



Newsletter

22 October 2024



ON THE MOVE

Tomaree Lodge Shoal Bay

In June this year Minister for Families and Communities & Justice and Disability Inclusion the **Hon Kate Washington MP** announced that a **Community Engagement Committee** will be established which will be an Advisory Group to take the Tomaree Lodge project forward – i.e. to be transitioned to Port Stephens for Community and Recreational use.

The NSW Government subsequently called for '**Expressions of Interest**' from the Community and the following Community Members were accepted onto the Committee::

- **Kathie Barnes** -from **Tomaree Cultural Development Group**
- **Iain Watt** -from **EcoNetwork Port Stephens**
- **Sue Olsson** -from **National Parks Association**
- **Peter Clough** -from **Tomaree Headland Heritage Group**
- **Penny Amberg**
- **Chris Bastic**



The '**first**' meeting was held on the 16 October 2024.

The Department of Communities & Justice who own the site has decided to develop a number of what they call '**Meanwhile**' projects which will not compromise the long term planning for the Tomaree Lodge - these should commence shortly.

We support this approach which will demonstrate to the people of Port Stephens that ***the transition has commenced providing of course that these activities are projects that are consistent with community expectations and standards.***

The other important matter is for the NSW Government to quickly commence the long term planning of the Lodge site i.e. a **Master Plan** which should of course also address the need for financial sustainability of the site as it is currently costing **\$1m a year** to manage and secure the site.



Information Kiosk and Food and Beverage Outlet

We have put forward what we believe is a compelling case for **a Café and Information Kiosk** at the entry to the Tomaree Lodge site which we believe will meet community expectations and standards.

We have prepared a costing and revenue budget and currently developing a plan for consideration by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.



New Showers (4) on the Western side of the Amenities Block

(Image taken 8TH August 2024)

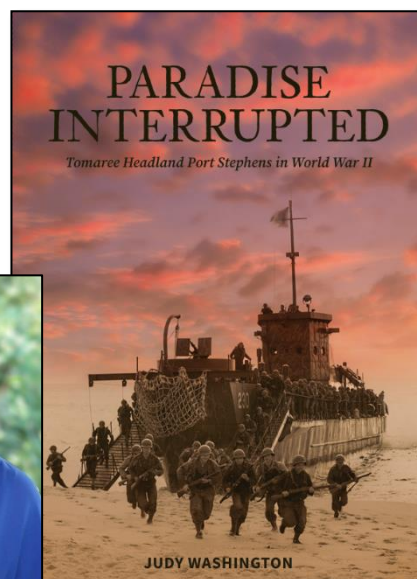
The Government has established a new shower facility which has 4 jet outlets adjacent to the Amenities block just inside the entry of the Tomaree lodge.

Military History Book on the Tomaree Headland and Tomaree Peninsula

The History Book titled – ‘**Paradise Interrupted**’ was officially Launched in the Whitesands Room at the Shoal Bay Country Club on 14 October 2024. We have produced 500 copies and have already sold over 155 copies.

The author is Archivist and Historian **Judy Washington OAM**.

This book is an accurate and graphic account of the role that the Tomaree Headland and Tomaree Peninsula played during WWII. The book has been funded by a number of grants and local benefactors totalling \$33,000.



The Launch was supported by photographer **Jen Newman** who provided a Photographic Exhibition called ‘**Unearthed Echoes**’ reflecting images of the WWII relics which remain intact on the Tomaree Headland.. This display is currently at the Nelson Bay Visitors Centre **until 11 November 2024**.

Books can be purchased at the Nelson Bay Visitors Centre and **would make a great Christmas present..**



Help Desk

Over the recent School Holidays we again set up a **Help Desk** at the Tomaree Headland which not only provided a service to the thousands of visitors but provided us with a great insight and data into the

source of the visitors and age demographic and whether the Tomaree Headland met their expectations.

We actually use a Counter so that we are able to record numbers. In fact well over 12,000 people visited the Headland over the recent holiday period which reinforces that the Tomaree Headland is still the most visited attraction in Port Stephens.

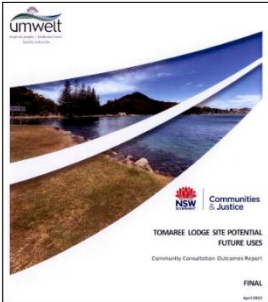




Social Media Campaign

With the funding help of Port Stephens Council we have been able to recently commence a social media campaign designed to widen the awareness and broaden our reach of what is happening and the future opportunities for the Tomaree Lodge.

We have engaged **SOCIALSPHERE MARKETING** (Proprietor **Wendy Dupont**) who has already substantially increased our followers and awareness. If you are not already a friend we encourage you to join us on Facebook.



NSW Government Community Consultation Outcomes recently released

(Conducted October 2022 to January 2023)



The NSW Government received over 500 submissions which included individuals and Community organisations.

Full report: [OUTCOMES - Community Consultation Report 2023](#)

(NOTE: The key outcome conclusions – Item 7.0 - Page 78 & 79)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Claiming the Date

Next meeting and annual AGM

Waratah Room Salamander Library Complex

Monday 18 November 2024

@ 5.30pm

RSVP - [AGM-18 November 2024](#)

We will be conducting our annual AGM and Member meeting on Monday 18 November 2024 in the Waratah room at the Salamander Library complex starting at 5.30pm sharp.

Financial members are able to vote at the AGM.

Peter Clough

President – Tomaree Headland Heritage Group Inc.

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