



Minutes of the Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association General Meeting 20th June, 2017

Meeting Commenced at 7.10 finished 9.10

Present

24 signatures on the attendance sheet (see attached)

1. Apologies

Ian and Judy Hearn, Fran Diggs, Peter Mc Bean, Nigel Waters, Lyn Rudkin, Geoff Dingle

2. Guest Speaker Andrew Mc Donald, Chairman of the Board, " Destination Port Stephens"

Andrew is the current owner of Nelson Resort. He has formal training and expansive experience in hotel management and marketing. Destination Port Stephens committee is funded from Pt Stephens Council and employees of council are on the committee. The committee believes in marketing and improving the product. Pt Stephens is best placed in the upper level of the middle of the range tourism sector. The committee would like to see council make some basic improvements to infrastructure which would be quite simple and not require massive financial inputs. Suggestions were Cleaning up the access to Tomaree from the airport; arranging for toilets and public facilities to be cleaned regularly over the peak holiday periods and public holidays; access to power points in Apex Park for stall holders; a convention Centre, promoting tourist attractions such as the Koala Hospital; clear sign posting; access to cycle pathways.

Geoff Washington expressed appreciation for the presentation and offered TRRA's support in future initiatives by Destination Port Stephens.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting accepted. Margaret Wilkinson, Geoff Bassar.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Balance at the beginning of April \$2,149.51 income \$31.00 expenditure \$30.00
Surplus \$1.70 for the period for the year \$155.00 Balance at the end of the period
\$2151.20

Report accepted Margaret Wilkinson Seconded
Geoff Bassar

5. Business arising addressed in other items on the agenda

6. Correspondence

- Letter to Council re **parking problems in Shoal Bay** The approval of a new set of apartments which only make provision for one parking spot for each unit will force others onto the street where there is already limited parking available
- **Supplementary submission** on building heights in Nelson Bay in relation to the approval of the **Ascent apartments** stressing that the height limit strict guidelines should be adhered making reference to the 175 submissions against changing the height limits and over all stressing the need to maintain the current nature of the Bay.

- **Dungog Merger** Dungog council has enormous problems as result of massive storm damage across the infrastructure of the municipality which council has no way of resolving without a massive injection of funds from the state government. The existing council had three options for the future: stay as is; merger with Port Stephens, Divide the municipality across three other council areas: Maitland, Singleton and Port Stephens. Pt Stephens residents have never been given an opportunity to express their views.
 - **GIPA Request regarding Council's Legal expenses** the report is 10 pages long and most of the information sought by TRRA was refused access. The cost averaging \$1.7 million 2014-15 \$1.4 million
 - **GIPA Request DLG determination re Confidential Code of Conduct** refused
7. **TRRA Administration** Geoff Washington to address Nelson Bay and Salamander Rotary in June
8. **Reports Current Issues**
- Nigel Waters put in a submission to the **NSW Planning Legislative Review Committee**. A recent announcement from government has been a suggestion that local development applications should be managed at the ward level.
 - Council Elections: There will be TRRA **Meet the Candidates Forum** on the 15th of August in the Nelson Bay Bowling Club. The invitations to candidates will be sent out as early as possible.
 - **Council Borrowings** Council borrowed \$6 million to fund a range of projects. A number of these had not been on the works list and money allocated to some unnecessary projects denied other more necessary and long standing requests for upgrades to facilities.
 - TRAA participation in **Nelson Bay NOW** The meeting discussed how to get people to come into the town and stay at least one night. There is problem with tourist buses parked in Victoria Parade. The extension to Yaccaba has begun with the closure of the Dolphin Restaurant and eviction of the Business Council. NBN includes members from local organisations such as Destination Port Stephens and EcoNetwork and it seeks to reach consensus with all the organisations involved.
 - **The Koala Hospital** proposal was approved by council. There are three proposals to fund the hospital. In the state budget there was \$800,000 FOR THE Kola facilities in Pt Stephens Campbelltown and Pt Macquarie
9. **Development Applications**
- Divers Luck Winery and Trotters Rd applications for mobile home developments. Matters of water and sewage still need to be resolved.
 - Stony Ridge Reserve a request for housing which would impact the habitat of local species including koalas. 25 Submission to council to reject the proposal are needed to prevent this going ahead.
 - 16 Church St apartment approval within the height and planning guidelines
 - 20 Government Road wants to add one floor above the height limits. It also lacks sufficient parking allowance.
10. **General Business**

- Ngioka Native Nursery is a council service but there are plans afoot to sell off to an NDIS provider which would not suit the various Landcare groups and others who depend on the nursery to provide endemic species needed to revegetate the local public areas disrupted by urban development. Groups have met to ask the council to defer any decision for at least two years and to consider alternate management arrangements
- Pathways Plan survey is on the council webpage and respondents comments are used by council in their planning of pathways it would be for the general good for locals to complete the survey.
- Hunter Water's upgrades in Bagnall's Beach East Care Park were not communicated with council staff or their public relations department. None of the field staff knew anything about it. The question was raised, "What control does council have on Crown Land?"

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

DRAFT