

## TRRA INC NEWSLETTER, 15 MARCH 2019

### COMING EVENTS


### 1. EcoNetwork Community Forum Sunday, 2.00pm 17 March Tomaree Community Centre

EcoNetwork-Port Stephens invites delegates, members and supporters to a

Community Forum


Venue: Tomaree Community Centre  
 Date: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
 Time: 2.00pm

**GUEST SPEAKERS**



**Peter Clough**  
*Convenor, Friends of Tomaree Headland*

**A VISION FOR TOMAREE HEADLAND**



**Frank Future**  
*Imagine Cruises*

**THE FOLLY OF OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE**

**Communities in defence of their neighbourhoods:**

**Boomerang Park reprieve, but for how long? – Suzle Worth (BPPG)**  
**Bobs Farm Sandmine Project – Nigel Waters (TRRA)**  
**Mambo Wanda buy-back – Kathy Brown (Mambo-Wanda WCG)**  
**Soldiers Point Marina Extension – Jean Armstrong (SPCG)**  
**Seismic testing off Newcastle – Frank Future (MPA)**

**EcoNetwork - affiliated groups**

National Parks Association (Hunter Branch) Inc.	Port Stephens Koalas Ltd.
Native Animal Trust Fund Inc.	Tilligerry Habitat Inc.
Imagine Cruises (Ecotourism accredited).	Salamander Recycling Inc.
Port Stephens Park Residents Association Inc.	Myall Koala & Environmental Support Group
Port Stephens Native Flora Gardens	Soldiers Point/Salamander Bay TidyTowns Inc.
Pindimar/Bundabah Community Association Inc.	Destination Port Stephens Inc.
Mambo/Wanda Wetlands Reserves C'ttee Inc.	Ocean & Coastal Care Initiatives (OCCI) Inc.
Shoal Bay Community Association Inc.	North Arm Cove Residents Association Inc.
Soldiers Point Community Group	Wanderers Retreat.
South Tomaree Community Association Inc.	Port Stephens Marine Park Association Inc.
Boomerang Park Action Group Inc.	Inukandji Shark & Ray Encounters.
On Water Marine Services Pty Ltd.	Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Assn.

**EcoNetwork is a grass-roots community-focused network affiliated state-wide with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW & the NSW Better Planning Network.**

For an unspoilt culture, sustainable communities

## **2. Film - Ocean documentary “The Map to Paradise” Nelson Bay Cinema, 7.00 pm, Friday 22 March**

This was the subject of an article in the Examiner this week, see [HERE](#).

This is a new ocean feature documentary about the birth of the global movement to protect the sea called The Map to Paradise - [www.themaptoparadise.com/trailer](http://www.themaptoparadise.com/trailer)

The Australian launch will take place 16 March at the NSW Art Gallery. We have also organised a screening for Port Stephens 22 March.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/themaptoparadise/>

## **3. TRRA General Meeting, Monday 8 April 2019, 7.00 pm Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club**

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **1. Report on TRRA’s “Meet the Candidates” Forum**

Nelson Bay Bowling Club auditorium was packed with 280 residents who turned out to hear three of the Port Stephens candidates for the 2019 State Election present their credentials.

TRRA President, Geoff Washington, said that his Association was delighted with this response and pleased that the candidates from the leading parties made themselves available and outlined their priorities for Port Stephens.

Those attending welcomed the opportunity to meet the candidates in person and to hear their responses on questions from TRRA and the audience.

Mr Washington observed that this time we are fortunate to have two high calibre candidates - Jaimie Abbott representing the Liberal Party and Kate Washington representing Country Labour who are well qualified. They demonstrated their competence in debating the several challenging questions that were raised

Bill Doran, Independent, expressed his disenchantment with the performance of governments in general as they “promised the world and delivered an atlas”.

Candidates claimed to be passionately supportive of the interests of the Port Stephens community and undertook to prosecute those interests in Parliament if elected.

Apologies were received from the other candidates and brief written statements from Theresa Taylor, Animal Justice Party and Maureen Magee, The Greens, were read out.

Candidates were notified of three fixed questions prior to the Forum:

The first question asked whether the candidates would support change to the Planning Act to limit Council’s ability to approve major variations to adopted development standards

when making determinations on Development Applications. All candidates indicated that they believed that the standards in the Local Environment Plan should be respected and made undertakings to limit such excesses.

The second question related to policies and programs to respond to climate change and its impact on coastal areas. Again, the candidates representing the major parties declared that they took climate change seriously. Kate Washington said that, if elected, Labor proposes to establish a Ministry for Climate Change. There would be subsidies for increased solar power for 500,000 homes, and all hospitals and schools. Jaimie Abbott cited the 2016 NSW Government Climate Change Policy Framework which has a long-term objective target of net-zero emissions by 2050. The Liberals propose rebates and loan schemes to tackle the problem and a 5-year \$1.4 billion programme to save energy.

The third question asked candidates, whether they would limit sand mining in Port Stephens and whether they would place priority on completion of duplication of Nelson Bay Road. All candidates strongly opposed the proposed Bobs Farm Sand Mine and supported programmes for duplication of Nelson Bay Road. There was disagreement as to the level of commitment and delivery of this infrastructure.

Questions from the floor related to the Williamstown PFAS contamination, Mambo Wetland buy-back and State involvement to protect Halifax Park from an extension of the Council caravan park.

The debate heated up, prompted by a question alleging inappropriate use by the Labor candidate of electoral roll information. This was rebutted vigorously by Kate Washington who drew attention to admissions of unacceptable trolling of Facebook accounts by a Liberal staffer. Both allegations have been reported to the Electoral Commission.

Due to time constraints not all questions could be accepted but some groups took advantage of an offer from candidates to discuss their issues personally after the Forum closed.

In summing up Kate Washington stressed that Labor would be placing hospitals and schools ahead of replacing Sydney stadiums. She sought to be judged on her track record and integrity.

Jamie Abbott emphasised the success of the Liberal Government in restoring the NSW budget to surplus, the return of the NSW economy to the no. 1 position in Australia and the low unemployment rate. She also mentioned the Government's success in delivering major infrastructure projects across the State.

Bill Doran indicated that he would work with anyone if elected and called upon governments "to get things done". He made a plea for everyone to think carefully when voting.

### **Note of appreciation**

The President wishes to thank all the members of TRRA who assisted in the planning and conduct of this event which on all accounts was much appreciated by those attending. He also appreciated the assistance of other community groups and our local media who helped with publicity.

## 2. Draft Nelson Bay Public Domain Study

The draft Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan, Streetscape Design Guidelines, and Wayfinding Strategy are now on public exhibition for community feedback from **Thursday 28 February** until 5pm **Thursday 28 March 2019**.

The plan may be viewed at the Tomaree Library, the Nelson Bay Information Centre or [HERE](#).

The Planning Sub Committee will be making a submission. Your comments would be welcome to assist in writing this submission - to Nigel Waters [planning@tra.com.au](mailto:planning@tra.com.au).

## 3. Amendments to the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 and Port Stephens Development Contributions Plan 2007 to regulate manufactured home estates

At the Council Meeting on 12 March it was resolved that Council:

- 1) Endorse the preparation and submission of a Planning Proposal for a Gateway certificate to the NSW Department of Planning seeking to amend the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 to enable Council to better plan for manufactured home estates in appropriate locations.  
This was designed to ensure manufactured home estates are only permitted on land where caravan parks are permissible.
- 2) Prepare an amendment to the Port Stephens Development Contributions Plan 2007 to increase the rate of development contributions charged for manufactured home estates (Amendment No.12) (ATTACHMENT 1).
- 3) Exhibit Amendment No.12 for 28 days

### TRRA Comment

The Planning Sub-committee will be examining this resolution and will make a submission as necessary. Manufactured home estates appear to be proliferating across the Tomaree Peninsula. They are attracting buyers but may have implications for land clearing and habitat, servicing, bushfire hazard and social interconnectivity.

The proposals will be on exhibition.

## 4. TRRA submission on latest DA for 1 Yacaaba Street.

### Revised plans for 1 Yacaaba St apartment building fail to address concerns.

The applicant for a residential apartment building on the corner of Yacaaba and Donald Streets has changed the design for a second time, supposedly in response to earlier feedback. Compared to the original DA, 4 units have been removed (now 56), the top floors set back slightly and the façade made 'wavy', but although it is now 9 rather than 10 storeys, **it is still over 30 metres high** and still has a very high floor space ratio of 2.84:1. The amount of **parking provided has actually been reduced (by 36 spaces)**!

This image (from the DA) demonstrates the visual impact, by reference to the existing buildings to north and south.



TRRA thinks it is still far too high and bulky and inconsistent with the town character objectives of the Nelson Bay Strategy. It is still more than twice the existing height limit and nearly 3 metres over even the new limit adopted by Council in September (but which has yet to be confirmed). The proposed new limit is in any case supposed to operate alongside other controls to address view corridors, overshadowing etc, and we think this proposal fails on numerous counts.

Attached is TRRA's latest submission to Council detailing the multiple reasons this DA should not be approved.

[Click Here](#)

Geoff Washington  
President TRRA Inc.

15 March 2019