

# COOLUM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### CRA General Meeting

Current and prospective new members are invited to attend the general meeting which will be held at **5pm Thursday 6 March in the small conference room upstairs at the Coolum Beach Surf Club**. Members are invited to socialize at the surf club after the meeting.

The meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting are provided as attachments at the end of this newsletter. The December meeting was well attended, and was the first held at the Surf Club for some time. It proved to be a very good venue, and we thank the surf club for its in-kind sponsorship of CRA in allowing us to hold our meetings free of charge. There were some interesting presentations and a lot of lively discussion as per the photos.



## Update on Activities

As may be expected, there has been limited progress on some of our priority activities over the holiday period. However there has been some activity as summarized below. Only those projects that have seen some progress since the last newsletter have been included.

### Nambour to Coolum (N2C) Trail

Council work on the Coolum to Blue Heart Trail is progressing. CRA was a driving force in the early stages of this project, and is represented by Fiona Hughes and Tony Philbrick on the Joint Working Group established by SCC to guide the project planning and delivery. Much of the JWG's recent focus has been on preparation of an application to the Federal Government's 'Regional Precincts and Partnerships Programme'.

The aim is to obtain Federal funding for investigation and design of the section of the Trail from Nambour to the proposed Blue Heart Regional Park. Preparation of an application is being done in close consultation with Council Officers and involves submission of quite a bit of detailed information and supporting documentation.

The JWG has been able to obtain written letters of support for the Application from our local State (Dan Purdie, Marty Hunt) and Federal (Ted O'Brien) representatives. This support is important to meet the Federal funding criteria. JWG has also been in consultation with the local division of Regional Development Australia who are also supporting the Application. This is also important.

The Application needs to be lodged by March and we are on schedule to achieve this.

The next focus of the JWG (and Council) will be to try to get the N2C Trail included on the State's 'Principal Cycle Network' — which can be key to achieving future State funding.

### Community Art and Recreation sub-committee

#### ***“unChanged”* Photo Exhibition**

The art sub committee launched the idea of a photographic exhibition in late November. The unChanged photo exhibition was formally opened by our local councillor Maria Suarez on Friday 20 December 2024. The exhibition was a joint creative effort by the Community Art and Recreation sub-committee. Financial support was provided through a \$500 community grant from SCC, \$250 contribution by CRA, and a small personal sponsorship from Cr Suarez.

The exhibition comprises a series of community contributed images of Coolum Beach and Yaroomba. Wherever possible each photograph from the past is paired with a recent photo of the same place. The exhibition demonstrates that while there have been many changes over time, the essence of Coolum Beach and Yaroomba remain unchanged.

The exhibition was part of [Coolum Art Project](#), and was 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. Moving forward we plan to see the space used to showcase emerging local artists.

The unChanged photographic exhibition will be removed on Wednesday 5 February. There is a link to photos of the exhibition opening on the CRA website [here](#)



The UnChanged Exhibition was an overwhelming success, and was reported in the Coolum Advertiser during the Xmas break. Congratulations to all involved.

A new exhibition of 10 works by local artist Simone Wolowiec will open Friday 14 February. You can find more information via the CRA website.



## 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.

### **Landslip Repair Works at First Bay**

Sunshine Coast Council has advised that it will be repairing a section of cliff face above the beach at First Bay, Coolum which was damaged during the February and May 2022 flooding events. This repair work will stabilise and strengthen the area affected by the landslip and provide a new path for pedestrians. These works are scheduled to take place from Monday 20 January to Monday 30 June 2025, weather permitting.

The works include repairing 145 metres of public footpath on the eastern side of David Low Way at First Bay, Coolum, and stabilising the cliff face above the beach. The stabilisation works will incorporate cast-in-place piles and capping beams embedded into the slope to provide long-term protection and prevent further movement of the landslip.

Council's web site provides comprehensive information regarding the nature of the engineering works, project timing, traffic and pedestrian access and management arrangements, and management of environmental impacts. [Here](#) is a link to the Council's information page.

CRA considers that the project provides a very important opportunity to deliver a high-quality pedestrian environment at the southern gateway to Coolum Beach that is consistent with the outcomes Council has achieved with the boardwalk and other similar elements of the coastal path. The information provided to date does not address these detailed aspects of the work.

CRA has contacted Cr Suarez to arrange for Council officers to provide further information regarding the detail of the proposed walkway and associated elements (eg railings, viewing/resting areas, planting and finishes).

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

As previously advised, CRA wrote formally to the CEO SCRC (cc'd to Cr Suarez) on 4 November 2024 emphasizing the safety issues and the need for action. An on-site meeting has now been arranged to inspect the issue. The meeting will be attended by Cr Suarez and Council officers. Bernie Caffery and Ray Barber will represent CRA, and should be able to report back at the general meeting in March.

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

As previously advised, CRA wrote to the president of the bowls club in early November 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. Unfortunately the bowls club has replied in the negative citing possible shading and root impacts on the greens. John Fuller is intending to follow-up this issue with the bowls club to try and find a compromise solution.

### **Annual Membership Fee**

Emailed requests for payment of the \$10 annual membership fee will be sent out in February with payment due by 30 April. Only financial members are able to participate in CRA meetings. Timely payment would be appreciated to minimise the need for follow-up emails and the like.

### **Management Committee Refresh**

The management committee is elected at the AGM which will be held on Thursday 5 June 2025. The present committee comprises 4 people: President - Ray Barber, Vice-President - John Fuller, Treasurer - Pam Vagg, Secretary - Gary Lee. Some of these have been on the committee for a long time, and the committee feels strongly that the CRA would benefit from some fresh enthusiasm and ideas, balanced with some continuity. In particular, Gary has said he will only continue in the role of Secretary for one more year (if elected), and would be happy to work beside his successor for a while to ensure a smooth handover.

Generally, these roles are what you make them. However, the secretary has some specific duties, broadly as follows:

- Maintaining a register of members.
- Arranging and keeping records of meetings of members (general meetings, annual general meetings, and any special general meetings).
- Arranging and keeping records of management committee meetings.
- Receiving and coordinating responses to incoming correspondence, and managing important outgoing correspondence.
- Complete and lodge the Annual Return Form with the Office of Fair Trading.
- Prepare and distribute a quarterly newsletter to members of the association and Division 8 and 9 councillors.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating for a role on the management committee. The nomination form can be downloaded from the CRA website, or nominations can be made from the floor of the meeting at the AGM.

## CRA Sponsors

Please remember the local businesses that provide financial sponsorship to CRA - **Quality First Constructions** (Coolum industrial estate), **Barber Porter Solicitors** (Heathfield Road) and **Mitre 10 Hardware** (William Street). In addition, the Coolum Beach surf club provides in-kind sponsorship by allowing CRA to hold its meetings there free of charge.

New sponsors are always welcome and will allow CRA to find more community initiatives like the UnChanged exhibition. If you know someone who would like to become a sponsor, please let our Treasurer Pam Vagg know at [pam@vagg.com.au](mailto:pam@vagg.com.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.

## **COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC**

**Agenda for General Meeting at 5pm, Thursday 6 March 2025 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

# **COOLUM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC**

## **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING**

**5 December 2024 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club**

Attendance: Gary Lee, Richard Koerner, Ray Barber, Tony Philbrick, Richard Newport, Brian Raison, John Fuller, Fiona Hughes, Bronwyn Jackson, John White, Bernie Caffery, Mark Bizzell, Bill Evans, Joan Brown, Peter Brown, Raeleen Draper, Angela Hatfield, Amy-Rose West, Taylor Bunnag, Graham Simpson, Lincoln Twine, John Tall, Wayne Barbe, Maria Suarez.

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 November newsletter.

Ray welcomed our two local councillors Maria Suarez (Division 9) and Taylor Bunnag (Division 8), and Raeleene Draper (Senior Environmental Project officer, SCC) and proposed that we defer the formal agenda items to allow the councillors to address the meeting and Raeleene to provide a presentation on the Blue Heart so that they could leave as necessary to attend other engagements.

Maria Suarez (Division 9)

Maria said she was pleased to attend, and that she and Council appreciated CRA's input on local issues. Maria provided the following updates on specific projects:

- Coolum Terrace pedestrian access on western side: Maria and SCC officers will visit the site to investigate. Also noted that there is a high priority for a footpath along part of Springfield Avenue (not CRA project).
- Grandview Lane waste collection: change in traffic direction not supported by residents and fence can not be relocated so only possibility is for waste collection contractor to upgrade trucks. Not sure when that opportunity may arise under the current contract.
- Fence along Grandview Lane: Council has been negotiating with developer – no final outcome. Fauna friendly fence only to one lot as per Court approval. Options for balance of fence still under discussion.
- Grandview Lane: some new traffic control signage to be installed.
- Coolum Art Trail: \$500 grant funding will be approved, slight delay due to need to declare potential minor conflict of interest (Ray Barber had been one of Maria's nominees for election).
- Norrie Job/Lions Park: Stage 1 scheduled to open on 13 December. A pump track will be delivered with State government funding support. Council is currently consulting with likely users.
- Lows Lookout: Stage 1 complete. No funding allocated for stages 2 and 3 but Maria is supporting next stages.



- Coolum AFL club: SCC is working on an MoU with the Education Department too use the high school ovals for AFL and netball. Dan Purdie has provided \$5m for initial facilities, whole project could be in the order of \$22m.

Taylor Bunnag (Division 8)

Taylor reiterated Maria's opening remarks, and provided updates on the following projects within the CRA area of interest.

- Magenta Drive Park (next to Woolworths): new shade structure installed.
- South Coolum Road footpath: new footpath to be installed along dangerous section extending from Warrack Street. Project will require some minor relocation of South Coolum Road to address topography and vegetation issues, with construction to start this financial year.
- Mt Coolum NP toilets: Not able to make public announcement at the moment, but there has been substantial progress and "watch this space".
- West Coolum Road on/off ramps: State government has committed to this \$40m project to be under construction by 2028. Council is currently updating plans for the associated local feeder road upgrades and is working to deliver these in a similar timeframe. Land is already acquired which is a major part of the total cost.

Blue Heart Presentation (Raeleen Draper)

This was a very informative presentation outlining the background and rationale for the incorporation of extensive areas of flood prone land into the Blue Heart to maintain flood storage and derive a range of benefits including retention of flood storage, blue carbon credits and recreation and environmental services. The project is being developed in cooperation with the Kabi Kabi traditional owners and is a world leading exercise.

Raeleen said that the first stage of the N2C trail to be built would extend from Coolum Beach to a proposed new recreation hub on the Maroochy River. The corridor for this section of the trail is in public ownership and planning is underway. Further information on the Blue Heart project can be found on the SCC Blue Heart web page. Raeleen suggested a site visit for interested CRA members next year when weather improves – John Fuller to follow up.

Ray thanked the 3 presenters, wished them season's greetings, and directed the meeting back to the agenda.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Margaret Lee, Pam Vagg, Jackie Seljak, Jim Moore, Nicole White.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Mark Bizzell moved that the minutes be accepted, John Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

### 3. Project Updates

Ray Barber said the November newsletter provided comprehensive project updates, and asked sub-committee chairs to provide short updates of any more recent developments only.

*a. Active Transport (N2C) – Tony Philbrick*

Tony said the working group is currently working with Council with a view to seeking Commonwealth government funding to progress the Nambour end of the N2C.

*b. Community Art and Recreation – John Fuller*

John gave a brief Powerpoint presentation outlining the current project concept for a temporary art exhibition trail with the current focus being on unCHANGED - a “Then and Now” photo exhibition in the arcade between Yum Gelato and Heirloom coffee shop. The body corporate of the retail complex had been very helpful. The presentation included a number of examples of other potential locations that could accommodate art installation infrastructure. John noted that the CRA management committee had allocated a maximum of \$250 CRA funds to the project.

*c. Pedestrian Amenity and Safety - Bernie Caffery*

Bernie said that the sub-committee members had undertaken site inspections and discussions leading to the following short-term priorities for further consideration:

1. Walkable verge on the west side of Coolum Terrace
2. Better pedestrian access across David Low Way to Lions Park and the beach paths
3. Improved pedestrian access across David Low Way to beach paths, between Scrub Road and Mona Vista Court
4. Better control and policing of Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs)
5. Pedestrian safety improvements at Point Perry (in relation to this a 2007 concept plan was shown as an example of reduced vehicle parking and access).

There was considerable discussion on some of these priorities including a suggestion that 2 and 3 could be addressed as part of a comprehensive study of pedestrian/vehicle issues along the David Low Way between Mona Vista and the northern access to Coolum including associated issues such as the extension of the DLW median landscaping further north to Birtwill Street (or beyond). Due to time constraints these issues will require further consideration and discussion.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on 5pm Thursday 6 March 2025 at the Coolum Beach Surf Club. There being no other business, Ray Barber declared the meeting closed at 6.10pm.