

TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC. Members Meeting MINUTES
07 May 2024 – Club Tuross, TUROSS HEAD 2537. MEETING OPENED: 7:00pm

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Gary Smith (President), Arn Sprogis, Max Castle, Chris McLennan.

Committee Apologies: Tom Webster, John Tilbrook.

Member Apologies: Jan and Peter Williamson; Marilyn and Ian Bingham; Lynette Newton; Janet Jones; Annette Jones:

1. Welcome

The President opened the meeting and reminded members of the new arrangement of alternate meeting commencement times – 7:00pm and 2:00pm. Announcement of appointment of Chris McLennan to the Committee as Secretary/Treasurer following the resignation of Christine Smith who will remain as Public Officer for the Association until the Annual General Meeting (AGM) later this year. Also, John Tilbrook is back working on the Infrastructure Committee.

2. Project Updates

i. Bush Fire Preparedness (Gary Smith):

The Eurobodalla Council (EC) has rejected the Association's recommendation that the Kyla Park Hall be designated and upgraded to function as an Emergency Refuge Centre in the event of future Bushfire emergencies. Letters have been sent to our State and Federal government representatives expressing the Association's disappointment and frustration with the EC decision and we are awaiting responses.

ii. Better Access to Healthcare (Arn Sprogis):

Arn gave a brief history of progress with efforts to establish the new Eurobodalla Level 4 Hospital at Moruya. He acknowledged the work that John Tilbrook has contributed over many years. Funding was approved for the hospital and announced in 2019 and the Southern NSW Local Health District has responsibility for forwarding this project. Arn expressed his dismay at repeated delays, poor planning and excuses which have pushed back commencement to 2027! Arn expressed hope that this year's local council elections might provide motivation for more progress. Arn also mentioned that he is preparing further input for Stage 2 of the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's "Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce - Scope of Practice Review" (following acceptance of some of the Association's recommendation to Stage 1). He also revealed that the current Labor Federal government is the first ever to admit that successive previous Federal governments have largely ignored the specific health care requirements of rural and regional Australia.

iii. Maintenance of Maritime Recreational facilities (Max Castle):

Max reported that the State member is holding ongoing negotiations with the owners of Coopers Island as regards public access to the Crown lands on the island.

The EC is conducting further research into the feasibility of new jetty facilities at Sandy Point following the discovery of new indigenous artifacts. It is possible that an alternative site might have to be considered.

Max bemoaned the loss of Robert Burke from EC's Infrastructure team and the lack of communication regarding infrastructure strategies since his departure.

iv. ANZAC Day service (Gary Smith):

Gary mentioned that the Association had provided a wreath for this year's ANZAC Day service at Plantation Point. Gary reported that he was a guest speaker at the Anglican Church Cancer Council Morning tea held on 01 May 2024.

2. Project Updates – continued.

v. Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – (Gary Smith):

Gary reported that he has completed investigation of availability of AEDs at Tuross Head and he has produced a poster detailing the location of these which has been distributed to the usual local display points. A copy of this poster will be included with the May edition of the Association's Newsletter which is due for publication later this month.

vi. THPA 75th Anniversary Event (Gary Smith):

Following on from members approval of plans for a celebratory event at the previous meeting, Gary suggested a check of the THPA archives stored at Kyla Park Hall to assist with preparation of a presentation at this event. This presentation would provide an opportunity to highlight the Association's achievements, battles, and efforts (including unsuccessful ones!). Members mentioned that the Moruya Historical Society may also provide additional information for this.

vii. Communication (Chris McLennan)

Chris asked the members present what were their preferred sources when receiving or searching information about the Association. Letter drops, notice boards, the Newsletter and the Tuross Head Community noticeboard (on Facebook) were mentioned. It was apparent that social media sites were not generally favoured or searched frequently by members.

Another suggestion was local newspapers and the website "About Regional" created by Region Media to showcase local news items from the south east and south west slopes of New South Wales was mentioned as this site had recently promoted a story about the Tuross Head Community Garden.

viii. Public Transport Project (Gary Smith):

The EC has been contacted requesting the feasibility of a weekend/holiday bus service for Tuross Heads. A reply has not been received as yet.

General Business

i Community-led Public Forums (Mylene and Fitzroy Boulting):

Mylene reminded members that the second of two forums was scheduled to be held at the Moruya Golf Club at 5:00pm on Thursday, 23 May 2024. The purpose of the forum is to provide accurate information about the proposed new Eurobodalla Hospital project and that a panel of Area specialists will conduct the forum in a similar format to the ABC TV Q and A program. Mylene that any questions please be forwarded to her by 15 May so that the panel members could prepare appropriate responses. Mylene also reported that the first forum, held recently at Narooma had been well attended and that information provided had been frank and honest.

A member suggested that Arn and Fitzroy might consider drafting a letter to local Health authorities in support of locating the new Level 4 Hospital at Moruya as opposed to some community led opposition which is proposing refurbishment of the Bateman's Bay hospital as an alternative.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 04 June 2024, commencing at 2:00pm at Club Tuross.

MEETING CLOSED: 8:00pm.