



President: Rosemary Sandford

Hon. Secretary: David Halse Rogers

**Minutes of a General Meeting held at The D'Arcy Street Community Hall
on Wednesday 12th March, 2014 at 7:30 pm.**

Chair: Dr. Rosemary Sandford.

Present: Pru Bonham, Lindsay Brinsdon, David Halse Rogers, Elizabeth Green, Rosemary Sandford, Malcolm Saltmarsh, Margaret Wilmot, and Kevin Wilson.

Apologies: Nine (9) members as per *Attendance Register*.

Minutes of February 2014 Meeting: Having been previously distributed by email, the Minutes were duly approved. [Put: Phil Brown; Seconded: Pru Bonham; Passed.]

1. Presentation re Macquarie Street State School (HCC Deputy General Manager, Heather Salisbury): Heather Salisbury, the Deputy Manager of the *Hobart City Council* gave an update to the inter-governmental machinations currently occupying our Canberra bureaucrats in Warren Truss' *Department for Infrastructure and Regional Development* (DIRD). The offer of \$1.65 million to establish a South Hobart Cultural Hub is "still on the table". As the liaising body, the HCC is has applied for the monies in two stages: the first, for \$75,000, to conduct a 'due diligence' exercise and, second, for the balance to effect the necessary rectification of the fabric of the building to bring it up to modern standards and to implement the findings of the Conservation Management Plan, which will be part of the Due Diligence exercise. [This will include a building survey by *Pitt & Sherry* to look at electrical and structural issues, an action plan by an architect (possibly Robert Morris-Nunn – pro bono, a conservation management plan supervised by HCC Senior Cultural Heritage Officer, Brendan Lennard, and a quantity survey.] At present, the Canberra bureaucrats are conducting a "value-for-money" exercise. Canberra has promised that the information will be on the Minister's desk shortly! The monies have come as a result of lobbying by Andrew Wilkie, who is in constant contact with Minister Truss, who has told his Department to expedite the matter and transfer the funds asap. HS said that a report went to Full Council on 10th March, 2014 and she mentioned that the HCC aldermen

are naturally concerned that they do not lumber ratepayers with a “millstone”. Council has, however, agreed to project manage the ‘due diligence exercise’ and are generally favourably disposed to support the project as a whole. The State Government (Department of Education) is keen to sell the property still. A business case needs to be made for the project to prove long-term sustainability. Dr. Neil Cameron’s model of operation (not-for-profit incorporated body) is being considered along with others suggested by South Hobart resident and lawyer, Jim Walker from *Simmons Wolfhagen* who has offered to give initial *pro bono* advice. He has suggested a Unit Trust or Company limited by guarantee as possible models. A meeting with Jim Walker has been organised for 18th March, 2014 to thrash out an appropriate model. A search for other “good” tenants will also be undertaken to satisfy government bureaucrats, (*Festival of Voices* was mentioned as a possible tenant.)

Business arising from the Minutes:

1. Palliative Care – Whittle Ward Issue: The Whittle Ward has been “saved” – for the time being. RS received a letter from Matthew Daly of the Department of Health & Human Resources (DHHR)) which was tabled. The letter spoke of patients as though they were wine – to be “**decanted**” from one location to another at the whim took the Department. “Decantation”, apparently, is necessary to allow the *Royal Hobart Hospital* to function adequately whilst reconstruction occurs over the next couple (?) of years. Whittle Ward staff have still not been notified officially of this decision. The President said that the DHHR has acted in a most reprehensible manner with no compassion evident to patients, family or over-worked staff.

2. A History of South Hobart Project: The winner of the ‘**anecdote**’ competition, which was adjudicated by Alison Alexander, was won by Margaret O’Farrell’s entry entitled: “Why South Hobart Keeps Drawing Me Back?” The prize of a copy of Alison’s book on the history of Oatlands will be presented closer to the time of the book’s launch in 2015. Malcolm Saltmarsh reported on a meeting with HCC officers regarding the Book’s progress to date. AA is delighted and astonished with Kevin Wilson’s wealth of detailed information on South Hobart. A discussion ensued as to how to best preserve these records.

5. Islington Private Hotel Change of Use to Unlisted Use (Function Venue): The owners of *Islington* have withdrawn (yet again!) their application to the HCC for alterations in the conditions of use of the site. This leaves local residents and the wider community “up in the air” as to the future intentions of the owners.

Treasurer’s Report:

Correspondence:

In:

- *Lemon Pie Design* regarding *Paypal* account
- CFFHS (Greta MacDonald) minutes
- Advertising enquiries 6 emails

Out:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Lemon Pie Design | Various emails |
| • HCC | Rivulet Week |
| • HCC | Badminton mural trees |
| • HCC | Tip |

Other Business:

1. Cuthbertson's Tannery (39 Weld/62 Wynyard Streets) Plans: The outcome of the HCC's archaeological 'dig' has been completed. The wall on the lower side of the land has been identified as having some significance for the Site. Given the concern expressed at the last meeting regarding the scope of the current demolition work on the Tannery land, it has been decided to approach Kevin Green to write an article on the 'Hursey Estate' to appear in the May issue of *A South Hobart Newsletter*.

2. Subdivision on Stoney Steps Road: Leave on Agenda.

3. South Hobart McRobie's Road Tip: Pru Bonham reported to the meeting that the HCC has approached the EPA to ascertain whether raising the tip from its present maximum fill at the 186 metres contour to 195 metres would be entertained. (This would enable the tip to continue for another twenty years or so.) The Association has written to Council expressing its concerns regarding this matter. The impact of the life of the Tip on South Hobart is to be discussed at the April General Meeting of the Association. On another related matter, Pru reported that the Copping Regional Waste Management Site is to proceed but possibly not with the contentious Hazardous Waste Station – for the time being!

4. HCC Rivulet Week: A letter of congratulations is to be sent to the HCC re the success of the events organised by Council's Parks Division (Roger Viney) and the Community Development Unit (Philip Holliday).

5. Tara Street Plan (Hobart Rivulet) – Draft: There is to be a on site 'drop-in' session conducted by Parks staff to obtain suggestions from local residents for what should be located in this area (near the *Fruehauf* rock climbing site) on 20th March between 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm. KW suggested a separate senior's and teenager's gym, a platypus sculpture – similar to Eric the Pig in the Mall, and a geological/fossil interpretation panel on the cliffs. The off-lead dog area will be fenced off to protect wildlife in the Rivulet.

6. The Battery Point & Sullivan's Cove Community Association (BPSCCA) Candidates Meeting: The BPSCCA held a meeting to 'grill' prospective candidates in the upcoming State election regarding their policies on heritage conservation and planning issues in general. Present were Matthew Groom (Lib), Cassie O'Connor (Greens), Scott Bacon (Lab), Barbara Etter (PUP), and Hans Willink (Ind). Bob Vincent also spoke about changes to the Tasmanian Cultural Heritage Amendment Act, 2013 which now possibly allows for a different interpretation on the merits of heritage property retention over developers' wishes for demolition.

7. Bock's Wall on Broadley's Corner: Work has finished on the replacement of the former wooden paling fencing with a substantial stone edifice. The coping stones have finally been put in place. The issue of the HCC's interpretation panel highlighting the former site 'Burlingham' was discussed. LB to approach the HCC.

8. Dying Rabbits in Wellesley Park: The President reported on the sighting of dead and mutilated rabbit corpses in the Park. Glenn Graves from DIPIWIE has suggested that myxomatosis is active again. The Department will ascertain whether there will be a need to release calici virus this year. An article is to appear in the next Newsletter regarding unsupervised dogs in the Park.

9. E.R. Prettyman Photographic Collection: Lindsay Brinsdon drew the meeting's attention to the series of photographs of South Hobart in the Prettyman Collection (1870-1930). The photographs could be suitable for inclusion in The History of South Hobart. KW also recommends photographic archives from the *Cricket Museum*.

(<http://www.historicphotographs.com.au/searcher.asp?systemsearch=1&sitemode=2&place=Hobart>)

10. CHCA Seating around South Hobart: KW raised the issue of public seating in the suburb, especially as there are an increasing number of elderly and infirm moving into the area.

11. HCC Community Engagement Forum: See the HCC website for details on the proposed meetings.

12. HCC Bushfire Management Strategy 2014: KW also drew member's attention to the website. Kevin will analyse the information to see whether the Association needs to respond.

13. HCC's Strategic Plan – deadline 27/3/14: Members were reminded of the closing date for comments regarding Council's Draft Strategic Plan.

Meeting closed: 9:24 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th April, 2014 at 7:30 pm.