



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

Welcome & Apologies

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.07pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. A special welcome to the Mayor of Holroyd, Councillor Greg Cummings, and to our guest speaker Cathy Jones.

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

Helen Olde, Tom Jenkins, Dorothy Warwick, Pamela Richardson, Judith Moller, Angela Caire, Shemiran Skinner, Rodney Skinner, Margaret McKay Warn, Mary Vivian, Glad Donaldson, Olive Wicks, Sue Evans, Kaye Weaver, Coral Hamilton, Pat O'Brien, Hilda Corrick, Diane Brooks, Shane Hannah, Margaret Moulds, Beverley Clohessy, Pamela Zopf, Roland Zopf, Meg Hazell, Kevin Horne, Yvonne Horne, Mervyn Mitchell, Cathy Jones, John McKenna, Audrey Murphy.

Apologies:

Julia Finn MP, Peter Warwick, Vanessa McNeil, John Warwick, Christine McKenna, Stan Thomas.

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 9 August 2015

Moved by Pamela Richardson, seconded by Kevin Horne, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 9 August 2015 were a true and correct record. The motion was carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

Correspondence

The Secretary passed around the Correspondence folder for members to peruse.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to our first public meeting for 2016.

We finished 2015 with our November Open Day, which went really well, with lots of prestigious cars on the front lawn and a special World War I presentation in the house. Then we had our Christmas lunch in December, with Mr & Mrs Claus making an appearance and handing out small presents to all who were there. Everyone had a good time trying to answer our Christmas Trivia Quiz questions and 'writing' the latest episode of our radio serial, starring Belinda Bombshell. It seems that everyone comes back each year, not for the lunch, but to hear the next episode – and can't wait for the book to come out!

We are steadily organising our Calendar of Events for the year and after discussions with Council, have changed the date of our September Open House to 25th September, due to a clash with a Council event. Our March Open Day will see the Triumph Car Club on the front lawn, and displays from the Australian Miniature Enthusiasts Association and the Smocking Guild inside the house, together with the craft stalls and refreshments.

We haven't been accepting any donations in recent times but we recently received an offer which was just too good to refuse... Member John Warwick is moving house and there were some things that just wouldn't fit in to his new home and he has very generously loaned them to us. These items are truly in keeping with the age of the house and include a 1903 mahogany sideboard, an oak drop-front ladies desk c.1905, original paintings, clocks, an 1860's Melodeon which is a portable organ used by travelling Ministers – and don't forget that the Reverend Jackson travelled to Linnwood to give church services for the local community before the McCredie Church was built, so perhaps he had one of these. We can show you some of the items today, but the rest will have to be a surprise when you come and visit in March. The list of items will be included in the minutes when they go out, as there are just too many to go through. They have been catalogued as per below:

- Art Nouveau mahogany sideboard - c.1903. Made in England.
- Art Nouveau oak drop-front desk/bookcase - c.1905. Made in England.
- Pair of original "Parlour Paintings" - English Highland cattle - c.1900-1910.

- Framed oleograph of the River Thames - c.1890's - "Sonning on the Thames" by Keeley Halswelle. Back reads "1890 by S.Hildesheimer & Co Ltd London & Manchester".
- Framed oleograph of Rabbits - c.1900.
- Steel engraving of Napoleon and his Army marching on Moscow '1814' - c.1900 - framed.
- Victorian piano stool c.1880's. Carved - 3-legged timber. Patterned material seat.
- Tapestry of "London Cries" - The Flower Seller - framed.
- Clock - Black Lacquer - USA c.1900. 'Gold' painted columns and face surround. 2 hands, Roman numeral numbers. Moving pendulum - in working order.
- Clock - Faux ivory and walnut - USA c.1910. "Seth Thomas - Adamantine" "Sucile". "Ivory" columns, "gold" fancy legs. One hand only - not in working order.
- Porcelain floral clock - Germany c.1900. Blue & gold painted with pink & yellow roses and green leaves. Base separate - roses on front, plain blue on back. 2 hands - gold key in back. Hallmark on back not legible.
- Clock - Green porcelain - Germany c.1900. Floral design on front - green leaves and yellow rose. 2 hands - no key - not in working order.
- Wash stand set - 5 pcs - Basin, water jug, chamber pot, toothbrush holder, soap dish with lid & separator. English c.1915. Hallmark "Grimwade's" - Staffordshire England. Green with black & white stripes and pink roses.
- Small portable organ - Melodeon - French c.1870. Marketed in Australia by Palings. Timber - pump-action - 3 pull-out buttons. 2 silver round plaques with 5 city names & dates (Munich 1854; New York 1853; London 1862; Paris 1867; Stettin 1868).
- Victorian style tapestry footstool.
- Art Nouveau style lady figure lamp. Black with peacock on 'tree trunk' stand, holding round opaque light fitting. Electric cord.
- Italianate style pedestal and jardiniere.
- Ceramic urns (2), cream coloured, with lids. Blue handles. Painted.
- Black vase with pink roses and green leaves.
- Opaque glass and 'brass' handles and base - reproduction. Could be used for table centre or float bowl.

Just today, we have received, from Margaret Moulds, a Super 8 Camera, a Kodak 110 Camera and a stand. From Kaye Weaver we have received this transistor radio which looks like a Kodak camera. Small items such as these, we can accept, but no large items as we just don't have the storage space.

In the recent bad weather a tree came down on the front fence, which now has a decided lean to it, and also took out the nearest power pole which caused a few problems for a while, but thanks to the SES, the power company and Council officers, it was all cleared that same day. We also had a water leak in the ladies' bathroom and that too has now been fixed, so we thank Council for acting promptly with this.

Yesterday, we facilitated a meeting of representatives from various family and local history societies from Western Sydney, including Botany Bay, which isn't strictly Western Sydney, but their representative is also the Secretary of the NSWACT Association of Family History Societies, so we do welcome him to come along. Anyway, the representative from the Blue Mountains area left these brand new brochures – "Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Trail – Exploring History with Altitude" – if you would like to take one. Perhaps this is something we should be looking at for our own area?

There is still no news on the sale of the Tamplin Road Reserve, so we just keep waiting.....

With the council amalgamation issue looming, we have once again asked Council for a Memorandum of Understanding to give us some tenure on the site, 'just in case', but the decision was made to draw up a Service Agreement instead, so we are waiting for any further developments on that as well.

After all these years, if there is one thing we have learned - it's patience.....

You may be aware of the proposed amalgamation of part of Holroyd, part of Parramatta and part of Auburn to form a new Council area. I recently attended the two public inquiries held at the Holroyd Centre regarding this, and was very impressed with all the points brought up by the many speakers. Out of all the speakers across the two sessions, only 2 or 3 were in favour of the amalgamation, with the great majority seeing no advantages whatsoever to Holroyd. If you have been following the news and information that has been made available and would like to make a submission and send in your thoughts on the proposal, please do so by 5pm on Sunday 28th February. We can provide the postal address or website if you would like to send in a submission.

That's about it for the time being, so I hope you enjoy Cathy's presentation today, and please stay for a cuppa and a chat after the meeting. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

John McKenna presented the financial report for the six months from August 2015 to January 2016:

	Income	Expenditure	Profit/(Loss)
August 2015	\$141.68	\$215.10	(-\$73.42)
September	\$2,688.13	\$1,119.81	\$1,568.32
October	\$1.75	\$465.32	(-\$463.57)
November	\$4,115.34	\$1,206.79	\$2,908.55
December	\$1,391.84	\$928.84	\$463.00
January 2016	\$51.83	\$386.25	(-\$334.42)
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	\$8,390.57	\$4,322.11	\$4,068.46
 Year-to-date	 \$11,820.25	 \$5,142.05	 \$6,678.20

Some Expenditure Items:

Projector	\$358.00
Eskies	\$169.00
Printing/copying	\$457.80
Affiliation Memberships/Annual Report	\$343.00
Web site hosting	\$175.30
Xmas function	\$928.84
Postage	\$271.20
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	\$2,703.14

Opening Financial Position at 1st August 2015 \$61,721.93

Closing Financial Position at 31st January 2016 \$65,816.76

Moved by Pamela Richardson, seconded by Judith Moller, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was carried.

Address by the Mayor of Holroyd

Councillor Greg Cummings was invited to give the meeting an update on the current situation regarding Council as Trustee, sale of the Tamplin Road site, and the proposed forced amalgamations of Councils.

Greg advised that the frustration continues with the Minister and the Heritage Division. Council finally managed to have a meeting with an adviser to the Minister and representatives of the Heritage Division in mid-January and made them aware of their frustration about how long everything is taking to come to a resolution. Council is concerned about the lack of progress in respect to the IDA for the subdivision of the Tamplin Road site, as well as demolition of the old laundry building which is located on that site. They also expressed their frustration at the additional information being requested, costing Council thousands of dollars, despite the fact that Linnwood is a NSW State Government owned heritage listed building.

The Heritage Division was receptive to a number of Council's concerns and expected to report to the Minister at the beginning of February, with another meeting scheduled on 17 February to discuss Council's recommendations and to determine the process once the necessary information is available. The Heritage Division supports Linnwood's conservation and its community use.

The Heritage Division has offered to provide funding of up to \$30,000 to assist Council to provide the necessary information to enable determination of the IDA.

With respect to the Friends' tenure at Linnwood, Greg advised that the less onerous path is for a Service Agreement rather than a Lease Agreement. This is currently being drafted.

All Councils are currently in caretaker mode so they cannot carry out any purchases, contracts etc until a final decision is made on the proposed forced mergers.

General Business

No general business was raised during the meeting.

Guest Speaker

John McKenna then introduced Cathy Jones, formerly from Strathfield District Historical Society which no longer exists, and who now hosts her own website – www.strathfieldheritage.org

Cathy showed us many photos of former and current grand houses of Strathfield (originally named Redmyre in 1885). Many prominent business families built and/or owned mansions in Strathfield, including David Jones, Arnotts, Grace Bros, Anthony Hordern, W H Soul Pattinson, to name a few.

Many of these huge mansions were built in the 1880's/1890's and had magnificent gardens, with whole estates covering a couple of acres. Unfortunately a lot of them became too expensive to run, or the original owners died and the families sold the properties.

In those days, and even up until fairly recently, Strathfield had a "snob" value and was *the* place to live. This was cultivated over a long period of time, to increase property values. A book entitled "Oasis in the West" was published in 1985 to celebrate Strathfield's centenary. This was a very elitist account of the area and completely ignores the working class areas nearby.

In 1890, Albert Road was the most expensive street in Sydney. Cathy showed a 1922 black & white aerial photo of the area. Aerial photos were extremely rare in the 1920's so this is an important find.

Many of the grand mansions are still in existence due to their being purchased or leased by schools, universities (i.e. Australian Catholic College) and aged care facilities.

In Abbotsford Road, in nearby Homebush, there are 103 heritage listed houses.

Raffle Draw

Cathy drew the raffle tickets and the winners of the Valentine's Day chocolates were Mary Vivian, Dianne Brooks, Dorothy Warwick, and Coral Hamilton.

Next Public Meeting

The next Public Meeting will be held on Sunday 15 May 2016 at 2.00pm, and our guest speaker is Dr Catherine Bishop, Historian at the Australian Catholic University and the University of Sydney. Catherine will talk about some of the women in her book – "Minding Her Own Business: Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney".

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Confirmed:

Date: _____

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