



**TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.
MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2017
Meeting held Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling & Recreation Club**

- Attendance:** As per attendance sheets (29)
- Apologies:** Cath Norman, Pam Mumford, David Graham, Jean Armstrong, Lorraine & Murray Nicol
- Guests:** Clr John Nell, Clr Geoff Dingle, Ian Thomson
- Opening:** President Geoff Washington welcomed all attendees to this bi monthly General Meeting and declared the meeting open.
- Geoff then apprised the meeting of the agenda for the night.
- Guest Speaker:** President Geoff Washington introduced Ian Thomson, licensee of the Port Stephens Country Club Hotel as our guest speaker.
Ian indicated that the hotel was currently in a rundown state and that extensive renovations were planned. Those renovations were two fold, (i) the hotel and (ii) provide improved function and concert facilities with live entertainment.
He foreshadowed the opportunity to welcome international and interstate visitors to the area and hoped that Destination Port Stephens would promote tourism enthusiastically and especially in Newcastle airport. The meeting posed several questions to Ian and thanked him for his presentation.
- Minutes of Previous General Meeting:** The minutes having been posted on the TRAA website were confirmed as true and correct record on the motion of Dick Appleby and Robin Williams.
- Matters Arising:** Discussion Paper Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore Strategy: Nigel Waters reported that approximately 50 online submissions and another 50 submissions by individuals and organisations were received by PSC.
PSC is now considering these submissions and will make amendments to certain areas of the 2012 Nelson Bay

Strategic Plan as they deem appropriate. This could take a couple of months.

There will be further opportunities to make comment on the final proposals which will go to council.

The meeting expressed their appreciation of the contributions of Nigel Waters on this matter

Treasurer's Report:

Denis Pittorino presented the financial report for the period ended March 2017 (as per Attachment B). There being no discussion DP moved its acceptance which was seconded by MW and passed.

Correspondence:

GW advised that he had written a letter to the NSW Premier arguing against any proposed merger with Dungog Shire. He also acknowledged that some residents were in favour of this merger yet did not appreciate what they would be faced with.

Administration:

GW again informed the meeting of the Defamation Claim against the Association and Dick Appleby and said that after negotiations the matter had been resolved and an apology posted on our website.

Numerous discussions had ensued re insurance against future such actions all of which proved too expensive and too encompassing or had fine print which reduced the certainty of any cover for defamation.

The committee has developed guidelines for review of public comments issuing from TRRA to guard against future claims of this nature.

In order to promote TRRA within the community GW had been invited to address the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay in June and hoped other such opportunities would be forthcoming.

Reports:

1. NW reported on the NSW Planning and Environment Review of the 1979 Act. A core provision would be to place greater emphasis on Strategic Plans to (developed with community consultation as the basis for other planning instruments (LEPS and DCPS). Greater flexibility is proposed compared with the previous draft maintaining scope for community and neighbour input on DAs.

He encouraged members to be aware of such changes and be involved. He also appreciated the input from other TRRA committee members in the preparation of the submission.

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2. **Mergers**

DA spoke to a slide presentation outlining the arguments against a merger with Dungog Shire.

3. **Elections**

DA indicated that currently Council elections were scheduled for September 9, 2017 unless merger issues were forced upon us which could result in a delay.

TRRA would again host a Meet the Candidates night prior to the election day.

Clrs Nell and Dingle expressed their thoughts on the present Council's performance and encouraged ratepayers to give careful consideration to electing worthy candidates.

Clr Nell considered a merger with Dungog desirable now as in several year's time another round of mergers would be negotiated with the possibility of merging with Newcastle.

Clr Dingle indicated he thought the decision making and behaviour of the present Council was appalling, there had been no workshops to discuss important issues, bullying within Council was rife, Dungog does not want to merge with the present Port Stephens Council and several worthy independent candidates had put their hand up to serve on any future PSC Council.

NW complimented both councillors for standing their ground on the mounds on river banks issue.

4. **PSC Annual Report and Integrated Plans**

MW and DA reported that although plans were to be displayed as from April 1 no plans were available at present for public comment. These are critical documents plotting future priorities for PSC. GW asked for assistance from members of TRRA in reviewing the documents.

5. **Nelson Bay NOW**

GW reported that TRRA had joined a coalition of local organisations with the common goal of improving Nelson Bay. He also stated that NOW had reached a consensus on several important

issues and he was confident that this association would prove beneficial for Nelson Bay. Car parking was an important issue and history records (A GIPPA request has been sent to PSC) that local businesses contributed financially to the establishment of the present car parks. Ownership of those carparks must remain with the community in the care of PSC.

6. ***Proposed Koala Hospital***

This proposal to be discussed by PSC at their next meeting April 11, 2017.

Clr Dingle stated that the decline in local koala numbers was due to the removal of habitat.

7. ***Jacaaba Street Extension***

Supported by PSC. Depending of Council securing a small parcel of Crown land the project may start in 2017

8. ***Development Applications***

a) ***Soldiers Point Marina Extension***

Although twice refused a further hearing is currently underway in the Land and Environment Court. NW addressed Court hearing on 3 April emphasising objections held by TRRA and EcoNetwork.

b) ***Salamander Shores***

Revised proposal to renovate existing buildings costing \$7m rather than completely rebuild.

c) ***Anna Bay Resort***

TRRA have met with developer who has advised us of some minor amendments to the original design. The project is of sufficient scale to require approval by the Department of Planning (no approval granted yet).

d) ***Ascent Apartments***

TRRA has lodged a submission opposing due to height ex present restrictions and given current review of heights in Discussion Paper context. Council will consider DA on 11 April. John Nell thinks that it will be approved as is.

Member Concerns:

1. Wrecking Yard Soldiers Point Road Salamander

Bay. GW reported PSC had advised that they would contact owner.

Clr Nell to follow up and advise. He also informed meeting of the unfinished American Bunker project in Nelson Bay. Could be subject for website.

2. Shoal Bay Car Parking

Members expressed deep concern over the lack of parking around Shoal Bay since completion of apartments on Bullecourt St (only one on-site car space per unit) and especially with the renovations planned for the Shoal Bay Country Club Hotel.

Moved Heinz Kruger and seconded by NW that TRRA write to PSC highlighting this problem and seeking immediate action.

3. Salamander Way Traffic

Members indicated traffic chaos as a result of new works adjacent to the Shell Service Station with motorist not knowing who has right-of-way.

Moved Barbara Devlin and seconded Gail Armstrong to have PSC relook at this debacle.

4. MW brought up the fact that there has been no upgrading of the Shoal Bay foreshore landscaping and furniture. It was agreed to notify the Shoal Bay Community Group to pursue action with Council.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next General Meeting: Tuesday June 6, 2017

Minutes accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: