



## **TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING**

**Nelson Bay Bowling Club  
Monday 12 April, 2021 – 7.00 pm  
Minutes**

**Attendance:** 27

**Apologies:** Nigel Dique, Lorrence Salter, John and Jillian Kerr

**Condolences:** The meeting expressed its appreciation for all that Colin Howard had contributed during his long period of active membership and asked that its condolences be conveyed to his widow.

**Congratulations:** The meeting congratulated Nigel Waters on his recognition in the Australian Bravery Decorations List for his part in a hazardous marine rescue.

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

1. Moved Geoff Bassar, seconded Chris Peters that the Minutes be accepted. Agreed by consensus.

### **Matters Arising**

2. None.

### **Correspondence**

3. None.

### **Treasurer's Report**

4. The Treasurer presented the latest report and congratulated Robyn Williams on having had flyers for TRRA printed at a good price. Moved Denis Pittorino, seconded John James that the report be accepted. Agreed by consensus.

## Guest Speaker

5. Frank Future (Managing Director, Imagine Cruises; President, Marine Parks Association; Treasurer on the Board of Directors, Port Stephens Tourism) addressed the meeting on the subject of jet skis on Port Stephens waters. Major concerns were: a 92% increase in registration of jet skis since 2019; lack of an overall speed limit for vessels other than commercial ones; high noise levels above water but low noise below water leading to hazards for marine life and a move away from the Bay by dolphins; lack of interest or capacity on the part of State Government and Marine Parks Advisory Committees; and limited resources of the Roads and Maritime Services and water police to respond in cases of poor jet ski behaviour. He pointed out that jet skis were meant to be prohibited within 300 metres of dolphins and whales but this was too often not respected. He understood that jet skis had been banned in the Cape Byron Marine Park and was trying to find out how this had been achieved. He also noted that Port Stephens Council's Environment Plan might provide a basis for restricting jet ski use. The Central Coast Council was looking into imposing controls on jet skis.
6. During the debate that followed, most speakers favoured imposing restrictions (areas permitted, speed limits, hours of operation etc.) but not banning the use of jet skis. Working with jet ski clubs was suggested as a way to promote responsible use. The President mentioned that Kiama Council had limited entry points to the water for jet skis to a single ramp. Members suggested pressuring political parties to adopt policies on jet ski use, and seeking commitments from candidates ahead of the forthcoming Council elections.
7. Chris Bastic moved a resolution, seconded by Richard Davis, expressing concern at the impact of the increasing use of jet skis and the number of irresponsible jet ski operators in Port Stephens and requesting that the Association lobby for effective control of jet ski use in and from the Port. Following discussion the resolution was amended and adopted.

## Reports

8. *Tomaree Gateway Strategy.* The President reported that he and other Committee members had met with senior Council planners, at their invitation. It seemed that while planners were personally sympathetic to improving the approach to the peninsula there was little interest on the part of Councillors and no budget. Geoff Bassar was optimistic that, with support now from Business Port Stephens and Destination Port Stephens, as well as the sympathy of planners, progress might be made. In response to a member who pointed to the attractive gateways in all directions to Townsville, the President noted that TRRA's proposal already highlighted good examples from other local government areas.
9. *Meeting with PSC Planners- procedures.* Nigel Waters reported on a recent meeting with Council Planners, noting that while TRRA had good relations and regular meetings with them, problems mostly related to matters under State Government control or where Councillors were unsympathetic. Councillor Arnott expressed his appreciation for TRRA's work.

10. *Funding for Projects from Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan*. Nigel Waters noted that the Capital Works Programme did not reflect the recent \$5 million loan that had been sought. TRRA would seek information from Council and indicate our priorities.
11. *Design of Little Beach amenities block*. Changes to design of amenities blocks had not been well publicised: we became aware of the proposal only as a result of a public information event on replacement of the boat ramp. The changes proposed were very unsatisfactory with no space for changing clothes, no indoor showers and no windows. Chris Bastic reported that following complaints from the community, the mayor had agreed to conduct further investigation and meanwhile put the proposal on hold. Council should aim at improving facilities, not reducing them. He suggested holding a design competition for architects. One member reported that community action in Lemon Tree Passage had succeeded in improving the amenities building there.

## **Other Planning Issues**

12. John James reported on a number of planning issues:
- a A revised proposal for the Bay Resort, Anna Bay. Situated on a flood plain, a previous proposal had been rejected in 2020. The new proposal, for a block of 68 units as well as 51 villas, a gym and café, did not adequately address several concerns, particularly regarding flooding, and TRRA would be making a submission.
  - b Holcim sand operation at Salt Ash. A major increase in operations was proposed. There had been a good public consultation, supported by research work by Betsy. Public submissions on this and on a proposal for the Bobs Farm sand mine would be possible later in the year.
  - c Other issues mentioned included the Boardwalk Lifestyle Resort in Anna Bay, where there was confusion about exhibition dates; a helipad in Anna Bay, for which a proposal had not yet been lodged; a new Design and Place State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) which will replace the existing apartment design guide, and the results of the Liveability Index for Port Stephens, which were now available online. Council had committed to using the data in setting its priorities.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

Next meeting: 7 June 2021.

Bill Salter