

# JERRABOMBERRA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2007

#### 1. OPENING

The President, Margot Sachse, welcomed everyone present for their attendance.

#### 2. PRESENT

Margot Sachse, Lyn Edwards, Tania Rynne, David Hope, Mark Croxford, Brian Brown, Matthew King, Julie Smith, Gary Kingdon, Mark Edwards, Val Treverrow, Dorothy Lawson, Kim Howatson, Jocelyn Lavinger, Jan Cassie, Andrew Cassie, David Ebbels (NSWFB), Kel Watt, Paul Whalan, Doug Gordon and two other Jerrabomberra residents.

#### 3. APOLOGIES

John Gordon, Raewyn Bastion, Jennie Edwards.

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Lyn Edwards **Seconded:** Tania Rynne **Carried.**

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

Local resident and Pastor of the Baptist Church, Dwayne Keefe, has been active on the issue of vandalism and graffiti in Jerrabomberra and he lodged a grant application with Queanbeyan Council, through the Healthy Communities Scheme, for funding of police fact sheets and a fridge magnet advertising the Police Assistance Line (PAL) however, this grant application was unsuccessful.

The JRA tried to obtain the Police Performance Indicators to put onto our website but we were unsuccessful as it is difficult to get the information from the Police.

#### 6. PRESIDENTS' REPORT

2007 will be remembered as the year of the continuous election campaign. The State and Federal campaigns clearly highlight our electorate's marginal status, which has paid some good dividends for Jerra residents. A core part of the JRA's work over the last 12 months has been to ensure our community continues to benefit from close political nurturing in the years ahead.

The year started with the committee continuing to work hard to secure much needed community facilities in Jerrabomberra Valley.

We were invited to meet with NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor on February 7 to discuss development in the Jerrabomberra Valley, and the often-controversial issues it gave rise to. We were joined by the Jerrabomberra Secondary Schools Committee, the Canberra International

Airport and Queanbeyan City Council at the Ministers request. The JRA showed great leadership and community focus during the meeting, with our presentation on a responsible compromise position on residential and commercial development, while considering aspects such as aircraft noise, community facilities and amenity, the environment, and roads infrastructure. Our focus was very much on moving forward while others were more interested in winning battles against those with conflicting interests.

Our position provided Jerrabomberra with community facilities including the Anglican High School, Aquatic Centre and other amenities; provided for sensible development of some areas in the Jerrabomberra Valley; and also accommodated the growing needs of the Canberra Airport.

One area of serious concern we raised with the Minister was the proposal by the developers of Googong (Canberra Investment Corporation, who was also the major developer of Jerrabomberra) to use the Edwin Land Parkway (ELP) as the main road to link the Googong development to Canberra. This would result in Jerrabomberra being cut in two as the ELP becomes a 4-lane highway. At the meeting we lobbied hard for the construction of Dunns Creek Road, south of Jerrabomberra, as it will take Googong residents directly to the Monaro Highway via Hume, and maintain the peacefulness of our community. The JRA sees Dunns Creek Road as a critical piece of infrastructure for our region.

I also presented the Minister with a petition of 680 signatures from Jerrabomberra residents demanding future development results in a high school, aquatic centre and community facilities, and that he rules out industrial development around our homes.

The JRA's influence and political muscle was on show when Minister Sartor released his recommendations on the Councils *Residential and Economic Strategy 2031* in April.

The JRA's hard work, and considered position were vindicated when the Minister delivered on **every** aspect of what the community asked for.

The motion from our October 2006 Community meeting called for the NSW Government and QCC to:

1. Ensure that if Googong proceeds, Edwin Land Parkway is preserved as a local suburban road, and that Dunns Creek Road is constructed as a development condition; **[delivered]**
2. Commit that Jerrabomberra will not be surrounded by industrial development on Poplars and Tralee; **[delivered]**
3. Ensure that any development on Poplars, Tralee and Environs is compatible with the existing residential development at Jerrabomberra; **[delivered]**

4. Commit to supporting and facilitating the construction of the Anglican High School, and the provision of recreational and community facilities (including the indoor swimming centre) in a new development on Poplars, Tralee and Environa. **[delivered]**

This shows the JRA is getting results for the community when it lobbies government.

### **Airport matters**

In May the Canberra Airport released the Canberra Airport's draft Practical Ultimate Capacity ANEF (Australian Noise Exposure Forecast).

Airport owners are continuing their efforts to stop development and therefore our community facilities, by proposing that by 2050 Canberra will have 282,120 flights every year - up from just 71,850 flights per year today. This would make it as busy as the UK's Gatwick Airport. Sydney Airport currently has 285,000 movements/year. This is to meet their business plan of becoming a freight hub.

The Airport also proposes to have a 15 degrees 'offset approach' for 747 long haul aircraft, putting the 'touchdown point' back to the end of the runway and having planes 20 metres lower over Jerrabomberra.

They further say they will have 20 aircraft movements of large freighters or international flights each hour between midnight and 5 am.

The JRA has expressed our concern regarding the validity of the data that underpins the draft ANEF with the previous Minister for Transport Mark Vaile. However, this matter is currently tied up in court with an injunction thus further stalling development in the Valley. However, the JRA will continue to lobby for our much needed community facilities and argue for a transparent and accountable process for the airport's proposals.

The JRA has continued to participate in the Canberra Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Forum – and relations with the airport continue to be cordial and professional, if somewhat strained.

### **Mirrabee & Trail bikes**

The clean up of the Mirrabee lands located between Stringybark Hill and Mt Jerrabomberra has been completed. You may have noticed a good deal of this area has now been fenced to stop trail bike access to the area and ensure Jerrabomberra retains its natural environment and beauty. A huge thank you to JRA Committee member Brian Brown for his tireless work on this project. Brian has a remarkable passion and has made Stringybark Hill and Mt Jerra a lovely place to walk again. Thanks Brian.

Another notable win for the JRA this year came as a result of our lobbying of State MP Steve Whan. We have spent some time outlining the case to target illegal trail bike riding around Jerrabomberra and to have the NSW Government invest in trail bikes for the local police.

In September the Queanbeyan Police became the proud owners of two new trail bikes and they will be used to tackle the illegal riders around our suburb. Jerra residents know all too well what life is like living with the noisy and dangerous bike activity in the area, and the severe environmental damage done to our reserves at Mt Jerrabomberra and Stringybark Hill should not be forgotten either. Thanks to Steve Whan, and to the Queanbeyan Police for working with the JRA to solve this problem.

### **Presentations**

We provided an open forum for political candidates and the community during the year, and where JRA members were able to meet former federal MP Gary Nairn in July, State MP Steve Whan in August and new Member for Eden-Monaro Dr Mike Kelly in September. One of the key issues the JRA raised with each of the representatives was the duplication of Lanyon Drive. The JRA sees this as a key piece of infrastructure well overdue for delivery, and I can assure the community and our local MPs that we will not stop our hounding on this project until it is delivered.

We are pleased to report that the Federal Government has given the ACT Government \$5m towards duplicating the road from Sheppard Street to the Monaro Highway; this includes the improvement of the intersection with the Monaro Highway. The NSW Government are funding the duplication of the road from the Lanyon/Tomsitt Drive roundabout up to, and including, the Lanyon Drive railway bridge. Dr Mike Kelly has promised Federal government funding for the remaining 1.1km section from the Jerrabomberra Creek bridge to the railway bridge.

Once again the efforts of the JRA have paid dividends and this roadwork should be completed within the next 12-18 months.

This year has been a year of some major achievements with many of our long standing issues coming to fruition. I wish to thank the committee for their hard work to make sure that the views of the JRA are represented. Recently I have read in a submission that the JRA were considered “a very vocal and organised lobby group located south of the airport” and we continue to make our mark in the region.

I wish to thank our secretary Lyn Edwards for her hard work and great support as JRA secretary this year. I would also like to thank Andrew Cassie for hosting our website and David Hope for our fantastic new website and it's on going maintenance. Tania Rynne – thanks for keeping the books and particularly keeping track of our membership lists and email addresses. A big thanks to our long serving vice-president Jim Horan for his outstanding service to the JRA – Jim has now become a Mexican and lives south of the border, but is always welcome to return. Thanks to Dwayne Keefe for his efforts on the Malicious Damage strategy with Council.

Thank you to committee members Paul Whalan, Kel Watt, Mark Croxford and Kathryn Tse to their continuous help through out the year on everything from the JRA raffle to all the correspondence that we generate.

Last but no means least, a huge thank you to my husband Stephen Davie for his support that gives me time to be involved with the JRA. Thank you

Margot tabled her report and asked if there were any questions regarding her report.  
When will the new trail bikes start to be used? – Brian Brown advised that it is a matter of co-ordinating the data and organising a blitz – he would like to see one done prior to Christmas. Brian also advised that the fencing around Stringybark Hill is almost complete with only a few sections still to be done.

David Hope thanked Margot for her great effort all year and commented that the JRA has changed since its inception in 1990 and is now a force to be reckoned with.

Paul Whalan voiced the opinion that the JRA are lucky to have Margot as President and also noted that she has raised the profile of the JRA considerably during her time as President.

**MOTION:** That the Presidents Report be accepted  
**Moved:** Paul Whalan **Seconded:** David Hope **Carried**

## **7. TREASURERS' REPORT**

Tania Rynne tabled the audited financial statement of the JRA from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007. Receipts for the year included \$1,440 in subscriptions, \$1,127-05 from the Easter raffle and \$500 from Queanbeyan Council in the General Donations Scheme. Payments included \$726 to ProPamphlets for distribution of the newsletters, \$265 for signs, \$178 for website fees, \$344 for stationery, \$1,079 for public liability insurance, \$246 for candles for the Carols by Candlelight and \$102 for the Sydney trip to meet with Frank Sartor. Total receipts were \$3,445-21 and Total Expenditure was \$3,790-78. The accounts were audited by JRA member Peter Bacon.

**MOTION:** That the Treasurers' Report be accepted  
**Moved:** Tania Rynne **Seconded:** David Hope **Carried.**

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

All current office bearers vacated their positions. The new committee for 2008 is as follows –

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Margot Sachse
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Brian Brown
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Lyn Edwards
<b>TREASURER</b>	Tania Rynne
<b>PUBLIC OFFICER</b>	Doug Gordon
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	David Hope
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Lachlan Mercer
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Mark Croxford
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Paul Whalan
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>	Kim Howatson

## **9. GUEST SPEAKER: DAVID EBBELS, QUEANBEYAN FIRE BRIGADE**

David Ebbels, who was originally from the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, has experienced a great many bushfires in his occupation as a fire fighter. He gave advice on what we should do if a bush fire is approaching.

First of all, you must decide whether to stay or go. If you are going to leave, make the decision to leave early to avoid being caught in last minute traffic congestion.

If you decide to stay and try to protect your home, appropriate clothing must be worn. Other equipment will also be needed, such as goggles, shovels, buckets, hoses and a battery-powered radio is essential to stay up to date with radio broadcasts. Down-pipes should be blocked up and the gutters filled with water. Gardens should be emptied of all flammable materials, hoses should be brought indoors (they could melt outside), baths and sinks should be filled with water and as a fire approaches, patrol the outside of the house regularly and be on the lookout for ember attack. Place wet towels under the doors and while the fire is passing, stay in a room as close to the centre of the house as possible.

If you have an evaporative cooler on the roof, keep it wet or keep it covered. Ascertain that there is no way embers can enter the roof cavity and make sure the roof is clear of leaf build-up.

David added that the assessment of this seasons fire threat is good at the moment as there are high levels of moisture in the ground.

David was asked whether back burning helps minimise the seriousness of a bushfire and he stated that it does as it reduces the ground fuel. Mt Jerrabomberra is back-burnt on an 8 year cycle.

A comprehensive list of things to do in the event of a bushfire can be found on the NSW Fire Brigade's website [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

Margot thanked David for his informative and interesting talk.

## **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

a) Canberra International Airport - has just released its preliminary version of its Draft Master Plan for 2008, and submissions need to be lodged by 27 February 2008. Margot has requested 2 copies of this report in order that we may prepare our submission.

**Motion:** That the JRA committee meet to develop a strategy in this regard

**Moved:** Lachlan Mercer **Seconded:** Mark Croxford **Carried**

b) Monaro Highway – Tania suggested that we write to newly elected Mike Kelly with regard to having Dunns Creek Road included in the Expenditure Review Committee, and this suggestion was seconded by David Hope.

**ACTION:** Margot to write to Mike Kelly in this regard and also invite him to attend either our March or April meeting.

c) Vandalism – JRA member, Dwayne Keefe, has been working closely with Queanbeyan City Council on the Malicious Damage Strategy (MDS) and the proposals for the MDS are just about to go out for public comment.

A question was raised as to whether the small car park at David Madew Oval was to be gated and it was advised that funding for this was allocated in the Queanbeyan Council 07/08 Management Plan and should be carried out in April or May 2008.

It was suggested that CCTV be used in Madew Oval to help combat the increasing problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour but this option was determined to be unsustainable due to the high cost.

d) Dogs Off Leads – Mention was made of the increased problem of dogs roaming the streets unaccompanied and off-lead. Margot will take this up with QCC rangers however, it was noted that they are severely low on staff at the current time.

**ACTION:** Margot to contact QCC rangers

e) Village Shopping Centre – a number of complaints were voiced regarding the centre. They include the issue of pedestrian access to the centre from the Park as council have moved the footpath and pedestrians now have to walk through the carpark. Incidents of fights and “hooning” at the service station were drawn to our attention. The local hotel licencees meet irregularly with QCC and this might be an appropriate forum with which to raise this issue.

**ACTION:** Lyn to speak with Phillipa Moss to ascertain when this group meets.

f) Development In Jerrabomberra Valley – The JRA are disappointed with the length of time it is taking QCC to progress the development application for the Tralee Development. The JRA supports the process whereby the Minister would take over the Jerrabomberra Valley development application as the Anglican Church need the approval to be processed quickly in order that they can apply for their licence to build the school. In August 2007 the Mayor, Frank Pangallo, gave assurances that the plans would be completed by December 2007.

**MOTION:** The JRA supports the 3a application for development in the Jerrabomberra Valley.

**Moved:** Tania Rynne **Seconded:** David Hope **Carried.**

g) Building work on Jerrabomberra Parkway – Traffic congestion is constantly being created at the building site on Jerrabomberra Parkway by large trucks making deliveries to the building site. These problems are also being experienced at building sites on Waterfall Drive and Halloran Drive. The police should be called when traffic is being held up for a considerable time as this is flouting the law and creates O H & S issues.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Margot thanked everyone for their attendance.

The January meeting of the JRA usually takes the form of a BBQ (weather permitting) for all committee members to meet in an informal atmosphere. This will be held on Wednesday 23 January 2008.