



Friends of Mona Vale

Report on Friends of Mona Vale monthly meeting 11 July 2017

More than fifty people attended the meeting at the Mona Vale Golf Club.

Attended by former NSW Premier Mr. Barrie Unsworth, former Pittwater Councillor, Mr. Bob Grace, and representatives of Newport Residents Association, Avalon Preservation Society and Bayview Life, the organisers noted the presence of a widespread of residents from Pittwater generally.

Mr. Grace spoke to advise on the success of Protect Pittwater's crowd funding to finance its legal case to de-amalgamate Northern Beaches Council and for the return of Pittwater Council. "*We have sufficient funds to seek legal advice and to initiate action in Court, which I believe we can win*", he said.

The purpose of the meeting was to advise the people of Pittwater of the Friends progress in seeking a community alternative to the ill-conceived Mona Vale Place Plan and on some of the threats the inadequate B-Line and the "Mona Vale Place Plan" pose to the residents of Pittwater.

Ms. Jenny Stone spoke on the "fallacious contention" that the B-Line is about improved transport when it in fact is a method of introducing increased development and population of Pittwater from Narrabeen to Palm Beach.

Mr. Phil Walker spoke on the Mona Vale Road upgrade and on how the "Place Plan" should be dropped and a community-developed plan be put in its place.

Dr. Suzanne Daly spoke on the years of misinformation spread by the Government on Mona Vale Hospital and on the lack of representation of the electorate by Mr. Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater.

She pressed again for the retention of a public Emergency Medicine facility and an operating theatre at the Hospital and was roundly applauded. "*We must keep Mona Vale as a publicly operated properly equipped hospital*", she said.

Mr. Chris Fletcher from Bayview Life addressed the issue of the proposed development of seven four storey apartment blocks on the Bayview Golf Course and highlighted the loss of 154 mature trees in one of Pittwater's major wildlife corridors that this will entail.

Finally, a candidate in the forthcoming Northern Beaches Council Election, Mr. Peter Bosley, was introduced. He said he is standing as an Independent candidate because he is disappointed that the Pittwater community has been manipulated and treated with "utter disdain" by both Local and State Government over such a long time.

Concluding the meeting Chairman, Mark Edwards, noted a "generous swelling tonight" of The Friends' Fighting Fund, and confirmed that its next meeting at the Golf Club will be held at 6.30PM on 8th August and at which it is planned that "two very interesting announcements will be made".