



DIRECT LINK: [Newsletter 19 April 2024](#)

Tomaree Lodge Shoal Bay

ONSITE MEETING 27th March 2024 with the Department of Communities and Justice Management



We (THHG) were invited to a meeting at the Tomaree Lodge on Wednesday 27th March 2024. We had four representatives, also invited were Port Stephens Council, the University of Newcastle, the National Parks & WLS who each had 2 representatives as well as a representative from the Worimi Indigenous Land Council.

We were **allowed access to all of the buildings** and had a very broad and open discussion for a period of approximately 3 hours. We subsequently thanked the Department for a very productive and a refreshingly positive meeting.

There will now be a report made to the Minister responsible for the site (Minister Kate Washington and Member for Port Stephens) and we know the Port Stephens community is looking forward to an early announcement.



*Help Desk Volunteers
Lisa & Michael Thank you*

Help Desks

• Tomaree Headland

With the assistance of a number of volunteers we were able to **provide a Help Desk over the 4 day Easter weekend** which proved to be a most rewarding experience particularly Easter Sunday when we **recorded over 400 people per hour on that day.**

• Salamander Shopping Centre

For two days in the leadup to Easter we established a **Help Desk at the Salamander Shopping Centre** which provided an opportunity for us to respond to hundreds of enquiries from locals seeking a long awaited decision on the future of the Tomaree Lodge which still remains outstanding. We were also able to attract a number of new members and donations which were both needed and appreciated.



Information Kiosk and Food and Beverage Outlet

We have put forward to Port Stephens Council that consideration should be given to setting up a permanent **Information Kiosk and outdoor Café** potentially adjoining the nearby Amenities Block which would also provide beverages and light food.



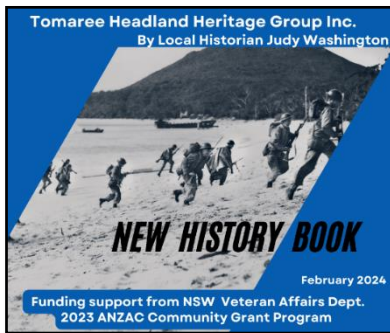
Caretaker Proposal

We have put forward a proposal for one of the Tomaree Lodge buildings to be occupied by a Caretaker in lieu of the current security arrangements which are extremely costly. The potential savings can be redirected to addressing the Master Planning process and the transitional costs.



New Signage

The National Parks & WLS (in conjunction with Port Stephens Council) installed **four (4) new signs** at the entry point to Tomaree Lodge and Headland which were most welcomed by the visiting public which proved to be extremely popular over Easter.



Military History Book on the Tomaree Headland and Tomaree Peninsula

The Military History Book is in **final draft format** thanks to author and **Historian Judy Washington** with the support of Photographer Jenny Newman.

We will be producing 500 copies, and we are hopeful it will be launched within the next 2-3 months. We have raised approximately \$30,000 which will be adequate to complete this important project.



Jetty Proposal

One of the key matters we proposed to the Department of Communities and Justice management at our onsite meeting on 27 March was the **reinstatement of the old Jetty** which would go a long way to reducing the need to use a motor vehicle to access the site and substantially improve traffic management.

Successful Grant application to Port Stephen Council

- In our efforts to increase the 'Sense' of Arrival 'at the Tomaree Headland we successfully applied for a **grant of \$6,000 from Port Stephens Council** to introduce a Mural at the entry point to the Tomaree Lodge which we are hopeful will be completed by July this year.

Newcastle University Architectural Students

- We conducted a tour for 16 Architectural Students who are concluding their Master's Degree, under the guidance of Dr Sarah Breen-Lovett. They have been requested to prepare individual projects relating to various elements of the Tomaree Lodge site and will be making a presentation to us on 31st May this year.

Tomaree Cultural Development Group

- The Tomaree Cultural Development Group has asked us to let you know about an upcoming event on 11th May which may appeal to you.
Link provides the details: <https://events.humanitix.com/sea-pictures>

MEMBERSHIP

- If you are not already a member of THHG we would appreciate your support to allow us to continue advocating for this major community project.

Link: [Membership \(tomareeheadlandportstephens.com.au\)](http://tomareeheadlandportstephens.com.au)

Regards

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