

# TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

## SUMMARY & MINUTES OF MONTHLY INFORMATION MEETING

Held at CLUB TUROSS Tuesday 6 February 2024 2pm

Members present - 29. Apologies - 4 .

Welcome by Chair Gary Smith who introduced the THPA Executive Committee – Arn Sprogis, Tom Webster, Max Castle with an apology from Public Officer Christine Smith; and advised the new venue at the Club was a trial because more convenient, more cost effective and more support for Club Tuross as a local business. Each monthly meeting on the first Tuesday will rotate from 2pm start then 6pm start the following month to allow working residents to attend and therefore have input into THPA activities which has been difficult for that group in the past. Members and visitors welcome to meetings.

UPDATE ON NEW LEVEL 4 HOSPITAL + RADIOTHERAPY - Arn Sprogis. The new hospital is vital infrastructure costing \$260 mil to be completed by mid 2026. Informative discussion on health services background and particularly the present battle with the Local Health District to provide radiotherapy service here rather than drive for hours to a city. Acknowledgement and thanks to THPA members F and M Boulting who have been key drivers of the One Hospital initiative for years with our local member Dr Michael Holland MP. Members will be kept informed by our regular newsletter.

BUSHFIRE & EMERGENCY SUB CTTEE – Gary Smith and Tom Webster. We have been lobbying council for 6 years to complete fire mitigation works on some council reserve bushland in Tuross as a buffer to wildfire entering the residential area. Council has declined the works due to lack of finances. THPA eventually engaged a lawyer to write to council who advised council they may be open to Class Action if fire causes harm and damage if enters Tuross via those risk areas outlined by THPA . A site meeting has been arranged with Council Emergency Officer, the Mayor, Dr Michael Holland and THPA.

We hope the work will be included on Council Works Program in preparation for potential extreme bushfires to come. It was also noted that fire prevention slashing of long grass is yet to be undertaken on the community/grazing land.

Emergency Evacuation Shelter : THPA has requested council that Kyla Hall be nominated as an evac shelter as Tuross may be isolated in an emergency. Other option is Club Tuross, with permission of the Club. Council says 'No'. Only shelters will be in B/Bay, Moruya, Narooma. We will keep you informed by THPA Newsletter.

### Coopers Island - Max Castle

Coopers Island has a long history of use by the community for fishing and recreation however the new owner is taking action to prevent public access to the waterway. Police have been used to remove peaceful members of the public. Clarification needed on private and public ownership of land, roadway, causeway; fence lines, signage. Involves council, Lands Dept, Police, Recreational Fishing Assn. Max is in the thick of it and will keep us informed. It is suggested members write to council and/or local member.

Chris advised that Tuross Lakes Preservation Group (TLPG) undertook works to protect the foreshore around 30 years ago at Coopers.

Gary advised there were major public funded infrastructure works around then to enlarge the causeway to increase environmental water flow to save Trunketabella Lagoon, proving public ownership.

### MICROGRID for TUROSS - Arn Sprogis

Update on proposed microgrid ie : private solar panels charging community battery for shared power to Tuross grid. Similar system now operating at Bawley Point. Arn involved with SHASA and will keep members informed of any progress.

### COMMUNICATION TOWER at Turlinjah - Tom Webster.

A proposed tower on private land is being investigated by Tom as it appears there was little or no public consultation. Tom to follow up.

## Questions

Bus Service . There was a local survey about the need for a bus service additional to school buses. A local bus company is seeking funding for a service Moruya – Narooma -Tuross which THPA has supported. Gary has also discussed with Michael Holland MP the concept of govt subsidised school bus companies providing a bus service in school holidays.

Dogs on Beaches. An unleashed dog annoyed a person on a Tuross beach in the holidays. The dog issue is complex and there are many signs about times and areas where dogs can go. There are ideas about needing more signs or are too many signs an eye-sore ? Council has minimal funds however the council website has dogs-on-beach info. As this was the only dog issue raised with THPA it was decided to review it if more complaints received.

Max thanked the committee for their work behind-the-scenes.

The Chair thanked the members for attending the new venue, a full house, which indicated support for the change and invited all to the next meeting at the Club for a 6pm start. Many members commented enthusiastically about the running of the meeting and the issues covered which is a positive sign for THPA into the future. Steve Smith suggested each member get another member (only \$5 fee)...agreed.

Raffle won by Derek and Peta.

Next meeting at Club Tuross - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - 6pm.