tourist industry to build around the Trail and associated world leading Blue Heart. Blue Heart is also focussed on stimulating a region-wide carbon capture initiative.

A Council officer will give a brief presentation about the Blue Heart at the 5 December CRA meeting. Finally, many thanks to our local Division 9 Councillor Maria Suarez for her invaluable help in getting Council to actively pursue this great initiative!

## Community Art Trail

The Community Art and Recreation sub-committee is putting together a community photo exhibition called ***Then & Now*** to be temporarily housed in the glass cabinets located in the alleyway between Yum Gelato and Heirloom cafe. The body corporate is supportive and keen to see the alleyway rejuvenated.

On Saturday 23 November between 2 and 3pm we'll hold a "scanning event" at the above location. Locals can come along with their 'past' photos of Coolum to be digitised. These will be displayed together with a current photo of the same location with appropriate info regarding location and approximate date. We've put posters around Coolum regarding this event. Locals can also email their photos to: [Coolumartproject@gmail.com](mailto:Coolumartproject@gmail.com)

The project team has already held a working bee to clean and prepare the space. We've been offered potential financial support for printing/equipment etc from SCC. The launch will be mid-December and stay up for a few months. One of our team was interviewed on ABC Sunshine Coast morning radio about the project. Moving forward we plan to see the space used to showcase emerging local artists.

## Coolum Connections (Jack Morgan Park)

This is a council initiative to identify and implement improvements to Jack Morgan Park (the large park adjacent to the Coolum library). Council's budget for the project is \$450,000.

John Fuller and Mark Bizzell represented CRA at a community workshop on Friday 11 October. The workshop was also attended by Cr. Suarez, two Council officers and representatives from the Women's Shed, Coolum Business and Tourism Assoc., and a local landscape architect. The workshop identified the following key community priorities to inform design investigations:

1. Improve pedestrian experience and wayfinding from the esplanade through to Jack Morgan Park ("the heart")
2. Improvements to Park Street, this may include lighting, tree upgrades, and street furniture upgrades
3. Investigate connecting Jack Morgan Park through to David Low Way and consult with relevant property/business owners (e.g. Alley Cat)
4. Investigate a storage solution for Jack Morgan Park to assist community events (e.g. half /3m long shipping container to store chairs, tables etc.)
5. Investigate options for external projection onto the Civic Centre wall including hiring/lease options (potential collaboration with community to create/manage content) noting Council is unlikely to be able to take on ownership of a projector due to maintenance requirements.
6. Investigate planting more shade trees in Jack Morgan Park.

Other ideas included:

7. Enabling temporary closure of part or full length of Park Street for events
8. Introduce elements that improve night activation to draw people into the area and spend time there (lighting etc.)
9. Provide or allow access to surfaces so that local artists can create street art
10. A community run pop up cinema at the Civic Centre in collaboration with Sunny Coast Screen Collective (a storage container to store deck chairs would make this easier)



11. Potential to seek community grants for elements that demonstrate high impact community benefit
12. Relocation of bus shelter on David Low Way inhibiting entrance to laneway.

Council officers proposed to provide an update to the group on the outcomes of the above investigations and initial concepts in November. Proposed outcomes will then be shared with the broader community by way of signage placed on site, with opportunity for feedback on key aspects in December.

## **Mt Coolum National Park – Public Facilities Upgrade**

Previous advice I (in July) was that preliminary design options and cost estimated had been completed, and that this information was being considered by Council and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), with further investigation and funding required to support subsequent assessments, planning, detailed design, permits and construction of the preferred option, in relation to both the amenities building and car park.

CRA has sought advice on the current status of this project. Cr Taylor Bunnag (Division 8) advised that there was no further progress that could be announced publicly but that the issues are closer to resolution. CRA remains hopeful that the funding and delivery arrangements will be announced in the near future.

## **Pedestrian Safety and Amenity**

CRA is focussing on the following 2 key projects now, and the Pedestrian Amenity and Safety sub-committee is working to identify a limited number of other priority projects.

### **Safe pedestrian access along Coolum Terrace**

As previously advised, CRA has been advocating for safe pedestrian access along Pacific and Coolum Terraces for more than 2 years. The chair of CRA's Pedestrian Amenity and Safety sub-committee wrote to the Mayor and CEO of SCC in late July emphasizing the safety problems and lack of response. The only response was an acknowledgement of correspondence from the mayor's office.

CRA has sharpened its focus onto the higher priority issue which is the provision of safe pedestrian access along the western side of Coolum Terrace between Beach Road and Scrub Road. On 4 November CRA wrote formally to the CEO SCRC emphasizing the safety issues and the need for action. The letter was cc'd to Cr Suarez with a request that she strongly support the necessary improvements within the Council work program and budget process. We hope Council will respond positively. If not, some more concerted community action may be required.

### **Street Trees along Elizabeth Street bowls club frontage**

CRA member John Fuller initially raised the issue of the gap in street trees along the bowls club frontage to Elizabeth Street with Council and the bowls club who were initially supportive of new street trees. Council officers have advised that the bowls club is no longer supportive due to potential impacts on the greens. In early November CRA wrote to the president of the bowls club pointing out the shade and general amenity benefits, and seeking their in-principle support for 4m high native species that would not impact the bowls club. CRA acknowledged that the bowls club should have a major role in deciding species and planting locations.

## Lows Lookout Pathway

On 13th November CRA representatives Ray Barber, John Fuller and Tony Philbrick joined local Councillor and Deputy Mayor Maria Suarez for the official opening of the Lows Lookout Pathway. The pathway runs through the tree lined undergrowth on the eastern side of Grandview Drive from Scrub Road to the lookout.



The completed works have managed to very effectively capture the essence of the local environment whilst providing a safe pedestrian pathway beside what was a quite dangerous, but popular walking route up to the Lookout. If you haven't seen it – then go take a look!

The next Stage 2 of the Project is to finalise the top of the Pathway up into the Lookout proper. Then Stage 3 is proposed to involve a place making redesign of Lows Lookout. Cr Suarez advises that these further Stages are not yet funded – so CRA will need to lobby for their inclusion in future Council Budgets.

This project was initiated by CRA in consultation with our popular Division 9 Councillor Suarez and is a very worthwhile addition to our local pathways network.

## Your State Representatives

Congratulations to our local State representatives Dan Purdie (Ninderry) and Fiona Simpson (Maroochydore) for their success in the recent State government elections. Dan was appointed the Minister for Polica and Emergency Services. Fiona was appointed the Minister for Women and Women's

Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism

Their local contact details are provided below.

### Dan Purdie MP

Represents the electorate of Ninderry which was created following a redistribution of electoral boundaries in 2017. Ninderry stretches from North Buderim to Eumundi and includes Coolum Beach.

**Electorate Office:** 11 Heathfield Road, Coolum Beach QLD 4573

**Postal Address:** PO Box 989, Coolum QLD 4573

**Phone:** (07) 5406 7900

**Email:** [ninderry@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ninderry@parliament.qld.gov.au)

### Fiona Simpson MP

Represents the electorate of Maroochydore which includes the coastal areas from Point Arkwright to the Mooloolah River and includes Point Arkwright, Yaroomba and Mount Coolum.

**Electorate Office:** 1B, 148 Horton Parade, Maroochydore QLD 4558

**Phone:** 07 5406 7100

**Email:** [maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:maroochydore@parliament.qld.gov.au)

## Your Local Councillors

### Cr Taylor Bunnag

Represents Division 8 comprising Coolum Beach (southern part), Marcoola, Maroochydore, Mount Coolum, Mudjimba, Pacific Paradise, Point Arkwright, Twin Waters, Yaroomba

**Phone:** 5475 9860

**Mobile:** 0448 131 425

**Email:** [Taylor.Bunnag@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:Taylor.Bunnag@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

### Cr Maria Suarez

Deputy Mayor and represents Division 9 comprising Bli Bli, Coolum Beach (central and northern part), Doonan, Marcoola, Maroochy River, Mount Coolum, Pacific Paradise, Peregrine Beach, Peregrine Springs, Valdora, Verrierdale, Weyba Downs, Yandina Creek.

**Phone:** 5475 9810

**Mobile:** 0437 794 703

**Email:** [Maria.Suarez@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:Maria.Suarez@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Alternatively, any of the Sunshine Coast councillors can be contacted using the online form:

[Contact your local Councillor](#)

## Service Requests to Sunshine Coast Council

Sunshine Coast Council has an app which enables users to make service requests. You can download the app by searching for Sunshine Coast Council in your phone's app store (called Play Store on my Android phone). Alternatively, you can set up a "My Council" account on the SCC website (requires an email

address and a password). When you log in, a dashboard screen opens which includes a Service Requests option. The latter method is probably better as it will maintain a record of all of your requests.

### **CRA Supporters**

Please remember the local businesses that provide financial sponsorship to CRA - **Quality First Constructions** (Coolum industrial estate) and **Barber Porter Solicitors** (Heathfield Road). We are also pleased to welcome **Mitre 10 Hardware** (William Street) as a sponsor. This continues a long relationship with Mitre 10 who used to advertise on our map/advertising board.

## **COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC**

**Agenda for General Meeting at 5pm, Thursday 5 December 2024 at Coolum Beach Surf Club,  
David Low Way, Coolum Beach**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Sub-committee and Project updates
  - a. Active Transport sub-committee
  - b. Community Art and Recreation sub-committee
  - c. Pedestrian Amenity and Safety sub-committee
  - d. Other projects
4. Other business
5. Next meeting
6. Blue Heart presentation



# COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

**29 August 2024 at the Coolum Croquet Club, Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach**

**Attendance:** Gary Lee, Richard Koerner, Ray Barber, Tony Philbrick, Richard Newport, Brian Raison, Pam Vagg, John Fuller, Fiona Hughes, Bronwyn Jackson, Margaret Lee, Jackie Seljak, Nicole White, John White, Jo Justo, Bernie Caffery, Mark Bizzell, Bill Evans.

A quorum being present, President Ray Barber declared the meeting open at 5.00pm. Copies of the meeting agenda and associated discussion notes were distributed. Minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed with the August newsletter.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Robyn Bishop, Angela Hatfield, Gary Byrne, Pat Byrne, Jim Moore.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Mark Bizzell moved that the minutes be accepted, Margaret Lee seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

### **3. Project Updates**

Gary Lee said the August newsletter provided project updates, and asked if there were any further updates since the newsletter. There were none. The meeting noted the project updates in the newsletter.

### **4. Organisational Changes for discussion**

Ray asked Gary to outline the changes proposed by the management committee. Gary quickly outlined the proposed changes and rationales as described in the discussion notes distributed at the meeting (in italics):

#### ***a. Discontinue the Advisory Group***

*The Advisory Group was formed at a time that CRA did not have a clear view of its role and priorities. It was especially useful in determining the priority projects which have been our focus for the last couple of years. Since that initial burst of activity the group has been little used, one of the group members is no longer a member of CRA, the management committee can seek advice from members on an ad hoc basis (perhaps the first port of call would be the chairs of the proposed sub-committees), and members of the Advisory Group can participate in specific projects in which they have an interest through participating in one of the proposed sub-committees (see below).*

#### ***b. Formalise the Sub-committee arrangements***

*The management committee thinks it would be useful to have a small number of formal sub-committees with responsibility for progressing specific projects. Each of the sub-committees would have a Chair with an additional 2 or 3 members. It is really just formalising the arrangements currently in place, but the committee thinks it might allow for broader participation of members, better continuity in following up on projects, and enable people to focus on the matters of greatest interest to them. Our suggested sub-committees, associated projects and chairs/members (at the general meeting we will seek interest from members in participating in these s/c's).*

- *Active Transport - Chair Tony/Fiona? - N2C active transport trail, following up previous active transport proposals with SCC.*
- *Community Art and Recreation - Chair John Fuller? - community art projects like 'The Gully', local parks and recreation proposals/issues.*
- *Pedestrian Safety and Amenity - Chair Bernie Caffery? - footpath and pedestrian crossing issues.*

The meeting discussed these at some length. Pam Vagg moved a motion that the Advisory Group be discontinued and that the proposed formalization of sub-committees with responsibilities generally as outlined above be approved. Bronwyn Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Further discussion ensued about the make-up of the sub-committees with the outcome as follows:

- Active Transport sub-committee – Co-chairs: Tony Philbrick/Fiona Hughes – Members: Richard Newport, John Fuller.
- Community Art and Recreation sub-committee - Chair John Fuller – Members: Angela Hatfield (nominated in her absence), Richard Newport, Nicole White, Jackie Seljak.
- Pedestrian Safety and Amenity sub-committee - Chair Bernie Caffery – Members: Bronwyn Jackson, Bill Evans, Stephen Mawn, Michael Caffrey.

Gary asked if members would object to him providing their contact details to the sub-committee chairs. Members agreed to this.

### ***c. Protocol for high-level correspondence***

The management committee was concerned that it may not be aware of some high level correspondence being sent under the CRA banner. This could cause difficulties in knowing how to respond to incoming correspondence, and just generally in having an overview of CRA activities. Obviously we don't want to interfere or hamper day-to-day activities so we suggest the following types of correspondence should be sent by either the secretary or president from the CRA email address (but drafted by the initiating member):

- Correspondence initiating a project (in which we would specify the appropriate CRA contact for further communication).
- Correspondence to a Minister, Mayor or CEO of Council or a government department (for example raising concerns about a lack of responsiveness at lower levels of an organisation).

Following some discussion, the meeting resolved to adopt the recommended correspondence protocol.

## **5. Other Business**

### ***a. Membership and finance update***

Pam Vagg advised that CRA currently has 36 members including 1 life member and has recently welcomed 4 new members. There is currently \$4250.75 in the CRA bank account.

### ***b. Meetings Venue***

In response to a request for sponsorship, Coolum Beach SLSC has offered to host our 4 meetings each year in its small meeting room at no charge. The croquet club is a good venue, but there are a number of matters to consider including the following:

1. Would save \$120pa venue costs, and CRA costs of refreshments after meetings (approx. \$150pa) (although members would have to buy own drinks at the surf club). Would also save time and effort of purchasing and providing refreshments. These total savings of \$270 are a significant portion of members annual fees of \$350.
2. The surf club is centrally located, but maybe not as easy to park nearby.
3. The meeting room at the surf club is substantially larger and air-conditioned.
4. Reduction in support to local croquet club.

The meeting resolved to hold future meetings at the surf club, and to thank the Coolum Croquet and Gary and Pam Byrne in particular for the use and hospitality of the croquet club.

#### ***c. Connecting Coolum***

Mark Bizzell said that he, John Fuller and former CRA member Draghi Mastorevic are representing CRA at a community consultation workshop being conducted in early September by SCC's placemaking team to inform the planning and design of an upgrade to Jack Morgan Park. Council has approximately \$350k available, a key part of the existing masterplan is an harbour structure along the pedestrian path. Mark is proposing that the harbour be provided in sections interspersed with natural tree planting along the path. Mark asked for further suggestions from the meeting which were: provision of sculpture artworks, soft fall play area for younger kids, water play area (fountains etc not a pool), water bottle refill station, more natural shaded seating areas, a recognizable planting theme similar to the paperbarks along the timber walkway.

#### ***d. Jo Justo***

Ray thanked Jo Justo for attending the meeting and asked if she would like to address the meeting. Jo said she is the Labor party candidate for the State seat of Ninderry. She is a long-term local now living in Maroochy River but previously in Coolum. She had previously met with Tony, John and Fiona and supports the N2C project, among many other things she can see the region needs. Her background includes 30 years as a union official/advocate primarily with the Federated Clerks Union. Jo expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak to the meeting.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 5pm at the Coolum Beach surf club. Gary will confirm the venue and include in local newspaper notice and CRA newsletter.

There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 5.45pm.