

KPPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 April 2021

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2020 AGM failed to elect a new president so that role has been shared between myself and the Treasurer for the last 12 months. Despite the obvious shortcomings of this arrangement, the KPPA has managed to survive another year, ironically assisted by the COVID pandemic which has effectively shut down nearly all community activity.

There were, however, some notable events throughout the year:

- We finally had to abandon our campaign against lighting of the Netball Courts. Apart from those residents directly affected by the noise, the crowds and the traffic, hardly anyone else in the area came out in support. And, with only one ward councilor on our side, we had no friends at court. We fought hard over the years, but were defeated by broken promises, Council's refusal to face the Canoon Road traffic problem head on and Ku-ring-gai Netball Association's determination to play all competition games at a single venue. Things will only get worse.
- In August 2020 Council prepared its *Draft Housing Strategy* in response to a directive contained in the Greater Sydney Commission's *North District Plan*. The *Strategy* was basically a glossy aspirational document but it did contain targets for increased numbers of dwellings in the Municipality up to 2036. The KPPA criticised the *Strategy* on the grounds that the proposed increase in dwellings had not, and most likely would not, be accompanied by the creation of more free space and recreational infrastructure. In the meantime, senior political entities (not part of the planning process) also objected to the *Strategy* on the grounds that it would destroy the traditional character of Ku-ring-gai. A subsequent heated exchange between the Mayor and the Minister for Planning resulted in the *Strategy* being amended by the removal of the imposed targets. The amended *Strategy* was later approved by a majority of Councilors. We appear to be left with a rather meaningless document loaded with aspiration but with no clear direction or purpose. The developers will love it.
- Earlier this year Council invited residents of Ku-ring-gai to participate in a study of the local character of the Municipality. The initial result, *Ku-ring-gai Local Character Background Study*, is now on public display until 26 April (be quick). This study only examines the municipality's physical characteristics and leaves the social and cultural dimensions for later work. In the meantime Council intends to use the results of this study to "*affirm that the community's view on local character aligns with our work to date*" (perhaps here the cart is before the horse). The KPPA encourages all residents to acquaint themselves with this document as it is clearly a forerunner to a new and improved *Housing Strategy*. We need to be aware that those most likely to respond to studies such as this are those with the most to gain; those with the most to lose often hold back and then have to play catch up. We don't want to fall into the trap of asking for affordable housing and then being swamped by tiny apartments and aged care units.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Committee members for their support in such a difficult year. We are all getting a bit tired and it would be great to see some younger members of the community stepping up to lend a hand. It would be a terrible shame to see such a worthwhile organization as the KPPA sink out of sight due to lack of community involvement. After all ...

Who else would do what we do?

Brian Bourne
Secretary