

# Notes from the MCPA June Meeting

## 1. Treasury Update

May saw positive inflow of funds from hire of the River Hub for a Birthday and the Election and Election Raffle.

## 2. The River Hub Update

Our group of volunteers have been working hard getting the place looking good for the upcoming Winter Solstice party in June. In the last month we have;

- Cleared out the junk from behind the old canteen
- Reorganised the toy library and kids craft corner
- Started repairing the asphalt in the community garden
- Started upcycling old oil barrels and cable reels into colourful outdoor furniture for the community garden
- Built a new raised garden bed ready for planting
- Replanted the garden bed in front of The River Hub building with native plants mostly donated from The Plant Bug nursery in Mount Colah.
- Completion of the games room
- We have a working bee planned for Monday 9th June at 2-5 pm where we plan to replace the broken blinds and do a deep clean inside the building. A separate working bee for the community garden is planned to top up some of the mulch around the raised garden beds and plant out the new raised garden bed. The com garden requested a budget of \$40 to buy new seedlings for the community garden which was approved.

We are also discussing the possibility of recommissioning one of the old toilet blocks and painting the front with children's murals.

We have the Winter Solstice Party planned for Saturday 21st of June at The River Hub Community Garden. We invite local families to come along from 3pm, bringing a plate to share/ something to BBQ and something to drink. For those who don't want to cook we'll be selling a limited number of sausage sizzles with funds raised going to the community garden. We'll have a contained fire and some music so hopefully it will be a nice little vibe. If anyone has some large logs they could donate to the fire, we'd really appreciate the extra wood. We'd also appreciate any help managing the safety around the fire from anyone wanting to volunteer on the evening.

We started the Books and Board games on Wednesday to coincide with the Central Coast Council Book mobile. It was a fun afternoon, but it would be great to see some people from the older generations get involved too.

### **3. The Chapel**

The Fade Into You concert at The Chapel on Saturday was a big success, with over 80 tickets sold and 60 pizzas being served. Throughout the night, locals and guests as far as Lake Munmorah talked about how special The Chapel was as a venue, and the concert organisers, their staff and the artists were chuffed with how it turned out. Staff and organisers are keen to activate the Chapel in the future for more events and concerts. The night was BYO which worked really well, with some guests choosing to enjoy the evening with a glass of wine or beer.

The Chapel Committee helped dress the space, bringing over furniture from the community garden, and setting up festoon lighting for the Chapel courtyard which is now available whenever needed for events. A contained fire pit was also set up which helped keep patrons warm on the cool night. The Thursday Social Group's pew cushions were much appreciated and created a cosy atmosphere.

On Saturday 26th of July we have the Harry Potter movie night following a Harry Potter book club with more details to follow.

Coming up on Sunday 3rd August we'll be hosting Duncan Toombs with Courtney Keil as part of The Little Chapel Tour.

### **4. Walking Paths Working Group**

David has been speaking with the people from Transport NSW who are considering an extension of the walkway from this side of the bridge. David got a response from council who said they will be reviewing priorities for "active transport plans" and will be seeking community feedback in the second half of the year.

### **5. Old Road Committee**

Detailed criticisms on the current plans for the road have been developed and sent to TfNSW and will shortly be sent to NSW Ministers.

### **5. Parking on Point Rd**

Council is still considering a proposal to put signage up to stop areas of road reserve being used to store or dump trailers and boats. This is a problem in Point Road and Cheero Point Road.

## **6. Cheero Point Park.**

Council has approved an upgrade of Cheero Point children's playground. Council has also indicated that it will fund some infrastructure for community gatherings in the Park. Angela Brislo is arranging a survey of residents in Cheero Point to obtain input into what is needed.

## **7. Survey**

An overview of survey results was provided with a response to the long form answers to the comments to be provided later.

## **8. Peat Island**

The DA proposal submitted to council by the Darkinjung Land Council for developments on foreshore land adjacent to Peat Island was discussed. It was news to everyone that this land was being "administered" by the Land Council. We had a short discussion on the Darkinjung proposal which was overwhelmingly not very positive due to fears that lack of plans for the Island itself might indicate the intention for the Land Council to sell the island as it has a track record of selling land for profit. The MCPA will have further discussions on if/ how we respond or provide feedback to the proposal.

David has started a discussion with members from the BCA, Berowra Waters and other River Communities about developing a "Blueprint" to set out the broad expectations that are held for any future development in the lower Hawkesbury.

## **9. RFS Shed**

The BCA are interested in getting involved if this building is repurposed into something like a makers shed. Property have said the suitability of the building for further use will be assessed once it is vacated by our Brigade.

## **10. Chapel pews**

The idea of removing the Chapel pews in favour of stackable chairs has been brought up many times in the meetings. Removing the pews for stackable chairs would cost between \$7000 - \$10,000 and would require more volunteers to assist with maintaining the venue. After feedback from the community and hirers we have come up with a compromise. Where a hirer would like to use the Chapel without the pews, we can make arrangements to move the Chapel pews to be stored temporarily somewhere like The River Hub. This would be done for a fee charged back to the hirer. This means we could make the space available to hire for events like parties or dances, without losing the charm that the pews bring to the venue.