

# TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – 30 May 2024

THPA NEWS - new subscribers are welcome.

CONTACT: [secretarythpa@gmail.com](mailto:secretarythpa@gmail.com)

**MEMBERS MEETING (non-members welcome)**  
**4th June 2-3PM at CLUB TUROSS**

## EDITORS NOTE – A LAST SUPER SIZE THPA NEWS UNTIL AGM

The THPA News was a trial this year to see if we could keep all members (with an email address) up to date with inside news on what the THPA was doing and what progress has been made. As we are now preparing for one of the most important AGMs the THPA has ever had (see President's item below) the committee is fully focussed on the future of the THPA.

We have now done 5 newsletters and are very keen to get feedback on whether it was useful as a communication process, what you want less of, more of, what isn't there but should be etc.

As this is the last THPA NEWS for some time put your feet up, relax, and read on.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT – Gary Smith

1. Members meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at Club Tuross. We propose to cease the 7:00pm meetings over winter and to cancel the July meeting. The next Members Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 04 June 2024 and Tuesday 06 August 2024.
2. This is a Preliminary Notice of our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on 03 September 2024 at 2:00pm at Club Tuross. Nomination forms will go out later.
3. As our History Research Group has just discovered the Association was founded in 1947, not 1949, (see photo attached) we sadly missed a 75th milestone anniversary a couple of years ago – THPA is now 77. The proposed 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in September is now cancelled.



4. Since the AGM last year when a number of committee members resigned due to health and personal reasons, the existing Executive Committee, with limited numbers has devoted their time on major issues and, importantly, keeping THPA running and viable until the next AGM. We now appeal to all members to think about volunteering to assist the committee by taking on minor administration or other tasks to help lighten the workload so the Association can continue as an effective organisation to support Tuross into the future. Committee members will assist any member to take on a duty to suit their own time frame and skills e.g: minute taker; membership renewals and fees; Treasurer functions; communications to members via Facebook, newsletter, assist the History Group compiling a brief history of THPA for last 27 years (already have first 50 years); running Easter Fair type booth; installing Xmas decorations at highway sign; maintaining filing system presently stored at Kyla Hall; etc.
5. The outcome of the AGM will be vital to the future of THPA.
6. Emergency Heart Defibrillator locations in Tuross are attached, I hope you never need it but if you do you now know where you can find one in an emergency.
7. We look forward to your support and attendance at Members meetings.

## **THPA ACTIVITY UPDATES**

### **1. Bush Fire Preparedness (Gary Smith):**

Eurobodalla Shire Council (ESC) has so far rejected our requested bushfire mitigation works on some roadside reserves in Tuross Head and the proposal for Kyla Park Hall to be designated as an Emergency Refuge Centre in the event of future bushfire emergencies. Letters to our State and Federal MPs expressed THPA's disappointment and frustration with the EC decision and we await responses.

### **2. Better Access to Healthcare (Arn Sprogis):**

#### **a. Brief History New Eurobodalla Hospital in Moruya (written 2 weeks ago)**

A brief history starts in 2006 with a proposed 10-year plan for completion which then never went anywhere. Funding was later approved by the Berejiklian government in 2018 just before the election with a promise to complete the hospital in the next term of government. Since then, another election has come and gone with a new government in place for over a year who also confirmed the funding but so far, no work commenced on site although apparently the DA is soon to be signed off and we may see workmen and trucks sometime, soon, maybe.

The responsibility for adequate funding rests with government and during the life of the previous government there were two more upgrades to funding from an initial \$150 million to the current \$260 million and an upgrade of the hospital from Level 3 to Level 4.

The credit for the upgrading goes to the outstanding efforts of Dr. Michael Holland supported by Fitzroy Boulting and Mylene Boulting (ONE New L4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital Advocates) who battled to hold government and NSW Health accountable for the inadequate planning for the right level of clinical services and inadequate funding.

The responsibility for hospital planning, building and clinical services rests solely with NSW HEALTH and the Southern NSW Local Health District. Repeated delays, poor planning and excuses have pushed back commencement to 2027 or later. With high quality planning and implementation, the Eurobodalla would already have an open, fully functional Level 4 Hospital saving lives and reducing the burden of illness.

## **b. Updated New Eurobodalla Hospital (article in Moruya Mail 25/05/2024)**

A Community Viewpoint - By Dr. Arn Sprogis (retd.)

I have been following the New Moruya Hospital process closely ever since I moved to the Eurobodalla nearly 5 years ago, mostly out of self-interest as I am at an age when hospitals become important but also because I spent much of my working life not only as a GP but also heavily involved in large scale health systems development in a large regional area including GP/Hospital integration. So, as a community member, on Thursday, 23 May, I attended the ABC-style "Q&A" Panel Discussion at the Moruya Golf Club organised by ONE New L4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital Advocates in partnership with RSL Moruya to which the local community was invited to put their questions. Over 100 people attended the meeting. My expectations of learning anything new were low as over the 5 years I have lived here, I watched with disbelief the hospital development process which looked like an evolving train wreck with three community petitions (Level 4 Hospital; Radiotherapy at Moruya and Save Batemans Bay ED), coupled with a serious lack of open and transparent exchange of information with the community, no visible work started on a new hospital and the completion date sometime in 2027 maybe. I was wrong, the meeting was full of useful and interesting information although a bit light on data to support the vision. The audience questions were to the point and covered most of the important issues.

The panel comprised: Mayor Mat Hatcher, Dr Michael Holland MP, Dr Stuart Stapleton, Director of Emergency Care Services for Eurobodalla Hospitals, Brad Scotcher, General Manager Coastal Network and Bunja Smith as moderator, All panel members were very open in their responses and 25 questions were covered in 90 minutes.

### **A SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND ANSWERS**

#### **1. The Building**

Q. When will it start being built, what is the build time?

A. Very soon the approval is nearly done, and the contractor not yet signed up. Once the contractor signed build time can be quite fast but no timeline available and no completion date can be provided yet (Update: DA approved this week so another step forward)

Q. Helipad Issues

A. Helipad DA needs to be reviewed particularly to improve amenity for nearby residents so will have a separate DA. The hospital build will proceed while helipad issue is resolved. Hospital will open with a functioning helipad.

Q. Is funding still sufficient?

A. Funding to be reviewed for the 2024 budget process.

#### **2. Level 4 Hospital (this was the most interesting bit whenever it came up and made clear why it's so important)**

Q. What is a Level 4 Hospital?

A. The heart of a level 4 hospital is the combination of an ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and an upgraded Emergency Department. The concentration of diagnostic equipment, higher levels of trained staff and the ability to ventilate and support circulation for critically ill patients is a major step forward in saving lives and getting improved hospital outcomes including improving transport to other centres. There is no question that north or south of the Moruya River survival outcomes will improve for all patients treated at the new level 4 hospital.

Q. Are there plans for local physicians to care for medical patients rather than just relying on fly in fly out locums.

A. This triggered one of the best bits of the evening with a long and detailed listing of the many improvements in care possible once there is an ICU and Level 4 status, including increasing the number of medical specialists able to manage patients, increasing the number of supporting specialised GPs, establishing a dementia unit and geriatric care, significantly increased teaching in all areas, more medical students etc, etc.

Q. Currently many patients requiring transfers are experiencing delays - how will it be improved now and in future.

A. Working on it by improving arrangements with other hospitals.

### 3. Planning and Data

Q. There were several data questions, including when the community can see a copy of the updated clinical services plan and is there a critical path analysis for the hospital build.

A. Question taken on notice, even though the request has been made before to the SNSWLHD (Southern NSW Local Health District).

### 4. Radiotherapy at Moruya

Q. There were several questions all around why we don't have a radiotherapy unit in Moruya considering the population size and age range.

A. There won't be a radiotherapy unit in Moruya at hospital opening.

Q. When can the community see a copy of the Mick Reid report on radiotherapy commissioned by NSW Health?

A. The report has gone from NSW Health to the Commonwealth Dept. of Health and Ageing and it's not known when or even if the community will see it.

### 5. Staffing

Q. What are the plans for nurse recruitment.

A. The good news is that at present the majority of nurses are permanently employed and staffing is looking in good shape heading to hospital opening.

Q. How many extra employees are required for the new hospital.

A. About 165.

### 6. Transportation

Q. Will there be an upgrade to Moruya Bridge.

A. No.

Q. Patient discharged at 1.30 am from Batemans Bay Hospital no way to get home how will this be improved?

A. No improvements discussed for the current situation. In future using the carer accommodation at the new hospital will help solve this, and there will be short stay beds in emergency.

## **c. Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's "Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce - Scope of Practice Review" is potentially a game changer for rural and regional areas.**

Mark Butler, current Labor Federal government Minister for Health is the first health minister in 40+ years to admit that successive previous Federal governments regardless of which party was in power have largely ignored the specific healthcare requirements of rural and regional Australia.

The review which he commissioned is aimed at solving the primary healthcare access difficulties in rural and regional areas.

The THPA is one of the few residents' organisations to make 2 submissions to the review and Dr. Arn Sprogis representing the THPA participated in a national zoom roundtable of rural and remote organisations with a number of our submissions being well received by participants and incorporated into the follow up issues paper. The 2025 Budget and election will be the test of whether the Labor Government is serious about resolved rural health access issues. recommendation to Stage 1).

### **3. Public Transport Project (Gary Smith):**

We still await a response from Michael Holland MP and a local bus company regarding a proposal for a bus service to Tuross Head – even if only during school holidays.

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### **“Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea” In Aid of the CANCER COUNCIL was held at St Andrews Memorial Church on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

THPA President Gary Smith was a guest speaker.



### **ANZAC Day Service - (Gary Smith):**

THPA provided a wreath for this year's ANZAC Day service at Plantation Point and John Tilbrook represented the THPA by laying the wreath.

## **TUROSS INFRASTRUCTURE REQUESTS TO COUNCIL – John Tilbrook**

1. Removal of a diseased/dying large European Cyprus Pine Tree located alongside of the shared Cycle/Walk on on Tuross Boulevard. This tree is one of the historic trees planted by pioneer developer Hector McWilliam.



2. Removal of a now long dead Norfolk Pine Tree which located Tuross Boulevard.





## **TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOC. INC.**

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# LOCATION OF HEART DEFIBRILLATORS TUROSS HEAD

CLUB TUROSS	GOLF CLUB MONASH AVE - OPEN 7 DAYS
SERVICE STATION	SHOPPING CENTRE - OPEN LATE 7 DAYS
BOTTLE SHOP	SHOPPING CENTRE - OPEN LATE 7 DAYS
CHEMIST	SHOPPING CENTRE - BUSINESS HOURS
DOCTOR	SHOPPING CENTRE - BUSINESS HOURS
MEN'S SHED	GOLF COURSE - BELOW CLUBHOUSE

## **PHONE EMERGENCY 000 FIRST**

PLEASE TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS LIST FOR YOUR RECORD

ANY UPDATES PLEASE ADVISE [SECRETARYTHPA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SECRETARYTHPA@GMAIL.COM)

**A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

**Gary Smith, President, on behalf of THPA Committee.**