



Wilson Residents and Ratepayers Association

Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, 6 July 2011 - Wilson Community Hall

1. Welcome

Geoff. Rees as outgoing President, opened the meeting at 7.35 pm. and welcomed all present. **Geoff** thanked all **WRRRA** members for their support throughout the year, all visitors to the AGM and invited guests for attending. **Geoff** briefly outlined the meeting agenda and meeting procedures, copies of which were available on the floor. 21 visitors and members exclusive of the special guests attended as recorded on the attendance sheets. attached.

Total Attendance was recorded as 31 - 4 more than last year.

2. AGM Notice

Notification of this AGM was published in the Canning Examiner, Canning Times, Little Aussie Directory, Newsletter drop, Eureka notice board, a mailout to all existing and recent past members. Emails to Mason Ward Councillors, **Mark Dacombe**, - City of Canning CEO, **Joe Delle Donne**, - Mayor of the City of Canning, **Bill Johnston** MLA, **Steve Irons** MP , **Russell Gorton** WWAG. Noted that the Canning Times now publishes a City of Canning page where it was also printed. Noted too that published notices were at no cost to **WRRRA**.

3. Introduction of WRRRA Members and Special Guests

The chairman introduced current committee members and special guests.

Current WRRRA Committee:

Geoff Rees - President
Maurice Winter - Vice President
Rob Marshall - Treasurer
Les Durbin - Secretary
Max Zeller - Webmaster
Brian Cornell, Sandra Probert & Russell Gorton - Committee

Special Guests:

Bill Johnson - MLA Cannington
Mark Dacombe - CEO City of Canning
Troy Bozich - Mgr. Eng. Services, City of Canning
Kevin Jeffries - Project Manager Corporate Services
Fiona Armstrong - Executive Manager, Client & Customer Services
Andrew Sharpe - Executive Manager, Corporate Services.
Joe Delle Donne - Mayor, City of Canning
Graham Barry, Lindsay Elliott & Stephen Boylen - Mason Ward Councillors

4. Apologies

Steve Irons – Federal Member for Swan
Peter Morcombe - Committee
Robert & Faye Morgan - Cllr. Beeliar Ward
Terry Gorton – Member
Paul Duncan - Member

5. Minutes from previous AGM 2010

Copies were available on the floor and posted on the **WRRRA** website. Motion to accept as a true record: proposed **Max Zeller**, seconded **Maurice Winter**

6. Meeting Procedures

Geoff Rees read out the procedures & protocols within which the meeting would be conducted. Copies available on the floor.

7. President's Report

The Report Card was compiled by the outgoing President, **Geoff Rees** .

The seeds of the formation of Wilson Residents and Ratepayers Association were sown by a loose group some 32 years ago which led to a formal organisation 27 years ago.

I would like to commence this evening by commenting on how much I have appreciated the time that each of my committee members have given to the administrative functions and in progressing the community objectives of the Association. This is not only during the past year but for the many years that a number of these people have been the mainstays of our Association.

These are:

- Lester Durbin** - Secretary
- Rob Marshall** - Treasurer
- Max Zeller** - Webmaster
- Maurice Winter** - Committee
- Brian Cornell** - Committee
- Russell Gorton** - Committee
- Peter Morcombe** - Committee

The committee members were nominated from the floor and joined our committee at our last AGM.

I also thank **Susan Rogers** for her input as a committee member over the past 2 years but due to work commitments had to resign late last year.

The **WRRRA** membership for the past year was 125.

- Your committee continued an active role in lobbying and follow up with local groups and Government bodies on progressing the ongoing long term objectives of the Association as well as a number of local issues that have been raised by individual members and that have had a direct impact on them as residents of Wilson.

These have included:

- Riverton Bridge Kiosk and Jetty Park development.
- Fern Road Traffic concerns.
- Bywater Way Landing clean- up.
- Dumping and long term storage of builders' rubbish and materials on verges and footpaths.
- Potential fire hazards for residents abutting onto sections of the Canning River Regional Park (CRRP).

- Landscaping of Kent Street approach to the Eco Centre and Weir area.
- Promote the construction of the walk trail/dual use path network connecting public and recreational areas along the northern side of the Canning River to the extensive path network within the Regional Park at Kent Street. Here we have had a small degree of success in that the City of Canning has committed to consider extension of the dual use path along the Canning River to Bow Street.

I am pleased to report that our Association's objective for installation of underground power throughout Wilson will, with the exception of a small number of residences in the Kent Street area, will be completed within the next 18-24 months. We note that the inclusion of the residences referred to is currently under review for possible inclusion. I understand that the Mayor will bring us up to date on the State Government's programme for installation of the U/G power in the Wilson East area as it becomes available.

Also during the past 12 months, the following submissions were made to Federal, State, and Local Government bodies concerning:

- Aircraft Noise
- Cat Laws
- The Central Perth metropolitan sub-regional strategy - Draft Report

Together the ratepayers and residents of Wilson can make a difference.

I thank too, the Mayor and the Mason Ward Councillors for their attention to our suggestions and attendance at our meetings.

Thanks also to our parliamentary representatives, **Steve Irons**, Federal member for Swan and **Bill Johnston** MLA, State member for Cannington for their assistance with printing and their support and attendance at meetings.

In closing, and as a number of our committee will not be re-nominating this year, I would request that any person here tonight who may be in a position to assist the Association in progressing its objectives and sit on committee, that they speak to myself or any of the committee during the coffee break or as the meeting concludes.

A full transcript of the Report is available on the **WRRRA** website <http://wrra.org.au>

8. Financial Report

Rob Marshall - Treasurer, presented the annual financial report. The report indicated a healthy financial position. Current membership is 125, 3 fewer than last year but with quite a number yet to be processed, having arrived in the past week, this figure is likely to be exceeded. The current balance of \$4086.34 is an operating profit of \$723.26 over the previous year. This healthy financial position is due to in the main to the valuable and continuing support of the City of Canning, an increase in our New Year ice cream sales income and the ongoing assistance of **Bill Johnson** MLA and **Steve Irons** MP with printing our newsletters and flyers. **WRRRA** volunteers deliver our own circulars to minimise postage costs.

Rob also confirmed that committee had approved Ted Foreman Citizenship Award grants of \$200 to each of Wilson Primary School and Rehoboth Christian School for the coming year thus continuing a long standing arrangement and additionally we were able to make a contribution to the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal.

Copies of the financial statement were circulated.

The statement was accepted on a motion proposed by **Max Zeller**, seconded by **Russell Gorton**.

9. Matters arising from last AGM & Related Issues

For the benefit of those who may not have had access to last year's minutes, some copies were available at front desk.

- **Bus Shelters – Max Zeller** thanked the City on behalf of **WRRRA**, for installing the bus shelter on the south side of Fern Road near the Upnor Street roundabout.
- **Council Depot contamination – Russell Gorton** asked about the investigations of the chemical contamination at the Council Depot site. **Mayor Delle Donne** reported that the City was still awaiting results of testing in the area. He also added that he felt that there would always be a Depot there, albeit smaller, as it would not be practical to move everything to a new site some distance away for cost and environmental reasons as there would be an amount of local work more easily done from a local depot.

10. Bill Johnston's Address.

Bill Johnston MLA Cannington gave a short address outlining some of topics in the constituency and being discussed in State Parliament as they could relate to Wilson.

- The Building Bill now being legislated will ensure that more account is taken of the effect of such as infill development on existing properties and neighbourhoods. Noted that **WRRRA** has been lobbying for some time now to curb some of the excesses of developers and acknowledge and thank the City which have been most active in bringing some developers 'to heel' with such as building rubbish and vehicles spreading beyond their boundaries and making life difficult for local residents.
- Public transport is now to the forefront of public policy thinking with Perth expanding rapidly and environmental concerns given more prominence. **Professor Peter Newman**, the Urban Planning specialist, has long been an advocate of light rail having raised the prospect of a light rail link from Curtin University to UWA. Another scheme in the preliminary stages of consideration is a light rail link from Curtin to Cannington Rail Station along Manning Road. None of this would be cheap with light rail costed at \$15 million/km. Eventually the aim would be to have everyone with 500m. of a public transport stop whether rail or bus. **Bill** suggested that **WRRRA** could become active in this area by lobbying for more public transport. **Mayor Delle Donne** noted that at present only 1% of the population regularly use public transport. Comments from the floor revolved around increased traffic noise from public transport, siting of bus stops and the width of roadways being reduced if a light rail were to be installed.
- Student Accommodation: **Bill** noted that the Ministers concerned were aware of some of the abuses and increased traffic etc. particularly now that this style of accommodation had spread out from the Bentley precinct to Wilson where it is becoming a concern.
- Cat Laws: In answer to a question from the floor, the Cat Bill is now in its second reading in Parliament and although tabled for later in the year it must be understood that it has to be seen as a low priority piece of legislation which must take its turn.

Geoff thanked **Bill Johnston** for a most informative address and taking questions from the floor.

11. City Report & Questions

Mayor Delle Donne reported on the following topics, referring to other City officials present where necessary:

- Manning Road is to be resurfaced and some trees are to be removed with the road width to be altered. However the question has arisen about the possibility of a light rail link from Curtin to Cannington Rail Station so final design has had to be postponed.
- It was noted that difficulties had been identified in public transport to the new Fiona Stanley Hospital in the future.
- Student housing has now spread from the Bentley West Precinct into Wilson and the City was very conscious of the associated problems of traffic, parking, noise and rubbish disposal. All new developments should adhere strictly to R Code regulations.

- U/G Power is to go ahead in Wilson East to start in July 2012 with the costings broadly in line with those previously mentioned. It was noted that Wilson West came in on time and under budget. The City was currently investigating the possibility of extending the installation beyond Fleming Ave. to behind the Council Offices. **Rob Marshall** from the floor quoted the **WRRRA** survey which was extremely positive from residents if this area.
- Aircraft Noise: Airports Corp. are presently sharing airspace so the noise is spread around adjacent suburbs and that certain types of aircraft have been banned from using Perth Airport. This is an ongoing concern and discussions are continuing against the background that as we all want to fly, then a certain amount of noise is unavoidable. **Steve Irons** MP is very much involved in this area as it is a Federal matter.
- CRRP Land Acquisition: The City has no powers to resume privately owned land within the CRRP which is vested solely in State Government. All bodies concerned are aware that there is no access from Wilson between the Bywater Estate and Kent Street.
- Dual Use Path: **Troy Bozich** for the City said that the path cannot presently be built due to Castledare land being in private hands and no money has been allocated in the City's budget for the purpose.
- Verge Clean-up: A new, bigger garbage vehicle has been purchased equipped with GPS to readily identify such as builders' rubbish. In addition, 2 Compliance Officers have been employed to deal with complaints. **WRRRA** confirms that the situation has much improved and when given the information, the City acts with vigour to deal with the problem.
- Overlooked Solar Panels: Cases are arising of double storey houses being built which overlook existing solar panels in adjacent properties. The City is aware of this problem and presently four cases are being investigated.
- Mosquitoes: This has a particularly bad year due to the weather conditions and the City is doing its best but spraying the whole of the CRRP simply is not feasible. Also many local authorities are doing nothing. At least Canning is trying.
- Local Government Amalgamation: Minister **John Castrilli** has a year to bring about amalgamations from approximately 32 councils down to 15-20. Canning is expecting a visit shortly.
- Speakers Nights: Reference was made to the guest speakers sponsored by the City such as Prof. **Peter Newman** who spoke recently on planning matters. These nights are advertised on the City page in the Canning Times.
- The worlds' oldest profession: It was noted that the Council feels strongly that such activities/premises should not be located in suburban areas and would be better sited in industrial areas.

Question from the Floor:

Norman Drake:

- Wharf Street Drain: Rubbish is flowing unchecked into the river – The City will write to the Department of the Environment and the Swan River Trust.
- Local Parks being mowed are full of Bindi weed and should be sprayed. – Noted by City.
- U/G Power in Kent Street area: As previously mentioned, consideration to include this area in Wilson East is underway in consultation with Western Power/Dept. of Energy and State Govt.

Max Zeller:

- Mosquitoes: **Max** felt that not enough was being done and didn't think the City was serious about the problem. **Kevin Jeffries** for the City said that \$60,000 had been spent on chemicals in the past year and 2 operators had been spraying and fogging. The problem has been caused by the long dry summer.

Katy Barr:

- Fogging: **Katy** was concerned about not being notified when fogging was scheduled and had concerns about the effect on animals and pets.- Noted by City.

- Paths: She had concerns about an access path to the CRRP passing along Surrey Road. **Geoff** said that there were several options for the walk trail all of which will be discussed with the public. A decision by the Dept. of Environment will take 5 years and therefore there is nothing imminent on which the Council has to decide.

Russell Gorton:

- Asked if Compliance Officers were checking on sediments/sands draining from building sites into waterways. – The City confirmed that this is included in the job descriptions of these officers.
- Status of Council Depot site testing – Covered earlier.
- Cat Laws: Covered in Bill Johnston's address.

Norman Drake:

- Drainage Kent Street: Expressed concern about the flooding of his Kent Street business premises in the recent heavy rains. – The City is aware of problems in that area and money was allocated in last year's budget. The project is a queue of jobs yet to be undertaken. **Russell Gorton** from the floor noted that it was a 60 year flood.

Max Zeller:

- Kent Street Café: Asked about the possibility of it opening. – The café is expected to be open in 3 months with detail yet to be worked out.

Rob Marshall:

- Asked if the City will be café surrounds as attractive as those at the Jetty Park. – Yes it will be budgeted.

Lyn Hartley:

- Asked if the City would construct shade sails at the Bywater Park. – The City will look into it as too additional sails at the Jetty Park Café. **WRRRA** will pursue this matter as discussed earlier.

David Strahan:

- Slum/Student Accommodation: Expressed concern about the excesses of student accommodation, a subject deeply felt by Wilson residents which raised comment from the floor and official visitors. **Bill Johnston** MLA had already written to the Minister concerned, **Bill Marmion** to review rental conditions. Planning Minister **John Day** has proposed a limit of 6/house. The City has no powers to enter dwellings and check on occupancy. **David** suggested fining landlords for failing to maintain dwellings and gardens. The City suggested the investigation of business dealings and plans of landlords. **Kevin Jeffries** said that the Council declined a planning application at 37, Lord Street for a dwelling with 6 bedrooms which was supported by the State Planning Tribunal and 3 more cases are currently being pursued vigorously. The meeting was assured that this was a matter being treated with the utmost seriousness.

Chris Page:

- Additional to the above, Chris brought Kevin's attention to another specific dwelling of which he was already aware and an inspection is to be undertaken.

There being no other question from the floor, **Geoff** thanked the Council Officers and official visitors for attending and gave them the opportunity to leave if they so wished.

12. Election of Officials & Committee Members.

At this stage, **Geoff. Rees** vacated the chair and invited **Bill Johnson** MLA to chair for the election of officers. **Bill** thanked the current committee for their work over the past year and commented that there was an energy and sense of purpose in our locality that did not exist in other parts of his constituency. He stressed the importance of community input into local

affairs and asked of the floor if anyone would be prepared to nominate for any vacant position or serve as a committee member.

All positions declared vacant.

- a. Nominations were called for the position of President. **Geoff Rees** was nominated by **Les Durbin** seconded by **Maurice Winter**. There being no other nominations, **Geoff** was elected unopposed.
- b. Nominations were called for the position of Vice President. No nominations were received so the position will remain temporarily unfilled.
- c. Nominations were called for the position of Secretary. **Les Durbin** was nominated by **Geoff Rees** seconded by **Rob Marshall**. There being no other nominations **Les** was elected unopposed.
- d. Nominations were called for the position of Treasurer. **Rob Marshall** was nominated by **Max Zeller** seconded by **Les Durbin**. There being no other nominations **Rob** was elected unopposed.
- e. **Max Zeller** agreed to continue as Webmaster

Bill then returned the chair to incoming President **Geoff Rees** who asked for nominations from the floor for committee members with an appeal for new faces as we have high membership numbers and need 3 or 4 new committee members to assist with decision making and the increased workload. **Geoff** stressed that the situation was now becoming acute and should there be insufficient committee numbers then 'winding up' **WRRRA** may have to be considered. **Les** joined **Geoff** in declaring the urgency of the situation and the underlining high membership and financial health of **WRRRA** but that few were prepared to sit on committee.

Brian Cornell is to continue on committee.

Maurice Winter will likely continue and will decide at our next committee meeting.

Bernard Hug from the floor declared his wish to be a committee member.

Lyn Hartley from the floor wished to be included on the list of newsletter deliverers.

Geoff thanked the above for coming forward which will bring us some way towards having a viable committee for the coming year.

Norman Drake telephoned the following day offering to sit on committee.

13. Membership Subscription 2001/12

Proposed by **Geoff Rees** seconded by **Max Zeller**, that in view of our healthy balance sheet, the Annual Membership Subscription of \$5/household should continue. The proposal from last year's AGM that a payment of \$10 for two years would suit some members better is working well.

14. General Business

- **Shade sails:** **Max Zeller** suggested that shade sails should be installed at the Bywater Park, something that **Lyn Hartley** had previously suggested we pursue. **Max** offered to organise a petition locally and it will be an agenda item at our next committee meeting in 3 weeks.
- **Signage:** **Lyn Hartley** was concerned about fishermen leaving rubbish and old tackle on the riverside and suggested a sign. Also to be an agenda item.

- **Seat at Jetty Park: Geoff** proposed that in view of our healthy financial position, **WRRRA** should donate a seat to be put in the newly opened up area at the Jetty Park and will investigate costings. Also an agenda item.
- **Builder's Deposit: Ed Hartley** suggested builders leave a \$1,000 deposit with the City to pay for damage to verges and footpaths adjacent to blocks being developed. Also an agenda item to be raised with our councillors at our next committee meeting.

15. Next Meeting.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 1st. August 2011 at 7.30pm. at the Wilson Community Hall.

There being no further business, the incoming President, **Geoff. Rees** thanked everyone for attending with particular thanks to **Maurice Winter & Sandra Probert** for the excellent catering, declaring the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.