

## MINUTES OF THE PORT MANDUIRAH RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2023 AT THE BRIGHTON HOTEL MANDURAH at 6pm

**Attendees:** Mike Board, Peter McGuire, Steve Zielinski, Andy White, Bob Ballantine, Jim Booker, Angela Booker, Malcolm Eales, Linda Eales, Neil Diggins, Rabie Van Der Mere, Carole McElvaney, Bruce Were, Lin Were, Ron Taggart, Helen Taggart, Barb Campbell, Geoff Campbell, Josephine Board, Gary Weston, Meghan Rhode, Jill Randell, John Randall, Dianne O'Driscoll, Robyn Fowler, Hedley Fowler, Ian Hall, Dr. Gary Singh, Parminder Singh, Phil Perry, Gino Cagni, Sandra Cagni, Garry Backshall, Ivan Bennett, Carmel Bennett, Jeff Argoon, Kerry Argoon, Emma Rasheen.

**Apologies:** Lyn Bayens, Helen and Alan Parker, Faye Grey, Rae McGuire, John McElvaney, James McElvaney, Rhian McElvaney, Anthony Dawkins.

PMRA President Mike Board (MB) welcomed all attendees and confirmed that the quorum requirement (20) was met.

MB introduced the other current Committee Members: Steve Zielinski (SZ) Vice President, Bob Ballantine (BB) Treasurer, Jim Booker (JB), Andy White (AW), Peter McGuire (PM) Secretary. He encouraged attendees to consider nominating for the new Committee to be elected later in the meeting.

MB spoke about the promotional material distributed to all Port Mandurah residences to create awareness and participation in PMRA activities. He also confirmed the name change from "Residents" to "Ratepayers".

Other matters covered in The Presidents Report are summarised below:

- **Role of the Committee.** To represent ratepayer's interests in a range of issues related to the Port Mandurah precinct. Greater participation by residents is vital to the PMRA achieving its objectives in areas such as speeding boats, dredging, and sand by passing.
- **Waterways Committee.** Port Mandurah Waterways Advisory Group (PMCWAG) is a quarterly meeting between PMRA and City of Mandurah (CoM). PMRA has been advocating to raise the profile of the Group and its concerns with CoM. PMRA residents contribute 59% of the cost of dredging the canals and the northern entry to the main canal. A major concern to PMRA is the extensive usage of the canals system by commercial operators and non residents who make no contribution to canal maintenance. Canal front owners are responsible for the maintenance of their canal wall.
- CoM and Department of Transport (DoT) have commissioned a study of the current and possible alternative sand by passing arrangements at the northern entry to the estuary. Currently DoT have let a 10year dredging contract. Some comments from the floor suggested that PMRA should consider purchasing its own dredge and become a supplier to DoT. Hedley Fowler spoke against the suggestion and received general support for his reasoning.
- **Issues facing Port Mandurah Ratepayers.** PMRA member involvement is critical to the successful achievement of objectives. The new Membership Card will hopefully entice more residents to submit their contact details so that they can be kept informed of developments.
- Dredging is a major issue for PMRA. The lack of a permanent sand by passing arrangement is contributing to the ongoing problem with sand build up at the northern entry to the main canal. This is a significant \$100,000+/year cost to Port Mandurah Ratepayers.
- Speed and signage. A recent PMCWAG meeting attended by DoT Marine Safety indicated that DoT is now listening to our concerns. A new speed indicator has been installed near the Old Coast Road bridge and more signs will be considered if requested.
- Canal Wall Maintenance. This should be a concern for all canal front owners. It is their responsibility. PMRA requested through PMCWAG, that consideration needs to be given to having commercial operators contribute

to canal maintenance e.g., a levy on each customer. Any funds received could offset the cost of dredging or be used for an insurance scheme for wall maintenance.

- **Volunteers.** Special thanks to the Santa Afloat skippers and Santas. Also thanks to the Committee.
- **Sponsors.** The following organisations are acknowledged for their support of PMRA. Mandurah Cruises, Mandurah Canvas, North Coast Design, SMS Specialised Marine, Solar Panel Cleaning, Hinds Sand Supplies, Renee Hardman, Plays Kool, Brighton Hotel, Redmanna Restaurant, The Bridge Restaurant and Boundary Island Brewery.
- **Need for new committee members.** Members are urged to consider becoming part of the Committee. Meetings are monthly for about 1 hour and your participation can make a difference.

**Minutes of the 2022 AGM.** In the absence of any concerns or amendment to the minutes, MB asked that they be accepted. Moved Angela Booker and Seconded Steve Zielinski.

**Treasurers Report.** Bob Ballantine (BB) report that the Association is in a sound financial position. Social events during the year were mainly break even except the Xmas Dinner which was subsidised by \$973. We no longer receive a contribution from CoM for community cleaning, The letter box drop expense was around \$1,000. Our cash account balance is \$9,800.26 and there is a term deposit of \$110,000. Our reserve fund for dredging is \$287,786. Sponsorship income was \$3,600.

In the absence of any concerns it was Moved Jo Board and Seconded Dr.Gary Singh that the Treasurers Report be accepted. Accepted.

**Functions and Social.** Steve Zielinski (SZ) listed 7 events held during the last year. All were successful and most were sold out events. Future plan is to hold a mid-year and a Xmas event. The next event is at 12noon on 30 July at the Thorny Devil Brewery. Cost is \$55 per head. Jim Booker (JB) reminded those intending to participate to book online direct with Thorny Devil and advise that it is a PMRA booking to get the discounted rate.

**Election of Committee for 2023/24.** MB reiterated the need for more participation on the Committee and sought any further nominations. The Committee may comprise 4 officer members, 6 ordinary members and 4 co-opted members. Nominations were received from: Mike Board, Steve Zielinski, Bob Ballantine, Peter McGuire, Jim Booker, Andy White, Bruce Were, Dr.Gary Singh, Parminder Singh, Peter Spalding and Ivan Bennett.

With no further nominations and no objections, all nominees were declared elected. MB advised that a Committee Meeting will be convened in about 1 month.

**General Business.** Linda Eales enquired as whether MOFSC made any contribution to the dredging account and also supported the thought that commercial operators should make a contribution toward canal maintenance. JB indicated that a recent change in the CoM representation on PMCWAG gave some hope for a more sympathetic view of our concerns.

MB reported an apparent lack of interest from CoM elected councillors. They don't attend PMCWAG meetings and have shown little support for PMRA.

Ivan Bennett suggested that PMRA needs to be more forceful in its discussions with CoM and DoT. He supported others concerns regarding speeding boats, particularly hire boats, and suggested speed signs would be better understood if they were in kilometres rather than knots. He urged PMRA to invest in legal advice regarding commercial operators.

Dianne O'Driscoll raised concern about the earlier comment that PMRA had access to \$500K. The bulk of these funds raised through SAR are held in a reserve account by CoM for dredging purposes. She also recommended that research be done into the reason for canal wall repairs.

MB reported that DoT will be receptive to providing speed/safety signage for installation in appropriate positions on private property. Members should email PMRA with details if they are interested in this initiative.

Malcolm Eales voiced his concern that an email to PMRA went unanswered. MB responded that there was a period when changes to Committee Members did result in some email problems, that has since been rectified.

Malcolm Eales requested that DoT be approached to provide more, on water, patrols during the Xmas Lights period. Further to this, it was moved by Dianne O'Driscoll and seconded Malcolm Eales that PMRA make a formal approach to DoT requesting more patrols.

Malcolm Eales raised the potential liability of owners if a boat collides with a jetty.

MB thanked all for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.