

COOTHARABA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC

Quarterly General Meeting No.90

MINUTES

The 90th meeting was held in the Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club, on 22nd February 2025. A quorum was reached and so the meeting started 9.12 am.

Apologies were from Allan & Julie Tomley, Doug & Wendy Straker, Mick Capelin, Paula Viljoen, Minyon Avent, Bernard Bok, Matt Knoffe (new baby) and Ken Eddy. The attendance sheet showed John Olds, Trevor Clarey, Rob Dessaix, Karen Eddy, Warren Kuskoff, Ron Thomson, David Wood, David Hanby, Charlie C, Paul Armstrong, Sylvia Bannah, Erica B- Higgin Ted Ringrose, Ada Medak, Marg Moon and late arrival of Amy Kimber, were in the hall. Rosie Edgar, our treasurer was in attendance.

Item	Details <i>(Please note: Underlined text are hyperlinks to documents on CCA website)</i>	Motions		
		Moved	Second	Carried
1.	Acknowledgement of Country was given by Rosie E. Her message was how an acknowledgement was similar, to saying grace at meal times. Why we do it is just the same as thanking the farmers and growers of our food before eating. She spoke of inherited land and knowledge from different peoples and tribes such as the Butchulla and Kabi Kabi. We inherited this land and lake areas from the early peoples and we remember elders of past and present. We remember their looking after the land here and we acknowledge them being here. Rosie was thanked by the president, Rob D.			
2.	Rob D gave a Welcome to all for coming along and reminded all, of the exits and facilities, as well as emergency information.			
3.	Paul Armstrong (in the capacity of Commodore of LCSC) had accepted our invitation to inform the meeting about LCSC matters relevant to the community. Rob D introduced him. Paul wanted to give a background first, of club activities. The Club has run events for many years and always got licences for liquor. The Council spoke with the club committee about event licences and holding events which means permits. The sailing club felt they (the Council) didn't understand what happens here at Lake Cootharaba and how our regattas are run. An example was the road closure during the Christmas period for a National regatta, and it was not done as well as the council had expected. The Nationals usually came around at the Christmas period and the council said it wanted event permits for all, of the regattas. The club officials felt that as our events start and finish on the water then the council doesn't have the jurisdiction over these, on water events.			

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	<p>The directives and things the shire council are wanting, are hard to do, as the club members cannot deal with parking and who goes where, when events are on, as the club feels council should be doing or helping with this. The club does it's best to inform competitors about leaving trailers and using public spaces. The club does try to consider the community and knows what the disruption, using the main beach can be to the community.</p> <p>A Council Sports Liaison Officer wanted to see what we do here and visited. She didn't realise how many people come to Noosa Shire to sail here and what they need and what facilities are here. The Officer didn't know the sailing club was owned by members and not just been given shire land for a club house. As with present day events, permits are still wanted by council. She is going to be talked to again. The club is participating in grants and programs to improve facilities which will help us to hold better events.</p> <p>When speaking with the council it was put to them about the Olympic events and if a dinghy event may be held here. She took that on board and went back to see, however it was said that all the Olympic sailing event venues have been decided already.</p> <p>Paul had sent out an email to members and mentioned about having an Olympic event and then get some grant money, but there was a lot of negative replies and as it turns out event permits need to be applied for. As far as the club was concerned, they thought it not a community priority and not needed to be discussed with them first. He stated he felt that previous council members did not want to get involved with the Olympics but it may appear that present councils are more concerned to be involved with Olympics.</p> <p>He hasn't heard back from the contact, from the last email. She was helping with giving aid to applying for and writing applications. He apologised if he (sailing club) has been seen to do the wrong thing. He has said that he will try to let community know earlier in future but some things are only affecting the sailing club and the club will continue to be open and continue to be transparent with our community. Things can be circulated through the secretary in inform groups such as the CCA.</p> <p>Trevor Clarey responded as this point to Paul A and thanked the sailing club for sending out the email and letting members know of club expectations.</p> <p>However Trevor felt that this year the Noosa Parks Assoc is trying to get a Conservation Park again. Back door job in his opinion. He is worried about the Noosa River System being controlled and that he feels it will contribute to becoming a World Heritage Site. This affects every user of the river he stated. It will even affect the Sailing Club with boat types on the water and how they are run. He feels that the lower Noosa River has needed tweaking and MSQ has been doing a good job. Trevor is concerned that by changing the status of the river that unacceptable conditions will be put on the users of the river. Council have been</p>			

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	<p>discussing. Paul answered Trevor and mentioned it will be considered and looked at by the sailing club committee and will keep this in mind.</p> <p>John O mentioned that rules on combustion engines are very unlikely to be brought in and Conservation Parks are over water as well as land and that the State Gov will control these designated areas should they eventuate. Marine Parks are run entirely by the State Gov. Local council do not always have full control with that type of listing. John O mentioned an example of marine parks and percentages of places elsewhere, that have local and tourist industry. He mentioned that our group can still have a place and need to stay being involved.</p> <p>Dave H responded that he felt the media and writings from last year was political “bullshit” and he felt what was said in the media, was scaring people into thinking there was going to be no boats and lots of changes. Trevor C gave an example of the Noosa River Plan not going through and if it had, then the council would have had more influence and this plan was put together by community consultation. President halted conversation on this.</p> <p>Dave H then gave appreciation thanks to Paul and Sailing Club for making the sailing club hall available to our small community as we don’t have a community hall.</p> <p>Paul A responded that the Sailing Club recognised that the community does have some stress from SC events and some disruption at times but they are discussing with council and the club knows it is in their best interest, to help the community they are in.</p> <p>Ada M thanked Paul as well and mentioned there were “Jet skis” helping people sail. Was he aware of that? Ron Thomson added that he lived near a similar lake situation and that he was disappointed that Council does have a heavy hand in changing use of the Lake.</p> <p>His example was that when first came here, he could water ski and take his family out skiing. But not allowed now. Rob stopped discussion on this topic and asked that it be put on agenda for another meeting time.</p> <p>John reminded that if legislation needed changing or rules, that our group can help direct members to the right level of Government or Council or person etc.</p> <p>Paul A mentioned, back on the topic, about the original email of Olympic interest, that it needs to be looked at and the club will do it’s best to involve community if they feel community is affected. Paul finished by mentioning a Sir Winston S Churchill, 1947 quote that “No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time ...” Winston S Churchill.</p>			

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	Rob thanked his attendance and involvement.			
4.	<p>Go to https://www.cootharabaca.org.au/minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Meeting 89 draft minutes. These documents were on the website for perusal. (sent via email to participants) Accepted Finance/Treasurer's Report GM 90. Found on Website Accepted Correspondence Register GM 90. Secretary offered for any member to view and mainly emails are received and sent. Correspondence Accepted <p>The Management Committee met regularly and Rob D went through some notices and emails which were discussed. The committee went through topics and follow ups as suggested at the last general meeting. Councillor A Lorensen is sending emails now to let people know when she is visiting to talk with residents. There had been confusion in the past as to when she is visiting the Apollonian Hotel, where she meets with residents. Rob reminded that AGM is coming up in May 10th and members will be asked to pay membership again so they can be able to vote. New appointments for committee need to be made into this community association. The CCA management committee will be doing a drive and let people know what is happening and what this group is for. Please be ready for May meeting and to vote. Membership due at the end of March.</p> <p>We don't do letter drops anymore and it has modernised by using website and emailing more. No questions followed the information given by Rob D.</p> <p>Please Note: Management Committee Report was from the floor not a document for perusal and has become part of the minutes of GM 90.</p> <p>Secretary reminded all that as community information, all can be read, downloaded, or printed out for friends. Accepted by a show of hands.</p> <p>Rosie E our Treasurer gave a few brief notes on the balance of \$1527.34. She spoke of Income from some new members and rejoining members. Expenses such as, Catering for Morning Teas, Bank fees and Website monthly fee. \$381.07</p> <p>Current Report is on the website. \$1286.27 balance.</p>	<p>John O</p> <p>Warren K</p> <p>Warren K</p> <p>John O</p>	<p>Warren K</p> <p>Charlie C</p> <p>David H</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

5.	<p>Foreshore Working Group progress with Noosa Shire Council.</p> <p>A meeting is to be held in March and meeting with Shaun W for further discussion.</p> <p>Shaun had sent a list of points on each topic that was brought up last meeting.</p> <p>On the screen Shaun W reply points were put up.</p> <p>Rosie E Read out the points on screen.</p> <p>Egs Low pressure taps to be installed on foreshore.</p> <p>Meeting will discuss additional tanks and boat wash down facilities.</p> <p>Disaster management requires fire fighting water capacity. Warren K mentioned he has just attended a meeting yesterday for Disaster Management.</p> <p>John O notes that there was a letter Nov 19th - Query Letter will be sent to Dave H and David W from Sailing Club. There is the ongoing working progress group with Council.</p>			
6.	<p>General camping ground & village precinct matters, including feedback from Noosa Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey water discharge from vans and motorhomes; Things have come back from Cr Amelia L about check in and rules given to campers. The rule has been moved into the top 5 rules. No rule has been added to the list to not drain as they drive out of town, especially through town. But some progress has been made. This will be mentioned to council. <p>Shaun notes covered this. Members can photograph those problems and send to council or show the campground. Rules are in the Campground to be read, about discharge.</p> <p>David Wood SC asked if entrance to park, via sports ground, is changing or has CCA discussed. He spoke on this topic and that the sailors and campers come past a busy point which is the foreshore, main beach in town. Maybe a long term solution is needed.</p> <p>Ada M noted that Amelia L suggestion about signs in kitchen doesn't work for self contained vans as those people do not tend to use camp kitchen as they are cooking in own van.</p> <p>Karen E - NZ campgrounds provide a trolley and container which you take to empty at dump points. Most vans are to be self contained in NZ these days so they can utilize freedom and national park camp sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of bore water reticulation from camping ground and the Boreen Point foreshore Meeting with Shaun Walsh will be on March 19th 1.00 pm 			

	<p>Discussion will be on options for water along the front again. Dave Hanby spoke on topic and has forwarded a report to Shaun W already and more detailed discussion will be at the next meet.</p> <p>Shaun W reply notes on each topic. These were read by Rosie E or Rob D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boom gate preventing community residents accessing to the southwestern Day Picnic area; this will not stop locals from walking to Duns Beach. • Village and surrounding resident's access to oval; There is no idea to stop access to the oval. • Fire pit or grate usage in camping ground and sale of fire wood by caretakers; Use of fire is limited and campground aware of fire bans • Current location of Boreen Point Dog Off Leash Areas and camping ground dog policy advice from Council and whether this is policed by Caretakers; This is an ongoing issue still to be worked on • Parking outside entrance to camping ground by campers and their visitors, leaving little available for locals along the access road and day picnic areas. Council are aware. <p>An invitation for CCA to make comments and ideas from the membership. Ada M - she reminded people that 3 people put up their hands to be involved with decisions on dog areas. Area is from Boat Ramp up to Buffalo Park. Off leash dog area. Warren, and Margaret and Mick C need to get together, discuss and bring something to the next meeting. Ideas to be communicated back to Shaun W.</p>			
7.	<p>Advance Notice or at times lack of notice re meeting with Councillor Amelia L Notice is to be given early enough for members to know. Discussion from members gave the impression that emails are going out to lots of people and that Councillor needs to be reminded to send to CCA and Sailing Club. Fire disasters was raised with her and the water needed to fight them. Our group was told that the emergency crews know where to get water and can bring it in. March meeting it will be more discussed. Warren K looks into this in his capacity as Emergency SES coordinator.</p>			
8.	<p>Social Housing and how this may relate to Boreen Point and surrounding Cootharaba area?? Rob D hasn't had any feed back on this from any councillor. It has been said that our area does not have sewerage or water infrastructure for multi dwellings like the Lake MacDonald proposals or Tewantin unit</p>			

	construction. The Council reps did state that our Community group would be consulted if anything was proposed but nothing has come up yet. Big developments less likely in our community.			
9.	<p>How was the Cootharaba/ Boreen Point - Noosa Council Disaster Resilience Event 22 November 2024</p> <p>Karen E mentioned she had a thankyou from council representative who had finance for running the event. The Council was happy that the event took place and hoped it gave another opportunity for new residents to find out information.</p> <p>Eg of the bag, booklets and USB given to those who visited the sailing club on 22nd Nov was shown by Karen. She briefly outlined what was in the display.</p> <p>Warren K was happy but would have liked to have seen more new people to town, come and talk with him at the truck downstairs. Some families did come along.</p> <p>Ada mentioned about buying a solar torch from a lady who recommended it at the event. After use she felt that it takes a long time to charge and how much sun would be around in disaster time? Eg stormy days. Warren supported this comment and mentioned we don't have sun in all disasters. Battery or wind up torches are good and have disaster packs ready at home.</p> <p>The Council representatives and helpers gave out emergency packs which are to help locals keep information and important documents or copies of information together.</p> <p>They had the emergency services turn up such as Rural Fire Brigade, SES and other staff that locals could talk to. Some younger families did come along and they catered for the young with games and colour in activities. There were posters and information to read in the hall. There was some food provided and some families did snack while there.</p> <p>The organisers were happy with the event and although numbers were not huge, the word had spread about the event.</p>			
10.	LCSC and the 2023 Olympics; General comment following PA feedback at the beginning of the meeting – nothing was added			
11.	<p>Illegal camping There were a few comments from the members but there's not a unanimous perspective from CCA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are NC rules? Signage for no camping in place. Noise is dealt with through Police should it be excessive and all hours. Residents can contact authorities themselves. What are the issues? Redefined homelessness - if you have a pet you are not homeless apparently. There are groups who can be contacted for homelessness. There are rules in place for camping and signage in place by council. 			

	<p>Most members okay with short visit if areas kept clean and tidy but definite long term stays, need to access campgrounds for facilities and toileting.</p> <p>Fines don't work – those camping cheaply, don't always have \$8000 in fines.</p> <p>Not an issue for Rosie E . Most people are happy if no rubbish is left around.</p>			
12.	<p>Mobile Signals and Internet communications. Warren K felt it still a problem. He needs it for his emergency service and Dave Hanby also needs this for business use. He said about the problem, that it showed on a Telstra website, it has been resolved. 4G available. This is an issue across whole shire. Comments from members on the topic were heard Eg 3G has been turned off. iPhone 12 is needed. 4G is overloaded. Boosters are not the answer. They may impact on others around you. Paramedics raise issue as blackspots are not good for emergency phones.</p> <p>The Noosa Local Disaster groups are worried that phones are not the whole answer.</p> <p>It was suggested that each person should send messages to telecommunications agencies to improve but to do it individually about your area. Downgraded facilities should be mentioned in your message. Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman can be contacted if you have continuing issues with signals or not happy with the service.</p> <p>Dave H discussed further that it hasn't been fixed as they say. When lots of people are using it, it can be less than satisfactory. School holiday times when lots of students are home is a problem. David W mentioned that the sailing club competitors need online information and emergency information for regattas. SES is part of police now and Warren was asked to send a letter example and suggested content that we can use as a group and support the move for better mobile and Wifi communication, to help ourselves and our disaster teams. We will try to get this for the next meeting.</p> <p>Warren K - was using his phone to bring up a weather and a rain, storm event heading our way and that we should be prepared. Cyclone may cause power outs, so remember to fix storage of water and pumps, and roofing. Internet and phone reception may go down. Have plans and what do you do? Think of your community neighbours and know who lives near you, and in our shire there are lots of new people to our communities.</p> <p>Karen E Clean up This is on 2nd March and will be held at the Apollonian as usual.</p> <p>Not much is needed in our area but let council know or illegal dump sites or bring along batteries or plastic lids and pens to Clean Up Day.</p> <p>At 7.30 at the Hotel.</p>			

	<p>A late arrival of a guest from the Council was Amy Kimber. She is involved with projects around the River and Lake systems. She spoke briefly on things being looked at presently concerning our waterways. Eg Riparian restoration program Erosion hot spots Core sampling. Gympie and KinKin projects. Sediment movement</p> <p>Storm water monitoring The Council has got a grant and money is being used for these things.</p> <p>A latest project is on Core sampling, to see what has happened in the past and this Project is happening this financial year. General Manager of Maritime Industry will be visiting our shire. He will be looking at more boat facilities and looking at what is around already. Kinaba is being spoken about and the Friends of Kinaba Group. Things will be discussed another time around this facility and use of it.</p>			
13.	Morning Tea (tea, coffee, biscuits and snacks) Thanks to Ladies for doing this. Members enjoyed further chatting and a cuppa to finish.			
14.	Next Meeting - AGM No 23 on 10 th May 2025 at 0900 in LC Sailing Club			
15.	Meeting Closed and members enjoyed a cuppa and chat. 10.57 am			