

NEWPORT

NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

N.W.P.O.A. Inc
& Newport Watch
President
Ian Adams
Editor
Robyn Gerard
FEBRUARY 1996



AYS
ATION
Newport Watch
Vol 1-February 1996



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Through the great efforts of our Newport Watch Zone Captains almost all residents of Newport Waterways are members of our Association. Membership bestows the right to become involved in our community affairs through the activities of our Association. Your support and involvement is paramount to our success. Please try to make it to our Annual General Meeting on 6th March to have your say!

Councillors from Redcliffe Council have been invited to our AGM to better appreciate our concerns. High on our agenda are Rate Justice; canal maintenance; midge and mosquito control as well as several other important issues.

With co-operation of the Council we hope to extend our beach cleanup program to the canals south of Griffith Rd. to fit in with "Clean Up Australia" day in March. The main purpose of the exercise is to encourage all residents to joint in, in removing beach vegetation and other rubbish from canal beaches and for general clean-up of the area.

Santa's visit to Newport Waterways on Christmas day was again a great success- my special thanks to all those who contributed to its success. The evening provided by Transtate to highlight their future developmental plans of our area was well attended by our members - and others! There is much value in good constructive criticism if it is appropriately acted on. There are some very compelling reasons for us to give full support to Transtate in this venture provided they act responsibly in their interests of our fellow residents.
Ian Adams.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Auditor's Report will be presented at the AGM on 6 March 1996.

PARKS

The construction of the half basketball court at Morgan Park is completed. We are still discussing with Council the

MAIL BOX

At long last a Post Box has been installed on Griffith Rd at the entrance to the shop parking area.

MIDGES/BEACH VEGETATION

We all have an obligation to our neighbours and the other residents to keep our beach in its original developed condition. All of us want Newport to look the best it can and take pride in our community.

David Robinson.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 1996

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: SCARBOROUGH SCOUT HALL,
SUNNYSIDE ROAD &
FERNLEA AVENUE.

Agenda previously advised.

Notice is given of the move to create and confirm position of Asst. Area Co-ordinator. In view of the fast developing size of Newport, there is a necessity for this position.



SOCIAL SUPPER

A light supper will be provided by the outgoing Committee and drinks will be available. New residents are invited, as the AGM is a great way to meet your neighbours and find out more about Newport and especially, the important role the Committee plays in the interest of the residents of Newport.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

On Nov 15 last year, a detailed submission from this Association was presented to the RCC's Finance Committee. It contained suggestions for a two-part Reformation of Rates.

1. General Rates:

Either a **FIXED RATE** for all properties, regardless of value; or a **VARIABLE RATE** with a **MAXIMUM RATE** established in order to prevent the sky-is-the-limit Rate Notices. The current system is a de-facto wealth tax, not a User-Pays one. It is like going to the shop for a litre of milk and being billed twice as much as the previous customer, because the shop-keeper perceives that you come from Newport and "should be able to pay more".

2. Reduction or Cessation of the Canal Levy:

The Canals are a public amenity, and are used by RCC as an extension of the stormwater drainage system. Why should residents have the dubious and exclusive privilege of paying for maintenance caused by stormwater erosion, and silt/debris deposition?

Council has budget \$1.39m for drainage improvements at Clontarf but no Clontarf resident pays a Stormwater Levy. No!!

Instead of that, the whole community pays by way of revenue from General Rates.

And who pays the lion's share??

SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT

This Association has nearly 500 members, and is the largest community association in Redcliffe. We have maintained a sense of community, and a unity of purpose.

Therefore, elected Councillors tend to take us seriously.

I shall be explaining our submission in more detail at the March AGM. Certain Councillors will be invited to attend.

Newer residents and long-term residents!- please attend the AGM; meet your like-minded neighbours; support the Association's initiatives, and...

send a clear message to Redcliffe City Councillors that we are determined to **BRING ABOUT REFORMATION OF THE SYSTEM and RATE JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

Steve Mahoney.



NEWPORT WATCH

Thanks to Santa and his helpers for their visit on Christmas Day. Fortunately the temperatures were lower that day making the canal trip for Santa more pleasant in his winter suit.

Crimes in the area remain at their below average rate. Police are investigating the theft of fishing gear from France Crt. and episodes of eggs and stones being thrown at homes. Complaints have been received about the dumping of dog droppings and grass clippings in the canals. This is illegal, particularly the later, for which there is a hefty fine. Past newsletters have detailed the illegality of polluting the waterways in such a manner. Please find the legal and appropriate ways of disposing of waste or risk a fine. Ed. on behalf of Vickie Jordan, Area Co-ordinator and assistant Co-ordinator Anne Spalding.

Tawny

I look at you with wonder
And I recall how
When I first saw you alone
In such a crowded cage
Other cats surrounded you, fighting
For their space
And helpless kittens crawled by your feet
Searching for their mother and mewling
Pitifully.



There you were, alone yet not alone,
Proud and aloof, not wanting to beg
For love.
But each time you saw me return you
Stretched your full feline length
Letting me enjoy the beauty and grace of
you
And offering your love.

Helplessly I succumbed to the need in you
The charm of you, the sheer joy of
responding To your need.
(permission to reprint) Trish Eban,
com/tee.

COUNCIL ROADSIDE DO'S AND DON'TS !!!

The recent Redcliffe Council Review clarified the rules regarding washing and/or repairing vehicles on roadways.

A reminder for those who missed the article, it is an OFFENCE to WASH, CLEAN, PAINT, REPAIR, ALTER OR MAINTAIN a vehicle on a roadway. Only minor emergency repairs to vehicle on roadway are allowed to enable vehicle to be driven away. Thanks to RCC for the details Ed.

BIKEWAYS

This constant and record breaking humidity (the worst in 46 years) certainly has tested those keen early morning and/or evening walkers. Any exertion makes one feel as if you're about to melt or combust. Cooler weather will be a welcome change...even the swimming pools are overheating. Don't forget the bikeways are a shared facility. Cyclists, rollerblades and skaters are required to give way to pedestrians at all times. Walkers really appreciate considerate bikers who ring their bell on approaching from behind. It is so easy to step out in front of a silently approaching bicycle, and then disaster strikes!! The bikeways on our foreshore are a good accomodating width. Ed.

STALKING

"Under recent changes to the Queensland Criminal Code, a person who threatens violence or intimidates another can be jailed for up to five years.

Intimidation includes harassing, molesting or frequently telephoning a person, or any other conduct that will cause fear of injury or violence, or damage to any person or property.

Stalking can include intentionally following a person, or watching their home or workplace, or giving offensive material to another person. However, to constitute an offence in Queensland, it must occur on at least two separate occasions.

The conduct must be such that a reasonable person would believe that an unlawful act of violence against person or property is likely to happen.

While it can protect women and children, the unlawful stalking provisions are not restricted to domestic situations. It covers stalking by both a known person and a stranger. However, it excludes people engaged in legitimate industrial relations activities and registered private investigators.

The offence also can cover behaviour directed at a dependant, relative, friend or associate of a victim.

The law is separate from Domestic Violence legislation, the Peace and Good

Behaviour Act and other Criminal code offences. Complaints about stalking should be made to the police." (Gillsbenon & Luton for Roadside Magazine).



Congratulations!!

To those who received Australia Day Awards, particularly to Rodd Sherwin, who received the Senior Cultural Award for his wonderful cultural contribution to the community through the Scarborough Fair Art Gallery he established in Landsborough Avenue. Scarborough Fair exhibits artwork and craft of excellent quality and talent. Poetry readings and musical performances are regular events at the Gallery. Diary of events are often included with your newsletter as Rodd generously sponsors our newsletter.



FISH TALES

A publisher was fishing in the Atlantic, when he caught a rather unusual salmon. 'Please let me go,' begged the fish, and because it was small he threw it back. Later, when fishing again, he caught the same salmon, and once more it begged to be released. 'No', said the publisher, 'no way.'

'Oh,' replied the fish, 'not even if I tell you that I write poetry?'

'What about?' said the publisher, impressed despite himself.

'Oh, the sea and the Titanic. I spend a lot of time swimming around the wreck. My name is Rusty and if you let me off the hook, you can publish my first book. 'Of course,' said the publisher, 'we'll call it Rusty Salmon's Titanic Verses.' (Adams, Newell, The Penguin Book of Australian Jokes).



Editor's Desk

I accidently misnamed the last newsletter 'Newport Watch' while searching for new fonts. Was anyone confused? This edition will see return of correct title. My thanks to Zone Cpts (for delivery) and to fellow committee members for their co-operation and contribution to output of the Newport News. The Rates issue concerns both WET AND DRY BLOCK OWNERS so we hope to see a good attendance from all residents.