

TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024

MEETING WITH KRISTY MCBAIN

Kristy Mc Bain MP, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories will meet with THPA members at Club Tuross from 2 – 2.30 pm on Tuesday 3 December 2024. This will also be our THPA members meeting.

Tuross will be part of the Eden-Monaro electorate at the next federal election following recent boundary redistributions. This is an opportunity for an initial discussion to outline some key priorities for action such as bushfire mitigation, an emergency evacuation centre, healthcare, infrastructure and public transport.

THPA will invite all candidates standing for Eden-Monaro to a forum before the federal election to raise issues and hear their plans for our community.

We encourage all members and guests to attend on 3 December

A BIG MONTH FOR 'BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE' – HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT, DR. ARN SPROGIS

Moruya Hospital Forum November

This was the best SNSWLHD forum I've attended, and it made me wonder why an open informative exchange like this and the actions outlined weren't possible three years ago. Still, better late than never and the executive team, plus Michael Holland our local state MP, were enthusiastic about progress and the potential for new services. The key items discussed and their outcomes:

- It was forcefully confirmed it would have a Level 4 ICU on opening (sometime in 2027).
- Expression of Interest to be sought from several National Private Radiotherapy providers for the Moruya radio therapy facilities which can be built anytime during the hospital build, with responses expected in early 2025.
- Significant work is underway to increase the training and education of the workforce with university, larger hospital and professional organisations being partners. Generally, the more training and education in the health system the better the quality of care.
- The size of the new hospital is much greater than Moruya and Batemans Bay combined with the wards and workspaces meeting modern standards of care and accommodation.
- There is growing confidence in getting a high-quality adequate workforce and planning for accommodation and other support measures is underway.
- Reinforced the new Level 4 Hospital will make a major difference to the range and level of health care able to be provided in our region.
- Despite THPA submitting a question on planning timelines this was the second time at a forum that the question wasn't answered. Brad Scotcher (SNSWLHD South Coast Manager) apologised and assured it would be resolved promptly.

Fixing 40 years of underfunded healthcare on the Far South Coast – THPA strategy progress

Our region is funded approx. \$1,000 less per person per year than a similar capital city population. Tuross Head received \$3 million less per year or \$30 million over the last decade; Eurobodalla \$43 million less per

year or \$430 million per decade; Far South Coast \$80 million per year or \$800 million per decade. This explains much of why we have a health workforce shortage and lack of access to GPs and Medical Specialists.

As Tuross and Turlinjah are a hotbed of health activism and we don't put up with healthcare being left behind by the indifference of governments and health bureaucrats (One New Hospital, Local Radiotherapy Services and now Equity of Healthcare Access and Funding) the THPA has been working actively for over two years to rectify the funding inequity. The first stage of the two-year process is complete and a final set of letters have been sent to both major party candidates for Eden Monaro (Kristy Mc Bain Labor and Jo van der Plaats Liberal) and to Fiona Phillips Labor our current member, advising them our community will no longer put up with being underfunded, we will actively pursue this issue in the lead up to the 2025 Federal Election and seek solutions from all parties.

I received a rapid response from Jo van der Plaats and I have briefed her more fully on the funding issue and we expect to meet with her soon. I haven't received any response yet from Kristy Mc Bain or Fiona Phillips, however, Kristy is meeting the THPA committee and members on 3 December where the funding issue will be raised.

BUSHFIRE PREPARATION AND MITIGATION – GARY SMITH

Following a frustrating six years with no real progress, the THPA lawyer has sent a further letter to Council regarding the high bushfire risk in certain areas of Tuross. The letter highlights the lack of mitigation works requested and the potential for Class Action if negligence is a contributing factor to bushfire damage. The state government has also been advised of the issues via Dr Michael Holland MP. An invitation will be extended to Councillor Anthony Mayne to attend a member meeting to gain a deeper understanding of the issues. Correspondence will also go to all candidates standing for the seat of Eden-Monaro in the upcoming federal election setting out relevant issues. New Councillor Mick Johnson will also be informed of risks posed by the lack of clearing of grazing land near the highway.

FISHING AND BOATING SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS – MAX CASTLE

Ongoing consultation continues between state agencies and the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) on behalf of the THPA in relation to Coopers Island. As no reply or confirmation from the Council has been received about the existence of a 'Permit' to move cattle on a public road i.e., Coopers Island Road, the matter was followed up with Land Services NSW. They confirmed they require a

COMMITTEE PROFILE KIM ULRICK, PUBLICITY OFFICER



Kim Ulrick describes herself as a 'recovering Canberran'. Like many people, during the pandemic she re-evaluated her life and left a 30-year career in the Australian Public Service to spend more time with her family and reconnect with her passion for storytelling. Kim moved permanently to Tuross in 2023 but has had a home here for 18 years.

Kim grew up a farm kid in country New South Wales and loved nothing more than roaming the paddocks and bush. Kim studied journalism and worked for *The Australian Financial Review* in the Canberra Press Gallery before joining the APS. One of her first jobs was running a campaign to attract more women to the Australian Protective Service (an arm of the AFP). Over a long career, including several as a Senior Executive Service officer, Kim ran communication and advertising campaigns, won a Prime Minister's Award for Excellence, travelled the top of Australia working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and delivered national policy initiatives.

In August Kim won the Banjo Paterson prize for her short story, *Shame the Stars*, inspired by her grandparent's love story and published her debut novel, *Bad Country*, on 31 July. Kim's greatest achievement has been raising two wonderful, now young adult, children with her husband Shayne. Kim will use her APS experience and communication skills to support the THPA to engage with government at all levels.

permit to comply with their Act. Land Services NSW staff recently advised they cannot produce a Permit and have directed the RFA to contact Eurobodalla Council. A letter will be sent to Council next week.

This issue has now reached state parliament and questions are expected to be raised in the upcoming Estimates Committee to hopefully identify why Crown Lands has changed access to public waterways (Bowens Creek and Trunketabella Lake) and ownership issues. Both waterways are part of the Tuross Recreational Fishing Haven which was an expensive purchase from NSW fishing licence fees over many years. We understand the closure of these waterways is not supported by the Crown Lands Commissioner or the Minister who is seeking an alternative solution. However, to date, the Council has not offered/discussed an alternative. Both the RFA and THPA recently met with the new Council General Manager and some new Councillors and they will support the case for access for a number of recreational groups, as has been the case for several decades.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS AND KYLA HALL – TOM WEBSTER

There are several issues being pursued by THPA related to infrastructure. Public transport in and out of Tuross remains a concerning issue and Marshall's bus service has expressed interest but has indicated they would require Council support. The Council will be approached to clean up our beaches before the summer holiday season or provide equipment for qualified locals to do this. A team is also being established to set up Christmas decorations on the sign near the highway and volunteers for this job are welcome. Steve Smith has reported that the Council will not approve the integration of the Hall Committee with the THPA and we will keep trying to resolve the outstanding issue of Council charging THPA to use the hall. June Hall and Linda Steadman have volunteered to assist with THPA use of the hall, and you can email the Secretary if you would like to help. Improvements are continuing for the Hall, which has a healthy budget, however making the Hall an evacuation centre may be difficult due to insurance concerns, but this will be explored further with the Council. Any Kyla Hall matters will be progressed through Steve. In preparation for a proposed upcoming meeting with Councillor Mick Johnson and to help shape priorities for the next 12 months, members are requested to send ideas or issues for town infrastructure to the Secretary at secretarythpa@gmail.com

MUTTON BIRDS

Mutton Birds have recently been found dead on beaches around the south coast. Anyone who discovers a dead Mutton Bird is advised not to touch them but, if possible, to take a photo of the bird, including the foot tag if present, and send the photo to adriftlab@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

When: 2pm, Friday 1 December 2024

Where: St Andrew's War Memorial Church, Tuross

Local musicians Gary Robertson, Joel Waters and Ashley Stanley, together with Bateman Bay tenor Steve Johnston, will perform a selection of Christmas music, jazz and classical numbers.

To secure your tickets call 4473 8703

THPA News: Editor, Kim Ulrick

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.