



**MINUTES OF TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION INC GENERAL MEETING - 9 March 2015
Nelson Bay Bowling Club Crows Nest
'Meet the Candidates' Forum - NSW State Elections 2015**

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES: As per attendance book. – Over 100 attended with 8 apologies.

Meeting commenced 7 pm.

1. Introduction

Vice President Colin Howard welcomed all and acknowledged the attendance of Crs Nell and Kafer and an apology from Cr Dover. He explained that this meeting would be devoted to presentations by candidates for the forthcoming State election. As had been done for previous State, Federal and local elections, TRRA Inc organised the Forum to give our members and the wider community the opportunity to meet the candidates and for them to provide information on their party's policies and initiatives which relate to the Tomaree Peninsula. Members had been canvassed for questions they wished to raise with the candidates and there will be an opportunity for questions from the floor. He introduced TRRA Committee member John James to act as moderator and acknowledged the huge amount of work which had been put into the organisation and Powerpoint presentation by Dick Appleby.

The Secretary then read out a statement on the steps which TRRA Committee had been taken to encourage the Liberal candidate Mr Ken Jordan to attend. Special acknowledgement was given to the Executive of the Hawkes Nest/Tea Gardens Progress Association who had indicated willingness to move their monthly meeting so that Mr Ken Jordan could attend the TRRA Forum.

Two candidates **Ms Kate Washington (Labor Party)** and **Ms Rochelle Flood (Greens)** had accepted the invitation and a last minute apology was received from Peter Arena (Christian Democrats). Mr Arena's introduction and policies were tabled.

2. Presentation on Preferences

Nigel Waters spoke to the Powerpoint presentation he had prepared and explained in the simplest terms possible the preferential system for this election noting that it is not necessary to preference all candidates.



3. Presentation by Candidates

Both speakers provided a short resume of their personal backgrounds and proceeded to outline their vision and the policies of their respective parties which they considered relevant to this locality. Each also spoke about particular projects and or issues which they thought required attention by the State Government. They then each answered two set questions, one relating to sale of poles and wires and the other on how, as a back bencher, the candidates would progress major projects and communicate with constituents.

4. Questions Submitted to TRRA from the community and directed to candidates by the moderator covered the following topics:-

- Future funding of Yacaaba Centre, Schizophrenia Research Institute etc.
- Future of Tomaree Lodge and Stockton Centre and what will happen to the sites if sold off.
- Sand Mining – Impact on roads and communities
- Campaign funding and preferencing
- Planning reform, community consultation, PAC
- Candidate Integrity – Honesty – Transparency and accountability
- Mobile – TV reception. Internet accessibility etc.
- Support for 355c Committee initiative on fitness equipment facilities
- Equality – the rich get richer and the poor get poorer

5. Questions from the Floor which were answered by candidates included the following topics:-

- Family law court and domestic violence
- Withdrawal of funding from Tomaree High School for replacement of existing welding bays and upgrade to spray booth leading to Year 9-12 students being required to travel away for training.
- Mental health funding for Mental Health Institute of NSW
- Voluntary euthanasia
- New regulations relating to Residential Parks

At the conclusion of the proceedings, candidates were thanked for making the time available to address TRRA. We look forward to establishing a positive relationship with whichever candidate is successful at the election. The meeting indicated its appreciation by acclamation.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm