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Minutes of the 15th meeting of the  
**Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013  
Brooklyn Community Centre  
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

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Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mr	<b>ANDREWS</b>	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association		X		
Cr	<b>ANISSE</b>	Antony	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council				
Mr	<b>BERGMAN</b>	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service				
Mr	<b>BLACK</b>	Steve	NSW Maritime Authority				
Prof.	<b>BOOTH</b>	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences				
Mr	<b>BROWN</b>	Warren	Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	<b>GREEN</b>	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture				
Ms	<b>COLLINS</b>	Emma	Community Representative				
Ms	<b>MARVELL</b>	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation				
Mr	<b>FENWICK</b>	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Ms	<b>FIELD</b>	Melanie	NSW Food Authority				
Mr	<b>FISH</b>	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>FRATER</b>	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee		X		Ray Frater
Cllr	<b>FREEWATER</b>	Peter	Gosford City Council				
Ms	<b>HOWARD</b>	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Hon	<b>LLOYD</b>	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association				
Mr	<b>MACDONALD</b>	Tim	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	<b>MICHOS</b>	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage				
Mr	<b>MILES</b>	David	Boat Owners Association				
Ms	<b>MOOY</b>	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority	X			
Mr	<b>NORINGTON</b>	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative				
Mr	<b>PIGNEYGUY</b>	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises	X			
Emer. Prof.	<b>RECHER</b>	Harry	Community Representative				
Mr	<b>REES</b>	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority	X			
Mr	<b>ROWE</b>	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia				
Ms	<b>RUBIO-ZUAZO</b>	Ana	Community Representative		X		
Cllr	<b>RUSSELL</b>	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Ms	<b>SEGOVIA</b>	Ingrid	Community Representative		X		
Mr	<b>STUBBS</b>	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association		X		
Mr	<b>VON ZELEWSKI</b>	Axel	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Chris					
Mr	<b>PEARSON</b>	Brian					

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## 1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:20pm and Mayor Steve Russell welcomed the attendees and guests – Graham Johnston (McMasters Beach SLSC) and Ray Frater (standing in for Melissa Frater).

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from John Andrews, Melissa Frater, Ana Rubio-Zuazo, Ingrid Segovia, John Stubbs and Warren Brown.

## 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

### Correspondence:

D02146760 – Letter from Dangar Island League - attached.

### Matter arising from previous meeting, 22 November 2012:

**MOTION 201219:** Team Leader – Estuary Management, to send a letter to NSW Roads & Maritime Services and Gosford Council on behalf of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee regarding the continuing rubbish accumulation along the F3 Freeway from Deerubbin Reserve to Cheero Point.

Peter **Coad** sent a letter to RMS on 19 February 2013 re Roadside Litter along F3 (HSC Ref D02123010). Copy attached.

Mike **Fish** circulated photos of rubbish dumped at Deerubbin Reserve and Graham **Johnston** raised concerns about Kangaroo Point rubbish.

Tim **Macdonald** advised that Deerubbin Reserve has plenty of bins but no signage. Signage at the sites may help.

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**ACTION 201301:** Peter **Coad** to follow up with RMS re the ongoing maintenance requirements. RMS and Gosford City Council to meet onsite to consider actions that may help minimise rubbish at these sites – eg signage and more maintenance.

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**ACTION 201221:** Peter **Coad** to talk to Dangar Island League regarding the signage / wildlife refuge proposal for Bradleys Beach. **Completed** – Discussion had with Bronek Karcz, President Dangar Island League 7/2/2013.

Peter **Coad** distributed information in late November 2012. Bronek **Karcz** advised that discussions had taken place regarding the wildlife refuge at Bradleys Beach. Dangar Island League expressed mixed reactions. It was suggested that a formal report be put to Council on the issue so that all parties have the opportunity to comment.

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## 5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 22 November, 2012 were accepted.

**MOTION 201302:** That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012, should be accepted. Moved by Mike **Fish**, seconded by Andrew **Fenwick**. Carried unanimously.

## 6. PRESENTATION

### **Graham Johnston – McMasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club – Clean up of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary**

Graham provided a slide show of recent photos of sites and the items removed from the sites.

This program began with a Duke of Edinburgh award camp on the Hawkesbury where masses of rubbish were noticed. This prompted visits to various sites on the Hawkesbury and identified the need for funding. Hornsby Shire Council and Gosford Councils have both assisted with funding and in 2011, Graham secured a grant. Helpers have come from Brisbane Water Secondary College, Rolland Hassall Special Education School and Father Chris O'Reilly's Youth off the Streets Program. Berowra and Bobbin Head Progress Associations have also been involved in the program.

Graham is currently doing around 2 clean up runs a week and is getting tons of rubbish. In the past 12 months, an estimated 14 tons of rubbish has been removed from the waterways from Brisbane Waters to Woy Woy.

Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs) are used to stockpile rubbish along the waterways for collection by barges. Recent floods have bought significant amounts of rubbish. A recent collection picked up 250 plastic bottles and 7 tyres from the area between the Freeway Bridge and Milson Island.

Bait products and houseboat refuse appear to be a problem, especially the foam boxes that houseboat supplies are delivered in. It was suggested that the foam boxes be banned and biodegradable products used instead. Overall, our waterways are in pretty good shape.

Last October, Graham was approached by Tongaroa Blue Foundation to provide information about the health of the waterways. Graham now gathers statistics and completes activity reports after each outing. He also provides recommendations from these reports.

## 7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Action 201204:** The Team Leader – Estuary Management to request information from National Parks regarding the management of local Aboriginal artwork. **Ongoing.**

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**Action 201206:** Tim **Macdonald**, Gosford City Council, to update the LHEM Committee on the progress of the Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point connection to the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Ongoing.**

**Action 201208:** Peter **Coad**, Team Leader – Estuary Management, to report to the LHEM committee on actions undertaken to reduce dogs on Bradleys Beach. Options to consider include writing to Dangar Island residents, increased compliance and improved signage. **Ongoing.**

## **Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council**

### Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome

- POMs has destroyed the oyster industry in Georges River and Hawkesbury River.
- Broken Bay Oyster Association have put together a recovery plan which requires \$5.5m investment by growers and \$3.9m from Government over 3 years.
- Government's response was to offer hardship relief in the form of low interest loans and rate relief.
- HSC & GCC are assisting with waiver of tip fees and water quality monitoring and research support is being received from Fisheries Research Development Corporation.
- The future looks bleak – it is possible that only a few farmers will remain and it will be 3-5 years before oysters are grown on the Hawkesbury again at a commercial scale. Oyster farming may become more of a cottage industry.
- A future POM solution is likely due to the number of countries affected. Tasmanian and South Australian farmers are carefully monitoring the situation here.

### Porto Bay Clean up

- Council is working with Broken Bay Oysters to do a clean up with remaining funding from the HNCMA. Asbestos poles have been gathered for collection by a specialised contractor.
- The fish trap dumped at Bar Island has been collected by Graham **Johnston**.
- Collection of flood debris (especially bamboo) is continuing.

### Estuary Revegetation

- Wisemans Ferry – the local Primary School has been involved in the replanting. The BMX track, Unity Poles and log furniture have all been completed.
- Weeding has been done at McKell Park, Brooklyn Park, Cole Street and Bar Island.
- One Tree Reach – investigating Boardwalk options through the Melaleuca Forest.
- Kangaroo Point – clean up and weeding has been completed.
- Gunyah Probe – today's data shows unusually high sea levels occurring and an algal (Chlorophyll) response related to the incoming tide and increases in temperature.

### Real time temperature, salinity and swimming mapping

- Swimming recommendations are based on salinity levels – the higher the salinity, the better the swimming conditions.
- Experiencing problems with daily updates. Access to data is available through HSC website.

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### Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 50,000L pumped out this year.
- 805,000L pumped out since 2008.
- There may be another issue with the pipes collapsing (similar to issues experienced earlier this year). Justin **Pigneyguy** will have a look at this and let Peter know.

### **Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council**

#### Richard Woodbury Reserve

- Tim advised that Warren Brown has reported to CMA re Richard Woodbury Reserve. A contractor has been engaged for the bush regen works and the site will be registered for World Tree Day. Children from Spencer Public School will be involved.

#### Plan of Management

- The Plan of Management for Patonga Crown Reserves and Dark Corner Cottages has been completed and is available on the GCC Website.

#### Deerubbin Reserve

- Deerubbin Reserve some funding has been received to upgrade the car park.

### **Rebecca Mooy – Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority**

#### Dept of Primary Industries

- Rebecca confirmed the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority are merging into “Local Land Services”.
- Rebecca handed out a Position Statement on Natural Resource Management and encouraged everyone to read it. She also handed out “Building Local Land Services” brochures. Concern was expressed over the concentration on rural lands vs waterways.
- Justin **Pigneyguy** advised that he took 92 International mollusc and shellfish scientist/food safe reps from all over the world on a 4 hour boat trip recently. They went past the Gonyah probe and all were very impressed with the probe, data, the website, and the clean waterways. Rob gave a speech about oyster industry and diseases affecting it (POM & QX).

#### Floating Landcare

- Environmental Trust Funding has been received for 2013 – 4 activities have been arranged so far for 2013.
- The CMA General Manager provided a letter of support for oyster farmers. CMA may be able to employ Rob to complete other tasks such as cleanups etc.
- Clean Up Australia Day – very successful.

#### Coastal Champion DVD

- DVDs will be printed in the next fortnight and are available on the website. The DVD contains information about Bushcare and Landcare.

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## Coastal Projects

- Federal funding is being sought for coastal groups / bush regeneration / funding for Graham – up to \$2m over 3 years.
- Biodiversity funding is being sought.
- The Catchment Action Plan was sent out today and is open for comment until 14<sup>th</sup> April
- Patonga Dunes funding – work has started on ridding the area of weed and helping the Bushcare group out there.
- Justin **Pigneyguy** asked how secure the funding is with the possible change in Government. Rebecca is confident that this will not be a problem.
- Mary **Howard** expressed concern regarding the impact that the changes to CMA will have on coastal regions. There's a focus on land, not the water community. There's a "Have your Say" section on the website and Mary encourages everyone to raise their concerns – eg loss of funding with the new Government, the different structure in LLS to CMA. Community Consultation is open till 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- Tim **Macdonald** advised that Gosford City Council has put a submission in. He advised everyone to go into the Catchment Action Plan and provide comment on that.

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**ACTION 201220:** Team Leader – Estuary Management, to distribute information to members regarding the formation of Local Area Services, which incorporates the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority. **Completed** – Email sent 23/11/2012 (HSC Ref D02083904).

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## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Dangar Island – Bradleys Beach

- Peter **Coad** is formalising a response re the community consultation process and a report to Council. Stan **Rees** asked if Bradleys Beach is included in the Wildlife Plan as opposed to a conservation agreement. Peter **Coad** advised that this has been discussed but nothing has been proposed yet.

### B. Committee Membership

- The 3 year Committee term is up for review – but memberships have not been advertised yet due to POMs issues etc. Peter thanked everyone for their ongoing support at meetings.
- Peter **Coad** suggested a ½ day Catchment Tour of Gross Pollutant traps

### C. Mary Howard – Representing Hawkesbury River Commercial Fisheries Association (HRCFA) on the NSW commercial fishing industry review.

- Mary advised that the Review document recommendations include a reform package which encourages industry to develop a peak industry body.
- Lobster and abalone businesses have quotas attached to shares and a variety of controls. The quest is to attach share trading values/quotas to individual fishers.
- Each business is to have 150 shares allocated. Mesh / net / boat size / days worked etc are all controlled now but fishers have expressed that they don't want any changes.

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- The productivity of waterways and the quality of the product are reliant on waterway management to ensure sustainability. And this year has been one of the most productive ever seen.
  - Peter **Coad** asked if the Committee can assist in any way? HRCFA has asked to meet with the Communications Manager at DPI. They have received a form for individuals to fill in, which offers areas for comment. At the moment, it's a wait and see situation. Mary has put an email out to all HRCFA members.

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**ACTION 201303:** Mary **Howard** to inform the committee if there are any opportunities to assist commercial fishers during the reform process.

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#### **D. Other Business**

- Stan **Rees** mentioned the Landline program regarding the oyster industry. Stan suggested going online into the program history to view the story.

#### **E. Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held 6pm, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

### **9. CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:25pm