



**General Meeting
Nelson Bay Bowling Club
7pm Monday 11 Feb 2019**

Attendance

Committee Members: Geoff Washington (GW), Cath Norman (CN), Denis Pittorino (DP), Geoff Basser (GB), John James (JJ), Ben van der Wijngaart (BW).

Members & Members of the Public: 17

Apologies

Nigel Waters (NW), Bill Salter (BS), The Mayor, Ryan Palmer, Gail Ballantyne, Ken Schadler, Ian and Judy Hearn, Margaret Wilkinson, Roslyn Armstrong,

Previous Minutes

1. **Moved:** JJ, **Seconded:** Nigel Dique that the minutes of the previous GM on 10 Dec 2018 be passed. **Agreed** by consensus.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report

2. The Treasurer presented his report, a copy of which is posted in the TRRA Dropbox.
Closing Credit Balance End of January: \$ 2633

3. **Moved:** DP, **Seconded:** Jean Armstrong that the report be accepted. **Agreed** by consensus.

CORRESPONDENCE

4. No correspondence presented.

NEW BUSINESS

TRRA Administration –

Facebook

5. The meeting was advised that the Save the Bay Facebook page had been reviewed following allegations by the Mayor of defamation. The TRRA Committee had resolved to adopt recommendations from that review to republish the Facebook page with some revised settings and governance arrangements.

6. GW explained the background to the decisions that had led to that point and expressed his regret that some members of the committee had felt slighted by the decision to suspend the Facebook page and how it had been communicated. He expressed his sincere apologies to all members who may have been offended in this process and assured everyone that this had never been the intention. To the contrary, he praised the efforts of each individual who had been involved with the Facebook page and website and deeply regretted their decision to leave the committee.

7. **Moved:** GB, **Seconded:** Nigel Dique, that this meeting endorses the TRRA Committee decision to re-publish the Save the Bay Facebook page, subject to revised settings and governance arrangements. **Agreed** by majority vote.

Quarterly Meetings with the Mayor

8. GW reported the new arrangement that the Mayor had agreed to for quarterly meetings between TRAA, himself PSC staff and East Ward Councillors. The first of these meetings was held on 25 Jan and that it had been productive.

Call for Media Officer.

9. GW advised the meeting that the Media Officer position had become vacant and that the Committee was looking to fill that position. Anyone interested should contact him.

Meet the Candidates Forum

10. JJ advised the meeting of the arrangements in place for the State election 'meet the candidates' forum being organized by the TRAA for 11 March.

11. A straw poll of hands showed an interest in the TRRA running a similar forum for the forthcoming Federal election.

12. A point was raised from the floor that the TRRA website 'Have Your Say' section listed old input on top. **Action:** BW to discuss with Alistair if this could be rearranged to have the most recent comments on top.

Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore Strategy Review

13. JJ briefed the meeting on the current situation. Details were covered in the newsletter.
 - a. the current situation with the LEP rezoning submission on the Town Centre and the meeting with PSC planning staff on 8 Nov, and
 - b. discussions concerning the membership and transparency of and access to the Implementation Panel.

TRRA Participation

14. GW outlined other TRRA involvement in Nelson Bay NOW and outlined the activities of the Civic Pride Group and Friends of Tomaree Headland (FTH). He stated that both the current MP for Port Stephens and the Liberal Candidate had made press releases asserting their parties would fight to retain the headland in public hands

15. Discussion of the FTH proposal for the development of a wartime heritage site on the headland drew some discussion for and against the concept.

Special Rates Variation

16. BW outlined the current progress with the SRV proposal, indicating that the submission by Council to IPART would be on exhibition for comment from 11 Feb to 11 Mar. Members were encouraged to review it and make submissions.

17. There was a request from the floor to have the link to IPART on the website. **Action:** BW to check

Bob's Farm Sandmine

18. JJ outlined the negative aspects of the Bob's Farm Sandmine proposal, submissions on which had closed on 1 Feb. There had been a significant number of submissions opposing the sand mine farm, including ones from the local action group, Port Stephens Council, TRRA and Port Stephens Koalas .Outcome of this project was awaited from the Department of Planning.,

DAs of Interest

1 Yacaaba St

19. JJ outlined the evolution of a proposal for a 10 storey development on the corner of Yacaaba St and Donald St. TRAA had opposed the development and Council had asked the proponent to make several adjustments. The final proposal was yet to be received but was unlikely to satisfy TRRA objections relating to its bulk and over-shadowing.

Soldiers Point Marina

20. Jean Armstrong provided a detailed briefing on numerous concerns associated with an expansion of the existing building at the Soldiers Point Marina. She sought support from members at the meeting to oppose this development.

Tanilba House

21. JJ outlined the proposed redevelopment of Tanilba House, indicating local residents had objected to it and that TRRA had concerns about the number of days of operation proposed and its impact on local residents. TRRA was still examining the DA. Submissions close on 21 Feb.

Salamander Centre

22. JJ referred to a confidential item before council concerning a development within the Salamander Centre. More information is awaited.

GENERAL BUSINESS

23. Nigel Dique reported on the proposal to develop part of Boomerang Park in Raymond Terrace. Council staff had recommended that this proposal be refused, and it was going before the next Council Meeting for resolution.

MEETING CLOSURE & NEXT MEETINGS

24. The meeting closed at 9:03pm hours.

25. Next meetings:

- a. Meet the Candidates Forum – 7pm, 11 March
- b. General Meeting – 7pm, 18 April

Ben van der Wijngaart
Secretary

13 February 2019