



MEMBER COMMUNICATION – 31st DECEMBER 2017

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Thanks to assistance from new members John and Gail Ballantyne, we have a Facebook page specifically for the major issue at present – “Save Nelson Bay from High Rise”. Link [HERE](#). If you or your friends are on Facebook, check out our page and “Like” and “Share”. It benefits greatly from the entertaining cartoons John Ballantyne has done. We will be using this as a major communication tool over the next few months.

FINALLY.....A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WITH THE CORRECT HEADING

“Community Protests Nelson Bay Strategy – **Council Has It Wrong**”

With several misleading headlines and articles appearing in local newspapers, it was refreshing to see the 28th December edition of Bay News of the Area carry a balanced article and photograph of 80 protesters who gathered at very short notice at Nelson Bay Bowling Club in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to those who turned out.

Here is a link to the article. There is an **OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE YES OR NO** to High Rise in Nelson Bay in a poll included in the article.

[Bay News of the Area Article - Council has it Wrong](#)

It was also encouraging to see in the same edition, positive mention of TRRA’s involvement with the Tomaree Business Chamber and Nelson Bay NOW by the new Chamber President Leah Anderson.

UPDATE – 23rd DECEMBER 2017 – DOUBLING BUILDING HEIGHTS IN NELSON BAY

Council tries to impose high rise on Nelson Bay nine months after receiving 82 submissions, of which Council admits ‘.. the vast majority were against any significant increase [in height], it has released a ‘draft delivery program’ which more than doubles the default height limit for most of the Nelson Bay town centre (to the level of the crane on Church St) and allows for unlimited variations above that.

The ‘delivery program’ – which tries to pretend that the Strategy itself remains largely unchanged – **is in TRRA’s view littered with false assertions, and Council’s public statements are also misleading.** It is clear that some Council staff, and previous Mayors and Councillors have long harboured a vision of the future of our town that is completely different from the maintenance of its low-rise character, which the local community has clearly and consistently demanded. Having tried for nearly 10 years to persuade Council to respect local views, we now have to demonstrate through ‘people power’ that they cannot push a ‘developer-centric’ vision through and ruin our town forever. The new Mayor and Councillors have an opportunity to put the brakes on this runaway train and ensure that staff re-model the Strategy based on the community views they have so far ignored.

TRRA will be issuing guidance on how to make submissions on the next stage of the Strategy review when it formally goes on exhibition in February, but in the meantime and over the holiday period we need as many locals and visitors alike to familiarise themselves with this proposal.

Council has posted the documents onto their website under “Have your Say” page. However, submissions are not being accepted until the formal exhibition period opens. Many of you who were amongst the 82 who put in submissions in February/March last year would also have received an email from Council in early December with the link to the documents presented at the 12 December council meeting. It is a challenging read.... to say the least!

TRRA Planning Committee members and many other community and business people have already done an analysis and interim action has been taken by TRRA. Guidance will be provided to members as further developments occur.

VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH SURVEYS

One option being considered is the gathering of survey forms during the January/February period from both locals and visitors. For this we will need additional assistance from our members. If you are able to help, please contact any TRRA Committee member. [TRRA Committee 2017-18](#)

TRRA WEBSITE – www.trra.com.au

A reminder that our website is an extremely valuable resource for our community. We acknowledge that it is tricky to navigate and will be updated when time permits. In the meantime, we suggest using the Search facility to locate items of interest to you. Here are just a couple of links to interesting articles written previously mostly by our now retired Webmaster Dick Appleby. If you are short on holiday reading, this is “as good as it gets” for local information!

[High Rise - The Story So Far](#)

[Neglect of Tomaree Peninsula - Opinion Piece](#)

Happy New Year!

As 2017 draws to a close, we wish all our members a very happy 2018 and encourage you all to continue the battle we have on our hands to stop the doubling (or more!) of building heights in Nelson Bay. We would welcome additional Committee members as the workload is becoming quite onerous on just a few. We also need to encourage new memberships.

Geoffrey Washington

President

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