

TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – 24 February 2024

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

THPA CONTACT: secretarythpa@gmail.com

NOTE EVENING MEMBERS MEETING

5TH MARCH 6-7 PM at CLUB TUROSS

I thought it would be quite a short newsletter this time as we progress the areas outlined previously but then I received two terrific emails from John Tilbrook who, despite being constantly short of breath, continues to watch over Tuross so I have included first email at the end (slightly edited), second one in next news.

HEALTH FUNDING SHORTFALL IN THE EUROBODALLA

This topic will be in the newsletter every month until the Federal election next year as we try and influence government policy and get our fair share of health funding.

In 2022 and 2023, Eurobodalla missed out on its **entire shortfall of \$40 million each year** with no meaningful offsets by the commonwealth or state governments.

In 2024 in Jan and Feb the shortfall so far is around \$7 million, with commonwealth offsets from the Batemans Bay Urgent Care Centre and the increased Medicare bulkbilling subsidy contributing around \$0.3 million, **leaving a shortfall in 2024 so far of \$6.7 million.**

I know it looks complicated but just look at the shortfalls and you get the idea.

EUROBODALLA HOSPITAL UPDATE

We promised to update members on progress on the hospital. The site still looks the same as it has for several years, other than the faint footprints and shovel marks of various ministers, local members and LHD staff as they came and went announcing something. I look forward to seeing concrete come out of the ground.

If you have any questions about the hospital and what it will do send them to secretarythpa@gmail.com and I will get answers from the SNSWLHD and publish them in the news.

DISABILITY ACCESS LAVENDER BAY

Max Castle will be chasing up with council the status of the Disability Access Project for Lavender Bay.

MEMBER QUESTION ABOUT UNLEASHED DOGS ON BEACHES

THPA received a very prompt response from council rangers on this issue. See below.

“The shire has 29 areas allowing 24-hour off leash access and 24 beaches where dogs are prohibited, noting all National Park beaches also prohibit dogs.

There are 18 timeshare beaches which are active from 1 May until 31 October each year. Dogs are allowed on the sign posted beaches, either on or off leash, at all times. However, from 1 November until 30 April each year, dogs are only permitted to access the beach before 9am and after 5pm every day; dogs are otherwise prohibited outside of this timeframe. I have attached a link to Council’s dog exercise areas for your reference, Eurobodalla Dog Friendly Beaches

Council Rangers increase their patrols over the summer period when dogs are not permissible between 9am and 5pm. Beach users can notify Council when they are aware that there are contraventions of the prohibited dog area arrangements with details such as time of day, dog breed (if known) and any information that may assist in locating the dog owner. Subject to resources, Council will then deploy a Ranger to the site at this time of day.

Rangers regularly patrol numerous beach areas across the whole of the Eurobodalla within our resources and priorities. Unfortunately, there are dog owners who are not responsible, and this can negatively impact the beach users as you have indicated. I understand this type of behaviour exhibited by dogs at Tuross Head beach areas can be frustrating for residents who live near approved dog off leash areas.

I understand Tuross Head beach areas are a focus of the Rangers daily patrols and the Ranger for this area has educated residents and visitors to the area on their responsibilities as a dog owner and issued penalties as well.

Council has recently undertaken a sign audit of all dog signs at beaches throughout the Eurobodalla Council area and have commenced replacing all missing and vandalised signs or relocating signs to a prominent location.”

MATTERS AND QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEMBERS MEETING

- i. THPA to meet with SNSWLHD on the New Hospital closer to hospital opening.
- ii. THGPA NEWS to have item on hospital every month until opening and seek member feedback/input on issues.
- iii. Communication Tower at Turlinjah is being investigated by Tom Webster as it appears there was little or no public consultation.
- iv. Michael Holland MP contacted regarding the concept of govt subsidised school bus companies providing a bus service in school holidays.
- v. Dogs on Beaches, and clarification of rules and council action. THPA received a very prompt reply (see above).
- vi. Suggestion that each member recruit another member (only \$5 fee).

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.

JOHN TILBROOK SECTION

23/02/2024

Just another note of thanks to you for keeping the grass surrounding the Tuross Village Sign & Garden neatly mown. I appreciate all three of you in chipping in with the task of watering the garden which at present is still in full bloom on a sunny day. I noticed driving past this morning 23 Feb 24 that the Cosmos plants and Zinnia Flowers are now getting quite tall and flowering. Last week I pulled up and planted three Geranium plants (1 x Red, 1 x Pink & White and 1 x Mauve) that will look great when they grow to maturity and flower for the passing parade.

On the early morning planting day referred to above, aka 7.30 am last week, I also whipper-snipped the immediate roadside verge, as the weeds on the edge of the bitumen had grown knee high and distracted from the neat lawn area around the village sign maintained by Will. It was a bit hairy with the volume of incoming peak hour traffic and large supermarket trucks whizzing by just inches away, almost blowing me over!



Darryl Pretty hard at the task of watering. He is our THPA around the clock garden monitor in that he lives nearby so he can keep an direct eye view of the Garden from the upper levels of his hacienda.