



TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING

Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club

Minutes Tuesday 18 June, 2019 - 7 pm

1. **Apologies:** Jean Armstrong; Irene Jones; Kassia Klinger

2. **21** people signed the attendance sheet

3. **Guest Speaker** Ryan and Lia Edward Pereira

Both Ryan and Lia are graduates in conservation, environmental consultancy and management. Previously working at Oakdale they were offered an opportunity to buy the Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters. Convinced of the need to educate the public about the importance of sharks and the need to clean up our environment they welcome the opportunity to educate the public on important marine conservation issues.

They would like to establish a marine creature hospital as there is none between the Gold Coast and Taronga Zoo. More data is needed and research on turtles, sea snakes and other marine creatures being effected by the current marine use by local populations.

Fingal Forage is a local conservation program focused on the verge and rock pools.

Sea shelter is run by a group of volunteers making available a guide to sustainable sea food consumption and showing how current harvesting is affecting populations.

Maintaining a clean environment is very important on land and sea for tourism.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Posted on TRRA Website)

Accepted: Nigel Waters seconded Alistair Waddell

5. **Business Arising** (addressed in the agenda items)

6. **Correspondence In and Out** (GW)

Business arising from Correspondence related to DAs discussed below

7. **Treasurers Report (posted on the TRRA website)**

Accepted Geoff Basser seconded Nigel Dique

8. **TRAA Administration**

- Geoff Washington will be absent for medical reasons. John James, Ben Van der Wijngaart will be overseas for a number of months. Would any members of TRAA like to volunteer to replace missing executive members?

- **The TRAA facebook** page was shut down for a period because of the threat of legal action over content. It is now up and running, there are fewer posts but there are still a number of people moderating the site.
- **Quarterly meeting with the Mayor.** The Mayor and other councillors attend along with the General Manager and some senior executives . TRRA and Council representatives agreed that these meetings are worthwhile in allowing frank exchange of information and opinions on key issues. The feeling is that TRRA is beginning heard on some issues such as the proliferation of manufactured home estates.

9. Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore Strategy Review/Implementation (NW)

Clr. John Nell spoke about demolishing the current eastern car park as soon as possible and building another but he noted that there would need to be other uses of the site. Council would not sell off the land but would have to contribute to the building of the car park. It would cost \$600,000 simply to demolish the existing car park.

A conversation with the Balmain group, the new owners of D'Albora Marina, dispelled fears of a major redevelopment on the Marina site.

10. Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan No further actions to report at this time.

11. Special Rate Variation

In May 2019 the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) rejected Port Stephens council's application for a Special Rate Variation.

IPART considered "whether there is a genuine financial need for additional revenue for a council to be financially sustainable and to fund future infrastructure projects or asset renewal requirements in their regions."

"In the case of Port Stephens we found that the impact on ratepayers is not reasonable due to the absence of a strong financial need and demonstrated willingness to pay for the requested increase".

IPART received 681 submissions (significantly higher than other applicants in the Hunter area) during the consultation period from 11 February 2019 to 14 March 2019. A large portion of the submissions raised concerns regarding affordability of rates after the proposed SV is applied. In particular, the submissions raised concerns regarding the Council rates after seven years when the full 65.9% increase is in effect, especially for pensioners and young families.

12. Fingal Bay Link Road.

Although there was an election offer of \$188 million for this road there was no specific allocation in the State Budget for the road. In the course of discussion there was reference to the need to build a roundabout on Nelson Bay Road at the intersection with Gan Gan Road. By no means all residents of Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay are in favour of the link-road and some businesses in Nelson Bay are fearful that it would divert traffic and customers away from the Nelson Bay CBD

13. DAs of Interest JJ & NW)

- 1. Yacaaba St development offends local people because of its bulk and height. If council accepts the current variation there is no right of appeal. There would need to be a very public campaign including queries on commercial viability.
- Fleet St the DAs have been withdrawn
- Mambo Wetlands have at last been bought back by the State and there will be a campaign to get a Ramsar Classification for all the Mambo wetland. Foreshore drive will be closed to allow for a replacement for the existing culverts to improve the movement of water into the wetlands.
- 93-95 Stockton St there is an application for a car yard on residentially zoned land.
- 47-51 Stockton St - wait and see
- 220 Soldier's Point Rd the DA has changed to only include housing on the existing cleared land. There is a small pocket of land which the owners would like to sell to a person who would manage the existing bushland as part of Stony Ridge Reserve.
- Birubi Information Centre plan has been approved. A further lot has been acquired which will be used for unisex toilets.

14. Friends of Tomaree Headland

Peter Clough is looking for a grant to establish a Maritime Museum. Funding has been sought for a "scoping study" directed towards a master plan for the Tomaree Hospital site and the Headland as a whole. The Council would like to have the flat area to provide parking especially for the coastal walk. The Friends of Tomaree Headland are seeking to meet with the responsible new State ministers. The hospital site is subject to an Aboriginal land claim.

15. Church St Development

Apart from the erection of a crane, no progress has been made in developing this site. Nigel will seek an opportunity to speak to the developer to find out what is happening.

The meeting concluded at 9.10

Cath Norman and Geoff Washington