

President: Dorothy Warwick
Treasurer: John McKenna
Secretary: Helen Olde



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 9 October 2011 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.10pm and welcomed all in attendance. Special welcome to Holroyd's newly appointed Mayor Yvette Whitfield, Councillor Greg Cummings, Councillor Vasee Rajadurai, and Mariya Gojan from MemberFirst Credit Union.

In Attendance at today's meeting, as per the Attendee Sheet:

Helen Olde, Dorothy Warwick, Pat O'Brien, Pam Richardson, Hazel Keepence, Michael Griggs, Gregory Griggs, Ann Thomson, Jan Thomas, Vasee Rajadurai, Greg Cummings, David Williams, Julie Nixon, Sue Evans, Del Donohoe, Margaret 'McKay' Warn, John Brodie, Elizabeth Brodie, Ken Morrissey, Mariya Gojan, Adriana de Haas, Coral Hamilton, John Walz, Dorothy Thomas, Lawrie Thomas, Yvette Whitfield, Judy Moller, Angela Caire.

Apologies:

Margaret Grace, Margarete Ferris, Beth & Russ Werner, Councillor John Perry, Irie Olde, Leah Armstrong, Christine McKenna, Stan Thomas, Pam Zopf, Diane Jogia, Chris Piper (Holroyd Council) and Merv Ismay (GM Holroyd Council).

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 14 August 2011

Moved by Pam Richardson, seconded by Pat O'Brien, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on 14 August 2011 are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the previous meeting's minutes.

Correspondence

Helen Olde circulated the correspondence folder to attendees.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to this our last public meeting for 2011. We have just one more Open Day next month, our Christmas lunch in December, and then it's all over for this year! Where has the year gone? It has certainly been a busy one with lots of things happening – and not all of them good.

As usual we will begin with showing you some donations that have come in since our last meeting.

From the Guildford Red Cross ladies we have received an Olympus OM101 Power Focus camera to add to our collection, together with a Fotima camera bag, and from Beverley Donsworth we have received a gorgeous pair of pince-nez glasses in a case – obviously very old! Thank you once again to those who have donated items to add to our collection of memorabilia.

We had a very successful and 'different' open day in September, with approximately 60 WWII Jeeps on the front lawn which made a very interesting display, and also in September the Wentworth Quilters had a 2-day exhibition which saw the house transformed. I have a few photos here of both events just to give those of you who couldn't attend, an idea of what you missed!

Our November Open Day will have an entirely different theme with SYDLUG attending (Sydney Lego Users Group – a group for adults with a passion for Lego layouts) which should be interesting – so if you have grandchildren who are Lego fans, they might be interested in this one!

The other special event we have is the Rolls Royce Car Club, together with a couple of other prestige car clubs, holding a concourse day on the front lawn on Sunday 30th October. We won't be advertising it a great deal, but you are more than welcome to come along on the day to have a look at the cars. We will have limited refreshments available on the day – probably just Devonshire Tea.

We also have the Castle Hill Camera Club booked in to do a photo shoot at Linnwood this month, and would like to thank Christine for making some of her costumes available for the day. The club is apparently hiring some models for the day and will be taking 'period' photos, so hopefully we might see some of the results!

Of course our big event will be the 120th Anniversary Celebrations on Saturday 22nd October – only two weeks away. As a member, you should have received your invitations by now and if you haven't already done so, please RSVP to Helen or myself today. We are having the afternoon tea catered, so do need final numbers to pass on to the caterer. Plans are well under way, and if you haven't already seen it, please have a look at the rose garden on your way out – we have roses in bloom with more to come and the new turf is looking very healthy! We do appreciate all the support Holroyd Council has given us with this project – the area is going to look so good for the day. The book on the History of Linnwood is at the printer and will be launched on the day, and two plaques will be unveiled – so there will be lots happening! Unfortunately, we have been made aware this week that our very dear friend, Bruce McCredie, is not at all well, and is in intensive care in Sutherland Hospital. Many of you will know Bruce and his lovely wife Doreen, who have regularly attended many of our open days over the years, and who we had hoped would be our special guests on the 22nd, but it does not look as if this will happen. Our thoughts are with them both at this time and we hope that Bruce's condition will improve in the near future.

In readiness for the big day, we have held a couple of working bees recently and we would like to thank those members who have attended and helped with tidying some areas of the house and grounds. We have managed to fill two skip bins with bits and pieces and garden waste. We held a working bee yesterday and if you have a look at the area over near the flagpole you will see a huge difference there – with that overgrown area now looking so much better. Again, thank you to those who have generously given their time to help out. Our garden ladies Coral, Sue and Del, together with Pam Zopf and her husband Roland, have also been putting in extra hours in the gardens and grounds during the past weeks, so extra thanks to them as well.

Property News – As reported last meeting, Linnwood and the Dormitory building have been targeted lately with the theft of copper pipes and guttering. Linnwood was hit again a couple of weekends ago, with guttering on the house above the south verandah being stolen and a couple of slate tiles being damaged. As reported in the local papers, we were informed that the theft of guttering in this fourth episode may not be covered by insurance and we are awaiting a response from Council as to whether this guttering will be replaced. In addition, the media reported on a letter Council recently received from Crown Lands informing them that the Tamplin Road Estate is to be sold for development, with subsequent funds being made available to the Linnwood Estate Trust. Our concern is that this process will take some considerable time and we believe that Linnwood needs money NOW to assist the Council in much needed upgrading of security and repairs and maintenance. Also in the local papers was the statement that Linnwood would be leased out commercially, which was certainly news to us. With these issues in mind, some of our committee members attended the Council meeting last Tuesday night and asked the following questions to the Councillors in the Public Forum :

- *Has a co-ordinated plan been formulated to address the security risk to all buildings, but more especially the State Heritage Listed house "Linnwood" and if so when will the plan be implemented?*
- *Will existing and future damage to all buildings be repaired as a matter of urgency, whether covered by insurance or not?*
- *Did the letter received from Crown Lands indicate what percentage of funds realised from the sale of the Tamplin Road land would be made available to the Linnwood Estate Trust?*
- *Would Council advance to the Linnwood Estate trust, which is controlled by Council, a sum of \$250,000 to \$500,000 which represents 0.5% to 1% of Council's current financial reserves and would be repaid to Council when funds become available as advised by the Crown Lands letter.*
- *Will Linnwood and its grounds continue to be predominantly used for community purposes as was originally intended when the Estate was 'saved' through the efforts of both Holroyd City Council and the community, or is it Council's intention as Trust Managers to lease Linnwood for commercial use?*
- *Should Council decide to lease Linnwood commercially, what does Council envisage the future role of the Friends of Linnwood to be?*

Council has two weeks to respond to our questions, so we will await their answers and advise you of the outcome.

We do appreciate all the support that Council has given us over the years and do realise that becoming the Trust Managers of the Estate, without being given any financial support from the State Government, has put them in an unenviable position, but again, Linnwood needs an injection of funds NOW for security and maintenance, and we believe our suggestion that Council advance the Trust some funds from its own financial reserves, in the short term, may be a solution to the problem. We will see what happens.

Grants – Unfortunately, work on the re-wiring of Linnwood has still not commenced and time is ticking away. We can only hope that this work will commence in the very near future and can be finished before the end of the year, or we will have to hand the grant money back. We have been advised that the same grant is available again, but the committee has decided not to apply for funding in this current round. Although we have been successful with the last two grant applications, we have had to supplement both of them with our own funds, and together with the cost of the celebrations for Linnwood’s 120th Birthday, find that our reserves will be depleted somewhat, and may take some time to replenish. (Apart from that, I have to say that we are also very tired of the red tape and bureaucracy that we have had to deal with over the past two years in trying to get these projects completed, and some time-out is needed.)

In many respects, this has been quite a difficult year for us, but not everything is doom and gloom. We have our Anniversary day in two weeks, our Open Day and Christmas lunch to look forward to, and hopefully the New Year will bring some much more positive news – we can only hope so. For those wishing to attend the Christmas lunch, payment is not required yet, but you can certainly be an early bird and make a booking by seeing Helen or me after the meeting.

As this is our last meeting for the year, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and if we don’t see you beforehand, even though it seems much too early (and scary!) to be saying it - wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Thank you.

Treasurer’s Report

Opening bank Balance at 1/8/11: \$81,860.09 (includes grant money for electrical works)

	August	September
Income	314.80	4,666.25
Expenses	409.35	3,544.56

Closing Bank Balance at 30/9/11: \$84,203.03 (includes grant money for electrical works)

Interest Bearing Deposit balance at 30/9/11: \$18,915.44

Cash on hand (Floats and Petty Cash): \$773

Total funds as at 30/9/11: \$103,891.47 (includes grant money for electrical works)

Current Liabilities: \$2,490.16

The Treasurer reported to the meeting that with expenditure of some \$80,000 dollars in the next few months for Electrical Works and 120th Anniversary celebrations, it is projected that total funds will be in the vicinity of \$18,000.

Moved by Pat O’Brien, seconded by Pam Richardson, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted.

Address by Mayor Yvette Whitfield

John McKenna then invited Mayor Whitfield to address the meeting.

Yvette told the meeting that as Mayor she intends to just be herself, and won’t be putting on any airs and graces. She said she loves Linnwood and tries to get to Open Days as much as possible, unless her grandchildren are visiting. She backs Linnwood all the way, it is a brilliant place, and it brings back a lot of memories. It reminds her of a place she was in when she was young. “I was a runaway and ended up in a girls home”. It was a hard time, and it was a hard time for the children here at Linnwood as well.

Yvette said she met a gentleman during that time who took her under his wing. She said you have to take what life hands out to you, but this gentleman actually “got me away from it all”. Even though it was hard in the home she still loved it because of what he did for her. His name was Reverend Doug Crawford, and he was the Minister at All Saints Church, Parramatta.

Yvette told the meeting she would be supporting Linnwood. The answers that FOL will be looking for, she will be backing them all the way. The head of the Trust is Merv Ismay, General Manager of Holroyd City Council. Yvette has asked him to come to all the Linnwood Public Meetings “and if he doesn’t he’s in strife with me”.

John McKenna joined in the applause for the Mayor and thanked her for joining us today.

Address by Mariya Gojan - MemberFirst Credit Union

John then introduced Mariya Gojan from MemberFirst Credit Union in Merrylands. Mariya advised the meeting that MemberFirst has been involved with Linnwood for a number of years. They have community support programs and gives money back to organisations. Mariya handed out some MemberFirst brochures which had Linnwood’s logo on the front cover.

If the Friends of Linnwood and their families join the credit union, any business they conduct earns a dividend back to Linnwood. Business can include opening new accounts, home loans, term deposits, even green slips. One of their products is car loans, and MemberFirst recently won an award for the Best Car Loans.

On behalf of MemberFirst, Mariya thanked the Friends and offered support to Linnwood in respect to arrangements for the upcoming 120th birthday celebrations.

General Business

There was no general business.

Next Meeting

The next Public Meeting of the Friends of Linnwood will be held in February 2012, and further details will be advised to the Friends in due course.

Raffle

The raffle was drawn by Mayor Whitfield and won by Adriana de Haas.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.40pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____

Members’ Christmas Luncheon
Sunday 11 December 2011
1.00pm

*We’re now taking bookings, so please phone
Helen (9807 3224), or Dorothy (9632 9203)
or email: linnwood@optusnet.com.au
to reserve your seat
(or let us know at the November Open House)*

Cost: \$15 per person

