



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 15 May 2016 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.10pm and welcomed all in attendance. Special welcome to our guest speaker, Dr Catherine Bishop and her friend, Janet Grundy, and former Holroyd Councillor Dr John Brodie.

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

Helen Olde, Ilma McKee, Ian McKee, Sue Evans, Margaret McKay Warn, Cassandra Graham, Zareen Nisha, John Brodie, Elizabeth Brodie, Shane Hannah, Beverley Clohessy, Pamela Zopf, Michael Griggs, Roland Zopf, Shemiran Skinner, Rodney Skinner, Kevin Horne, John Walz, Kaye Weaver, Karen Green, Janet Grundy, Margaret Grace, Judith Moller, Angela Caire, Pamela Richardson, Mervyn Mitchell, Dorothy Warwick, John McKenna, Catherine Bishop.

Apologies:

Leah Armstrong, Di Jogia, Coral Hamilton, Pat O'Brien, Russ & Beth Werner, Peter Warwick, Christine McKenna, Jill Finch.

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 14 February 2016

Moved by Pam Richardson, seconded by Kevin Horne, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 14 February 2016 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 book for members to peruse.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to our May Public Meeting and special welcome to our guest speaker Dr Catherine Bishop.

I for one am looking forward to her talk on Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney, something we don't hear too much about in our history lessons – and we all know the saying about who stands behind every successful man..... now we might hear about those who stepped out in front!

I'm sure you are all aware of the sad news broadcast on Thursday, that our Holroyd Council is no more and that we will now be part of the much larger Cumberland Council. How this will affect us all, and the Linnwood Estate in particular, remains to be seen, but personally I think it very sad news. The Friends of Linnwood have worked very well with Holroyd Council over the years and we will just have to hope that the relationship can continue with the new administration in the future.

We have had a few small donations come in over the last couple of months and they are here on view for you to see. Some donations we have already put to use in the Drawing Room and also in our new 'Ladies Sitting Room' which we have decorated, being the small room between the bathrooms. You might like to have a look after the meeting, if you haven't already seen how the rooms are looking.

Now to what's been happening.....

- Our March Open Day went well, with good attendances, but once again we were a little short on volunteers. Please, if you can help out on these days, even for an hour or so to give someone a break, we would really appreciate it.
- Council held an Old-time Carnival here in April as part of Seniors Week, and although there weren't a lot of people here on the day, I'm sure those who were all enjoyed playing croquet and badminton on the lawn and the other activities that were organised. Hopefully, this event will happen again next year and become an annual event.

- As part of the ANZAC commemorations, we were asked by Council if we could display some of our World War I era domestic memorabilia, so if you would like to have a look, they are on show in the display cases in the Council foyer, and will be there for another week or two.
- We have also been asked to provide a pictorial display at the Guildford Library Community Day next Saturday 21st May to celebrate the refurbishment of the library, so we will show some photos of Linnwood and also some photos of early Guildford. There will be lots of activities there on the day from 10am to 12noon if you would like to have a look, and we have flyers here if you would like one.
- Maintenance-wise we had a water leak on the road at the front corner of the house which was found to be a leaking fire hydrant pipe. This was quickly repaired as there was quite a bit of water running across the road.
- Council's gardeners have been working on the garden in the large fountain and you will see that the lavender has been taken out and we now have some new plantings of miniature gardenias there instead.
- We would also like to thank Pam and Roland Zopf for the amount of work they have done in the garden on the south side of the house. This garden was becoming quite overgrown and Pam and Roland have spent quite a lot of time there tidying it all up and again we have some new plantings there as well – so many thanks to them for the time they have put in to tidy it up.
- We have been in negotiations over the last couple of months with Holroyd Council to have a Service Agreement drawn up, giving us tenure on the site, and hopefully this Agreement was able to be put in place before Thursday's announcement, giving us a right to be here for another 5 years. As we hear more, we will let you know.....
- One day, a week or so ago when Helen and I were here, we had two young ladies come to the front door, introducing themselves as archaeologists, here to do a bit of a 'dig' on the Tamplin Road Reserve, so it appeared that things might be happening with the sale, but now with the amalgamation issue, who knows if, once again, this will be put on the back burner. Stay tuned for that one.....
- We received some sad news a couple of weeks ago, with the passing of one of our members, Hilda Corrick, who lived on Byron Road not far from Linnwood. I remember Hilda was a great supporter in the very early days when we were having community meetings as the Save Linnwood Hall Action Group, and Hilda then went on to join the newly formed Friends of Linnwood in October 2002 at our very first Open Day. Hilda was a familiar sight at our Open Days over the years and our sincere condolences go to her family for their loss.
- Our next Open Day is on Sunday 10th July and as usual for July we will have the American Independent Car Clubs here, together with the Holroyd Brass Band to entertain us. Inside the house we will have craft stalls and a pictorial display of old postcards and photographs which will have you all 'Reminiscing' about the way things used to be..... so we hope to see you here on the day.

That's about it for now, so please stay and enjoy the presentation by Catherine, and then join us for some afternoon tea. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

John McKenna presented the Treasurer's report for the months of February, March and April 2016.

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
Income	\$49.71	\$2,841.26	\$1.81
Expenditure	\$0.00	\$2,933.54	\$0.00

The majority of the income and expenditure related to the March Open Day, as well as purchase of items to continue to enhance the house, i.e. curtains and blinds for the new Ladies Sitting Room (which is the small room between the two bathrooms), and pot stands, cane pot holders and artificial ferns. Income is similar to previous open days.

As at 30 April 2016, our bank balance is \$43,702.92, interest bearing deposit \$21,801.25 and cash on hand \$1,096.05, giving a total of \$66,600.22.

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

General Business

Dr John Brodie gave an update on the situation regarding the *forced* mergers of Councils which took effect last Thursday 12 May 2016.

Treasurer John McKenna then had to leave the meeting at 2.45pm.

Guest Speaker

Dr Catherine Bishop acknowledged the traditional owners of the area, the Darug people, and also said that it was an honour to speak at a house built by a man who stood up for womens' suffrage.

Around Australia, memorials to our early pioneers tended to immortalise men – we don't normally remember the women who were pioneer wives and mothers, and businesswomen.

Mary Reiby is the most recognised pioneer woman, mainly because she was very rich, but she wasn't the only pioneer woman who ran successful businesses. When Catherine was undertaking her Ph.D she read many diaries from pioneering women, mainly from the 'elite' class, but they are very worthy of preservation. However many of those women did not tend to talk or write in their diaries or letters about their businesses. Catherine found most of her information via Trove (which unfortunately has recently had its funding stopped), as well as Insolvency files at State Records, Sands Directories (City of Sydney) and rates books, as well as bank account records through Westpac Archives.

25%-30% of small businesses in colonial Sydney had women involvement – either supporting their husbands or running their own businesses. Catherine showed some very old black & white photos of some of the businesses along Castlereagh Street and King Street in the 1840s, all run by women. Catherine found them as they were listed in the Trade Directory of the time.

In those days, if a woman owned a business and then married, under the Law of Coverture all her property automatically passed to her husband, but she still ran the business even though the name may have changed to her husband's name. In the majority of cases, female licensees of pubs were widows.

Mrs C Read owned a business teaching dancing, and she wrote "The Australian Ballroom Guide". In those days, married ladies were known by their husband's name, i.e. Mrs Charles Read. Catherine only discovered Mrs Read's first name when she looked up her son's death records and discovered that her name was Eliza.

Catherine's book is called "Minding Her Own Business – Colonial Businesswomen in Sydney", and tells some of the stories of "women who were visible to their contemporaries but have been lost to history".

Raffle Draw

The raffle was drawn by Dr Catherine Bishop and won by Kaye Weaver.

Next Public Meeting

The next Public Meeting will be held on Sunday 14 August 2016 at 2.00pm, and our guest speaker will be Mr Dick Whitaker who will tell us about the history of Darlinghurst Gaol.

The meeting closed at 3.32pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____

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Membership Renewals

It's membership renewal time for the year 2016/2017 for members who need to renew.

If you are a Perpetual or Honorary Member, or if you have paid some years in advance, you do not need to renew and you should not receive a form.

If you joined or renewed in May or June 2016, you do not need to renew your membership – your recent payment is valid through to July 2017.

Membership renewals are due and payable prior to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 14 August 2016, in order for you to be able to vote on any motions.

Otherwise, we'll be happy to receive your payment at any time.