

TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS

October 2024

This newsletter aims to give members an inside view of THPA current activity, its progress, why it matters and how members can guide THPA in its work.

NEXT MEETING

The next information and update meeting for members has been moved to **2pm, Tuesday 12 November 2024 at Club Tuross**. Members and visitors are welcome to attend.

MEMBERS SURVEY

Have you responded to the members survey on the preferred venue for member meetings? Email your response to secretarythpa@gmail.com or to PO Box 3062 Tuross Head NSW 2537 **by 25 October 2024**.

BUSHFIRE MITIGATION

With the bushfire season upon us and despite ongoing requests, the Council has not responded to the THPA to establish a 20-metre buffer zone on parts of Hector McWilliam Drive and Trafalgar Road. The THPA will send further letters from its lawyer to Council with copies to state MP Dr Michael Holland. THPA will continue to advocate on behalf of the community to get Council to respond to crucial issues regarding community safety in the event of a bushfire emergency.

BETTER HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

With a federal election due sometime within the next eight months the policies around lack of access to medical care will be clear in early 2025 with the most critical issue being to fix the gap in health care funding over the past decade in the Eurobodalla of approximately \$400 million. The lack of funding has led to difficulties in access to GPs, other primary health care and local medical specialist care.

LOCAL RADIOTHERAPY SERVICE

Without significant funding for the Local Radiotherapy Service by the Commonwealth and State governments it won't become

SNAKE SEASON IS HERE!

To limit snakes finding shelter in your backyard or home:

- Keep rubbish to a minimum and remove leaf matter in gardens
- Keep your lawn mowed
- Have rubber seals around your doors
- Remove water and food sources.

The Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) in Narooma do snake relocations but will request a donation for their time.

In life-threatening situations call the VRA on **1300 872 777** who will get in touch with VRA Narooma or call Malcolm at VRA Narooma on **0417 238 921**.



a reality and despite strong representations by all our local members there is no indication of progress. The first shots on this issue in the Federal election campaign for Gilmore have already been fired and this will heat up in 2025 when the election is announced.

TUROSS HEAD GP PRACTICE CLOSURE AND IMPLICATIONS

The Tuross Head GP Practice closed this month. My estimate is that in the past year it has been providing services to up to 2-400 patients who may have no other GP. The rest of the Tuross population receives GP services mostly in Moruya. Without a significant subsidy from the Commonwealth, it is unlikely that the Tuross practice is viable as a branch practice.

The Tuross Practice can never see more than a small percentage of the local population even if GPs were available as the population size requires 3-4 full time GPs and the current premises can only fit 1 GP.

THPA has had significant input into the Federal Health Ministers “Scope of Practice Review” and the final report goes to the Minister in early October. The policy implications could provide a new form of funding which would make Tuross a desirable branch practice. The outcome is reliant on the upcoming election so is at least a year away.

COOPERS ISLAND

THPA will inform newly appointed Council members of ongoing issues about Coopers Island, where the current landholder has continued to deny access to the general population. Crown lands have gifted the land to the current landowner and THPA is seeking access to details of permits granted by Council over this site. Council has stated this is a Council, not an operational issue.

KYLA HALL AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION CENTRES

Steve Smith from the Kyla Hall Committee confirmed that an amalgamation between the Kyla Hall Committee and the THPA is not possible and will address the next THPA committee meeting. THPA continues to pursue establishing Kyla Hall as an emergency evacuation centre but Council has not engaged on this issue. Club Tuross also needs to be funded for a generator to support it as an emergency site in the event of a bushfire.

THPA News: Editor, Kim Ulrick

COMMITTEE PROFILE

BRUCE HATCHMAN, SECRETARY



Bruce has extensive business experience and expertise and brings a strong focus on corporate governance to the THPA.

In addition to being a qualified Chartered Accountant, Bruce worked in public practice in Sydney for 45 years. After 13 years with one of the Big 4 firms, Bruce established his own practice and built it to be the fifth largest in Sydney, employing 350 people. Bruce has been a full-time independent company director for 16 years and specialises in audit committees. His career took him to Asia and the Middle East as Chairman for law and architecture firms and in Australia, he chaired publicly listed technology, finance and insurance industry companies.

Bruce is ‘finding his way into retirement’, enjoys golf and good wine, spending time with his family and following his grandkids development, with both grandchildren competing at the national level in swimming. Bruce bought an investment property in Tuross in 2009 before moving permanently to the town in 2017.