

COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

24 March 2025 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club

Attendance: Gary Lee, Ray Barber, Richard Newport, Brian Raison, John Fuller, Bronwyn Jackson, John White, Mark Bizzell, Bill Evans, Pam Vagg, Jackie Seljak, Nicole White.

A quorum being present, President Ray Barber declared the meeting open at 5.00pm. Meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed with the February newsletter.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Lee, Maria Suarez, Taylor Bunnag, Peter Brown, Joan Brown, Bernie Caffrey, Ian Vagg, Tony Philbrick, Fiona Hughes.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mark Bizzell moved that the minutes be accepted, Bill Evans seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

3. Sub-committee and Project Updates

a. Active Transport (N2C) – John Fuller

John reminded the meeting that CRA had been instrumental in getting this project moving and was represented on the 14-member Joint Working Group. Current focus is seeking funding – hopeful that the access between Coolum and the Blur Heart should be delivered within about 2 years.

b. Community Art and Recreation – John Fuller

Two new arts projects were launched on 21 March in the laneway between Heirloom café and the gelati shop. Approximately \$400 was raised at the launch to support the arts projects.

The Significant Tree Project is expected to run for 4 months or so and will involve liaison with a number of local groups such as Clayden enabling local residents to identify trees that are significant to them and why.

The Like a Vision exhibition combines local artwork with associated music and is on display in the laneway for 4-6 weeks. Of the 10 local artists displayed, 3 are local high school students which is very pleasing.

c. Pedestrian Amenity and Safety

Walkable Coolum Beach verges (Ray Barber)

Bernie Caffrey and Ray Barber undertook a walk around inspection of the western verge of Coolum Terrace with Maria Suarez and Council's engineer in February resulted in plan A (do nothing) and plans B (minimal reprofiling and returfing) and C (works within the road reserve with potential impacts on parking). Council's engineer is researching the latter two plans. CRA raised the following points during the inspection:

1. 18 apartments and 32 houses on Coolum Terrace's high side deserve walkable verges to beach and all services.
2. Walking on the road, as occurs, is clearly unsafe.
3. Issues: side slope, undulations, driveway designs and overgrown vegetation.
4. Council's building rules do not extend to verges.

5. Council could create an officer charged with reforming Coolum's, followed by the Coast's, verges.

The following two projects list the priorities that have been provided to Maria Suarez to inform a proposed inspection tour of Coolum to be undertaken by Maria Suarez and the new CEO of SCC within the next month or so.

David Low Way Priorities for Pedestrian Safety (Bronwyn Jackson)

1. Reduced and monitored speed reduction to 40kmh, from the bus stop near Third Bay to Stumer's Creek.
2. A pedestrian refuge for safe access from the western side of David Low Way to beach paths, between Scrub Rd and Mona Vista Court. Suggestion- near 1672-1674 David Low Way. The recently installed refuge, near the bus stops, is mostly used by pedestrians using Scrub Rd. An extra one is urgently needed for residents and visitors accessing the beach path south to Mona Vista Court.
3. Review and increase of the 'Walk' frequency at the pedestrian lights near Tickle Park.
4. Extend the David Low Way median strip north to Hewitt St.
5. Upgrades to the pedestrian refuges used to access Lions and Norrie Job Park, similar to and in keeping with the refuge at the corner of David Low Way and Birtwill St, outside the Coolum Beach Hotel. An extended median strip and more refuges are needed to encourage and provide for pedestrians to access the park and beach paths further north to Ann St.
6. Improved amenity for vehicles parking near Lions and Norrie Job Park.

(Note: item 4 above was identified at the meeting and subsequently added to the list of priorities provided to Cr Suarez.)

Point Perry Concerns (Bronwyn Jackson)

1. No designated path for pedestrians on the southern side of the point.
2. Cars and bicycles speeding up and down the road.
3. No speed limit signs or traffic calming. Suggestion - 10kmh, painted on the road, not on extra signs.
4. Cars parking on and blocking the pedestrian crossing and the turn around zone.
5. Cars parking on yellow lines, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road, in the path of vehicles and cyclists.

Extra signage is not a solution, as it requires council staff to enforce. Preventative strategies eg removal of vehicles from the top of Point Perry, vegetation, rocks, bollards etc are the preferred option. A concept plan was also provided to illustrate a possible solution to these concerns.

d. First Bay Slope Stabilisation Project

Gary Lee gave a Powerpoint presentation summarizing CRA's actions and concerns regarding this project. Key points were:

- Initial request for design information to Maria Suarez on 23/1 with many subsequent follow-ups to Council.
- Limited information provided by SCC project manager on 20/2 including about seating/rest areas:

- existing funding does not facilitate enhancements... to project elements as the works are limited to the *approved scope*.
- Council will consider retrofitting street furniture in the future if additional funding becomes available
- CRA wrote to the CEO, SCC on 2/3 highlighting the following issues of concern (no response so far – cyclone Alfred?):
 - No consultation (how was the project scope determined?)
 - Lack of viewing/seating/rest areas
 - Physical separation from DLW and parking (if correct)
 - Difficulty in obtaining relevant information on design
 - Emphasising concerns relate to minor aspects of project
 - Requesting design review of only these aspects with community input.

Mark Bizzell expressed a view that it was very difficult for Council to consult on projects like this until they had a final design on which to base funding considerations and funding was in place. Other members disagreed with this view and said that CRA had acted quickly as soon as it became aware of design deficiencies, and further that if CRA had not made such enquiries we would still be completely unaware of the design proposals. Several members emphasized that there were no concerns with the major civil engineering aspects of the project, concerns related only to relatively minor "surface" aspects of the project.

The meeting endorsed the concerns and actions taken to date and agreed that CRA should follow-up with SCC if no response had been received within 6 weeks of the date of the letter to Council. The letter was sent on 2/3 so the cut-off date would be 13/4.

4. Other Business

a. Finance

Pam Vagg advised that the current CRA bank balance is \$4211.92, and that the former boardwalk committee has resolved to transfer their residual funds (approx. \$4000) to CRA. The Management Committee is proposing to put \$5-6k in a term deposit which should yield \$250-300pa at current rates. The meeting expressed support for this proposal.

b. Management Committee – Upcoming Vacancies

The management committee has previously expressed the need to refresh the committee. John Fuller will not stand for a position on the committee at the AGM, so there will be a vacant position of Vice-president that will need to be filled at the AGM in June.

Gary Lee confirmed that he will not stay as Secretary after the June 2026 AGM at latest. Secretary is a statutory position and the association can not function without one. CRA will need a new secretary to nominate and be elected at or before the June 2026 AGM.

Members are invited to nominate for either of these positions, or in fact for any of the positions on the management committee.

5. Next Meeting

Next meeting (AGM) will be on 5pm Thursday 5 June 2025 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club. There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 6.10pm.