

Woodgate and District Residents Association

General Meeting 11 October 2025

Meeting Opened: 9.00 AM

Presidents welcome and acknowledgement of Guest Speaker Stephen Bennett MP

Attendance: As per sign in sheet.

Apologies: As per the sign in sheet including.

Minutes of previous meeting: 9th August Read and Proposed by Glenda and Seconded by Val Walkington.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Digital Signs: It has been decided that once the History project has been completed we will look for appropriate Grants in 2026.

Police Report: For the month of September – 5 Welfare Checks, 1 Gun Shot fired, 1 Sudden death, 1 Suspected loitering, 3 Suspect Vehicles, 2 Disturbances, 1 Threat against person, 1 Community assist, 1 Burglary, 1 Drink Driving, 1 Domestic Violence, 1 Stolen Property.

Walkers Point Boat Ramp Update: Pauline will leave that to Stephen Bennett to discuss.

History trail: Plans are well underway. It has been decided to place the composite posts on the beach side of the pathway. Two A4 interactive signs per post each side. This will reduce the number of posts required and save on costs. Whilst this will require more signs overall it will make each post more informative and the increased printing costs fit comfortably into the budget. There will be 15 posts in total, with a post at Theodolite Creek, Banksia Park and Walkers Point in addition to three or 4 in the Community park. The rest will be strategically placed along the Esplanade. There will be a QR code that when scanned will give a short commentary.

Pauline has sent personal letters to the businesses in town offering the opportunity to contribute via a donation. They will be publicly recognised in print and media coverage. In response the NRMA have pledged \$1000, Just Books will donate the takings from the October book sale, the Woodgate Photography Group have pledged a portion of this years Calendar sales. We were also successful in our application to Bundaberg Regional Council's Community Services Program and will receive \$4,310.

The book is well underway and I would like to have this finished by the second week in November at the latest.

If people have stories or memories that they would like to share we can do that over a cuppa or if it's easier why not put pen to paper at your leisure. Pauline has left her contact details at the front table. It doesn't have to be long, maybe it's just a funny incident or a recollection of you or your families early days in Woodgate. Every personal comment adds to the heart of the story.

The budget for stage one is as follows:
15 posts at \$300.00 each = \$4,405.
Freight from South Australia \$1440.00
Post Mix concrete \$450.00
Signs: \$2,400.00
Total of \$8,770.00. GST Included

Income: In hand from Grant and NRMA \$5,310. WDRA will cover excess cost of \$3,460
Pledges outstanding will be used toward the cost of printing the book.

Whilst the posts are expensive they were chosen for the following reason. Composite posts are made of 50% recycled material and 50% wood pulp sourced from saw mills. Fifteen posts will divert around 1000 kgs from landfill. They require no maintenance or ongoing expense, will last a lifetime and will blend with the existing bollards used by council.

The cost of the book at this stage is unknown however it will be priced to cover the printing costs.

Support for Ambulance Station. This will be addressed by Wendy Gearside in General Business.

Community Erosion Fund: I initially contacted the Parks Department in August and again last week when I had had no reply. In my last email to the Manager of Parks I also CC'd the CEO and Bill Trevor. Bill was going to follow up personally and can comment on that in his report.

Defibrillators: To date the replacements have not arrived.

Clean Up Australia Day: Held on Saturday 13 September. The Fishing Club volunteered to clean up the road to Theodolite Creek and the Theodolite Creek area the remaining volunteers worked along Woodgate Road. In all we had 18 volunteers on the day, however some people who couldn't make the Saturday picked up rubbish along the foreshore during the week. In all we collected 24 bags of rubbish along Woodgate Road and 8 bags around the Theodolite area. Thirty two bags in total plus some trailer tyres and other odds and ends that didn't fit in a bag. There was unfortunately a stretch of road that we didn't cover. Barb Martin. Cleaned up along the roadside outside the Kinkuna Estate during the week and collected three bags of rubbish and a large box of cardboard.

Bill pointed out that the cut in Council funding was from the Federal Government

Correspondence: Tabled by Secretary and seconded by Dale Greer.

Treasurers report: Tabled by Treasurer and seconded by Diane Butler.

General Business:

Turtle Season. Flyers were handed out explaining how we can keep the turtles safe in our area. They are looking for volunteers to help monitor the turtles, if anyone is interested get in touch with Mon Repos Turtle Centre.

Aged Care Workshop. Bundaberg Council are running 2 workshops on 23/10/25 for people to have their say regarding facilities for the aged care in this area. Flyers are at the Hall and the Post Office Notice Board for your information.

Hall Bookings:

- The Home School group WILD will no longer be using the hall on a Tuesday, which means the hall is now available for hire during the day, three weeks of each month.
- I have also had an enquiry about hiring the hall on Thursday night from 6:00 pm for a dance class. Watch FB for more information.

Ambulance Station. Wendy Gearside gave us an update. The Health Minister replied to their letter stating that there were no plans for an Ambulance Station in Woodgate, they said that we have enough facilities from Childers and Bundaberg to cover our area. Stephen Bennett is trying to get the applications for the First Responders approvals through faster, at the moment it takes approx. 6 months to get a new member approved. Rob and Lilly Rich received an award for their work as First Responders from the Queensland Ambulance Assoc.

Susan Coleman from Share the Dignity gave an update – she is wanting bags for Mums and Babies, so far she has received 55 bags from the Woodgate Residents. The drive for the bags is 14-30 November, they can be left at the Hall or Post Office or at Bunnings in Bundaberg.

Jaquie Collins from SES gave a talk. They are looking for new members, at the moment they have 4 members, brochures were handed out.

Stephen Bennett addressed the meeting:

Walkers Point Boat Ramp – tenders are being called at the moment and a decision will be made in December and work will commence, the anticipated finish date is June 2026.

Ambulance Station – Stephen suggested that the block of land set aside for the Ambulance Station be sold and another property purchased and a station be built with the money.

Retirement Aged Care – this is still on hold at the moment.

Paradise Dam is going ahead

Bundaberg Hospital is still going ahead although it is 12 months behind schedule, it will have 410 beds.

Crimes in the area seem to be coming down.

Coal Fire Stations will be continuing.

From The Floor:

Wendy Gearside enquired what the new building was on Barolin Street in Bundaberg. It will be Public Housing, 60 homes run by St Vincent De Paul.

John Dowling enquired if the public will be able to access the boat ramp at Walkers Point when construction starts. Stephen said that he was not sure at the moment.

Bills Report:

State Government have allocated \$1.1M to re-locate the New Sewerage Plant in Childers, work will commence Feb-March 2026.

Works for Queensland – the Government have made this a permanent project - \$11-13M per year to be spent on Roads etc.

Permits are being organized at the moment to cover the rocks on the waterfront near the boat ramp.

Council are having trouble getting staff in their design departments at the moment.

Dogs on the beach and paths – it is the responsibility of the dog owners to keep their dogs under control at all times.

It is a Council Rule that anyone wanting to sell their goods along the foreshore or anywhere else has to get a Permit from the Council. It is not expensive.

Further works are to be done at Banksia Park.

John Dowling advised there was a problem with traffic on 9th Avenue and Mackerel Street. Bill will have a look at this problem.

Also Traffic needs to slow down at the Bakery on The Esplanade. Bill will also have a look at this problem.

Visibility on 2nd Avenue and The Esplanade is not good. Bill will look at this also.

It was asked if there will be a Doctor's service at Woodgate. Bill said that The Godings were talking about providing this facility some time ago, he will talk to them about this.

Val asked why the existing Doctor's Surgery is not being used at the Chemist – Bill said this is due to the cost and the shortage of Doctor's in the area.

Pauline asked if we need a NO SPEEDING sign on the beach – In Bill's opinion no one reads the signs.

Pauline told us that the Goodwood School are celebrating their 125 years of being open.

Meeting closed: 10.35 am

Next meeting : 13th December 2025