

Margaret River Coastal Residents Association Inc (MRCRA)

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Greek Chapel Hall, Prevelly

3:00pm Saturday 2 December, 2023

## AGENDA

### 1. MEETING OPEN

### 2. APOLOGIES

### 3. ATTENDANCE

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**MOTION** That the Minutes of the previous 2022 AGM be accepted.

MOVED

SECONDED

VOTE -

### 5. REPORTS

5.1 **PRESIDENT** - Adrian Wilson

5.2 **TREASURER** - Mike Carr

Bank Statement current balance as at (date) 2023 \$ 12,482.08

5.3 **COASTAL REHABILITATION REPORT 2023** - Janet Dufall

**MOTION** That the Reports from Office Bearers be accepted

MOVED

SECONDED

VOTE -

### 6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**MOTION** That the following be appointed Office Bearers and Committee Members:

PRESIDENT -

VICE PRESIDENT -

SECRETARY -

TREASURER -

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -

WEB MASTER -

MOVED

SECONDED

VOTE -

### 7. NEXT AGM MEETING DATE

Meeting date TBA

### 8. MEETING CLOSED

pm

## **TALK**

3:00pm - 3:35pm

Prevelly resident and PhD candidate Kirrily Hastings gave a fascinating talk on shorebirds of the Capes region, focusing on Hooded Plovers and their struggle to increase population numbers. Threats include people, dogs, cats, foxes, other birds, loss of habitat, weeds, vehicles and more. Beach breeding sites with reefs and wrack (food source) and clear sight-lines to see approaching predators important to Hoodies.

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Margaret River Coastal Residents Association Inc (MRCRA)

## **MINUTES**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Greek Chapel Hall, Prevelly

3:00pm Saturday 2 December, 2023

#### **1. MEETING OPEN**

3:40 pm

#### **2. APOLOGIES (18)**

Genny Broadhurst

Matt Joyce

Jo Joyce

Pauline Andrews

Clive Hodgson

Linda McKellar

Richard McKellar

Susie Anderson

Jeff Yeaton

Mary-Eileen Scanlan

Joe Longo

Ian Burvill

Sharon Burvill

Denise Wilkinson

David Burt

Courtney Gray

Ernie Bevilaqua

Peter Murphy

#### **3. ATTENDANCE (25)**

Janet Dufall

Barry Dufall

Adrian Wilson

Clive Hodgson  
Mike Carr  
Ann Delroy  
Barry Walker  
Joan Tilburn  
Natalie Bell  
Sally Pyvis  
Fernanda Gray  
Lyn Serventy  
Shirley Auld  
Kirrily Hastings  
Karen Bevilaqua  
Helen Dorling  
Peter Dorling  
Tracy Skippings  
Karen MacAdie  
Hamish MacAdie  
Julie Stade  
Sandi Hancock  
Dave Rankin  
Cass Jury  
Tim Moore

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

MOTION That the Minutes of the previous 2022 AGM be accepted.

MOVED Nat Bell

SECONDED Janet Dufall

VOTE Unanimous

#### **5. REPORTS**

##### **5.1 PRESIDENT - Adrian Wilson**

(Attachment 1)

##### **5.2 TREASURER - Michael Carr**

(Attachment 2)

MOTION That:

- past Treasurer David Leggott be removed as a signatory from NAB records as he no longer resides in Prevelly, and
- current Treasurer Michael Carr be added as a signatory to NAB records.

MOVED Ann Delroy

SECONDED Joan Tilburn

VOTE Unanimous

# MRCRA AGM

2 December 2023

## President's Report

Welcome everyone, thank you for attending and I acknowledge we are meeting today on the land of the Wadandi People.

MRCRA is a highly respected community organisation which works closely with the *Augusta-Margaret River Shire* (AMRS) and *Nature Conservation Margaret River Region* (NCMRR).

MRCRA's core business is the rehabilitation of coastal and local reserves however it is also an important voice for residents on social, cultural and development issues.

Thanks go to all CRA volunteers who undertake dune rehabilitation activities on a weekly basis throughout the year. Special thanks to Janet Dufall and Genny Broadhurst who coordinate these activities and liaise with AMRS, NCMRR and DBCA.

Thanks also to all Office Bearers, Committee Members and Webmaster who contribute time and expertise to support MRCRA.

### COASTAL PATH

MRCRA agrees with AMRS that the best approach to managing the erosion of the Gnarabup/Prevelly Coastal Path is by construction of bypasses (deviations) as coastal erosion dictates. Beach access paths remain a problem and the installation of temporary wooden steps at Spindrfit has provided a short term solution to the problem of beach access.

After much lobbying (many emails & photos) AMRS in November 2023 finally replaced the badly corroded metal uprights and handrails on the stairs from the upper carpark to the cafe.

Further works have been carried out on the gravel/wooden path section...and improvement, but no a permanent fix.

There remains no universal (disability) access to any part of Prevelly & Gnarabup beaches.

### SANCTUARY - NO SPEARFISHING

A meeting took place in October with reps from Nature Conservation, the Undalup Association, DBCA, UWA Marine Science, MRCRA, AMRShire, and various residents.

All agreed a Sanctuary with no spearfishing was a desirable outcome, especially Dr Wayne Webb who for cultural reasons would like a Sanctuary Zone from Cape Mentelle to Gnarabup headland, including the reef areas.

This appears to be a long term project. Members are encouraged to communicate a local no spearfishing rule in the Lagoon.

### HOODED PLOVER TALK (GRACETOWN HALL 21/11/2023)

PTC.

A very interesting talk (coordinated by NCMRR) was given by Dr Grainne Maguire from BirdLife Australia (Victoria) on Hooded Plovers and the threats they are facing. Hoodies favour high energy beaches backed by dunes and threats include people, dogs, foxes, cats, cars on beaches and weeds. Her research reinforces why we have “dog prohibited areas” and why Hooded Plovers are now a threatened species.

### **NEW LOCAL DOG LAW**

Following the Seasonal Dog Prohibited Area Trial (15 December 2021 to 15 March 2022) which included Gas Bay, Grunters and the beach up to the current Dog Exercise Area at Gnarabup Back Beach (Reef View), AMRS Council approved new Dog Exercise Areas at OCM 26 October 2022.

Despite this being a great win for threatened shorebirds, conservation of dunes, reduced dog excreta and general beach amenity, there are ongoing problems with compliance by dog owners in dog prohibited areas. MRCRA has written to AMRS requesting more Rangers as their presence along the coast is much less than is required.

### **CATS**

Cats (domestic, stray and feral) continue to be a problem on the coast. There are regular sightings of feral cats between the Rivermouth and Gas Bay and MRCRA is concerned about the impact of these on birds (especially shorebirds) and native fauna.

### **FOXES**

It has been reported that a resident fox in/around the Prevelly Caravan Park is responsible for the death of several threatened Western ringtail possums. MRCRA will contact AMRS and DBCA to check what coordinated measures (if any) are being undertaken to address this problem.

### **ANNUAL MARGARET RIVER SURF PRO**

In 2023 WSL applied for a 5 year permit to hold its Margaret River Pro surf contest at Surfers Point. AMRS received 141 public submissions - 48 in support, 69 objections and 24 indifferent.

Objections included:

- the length of the contest
- public access to the foreshore and recreational areas
- impact from use of North Point
- the use of Surfers Point over Easter
- inclusion of a licenced alcohol area at the event.

Council will make a decision on WSL’s 5 year event application on 13 December 2023.

MRCRA continues to liaise with Surfing WA/WSL and AMR Shire, organisers of the Surf Pro event. This is important as the event impacts local surfers and additional visitors impact the fragile coastal dune system.

### **FIRE**

The 2009 and 2011 fires are still fresh in coastal residents’ memories. Prevelly/Gnarabup is a fire zone and increased visitation means an increased risk of fire.

The 2023/24 summer looks like being very dry...many locals are on high alert.

### **PROPOSED GNARABUP DEVELOPMENT**

The local Prevelly/Gnarabup community has actively opposed the development of the Gnarabup headland for 30 years. MRCRA (under various previous organisation names) has taken part in over 14 public consultation processes, 6 protest marches and 4 Supreme Court challenges against development of this site.

### **The Government assessment processes to date**

In June 2020 Saracen Properties announced plans to develop a luxury housing estate and hotel on Gnarabup Headland. Its Development Application (DA) is currently being assessed by the SDAU (State Development Assessment Unit) which was set up by the WA Labor government as a Covid initiative to fast track development approvals.

In March 2022 1,849 people and organisations made submissions opposing the development, the breakdown being:

*Not Supportive - 1,849*

*Supportive with changes - 33*

*Supportive - 175*

Following Preserve Gnarabup's referral of the development to the EPA in April 2021, the EPA has decided to assess the DA at the highest possible level - a Public Environmental Review (PER).

Once the Proponent has completed and submitted its environmental studies to the EPA, there will be another 4 week public consultation period. This is expected to occur early/ mid 2024.

**DRAFT LPS2 - CURRENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES 31 JANUARY 2024**

The AMRS draft LPS2 is of interest to coastal residents as its planning rules will guide the future development of Prevelly and Gnarabup.

The current 90 day public comment period on draft LPS2 is underway, despite the incorrect zoning of "Tourism" on the northern portion of Lot 783 Wallcliffe Rd, Gnarabup on the advertised Scheme Maps. WAPC Chair David Caddy has confirmed this error, however AMRS refuses to stop the current public comment process.

Also of concern is the SCA3 (Special Control Area) provisions from LPS1 have not been carried over to draft LPS2 which weakens protection of development sites Lots 501-504 & 783.

Lots 501-504 have been identified as "Tourism" in the Endorsed Local Planning Strategy however they are zoned "Urban Development" in draft LPS2 which will have serious consequences for these sites.

MRCRA's understanding is that the amended draft LPS2 currently being advertised for public comment should be submitted to the EPA for its consideration to assess as it is a vastly different document to the original draft LPS2 that Council resolved to advertise at the Ordinary Council Meeting 26 August 2020.

**Adrian Wilson**  
MRCRA President  
2 December, 2023

# Margaret River Coastal Residents Association

## AGM FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23

<b>OPENING BALANCE 1 July 2022</b>	\$11,373.86
<b>INCOME</b>	
Donation from WSL [shared with Nature Conservation] for MR Pro event coastal conservation	\$1,386.20
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
PO Box Renewal	\$139.00
Dune restoration plants and tools	\$138.98
<b>CLOSING BALANCE 30 June 2023</b>	\$12,482.08

Michael Carr  
Treasurer  
2 December 2023

## **Coastal Rehabilitation Report 2023**

We have worked closely with the Shire to follow their Coastal Management Plan in our regular weekly working bees. Our aim is always to improve the biodiversity and care for the environment.

To do this we have endeavoured to :-

- 1) encourage people to use the paths
- 2) reduce weeds that prevent the endemic plant species from thriving.

This requires many hours of weeding and brushing – our main activity.

The Augusta-Margaret River Shire, Nature Conservation Margaret River Region (NCMRR) and MRCRA had 2 extremely successful “Community Days” where 60 – 80 people turned up to lay brush at Gnarabup Point in April and then again at Gas Bay to plant and lay brush in May.

The Wine Association offered their services for a second year to spend 4 hours working at the Rivermouth in June 2023. They donated money for plants and the Shire organised brush. It was an extremely productive morning - a ute-load of onion weed was removed, several hundred plants were planted and a truck load of brush was spread.

The Xanadu work team offered to return to drag and lay brush later in the year. In October 2023 they returned and assisted with brushing at Long Reef (Back Beach).

The World Surf League (WSL) supported a morning activity at the southern end of Shire Coastal Reserve (south of Gas Bay) during the Margaret River Surf Pro event. Planting and brushing occurred defining beach accesses. Four of the WSL Surf Pro surfing competitors, Gracetown gromits, some parents, Shire and NCMMR employees were involved. We were all part of a video promoting the WSL. The WSL financed this activity but the 3 local groups were involved with the organising, preparation and completing the activity after the event.

Another facet of our work is working with NCMRR on their school education program. Children from the Montessori and Thomas Moore School visit twice per year to work and observe their “Adopt a Spot” area. Their visits include beach observations, dune care, beach nesting birds etc.

2023 has seen the Thursday morning volunteers turn up in good numbers to enthusiastically carry out whatever is planned for the day (mainly weeding, brushing, planting). Morning tea after dune work is always a happy time of fellowship and an important part of the morning.

2023 has been a very productive year clocking up 513 hours of work. (Last year only 409 hours)

Genny and I would like to thank all who volunteered during the year – the weekly regulars, the participants on the Community days and the Wine Industry with a special mention to Xanadu workers who returned a second time. Not to be forgotten are the Shire Environmental Officers (Kay and Hayley) and NCMRR officers (Drew and Mandy). A huge thank you to all - they have been a wonderful help in supporting and advising us throughout 2023.

**Janet Dufall - 2 December 2023**