



# Newsletter

17 June 2024



## STOP PRESS

# Tomaree Lodge Shoal Bay

## Major Announcement by the Minister



Minister for Families and Communities  
and Disability Inclusion the  
**Hon Kate Washington MP**



Communities  
& Justice

this week gave the clearest indication yet that the Tomaree Lodge site will be transitioned to Port Stephens for Community and Recreational use.

In fact she will shortly be **calling for 'Expressions of Interest'** to form a **'Community Engagement Committee'** which of course is most welcomed albeit more detail is required including its role.

The two key elements we are particularly seeking which we consider important are:

1. The **development of a Master Plan** for the site following further community engagement which should of course address the need for financial sustainability of the site
2. The **establishment of a Management Group** to facilitate incremental repurposing and the long-term Master Planning process



### Caretaker Proposal being considered

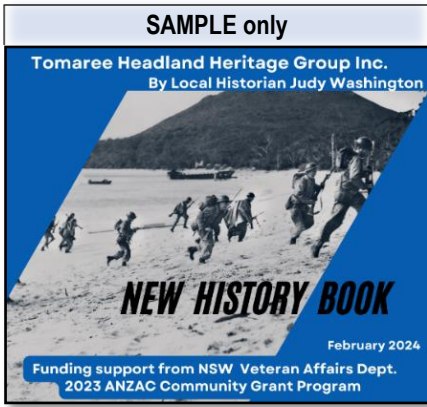
As mentioned in our April 2024 Newsletter we have put forward a proposal for one of the Tomaree Lodge buildings to be occupied by a Caretaker in lieu of the current security arrangements which are extremely costly.

We consider the potential savings can be redirected to addressing the Master Planning process for the future repurposing of the site and the transitional costs and the Government has advised that they are considering this idea.



### Information Kiosk and Food and Beverage Outlet

Following a number of discussions with the Department of Communities and Justice, we have put forward a compelling case for **a Café and Information Kiosk** at the entry to the Tomaree Lodge site.



## Military History Book on the Tomaree Headland and Tomaree Peninsula

The History Book titled - **Paradise Interrupted** - is in final draft format thanks to our **author and Historian Judy Washington** with the support of **photographer Jenny Newman**.

Local **Graphic Designer Katie Monin** is currently in the final design stages before going to print.

We will be producing 500 copies, and we are hopeful it will be launched by the end of August 2024. Details of the Launch will be advised soon. We have raised

approximately \$30,000 which will be adequate to complete this important project.

*This funding has been provided by grants and local benefactors. (Thankyou)*



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## Newcastle University Architectural Master's Degree Students

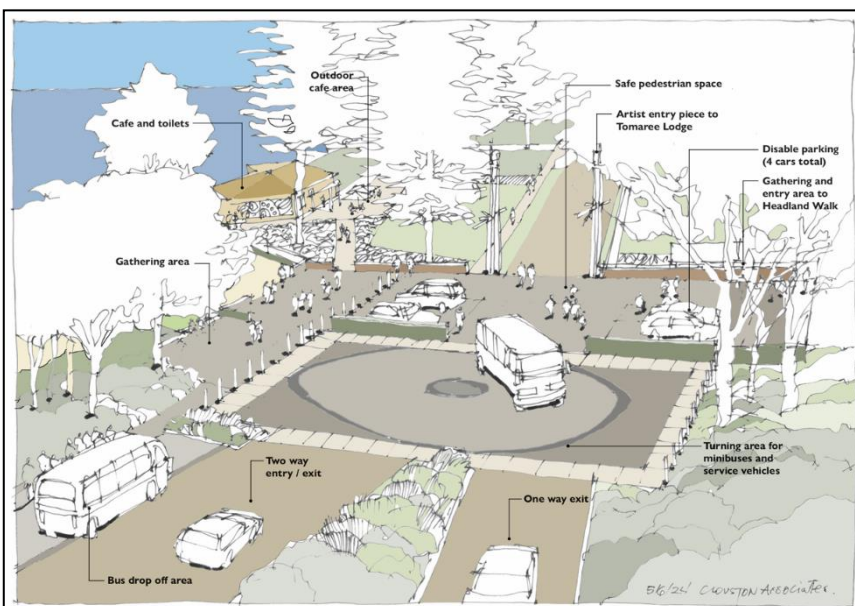
On 31<sup>st</sup> May we were invited to attend a presentation by the 2024 University of Newcastle Master of Architecture Students (16) who were provided with the opportunity of **preparing an architecturally designed concept** which potentially could be part of a future repurposed Tomaree Lodge site.

These concepts will be part of their final post-graduate Master's degree.

This was undertaken under the guidance of Senior Lecturer Dr Sarah Breen-Lovett who is a local Port Stephens resident.

Three THHG Board members attended who were impressed with the variety and vision of the students.

## Entrance Area to the Tomaree Lodge



We have also put forward to Port Stephens Council the need for an **overhaul of the entry** and to provide a much needed **Sense of Arrival and better traffic management and parking** at the most popular visitor attraction in Port Stephens – over 200,000 per annum.

**The accompanying sketch** is a starting point - this was prepared by the Consultants – **Cloustons** - who *provided the Strategic Concept Plan for a repurposed Tomaree Lodge*.



## MURAL GRANT from Port Stephens Council

We recently received a \$6,000 grant to prepare a Mural to enhance the **Sense of Arrival** at the Tomaree Headland.

Expressions of Interest will now be sought for the work to be undertaken which potentially could be on the Eastern wall of the amenities block near the entry area of the Tomaree Lodge site.



## New Road into Shoal Bay - proposal

Following adoption of the [Shoal Bay Place Plan](#) which included need for the investigation of a new road, we have now formally put forward a proposal to Port Stephens Council to actively commence the planning.

Link: [Letter-THHG to PSC- Additional Access Road](#)

We anticipate that traffic and parking management in Shoal Bay (particularly including the Tomaree Headland) will grow exponentially following recent completion of the NPWS Tomaree Coastal Walk and the future repurposing of the Tomaree Lodge.

Already over 200,000 people traverse the Tomaree summit each year making it the most popular visitor attraction in Port Stephens.



## Tomaree Museum Association (TMA)

As many of you will be aware the TMA has expressed interest in occupying one of the buildings at the Tomaree Lodge for a future Museum.

Their latest newsletter can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

[TMA-Newsletter-June-2024.pdf \(tomareemuseum.org.au\)](#)



## Remains of Fort Tomaree 2024 WALKING TRACK on Tomaree Headland Potential Military History

We have attached a draft **Military History Walking Track** which traverses the Tomaree Headland and will be showcased in the new Military History Book **'Paradise Interrupted'** to be launched in the near future.