



# **TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC**

## **GENERAL MEETING 7.30 pm 11 February 2013**

### **Crows Nest Meeting Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club**

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** 36 (as per attendance sheets – Note: Many members had signed the petition & missed signing the attendance sheet)

**Welcome:** President Geoff welcomed members, guest speaker Frank Future and Cr John Nell. Geoff told members of the sad passing on 28 December of **Keith Brabham** who had been active since the beginning with TRRA and the previous Precinct. He will be well remembered as being the driving force behind the improvements to removal of graffiti in our area.

1. **Apologies** – Joy Haines, Judy Washington, Geoffrey Basser, Ken Shadler, Jean Armstrong, Sue Hanson, Coby & Wal Renshaw. Late apologies received to be recorded from Kate Washington and David Gray
2. **Introduction of Guest Speaker – Frank Future – Rezoning and Subdivision – Nelson Bay Road** – A powerpoint presentation was made on behalf of Christmas Bush Property Management for the proposed 16 hectare residential for exclusion subdivision. This will be available on the TRRA website. It is being planned as environmentally friendly with the new system adopted at Murrays Beach of retention of stormwater and kerbless streets & retention ponds (as seen opposite Regis on Bagnall Beach Road) being part of that. Wildlife corridor adjacent the top boundary and Christmas Bush to be retained as far as possible. This subdivision is now into the Gateway planning process and requires extensive compliance from various government authorities (2 year timeframe) before it comes out for public consultation. Part of the site is of aboriginal significance and the proposed Nelson Bay bypass is on the southern side. There appears to be a suitable Nursing home site adjacent the existing Ausgrid Station. Questions were asked about including tunnels for wildlife under Nelson Bay Road; preferred option for access to Nelson Bay Road is via Talleen Road, but this will be guided by RMS recommendations.
3. **Presentation- Revised Soldiers Point Marina Proposal** Colin Howard, President of the Soldiers Point Community Group gave a comprehensive update on the revised proposal submitted by the proponent in October last year. He highlighted the continued inadequacy relating to scale, navigation, endangered species, parking and adjacent erosion issues. Council planners have asked for further amendments to be made. When this is put out for public exhibition TRRA members are asked to put in submissions again as the main issues have not gone away. This could be a short timeframe and a fast response will be critical.
4. **Questions from Members** – Due to limited time no further questions were taken.
5. **Minutes of meeting held 8 October 2012 (following AGM)** The minutes available on the website were confirmed. Moved Terry Wall, seconded Colin Howard. Carried.
6. **Matters arising - updates**
  - (a) **Shooting in Tomaree National Park** – Official advice received is that Tomaree is not in the parks listed as exclusions but Tomaree not intended for shooting.
  - (b) **Fisherman's Bay Landcom Development** – Landcom has submitted a DA which is not yet on exhibition.

- (c) **Conroy Park Beach Erosion** – Margaret had hoped for a good news story about this. However, the temporary sand brought in late last year has washed away again in the last few days. Little further TRRA can do but wait and keep in touch with Council.
  - (d) **Caravan Park Audit by State Government – Deliotte Report** – Regular updates are being posted on the TRRA website. TRRA was instrumental in having the report finally being made public over the Christmas period and this is being analysed by a sub-committee. Geoff advised that Council has now taken action on many of the recommended actions and now is required to keep Park's financial management separate from general Council finances. A Reserve Trust, which comprises all Councillors, has been established to cover all 3 caravan parks and they had their first meeting in November. **Action:** The analysis by the TRRA sub-committee will be forwarded to the Crown's Land Manager at Maitland who today expressed a willingness to meet regarding any issues we have. Separately the Caravan Parks Association are taking up several issues they have with Crown Lands plans. Dick will report separately on the recommendation to take over the public park adjacent to Halifax Caravan Park.
  - (e) **Power Easements/Cycleway on Nelson Bay Road** – John James gave an update on the current position and this is on the TRRA website. There are issues relating to safe crossing points. The wall of tyres are now being removed. There are funding issues with Council which TRRA will continue to pursue. The missing link between the Market area and the Pool will go ahead with funding provided previously by East Ward Councillors. **Action:** Joan Frost to pass onto John the suggestion she made relating to a design as seen at Rutherford which would be safer at the Frost Road intersection
  - (f) **Apex Park – War Memorial Relocation Update** – Peter Quirk provided a background mentioning the main concern being the perceived lack of consultation between sections of Council and piecemeal planning rather than considering overall design of the park. Further progress is expected and public consultation is part of that.
7. **Treasurer's report** – Treasurer Brian Watson-Will reported a current balance of now \$795.22 with expenditure of \$100 for Christmas function and receipts for membership and renewals of \$55 (including \$25 tonight). Acceptance of report moved Brian, seconded Piere Ruckus. Carried.
  8. **Correspondence In and Out** The Secretary referred members to the tabled list of correspondence in and out. She mentioned an acceptance received today from Mr John King, Chairman of ATEC to our invitation to be guest speaker at our special March meeting. She read to members a letter regretfully received from President Geoff Washington announcing his resignation as President effective from 12.2.13. He had flagged this at the AGM in October. Geoff is able to assist the management committee when he is available.
  9. **Changes in Operation of TRRA Inc in 2013** – President Geoff announced that the Committee had decided to trial a rotational President and introduced Terry Wall, who was a new member and elected as Media Officer at the October AGM. Geoff also mentioned that several other long standing Committee members would be taking a break this year and he was confident that the new team with some fresh faces would continue the good work started. More direct involvement of members is needed.
  10. **Introduction of Terry Wall** Terry gave a brief talk on the direction he would be taking TRRA in the next 3 months. He will be calling on assistance from sub-committees. His plans also included a review of the process used to identify new issues to be pursued, particularly with a reduced number of available volunteers. Pursuing transparency with Council will be important. Will need to focus attention to issues of particular significance to the Tomaree area. Terry's profile is on the TRRA website.

**PRESENTATION:** On behalf of TRRA Peter Quirk then made a presentation to Geoff and Judy Washington in recognition of the tremendous amount of work done since TRRA's inception. Geoff had held senior positions all that time and Judy was his constant back up and was Media officer. Unfortunately Judy was unable to attend – being a grandmum at home with the 3 year old grandson.

11. **TRRA Community Liaison Plan** – Colin Howard, TRRA Community and Council Liaison Officer spoke briefly on the plan which is already in operation to involve TRRA more with other local organizations. A database of contacts is being put together and initial contacts made with all Councillors and Council officers. Interaction with other organizations in other areas with similar aims will also be part of this. TRRA is not an alternative to elected government but rather seeks to add some value to decision making on issues of concern to the Tomaree Peninsula.

12. **Reports on Current Issues:** Members had been asked to familiarize themselves with the updates which are on the TRRA website for further detail on current issues. Due to time constraints, reports on the following items were limited.

(a) **Local Environment Plan** – TRRA had been instrumental in Council extending the period of consultation to mid December. Nigel Waters spoke of the different system being used with a particular zoning classification no longer the only factor in what land can be used for. There are overlays relating to restrictions such as aircraft noise, environmental protection, acid sulphate soils etc. Changes to the way Rural 1 (a) classification can be interpreted is a major change likely to cause angst. The area along Shoal Bay Road looks like zoning for 5 storey developments. Concern also that about the detail for Nelson Bay CBD and Salamander Bay Shopping Centre. Cr Nell recognized the special circumstances outlined by Joan Frost relating to their Rural 1(a) land and Cr Nell mentioned this same system is being implemented State wide.

(b) **Watch on “Tourist” Complex at Lavis Lane** – Nigel briefly summarized the TRRA submission (on website) with concerns relating to development in Rural 1(a) in a flood prone & noise affected area. This is also outside the already approved development zoning surrounding the airport and hopefully the Council planners will recommend against the current proposal. This was advertised with a short consultation period commencing on 22 December and which TRRA felt was quite unreasonable.

(c) **Big W Development/Subdivision at Salamander Shopping Centre into 3 Lots & associated stockpile of sand at Diemars Quarry** - Nigel advised that there are 2 DAs in this process and the main issue still relates to the lack of an overall Masterplan for the site. Without it the site will become a shambles. Colonial State, owner of the complex is also requesting this. The latest 3 lot subdivision plan has the road coming out immediately next to the new KFC outlet and involves removal of the sand hill at Purser Street and stockpiling at Diemars Quarry. No link to Sandy Point Road area included. Submission is on website. Big W approval is conditional upon the subdivision approval. Lot 1 (between McDonalds & Rigby Centre) proposed as a bus interchange.

(d) **Axeing of Webcast** Vice President Dick Appleby gave a graphic description of what happened at the 11 December meeting of Council when a simple progress report from Council staff listed as an information item at Item 18 was brought forward by Councillors to Item 1 and a motion passed 7-3 to discontinue the webcast immediately. TRRA now needs members to assist with regular attendance at Council meetings. **Action:** Volunteers to travel to Raymond Terrace with Committee members were asked to nominate on the roster before they leave the meeting. Our presence will continue at Council meetings, albeit at considerable cost in terms of time and travel to East Ward residents.

(e) **Halifax Park Caravan Park Extension into a Public Park** (Lot 424) Dick advised that it appears that Crown Lands still has the extension of the park in their sights, despite

this being defended in 2010 and retention again being supported by Councillors at the first meeting of the new Trust for Holiday Parks. A group has been reformed to defend this park. TRRA will update and resend the submission sent previously on this issue. The Caravan Association has also to send a submission.

**(f) PSC Reserves Trust for Holiday Parks** –Covered earlier in the meeting

**(g) Repealed Section 94 Community Funding List & Extraordinary meeting of Council on 18.12.12** Margaret advised that in December 7 Councillors had excluded 3 Councillors from the preparation of a list of community projects to be funded from Repealed Section 94 funds. The list included funding to outside community groups while the projects of Council volunteer Parks and Tidy Towns groups did not appear to have been considered and some appeared to fall outside guidelines for Section 94 funding. Most projects were not listed on any prioritized existing works programs. Since then the 3 Councillors have consulted with Council officers and the existing lists and identified projects which have been included on the agenda for tomorrow night's Council meeting as a Notice of Motion to be funded from the same source.

**(h) Mackas Sand Alternate Access Road and Public Meeting at Salt Ash – Public Safety Concerns** – Secretary Margaret advised that there was comprehensive information about this issue on the website. A map was displayed which illustrated the truck movements on Nelson Bay Road based on the 2 licensed sites for Mackas Sand and various scenarios were included in our original TRRA submission to the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure sent in November last year. The map (now on website) highlighted the effects on Williamstown and Salt Ash roundabouts, the latter to be used as a U turn for trucks returning to reload as the access road is left in and left out. Truck movements range from 8 to 32 per hr through the Salt Ash roundabout. A public meeting had been called at Salt Ash on 31 January and a petition prepared to go to Minister Hazzard objecting to the proposal. Members were urged to sign the petition tonight and to make contact with our local NSW State MP who has ultimate responsibility for representing us in what is a public safety issue. She asked members to also take the printed slip away with them to send emails to the various government authorities involved in what we have found is a complex and flawed process. In addition to road safety, there are also issues relating to aboriginal artefacts, the environment and noise in the proposal and our recommendation is still that the safer way is via Lavis Lane, the original licence approval.

### **13. Other Issues**

**(a) Attendance at Council meetings – Roster** Margaret reminded members to volunteer to attend Council meetings. There are explanation slips to take away on what TRRA needs recorded.

**(b) Renewal of Membership Subscriptions – On Line facility** Dick reminded members that we now have an on-line facility for renewing membership subscriptions and that donations are welcome at any time.

### **14. General Business** - Nil – insufficient time

**NEXT MEETING:** As flagged earlier in meeting by Secretary now to be special meeting on Monday 11 March at 7.30 pm at Nelson Bay Bowling Club with a prominent guest speaker on tourism with a forum to follow. Next general meeting will be 8 April.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm