



TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC **UPDATE – February 2013**

NEW PRESIDENT AND OTHER CHANGES FOR TRRA IN 2013

At its first meeting for 2013 held Monday night 11th February, Members heard updates and reports on a packed agenda with frequent references made to the popular TRRA website. Guest speaker Frank Future also updated members on the subdivision at the entrance to Nelson Bay. Colin Howard spoke about the revised DA for the Soldiers Point Marina and John James gave a positive update on the cycleway proposed along Nelson Bay Road where gravel tracks have been left in place by Ausgrid.

TRRA has not been idle over the holiday period with several submissions sent responding to proposed plans for several developments which are of major importance to the ratepayers and residents of the Tomaree Peninsula. These have included the Local Environment Plan, Salamander Shopping Centre 3 Lot Subdivision/Diemars Quarry proposal, safety issue relating to proposed alternate access road for Mackas Sand, Exclusion of Councillors for Section 94 Repealed Funding Allocation, Axeing of the Webcast, potential loss of public park adjacent Halifax Park and many more.

The contribution made by Geoff and Judy Washington to TRRA since its inception 5 years ago was recognised with a presentation at the meeting.

Retiring President, Geoff Washington had signalled his intention to stand down at the last General Meeting in October last year. Geoff who has held senior positions in TRRA since its inception in 2008 remained in the Chair until TRRA's first General Meeting after which he has now handed over to Terry Wall for the next three months. In resigning Mr Washington said he thought the Association would be strengthened by the change of leadership and the introduction of new talent and experience".

Terry, who had been elected to the Committee in October last year as Media Officer, outlined his plans for TRRA and indicated that he will be asking for lots of assistance. He is looking to add more process to the way the Association handles new issues, looking to minimise the chance of committee burnout, while at the same time further the association's aims for truth and transparency, overlaid with a big dollop of communications.

Colin Howard, who joined the TRRA Committee at the AGM in October last year, is concentrating his efforts on improving community and council liaison and at

present is firmly involved in the revised proposal for the Soldiers Point Marina currently under Council consideration.

TRRA was not impressed when the Webcast of Council meetings was axed unexpectedly at the 11 December meeting of Council. A priority for 2013 is to continue to lobby for the reinstatement of the Webcast. In the meantime, TRRA Committee members and volunteers will attend Council meetings in Raymond Terrace to observe the proceedings.

This year too, individual members are also being encouraged to send their own objections to proposals which TRRA will be highlighting to them during the year.

TRRA TOURISM FORUM – A POSITIVE START

A positive start is being made to 2013 with TRRA to host a special Tourism Forum on Monday 11 March 2013 in place of their normal meeting at Nelson Bay Bowling Club at 7.30 pm.

The new TRRA Secretary, Margaret Wilkinson was privileged to learn on the day of our February meeting that Mr John King, OAM has confirmed acceptance of our invitation to be the guest speaker at the Forum on the topic “Revitalising the Visitor Economy”.

Mr King, who is Chairman of the Australian Tourism Export Council is the keynote speaker the following morning at the annual NSW Local Government Tourism Conference being held at Shoal Bay Resort. Mr King was one of a four member taskforce who recently reported to the NSW Government on how tourism can be doubled by 2020. He will tell the Forum attendees about the key recommendations and how they relate to regional tourism.

This Forum will be open to everyone to have a say - it is a great opportunity for different community organisations to come together to improve where we live. The outcomes will be fed back to Council tourism operators, Tourism associations and our members.

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