

President: Dorothy Warwick
Treasurer: John McKenna
Secretary: Helen Olde



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 14 August 2016 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.10pm and welcomed all those in attendance. Special welcome to our guest speaker, Dick Whitaker, and the former Mayor of Holroyd, Greg Cummings.

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

Helen Olde, Dorothy Warwick, Thomas Jenkins, Stan Thomas, John Walz, Kevin Horne, Pamela Richardson, Angela Caire, Judith Moller, Greg Cummings, Diane Brooks, Jan Thomas, Olive Wicks, Rodney Skinner, Shemiran Skinner, Sue Evans, Breeannah Evans, Coral Hamilton, Pat O'Brien, Elizabeth Brodie, Michael Griggs, Zareen Nisha, Cassandra Graham, Margaret McKay Warn, Kaye Weaver, John McKenna.

Apologies:

Phil & Lillian Paterson, Audrey Murphy, Diane Jorgia, Christine McKenna, John Warwick, Peter Warwick, Margaret Moulds, Julie Walz, John Brodie, Ken & June Morrisey.

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 15 May 2016

Moved by John Walz, seconded by Judith Moller, that the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15 May 2016 were a true and correct record. The motion was carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

Correspondence

The Secretary passed around the Correspondence book.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to our August general meeting – and our 14th Annual General Meeting.

Luckily, things have been fairly quiet on the Linnwood front this past year, and we have of course now seen the amalgamation of most of Holroyd, part of Parramatta and most of Auburn Councils merge into the new Cumberland Council. We have had no 'official' contact with the new Administrator and General Manager as yet, so will just wait until they 'get' to us. We are still waiting for the Service Agreement to be finalised. We have signed it, but only after seeking some legal advice and requesting some changes be made to the original document offered to us. Unfortunately the amalgamation then happened and we haven't seen or heard any more about it, even after a number of queries having been made.

Maintenance-wise there haven't been too many issues – mainly a few water leaks in the back room and in the laundry during periods of heavy rain, and the fire hydrant pipes out near the fountain have caused a few problems a number of times, with workmen here again earlier in the month digging a great hole in the circular driveway to try and fix the problem once and for all. We have also heard that with grant money received by Council, some slate roof repairs and external painting are going to happen – but again, no definite time frame has been given to us.

Cataloguing and photographing of our donations continues - and again, many thanks to Helen for all the computer work she has done, and is still doing, getting us organised. The Service Agreement we signed states that one of our 'duties' is to enhance the house and you will have noticed the improvements we have made to the Drawing Room and new Ladies Sitting Room, with furniture suitable to the age of the house. We sincerely thank those members who have contributed some lovely items to make that happen. We have also just recently purchased curtains, blinds and a rug to go in the sitting room to 'enhance' it a little more.

Just recently we have had a collection of porcelain dolls donated to us, and although technically they are not 'old', we feel that they will make a suitable display on one of our Open days.

Our Open days over the past year have all been well attended – the vintage cars certainly do draw a crowd! You will have noticed on your Calendar of Events that the date of the September Open Day has been pushed back a couple of weeks – this was at the request of Council due to a conflict of dates with their annual PetFest event, and the change actually suited the Rolls Royce and Bentley Car Clubs, so it all worked well. Gary Brown from the Weekend Notes website has continued promoting our days and it has been of great benefit to us, with many new people coming through the house, having seen the write-ups on-line.

September's Open Day will see lots of British cars on the front lawn including Rolls Royce, Bentley, Daimler and Rover, as well as the Vintage Vehicles Club and some from the Royal Automobile Club of Australia. The Holroyd Brass Band will be back again to entertain us – always a treat to listen to. Our November Open Day is looking like being a real hotch-potch of vintage vehicles – with a number of smaller car clubs expressing interest in coming, including a couple of Austin Car Clubs and another with some pre-1918 cars, as well as the vintage motor bikes and possibly some vintage speedway cars and bikes – it will be a 'surprise' day! We have invited the Toongabbie Music Club back again and they are always entertaining, playing some traditional Australian bush ballads and more.

As mentioned previously, we have been struggling for volunteers on our Open Days, so for July we invited Holroyd Rotary to run the BBQ. It worked well and they were happy with the day, but our trusty cooks have decided that with the added offer of help from a couple of FOL members, they would prefer to continue to do the BBQ. We will see how this goes, but if the help is not forthcoming we may have to resort back to having Rotary running the BBQ – their offer is still open. The community enjoys our Open Days and they are a wonderful way to promote Linnwood and raise money for future works, but these days don't just happen, so some extra help would really be appreciated. We do have some dedicated, regular helpers and we most sincerely do thank them for their support, but we could always do with more – even if it is just to give someone a break for half an hour or an hour.

Recently, Council organised a Seniors bus tour of the council area, which included going to the Auburn Gardens and then coming to Linnwood for afternoon tea. Unfortunately it was during all the recent wet weather and as large coaches cannot negotiate the driveway, all 60 passengers bravely walked up and back along the driveway in the rain. We had set up some displays inside the house and everyone appeared to enjoy the afternoon – and especially the afternoon tea provided by Council's Nutrition Services team. Again, many of the visitors, even though they lived locally, had never heard of or visited Linnwood – so we made sure they all received brochures and information – and we even had one lady sign up as a member on the day and a few more took membership forms – so here's hoping! These days are a great way to promote Linnwood.

Some of you may remember Shane Hannah who had served on our committee a year or two ago. Shane had been a resident of Linnwood when it was a group home and although not living locally always came and helped whenever he could. Unfortunately Shane passed away suddenly in June, a day before his 41st birthday. We have sent condolences on behalf of the Friends to his mother, who informed us of his passing.

As always at the AGM, there are many people to thank for their support over the past twelve months and these include:

- Holroyd and now Cumberland Council for their continued support in maintaining the grounds and rose garden which, having been pruned some weeks ago, is looking really good, together with new little pebble dividers and plantings in the fountain, and for seeing to any maintenance issues.
- You, our members - just renewing your membership every year shows that you support what we are doing. When we first started, there was a lot of drama and tension with the very real threat of losing Linnwood, and the community really worked as one to save the house and grounds - so it is so very gratifying to see many of those memberships continue to this day, together with many new ones. Hopefully the threat has passed – but I'm sure you are all ready to stand together again if needed – so thank you.
- All the individual stall holders and especially the Holroyd Art & Craft Society who continue to support us by their attendance – we have a variety of stalls each Open Day, and many visitors come back specifically to visit a particular stall because of the quality of the items available.
- The Committee – what would we do without them? Once again, a very big thank you to Helen, Coral, Pat, Pam Richardson, Pam Zopf and John McKenna for their time and commitment to Linnwood over the past 12 months. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to keep the Friends going, and these are the people who do the work and make everything happen – so many thanks to them all.

I think that just about wraps up the past year – our AGM hopefully won't take too long, so I hope you can stay and enjoy the talk by our guest speaker, Dick Whitaker, and then enjoy some afternoon tea and a chat afterwards.

Before I finish, I would just like to make a community announcement. In the boundary shuffle of council areas, we lost the Mays Hill Cemetery on the Great Western Highway near Parramatta High School, to Parramatta Council. There are many Holroyd/Cumberland pioneers buried in the cemetery and as an activity of Family History Month, the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery are having a “Family Stories” Cemetery Tour on Sunday 28th August at 2pm. The cost is \$15 per person and includes light refreshments at the conclusion of the tour. If you would like to take part, please see Pat O’Brien or myself after the meeting. There are some very interesting stories to be told. If you would like to attend, please make sure you wear comfortable walking shoes as the ground can be quite uneven.

Once again, thank you all for your support of Linnwood over the past year – it really is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Treasurer’s Report

John McKenna presented the Treasurer’s Report for the months of May, June and July 2016.

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	\$219.98	\$1.75	\$2,971.52	\$3,193.25
Expenditure	\$718.48	-	\$1,546.52	\$2,265.00
Profit for the 3 months				\$ 928.25

Expenditure outside normal operating expenses included \$143.84 for eight extra room heaters, and \$365.98 for an A3/A4 multi-function printer/photocopier which can be connected to our laptop and will be a much improved addition to our administration functions. We discarded the two old donated photocopiers which were continually jamming and breaking down.

General account:

Opening balance at 1 May 2016	-	\$43,702.92
Closing balance at 31 July 2016	-	\$44,742.63

Investment account:

Opening balance at 1 May 2016	-	\$21,801.25
Closing balance at 31 July 2016	-	\$21,910.85

Cash on hand	-	\$1,519.67
Current liabilities	-	\$ 759.82

Total net funds - \$67,413.33

Moved by Pamela Richardson, seconded by Angela Caire, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. The motion was carried.

The Public Meeting was adjourned at 2.30pm to allow for the 14th Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Linnwood Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Refer to separate minutes.

The Public Meeting recommenced at 2.37pm.

General Business

Greg Cummings gave a brief outline of the current status of the new Cumberland Council. There are now only two directors instead of the four who were on the former Holroyd City Council. There are nine former councillors from Holroyd and Parramatta/Woodville area on the Local Representative Committee.

Greg advised that in 2017 there will be grants of up to \$50,000 available for non-profit organisations, and encouraged the Friends of Linnwood to apply.

Guest Speaker

John McKenna then introduced our guest speaker, Dick Whitaker. As background Dick was conscripted into the army in the 1960's and served with the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. He joined the Bureau of Meteorology and worked his way through the ranks to Senior Forecaster, then NSW Manager of the Bureau's commercial arm, the Special Services Unit. He looked familiar to members as we had all seen him on TV at some stage, giving weather reports.

Dick started by saying "What a gem we have here at Linnwood", and was pleased to be walking in the house of George McCredie.

The very first gaol was a gum tree where prisoners were chained up around the tree. Dick showed us the original plan for the Darlinghurst Gaol, dated 1836, based on the general design of the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia which was built in 1829. Darlinghurst Gaol opened in 1842 and the first prisoners were 119 men and 50 women. When they arrived in procession, they were heckled and pelted with fruit by the local onlookers.

The first governor of the gaol was Henry Keck – he came with good credentials but was in fact very corrupt, and used prison labour to enhance his personal wealth.

Many of the women prisoners were in gaol for prostitution and petty theft – very few were serious criminals. Early executions were public affairs – prominent prisoners drew crowds of up to 5,000, including women and children. The infamous Captain Moonlight was hanged at Darlinghurst Gaol.

Henry Lawson spent 159 days in the gaol, during the period 1905-1907, and Louisa Collins was the last woman to be hanged in New South Wales in 1889.

All prisoners sentenced to three years or more had to spend nine months in solitary confinement, in leg irons, and with a hood covering their face. Much of the work carried out by prisoners involved stone-cutting for various buildings being erected around Sydney. A school room was set up for book binding, mat and broom making etc, however no women were allowed to be involved. There was also a central chapel with an organ and a prison choir.

A new gateway was constructed in 1880, with the original coat of arms still in place – a magnificent sandstone structure. If you see a sculpture of a lion with a key in its mouth – this is the symbol of a gaol. In the early 1870s photographic records were taken of the prisoners – Dick showed quite a few photos of the prisoners, along with their prison records. In 1902, "Bertillonge" came into effect – measuring the prisoners, including feet and face, and this was also the beginning of finger printing. The army took over the gaol in 1914 to hold 'enemy aliens' – the Germans and the Irish.

Today, the gaol houses the National Art School, and is open for guided tours by appointment - <https://www.nas.edu.au/place/old-darlinghurst-gaol/request-history-tour/> Dick recommended two books – "Hope in Hell" and "Set in Stone".

Next Public Meeting

The next Public Meeting will be held in February 2017 – date and guest speaker to be advised. We will distribute the 2017 Calendar of Events towards the end of this year.

Raffle Draw

The raffle was drawn by Dick Whitaker and won by Zareen Nisha.

The meeting closed at 3.42pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____

<p><u>Membership Renewals</u></p> <p>We are still accepting membership renewals for the 2016/17 year.</p> <p>Payment by mail, or at the Friends table at September Open House.</p>
