

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



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 8 August 2010 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

John McKenna opened the meeting at 2.15pm, and welcomed everyone in attendance. Special welcome to Holroyd City Council's Mayor John Perry, Councillor Allan Ezzy, Councillor Pam Colman, Councillor Greg Cummings, and Diane Jogia, Director of Council's Library & Community Services. Also Mariya Gojan from MemberFirst Credit Union, and our Guest Speaker Judith Dunn.

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

Richard Boots, Pamela Richardson, Margaret Grace, Margaret McKenzie, Adriana de Haas, June de Zoete, Hazel Keepence, John Perry, Jan Thomas, Greg Cummings, Mariya Gojan, Leah Armstrong, Kerima-Gae Topp, Allan Ezzy, Gerry O'Brien, Michael Griggs, Greg Dunn, Pat O'Brien, Coral Hamilton, Kaye Weaver, Pam Colman, Diane Jogia, Raema Walker, Del Donohoe, Sue Evans, Margaret Warn, John Walz, Judith Dunn, Helen Olde, John McKenna, Dorothy Warwick, Audrey Murphy.

Apologies:

Irie Olde, Jill Finch, Councillor Kafrouni, Barbara MacKenzie-Hunter, Beth Werner, Russ Werner, Councillor Rajadurai, Julie Walz, Christine McKenna, Stan Thomas, Margaret Childs.

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 13 June 2010

Moved by Pamela Richardson, Seconded by Michael Griggs, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 13 June 2010 are a true and correct record of the meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

Helen Olde tabled the folder of correspondence and passed it around to the attendees for their information.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to Linnwood this afternoon for this our 8th Annual General Meeting.

We are quite a 'young' group compared to many other Friends groups or historical societies around and about, but I think, when you look back at how we started in late 2001, fighting to save this unique property from sale and redevelopment, we can be quite proud of what we have achieved in a relatively short time.

As in past years, my Annual Report will just be a normal report, with a few bits tucked in as a round-up of what has happened over the past 12 months.

The number of donations has dropped off over the past few months, and I only have this set of very nice Art Deco kitchen canisters to show you. Pam Zopf has very kindly donated them and I believe they belonged to one of her aunts.

On to other news – and it's always difficult to know where to start:

Property news – The work on the underground power supply has finally finished, but we still seem to be having problems with our security lighting at night. We were here on Wednesday evening for a meeting and there wasn't one security light working - which wasn't a good sign. Pioneers have now well and truly moved into Faulds House and are enjoying the extra space for their programs. They recently had discussions with a teacher from Padstow TAFE's Horticultural Department regarding their service users undertaking some training and doing some gardening, and this led to another teacher from the TAFE approaching us about student Arborists coming on site to do assessments and recommendations for management of the trees on the property, at no cost to us. We look forward to working with them on this, and perhaps may be able to approach the Horticultural Department as well to see if they would like to help us with the existing gardens and also with plans for the rose garden next year – will wait and see.

We continue to have water leaking in this back room and to a lesser extent in the hallway every time it rains, so it looks like the buckets will have to be a permanent fixture, as it always seems to rain when we're not here, and it's a nuisance coming in afterwards and having to mop up all the water!

It has been very quiet on the subdivision front for quite a while now, so we are hoping that 'no news is good news'. Looking back on previous AGM reports, I noticed that this time last year we mentioned that we had had our first meeting with the Department in July 2009 regarding the Memorandum of Understanding to give us tenure on the site – well, guess what? We are still negotiating this document and don't seem to be getting anywhere with it. We have had a few meetings, but it is such an onerous document that they have presented us with, that we are not happy to sign it with all the responsibilities they look like wanting to shift onto us, with no recourse to the Minister, so it has been rather quiet on that front in recent times.

Projects - As you know we were successful earlier in the year with a grant application to do some repairs and maintenance on the house. With the Heritage Office agreeing to do additional work in conjunction with our scope of works, the process is still ongoing with a new scope of works having to have been prepared and new tenders called for. These tenders closed on Friday and it is hoped to notify the successful contractor this coming week. We hope that the work will start as soon as possible after that – the condition of receiving the money is that ALL work is to be completed by the end of the year – or hand the money back! As mentioned previously, we were also successful in receiving a \$5,000 grant from Holroyd City Council to help with the cost of those projects planned for the 120th Birthday celebrations next year. We have also just been informed that we were successful in the 2010 Federal Government Volunteers Grants to the extent of \$1,250, with which we can purchase some ladders, a new BBQ and gas bottle, a projector screen and a tool kit to have here on site. There's always something that needs fixing or adjusting and we never seem to have the right tool available at the time, so this should help!

Just this week we also applied for another of the Community Building Partnership Grants – this time to completely rewire the house. As some of you may be aware, the wiring isn't as good as it should or could be, and to negate the risk of an electrical fire we have applied to have this all replaced and to also refurbish the power points and light fittings, the cost being in the range of around \$60,000. Keep your fingers crossed for us, as this is something that really needs to be done as a safety issue.

Planning is underway for next year's celebrations and we have had a couple of enquiries from members wishing to donate roses for the garden that is to be dedicated to the children who have passed through the doors of all three homes on the property. Instead of actually donating a rose, we would like to suggest that members and friends would be more than welcome to make a donation towards the *purchase* of the roses for the Children's Garden (as we would now like to call it) so that we can make sure that we have all the same type of rose bush – instead of possibly a hotch potch of different ones. Of course there is always red tape to go through and we need to put a submission to the Heritage Office with plans of what we are proposing to do.

Events – We have had a very successful year with our Open Days, especially our July one with the American Independent Car Clubs here – we estimate there were probably over 700 people visiting on the day – and it's a credit to all our volunteers that everything went without a hitch – except the one thing we had no control over – the weather – it actually dared to rain on us – but thankfully not till after lunch! Channel 44 was here on the day and although I didn't actually see it myself, a few people told me they saw the cars on TV a couple of weeks later.

We have had a couple of tours through recently and have another two booked. We have also been booked to give talks on Linnwood and its history and have put together a Powerpoint presentation to show to these groups. We will be holding another reunion for 'The Girls' a bit later in the year and that is always a special day – and can be very emotional. This is not for the general public, just for those who were residents or staff members during the days of "Lynwood Hall." The Australian Miniatures Enthusiasts recently booked the house for weekend workshops and we now also have another group using the house on a weekly basis to run a childcare course – so things are looking up with regard to more use by the community.

Well, I think that probably brings you all up to date with what has been happening – and as you can see, there is always *something* going on – and it seems that our aim to 'actively promote Linnwood as a community asset' is working. This continues to be a priority and when we look back and consider the number of people who have walked through that front door in the past year, I believe we have well and truly succeeded. We have had so many new people visit over this past year and just about every one of them has expressed amazement at just how impressive the house is, or said what a hidden gem it is and how much they enjoyed their visit and that they will definitely be back again. It truly does make it all worthwhile.

Now today, as part of the AGM, nominations for positions on the committee will be available to financial members of the Friends. If you would like to be more involved in what is happening, please consider becoming a committee member, and then you too will feel like you need to bring your bed up here (and your own personal heater!) The committee meets one night a month and also keeps in touch by email and phone when any issues arise between times.

Before we move on to the nominations there are quite a number of people and organizations that we need to publicly thank for their continued support and they are:

Holroyd City Council – who continue to support the Friends by mowing the grounds before each open day – we are often asked who looks after the grounds and always give credit where it is due. Our website continues to be hosted by Council, so we thank them for that as well. Helen and I had a crash course on how to update it ourselves, so we would like to thank Rachel McDonald for her time in *trying* to teach us. Special thanks to Diane Jogia and her department for continuing to support us with the mailouts to members – not a small job by any means and thank you also to Councillor Greg Cummings and again Diane Jogia, for coming on board the Planning Committee for the 2011 Celebrations.

Cameron White, Carl Malmberg, Rosa Pangallo and Ken Taylor – our contacts from the Heritage Office and Office of Strategic Lands for their patience with us (mainly me). I'm sure they cringe when they see a Linnwood email come through to them. We also thank them for committing to absorb the cost of the additional works needed in conjunction with our grant and for supplying a project manager. We will be even more thankful if the work gets done in the allotted timeframe! Thanks to Cameron for also coming on board the Planning Committee for next year.

Holroyd Select Meats – who supplied sausages for our open days at no charge for such a long time. Unfortunately they recently closed their shop after being in Merrylands for many, many years, but we do thank them sincerely for their support over the past years. So now, be prepared in case there's a price rise in the cost of your sausage sandwiches in the future – we now have to buy the sausages!

The Volunteers – we wouldn't be able to continue our Open days without those Friends who give of their time to help out on the day or do some baking to help with the catering – or most importantly, wash the dishes! We had some 'new' volunteers in July and they were a great help on the day – we actually had enough people to allow the 'regulars' to take a break for a while, which was great. Hopefully we can entice them back again or perhaps some other Friends would like to help on these days – it really does make a difference, being able to share the load. Our Gardening and Craft ladies are incredible – they continue to amaze us with the amount of money they have raised by selling plants and craft items each open day – with all money raised to be spent on the gardens. To all those Friends who help out at any of our events – we sincerely thank you for your help and support – we can't do it without you.

The Holroyd Art and Craft Society – this dedicated group continue to support us by attending each and every Open Day, setting up and pulling down their wares each time and then also offering to help us as well. **We have other regular stall holders as well** - some who come each and every time - and once again we thank them for their continued support.

The Friends of Linnwood – you, the members - thank you for continuing to support us by coming back and renewing your membership every year! We realize that many cannot physically help us, but your continued membership and attendance at our functions is very much appreciated. We see some of you come to every Open House, arranging to meet friends for a cuppa and a chat and to wander through the house, having a look at what is on display. We hear so many compliments from Friends and visitors alike as to what a great atmosphere there is here on an Open Day, and that's how it should be – Linnwood belongs to the community and if everyone is having a great day, then what a great asset it is – and you all help to make it so.

The Committee – what can I say – except repeat what I said last year – it's been a pleasure working with this committee and I would like to personally thank them all for the time they have put in to keep everything running smoothly. We think every year that maybe it will be a 'quiet' year, but it just never happens! Again, this past year has been a busy one and the next one looks like being even busier, with all the work (hopefully) happening. Just about every time that front door opens, means that a committee member is involved in some sort of function, meeting, stall, talk or tour and I thank each and every one of them for the time they have put in over the past 12 months. Would you please join me in thanking John and Christine McKenna, Helen Olde, Pat O'Brien, Coral Hamilton, Pam Zopf, Pam Richardson, Adriana de Haas, Michael Griggs and John Walz for their commitment to Linnwood over the past year.

And don't forget, nominations will be taken as part of the AGM, for next year's committee, if you would like to consider coming on board

My apologies if my report has gone a little (or a lot) longer than usual, but a lot has been happening!

I'll finish now, but please stay and enjoy the rest of the afternoon. I'm sure you will be well and truly entertained by Judith's talk and then please stay and have a cuppa and a chat afterwards and I thank you all once again for your continued support .

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

John McKenna presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of June 2010 and July 2010, summarised below:

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Opening Balance	\$10,271.95	\$10,140.58
Income	\$ 5,101.75	\$ 5,477.05
Expenditure	\$ 273.41	\$ 1,914.66
Bank Balance at month end	\$10,140.58	\$19,328.21
Interest Bearing Deposit	\$17,359.00	\$17,359.00
Current Liabilities	\$ 133.11	\$ 775.57
Plus Grants account	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

General Business

There was no general business.

Eighth Annual General Meeting

The Public Meeting was then suspended at 2.37pm in order that the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Linnwood Inc could be held. Refer to separate minutes of the AGM.

The Public Meeting resumed at 2.47pm.

The Mayor of Holroyd City Council, John Perry, then addressed the meeting on behalf of Council, and thanked the Friends of Linnwood and volunteers who give up their time to keep Linnwood running. It is a long drawn-out process in respect to the future of Linnwood, and advised that Holroyd City Council is very close to having the situation finalised, hopefully before the end of this year. He congratulated everyone on the work we are doing.

Guest Speaker

John McKenna then introduced Judith Dunn, who proceeded to tell us about her amusing travels when she accompanies her husband Greg on business trips. They invariably go their separate ways and Judith wanders off on her own and finds lots of interesting curiosities along the way. Their most recent trip saw them spend almost nine months overseas, and they (mainly Judith) got into lots of trouble which she said was great as it was all such an adventure! Judith had some wonderful photos of her adventures when she went exploring by herself.

When they were in France they rented a house in the Dordogne's for three weeks. They travelled around in an English car, complete with maps, satellite navigation etc, but still got lost on many occasions. They couldn't take the car through the Channel to France as gas powered cars aren't allowed, so they travelled by ferry and drove on France's wonderful motorways.

Judith took six French lessons before she left Australia, which didn't really help when they discovered English cars don't have the right gas nozzles and they didn't have the correct adaptor – it took them three days to source the right type.

In France, Belgium and Spain, English maps are in miles, but signage in these countries is in kilometres, so again some interesting experiences getting around. You have to take a ticket when you go on to a tollway, and when you come off the tollway you put the ticket into a machine along with your credit card. Unfortunately Judith and Greg didn't have a Visa card, which is the only card these machines take. And yes, bills follow you home to Australia!

Finding hotels at night when you don't speak the language is also very challenging. Also when your B&B accommodation only has a room available in the loft, with access only via a ladder – so you can't take your suitcase with you.

Those who know Judith would appreciate her fascination for centuries old churches and cemeteries. She showed some fantastic photos of medieval carvings, sculptures and tablets, tombs and graves with their inscriptions still visible. Also some 1572 graffiti on the inside walls of a church – she said the vicar must have been boring!

One interesting inscription in a church related to Sir William Clapton who purchased a lot of land, and when he died in 1436, he stipulated that payment for the church to lease part of the land was one red rose per year. This still continues today, and it is believed this is the longest running rental payment in the world.

Many medieval carvings above or on the side of tombs depicted all the family members, and if you see children holding a skull this means that these children pre-deceased their parents. There were many of these as the child mortality rate was very high.

Did you know that there are 659 ancient monuments in Norfolk alone, most of which are now redundant.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of Linnwood will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 10 October 2010. Our guest speaker will be Margaret Elder whose topic will be "Nurses in War". Margaret has been our guest speaker on two previous occasions, and she always talks about some really interesting people.

Raffle

The raffle was drawn by Judith Dunn, and won by Leah Armstrong.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____

Membership Renewals

You can still renew your membership if you haven't already done so. If you've misplaced your form, call Helen on 9807 3224 and she will send you a copy, or you can renew at the next Open House on Sunday 12 September 2010.

Perpetual Members, Honorary Members and those who are Paid up in Advance, do not need to renew.