

## COOTHARABA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC

**Minutes for the Quarterly General Meeting No.91** held in Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Meeting began at 9.10 am upstairs in clubhouse.

**Attendance** as per sign on sheet were: John O, Rob D, David W, Ada M, Charlie C, Ken & Karen E, Joy F, Cr Brian S, Trevor C, Warren K, Wendy & Doug S, Vivienne & Paul R, Mick C, Brett O & Cheryl T, Noel R, David H, Rain E, Matt N, Suzanne E, Marene D

**Apologies:** Rosey Edgar (Treasurer), Ashley Fox, Anne Maree O'Brien, Paula Viljoen, Max & Silvia Bannah, Robert Killeen

Item	Details <i>(Please note: Underlined text are hyperlinks to documents on CCA website)</i>	Motions		
		Moved	Second	Carried
1.	<p><b>Acknowledgement of Country.</b> Read by John O, and written by Rosie E (absent). Past peoples have called these areas, around us, home. The night skies above us, as in past times, allow us to see passing comets such as Halley, in 1986. Remnants of the Haley Comet tail, can still be seen passing over our earth, in our night skies today. Those with an ancient connection to country and place would have seen these things too. Those night sky events had excited mythology tales around campfires, for peoples to north, south, east and west of us; just like it does today for people here now. Thousands of times, our skies have been observed, by people up to the present. We in Boreen Pt have said we want to continue to see the stars – it was through CCA that we have said we want a dark sky area, and few street lights. We want a dark sky and it is our way of continuing this tradition. We share in a full history of this place. Our CCA members join in this acknowledgment and respect the elders past and present. Rob D, our President, thanked reader John and hoped we enjoyed the acknowledgment to country written by Rosie E, our Treasurer.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.	<p><b>Introduction, Welcome; &amp; Housekeeping</b> (toilets, emergencies etc.). Rob D welcomed all and hoped those in attendance would introduce themselves to others, if not already had done so. Emergency exits, toilets and water availability were pointed out. Sign on sheet at door.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.	<p><b>Meeting documents for members' perusal</b> Members could read previous Minutes on CCA website. <a href="https://www.cootharabaca.org.au/minutes">https://www.cootharabaca.org.au/minutes</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General Meeting 90 Minutes</b> were accepted as true and correct. No comments were sent prior to this meeting about the minutes.</li> <li>• <b>Finance/Treasurer's Report GM 91.</b> Treasurer report is on the web. Some membership renewals have been received today and prior to this meeting. A balance of \$1331.27 is the current balance. 40 paid up members and 1 honorary member has been recorded. Membership had been extended, to today, to enable voting. Some new members have come.</li> </ul>	Trevor C  David W	Charlie C  Ada M	Accepted  Accepted

Item	Details <i>(Please note: Underlined text are hyperlinks to documents on CCA website)</i>	Motions		
		Moved	Second	Carried
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Correspondence Register GM 91.</b> No hard copy. Secretary can be contacted about these. Mainly emails have been sent and received.</li> <li>• <b>Management Committee Report</b> from the floor. President gave this. The last was held at Rob D home. That meeting discussed topics such as the coming meeting, and planning for it. Flyers and website information needed.</li> </ul> <p>Another important topic was the AGM and that committee members are retiring. Rob D said the positions such as Secretary and President were needing to be filled. John O then spoke about his increasing family commitment reasons and his employment which is in conflict for him. He stated that he will always only be able to provide facts to CCA but the secretarial job for CCA is causing issues for his own time management. For example: he cannot be deeply involved with State Government issues as this can be a conflict of interest for him and those state issues could be a key thing that the committee was about.</p> <p>Rob D spoke after John explained his situation and Rob D is also needing to step down as has been in it for a long time, from the beginning of CCA, years ago. He stated the president role is to keep the group going, some corresponding and someone who can keep the important issues, to the front. He has travel commitments which are making it harder to be here and feel fully on the ball. Our Vice President, Tasman has a family of 5 children also. Rob reminded, that all the past members will certainly help others, who fill these roles.</p>			
4.	<p><b>The future of the CCA is in your hands!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key roles on the management committee (MC) will become vacant at this year's AGM (postponed until 9<sup>th</sup> August), and if not filled, the CCA will be forced to fold. Rob D spoke on this briefly. Find out more at <a href="https://www.cootharabaca.org.au/about-us">https://www.cootharabaca.org.au/about-us</a> All information on roles are on the Website. There was a flyer letter box drop off and sent through other groups Eg social club. We postponed the AGM until July/August while we get this sorted out. Please inform others and think for yourself, how you could help.</li> <li>• Another main, new issue was brought up here by Ada M, about the meeting and talk about MSQ involvement with the Noosa River and the Lake system. She mentioned a meeting that had been held with Sandy Bolton, our local State Member, and with some interested CCA members. The president halted discussion at this point, as an opportunity will be at a time later in meeting, to discuss this topic.</li> </ul>			

<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Update from key members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dog off leash areas/rules</b> Mick C spoke on this topic.</li> </ul> <p>Dogs in Boreen Pt township and Lakeside have become a topic for CCA. An answer from the Council suggested we get feedback and information from community and see how they felt. Mick said a Sub Committee came together, made up of himself, Margaret Moon and Warren Kuscoff. They asked for comment from the community and collated some points on this topic. He received some letters from Karen E and a few others. There are <u>no areas that dogs cannot be or are banned from</u>. But there are <b>around Boreen Pt off leash areas and leashed areas</b>. He spoke on where they were. Off leash – near Ron’s Jetty, to boat ramp to Buffalo Park and the Sport Rec Area. There are only two. Leashes apply everywhere else. Main beach is an on leash area and Duns Beach is also on leash at all times. Karen E said that there are some No Dogs Allowed signs around town that need removing then. (Path from Appo Pub to Campground and from Sport Rec Area to Campground) Dogs are allowed in Campgrounds now.</p> <p>A Restricted off leash swimming area at the southern end of Duns is just a suggestion at moment. Buffalo Park could be divided or changed as it was felt that children use the swings there. This off leash area including Post Office Corner, could be made a timed session for dogs off leash. But other areas could be off leash at all times. Mick said he is still accepting ideas and comments and will continue to collate. He has tried to contact Council and he cannot seem to get info on dog management in our shire just yet. At the moment still collecting but will be sent to Council and then they can advise. One off leash suggestions was before 9 am only. The question was asked as to whether a start and finish time could be displayed? When do people start walking dogs? John O asked for ideas on times. Mick will continue to work on this. Comments from floor: Doug S – is only one letter being sent? Brian S - said there is a workshop to review rules on this topic. He felt Council may have potential to do a full scale review next calendar year. Firstly an administrative meet would be planned first. 2014 – 2016 was when it was done last Eg over a thousand community comments about this. It is a topic people are wanting to be involved in. Wendy S - mentioned the ramp area and how it can be a danger to dogs off leash in that area due to boating activities. She added Duns beach is good for dog swimming and should be considered. Vivienne R - currently a dog owner said that allocating a time is allocated before 9 only isn’t good either as it should be times all day when families can take dogs and their family members to enjoy together. It is a common activity and part of how our community enjoys the Lake, with the family dogs. Rob O - Is it possible to make a decision at the CCA about this? Should we do a letter drop to make sure that community questions on the Dog topic are put out and collate and have representation from a wider group of community? Some showed they were in agreement.</p>			
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	<p>John O asked if this could be an issue, for a different management process. Should we have a Town Team or go into a Place Group from our area that is Council run and works with CCA? Brian S mentioned a Pomona trial has happened and Kin Kin was next. Tewanin is a much much bigger group and it is happening. Pomona has a webpage and Town Teams and they look at that type of topic. Mick C is happy to still be the contact for the dog off leash issue. The working group is still happening and Mick C is happy to continue.</p> <p>Ada M congratulated the working group on what has been done already. She proposed a motion - "The information surrounding this topic that has been collected so far and all suggestions or questions, are to be sent to John to then send to membership and other groups in area with a view to finalise and then to send all to Council".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disaster Management Group</b> Warren K from SES addressed the meeting. Warren briefly reminded everyone to have an emergency plan in place for themselves and family and that once things dry out and long grasses grow, we need to be prepared for Fire Season again. At moment no issues.</li> <li>• <b>Grey water discharge for vans and motorhomes.</b> Charlie C spoke on this topic. Some signs had been made but was told by council and that you can't just put signs up. He has tried the steps of seeing campground staff and working to alert both staff and guests. It still happens and it is being addressed at other places and parks. There were comments about road access to campground and what has been put forward in past years.</li> <li>• <b>Removal of bore water reticulation</b> from camping ground and the Boreen Point foreshore. David H - still working with Shaun W from Council and it is progressing. Sailing Club are still involved.</li> <li>• <b>Foreshore Plan</b> John O said about another meeting for foreshore coming up and we still have representatives in the working group and keeping this happening. The MSQ situation has become more current, but the foreshore is still on the Council list of priorities for our area.</li> <li>• <b>General camping ground &amp; village precinct matters</b> John O asked the group if we should put together a request to council, as so much is going on and can we have a plan made for Boreen Pt and Cootharaba vicinity? Things like the Boom gates, and relevant signage. John added that making a Place Plan could make a difference.</li> </ul>	<p>Ada M</p>	<p>Mick C</p>	<p>Carried</p>
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<p>It is meant to be a joint plan by community and council, where both parties are responsible to have it and be implemented by either group. Brian S suggested to get ideas to council now, as those decisions for Plans is happening now.</p> <p>Ada M brought up the idea of whether glamping tents were to go on the oval. She said she had rung Cr Amelia L and she has been sending emails to Larry Sengstoke. She told Ada she hasn't heard from Larry or anyone yet. At the moment it could be only a rumour. Cr Brian S said there is a master plan and staff are looking at options for the campground. Conversations have been around whether land behind is usable and how it can be used or what areas are used for what. David H added to this that the community needs to be consulted and these things add to making revenue and it is a concern that the park would become huge. Brian S did not feel that that would be an issue. Dave H asked if council could get us involved in these things before the decisions are made.</p> <p>John O said that CEO Larry S assured us that changes would be discussed and the community would be included. John said he felt the boom gate had changed whether the community was involved. He is hoping that these things do involve us, Eg Duns Beach and immediate campground areas.</p> <p>Dave H was concerned that we know and not just after the council brain storming and decisions made. Dave H said consultation with community at the beginning of the plans/ ideas and not after the fact, is important and necessary.</p> <p>Brain S said that campgrounds are worthwhile for the Council revenue. Joy F spoke about other campgrounds where sewerage overflow, cleaning chemicals and staff equipment is poorly managed. This local Boreen Pt campground this is a good park compared to others. Clapping to this.</p> <p>Trevor C said he had proposed a new entrance and he was told years ago that there would be one in and one road out (about 20 years ago) Wendy S told how she remembers the campground having been expanded further back into bush. Doug S who is in the Boreen Pt Bushcare group, who with the group, are trying to preserve much of the foreshore, for all to use and to keep our park and bush areas healthy. He felt there is a need for long term objectives and we should have an urgent decision about a road, as degradation of Lake banks and poor drainage and depletion of plants and trees is not always easy to spot each day. It is a gradual process and he felt we don't see degradation easily.</p> <p>Motion was put forward by John O "that we write to Council and outline urgent development considerations for Boreen Pt and Cootharaba areas, based on the perceived success of the Pomana Plan" Management Committee will identify the considerations to be included in the scope of our plan. Eg Some considerations could be Bike Paths, lighting, bores, water access or removal of bores, ramps, local path improvement, roads.</p> <p>Rob D - at last Management Committee meeting it was decided to converse with Frank W Mayor via emails and questions were sent to him. He or his staff responded on each question. These questions were outlined. This is one of reasons to postpone the AGM and it was felt these were things that we were concerned about and for our CCA group to go forward. This was viewed on the screen.</p>	<p>Ken E</p>	<p>Doug S</p>	<p>Carried</p>
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	<p>1 Incorporation - should our CCA be? Trevor C said that in his past, the NICA group did need Incorporation status. Past residents, Sue and Ron Smith had an example of non incorporation problems in the UK. We are incorporated. Mayor said it is not a council job to give advice but listed places that we can get further advice. Opinion seemed to favour being incorporated for legal reasons.</p> <p>2 Insurance - Do community groups need their own and are Council are to provide cover. No as groups expected to get own as Council Insurance is for their own use. Rob D, our President stated "We are representing the views of our community and this is what the elected members are asked to do, that is, writing things on behalf of the community, we need to keep this role in mind and we have always been concerned about how things are said." The Mayor gave information about what grants are available and the group can get advice on grants through workshops and other bodies. Brian S asked that has it been considered that only one body in community is incorporated and the others are subgroups? John O reminded that we have already looked at being under other groups. Gave example of Bushcare Group being under Insurance of larger body. Rob D felt we were given an answer about insurance and we need to know the insurance is a large ongoing cost. There are other ways to perhaps change to be under other groups. Perhaps that local groups band together and have subgroups within. Eg Friends of Kinaba are insured under another group of NICA.</p> <p>3 The next question was about Place making /Town Plans eg Pomona. We wished to know more about this and there is a website which will be sent to us again.</p> <p>4 We asked that should the Mayor not be the first point of contact, (via messages or emails) could the Deputy Mayor be our contact or another? It was answered and said that Cr Brian S could be the point of contact. Monique J is a community contact - Community Development. She can deal with grants and can help with strategic planning suggestions. Correspondence should be to CEO and all councillors regarding Place Making plans and subjects. Matt K asked if we should have 2 people to do the working on these roles? John O said it is a 2 person job. If we have a Vice President who has more time that person would help the Secretary. It appears the Secretary role is also a 2 person job was a comment by Dave H. Next meeting the roles can be reviewed to show it can be worked on by two people.</p>			
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Update on Noosa River Plan</b> - planned anchoring restrictions and how they impact Lakes Cootharaba &amp; Cooroibah, Boreen Point, the CCA and community in general. A number of attendees spoke on this matter. The River Plan goes back many years for Looking at Noosa waterways. MSQ finally decided to use our river as a Test Case and to look at other rivers.</p>			

	<p>Some years ago, an MSQ rep came to a meeting with us here and said we don't have to worry but 6 weeks ago or less, in Oct 2025 there will be a removal of the 28 day anchoring rule. There was immediate concern then, that the river north of the Tewantin area, could see boats go further north and be anchored permanently and live aboards would increase in environmentally sensitive areas. Down river the boats have been moved on and the concern was about where the boats and cars associated with boat access, would go.</p> <p>Ada M spoke about an initial meeting that was held with MSQ reps. Dave H, Paul W, LCSA Commodore, Paul Armstrong, Ada M and State Member Sandy Bolton in attendance. The majority at that meeting felt MSQ should have more time to answer the questions taken to the meeting. Sandy B encouraged those present, to send questions, to the (Harbour Master) who is Kel Dillon. Dave H added that 25 questions had been put together and have been condensed down to 5 main questions. and will be sent to MSQ.</p> <p>Egs mooring rules permanence or non-permanent anchoring environmental risks – sea grass degradation self-containment of vessels Fish habitat and long term anchoring problems Sailing Club issue for anchoring inside sailing regatta courses or ease of launch and recovery of sailing club boats.</p> <p>The group will have another meeting with MSQ reps on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, when they've have time to address those questions.</p> <p>It seems clear that these representatives from MSQ are for Marine Safety only and any Environment, Waterways health has a different body governing it. So, we will have to find out who needs to be addressed for such environmental type of questions. It was agreed that it is also important that the Environmental watch groups be informed. Eg Marine Resource Management Qld - Dept of Environment Science and Technology Innovations and/or Qld Parks and Wildlife Service &amp; Marine Resource Management. The people who manage Fish Habitat areas, in particular need to be consulted and involved in the questions. Send environmental questions to them and see if they know what is already done and what they do know is happening. Additionally, someone added that MSQ are working on answering M Gloster's letter that was published recently.</p> <p>It was asked that should we be concerned with those that are not here and have moorings? Dave H – the rule of the 28 day for short term anchoring needs to be discussed with them (MSQ) as the Council cannot deal with anything on the Lake, below high tide.</p> <p>Ada M and Dave H spoke about boats over 7.5 m are not allowed to come to the bank and that The Sailing Club may need to look at the rules. The President Paul Armstrong knows about this. Ada M emphasised that we need to know what the rules are and that we should nip it in the bud, if we think</p>			
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the current regulation is not helpful to us and not find out that it is not what is best for the Lake afterwards, and residents then have a bigger battle to change things concerning the Lake.

Additional comments from members as follows:

- John O declared his conflict of interest here given that he works for the State Government, so he cannot be part of the small 'working group' that was being formed around this matter.
- David Wood - why is it a safety reason that only downstream is being looked at? Ada answered that she was told it was a narrower body of water and therefore vessels need to be moved.
- QPWS - fish habitat is a component of their role as well.
- Dave H - we need clarification of 28 day rule. He is hoping that the list is kept basic and if answered as the community wishes, then we can look at whether a more public meeting can be held sometime after the June meeting (e.g. next CCA GM)??
- Charlie C - a lot of people own boats. It occurs to some people to own boats.
- Trevor C added that we needed to have the questions now.
- Dave H had then told us all that 5 questions have been picked as the most important. After the next meeting with MSQ, if those in attendance, feel the rules are not ample, then the community may meet again to see what needs to be done. There is one main rule that needs looking into (28 day rule)
- Ada M and Dave H said that the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held, depending on the response from MSQ and it will be held at LCSC.
- The Question to be highlighted is:
  - Will Vessels over 5 m be limited to anchoring for no more than 28 days per financial year;
  - Will it apply to whole river or not; and
  - Can it apply to the whole river system?
- Some attendees commented on not wanting the problem of boats all heading north and causing problems here.
- A further comment from Trevor C who stated he was talking using his Noosa Boating and Fishing Alliance hat. He has NBFA membership. To his knowledge no discussions have been had on Johns Landing. He feels that this group agrees that the facilities are not adequate and ramps are important. He personally feels that it may be a good area at John's Landing. This group wants boat ramps facilities improved in the river.

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	<p>Rob D thanked all for their attendance and invited them to stay for Morning Tea and continue the conversation.</p>			
<p>7.</p>	<p>No additional <b>emergency only</b> matters from members were received prior to meeting.                  Meeting Closed at 11.20 am    Next General Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025 will also be the AGM .                   Provided Morning Tea and informal conversations were held while enjoying it after the meeting.</p>			