

MAROUBRA Precinct Committee

GENERAL MEETING Minutes 4 September 2025

Juniors at the Junction, Maroubra 7.00pm

Chairperson:	Stephen O'Shaughnessy/John Burgess (Co-Chair)
Secretary:	Rachel Deering (Apology). J. Burgess to record minutes
Attendance:	12 Residents together with Councillor Daniel Rosenfeld. Mayor Dylan Parker attended the latter part of the meeting.
1. Opening and welcome:	S. O'Shaughnessy opened the meeting at 7.00pm, welcomed all residents and visitors and undertook the acknowledgement of Country.
2. Apologies	1. Rachel Deering (Secretary); 2. Janet Hutchinson; 3. Kerri Hamer; and 4. Bryce Riley.
3. Declaration of interests:	Nil
4. Ratification of previous minutes:	Minutes of the Maroubra Precinct Meeting held 28 July 2025 were received. The Minutes, as received, were nominated by Stephen Bennetts as true and accurate. The Minutes, as received, were seconded by Christine Baramilis. The Minutes were carried.
5. Treasurer's Report:	Current bank balance Cr \$5,562.89. \$800 was paid in by Council over July for the annual admin subsidy - this is usually \$400pa per precinct but given we are a merged Maroubra Central and Maroubra Beach Committee we receive a double payment.
Business arising from previous minutes 6(a) Update on past resolutions 6(b) Update on requests made to Council	No updates received since the last meeting. Responses will be followed up ahead of the next meeting. Anti-Social behaviour. Council was prepared to have Lexi Mafoe and Trina Soulostos speak to the Committee to provide an update on what is happening in respect of this important community issue. Lexi and Trina will attend the next meeting of the Maroubra Precinct Committee. J. Burgess recorded a thank you to Council on behalf of residents for the maintenance work undertaken this week to restore the sand levels at Maroubra Beach and in particular the covering of exposed concrete next to the steps at the north end of the pavilion.
7. Council Update:	Councillor Rosenfeld provided the following updates: 7.1 Upgrade to Maroubra Junction Shopping Centre walkway and landscape and including removal of old bus shelter on Anzac Parade has been completed.

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	7.2 Ongoing initiatives between Council and Maroubra police to curb anti-social behaviour at Maroubra Junction via increased police presence 7.3 Mons Ave, Cooper St and Maroubra Road roundabout - New design being considered with Transport which will incorporate single lane traffic on the roundabout. The Community will be consulted re the design. Christine Barramilis raised concerns that the new roundabout design should be based on physical inspection of the site by Council and Transport engineers and not reliant on arial photography as was the previous case with unacceptable outcomes. Councillor Rosenfeld will pursue this with Council. (Later in the meeting, Mayor D Parker also shared Christine's concerns and will also pursue with Council). 7.4 Heffron Centre - Council is looking at parking time limits for the parking area in proximity to the Souths Centre of Excellence. 7.5 Fitzgerald Ave pedestrian crossing - Council's Traffic Committee is looking at options for a new crossing along Fitzgerald Ave to cater for the safety of persons crossing the road to access the Heffron Centre sporting facilities - location to be decided but likely mid-way between Anzac Parade and Bunnerong Rd. 7.6 The Maroubra Beach markets will commence fortnightly rotation between the Beach and Heffron park (under the all-weather covered netball area) this weekend - on a trial basis over the summer period. 7.7 Councillor Rosenfeld confirmed that Cromwell Park north will be the site of the new bike track. There was discussion on already limited parking for visitors, particularly for those patronising Pioneer Park and Cromwell Park playing fields for football, etc on weekends and evenings. It was suggested that Council consider opening up some of the park area in the middle of Anzac Parade to accommodate visitor parking. Although this area is now off-limits to parking there were still many cars that park on the grass to attend events and run the risk of a fine. Council has already fined persons parking there due to lack of parking options which will worsen when the bike track is operational. J. Burgess proposed that the use of the centre of Anzac Parade be considered in conjunction with the creation of an off-street vehicle/trailer parking area in the middle of Anzac Parade near Yarra Bay Junction to ease the burden on residents who are now experiencing these vehicles parked in front of their homes or in dangerous traffic locations - see reference in minutes of meeting 28 July 2025.
8.General Business	(a) Removal of the Precinct Notice Board There was considerable discussion on the decision by Council to remove the Precinct notice board from its location next to the northern wall of the Surf Club.

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J. Burgess advised that he received a call from Council around 10am on Friday, 27 August, asking that material on the notice board re the new clubhouse development be removed as it was considered offensive to the Surf Club and its members and other third parties and a misuse of the Council owned board. J. Burgess undertook to arrange removal of the material (which he was aware of and did not consider offensive and which had been on the board for over a month) but would need to contact Kerri Hamer as she had a key to the board. J. Burgess tried unsuccessfully to contact Kerri and believed she may be up in the NT doing community work and uncontactable. J. Burgess conveyed this back to Council and enquired if the Council had a key to the board that he could use. J. Burgess then received a subsequent call around 4pm to advise that the notice board had been removed by Council. J. Burgess expressed his disappointment with what he regarded as an overreaction by Council which would not go down well with the Precinct Committee. J. Burgess pressed the case for the installation of the new Notice Board adjacent to the pathway to the Promenade which was approved by Council some years ago and which the Precinct Committee had recently chased up. It was very clear from comments made during this discussion that it was unlikely there would be a new or replacement notice board.

J. Burgess read out subsequent correspondence between Council, himself and S. O'Shaughnessy relative to this issue. S. O'Shaughnessy did request Council to provide a copy of the offensive material for review by the Committee. Sam Danionas did read out what is thought to be some of the offending material from his phone. There was no reference to any person by name in the material quoted.

It was agreed that without having the benefit of knowing exactly what was in the article that caused offence it was not possible to make specific comment on the content other than to reassure it was never the intention of the Precinct Committee to cause any offence to the Surf Club or its members or any other third party - the primary intention of the notice was to express community views and to encourage the community to engage in the consultative process. It was unanimously agreed that Council may have overreacted by hastily removing the notice board without proper notice and that the expectation of the Precinct Committee was that a replacement notice board would be installed at the entry to the promenade as previously agreed with Council. It was acknowledged that the notice board was the property of the Council and that its use could be better managed by the Precinct Committee. In this regard a set of rules to determine the appropriateness of all Precinct material for public viewing will be initiated.

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	Resolution 04092025(1) The Maroubra Precinct Committee expressed its disappointment with Council's action in removing the Notice Board with such short notice. The Committee also regrets and apologises for any unintended offence to the Surf Club, its members or any other third party as a consequence of the content of the material on the notice board. The Precinct Committee very much appreciates the great volunteer work that the Surf Club does for the broad community in protecting lives and the education of beach goers, especially via its Nippers' program and we look forward to continued interaction with the Surf Club in a mutually constructive and friendly manner. The Committee also requests Council to replace the old notice board with a new notice board at the agreed location at the entrance to the walkway to the Maroubra Promenade from McKeon St. The Committee will also develop a formal policy for review of the content of any future material to be publicly displayed on the notice board, acknowledging that the notice board is a public information asset of the Council. Moved Lucia Kahkun. Seconded Christine Baramilis
10. Other General Business:	(a) Marine Parade Pathway. Complementary to the proposal put to Council to consider the installation of a suspended viewing platform at the north end of Maroubra Beach (Resolution 23062025(3)), it was agreed that a case existed for widening of the footpath along a section of the beachfront side of Marine Parade, north of the roundabout. This is where the pathway narrows to only 4 persons wide due to the location of the rampway down to the beach. This pathway widening could be incorporated into the suspended viewing platform proposal. (b) Malabar Headland. There was discussion about First Nations people historically visiting the western extreme of the Headland over Easter for ceremonial activities adjacent to a spring that once fed into the original Malabar pondage. J. Burgess will try to locate the spring site and report back. There was also discussion on the potential use of the western end of the Anzac range to provide off-street parking for vans and boats etc as was once the case. J. Burgess advised that over the years he had made several formal and informal approaches to the Federal Minister of Finance, the NSW Rifle Association, the Sporting Shooters Association and NSW National Parks, to consider using some of its land for trailer parking on a commercial basis but this had been consistently rejected.

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	S. O'Shaughnessy also asked what Council could do to improve the level of public access on those days when the range is not in use. Councillor Rosenfeld remarked that there was little Council could do to improve the level of public access based on past experience. This was a view shared by most members present. S. O'Shaughnessy stated that he would try to obtain a copy of the current lease between the Ministry for Finance and the NSW Rifle Association. According to J. Burgess there would be about 40 years left to run on the 50-year lease which does have provision for compensation should the NRA decide to vacate the lease in favour of another suitable location. There is little likelihood that this would ever occur given the proximity of the range to the shooter residents of Greater Sydney. J. Burgess also stated that the range is used for firing only every Saturday of the month and occasionally over the entire weekend and rarely during the week unless a major shooting event such as the Kings shoot was on. Shooting activity must be in line with NSW Police Firearms requirements which include flagging when shooting events are on and the engagement of security at every access point to the range. Public access is available to the entire headland perimeter of the range on all other occasions. (c) Traffic lights at intersection of Beauchamp Rd and Anzac Parade. It appears that Transport have reconfigured the lights to accommodate more efficient right-hand turn from Beauchamp Road into Anzac Parade. (d) Dog Beach access. Council has now declared Yarra Bay a dog-free beach and the question was asked where else can residents take their dog for a walk or swim at a beach. Foreshore Beach is seemingly the only available option and this is not readily accessible and is outside of Randwick City Council's boundaries. (e) Low-cost exercise facilities for Seniors. It was felt that there were not enough low-cost exercise facilities for local seniors residing in the Maroubra area. Good facilities exist at the Little Bay community centre but this was not convenient for many local senior residents and the cost there was considered excessive. It was asked if Council could investigate options for the establishment of more low-cost senior exercise facilities across its City boundaries. (f) Bernie Kelly Drive. As a safety initiative especially for young children it was suggested that Council consider the case for a pedestrian crossing along Bernie Kelly Drive at the south end of Maroubra Beach linking the Beach and Byrne Reserve with Broome St.
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	Councillor Rosenfeld thought this had merit and will raise with the Traffic Committee. (g) Bus Stop weather shelters. Concerns were expressed about the removal of all-weather bus shelters - the most recent being on Broome St near the Ford Road junction. It was suggested that Council investigate what could be done to replace and add shelters. (h) Invasive Birds. Concern was expressed about the increasing number of non-native bird species now making pests of themselves around Maroubra Beach, particularly near the McKeon St food outlets and eating area. The question was asked what can Council do to reduce and control the number of bird pests. (i) Vale Anne Henderson. The Committee was advised of the recent passing of Anne Henderson who once served on the Committee of the original Maroubra Precinct Committee. Condolences were expressed to Anne's family.
11. Maroubra Precinct Notice Board	Mayor Dylan Parker joined the meeting and spoke to the issue of the removal of the Precinct Notice Board - he was adamant that the contents of the material were offensive to members of the Maroubra Surf Club and potentially defamatory to those referred to as having a vested interest. The comments raised earlier in the meeting re the notice board removal were relayed to the Mayor. It was emphasised that the Committee regretted any unintended offence to the Surf Club, its members or any other party arising from the material that was on the board. The intention of the notice was to draw community attention to the proposed club project and to encourage engagement in the consultative process. The Precinct membership does have concerns with some aspects of the proposed redevelopment, and these have been recorded in past meeting minutes. Our disappointment with Council's decision to remove the notice board on such short notice was made clear. Going forward the Precinct Committee does expect that the Council will honour its existing commitment to replace the Notice Board and that the Committee will develop a policy for vetting the content of all future notices intended for posting on the notice board on behalf of the Precinct Committee.
12. Next Meeting:	The next Maroubra Precinct Meeting will be held: Date: Wednesday, 8 October 2025 Time: 7.00pm Venue: Juniors at the Junction, Corner Anzac Parade and Haig Street Maroubra
13. Meeting closure:	The Chairperson confirmed there was no further business and declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm