



NEPEAN RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Engaging the Nepean Ward in supporting a sustainable community

MINUTES OF THE AGM

Rye Hotel

Friday 17 April 2026

5pm

- WELCOME:** Jill Sands, as Acting Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Allen, as well as expressing appreciation to the Rye Hotel for making the Blue Water Room available again at no charge for the NRA
- PRESENT:** Jill Sands (chair), Joan Hoskins, Richard Doery, Mechelle Cheers
- MEMBERS:** Richard Holland, Andrew Laing, Martin Derup
- GUEST - MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE:** Cr Andrea Allen
- APOLOGIES:** Colin Watson, Graeme Hill, Charles & Anne Cayless, Christine Granger, Rob Nickless, David Henry, Hugh Fraser
- PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of AGM Meeting 11 April were tabled and accepted

BUSINESS ARISING:

Note was made of the many successes over the past 12 months due to the hard work by Cnr Andrea Allen. Achievements included the Rye Foreshore, the Peninsula Link Trail, and the Sorrento Foreshore Master Plan. Andrea noted that the Netball Courts were a work in progress too.

Andrew Laing passed a motion of thanks to Andrea for her part in the completion of the many projects. Seconded by Richard Doery

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Jill tabled the Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2025. She spoke to aspects of the current financial position as well as the performance of the NRA financially.

Balance of the operating account being \$2906.46 due to income primarily from membership.

Balance of the term deposit being \$7207.68 – renewal due in 6 months.

We continue to use the CBA although other banks have been investigated .However the CBA being the only bank in Sorrento now, it was too complicated to change banks.

Noted that the Portsea beach funds are held separately.

Martin Derup asked for an explanation of the Portsea beach account, which Jill provided. Most of the money was raised locally and that which has been spent so far has gone on legal fees. At the moment Colin is waiting for mediation to continue regarding the result of the dredging in 2009 and if no outcome for that process there is likely to be further legal action.

Membership – whilst revenue from membership fees has increased in 2025, the NRA needs a strategy to attract more members. Noted that other local organisations are having similar issues due to the older demographic.

Mechelle suggested the sense of community had unfortunately all but gone now as well.

Richard Doery asked that the issue of membership be referred to the next NRA meeting. Discussion should focus on issues that affect younger people.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Election of committee members

Jill stood aside and called on Richard Holand to call for nominations. There being 6 nominations:

Colin Watson, Jill Sands, Mechelle Cheers, Richard Doery, Graeeme Hill and Joan Hoskins. These were duly elected in accordance with Section 23 of the Constitution.

2. Other Business

There being no other business Jill resumed the chair and presented the President's Report for 2026. President to date, Colin Watson, being an apology for this meeting due to a fractured shoulder.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Colin thanked those members present for attending the AGM and committee members for their contribution in the past year. In particular Jill Sands for her invaluable work as secretary. He also thanked Councillor Andrea Allen for her ongoing support of the NRA.

He acknowledged the efforts of Andrew Laing for driving the Mornington Peninsula Emergency Management Plan.

The NRA continues to lobby the Shire regarding unacceptable jetski conduct. Colin commended Mechelle Cheers and her advocacy on this issue. This has resulted in other councils becoming involved in order to put pressure on the State government.

Colin also addressed the Sorrento Coastal and Marine Management Plan and the Foreshore Master Plans noting that the NRA were successful in having the Shire replace the Banksia trees near Webster's Corner which had been vandalised. Andrea pointed out that only one had died and that the Shire had paid for a 2 year watering program.

Also mentioned in his report was the Planning Scheme Amendment C286 which has been approved now by the Minister. It enforces height limits and setbacks in Ocean Beach Road. Christine Granger was acknowledged for her efforts to secure this outcome.

The Rye Foreshore and camping grounds are virtually complete thanks to Mechelle Cheers and the Rye Alliance.

Portsea Front Beach restoration is still subject to inaction by the Labor Government. However the Minister has issued instructions to review all previous reports. Our solicitors had offered the government in 2024 an opportunity to enter into a mediation process. The report of the review has yet to be made public.

Several other matters for this year included Amendment C312 (Landslide overlays), Morce Ave car park, roadside and foreshore reserves maintenance, implementation of the various Master Plans, Police Point etc.

Andrea mentioned that the SCMMP is in the budget.

AGM closed at 5.40pm

Jill then called on Councillor Allen to proceed with a Community Forum

Community Forum

Cr Allen provided an update on some of the current Council matters as well as those adopted.

- Ratepayers with no kerbside collection will no longer pay a full waste service charge but will still have to contribute to public place cleaning
- The waste service charge has increased partly due to State Government mandated changes (eg) standard bin lids, and green bins for all households instead of the opting in system which has been in place to date. The cost per property is \$48
- Bin lids will be changing to red (landfill), yellow (recycling) and green (food and green waste). New bin lids will be distributed next year. Households without a green waste bin currently will receive one next year
- Bins for glass will not be introduced yet.

Budget and Long Term Capital Works Plan

- Consultation for both starts on Monday (27th April 2026) and runs for 4 weeks.
- The budget is for 26/27 year. The capital works program is long term and flags projects as well for the following year (27/28) and then projects for future consideration
- This budget includes \$1m in community capital grants to strengthen the resilience of our community assets. Navigating the grants process is difficult for smaller groups who find the process very onerous.
- Grants are available for groups like the swimmers so she suggested they join up with the NRA so they get a greater voice.
- There are probably many grants available which the NRA can assist with applying for.

Sorrento Tennis Courts resurfacing

These courts were laid 22 years ago. There is \$345,000 in the budget for the planning, design and implementation of the upgrade

Andrea ran through other budget items for the Nepean Ward which included:

- Buildings and Amenities – Sorrento Foreshore, the Community Centre switch board, the playground at the David MacFarlane Sports oval, planning for upgrade of the R J Rowley Reserve

Long Term projects include Sorrento Foreshore toilet block, toilets at Newton's Reserve Portsea, implementation of the upgrade for R J Rowley Reserve (irrigation, pavillion etc), Settlers Cove tennis courts, master plan for Stringers Rd Reserve (multi-use courts) etc

Consideration to be given for Police Point because it is a great asset which is not being properly utilised. There is a report on whether or not dogs should allowed leash free and consideration for extending the artist in residence program.

Future consideration to also be given for the Morce Ave Carpark – noted that the NRA provided feedback and that most people wanted Option 1 or 2. Also French Street Reserve (for dogs leash free and BMXs) and the Rye Skate Park. Also the Sorrento Master Plans

Cr Allen answered questions from those attending including how the Council Monitor system was working, the Erosion overlay and electric bikes on footpaths (ie) what is permitted for this complex issue, ferry carparking, the Weir St carpark.

Jill pointed out that the NRA had supported the recently released plans for the pedestrian crossing near the ferry terminal.

Jill thanked Andrea for coming to the meeting and providing a comprehensive report on the budget as well as current and future projects.

The Community Forum was then closed.