

COOLUM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

CRA Annual General Meeting

Current and prospective new members are invited to attend the general meeting which will be held at **5pm Thursday 29 August** at the Coolum Croquet Club, 25 Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach.

The meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting (AGM) are provided as attachments at the end of this newsletter. Light refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

What have we been up to?

The table below provides a summary of our major activities over recent times. The June 2022 general meeting of members endorsed priority projects 1-6 which had been developed by the management committee and advisory group. Two additional priority projects (7 and 8) have since been added. The 8 priority projects and their current status are summarised below.

No	Project	Status
1	Active Transport Masterplan	<p>CRA made a detailed submission which was considered by SCC. Cr Maria Suarez advised our February 2023 meeting that council would not prepare a locality specific transport plan but that the issues raised would be addressed in a new local government wide Active Transport Plan. A “preliminary response” from Council on 13 March 2023 responded to some issues and indicated further investigation into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of the UnityWater corridor from Quanda Road to Ridges Boulevard• Use of existing drainage and park easements as an alternative link between Jack Morgan Park and Cinnamon Avenue• Link between primary school and sportsgrounds along Stumers Creek through the existing national park. <p>CRA is satisfied that the active transport opportunities and issues identified have been considered by SCC but needs to follow up on the 3 matters under investigation.</p>
2	Traffic/pedestrian issues at the primary school roundabout	<p>Works currently underway to signalise intersection. Although this is not the solution preferred by CRA, the decision has been made and no further action is required from CRA.</p>
3	Upgrade public amenities at Mt Coolum NP	<p>NPWS/SCC have completed preliminary design options for amenities building and new sealed car park. Construction cost estimates were higher than expected. This information is now being considered by NPWS/SCC. CRA has continued to advocate for this project with NPWS and SCC including Cr Bunnag. A more detailed update on this project is provided below.</p>

4	Extension of the median strip landscaping in David Low Way to Birtwill Street	August 2022 general meeting agreed to put this on the back burner for a while due to funding constraints and desire to focus on Norrie Job/Lions park. The management committee would like to push for this project again if sufficient interest can be found within the association members.
5	Upgrade Norrie Job/Lions (NJL) Park	CRA, along with Coolum Business and Tourism, strongly advocated for this project and contributed to the community consultation process. Design is complete, and Stage 1 construction works are currently underway. CRA to maintain watching brief only. A more detailed update on this project is provided below.
6	Upgrade Lows Lookout and provide a safe pedestrian access from Scrub Road	CRA strongly advocated for this project. Design is complete. Stage 1 (pedestrian path and steps linking Scrub Road and Grandview Drive) is currently under construction. CRA to maintain watching brief only.
7	Nambour to Coolum (N2C) active transport trail.	CRA has been actively promoting this project. SCC and State government fully support. A Joint Working Group has been established with CRA representation. CRA to continue to push for this project to be delivered before 2032 Olympics if possible. A more detailed update on this project is provided below.
8	Coolum Walkable Street Verge and Pathways	CRA has been advocating for safe pedestrian access along Pacific and Coolum Terraces. A more detailed update on this project is provided below.

Other Activities

Community Art project – CRA is working with SCC to investigate the potential for a new community art project in central Coolum Beach similar to “The Gully” art project which was very successful and delivered in the laneway adjacent to Domino’s Pizza.

Coolum Connections Project – CRA is participating in this SCC project to identify opportunities to improve active transport connectivity and local amenity in Coolum Beach.

Grandview Lane (GVL) access and safety issues - CRA has worked with the developer of Grandview Horizons and SCC for more than 18 months to try and achieve better outcomes for residents of GVL. For reasons explained in previous newsletters, we have had very limited success. CRA continues to liaise with Senior officers from SCC about the permanent fence design, and waste collection issues.

Detailed Project Updates

Nambour to Coolum Rail (N2C) Trail

CRA’s initiative to get the Nambour to Coolum (N2C) Trail constructed is making progress with a Joint Working Group (JWG) drawn together to work with council and identify opportunities for funding and advocacy. The JWG representatives are: Coolum Residents Association, Coolum Business & Tourism,

Nambour Chamber of Commerce, Yandina Community Association, Sunshine Coast 2032 Infrastructure, TMR/SCC Active Transport Advisory Committee, and Maroochy Farmers and Land Owners Association — more than one person in several cases. The JWG meets regularly and has had constructive meetings with Sunshine Coast Council including with Mayor Natoli and local Councillors Suarez (Div 9), Law (Div 10) and Bunnag (Div 8). Council (at the direction of the Mayor and Local Councillors) is expressing strong support for construction of the trail by 2032.

Following the most recent meeting with council, the officers are viewing the trail in three sections, Nambour to Rosemount, Rosemount to Bli Bli and Bli Bli to Coolum [through the Blue Heart]. Council will use some funding coming available soon from a Cities Deal allocation to Blue Heart to start planning the Coolum to Blue Heart leg of the Trail.

However, shortage of funding is a fundamental issue. Accordingly, the JWG is currently lobbying local State Government election candidates to try to obtain a State funding commitment in the run up to the October State Election. We are also exploring the possibilities of funding from a recently announced Federal Regional Precincts and Partnerships Programme which has already funded other Trail projects in regional areas. To assist with our lobbying Council has given us a letter confirming its support and indicating its preliminary estimate of funding needs as \$900,000 for detailed design and planning and \$40 million plus for delivery.

We urge all members of CRA to use their influence to help lobby the Local State Government candidates in the run up to October 26th to get their respective parties to commit funding to the N2C Trail. The JWG is also currently exploring possibilities to commission a short YouTube video which highlights possible Trail routes and showcase the project.

Norrie Job - Lions Park

CRA has actively participated in the consultation stages of this project. Construction of the first of 2 stages (commencing in 2024 and 2026 respectively) is currently underway. Stage 1 works will also be undertaken in 2 stages. The initial works comprises drainage works, landscape, civil, hydraulic and electrical works but not removal of existing amenities. These works began in May 2024.

SCC has engaged a contractor to design the new amenities buildings. Construction of the new amenities is expected to start before December 2024.

Mt Coolum NP – Upgraded Facilities

This has been a longstanding need which CRA has been actively pushing for more than 2 years. The most recent update provided by SCC to the office of Fiona Simpson MP on 12 July is as follows:

“Sunshine Coast Council has commissioned a consultant to complete preliminary design options for provision of an amenities building, new sealed car park and connection of services for the Mount Coolum Walking Trail. The study provides estimates of probable costs and layout of various options for the amenities building and car park.

This information is now 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.”

Previous advice from QPWS indicated that QPWS/SCC had selected a preferred option, and that planning and design would continue in the 2023/24 financial year with the proposed construction taking place in the 2024/25 financial year. Based on the latest advice it seems this timing may have slipped, but the project is progressing. Note: Since the foregoing update was written there have been reports in local media about the proposed upgrade to facilities which improves confidence about delivery intentions.

Coolum Walkable Street Verge and Pathways

CRA has been advocating for safe pedestrian access along Pacific and Coolum Terraces for more than 2 years. As outlined in the previous newsletter the matter has been bounced around between Council departments with no progress. Another email was sent to the relevant Council departments on the 6th April, to which there has been no response.

The chair of the Street Verge and Pedestrian Pathways Sub-Committee wrote to the Mayor and CEO of SCC in late July emphasizing the safety problems and lack of response, and requesting a site visit and rectification strategy. The letter acknowledged that it may not be feasible to address both terraces at once and identified Coolum Terrace as the first priority. To date only an acknowledgement response from the Mayor's office has been received.

Save the kangaroos

Division 8 Councillor Taylor Bunnag has launched a petition for the Palmer Coolum Resort to open a gate to reduce kangaroo deaths on local roads, after three kangaroos, including a female carrying a joey, were recently killed on David Low Way near the resort at Yaroomba. If opened, the gate would allow safe passage for wildlife between the east and west sides of David Low Way through an underpass that once connected both sides of the resort golf course. The link to the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/open-the-gate-for-the-roos>

Renewable Energy Workshops

Solar Citizens (a NSW/QLD based community organisation working to grow clean energy for all in Australia) has asked CRA to inform members about upcoming workshops that will provide "Sunny Coast Renewable Energy Leadership Training". At the workshops you will hear from experienced environment leaders, develop your media and spokespersons skills from Solar Citizens' Communications Director, and connect with the growing network of problem solvers committed to a clean energy future for Australia.

Power Up the Sunny Coast is a free 1-day workshop with 2 options:

- ☀ [Beerwah Meeting Place](#), Sat 24 Aug, 8:45am - 5pm
- ☀ [Maroochy Surf Club](#), Sun 25 Aug, 9:30am - 5:30pm

A wholesome lunch will be provided. [Register your spot](#) & tell your friends now to avoid missing out!

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

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

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).

COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

Agenda for General Meeting at 5pm, Thursday 29 August 2024 at Coolum Croquet Club, 25 Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Project updates
4. Organisational changes for discussion
 - a. Advisory Group
 - b. Sub-committees
 - c. Correspondence protocols
5. Other business
6. Next meeting

COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

30 May 2024 at the Coolum Croquet Club, Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach

Attendance: Gary Byrne, Patricia Byrne, Peter Brown, Joan Brown, Mark Bizzell, Gary Lee, Richard Koerner, Ray Barber, Tony Philbrick, Margaret Lee, Robin Bishop, Amy-Rose West, Brian Raison, Angela Hatfield, Pam Vagg, Mark Jones, Graham Simpson, Fiona Hughes, Lincoln Twine, Richard Newport, Jim Moore, Stephen Mawn.

A quorum being present, President Ray Barber declared the meeting open at 5.00pm. Copies of the meeting agenda and minutes of the previous AGM were distributed.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jackie Seljak, Bronwyn Jackson, John Fuller, Suellen Fuller, Ian Vagg.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Ray Barber moved that the minutes be accepted, Mark Bizzell seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

3. President's Report

Ray Barber presented a verbal report on the previous year's activities. The report is attached.

Ray concluded that it had been a very active and successful year for the CRA. The meeting endorsed Ray's remarks and noted the report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Pam Vagg presented the Treasurer's report. A small profit of \$233.72 was achieved over the financial year to 31 March 2024. The association had \$4197.78 in the bank as at 31 March. This has since increased to \$4294.43 due to receipt of membership fees. Pam moved that the report be accepted. Motion seconded by Margaret Lee. The motion was carried.

5. Update on Membership

Pam Vagg provided an update on membership. At the previous AGM members voted to introduce a \$10 annual membership fee. Up to the date of this meeting CRA had received membership fees from 28 persons giving a total active membership of 31 (including one life member). A list of active members was passed around at the meeting to enable attendees to verify their membership or suggest others who may not have received notifications. Pam will follow up on any of these.

6. Election of Officer Bearers

Ray Barber vacated the chair and asked Brian Raison to conduct the election of office bearers.

President: Ray Barber was nominated by Tony Philbrick, seconded by Richard Koerner. There being no other nominations, Ray Barber was duly elected President.

Vice-President: John Fuller was nominated by Tony Philbrick, seconded by Gary Lee. There being no other nominations, John Fuller was duly elected Vice-President.

Secretary: Gary Lee was nominated by Pam Vagg, seconded by Tony Philbrick. There being no other nominations, Gary Lee was duly elected Secretary.

Treasurer: Pam Vagg was nominated by Tony Philbrick, seconded by Margaret Lee. There being no other nominations, Pam Vagg was duly elected Treasurer.

Following election of the office bearers, Ray Barber assumed the chair.

7. Consideration of appointment of Auditor or Verifier

Gary Lee advised that according to the requirements of the Queensland Office of Fair Trading, CRA is a small incorporated association (assets and annual revenue less than \$20,000). The association was not required to appoint an auditor, and its financial statement can be verified by either the President or the Treasurer of the association. Pam Vagg moved that an auditor not be appointed, and that the financial statement be approved by way of verification. Motion seconded by Pat Byrne. The motion was duly carried.

8. Other Business

Nambour to Coolool active transport trail

Fiona Hughes provided the meeting with an update. A joint Working Group (JWG) has now been established comprising representatives from: CRA, CB&T, Nambour CoC, Olympic Legacy Group, Active Transport Committee, Maroochy Farmers and Land Owners Assn.

After some delay while Council was in Caretaker mode for the Election, a JWG meeting was held on 28 May with the Council officers working on the Trail. The meeting was also attended by Mayor Natoli, Deputy Mayor and Div 9 Councilor Suarez, Div 10 Councilor Law and Div 8 Councilor Bunnag.

The meeting was informed that Council is currently pursuing funding from the \$35.3M Cities Deal project for the Blue Heart. \$5M of that funding is earmarked for tracks and trails in the Blue Heart. When funding arrives from the State, Council is seeking to use that funding initially to design and construct the active transport link from Coolool to the Blue Heart and River Rd.

At the Nambour end of the Trail, Council is working with the State on a possible active transport connection from Nambour Station or Yandina Station to the Olympic Mountain Biking site at Parklands.

The Maroochy Landowners received an undertaking from the Mayor that there will be no compulsory acquisitions of private land for the Trail.

Council also pointed out that they are presently renewing their Council wide Active Transport Plan. Council urged JWG members to make representations for the N2C as part of the consultation process for the Plan.

The JWG was very pleased to receive clear and enthusiastic support from the mayor and each of the councilors present. The Mayor urged the Group to seek as much publicity as possible for the Trail. The JWG will meet again in a month to discuss lobbying of local State Members and candidates for funding commitment to the Trail.

Other local project updates

Mark Bizzell provided the meeting with updates on a number of local projects.

- a) The budget allocated for Lions/Norrie Job Park project upgrade is \$444,000 for construction. There are 4 stages of the project with works due to start in FY 25. At present all recreational funds for Coolum are being directed to the Lions/Norrie Job Park project or Asset Renewals as assets reach their end of life.
- b) Jack Morgan Park - The cost estimate for construction of the Arbour, back in 2021, was calculated at \$340k – which would have escalated considerably over that time, as Council have seen industry costs increase greatly over the past few years.
- c) 2nd Bay Coolum Beach – A replacement set of timber stairs will be constructed from the 2nd Bay car park to the beach below. The existing stone stairs will remain and the new stairway will be constructed over them.
- d) The Coastal Community Native Nursery in Warran Road is negotiating with SCC Infrastructure Delivery and Place Making Design departments with the assistance of Cr Taylor Bunnag. The nursery lease is due to expire on Clive Palmers land. They are eager to expand their area of production and look forward to the relocation to new premises in the next few years.

9. Next Meetings

The schedule of meetings for the next year is:

29 August 2024, 28 November 2024, 27 February 2025, 29 May 2025 (AGM) - all Thursdays at 5pm at the Croquet Club, 25 Seacove Lane, Coolum Beach.

There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 5.40pm.