

## ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

*"The Central Coast's Island in the Sun"*

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## 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

Location: Cove Hall, The Cove, 36 Empire Drive, Daleys Point

Date: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Time: 7.00pm

#	ITEM
1.	<p>Kevin Hill opened the Meeting at 7.05 p.m. with a reminder to sign the attendance sheet.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> from -  Ros Stapleton, Lindsey Edgar, Mario Grech, David and Wendy Williams, as well as Warren Brown from Central Coast Council.</p> <p><b>Moved</b> David Creais <b>Seconded</b> Grant Russell <b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Acknowledgement of Minutes of 47<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as uploaded to the website.</p> <p><b>Moved</b> Susan Russell <b>Seconded</b> Michael Goss <b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>Hand-over to Ron Stapleton to introduce <b>Ben Cuerel (Estuary Management Office)</b> Central Coast Council.</p>
2.	<p><b>Ron Stapleton</b> thanked Ben Cuerel for coming and thanked in absentia Warren Brown (Senior Estuary Manager) and Jamie Burden (Environmental Services) for their assistance.</p> <p>Ron gave a summary of the work to date -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Burden has a new barge and is presently doing trials in Trial Inlet.</li> <li>• Cleaning of drains, some with longer concrete drains, are trial and error.</li> <li>• All drains previously cleaned will now require re-cleaning.</li> <li>• Pump previously not working well.</li> <li>• Trialling of sand renourishment to sea walls.</li> <li>• Trialling of green bags filled with blue metal.</li> </ul> <p>Hand over to <b>Ben Cuerel</b> who introduced himself and advised that he has been with Council since 2021. In 2022 he was appointed to the maintenance of St Huberts Island canals working with Warren Brown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He outlined the process of sediment sampling for acid sulphates, sediment grain size, whether sand from the middle of the canal would be suitable for reuse or recycling.</li> <li>• Drain cleaning results were encouraging and initial samples tested showed little evidence of lime but of some organic matter, half of which was taken to the tip and the other reused.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledged that there was a need to keep sand at sea walls to assist homeowners.</li> <li>• He advised that a four-year plan of maintenance was being prepared and currently in draft form.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Questions were called from the floor –</p> <p><b>Q. What does the four-year time frame cover?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> In the first twelve months, initial trials were conducted in Shelter Cove with a subsequent contract for all drains to be cleared, and to investigate all canals. The hydrographic surveys showed not much change in depth of canals since 1995.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ron advised that in the first six months all drains had been cleared but will need redoing. Drains need to be cleaned on a regular basis.</li> <li>• He advised that Rik Hart made a difference, and that SHIRA was fortunate the new Council people were helpful and working well together.</li> <li>• Ron advised he now knows what is allowed with sand replenishment and placement of socks.</li> <li>• Ron suggested that a form be circulated to residents to allow any questions to be raised and investigated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Q. Will the four-year time frame come with a timetable? Is there an indicative timeline?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Ron responded that there were several hundred thousand in our account. The President will report on that later. The contractor is not hugely expensive.</p> <p><b>Q. To Ben from Geoff Flynn – Will you take samples from every bay?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Ben – yes, we will take soil samples from every bay starting at the seawalls, then at the three- and five-meter marks. These will be processed, and we will then know at where the soil is. These tests have now been completed, and the main contamination is from runoff and stainless steel coming from the street sweeper. The use of metal baskets was mentioned.</p> <p><b>Q. To Ben from David Mason - The outlets have been cleaned; however, the sand levels are changing and pontoons going out too far into the canals. Sand is washing off the beaches and it could be pumped back making the levels deeper.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Minor dredging will be undertaken. Council sees navigation issues for pontoons.</p> <p><b>A.</b> Only take the top 300 mm to ensure major damage is not incurred.</p> <p><b>Q. With the four-year plan, will Council determine what people can do on the Island?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> As it stands, we can scrape 300mm of the environment.</p> <p><b>Kevin Hill</b> mentioned that the Geotech surveys showed slumps from the sea walls in tidal areas, and that the depth in the middle had hardly changed so there needs to be consideration in bringing sand back.</p> <p><b>Ron Stapleton</b> advised that in discussion with Council, the fisheries department was not concerned with the removal of sea grass; however, Council still needs a report before a pontoon is approved.</p> <p>Pontoons/jetties maximum length was fourteen metres with minimum depth at low tide. Now the length is eighteen metres into the canals. With the sand pushed back, pontoons lengths can be reduced. This is being pursued in various departments however we understand this is not Ben's issue.</p> <p><b>Q. Sea Wall checked by an engineer but waiting one year for the Plan will be too late.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Ron to check.</p>

	<p><b>Q. Mud after the sand three to four metres out – water flow?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> With the unseasonably high rain fall of late, the sea grass, lice and sedimentation will come and go. Certain areas are more prone to this than others.</p> <p><b>Q. Channel Markers?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Maritime Services have little or no resources to check these.</p> <p><b>Q. With the draft four-year plan, how far along are we into the timeframe before we see the Plan?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Twelve months to two years behind.</p> <p><b>Q. Is what we are doing within the time frame?</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Yes</p> <p>With no further questions from the floor, Ron and Kevin thanked Ben Cuerel for attending the meeting and speaking to the residents.</p>
4.	<p><b>Vice-President’s Report – Ron Stapleton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pontoon approval in Mercator not compliant as it requires 18-20 metres to get to minimum depth.</li> <li>• Initial approved length 14-15 metres. With sand going back to the sea wall, further approvals should be for the regulated length. What Council is currently approving is not within its rules.</li> <li>• From a question regarding shared and individual use pontoons where a resident wishes to share a single use pontoon which is within an area to share, Council prefers shared pontoons. However, single use pontoons have no policy in place for buying into existing dual accessibility pontoons.</li> <li>• When Gosford Council changed the holding of the pontoons the clause for forced sharing was deleted due to residents’ opposition.</li> </ul> <p>Ron advised he was willing to visit any resident to discuss pontoon matters.</p>
5.	<p><b>President’s Report – Kevin Hill</b></p> <p>Acknowledgement was made of the enormous amount of time and effort made by the Executive and specifically Ron Stapleton regarding the maintenance of the canals.</p> <p>Santa on the Water led by Rod Wenzel and ably supported by Richard Carlyle as “Santa” was well received, and this year will mark the tenth anniversary of this event with carols by the Brisbane Water Brass Band.</p> <p>At the last AGM it was requested that we bring back St Huberts Day in November and it was an outstanding success. The Events Committee headed by Brian Ireland with Ron Stapleton arranged a barbecue lunch and resident musician Lance in his duo – Faded Genes – provided great music.</p> <p>Sunset Sips has been well supported even though the final for the summer was hampered by excessive heat. The efforts of both Brian Ireland and Ron Stapleton for the meat, Wendy Mason for the raffles, Naomi Warren for the memberships and Margaret Doughman for the meet and greet were acknowledged.</p>

Christmas in July held at The Diggers in 2024 was sold out and proved to be highly successful. This year's event to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> July will be advertised in the June edition of The Island News so get your tables ready.

Ron has already alluded to the pontoons and jetties.

It was a shock to recently learn via a late issued letter from the Council's Chief Financial Officer only 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting with the Council in reply to our many requests for the balance and usage of the restricted funds (which were stated as \$770,000 when it should have been \$900,000) that the Administration fees attached to St Huberts Island pontoons/jetties would be deposited directly into Revenue and not into Restricted Funds held in Trust for canal maintenance. In July 2024, Council passed a Resolution specifically about restricted funds without advice to the stakeholder – The St Huberts Island Residents' Association. That means the restricted funds could be used anywhere on the Island.

This long-awaited meeting, which was to discuss the four-year plan, was moved into the direction of the news of the restricted funds. You will recall that when the administration fee was introduced, it was claimed to be required for maintenance of the canals (which should already be the responsibility of the Council.) I suggested that the Administration fee should be dropped as it is no longer used as intended, but was told it would be taken under advisement.

During a Meet the Minister event, Ron Stapleton and I discussed with Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP, the reversal of the above decision. I have been told that the new General Manager does not like restricted funds and wants all income into general revenue.

I am also in discussion with Councillor Jared Wright.

At this time investigations are being made, and we will soon be responding to the above letter, and considering other actions we could take.

Geoff Flynn suggested from the floor that residents would be happy to also write to Council.

I just wanted to advise everyone that this situation has just eventuated, although it is a year since the resolution was passed and that no monies have been going into the restricted funds from July 2024. The money in restricted funds has been changed and will now be used for maintenance of the whole island. The licensing fees and Admin fees are now going into the general fund to be used anywhere in the Council area.

From the letter of advice from Council following that meeting in which we requested the administration fee be removed as it is now not being treated as previously agreed ...

"Regarding the administration fee, and the licence fee, I can advise the following after seeking advice.

from staff in Corporate Services.

The licence and administration fee are aligned with the criteria of a user fee or charge, as the fee

refers to a service that can be attributed to a specific beneficiary. Other user fees and charges charged by Council are treated as general (untied) revenue and can be applied to any suitable purpose. Other revenue from leases/licences on Council freehold land is



	<b>Moved</b> Susan Russell <b>Seconded</b> David Creais <b>CARRIED</b>
8.	The President requested <b>DAVID MASON</b> to be the Returning Officer for the election of Committee Members. <b>Moved</b> Grant Russell <b>Seconded</b> Wendy Mason <b>CARRIED</b> All positions were vacated and the new Committee returned as assigned. No nominations were received from the floor.
9.	Questions from the Floor – <b>Q. Could the island become a gated community?</b> <b>A.</b> Geoff Flynn advised that from previous requests; this could not happen as the roads are public. Any gated community must provide for its own infrastructure.
10.	The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m. and all attendees were invited to supper. It should be gratefully noted that during the meeting, Cheryl Hill prepared and laid out the supper which was provided by the members of the committee. Refreshments were also provided by the Association. Attendance at the meeting – 19 residents and ten committee members