



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association

Date 10 August 2012

RE: Invitation to Candidates to participate in 'Meet the Candidates' Forums for Port Stephens Council elections.

TRRA Inc. , in conjunction with other community groups, has arranged 'Meet the Candidates' Forums in the run-up to the 8 September Council election. For the convenience of the voters and to maximise attendance, four separate meetings will be held. Details of the locations and Agenda for the Forums are provided below.

The objective is to provide an opportunity for Candidates to introduce themselves to the voting public, to provide a brief statement of their priorities for the coming Council term, and to answer questions on matters of concern. A copy of the Press Release dated 03 August on this initiative is attached.

Similar events organised for past elections were welcomed by candidates as a chance to personally present themselves and their visions directly to the electorate. Of equal importance is the opportunity to assist voters to cast an informed vote.

Publicity

The Examiner has given TRRA an undertaking to cover the Forums with a comprehensive programme of editorials, the first of which appeared in this week's edition. There will also be a media campaign with other print and radio outlets. Additionally, an advertisement will be placed in the Examiner publicising the schedule and locations for the meetings.

All Community Organisations involved will circularise information to their members

Dates and Locations

Forums have been arranged for the following locations **all commencing at 7.00 pm**

- 1. Monday 20 August, Soldiers Point Bowling Club, 118 Soldiers Point Road, Soldiers Point.**
- 2. Wednesday, 22 August, Anna Bay / Birubi Community Hall, Fishermans Bay Road, Anna Bay.**
- 3. Monday, 27 August, Medowie Community Hall, Cnr Medowie and Ferodale Roads.**
- 4. Wednesday, 29 August, Tilligerry RSL Sports Club, Lemon Tree Passage Road Tanilba Bay.**

Invitations

NB: Invitations have only been sent to Mayoral and lead candidates for each group. Please pass this information on to your group.

All candidates for the position of Mayor are invited to present at each of the Forums. Where a Mayoral candidate is also standing as a group leader for Ward Councillor in the Ward where the meeting is being held, that candidate is requested to cover both candidatures in the time allotted. This is necessary in the light of the large number of Groups nominating.

Presentations by Group Leaders will be limited to those standing for the Ward in which the Forum is located. Again time constraints dictate that Group leaders simply introduce by name other candidates in their group if they choose to attend.

Forum Agenda

1. Introduction to Forum (7.00pm)

- Brief introduction by representative of local Community Organisation
- Chairman, TRRA Inc. explains procedure.

2. Presentation by Candidates for Mayor (5 minutes each).

- Candidate to introduce themselves.
- Candidate to briefly introduce supporting Group Candidates, if relevant
- Outline vision and priorities for the coming term.
- Candidate to answer two set questions to be advised to all candidates prior to meeting.

3. Presentation by Candidates for Ward Councillor (5 minutes each).

- Candidate to introduce themselves.
- Candidate to briefly introduce supporting Group Candidates, if relevant.
- Outline Vision and priorities for the coming term.
- Candidate to answer two set questions to be advised to all candidates prior to meeting.

4. Questions submitted to TRRA from the community, directed to candidates by moderator. Other candidates can then comment on this topic (2min each). (8.00pm)

5. Open forum, Questions from the floor (20min). (9.00pm)

6. Candidates right of reply, sum up (10min). (9.20pm)

7. Chairman TRRA to conclude meeting (9.30pm) and thank candidates.

Candidates are to be available at the venue for a briefing at 6.45pm.

In order to give everyone an equal opportunity to speak, the moderator will be strict on [time allocated](#) as above.

The moderator will insist that Candidates stay on the relevant subject, treat each other and the public with due respect and will maintain order in the meeting.

Your participation is encouraged as an opportunity to engage personally with the electorate. It would be appreciated if you could register your interest to attend these forums by email to Dick Appelby by Tuesday 14 August (info@trra.com.au) or by phone 49815491. Any other inquiries about the Forums can also be directed to Dick.

We hope that you can attend, wish you the best of luck with your campaign, and hope that we all have an informative and entertaining evening.

NB: TRRA Inc. is an a-political organisation and we will not be supporting individual Candidates in this election.

Geoff Washington

TRRA Inc. Chairman

