



N.W.P.O.A. Inc.  
& Newport Watch  
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# Newport News

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Introducing the Committee for 1999



**President-** Jerry Emberley  
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**Secretary-** Graham Emery  
**Treasurer-** Rosemary Myne  
**Area co-ordinator -** Vickie Jordan  
**Newport News Editor -** Lili Slater  
**Committee Members**  
Anne Spalding  
Greg Gibson  
Des Rosenlund  
Chris Dawe

We apologise that this is the first news letter since the AGM. If there are any queries or items that need our attention the numbers below will come in handy.

Jerry Emberley 32037116  
Graham Emery 38800928.

## From the President, Dredging

Preparation is underway now and you will see that some of the machinery has arrived. It seems to me, much of the silt has flown into our canals system from the



main channel which gets chummed up from the majority of the boats which put on their throttle too close to the main entrance and equally drop off the plane too late. Three years without our back lead didn't help much either. When most boats leaving or entering the channel get off centre line this causes the banks to get chewed up, which is usually at low tide, then the silt flows in. Maybe the 6 knot sign should start further out? **Maintenance**

Since 1985 most com-mittees have been lobbying for a general

maintenance contract on a 5 year basis. In fact twice local council has passed this concept but have yet to do anything further about it. Instead they have two men and tinny going around cleaning up the beaches, costing around \$110,000 per year from our canal levy. Have you seen the men working in your canal yet? It is our intention to keep lobbying for a proper maintenance program.

Jerry Emberley  
From the Secretary.

## Plan for 1999

The committee have set the following items as our "Business Plan" for 1999. The items are not in order of priority but will be pursued concurrently. If you have any input or objections please contact one of your committee members. We are also seeking suggestions for projects or objectives that will benefit the Newport community. Your association can be more effective with your constructive input.



## Objectives for Year Picnic

The picnic was judged by many as the highlight of last years activities by the association. The date for this years event is Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> (subject to confirmation). Keep this date free for a day of fun.

## Maintenance Contract

To add to Jerry's comments, regarding this subject it is hoped that by the end of the month there will not be a piece of rubbish left in the canal system and the men can turn to more pressing work such as replenishment of sand where walls have been undermined. We will continue to monitor the program and work toward a detailed maintenance plan. The association has been working towards this since 1983 (approx.), but feel optimistic that we are closer to being able to implement this objective. As we have been paying a canal levy for many years we feel we

can expect the canals and their beaches to be maintained.

## A bit more on the dredging.

Those who have been down near the mouth of the main canal would have seen machinery at work on the bund area wall on the Western side of the main canal. This is in preparation for receiving the dredge spoils. Dredging should commence by the end of July, subject to weather. Only the internal canals will be dredged in this phase. The main channel has only a couple of high spots and the committee does not see the need for a complete dredging as this will take it below designed profile and depth as well as depleting our funds unnecessarily. We thank council for their efforts in getting the proposed dredging to this point.

## Removal of Derelict Boat



The derelict boat on the West side of the main canal has been gutted of all valuable items. The vessel has been abandoned by its owners and is now nothing but an eyesore. The vessel would contain amounts of pitch and lead in the caulking and paint and could lead to environmental damage if it breaks up or is set fire. We have been working toward having the vessel removed but trying to confirm which department has responsibility is proving difficult.

## Water quality testing in all inflow waters

A fish kill was recently recorded in one of the council drains flow-

ing into the canals. At the beginning of May, committee members photographed and drew council attention to a school of mullet in the same canal suffering obvious damage (believed to have been caused by acid soils as the drain has unsealed earth channels flowing into it). We believe the council should ensure Newport residents that water carrying contaminants is not flowing into the canals. Water testing was carried out regularly a few years ago. Testing should be reinstated to ensure that the canal system water quality is safe-guarded.



#### Cleanup of storm water drains

Many of you would have seen the poor state of cleanliness of drains on this end of the peninsula. Most of these empty into the canal system. We need all drains concrete lined and the grates and drains cleaned on a regular and frequent basis.

#### Rates Justification?

Newport residents pay high rates because of the area, that is to say, a canal estate. This equates to approximately double the rates of those outside the estate. We also pay an additional levy which must be considered as an additional rate (also for living on a canal estate.) As the current climate dictates the "User Pays", why are we paying for the services twice? We will continue to work with council to ensure we are not further disadvantaged in the rates area.

#### Footpaths on Griffith, Newport, and Ashmole Roads

Many people walk in the Newport area both for recreation and health. We are forced to walk on the roads as in many places the track is too rough to walk on after dark or after rain. We were promised footpaths during this council's term. We look forward to some major effort in the remaining few months of this council's term.

#### Representation

We wish to work in a harmonious manner with council, however the present methods of council in determining programs which we pay for, even if unsuccessful is not conducive to this when



things go wrong. The residents of Newport need meaningful input prior to program planning and expenditure. The committee feels that a truly consultative body with a member of NWPOA on it can not only have benefits for Newport Waters, but also for council.

Graham Emery.

#### Bicycle lanes - How they work!



You must not drive in a marked bicycle lane unless you are riding a bicycle, tricycle or driving a bus, taxi, limousine, or public utility service vehicle. You may move into a bicycle lane to enter land beside the road or if you are going to turn at the next intersection. You may also enter the lane if you want to park at the kerb but only if you can lawfully park there. Bicycle riders are to use the lanes travelling with the flow of the traffic. This lane is not for the use of skateboarders.

This information was taken out of the Queensland driver's Guide, Dec 1998.

Rosemary Mayne.

Treasurer

#### More about the NWPOA Picnic & the abandoned boat from Gibbo.



**Picnic**  
To all residents, old and new. Each year we have an annual picnic and you are all welcome. This year we're erecting a marquee with tables and chairs and we're supplying the barbecues. We will have lots of games for the children, with free soft drinks and ice blocks. It's a day for one and all to gather and meet your fellow canal home owners. The picnic will start at 10 AM and finish at 6 PM. All you have to bring is your food and drink. We encourage you to come by boat, as we have a floating pontoon to disembark to. More information to come closer to the time.

#### Abandoned Boat Hazard



This boat is an eyesore as well as being dangerous. I was heading out for a yacht race and saw lots of children playing on her decks and inside. If one of these children were to slip and hurt themselves, whom do you hold liable? The owner, the council, the harbours board or the developer? Food for thought! The NWPOA president will be approaching the council about the

matter. We will keep you informed.

Gra Gibson



#### Meeting with Ray Hollis MLA

On Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> President Jerry Emberley and Secretary Graham Emery met with Mr. Ray Hollis, our local Member of Parliament.

The two main topics raised were the delays in dredging and police problems.

Our main concern is the inadequate police numbers on the peninsula and the delays experienced when calling police during the night. This was highlighted during a recent burglary at



Newport when police took about an hour to respond. The burglars were still on the premises when the call was raised. Mr. Hollis stressed that it was not advisable to confront criminals as to do so could place you in a life threatening situation. (Be warned, police are not always a few minutes away.) He also quoted recent Hansard entries where he had posed questions to the Police Minister regarding the local situation. On the police numbers issue, Queensland is due for an increase of 359 more officers in the near future. We can only hope that Redcliffe station receives a number of these.

On the dredging front, the point was raised that four years had passed whilst council was pursuing the necessary permits to commence dredging. A mountain of paperwork was generated while the process drifted back and forth through a number of departments. We cannot be sure where exactly the hold-ups occurred but the cumulative effect is a delay in employment generating work and a lot of disgruntled boaties. Our concern in raising the issue when it seems all but resolved is to try and get some sense into the system so that an ongoing permit for dredging works is available.

#### Helpful hint.

For those unwanted weeds on the driveways and footpaths.

1 cup of baby oil

1 cup of Dettol

1 cup of white vinegar

Shake well in a spray bottle, spray sparingly. They die almost immediately and it is safe for the environment.



Rose Mayne

