

# TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER – 26 January 2024

**NOTE: MEMBERS MEETING DATE *6TH FEBRUARY 2-3PM at CLUB TUROSS***

Apologies for the length of this newsletter but as it's the beginning of 2024 this is a summary of our planned work for the year and it's a chance for members to have input before we get going.

For more detail or answers to questions come to the members meeting.

### **\$2-2.5 MILLION PER YEAR HEALTH FUNDING SHORTFALL IN TUROSS HEAD**

The National Rural Health Alliance in June 2023 reported that rural populations had a total annual shortfall of funding of \$6.7 billion or \$850 per person compared to city communities. This unfair underfunding by Commonwealth and State governments of an already financially stretched and underserved region has been the case annually for around 40 years and explains the many challenges faced by our community in getting access to healthcare.

Dr. Arn Sprogis will explain the issue in more detail at the members meeting and how THPA intends to get our fair share of health funding.

### **NEW MORUYA LEVEL 4 HOSPITAL PROGRESS**

At the recent Batemans Bay Hospital Update run by the Health District we were informed that we might see some building activity early this year. Contract discussions with the builder are being finalised and then it's all systems go. Completion is now estimated for mid-2026. I now better understand how big an improvement for health care a Level 4 Hospital can be and we will provide more detail on the potential impact at the meeting.

***We will be asking members at the meeting whether they want us to organise an update on the New Hospital and what issues members would particularly want addressed, eg. plans for clinical services, transport, emergency care etc.***

### **MORUYA RADIOTHERAPY UNIT (RTU)**

NSW HEALTH commissioned a consultant's report on having a local RTU. The consultants report as we understand it supports a local RTU and NSW Health and the NSW Health Minister are in active discussion on this with their Commonwealth counterparts. Watch this space.

### **ANU/SHASA MICROGRID AND RENEWABLE POWER PROJECT**

Members may not be fully aware that ANU and SHASA have over the past 2 years been working on having increased solar power + a large battery to increase energy independence and reduce power costs for 8 south coast villages including Tuross Head. THPA has been following the project and has participated in the workshops with other Tuross community members. This project will report in April this year. In the meantime, Bawley Point already has a large battery and additional solar installed and is a live example of what can potentially be done in Tuross.

### **TUROSS BUSHFIRE PREVENTION**

The THPA, Council representatives and Dr Michael Holland MP are confirmed for February to inspect and discuss bushfire mitigation works in Tuross, this follows six years of THPA contact with council on this issue.

### **BUSHFIRE & EMERGENCY SHELTER**

THPA has been lobbying for some time for council to provide an Emergency Shelter, either Kyla Hall or Club Tuross (subject to Club Tuross consent). Latest update is a media release from Council advising no further shelters other than in the three main towns.

### **COOPERS ISLAND PUBLIC ACCESS**

More restrictive access by the public to the foreshore at Coopers Island has been announced. Max Castle to update at the meeting.

### **CHRISTMAS OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR**

We know Christmas is done when the THPA Xmas decorations at the Highway are removed for another year, huge thanks to Santa's elves, Glen Goff and Gary Smith for helping last Saturday. The decorations are a popular and a welcome sight over the holiday period. If members want the tradition to continue, we would welcome volunteers to help install them next December.

### **POSITIONS VACANT**

We encourage any members to come and have a chat with a committee member at any members meeting particularly if you want to participate at committee level or assist in any other way.

**Members can share the THPA NEWS and new subscribers are welcome.**

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