



**TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING  
Nelson Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club  
Monday 10 February, 2020 - 7 pm  
Minutes**

The meeting opened with an Acknowledgement of Country.

**Attendance**

15 people signed the attendance sheet.

**Apologies**

Dick Appleby, Nigel Dique, John James, John and Jillian Kerr, Denis Pittorino, Lorrence Salter, Alastair Waddell, Geoff and Judy Washington

**Previous Minutes**

1. **Moved:** Hazel Driver, **Seconded:** Bill Salter that the minutes of the AGM on 9 December 2019 be passed. **Agreed** by consensus.

**Business Arising**

2. None.

**Correspondence In and Out**

3. None.

**Business Arising from Correspondence**

4. None.

**Treasurer's Report (posted on the TRRA website)**

5. Not discussed.

## Guest Speaker

Jacquie Chilbey, on behalf of the founder of Hunter Horse Haven Inc. Deb Barker, made an informative and moving presentation of the work of Hunter Horse Haven. They are currently looking after and rehabilitating 34 rescued horses, which is at the limits of their capacity and is costing around \$1150 per week. The aim is to get as many horses as possible to the stage where they can work with mentally and physically handicapped people, especially children. There is a need for volunteers (building shades, feeding etc.) and for sponsorship and fundraising. Donations are tax deductible.

## Recognition

Ben van der Wigngaart paid tribute to the memory of Geoff Dingle, who had served with great distinction on Port Stephens Council for 14 years and had always been a good friend to TRRA. He also congratulated Nigel Waters and the other TRRA members whose outstanding contributions to the community had been recognized in the 2019 Port Stephens Annual Awards.

## Reports

**Gateway to Tomaree Peninsula.** The road into the Tomaree Peninsula gives a very poor impression, but change will not be easy since it is mostly private land: owners receive an income from billboards and may not welcome pressure to improve the look of their properties. It is planned to discuss the issue at the regular meetings between TRRA and the Mayor to see what could be done. Noted that contact should be made with Salamander Bay Rotary Club, which has funding to improve a roundabout.

**Nelson Bay Parking proposal.** Noted that Council plans to do the work at the Donald Street East carpark itself, after tendering was unsuccessful. TRRA has worked in partnership with the Tomaree Business Chamber and Nelson Bay Now to propose improvements to Council's plans, with uncertain results.

**Lagoons Estate.** Council has announced that the long-term legal dispute has been resolved, but has not revealed the full cost of this; nor is it clear how it will meet its obligation to prevent additional stormwater coming onto the Lagoons Estate.

**Height Limits.** Noted that this is not yet a "done deal", since the Department of Planning has not yet given gateway approval of the new limits adopted by Council. If Department of Planning approval is given, Council would then have to advertise changes to the Local Environment Plan. Nonetheless, Council is already approving building proposals that exceed the new limits.

**Future of Tomaree Headland.** With the hospital site soon to be vacated, the critical importance of showing unity amongst the groups with a common interest in keeping Tomaree Headland in community hands and respecting its heritage (including its aboriginal heritage) was emphasized. A meeting was to be held on 12 February with the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter.

**Housing Strategy.** The draft strategy is important in setting the framework for what development will be permitted and encouraged. It goes to Council on 11 February and will then be on exhibition for 28 days. Council has so far been open in consultations and has offered a second round of consultations. TRRA encourages members to make submissions and will publish some guidance for members.

## **DA Updates**

**Harvey Norman, Taylor's Beach.** The period for submissions has closed. TRRA was not opposed to some development of this land but considered that it should be more sensitive, including with regard to preserving koala habitat. Members will need to make their views known when the matter comes back to Council.

**Lure Apartments, Nelson Bay.** The proposal, to convert two-thirds of the apartments in this complex from short-term letting to permanent occupancy, reconfiguring the layout and size of the units (from 58 down to 33 units) was being assessed. In principle, conversion to permanent occupancy should be supported.

**Sand Resort, Anna Bay.** The DA has been withdrawn.

One member expressed concern that the steep land behind the new childcare centre would be subject to collapse following removal of the trees there. Tree removal was done with approval, but Council's tree preservation officer should be contacted if there are problems.

## **General Business**

**Birubi Beach development.** An agreement had been reached in court for some clean-up of this site. It was noted that this might provide a welcome precedent for forcing clean-ups of some other sites: TRRA should follow up.

**Diemars Road.** One member asked TRRA to look into a DA on Diemars Road (NB: I don't know of any such DA. We could check with Cassia what she was referring to).

**Soldiers Point Marina.** The DA has encountered a further hurdle relating to the Aboriginal Place and has had to be referred.

**Climate Emergency petition.** Members were encouraged to sign the petition demanding that Council declare a Climate Emergency, due to be considered by Council at its meeting on 25 February.

**Next meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 7 pm. (NB: it was pointed out that this is Easter Monday. A decision is needed whether to change the meeting date)**