

Linden Citizens Association
Minutes of Meeting
held Thursday 16th May, 2013
at the Linden Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Station, Burke Road, Linden

Opened: 19:38 hours

Welcome: Clr Romola Hollywood, guest speaker John Budin and his wife Karen.

Guest Speaker: John Budin's wife Karen read a poem about John and his life entitled "The Railway Lad" that gave a great insight into his life and was well received by the meeting. John was the third eldest of eleven children and was made to work from a young age. He hardly went to school but decided to study hard in his final year in order to obtain a good reference so he could gain a good full-time job. Despite his teacher's prediction that he would only ever be a labourer or end up in jail, John came first in his class that year.

He left school at age 14 and applied to the railways. He had a medical, sat their exams, but failed the spelling test. The examiner, influenced by John's school results, decided to offer him employment.

John was appointed junior station assistant at Linden in 1963, aged 17. The station Master was George Sweeney and he lived in a cottage at the eastern end of the platform between the two rail lines. Mrs O'Brien later replaced Mr Sweeney but didn't live in the cottage. She was a renowned player and teacher of tennis and one of the first females to progress from a level crossing attendant to working in stations. She was known to do her washing in Linden station's large kettle, which often made the tea taste soapy.

The Linden station was also the post office. Out-going mail in a bag was held out for the mail train to collect as it passed (without stopping) each afternoon. Mail was sorted on the train and transferred to the GPO. In-coming mail was dropped onto the platform from a train as it passed. Part of John's job was to sort the mail into wooden pigeon holes – one for each Linden household (32 in total). A wind-up telephone was used to ask the operator to transfer the call to particular Linden residents (no phone numbers then) to advise them when they had mail to collect.

John came to know many residents and could often predict who was approaching from the sound of their steps. Mrs Warwick and Ken Beames are some people he remembers.

Telegrams were also received and conveyed to residents over the phone, or left in their pigeon holes for collection. Out-going telegrams were conveyed by phone through the operator.

The railway pay bus visited each fortnight and counted out cash into an envelope for each employee who had to provide their name and employee number.

Linden had a rail siding on the northern (or up, in railway terms) side which was used to store defective railway cars. Whilst negotiating the steep grades, some railway car axle boxes would heat up and become defective. These cars were detached and moved into the siding for repairs. The existence of the Linden railway station was due to this siding.

With Linden having no shops, railway employees had to bring their own lunch or go without. Sometimes a phone call to Hazelbrook station was made to organise a meat pie to be sent on the next train. Payment was sent back with the next train heading up the mountain. One day a local chicken was caught, plucked and boiled in a pot in the Linden station office for lunch.

Linden station had a waiting room with a pot-belly stove, a station master's office with an open fire and a signal box with signal and points levers, a bank of telephones and a cabinet for mail.

John was married at age 18 and began to further his studies and rise through the ranks of the railways. Following a two-year course that he completed in six months, John became the youngest assistant station master at age 21. He later became traffic inspector, district superintendent and passenger manager. As part of the Tangara train project, John visited 13 countries studying their railways. He was also responsible for overcoming union objections to the removal of brake vans and guards from freight trains, which has proven to be safe.

A \$1 million project that John proposed was an express sleeper train to Brisbane's Expo 88. It was a flop, with the service cancelled half way through. Ticket holders had to be contacted and their money refunded.

With spelling being a problem for John, his wife Karen typed up his reports. Management was very impressed by the reports and to this day, no one knows that Karen was responsible for them. In later positions he had secretarial staff to whom he could dictate his reports and letters.

John left the railways after 26 years service to become a commercial real estate agent and property manager. He now works ten hours a week as a consultant and enjoys telling stories (as he has done since a child) to his grand children.

President Barbara thanked John and Karen for their interesting insights into Linden and John's career.

Apologies: Bob & Olive Young, Charles Leonard, Margaret Smith, Pat Hall.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes were displayed in the noticeboards and on the LCA website www.lindencitizens.asn.au.

Minutes confirmed, moved Greg North, seconded Jon Rickard

Business arising from minutes: nil.

Correspondence Outwards:

25/03/13 BMCC (via website) – Community Directory Update 2013 including website, new email and meeting dates.

25/03/13 Bruce Cameron Email – thanks for being guest speaker at March LCA meeting.

26/03/13 BMCC (Clr Romola Hollywood) Email – thanks for update on park fencing upgrade. New email details fro secretary and president.

26/03/13 John Budin Email (from President) – confirming guest speaking content next meeting.

04/04/13 BMCC (customer service request via website by President) – request for replacement of backing board in community noticeboard.

08/04/13 RailCorp Email – Landslip below Glossop Road - Tollgate Drive intersection: enquiry regarding expected date of revegetation.

12/04/13 Ian Milliss Email – membership details, looking forward to new residents event.

17/04/13 Linden Residents (on email list) Email via MailChimp – Help welcome new residents event and bushcare reminder.

23/04/13 Nicola Grundy Email – thanks for attending last LCA meeting.

24/04/13 BMCC (General Manager) Email – enquiry about Linden obtaining old town sign.

02/05/13 RMS Email – enquiry about Linden obtaining old town sign.

08/05/13 Mid Mountains Community Centre (Mick) Email from President – LCA contact details and offer to cross-promote.

13/05/13 Duncan Gay MLC, Roza Sage MP (from Jon Rickard) – thanks for replies regarding “Moving Safely around Linden”. The intent of the correspondence was to formally appeal the decision of the RMS. Please supply details of the appeals procedure and instigation. The LCA requests to have an appeal heard.

14/05/013 BMCC (Clr Romola Hollywood) Email – welcome to attend LCA meeting.

Correspondence Outwards endorsed, moved Greg North, seconded Jeremy Leather.

Business arising from Correspondence Outwards:

The community noticeboard backing board was replaced by Council.

The railway landslip area has been revegetated. Further contact required to remove rubbish and repair the fence.

Correspondence Inwards:

- 21/03/13 Bruce Cameron** Email – Thanks for having me as a speaker at LCA meeting. Happy to return some time with slides.
- 21/03/13 Better Planning Network** Email – Petition handover.
- 22/03/13 John Budin** Email – enquiry regarding guest speaking content.
- 25/03/13 BMCC (Adam Cios)** Email – Community Directory Update 2013.
- 25/03/13 BMCC (Clr Romola Hollywood)** Email – park fencing upgrade to come before Council meeting 26/03/13. Will let us know the outcome.
- 04, 05, 07, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22/04/13 Better Planning Network** Emails – donations, forum, white paper release.
- 11/04/13 BMCC** phone call to President – noticeboard inspected and looked as if it is not used.
- 12/04/13 Ian Milliss** Email – membership enquiry, attending new residents event.
- 17/04/13 Charles Leonard** Email – apology for non-attendance at new residents welcome event.
- 21/04/13 Jane Grundy** Email – LCA minutes enquiry regarding attendance list.
- 22/04/13 Roza Sage MP** Email – 40km/h Speed Limit reply from Transport Minister Duncan Gay.
- 02/05/13 BMCC (Email)** – the Black on White “Linden” town sign is actually the property of the Roads and Maritime Service.
- 03/05/13 RMS (Email)** – email regarding old Linden town sign has been forwarded to the appropriate department for their attention.
- 03/05/13 Juliana Swatko** Email – planned radio tower installation opposite Bulls Camp threatens heritage precinct in Woodford.
- 09/05/13 Mid Mountains Community Centre (Mick)** Email – thanks for LCA contact details, added to mailing list. Possibility of involvement in Lawson Festival.
- 10/05/013 BMCC (Virginia Field)** Email – Our City – Our Future draft plans now on public exhibition. Submissions close 23 May 2013.
- 11/05/13 Blue Mountains Business Equipment** – invoice 148715 for repairs to LCA photo copier \$132.
- 14/05/13 BMCC (Clr Romola Hollywood)** Email – available to attend LCA meeting with update on park fencing.

Correspondence inwards received, moved Greg North, seconded Jeremy Leather.

Business arising from Correspondence in: nil.

Reports

Treasurer:

Sydney Credit Union accounts:

S4 Premier Business account contains: \$1,483.81

S8 Motivator Savings account contains: \$2,510.22

Outstanding for payment: \$132.00

Treasurer's report received, moved Greg North, seconded Jon Rickard.

Linden Rural Fire Brigade: Colin Anlezark reported that the brigade has been involved in several hazard reduction burns, including one on Linden Ridge that extended 7 km from the water tank and burnt about 800 ha. Linden and other brigades assisted NPWS.

Members are undertaking a great deal of training. The brigade is assisting with the Blue Wave Bicentennial Crossing re-enactment around Hazelbrook and also the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

The new residents event was very successful and helped raise bushfire awareness.

Park Fence: Cllr Romola Hollywood reported that her motion to assess the Kings Cave park fencing resulted in a decision to upgrade the existing wire strand fence, which was not what she had hoped for. However, we'll see what results.

Barbara Gow reported that she and Robbie Beale conducted a litter survey and thanks to Robbie's efforts, received a \$300 grant which could be used to buy plants to grow a hedge inside the fence. Cllr Hollywood said she would see if Council could assist with this in some way.

Moving Safely Around Linden: Jon Rickard reported that following a meeting with Roza Sage MP on 14/12/12 a written reply was received from the Transport Minister, Duncan Gay MLC. The reply referred the LCA to Peter Carruthers of the RMS. This does not provide a proper appeal. Jon has written to Ms Sage and Mr Gay requesting a formal appeal.

As an interim measure Jon proposed a sign with "Residents' Speed Limit 40" (the consensus as per the survey) to be:

1. reproduced in the LCA Newsletter,
2. laminated and attached to poles in Linden,
3. made into a stencil that allows for painting onto bins or other surfaces (Marilyn Pride offered to organise the stencil).

The sign conveys that it is not official but the desire of residents.

Jon proposed another sign for placement on the highway approaching the upper Tollgate Drive merging lane, reading "Merge Lane Over Crest – Take Care!"

It was decided to write to RMS requesting something similar since it is still an area of concern with trucks and buses using it regularly each day (and often having to travel outside the merging lane to turn onto the highway).

Digital Train Radio System Project: towers are planned for Linden and Woodford. The public exhibition period has ended.

Garage Sale: 22nd June. The idea is to increase the effectiveness of local garage sales by combining as many as possible on the one day. Households pay \$5 to the LCA to cover advertising and residents keep any profits from their garage sale. At least five households are needed to make it work. Two responses have been received so far.

Bushcare Group: Greg North.

Next work day this Sunday 1:30 – 4:30 pm in Caley Lane. Future dates 19 May, 16 June, 21 July.

New Residents event: was very successful and attended by seven new families. It is hoped that similar events can be held in the future at an interval to be determined.

General Business:

Cllr Romola Hollywood was asked if she could:

- ♦ ask Council to do some mowing and trimming around the parking area of Linden Station in Burke Road. The area is being used much more frequently by up to six vehicles daily and this can limit the turning space available for other traffic. Making more room for parking would help alleviate the problem.
- ♦ thank Council's Graham Green for having additional signs erected in Linden in an effort to slow traffic. The Council providing this compromise gesture following the RMS decision (not to allow a 40 km/h speed limit) is greatly appreciated.

Next Meeting: AGM Thursday 18/07/13 at Fire Station. Guest speaker Ian Bridges from Linden Observatory.

Meeting closed: 21:40 hours.