



Newsletter

9th December 2024



**Happy Christmas to all of our members and families
and a successful and fulfilling 2025**

What next for the Future of the Tomaree Lodge

Tomaree Lodge Shoal Bay

❖ The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has:

- Upgraded the first building (Building 11) into an administration facility and has advertised for 2 staff who will work at the site
- Commenced the Master Planning process for the Tomaree Lodge site which they hope to complete within 12 months
- Commenced 'Meanwhile' projects which will not impact on the long term planning

❖ Port Stephens Council:

- We have written to our Mayor Leah Anderson regarding safety and traffic management/parking issues immediately outside the Tomaree Lodge entry. Leah has agreed to put the matter to the Council Traffic Committee
- We have also asked Port Stephens Council to enhance the Sense of Arrival with a '**WELCOME TO TOMAREE HEADLAND**' sign
- To consider a Shuttle Bus Service and turning circle (for all vehicles) as well as a Shuttle parking area at the entry

❖ We have also asked the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to:

- Consider reinstatement of the Jetty to reduce the reliance on parking at the Headland
- Consider provision of table and seat settings along the Tomaree Lodge foreshore
- Consider converting the Amenities block just inside the Lodge entry to a Café/Info Kiosk and outdoor seating (see below)
- Consider onsite parking including relocation of the boom gate



Café/Info Kiosk Proposal

We have lodged an application to the Dept of Communities and Justice to convert the existing amenities block into:

A Café and Information Kiosk at the entry to the Tomaree Lodge site which we believe will meet community expectations and standards and will prove to be immensely popular.

There is a quite large unused section of the building which could be suitable for kitchen and visitor information facilities. Attached is an Artist Impression. We have also produced a set of plans and setup costs which we believe are compelling and would be a major revenue raiser for the Government.

Great Christmas Gift

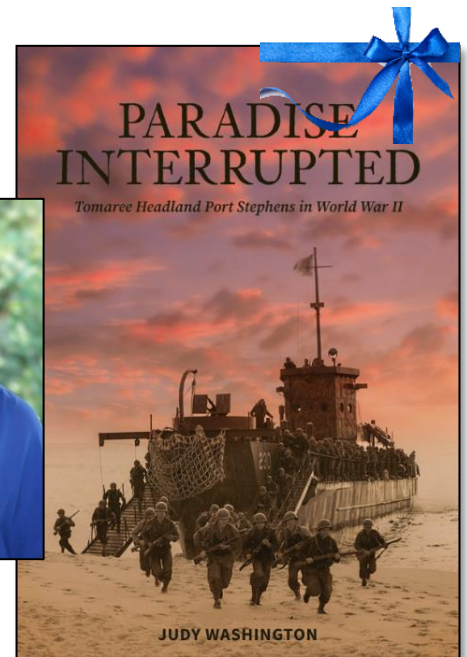
Military History Book on the Tomaree Headland and Tomaree Peninsula

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 350 copies so it has been hugely popular.

A great Christmas present and is available at the Nelson Bay Visitors Centre at a cost of \$40. The author is Archivist and Historian **Judy Washington OAM**. The book can also be purchased at Readers Retreat in George Road at Salamander Bay.



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 Kreative Space Studio & Art Café at 14 Market Street Fingal Bay. The ‘Paradise Interrupted’ books are also available at the Café.



Help Desk

We will again be **conducting a Help Desk at the Tomaree Headland** from **26 December until 7 January 2025** inclusive from 9.00am until 12.30pm daily.

We need Volunteer support. It is also a very rewarding experience and particularly enhances the Visitor Experience.



If you would like to volunteer for say a session please advise at this email: [Help Desk Roster Volunteer](#)

Alternate Road Into Shoal Bay - Proposal

Following the recent major weather event threatening Shoal Bay Road (at Shoal Bay) and a bushfire near Wreck Beach we have written to Port Stephens Council seeking the commencement of planning for an additional road access into Shoal Bay.

Also other factors such as the growing popularity of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and the Tomaree Headland as well as a recent survey of Fingal Bay residents by the Fingal Bay Community Association Inc. have influenced our proposal.



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.

Annual AGM held in November 2024

Resolution: - to increase the THHG Board to 14 was approved unanimously.
Subsequently the following were elected to the 2024/2025 Board:



Executive

President	Peter Clough	Member
Vice-President	Geoff Washington	Rep: TRRA Inc.
Secretary	David Gray	Member
Treasurer	Frank Future	Rep: Marine Park Assoc Inc.

Directors

Doug Cross	Rep: Tomaree Museum Assoc Inc.
Tim Meharg	Rep: Nelson Bay RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Chris Bowman	Rep: Tomaree Cultural Development Group Inc.
Iain Watt	Rep: EcoNetwork Port Stephens Inc.
Chris Bastic	Member
Tammy Kelly	Member
Bill Knaggs	Member
Grenville Stevens	Member
Peter Edwards	Member
Rory Milne	Member

Peter Clough

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