

PORT STEPHENS **N**ews **Of The Area**

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FREE

Tomaree Headland Group provide Help Desk over Easter



By Simon EKINS

VOLUNTEERS from the Tomaree Headland Heritage Group provided a 'Help Desk' at the Tomaree Headland every day over Easter as record crowds arrived, with many first time visitors including international guests.

Tomaree Headland is still the most visited attraction in Port Stephens as was evidenced

over the recent Christmas holiday period.

Numbers continue to grow since the last recorded figures in 2018 of 200,000+ visitors per annum.

The added attraction of the new Tomaree Coastal Walk was also expected to draw significant additional numbers so a very busy Easter was anticipated at the Headland.

NSW Premier Chris Minns at the Coastal Walk opening indicated that the new walk will potentially attract an additional 300,000 visitors each year, which will also significantly grow the numbers at the Tomaree Head.

Heritage Group President Peter Clough told News Of The Area, "Our Help Desk will also provide valuable data for National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Destination Port Stephens, particularly where people are coming from, the age demographic and of course visitor feedback."

A welcome addition has been the recently introduced signage at the Headland by the NPWS, contributing to a 'sense of arrival'.

There is also a strong

visitor thirst for local knowledge, particularly the significant military history of the Tomaree Peninsula, as well as on the future of the Tomaree Lodge and information about the Tomaree Coastal walk, which the Heritage Group says reinforces the need for a permanent information service at the Tomaree Headland.

Mr Clough and his help desk volunteers handed out leaflets and coastal walk maps to hundreds of visitors over the course of the weekend.

☐ The Tomaree Headland Heritage Group 'Help Desk' was manned by President Peter Clough and volunteer Glenville Stevens.

