



TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING
Monday 14 October 2013, following the AGM
Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club
MINUTES

Meeting commenced at 8.35 pm

Attendance : 23 - As per Annual General Meeting and attendance book

1. Apologies : As per AGM

2. Confirmation of Minutes : President Terry Wall announced that the Minutes of the last TRRA meeting on 12.8.2013 were available on the website. Moved Dick Appleby, seconded Jean Armstrong that the Minutes be adopted. Carried.

3. Matters Arising: Nil

4. Treasurer's Report: Dennis Pittorino advised that the current credit balance is \$1,458.00. Moved Nigel Waters, seconded Geoffrey Washington that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

5. Correspondence: Extract of Correspondence Register since August General Meeting of 12.8.2013 was tabled, received and noted. Members were invited to request copies of any relevant correspondence.

6. Reports:

(a) **Yacaaba Street/Victoria Road Access** - PowerPoint Presentation of plans
Geoffrey Washington spoke on the proposal for Magnus Street, Nelson Bay and said that Council had purchased property in order to provide an alternate route for Yacaaba/Victoria Road access. He had met with Council Planner Bruce Petersen to discuss future plans for the area. Bruce indicated that he was happy to talk to Nelson Bay businesses and key stakeholders regarding the issue. Timing for the proposal was suggested as February 2014.

(b) **Old Anna Bay Sports Oval** – PowerPoint Presentation

Nigel gave an update on the proposed reclassification of Council owned land on Jessie Road, corner Port Stephens Drive and Anna Bay Road. The area is presently used for car pooling and more importantly as a bus interchange for school children and it is hoped that part of the site be set aside for this purpose. It has also been flagged as an ideal site for a Nelson Bay Visitor Information Centre.

7. Current Issues:

It was too early to comment on the new tourism development on Old Main Road/Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay described in the Port Stephens Examiner as a "new entertainment hub".

John Nell commented that the photo-montage resembled an RSL Club!

Nigel gave an update on the relocation of the Apex War Memorial.

Dick Appleby spoke about the commitment of the members of the Wallalong and Woodville Group Inc. known as the "Voice of Wallalong and Woodville" (VOWW) who are very active and familiar with communication by way of Facebook which they found most effective. It is anticipated that this area will grow immensely in the future and the Group is concerned about urban development in a rural

area and who pays for the cost of infrastructure. Dick also mentioned that with the development of Kings Hill it will become another big town near Raymond Terrace.

Concern was raised regarding the number of unfinished construction sites in Nelson Bay resulting in 'large holes' in the middle of town. Nigel responded that, as usual, there was no Master Plan and that there was a loss of momentum resulting in a lack of interest in cleaning up the sites. Judy Washington said that TRRA had managed to arrange for grass edges etc around sites to be cleaned up.

Lorraine Nicol was anxious about the empty shops in the town and wondered what could be done to counteract the trend. Terry said that this was often caused by the influence of supermarkets.

However, small things which could be considered to be done were to close some streets to traffic to allow pedestrians to access the novelty shops and to hold street markets.

Questions were raised regarding the proposed tourist bus to take people around the town. Geoff advised that a dedicated bus is recommended in a future plan for the community.

8. Other business:

Dick Appleby voiced concern regarding the allocations of funds from the Port Stephens Council Section 94 Contributions Plan. It appears that the initial allocation was made in the absence of three Councillors, namely Cr John Nell, Cr Geoff Dingle and Cr Peter Kafer. An objection was received and funds re-allocated, one of which went to the Soldiers Point Community Hall upgrade and another to the Cornerstone Church at Bagnall Avenue, Soldiers Point for an upgrade to facilities in order to hold a play group which originally was held at the Soldiers Point Community Hall.

It would appear that the Cornerstone Church is not presently operating and Jean Armstrong suggested that Council be approached with a view to re-allocating those funds either to Corlette Community Hall to enable an upgrade of its facilities in order to hold the play group or to revert to the Soldiers Point Community Hall to ensure its completion which is presently listed by Port Stephens Council as priority 1.

9. Where to from here?

Terry said that the website was becoming more influential in open communication and also that TRRA would continue to seek to strengthen community economic growth and environmental values. He mentioned too that there is a need for greater transparency by Council and continued scrutiny by TRRA and a resistance to conflicts of interest. Also TRRA must support Council staff and continue to push for Master Plans for developments.

There being no further business, Terry Wall summed up and appealed for more support for TRRA. He said that without support from the community TRRA cannot function. The past Committee was overburdened with the workload as will be the present Committee. Unless more workers are involved TRRA will have no choice but to cut its services.

Terry thanked everybody for their attendance and said he looked forward to seeing them again.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Terry Wall

President TRRA