

MINUTES of THPA MEMBERS MEETING 6 AUGUST 2024 at CLUB TUROSS

Welcome by Chair Gary Smith

Present – as per sign on register

Apologies – Mylene Boulting, Barbara Gibbs, Trisha & Chris Marson.

Minutes of previous meeting 4 June read. Matters arising to follow.

Project Updates -

Health Sub-Cttee. Arn **outlined Health Dept issues including new L4 Hospital brief. Problems explained included: Communications between the various parties/equity of funding/ access to documents and reports/transparency of decision-making/accountability. Lack of Radiotherapy unit in new hospital a major issue still being passed over by Dept of Health NSW.**

Suggestion/proposal from the floor (June) that THPA send a letter to the Prime Minister and NSW Premier seeking assurance, based on our demography and constant need, that Radiotherapy unit will be funded/included in the new Moruya Hospital. The letter should include/emphasise the need/continuity of Rex Airline which is essential to our community, especially medical services.

Note: The present strategy re Radiotherapy is for the report to be released publicly. See Further Business - letter to PM about REX services.

A vote of thanks given from the members to Arn, Fitzroy, Mylene for their tireless work on local health.

Bushfire Sub-Cttee, Gary outlined continuing lack of fire mitigation reduction of undergrowth fuel on council land along Hector McWilliam, Trafalgar Roads by council. Gary and Tom outlined the current intransigent Council attitude to Tuross fire safety which continues despite on-site inspection with local MLA and Council staff. THPA has requested a follow-up letter from our lawyer to council on the issue of possible negligence by council. Council also not supporting Kyla Hall to be deemed and equipped as a community emergency retreat venue. These issues to be ongoing by new committee after AGM.

From the floor, (Fitzroy Boulting) asked if THPA was looking into fire protection of the Tuross Head ESC grazing leases which expire in 2028. It was claimed that there are fire safety issues on the grazing land and firebreaks are needed.

Committee advised members that this investigative action is ongoing, and discussions took place as to various options to address this problem now and prior to the lease expiry.

Coopers Island and Sandy Point – update by Max, both proceeding as follows:

Sandy Point. Wheelchair access to the Point deemed non-viable by ESC due to expense, local aboriginal cultural value and official limitations on any construction by NSW water authorities. Funding has been approved to be utilised for similar access at Tuross River Bridge launching ramp for an upgrade to carparking adjacent to the highway bridge.

Coopers Island. Government survey of the disputed access areas has been completed and is apparently quite different from the earlier survey carried out by Council. Awaiting further advice.

Kyla Hall - Steve Smith discussed the importance of the Hall to the Tuross community, and pointed out that Kyla Hall is the most utilised and profitable of all the halls in the shire. The Hall Committee has recently approved and funded new blinds for the East windows, a new sound system for meetings, and general painting of the hall. More volunteers requested to assist the Hall Cttee.

Moved that the new THPA Cttee liaise with the Hall Cttee after the AGM for mutually beneficial outcomes and a monthly update on Kyla Hall at THPA meetings.

A discussion took place as to why THPA, a non-profit organisation, needs to pay rent to Council for the use of Kyla Hall which was a replacement hall for one built entirely from community funds. ESC subsequently sold the original hall land for a huge profit – only part of which was used to build Kyla Hall.

Admin set-up – Jenny Irvine welcomed as Treasurer. New system in place for membership renewals on line; updated web site; Auditor Ian Traynor arranged for AGM accounts. Nomination forms tabled and on-line.

Gary advised he has put in a submission to the State Govt South East Transport Strategy for regional bus services to towns like Tuross Head, particularly in 12 weeks of school holidays when most subsidised school buses sit idle.

Gary advised that Chris Smith has resigned as Public Officer and John Tilbrook now has that role. THPA thanks Chris for her diligent assistance on the Cttee.

General Business -

THPA Candidates Forum prior to Council election due 14 September. General discussion and request for volunteers to run the Forum with the assistance of the

Committee. It appears members are losing faith in Council as no volunteers have yet come forward. **The Council has not offered to assist with any funds for this forum, not even reduced rent. Therefore,** THPA will not proceed with the forum for this council election. However it was recommended the new committee (after the AGM) proceed with Candidates Forums for the important State and Federal elections to come.

THPA AGM due 3rd September 2pm at Club Tuross. General discussion followed with Arn and Gary outlining issues involved and the need for some more members to nominate to assist the continuance of a viable THPA into the future. The Constitution and Fair Trading requirements for office bearers and committee members, numbers and duties discussed. Nomination forms were tabled and also on THPA website. Newsletter with nomination forms will be sent to members as a formal notice of AGM next week. Committee to meet Tuesday 13 August to finalise AGM details, AGM agenda and strategy if not enough nominations received. Arn to prepare Newsletter.

Further Business –

Member raised the issue of worsening unleashed dogs especially on beaches in Tuross and fear of attack. Discussion followed. Resolved THPA write to Council re the Dog issue – Arn to follow up.

Rex Airline. **Further to earlier comments, concerns were raised by members** and the general consensus was that Rex air services must be maintained in regional areas, especially to Moruya and Merimbula. Resolved to write to Federal MP's for Gilmore and Eden Monaro and the State MP for government to support Rex services. Arn to write to the MP's as Chair Health Sub Cttee due to the vital medical personnel and services provided.

Kyla Grazing lease – Fitzroy advised the importance of the THPA cttee after the AGM be familiar with the Grazing Lease and the tenure and maintenance of the land for community designation. Especially when Lease renewal due.

Member Bruce Hatchman questioned the common advice THPA and public are being given that the ESC is destitute at present due to past and present projects eg New dam, Bay Pavillions. His research indicates that ESC has received massive State and Federal Government funding for these various projects and their bottom-line income has recently increased exponentially.

He discussed council financial position and is of the opinion that the council is financially viable to maintain services that it allegedly claims it can't afford to do. Discussion followed with the suggestion that Bruce would be a valuable new THPA Cttee member at AGM and these issues be ongoing by new Cttee.

Raffle drawn and prizes awarded. Meeting closed.

Next Meeting AGM 3 September 2pm Club Tuross.

(note - final Cttee meeting prior to AGM Tuesday 13 Aug 10am at Arn's café)