



**Minutes of Public Meeting  
Held on Sunday 10 August 2014  
Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford**

**Welcome & Apologies**

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.12pm and welcomed all in attendance, including Clr Dr John Brodie, and our guest speaker, Peter Kahn from the Sydney Tramway Museum.

*In Attendance at today's meeting, as per the Attendance Sheet:*

Helen Olde, Noelene Brown, Sue Evans, Del Donohoe, Margaret McKay Warn, John Walz, Kevin Horne, June de Zoete, Adriana de Haas, Margaret McKenzie, Vanessa McNeill, Zareen Nisha, Ken Morrissey, A Morrissey, Joan Branighan, Bill Branighan, Dorothy Warwick, Olive Wicks, Judith Moller, Pamela Richardson, Mervyn Mitchell, Leah Armstrong, John Tompsett, Pamela Tompsett, Elizabeth Brodie, Clr John H Brodie, Shane Hannah, Pat O'Brien, Roland Zopf, Pamela Zopf, Peter Warwick, Coral Hamilton, John McKenna, Ross Grove, Beth Werner, Julia Finn.

*Apologies:*

Diane Jogia, Margaret Grace, Phil & Lillian Patterson, Mayor Nasr Kafrouni, Jill Finch, Barbara McKenzie-Hunter, Margaret Moulds, Audrey Murphy, Barbara Perry MP (Member for Auburn), Angela Caire, Christine McKenna, John Warwick, Julie Walz.

**Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 18 May 2014**

Moved by John Walz, seconded by Kaye Weaver, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 18 May 2014 were a true and correct record. The motion was carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

Any business arising will be held over to General Business.

**Correspondence**

Helen Olde circulated the correspondence folder for the information of members.

**President's Report**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Linnwood for our August Public Meeting and also our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Who would have thought, late in 2001 when we started our campaign to save Linnwood that we would be still here nearly 13 years later!

Again, it's been a busy year - the word is spreading, and we are seeing more and more *new* visitors from all over Sydney attending our Open Days, together with our members and friends who attend on a regular basis.

Although it is our AGM today, as per previous years I will just give you a general report of recent happenings rather than an "annual" report as such.

But first – we have to have our "show and tell" of recent donated items for you to have a look at:

- From Michael and Greg Griggs, we have a collection of 1967 school magazines, complete with holder. I certainly remember receiving these magazines in primary school!
- Kaye Weaver has kindly donated 2 fountain pens.
- And from Stan Thomas we have a Nokia mobile phone – more like a brick! It surely must be one of the first ones released! We also have some Burman hair clippers in their original box, together with another pair, made in Germany, with the No. 0000. To help any gentleman with his grooming, he needs a shaving mirror and here we have two different types – a round tilting mirror on a stand – and the other, a more glamorous rectangular one with a "lovely lady" on the back. Something a bit more mundane from Stan is a Charles Twigg & Co camp stove, nicely packed in its own metal container.

Once again, many thanks to our friends who have kindly donated these items.

Now on to other updates.....

**Open Days** – We had a very successful Open Day in July with over 300 people going through the house. September is looking good with not only the WWII Jeeps outside, but we will also have a number of Vintage Motor Bikes and just recently, we received an enquiry which could see some Model T Fords also on display! Inside we will have a display of police, army, navy, and convict memorabilia, as well as our variety of craft stalls. November will see the Rover Car Club on the front lawn with the Sydney N Scale Model Railway Club inside - so the rest of the year is looking good!

Two weeks after the July Open Day, the Triumph Sports Car Club held their Concours day in the grounds which went off very well. The Friends had the house open, with a few pictorial displays on show, and provided Devonshire Teas which worked well and raised quite a few hundred dollars. There were visitors here on the day from other car clubs showing some interest in holding similar events, so you never know what might happen..... We could become THE place to hold car club events!

I know it *only* August, but just a reminder that this year's **Members' Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, so don't forget to mark the date on your calendars! Bookings can be made at the remaining Open Days.

**Property News** - There are a number of issues here to report on, so please bear with me as I work through them.

Firstly, as you are aware, we were partially successful in receiving a Community Building Partnership Grant for \$32,000 last year. Unfortunately it is proving a long, slow process to try and acquit this grant. \$11,000 was to be spent on the rear roof. After the grant application had been approved, it was then suggested by Council that a second quote be obtained to fix the roof "properly" instead of using another band aid solution. Council then informed us that they "did not have any money" to pay for this extra work and our Committee then agreed to pay the extra \$14,500 to try and permanently fix the drainage problems in this back area. We have finally received the \$11,000 and we hope to see work start on the roof in the near future. The remaining \$20,000 was to be spent painting the two bathrooms, the office, the book room, the hall, the room used by the Lace Guild, and the room off the back verandah used as a local history resource centre.

As with all procedures, more paperwork was required and in that process it was deemed that paint scrapings in the hall and library were needed, which Council agreed to pay for, to try and ascertain if there were any original colour schemes to be found. This procedure has taken quite some time to finalise and if you look in the hall on the wall and on the arch, you will see the scrapings (there are also some scrapings in the library – a room we had not included in our scope of works) showing some original paint, including dado panels and a range of colours. It has now been recommended by Council's Heritage Adviser and officers, that the original paint schemes be reinstated and that a new quote for the repainting of the hall obtained. As this was not in our original scope of works, and the cost for this type of intricate painting, which we believe will be considerable, hadn't been allowed for in our application, the committee has decided that the hall painting will have to be deleted from the works program for the grant, in order for the other rooms to be painted. Our aim was to make the rooms more presentable to the public – not a complete restoration, which we had made clear. An exemption to do the remaining painting for the grant is still to be applied for by the Council, from the Heritage Office - and so we wait a bit longer to make any progress. Personally, I find it interesting that there were no Council funds available to help with the roof repairs, but somehow funds did become available to pay for a professional "Paintwright" to do the paint scrapings. Her report is here if anyone would like to have a look.

Secondly, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, tucked away in the classified pages of the Parramatta Advertiser, we found a Public Notice for the "Notice of Intention to Give Consent to the Sale of a Crown Reserve". This of course is for the Tamplin Road Reserve. The Minister has now given notice for, and I quote, "Sale at market price subject to competitive process and proceeds from sale directed to the Linnwood Estate Reserve Trust for the purposes of funding the maintenance and improvement of Linnwood Estate Reserve." We knew this would happen one day – it has been talked about for many years and now looks like it will actually happen. Again, it still might take some time – the subdivision plan hasn't been done yet and we don't believe there are any utility services available on that part of the site – so we wait once more.

Finally, just to cap it all, we were disappointed to find in the Business Papers of the Council meeting on Tuesday night, that a report was put before Council recommending that \$222,929, which had been allocated to Linnwood for minor works – roofing etc. in the 2014/15 Budget, be revised and that NO DOLLARS be allocated to Linnwood and that no works occur at Linnwood "until Funds are received from land sales". In the Minutes of the meeting, on-line on Friday afternoon, it appears that a motion was put forward at the Council meeting, to defer the matter for further consideration, but was defeated in a vote 7–5.

What was also disappointing was seeing that a number of Councillors who had been previous supporters of Linnwood, voted to allocate the money elsewhere. Not that we object to money being allocated to public toilets, but did it have to be at Linnwood's expense? The Minutes also show that a Motion of Rescission has been lodged in relation to this decision and we invite you to attend the next Council meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 6.30pm to see and hear the result of this discussion.

In previous discussions we have had with Council regarding maintenance and repair work at Linnwood, they made a commitment to us that they would cover the costs of any work and then be reimbursed from funds from the sale of the Tamplin Road Reserve. It now appears that this will not be the case – there will be no funds available for Linnwood until that land is sold.

Since 2010 and up to and including the current grant, the Friends of Linnwood have funded, by way of Community Building Partnership Grants and supplemented by our own funds, just over \$200,000 in capital works projects for Linnwood, which I'm sure you would agree is not bad for a community group. This is money that the Council, as Trustees, will now not have to spend, with or without the proceeds of the sale of the Tamplin Road Reserve.

To say that we are disappointed with recent developments, and the handling and lack of progress in the case of the Grant painting, would be an understatement. We will now have to seriously consider our position as to whether we will apply for any more grants to help with Linnwood's preservation.

Now onto more pleasant things..... As part of an Annual Report, there are always people to thank for their support over the past twelve months, and for us, they include:

**Holroyd City Council** – Apart from the issues previously mentioned, we do thank them for their continued support in maintaining both the grounds and the rose garden – and any minor maintenance issues that had arisen over the past year. We also thank them for continuing to help with the posting of our Minutes etc to all members.

**The Volunteers** – Many thanks to all those members who help on our Open Days – we couldn't do it without you. Special thanks to those few who also come the day before and help set the house up – it really does take quite a lot of time to set all the tables and displays up – probably more than you realise. Extra Special Thanks to our kitchen and BBQ volunteers - our Open Days are a success because of you, and we appreciate the time and effort you put in – and how tired you all are after a long day – so Thank You!

**The Holroyd Art & Craft Society and other stall holders** – For their continued attendance and support on our Open Days. Many visitors come back time and time again because of the products you offer on your stalls.

**Pioneers** regularly have a Trash 'n' Treasure sale on our Open Days. In fact many returning visitors are disappointed when Pioneers *don't* have a sale.

**To you, the members** - Thank you for continuing to support us in all that we do. We appreciate your dedication and support – it is really important for us to know that you stand behind us in our aim to “protect and preserve” this lovely home.

**The Committee** - It has been a pleasure working with this committee for the past few years and I thank them most sincerely for their time, dedication and support over the past 12 months. Please join me in thanking Helen Olde, Coral Hamilton, Pat O'Brien, Pamela Richardson, Pamela Zopf, Adriana de Haas, Elizabeth Brodie, Christine & John McKenna, John Walz, Michael Griggs and Shane Hannah for their time and commitment to Linnwood over the past year.

As explained at the last meeting, we have changed the procedure for the AGM to follow more closely the guidelines set down in the Model Rules which we have accepted as our Constitution. All nominations were to have been received by the Secretary seven days prior to the meeting, making the process much simpler and quicker on the day (and no one gets put on the spot during the meeting). Unfortunately, due to those guidelines we are now following concerning the number of members required on a Committee, we will lose some of our current committee members. To those not standing again, a very heartfelt Thank You – BUT, we do hope that you will continue to volunteer when and if you can – we still need you! ☺

After the AGM, which shouldn't take too long, we hope you will enjoy Peter Kahn's talk on Sydney's Trams, and then please stay to have that all important cuppa and a chat. Once again, thank you for your support over the past 12 months – it has been much appreciated. Thank you.

### **Treasurer's Report**

John McKenna gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report for July 2014, advising that we had a very good Open Day in July, as well as the Triumph Car Club Concours day. We also received part of the Community Building Partnership Grant money (\$11,000) so the roof works can now commence.

Income for the month of July (includes the grant money)	\$15,675.86
Expenditure for July	\$ 1,217.93
Amount of funds in our general account	\$41,730.24 (includes grant money)
Amount of funds in our interest bearing deposit	<u>\$20,236.04</u>
	<u>\$63,013.14</u> includes grant money)

Moved by John McKenna, seconded by Pam Richardson, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was carried.

The Public Meeting was then suspended at 2.37pm.

### **Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Linnwood Inc**

Refer to separate minutes.

The Public Meeting re-opened at 2.50pm.

### **General Business**

Vanessa McNeil asked if the Friends of Linnwood had been advised that an advertisement about the impending sale of the Tamplin Road site was being placed in the local paper. Dorothy Warwick advised that we were not informed. Vanessa said she found that quite extraordinary, and was extremely disappointed that Holroyd Council does not seem to appreciate the role that the Friends have played for many years in looking after the property, advocating on its behalf and opening the house to the public. The amount of money the Friends have raised is not widely known within Council circles - Vanessa was unaware of who voted at last week's Council meeting to withdraw funding.

The advertisement was in "The Advertiser" on Wednesday 9 July 2014, and was placed by Trade & Investment Crown Lands.

John Brodie advised that the State Government was dragging its feet about selling the Tamplin Road site. Council had put them on notice that if it wasn't sold Council would resign its role as Trustee. Council had attended a meeting with the Minister concerned and advised that the government had to give Council permission to sell - that permission was apparently given straight away.

John Brodie advised that over the last 14 years thousands of dollars have been spent on consultants etc in relation to Linnwood. Just because the government has said it is going to sell the land, sub-divisions still have to be carried out, followed by marketing campaigns. This will not happen in a hurry - it will be a long time before any money is available from the sale funds.

Dorothy advised she did a title search on the property, and as far as we are aware, sub-divisions have not happened. The plan is for medium density development on the one hectare of land.

John Brodie confirmed that if there are urgent repairs needed to the building, Council will fund these - but only if they are "urgent and necessary".

Apparently the roof repairs to the back room will be done with galvanised iron - replacing like for like. Colorbond cannot be used.

Margaret McKenzie expressed concern that the land was being sold. She said she couldn't see much money being spent in the Guildford area by Council, particularly around Guildford railway station. There are no parks in the area for children, nowhere to walk dogs safely, no street lights. Where is the money being spent in this part of the Holroyd LGA. Council should be doing more in this area.

John McKenna advised the decision to sell the land has already been made. Money which was allocated and budgeted for Linnwood in 2014/15 has been re-allocated elsewhere and Council will wait for the sale proceeds. John reminded members of the rescission motion being put forward by Councillors Brodie and Grove.

Leah Armstrong asked if there was a quote on the roofing works of \$11,000. John McKenna advised that when we were successful with the grant application it was suggested that amount would only be a band aid solution and we obtained another quote for \$26,500. The Friends offered to fund the balance of \$14,500 to fix the roof properly and that the quote was probably now out-of-date. We sent a letter on 23 March 2014 to the General Manager at Council and put the proposal to him that if it was found that any unforeseen works needed to be done once the project commenced, would Council cover this. We have not received a response.

### **Guest Speakers**

John McKenna then welcomed our Guest Speaker, Peter Kahn, from the Sydney Tramways Museum. Peter advised he has been involved with trams for over 50 years, and Sydney had the second largest tramway system in the British Empire.

Peter played 20 minutes of a DVD called "Shooting Through" (like a Bondi tram). The commentator was Jack Davy. It showed some wonderful old black & white film footage and photos of trams that serviced Sydney city and surrounds.

The first horse trams ran from 1861-1846, followed in 1879 by the steam tram, with the first line running from Devonshire Street at Central Station along Elizabeth Street. Electric trams ran from 1890 with the opening of the line along George Street.

There were 400 trams which ran to and from Randwick Racecourse in the 1920's. The first tram crossing of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was a "trial run" in 1932. The last days of the steam tram were in 1937, when they were replaced by trolley buses.

Peter talked about the history of trams and the various routes they took around Sydney, before the transition to transit hubs, particularly at Central Station (Railway Square) and Eddy Avenue.

In 1881, seven million passengers travelled on Sydney trams – the population was 225,000. By 1921, 320 million passengers travelled on trams, with the population then being 900,000. With WWI petrol rationing, tram patronage increased, and by 1945, with a population of 1.5 million, the trams enjoyed 405 million passengers. After WWII with mass transition to motor cars, tram patronage started to decrease, and by 1951, with a population of 1.8 million, there were only 256 million passengers. Buses then gradually started to replace trams – February 1961 saw the last of Sydney's wonderful trams.

The Sydney Tramway Museum is situated at Loftus – the first tram research commenced in 1950 by founding members – all the people involved in the museum are volunteers. There are 60 trams in the collection and many are being restored. The museum was helped with funding from the State Government in the 1970's and 1980's when heritage was rated a lot higher than it is today. The museum received Bicentennial commemorative funding from the NSW Heritage Office for the restoration of the waiting sheds. It is very hard these days to receive funding – and it's sad that heritage just doesn't rate any more.

In 1997 the light rail system opened from Central Station – and Peter said he'll believe it when he sees it if there are to be any future light rail services.

Find out more information about the Sydney Tramway Museum at [www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au](http://www.sydneytramwaymuseum.com.au)

Councillor Ross Grove arrived and joined the meeting.

### **Next Public Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends of Linnwood Inc will be held on a date to be determined in February 2015.

### **Raffle Draw**

The raffle was drawn by Peter Kahn and won by John Walz.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Confirmed:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

**Membership Renewals**

**We are still accepting membership renewals for the  
2014/15 year.**

**If you need to renew, we'll be open for business on  
Sunday 14 September 2014 at Open House,  
or you can send your renewal via mail.**