

Woodgate and District Residents Association

General Meeting 12 April 2025

Meeting Opened: 9.00am

Attendance: As per sign in sheet.

Apologies: As per the sign in sheet

Minutes of previous meeting: 8 February Read and Proposed by Glenda and Seconded by Heather Wieland

Business Arising from Minutes:

Defibrillator: As requested at the Feb meeting the Management Committee have purchased another defibrillator which will be placed at the Pharmacy. This has both adult and child pads and is the preferred model of the QAS. The unit will be installed in the coming days. This brings to six the number of units located at key positions across Woodgate.

ATO/ NFP Reporting: This has finally been sorted and awaiting on the ATO to recognise Pauline as the authorised person. ATO has extended the deadline for us to submit our information.

Footpath Extension: This is nearing completion. Due to the narrowing of the foredune the path now cuts down and runs parallel to the road. A space for a picnic table has been built into the new section.

Volunteer Program: Talks are still in progress with Council.

Correspondence: Tabled by Secretary Roslyn Rieck

Treasurers report: Tabled by Treasurer and seconded by: Susan Coleman

General Business:

Support for Woodgate: As some of you might of seen on the Channel 7 News. David Batt the LNP candidate has offered the WDRA \$20,000 toward purchasing a digital sign. Each electorate keeps a record of past grant applicants. Prior to each election a review is made of those applicants that were not successful. As these applications were already budgeted, it is at the discretion of the candidate to allocate funds still in the pot. It was decided that the Woodgate Community would benefit from this sign. Senator Matt Canavan and candidate for Hinkler David Batt visited Woodgate, met with the committee and made the public announcement. Whilst the cost of the sign has increased substantially from the quotes we had in 2019 and 2023 the \$20,000 is very welcomed. The offer unfortunately is linked to the success of the upcoming Federal election. In saying that Davis Batt did assure me that the money was available for the Hinkler electorate and he

will do all in his power to ensure it comes to the WDRA regardless of the outcome of the election.

Police Report: The police report in the latest CHITCHAT for Woodgate was as follows: One instance each of drink driving, domestic violence, assault offences, break and enter and unlicensed driving. It was again deeply disturbing to see the daily occurrences of domestic violence across the policing district.

Call for support for an aged care type facility in Woodgate: Thank you to everyone who signed our forms at the post office. There is a lot of talk around town and on FB around this subject. I would like to clarify comments around Forest View having purchased the land. This is not correct, however they do have a genuine interest. At this stage we are still awaiting information from Stephen Bennett MP as to the State Governments position on releasing the land. Bundaberg Regional Council will also have to have input re the development. I have spoken to the Chairman of the Board of the Forest View complex who wished to clarify what plans the Residents Association had in getting this proposal up and funded. I assured him that our role was simply one of a conduit between the Government, BRC and the residents of Woodgate. Forest View is currently negotiating for approval of a forty bed extension. This would be filled overnight. There is an opportunity should this all come together that Forest View will be applying for a portion of the available land for a similar facility. This will enable local employment, hopefully bring a medical centre and ambulance facilities. This will not happen overnight. I have contacted Stephen Bennetts Office regarding setting up a meeting and I have written to Stephen highlighting the urgent need for aged care units and care facilities due to the high number of aged residents basically parked in Bundaberg hospital because there is no where for them to go if they can't return home. We will keep the community informed of any progress made and with factual information.

Voting: The hall will again be a polling booth for the Federal Election on May 3rd.

Wendy Gearside from the First Responders gave a talk as to their role in Woodgate and the history. They have 15 approved volunteers, and at the moment are on call Monday, Tuesday and Thursday due to the volunteers going on holidays etc. They are looking for more volunteers so that the service can operate 7 days per week.

Susan Coleman from Share The Dignity Bags gave a talk as to the history of this charity. Next drive will be 14 November to 30 November, donations can be left at Bunnings, Woodgate Hall or Woodgate Post Office. Last year donations from Wide Bay area was 467 bags, Woodgate 142, Bunnings 305, Shalom College 20. All donations went to the local area – Domestic Violence, IWC and Salvos in Bundaberg.

General Business from the floor.

Feedback from Banksia Park is in progress.

Bills Report:

Due to the rain fall in the last 2 months the Council has received 100's of customer complaints, the more urgent complaints are being dealt with first so please be patient.

Due to the Government cutting their funding to Bundaberg Council, Local Government is starting a funding campaign to rectify this.

The footpath from 1st to 2nd Avenue will be completed April/May 2025. Due to the loss of sand on the beach Council is discussing with a Government department what can be done to retrieve the sand, as this is part of the Marine Department discussions are taking longer than usual.

Stephen Bennett has advised that the Boat Ramp at Walkers Point will commence in April and should be finished by November, 2025.

The dead trees, fallen trees and branches are being dealt with along the foreshore. Don't forget to use the Snap, Send Solve App if you have any problems.

Julie Willoughby asked if the next section of paving could be started at 11 Ave, due to the condition of the brick pavers.

Banksia Park studies will be completed by the end of year so a decision will be made then. It was suggested that a speed hump be placed where the cycle path comes onto the road (Esplanade).

The First Responders suggested that householders put street numbers on the curb or on their houses so it is easier for them or the Ambulance to answer a call quickly.

The Beach Houses has only 1 access road, it was asked if something could be done about this, Bill said it was not Council responsibility, the Beach Houses are responsible for this.

Meeting Closed: 10.30am

Next meeting : Saturday 14th June 2025

Pauline Greer _____
President

Glenda Campbell _____
Secretary