

**JERRABOMBERRA RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION INC
MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18 NOVEMBER 2009**

1. OPENING

Margot Sachse, JRA President, welcomed those present at the meeting.

2. PRESENT

L.Edwards, D.Hope, T.Rynne, M.Sachse, M.Croxford, V.Armstrong, M.Furner, P.Henry, D.Keefe, I.Wholohan, K.Howatson, J.Hawkins, D.Gordon, C.Pearson, H.Marchant, V.Treverrow, D.Lawson, S.Rizzi, P.Burne.

3. APOLOGIES

B.Brown, J.Gordon, P.Bacon, J.Lee, J.Dillon, D.French, C.Rees.

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Lyn Edwards **Seconded:** Jon Hawkins **Carried.**

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

There were no actions arising from the previous AGM.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, what a year.....it certainly will go down as a year where we saw many of the major projects we have been working on for many years come to fruition, a year of achievement.

Airport master plan

On 21 November 2008, Minister Albanese rejected the Canberra Airport Master Plan due to insufficient information and lack of community consultation. This was the first time ever that a master plan had been rejected for any Australian airport. It was a huge win for the community. The community had sent a clear message that we did not want the airport to become a 24/7 freight hub. The Airport then had to rework their document and was our guest at our April meeting where they presented their case and were told by our community that we didn't want the nighttime flights as we didn't want our sleep disturbed by freight jets. The JRA put in a comprehensive submission, but this was to no avail as the Minister approved the revised plan on 28 August and we still can't see any change to this document from the previous version that the Minister rejected.

Development in the Jerrabomberra Valley

Brian Brown and I met with NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, on Tuesday 10 February to discuss the slow progress of the development in the Jerrabomberra Valley and Dunns Creek Road. She assured us that things will move quickly and said that it would be rezoned in July. The good news is that the Planning Department have issued a Section 65 certificate for Tralee to go on public exhibition and this occurred on 13 November, just last week. This means that the lands could be rezoned early in the New Year. The airport, as expected, lodged an injunction with the Land and

Environment Court but was refused. The JRA issued a media release to celebrate such a significant milestone. We have worked so hard to get to this stage and much credit must go to the unwavering support of the whole Jerrabomberra community that played such a significant role in this achievement.

The traffic Study and Dunns Creek Road

In June, Council finally released the traffic study of many names. In the end it is now called Googong and Tralee Traffic Study 2031. Unfortunately, Dunns Creek Road isn't included in this study. The JRA are bemused at this result, as Dunns Creek Road is the only arterial road that connects the Googong and Tralee developments. Dunns Ck Road would still be required to bypass Jerra. QCC have now resolved to undertake a broader Queanbeyan Strategic Transport Strategy that will include Dunns Creek Road and also tackle some of the big issues that previous Council's haven't been able to resolve for the past 20 years or more. We believe this outcome was flawed and failed to provide our community with the security that Dunns Creek Road will be built and that QCC have a real commitment to ensuring that Jerrabomberra will not become Queanbeyan's bypass. The whole process was a big mess from the beginning and the community meeting at Jerrabomberra was a debacle but was representative of the way the whole process was handled. We issued a media release condemning Council's handling of the initial process; little did we know how things were going to play out.

The good news for Jerrabomberra was that Village Building Company saved the day and has offered to pay for half the cost of the road and this is signed in an agreement with Council. Council has also agreed to set aside the land as a road reserve. As this road has the support of both the State and Federal members, it is set in enough concrete that one day it will become reality. Another huge win.

Woolworths

We took Woolworths Jerrabomberra to task at our June meeting. This was as a result of a number of complaints from members regarding the standard of service, the quality of the fresh produce and the disappearance of certain items from the shelves of the local supermarket. We were told by the Regional Manager that it was the first time, in the Company's history that someone had come along to a resident's association meeting to actually hear from residents and try to address some of the issues that they have with a Woolworth's store. We have always been trendsetters!

Things seem to have improved since our meeting, and whilst every now and then you see the odd relapse, on the whole things are somewhat better.

Pity, we can't say the same about the carparks! On 24 June, new road directional markings and signage were installed at the Jerrabomberra Village Shopping Centre. Since this time, the changes have caused centre patrons great confusion as the engineer who designed which way the arrows went clearly had never been to the shopping centre. Consequently, the shopping centre car park is now dangerous with many patrons ignoring them. It's now November, and still nothing has changed – Council is on to it!

Lanyon Drive

Stage 1 of the duplication of Lanyon Drive opened in May and is working well. The good news is that the remaining stages will start in 2 weeks and should be completed

in around 14 to 18 months. Many thanks to our former Federal member Gary Nairn, current Federal Member Dr Mike Kelly and State member Steve Whan for delivering on the funding for this very important project.

Edwin Land Parkway

Last month, the plans for the extension of Edwin Land Parkway from Numeralia/Stringybark Drive through to Old Cooma Road were released. This will provide Jerrabomberra residents with quicker access to Karabar and Queanbeyan. Construction is planned to begin before Christmas and should be completed by the end of 2010. Gary Nairn provided \$6 million of the now \$11 million required to build the road.

Whilst the JRA welcomes the additional entry/exit point and looks forward to finally alleviating traffic numbers on Morella Ave, we had some concerns.

The JRA has long held the view that the ELP should remain a local (two lane) road and despite the Googong/Tralee Traffic Study concurring, the plans have been designed to incorporate future upgrades to dual carriageways. The JRA believes Dunns Creek Road should fulfil the role of a Queanbeyan Bypass and will continue to advocate for its construction.

We are deeply concerned that a signaled pedestrian crossing from the Park to the Jerrabomberra Shopping Village hasn't been considered as part of the design process. The impact on this crossing point will undoubtedly be enormous and safety concerns must be alleviated prior to the opening of the ELP extension.

It was pleasing to see that the plans have incorporated wildlife underpasses however it is unlikely these will be effective without fencing to channel fauna towards them, however Council have assured us that the fences are just missing off the plans that have been released to the community.

There was general support from the community; however Council has a lot of work to do with residents of adjoining properties to ensure proper noise mitigation is undertaken.

Notice Boards

As a result of a very successful Easter raffle and some funding from the QCC general donations scheme we replaced the 2 notice boards on Tompsitt Drive. They were 20 years old and had just about rusted away. We managed to do this project with limited impact on the budget, which was quite an achievement.

Community Centre & Carpark

In March, the Council released plans for the extension of the Community Centre and the upgrading of the carpark. The JRA made a presentation to Council on the night that the decision was to be made regarding the JCC extension and the carpark and we made a plea stating due to the number of residences that were adjoining the community center that it was inappropriate to make such a significant expansion of the Centre. In particular, due to the current financial climate Council were proposing to borrow around \$600,000 in order to fund the extension and the JRA advised Council that they should live within their means, that they should construct the carpark upgrade as a matter of urgency, keep the remaining Section 94 funds in the bank and when the land is rezoned on The Poplars, to construct a purpose-built

facility there which is well away from residential development. The good news was that Council adopted our recommendations and consequently we have all parked in a really nice car park tonight.

Presentations

We provided an open forum for key community leaders and the community during the year. JRA members were able to meet and discuss various issues with Queanbeyan Police Superintendent Gary Merryweather in March, Canberra Airport in April, Ken Ineson from Village Building Company in May, Woolworths In June, Member for Eden-Monaro Dr Mike Kelly in July; Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall in August.

The JRA is seen as a leading regional community advocate on a number of issues and we have been working very hard for our community. As I said in the beginning, this year has been a year of major achievement with many of our long-standing issues coming to fruition. I wish to thank the committee for their hard work to ensure that the views of the JRA are represented. Without them, it just would not have happened. I wish to thank our secretary Lyn Edwards for her hard work and great support as JRA secretary this year. Thanks for the wine tasting night – if you didn't make last year, you missed an excellent night see you next week at the 2009 one. A big thanks to Brian Brown for sharing the load now that I am back at work as well as for his unwavering enthusiasm and passion to make Jerra a better place.

I would also like to thank David Hope for looking after our website and keeping on pushing the high school. Tania Rynne – thanks for keeping the books and particularly keeping track of our membership lists and email addresses.

Thank you to committee members Mark Croxford, Doug Gordon, Phil Henry, Jon Hawkins, and Kim Howatson for their continuous help throughout the year on everything from the JRA raffle to all the correspondence that we generate. Together we made a great team.

I will not be standing for re-election as President. I have been president for 4 years and I think that in order to keep the JRA relevant and energetic it is important that there is a change. Brian Brown has asked me to pass on his apologies for not being able to attend tonight. Brian has also asked me to inform the Committee and Members of the JRA tonight that he will be standing down from the role of Vice President. Brian has taken on several new challenges at a more regional level and hopes to continue helping the Jerrabomberra community from these positions. It's ironic that in one of these positions Brian will be advising 14 Mayors and General Managers within the Southern Inland Region, including Queanbeyan's, a task he will no doubt relish!

During the time as President I believe I have achieved a lot and made Jerrabomberra a better place to live now and for the future. I have met some great people along the way and made some friendships that will last a lifetime. All this wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support of my husband Stephen Davie and my 2 boys Angus and Aiden (4 & 2) as well as the support of the Jerrabomberra community. It's been a privilege to represent you. I wish the new JRA leadership team all the very best and look forward seeing the JRA continue to move from strength to strength as it enters its second decade of service for the Jerrabomberra community. Thank you

David Hope moved a motion of special thanks to Margot...”4 years in a president role is an extreme haul, especially in this Association and I think we have achieved, as an Association and a community, a lot over the last 4 years and on behalf of our community I would hope to say ‘thanks very much for your efforts and I extend those thanks to Brian Brown as well because I know you worked as a good team but it really is a fantastic achievement and we hope you stay on in the committee’”

7. TREASURER’S REPORT

Tania advised that our books have been audited and she tabled an original, and certified true copy, of the auditor’s report for our records.

Monies received over the past 12 months included \$100 from sale of candles at the Carols by Candlelight, a \$100 donation, \$1790 from the Easter Raffle, Bank interest of 44c, \$640 from Queanbeyan Council in the General Donations Scheme, Subscriptions totalling \$1740 and \$25 from the wine tasting.

Payments were Bank fees of \$114, new noticeboards costing \$3756, Gloware candles \$1850, delivery of JRA newsletter \$357, lodgement of annual statement with Fair Trading \$45, post office box renewal \$75, public liability insurance \$987, rotary stall fee \$25, Easter raffle sign \$100, stationery \$427 and wine tasting catering and hamper \$63.

The balance as at 31 October 2009 was \$2,969-74.

Motion: That the Treasurer’s report be accepted

Moved: Doug Gordon **Seconded:** Kim Howatson **Carried.**

Mark Croxford asked which bank do we have our account with and Tania replied that it is with St George. Mark stated that there are now a number of banks that offer community group’s fee-free accounts and named Westpac as one of those banks. Dwayne Keefe advised that his church banks with Westpac and don’t incur any fees.

ACTION: It was suggested that the new committee look into this in the New Year.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All current office bearers vacated their positions. The new committee for 2010 is as follows –

PRESIDENT	Mark Croxford
VICE PRESIDENT	Kim Howatson
SECRETARY	Lyn Edwards
TREASURER	Tania Rynne
PUBLIC OFFICER	Doug Gordon
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Margot Sachse
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Brian Brown
COMMITTEE MEMBER	David Hope
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Jon Hawkins
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Phil Henry

9. ADDRESS BY NEW JRA PRESIDENT, MARK CROXFORD

Mark stated that one of the things our Articles of Association allow us to do is to have members of the JRA work in sub-committees or working groups to assist the roles and

functions the Committee is involved in. Those members who are not on the committee but feel they have skills they can contribute to the JRA in other ways will be able to do so whether it's in regard to airport-related matters, crime prevention strategy, infrastructure and facilities, the JRA will certainly be encouraging community participation in these processes during the next 12 months.

Mark commented that the JRA have been very lucky to have Margot steer us through the last 4 years. She has committed herself quite feverishly and has also had 2 children along the way, which is a great achievement in itself. She has led us through some very robust engagements at various levels of Government and with community organizations and we are very, very fortunate to be able to have a person of Margot's calibre to have been able to do that for the residents' association. Mark thanked Margot for her huge contribution to the JRA.

Mark also recorded a vote of thanks to Brian Brown who has been a very dogged community advocate on a whole range of issues and said that Kim Howatson is looking forward to filling those rather large shoes as well.

Mark stated that Jerrabomberra has a population of 8,747 but we only have 170 families or individuals that are members of the JRA and asked current members talk with their neighbours and encourage them to join the JRA in an effort to build a stronger sense of community – a \$10 JRA family membership goes a long way towards helping the JRA better represent our community. Jerrabomberra makes up 25% of the Queanbeyan community but we do not have anywhere near 25% of the infrastructure or facilities. Cooma has 1500 fewer people than Jerrabomberra and has a lot more facilities.

The JRA are supporting the Tralee development because we want to realise a lot of the facilities and infrastructure that we were denied or deprived over the last 21 years. The JRA will be working hard to see the Tralee development proceed as it will help us get a lot of the facilities we don't have. All residents in the Jerrabomberra valley will be able to enjoy those benefits.

Mark commented on the increased police presence around Jerrabomberra recently, not only to pick up traffic infringements but also as part of a strategy to tackle an increasing number of burglaries in the area and also thefts from vehicles. He advised one of the possibilities for the forthcoming year is to develop a strategy to deal with crime prevention and Mark confirmed that he will be talking with the local Police in the next week. Mark asked members to tell their neighbours, family and friends who live in Jerrabomberra to be vigilant. Mark reiterated Police advice that homeowners lock windows, put tools and bikes away...and all of the sorts of things that can act as deterrents to potential burglars. He said if members have dogs, let them roam the yards as dogs are a great deterrent and if you have neighbours with noisy dogs, be grateful. Margot added that the Police superintendent advised the recent increase in burglaries have been mostly opportunistic – unlocked windows visible from the street encouraging a roaming burglar to break in. The JRA encourages everyone to be smart and keep windows and doors locked and not to leave valuables visible to prying eyes. The criminals appear to be targeting properties without alarms and/or dogs, so if you fit into any of those categories, lock everything.

One JRA member at the meeting advised that burglars broke into his house with the aid of a pick left laying in his back-yard and used it to smash through a double glazed door.

10. SPECIAL GUEST – DAVID DOBLINGER, QUEANBEYAN CITY BRIGADE, NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Mark Croxford welcomed RFS Deputy Captain David Doblinger to the meeting. David advised all the information he would speak about was also available on the Rural Fire Service (RFS) website – www.rfs.nsw.gov.au David will make hard copies of relevant new information available as it comes to hand.

David recommended every household download a bushfire survival plan from the website, have a look at the information and then fill it out and prepare as necessary for a bushfire. In the event of a bushfire, residents should not expect a fire truck at your house as Queanbeyan has 1 heavy tanker, which carries 3,500 litres, and 2 smaller tankers, which carry about 1500 litres, for the entire Queanbeyan area.

Jerrabomberra residents living near bushland areas should check out the property assessment tool on the RFS website. Some basic things residents can do now is clean out gutters and remove any flammable material from around the property. Shrubs right up against the home can also create a fire hazard and their removal should be considered.

There are two areas of concern in Jerrabomberra – south Jerrabomberra and Waterfall Rise. These two areas have been highlighted in the recently developed local Bushfire Management Plan.

Question: How dangerous is Jerrabomberra?

Answer: In the last year the RFS have done some hazard reduction work and there is a long-term plan to do hazard reduction work all over Jerrabomberra, however, it takes time and the RFS just can't go and burn everything all at once. It needs to be done gently to preserve the ecology.

Question: Would it be possible to get a small crew down to the shops that could double as a fund-raising opportunity but also an awareness campaign?

Answer: In the bushfire management plan, there are some things in there fire authorities have to do, however whether it's our brigade or the NSW fire brigade is still to be determined. We need to do letterbox drops, community street meetings and a static water supply programme, where we will come around to your houses and identify if you have a static water supply (ie swimming pool, etc) and we will put the SWS (Static Water Source) sign on your gatepost. By law, the RFS and NSWFB can come and get your water any time we want if there is a fire. Where an SWS sign is visible, it's easier for us to identify a water source.

Question: Apparently in the metropolitan areas, special arrangements have been made for sub-groups like community groups and volunteers to assist the ordinary everyday fire fighter when the need arises. Given that you've only got 3 trucks and it

seems almost impossible to be in many places on a really bad total fire ban day, how far is that possible to be investigated in our local area?

Answer: That's an initiative of the NSW Fire Brigade and you need to talk to them about it.

Question: When will we be getting a new and updated fire sign on Tomsitt Drive?

Answer: In the next few weeks.

Question: Who is responsible for updating the sign each day?

Answer: RFS Queanbeyan City are on a roster to do it, but it might not be updated until later in the evening. However you can always go to the RFS website where you will find a fire danger rating map. The RFS website is most reliable as it is updated from the Bureau of Meteorology data and streamed straight into our website.

Question: Gum trees close to houses could pose a fire threat – what can you do about the ones on the Jerrabomberra roundabout?

Answer: There isn't much we can do about them but our Fire Mitigation Officer, Chris Quinn, can come out and look at your property and see if you are allowed to cut trees down. I think it's within 40m of the residence – Chris can usually say to Council that this tree should come out because it's dangerous, but it's up to him to make the call on it.

Question: How does a home assessment work?

Answer: The RFS come out to your place and conduct an assessment similar to the online assessment form. We walk around, look at the property and make suggestions on how you can improve it. That said we cannot guarantee a house will never burn down. You can also contact your local council if you are worried about encroaching bushland at your back fence.

Question: Is there a possibility of getting a small unit based in Jerrabomberra?

Answer: This area is more the responsibility of NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) and you need to talk to them. Mark Croxford said the JRA would contact the local station officer and investigate opportunities. The JRA may be able to form a sub-committee to involve interested people of the community.

ACTION: Contact the NSWFB Queanbeyan station.

Comment: If your house is not fully prepared for a fire, you should not risk your own life staying to try to defend it. Ensure your property is fully insured, take all your valuable things and get out of the area if a fire is approaching. It's not worth risking your life if the house is insured.

It was suggested that the JRA put a link on the website (www.jra.asn.au) to the RFS website.

ACTION: Put a link from the JRA website to the RFS website.

Mark thanked David Doblinger and some of his men for attending the meeting.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Bendigo Bank – Mark Croxford commented on the good response shown by the community to the recent survey and advised the Jerrabomberra Community Bank Project steering committee are awaiting Bendigo Bank corporate to finish crunching the numbers to tell the steering committee if the numbers stack up for a Bendigo Bank in Jerrabomberra. The community will then have access to an “*automatic funding machine*” able to make donations and grants available to the community. The Jerrabomberra Community Bank project last week gave away \$5,000 to community organizations which was just a very small taste of what is to come if the Bendigo Bank in Jerrabomberra is to be realised.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

The next meeting of the JRA will be held on:

Wednesday January 20, 2010 at 7.30pm

in the Banksia Room at the Jerrabomberra Community Centre, and anyone is welcome to attend.

The JRA committee wish you a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.

