

MINUTES

**General and Annual meetings
Chatswood West Ward Progress Association
Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor St, Chatswood
7:30 PM, Thursday 16th May 2019**

Meeting to commence at: 7:30 PM

Welcome: The President to welcome members and visitors to the meeting.

Acknowledgement to country: *"I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to their elders past and present".*

Passing of Les Murray: World renowned poet Les Murray has died. For a number of years Les lived in Edgar Street, Chatswood. His wife Valerie was born in Macartney Avenue, Chatswood. One of Les' five children was on the Spectrum. Les was often seen playing lovingly with his son in nearby Bartels Park. He was a man with a huge heart. During their time at Chatswood, Valerie and Les hosted dinner parties for some of Australia's most renowned poets, writers and literary figures. Whilst Les will be missed terribly, his essence lives on in his poetry. **(longer version in the appendices).**

Move that: the Association requests Willoughby Council to commemorate Les Murray's significant cultural contribution to Chatswood with an appropriate memorial in a public place within Chatswood. **Motion carried**

Declarations of interest:

Members Present: 13 as recorded in the Attendance book.

Apologies: Terry Fogarty, John Benn, Marina Ilic, Clr Campbell, Lyn McCloskey and Basil Laszynski

Annual General Meeting

Notice of AGM

As per the Constitution, notice was given of the intent to hold the AGM of the Association at the May meeting.

Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The President tabled the minutes for acceptance. Minutes accepted

President's Report

The President's 2018/19 report tabled (copy attached).

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer to present his report for the 2018 financial year. Accounts for 2018 accepted:

1) Members accept the 2018 accounts and for the public officer to lodge Form A12-T2 with NSW Fair Trading confirming the following:

- CWWPA has yearly income of less than \$250,000
- CWWPA has assets less than \$500,000
- CWWPA has more than 5 members
- CWWPA has more than 3 committee members

Motion passed

2) Members approve CWWPA reimbursing the public officer \$46 being the cost of lodging Form A12-T2 with NSW Fair Trading

Motion passed

Election of Office Bearers

The President vacated the Chair in favour of Clr Saville as Returning Officer. The Returning Officer to conduct election for the following positions:

- President - Kay Freudenstein-Hayes nominated and voted in unanimously
- Vice President - Chee Yin Ng nominated and voted in unanimously
- Treasurer - Charles Gowing nominated and voted in unanimously as Treasurer and Public Officer
- Secretary -Terry Fogarty nominated and voted in unanimously

Clr Saville as Returning Officer announced the results of the election and passed the meeting to the chairmanship of the incoming President.

General Business

No requests for a General Business item had been made.

AGM closed at 7.55pm

Continuation of general meeting

Late items (incorporated into the Agenda):

- 255 bus service – see under transport.
- M40 bus service – see under transport
- Bowen & Moriarty Sts spot rezoning – see under development
- OH Reid Citizens Panel- see under Open Space
- Emergency Service Levy – see under General business
- Draft Operational Plan 2019/2020 – see under Governance
- Clr. Saville Motion on Climate Change Emergency – see under General business
- Leisure Centre upgrade – see under Open Space
- Appointment of Committee members – see under governance

Matters for General Business?

Minutes: Due to his absence overseas the Secretary has distributed Minutes of the 21 March meeting. Chee Yin Ng moved, Kay Freudenstein-Hayes seconded and the minutes were accepted

Treasurer's Report:The Treasurer report to April 2019 was be tabled. Charles Gowing moved, Kay Freudenstein-Hayes seconded and the report accepted

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Saville gave an overview of the following:

1. Council has produced the 'Council Funding Priorities 2019 to inform communities of directions for the next year. These include:
 - a) Planned Zenith Theatre upgrades to foyer, bathrooms, backstage dressing rooms, stage production to remain competitive
 - b) Willoughby Leisure Centre
WLC almost 30 yrs old with 300,000 visits PA. The current 8 lap pool is shared by learn to swim, squads, aquatic programs etc

Planned upgrades will include: Increased depth and improves access to 25 lap pool; Four lane learn to swim pool; Toddlers play pool; Engaged spa and sauna on deck; Programme pool, also used for higher level LTS class - Overall cost \$19M

- c) Chatswood Park Masterplan stage 2
Renovation skate park and playground Upgrades to perimeter paths; Orchard Rd crossings; Exercise equipment; New maintenance shed; Demolition Cedric Pike Pavilion
Heritage railway shelter over southern seating terrace (re use of the heritage rail brackets are something I advocated for since demolition of heritage station).
 - d) Rotary Athletics Field
Athletics field is due for renewal of existing floodlights in 2019/2020 subject to budget. Includes 4 new floodlights & potential to provide an alternative training site for other sports. (My concern would be loss of vegetation as occurred at CHS)
2. Consultants are looking into possible (shopping) new centres in West Chatswood
 3. Planning proposal for Bowen St submitted by developer is contrary to LEP. See also Major Developments - **Suggested a Master Plan** could be developed to incorporate the Church site on CNR Mowray and Pacific Hwy (Lane Cove Council) and Bowen Street and precinct area.
 4. Chatswood High School – public meetings on 29 and 30 May
 5. Build up of traffic in Chatswood continues. In particular, the new traffic lights at Mowbray/Hampden Rds causing issues
 6. NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (Rob Stokes) - recent reports suggest he would like to eliminate spot re-zoning.
 7. Vivid starts 24 May
 8. Sydney Coastal Council Group, of which Clr Saville is a member continuing to map coastal areas

Further information provided: Planned Zenith Theatre upgrades to foyer, bathrooms, backstage dressing rooms, stage production facilities to remain competitive.

FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS & NSROC

Federal election: As a delegate to the FWPA the Secretary suggested that instead of the traditional 'Meet the Candidates' type event that the FWPA partner with the Facebook site Willoughby Living to pose questions to candidates. Their answers can then be distributed to various mailing lists. This worked very well for Willoughby Living at the recent State election where all candidates responded and supplied answers. **The Federation adopted this approach**

Advisory Committees: As a FWPA delegate the Secretary requested the FWPA to write to Council to request that Advisory Committee members be given the opportunity to engage with Council Officers and their draft report prior to it being presented to Council. **The Federation adopted this approach.**

Planning proposals: The Secretary proposed the following **Motion:** That the Federation write to the new planning minister requesting that she undertake a review of planning legislation as it pertains to Planning Proposals and inviting her to a meeting of the Federation to discuss the matter. **Background:** Planning proposals are a relatively new opportunity for developers to by-pass community agreed strategic plans such as Regional Strategic Plans, Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs). They affect the whole of the Willoughby area. Planning Proposals are colloquially referred to as 'Spot Rezonings'. Using a Planning Proposal a developer can propose (and have approved) an application that far exceeds the planning controls of a site. Planning Proposals are not widely advised by Council. A short time ago the State Government established the Greater Sydney Commission to oversee the development of strategic planning plans for the Northern region. Their tenets are regularly being overwritten by the Sydney North Planning Panel. The existing Development Application Process provides adequate opportunity for a developer to request approval for a building that exceeds the limits prescribed in a LEP or DCP.

Planning Proposals should be scrapped.

Recent newspaper reports suggest NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is not in favour of spot rezoning and the reports suggest the minister would like to look at eliminate spot re-zoning. The SMH quoted Mr Stokes in an article on 15 May 2019 as saying "My ambition, and it is a way off, but my ambition is a future where spot rezoning doesn't have a role."

Charter for Public Participation: In a follow-up from the previous meeting the Secretary moved: At the meeting of the Federation of Willoughby Progress Association it was resolved to write to Council seeking a response about when and how Council intends to implement the tenets in the Charter for Public Participation. The Charter was published in June 2018 by the NSW Information and Privacy Commission, underpinned by NSW's Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 (GIPA Act). The Charter was distributed to Councils by the NSW Office of Local Government by Council Circular 18-22 on 22 August 2018. Among other things, the Charter provides a framework for developing and refining a policy of public participation. Waiting for a response from Council?

GOVERNANCE

Review of complaints management policy: Details available now on Have Your Say Willoughby. Submissions due by 31 May.

Draft Operational Plan 2019/2020: This sets out how and where Council proposes to spend your rates. The plan is in draft form. The next step is for it to go on public exhibition.

Appointment of Committee members as per the Constitution, the Committee has determined to appoint Andrea Austin (Education) and Diana Pryde (Open Space) to the Committee. Both Andrea Austin and Diana Pryde accepted the respective appointments

MAJOR LEGISLATION CHANGES

9 Centennial Avenue: Has finally been Heritage listed. As the owner opposed the listing there is concern that either an appeal may be lodged or that the property may fall into a state of disrepair (often known as 'demolition by neglect'). Cllr Saville advised that National Trust will list the building. This is a large block so many options for the owners and apparently they have engaged a heritage architect.

Draft housing strategy: Submission period now closed.

OPEN SPACE

OH Reid Citizens Panel: A report regarding the formation of OH Reid Citizens committee went to Council on Monday night (13 May). There are a few matters of particular interest:

- **Chairperson.** After input from Ward Councillors, Mayor and GM they are proposing a 'independent' consultant/facilitator rather than a member of the panel
- **Composition of panel.** Quite diverse.
- **Terms of reference:** The local community group has reviewed this and have a few matters and have a small number of proposed amendments they are proposing to Council

CWWP Representative: The Terms of Reference call for the nomination of a member of the CWWPA. It is proposed that the Association nominate our Open Space co-ordinator (Diana Pryde) for this role. Diana has agreed.

Due to absences from the Council meeting and various proposed amendments, the OH Reid Citizens Panel Motion has been deferred to a future council meeting

Leisure Centre Pool Hall Upgrade: Detailed designs or proposed upgrade work available in Council Agenda May 13.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

255 bus service: Received from a member: the 255 bus seems to be encountering ever more difficulties. Lone Pine is a particular problem because of parking on either side of an already narrow street. Today (2nd May), a bus was trapped half way along (not sure exactly why) and traffic entering at both ends piled up. The situation rapidly developed into one that couldn't easily be resolved, as school buses were lined up in Eddy, and there was no room for cars to reverse out of Lone Pine.

Possible solutions? Difficult. One option would be to permit parking on one side only (residents without off-street parking would be upset). Another would be to widen on the western side (also probably upsetting residents). The concern is that State Transport will axe the service because would-be passengers will give up, giving ammunition in the form of declining patronage to those who would like to axe it for cost reasons.

*Move that: the information above be forwarded to Council's Traffic Engineer for consideration. **Motion** accepted that correspondence to Council list both possible solutions, parking on one side and widening the road*

M40 bus service: (Chatswood to Bondi via city) One of the Sate Government's better initiatives is no more. Namely the RED M40 buses. In their wisdom, these have been replaced with standard BLUE buses with a 340-route number. The route and timetable stays the same. Just most of the red buses and the M40 designator have gone.

Fullers Rd: Fullers Rd surface is breaking up. There have been two recent patches. There are three or four further areas badly cracked. Breakup will be exacerbated by rain. This surface is relatively new. Strong suspicion breakup is due to the big truck-trailer combinations that are now frequenting the road, presumably carrying spoil from infrastructure work. I've seen up to 3 go past in the ten minutes or so it takes to walk up the hill. So far broken up areas have been quickly patched, but it looks like we will soon end up with a significantly patched road. **Letter sent to Council. Charles Gowing raised this at the Traffic Committee and it was referred to RMS for action.** Council working with RMS on this

Beaconsfield lights: No update as Cllr Campbell was not present. Under discussion with Lane Cove Council

Metro NorthWest & Station Link buses: Due to stop running in May to be replaced by Metro NorthWest. Metro trains will commence on 26 May

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Bowen & Moriarty Spot Re-zoning: Council officers are supporting a 'spot re-zoning' of 1A-29 Bowen Street & 6-18 Moriarty St. The Planning Proposal seeks to amend Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 to change the zoning for the sites and adjacent roadway at Bowen Street from R2 Low Density Residential to R4 High Density Residential, allow a building height of up to 30 metres and a Floor Space Ratio up to 2.5:1 (including 7% residential GFA to be affordable housing). **Full report attached.** Kay Freudenstein-Hayes stated she was concerned about the rezoning particularly when you consider the broader precinct of Whitton Road, Crichtett Street and adjoining areas, and any precedents set. These include 'Locality J' where there seems to be a 3 story limit.

Expansion of the Chatswood Education Precinct: Letters sent as per resolution to the Department of Education, Willoughby Council and Ward Councillors. Responses received from the Department, Council and Cllr. Saville.

The essence of the responses received is:

- The Department is planning an information session in May. This will be advertised and surrounding residents notified. *Can anyone who receives a notification please send to secretarycwwpa@gmail.com*
- the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) will be lodged after consultation
- Heritage buildings will be carefully and respectfully maintained, and the design will be in keeping with the existing buildings and the local environment.
- After lodgement the SSDA will be publicly available on the Department of Planning website.

Dual occupancy 41 Wood Street

Residents in Wood Street, Chatswood are concerned about a Development Application for an attached dual occupancy dwelling at 41 Wood St. It is proposed that **each dwelling will have five bedrooms (10 in total)** over three stories. It is difficult to understand why so many bedrooms would be required. **Unless?** It appears that there is high demand in Chatswood for large AirBnB style accommodation. Maybe organisations in the Chatswood area are looking for short term accommodation for employees. Evidently demand for serviced apartments outstrips supply.

For the run of the mill house in Willoughby there are no restrictions on the number of people that can live in the home. However, if the property is used for short-stay accommodation it might be considered to be a boarding house or other style of development that is controlled by legislation. Of course, obtaining evidence of such use could be very difficult.

Another feature of the current application is that it relies on the State Affordable Housing regulations to achieve higher development potential. By the way, two car parking spaces are proposed. The residents are naturally concerned that quite a number of cars will be parking in the street. The development replaces a modest single storey home.

Action : Monitor and check for Council response

Local (shopping) centres strategy: With the Association's agreement Ruth Hardy extracted the key points from the West Ward Bytes in regard to Local Shops and more units and distributed them to areas particularly effected. Submission period now closed.

Chatswood CBD: At the last meeting there was General discussion in regard to the Chatswood CBD zone, actual borders and were this may be defined – Charles Gowing discussed the current and proposed CBD map in detail..

General Business

Emergency Services Levy: The NSW Government has announced the following changes to the emergency services levy

- They have made changes to workers' compensation to provide better protection for volunteer and career firefighters affected by work-related cancers.
- The reforms reflect existing arrangements in other States and will ensure those who provide vital community services receive adequate medical care and support.
- This will result in an increase in the cost of providing emergency services across the State, which will be shared, as per the usual

funding arrangements between insurance providers, the State Government and local councils.

- The local government share will be 11.7% of the cost of the emergency services levy.

Climate Emergency: Cllr Saville has moved that Council publicly acknowledges that we are in a state of climate emergency. The motion failed to pass at Council, likely to try again in 3 months

25 Orchard Rd. A member (neighbour - 27 Orchard) raised concerns about the proposed DA 2018/311 being for multi tenancy with 5/6 bedrooms on a small footprint, the removal of 1 car space. Submission period closed 6 May with only 2 submissions, one from either side of the residence. Member was advised to check with neighbours as to whether notification of DA had been received. If not, there may be a possibility of Council accepting further submissions

Open Space. Richard Lambert brought in an article from the Herald Sun which showed that on a People per hectare basis, our neighbouring Councils had more space. ***Moved and accepted that we ask Willoughby Council how this was measured, their involvement and what was our status***

Correspondence OUT/IN – handled within Agenda.

No meeting in June as per the Rules. The next meeting will be on the Thursday 18th July.

Meeting to close at 9:30 PM

Absences: May – Terry; June – no meeting; July – Kay, Terry; Sept – Terry; Oct – Charles Nov – Terry.

There was no committee meeting

Appendices

1. From Department of Education



Dear Kay,

Thank you for your query in relation to the Chatswood Education Precinct, a landmark education precinct in Chatswood that will include the redevelopment, relocation and expansion of Chatswood Public School, Chatswood High School and Chatswood Intensive English Centre. It will offer new and refurbished innovative learning and teaching facilities for up to 1,200 primary school students and 2,000 secondary school students.

Early design and project staging consultation has been undertaken with the school community, school staff, the NSW Government Architect's Office and other government agencies including RMS and Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

In addition, the school community and local resident information sessions is planned for May, prior to the lodgement of the State Significant Development Application (SSDA). At the sessions the project team will share plans and design for the precinct, the planning process and next steps including future engagement opportunities. The session details will be advertised and local residents will be notified.

In August 2018, the NSW Department of Planning & Environment granted the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) which guide the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement which includes a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). Heritage buildings will be carefully and respectfully maintained, and the design will be in keeping with the existing buildings and the local environment.

Once the SSDA is lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment, it will be on exhibition on their website which includes the HIA.

Kind regards,

Suzy

Community Engagement Team

2. From Willoughby Council

Dear Ms Fruedenstein-Hayes,

I refer to your email below incorporating questions raised by the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association regarding redevelopment at Chatswood Primary and High Schools. Responses to the questions are provided in red following each question.

The Chatswood West Ward Progress Association (CWWPA) is a community based not-for-profit group that advocates on behalf of residents in the western part of the Willoughby Council area. This includes residents directly affected by proposed changes to Chatswood High School and Chatswood Public School.

At the last meeting of the Association it was resolved

1. That the CWWPA write to the Department of Education and Willoughby Council asking what, if any consultation there has been with neighbours regarding the proposed expansion of the education precinct? What consultation is planned and when will it occur?

Response:

Having consulted with representatives from the Department of Education, I understand surrounding properties were invited to a public information session in October last year which was held at the school. The Department of Education has advised that a second public information session is scheduled for May. Council has not undertaken any community consultation noting that there has been no application lodged to date and Council is not the consent authority.

2. That CWWPA write to the Department, Council the Ward Councillors asking for an outline of the planning processes and timelines that apply to the site.

Response:

The proposed redevelopment is classified as State Significant Development under Section 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP & A Act)*. As such the Department of Planning and Environment (DP & E) are the consent authority for the proposed development. Although the application for assessment has not been lodged with DP & E to date, the preliminary stage being the Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements was submitted in July last year for which Council's comments were sought. At this time Council responded raising a range of issues including any future application addressing:

- Statutory and strategic context
- Impact on natural environment including Blue Gum High Forest, E2 Environmental Conservation zoning, and drainage patterns
- Heritage, including heritage items on site and in the vicinity of the property
- Potential shadow and privacy impacts
- Biodiversity assessment
- Streetscape
- Pedestrian movement
- Transport and accessibility
- Staging of development
- Sustainability

Representatives of the Department of Education requested a meeting with Council Officers to advise of future action in respect to the redevelopment. This occurred on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at which they indicated their intention of holding a further information session for interested parties in May and submitting the formal State Significant Development Application to DP & I around May/June 2019. Following submission DP & E would exhibit the proposal for a 28 day period. Advertisements of the exhibition period would be placed in the Sydney Morning Herald, North Shore Times and on the Department's website. Surrounding properties would also be notified. The extent of notification would be determined by DP & E. A copy of documents would be available at Council during the exhibition period.

Following exhibition and the completion of the assessment of the application by officers of DP & E the application would be determined by either DP & E or the Minister for Planning based on delegation criteria.

3. In particular we are concerned the development and interface to surrounding heritage areas

Response:

As stated above heritage has been raised by Council Officers as a matter that is required to be addressed in the application. Further the impact of development on heritage is a matter that the Department is required to consider under the *EP & A Act*.

Ian Arnott - Planning Manager
WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

3. From Clr. Saville

Dear Kay,

With anticipated population increases at the 2 schools, we need further details.

Clear plans must be in place to avoid negative effect on the heritage property next door, and to protect the ecologically endangered bushland remnants on the school site

I understand there have been many problems and delays with the high rise high school at Parramatta the DET may re consider high rise schools.

Kind regards,

Lynne Saville

Les Murray

Les was a onetime Chatswood resident and an early Patron of The Concourse. In 1965 Les married Valerie Morelli in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood. Valerie was from McCartney Avenue, Chatswood. Later they lived in Edgar Street, Chatswood near what is now Bartels Park. Valerie and Les had five children. One of them was on the Spectrum. Les could often be seen in the park playing lovingly with his son. He was a man with a huge heart.

Whilst living in Chatswood, Valerie and Les revived a tradition started by another world-class poet, Kenneth Slessor (Five Bells), also from Chatswood. They would host dinner parties for poets, mainly from Sydney and Melbourne. These included Slessor and other recognised poets and literary figures such as Douglas Stewart (Fire on the Snow), Geoffrey Lehmann (his co-conspirator on Murray's first book of poetry), Christopher Koch, Mark O'Connor, Peter Porter, Peter Goldsworthy, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Alan Gould, Robert Gray, Jamie Grant and his wife Margaret Connolly.

Les penned many poems that resonate with imagery of Chatswood and the North Shore:

work's turned its back on sweet brilliance
but when they start to loom, these towers
disappear. Dusk's lightswitchers reveal
yellow business branching kilotail
and haloed with stellar geometry

Mirror-glass skyscrapers

In addition to Les and Kenneth Slessor, Chatswood and Willoughby has produced an extraordinary number of highly renowned poets, writers and literary figures who either lived or wrote about the area. This includes Louise Mack, Mona Alexis Brand (Children of the Sun), Tad Orwell (Kangaroo Flat), Lennie Lower (Here's Luck), Francis Webb (A drum for Ben Boyd), Kenneth Cook (Wake in Fright), Jennifer Rankin (Night ride), Barcroft Boake (Where dead men lie), Kate Grenville (Lillians story), Matthew Reilly (Scarecrow), Henry Lawson, Burnum Burnum (Wildthings), Nancy Wake (The White Mouse), Betty Roland (The touch of silk) and Gwen Meredith (Blue Hills), Les Murray has won many literary awards, including the Grace Leven Prize (1980 and 1990), the Petrarch Prize (1995), and the prestigious T.S. Eliot Prize (1996). In 1999 he was awarded the Queens Gold Medal for Poetry on the recommendation of Ted Hughes.

As an aside, many years ago it was suggested to name a memorial in Chatswood after Les. Les was very moved at the time. However, this was squashed. Mainly on two grounds – he was not dead and people were concerned he may say something embarrassing (yet that was the essence of the man).

The time is now opportune to reconsider how best way to recognise the contribution Les has made and his association with Chatswood.