

# Volunteers push for improved traffic management at iconic Tomaree Headland



By Laura Rumbel  
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**TOURISM**  
**BY LAURA RUMBEL**

Year after year, Tomaree Headland proves to be one of the most popular tourist attractions in Port Stephens.

This holiday period is no different, and according to the Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG), the natural treasure that is Tomaree Headland has thousands of visitors daily.

Although, the headland provides picturesque ocean views and a wealth of history, it lacks a real sense of arrival and limited signage to the summit, says THHG president Peter Clough.

'The whole sense of arrival at the most popular visitor attraction in Port Stephens need addressing and substantial improvements are required to bring it to international standards' Mr Clough said.

For the past three years THHG has established a 'Help Desk' at the base of the headland to give tourists directions and information.

With THHG volunteers once again out at the 'Help Desk' between Boxing Day and January 5 this year.

Across the eleven days, they estimated 1000 people per day, primarily families with children and young people visited the headland.

'It is reasonable to assume that there would have been more that 2000 people each day, which confirms that the headland continues to become more popular with tourists each year, Mr Clough said.



Tomaree Headland Heritage Group president Peter Clough with board members Geoff Washington and Nigel Dique. Picture by Max Mason-Hubers

Traffic Management and parking also continue to be major safety issues at the headland's entry point which Mr Clough said THHG has reported to Port Stephens Council on a number of occasions.

There is an obvious need for a vehicle turning circle and signage because at the moment there is no prior notice to drivers that there is a 'no through road' with limited parking' he said.

A vehicle drop-off area, a shuttle bus parking area and a dedicated pedestrian area are just some of the recommendations THHG has recently passed on to council for consideration.

'Visitors and paying to park and therefor we believe they should be looked after with reasonable and safe

parking as well as adequate toilet facilities' Mr Clough said.

Additionally, Mr Clough said an alternative road needs to be seriously considered to address the traffic congestion at Shoal Bay Road during the peak holiday day periods.

'There really has to be something done about an alterative road because it gets worse every year so that's a priority for us,' he said.

THHG hope to meet on-site with Port Stephens Council personnel, elected council representatives, National Parks and the Department of Communities and Justice to work together to resolve the traffic management and parking issues.