

More headway for Shoal Bay headland plan

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Tomaree Headland.

The Tomaree Headland Heritage Group can never be accused of not consulting with the people of Port Stephens in regard to its plans for the future use of the former Tomaree Lodge site on the Shoal Bay headland.

"We are constantly providing presentations to various community organisations, we regularly have a stand at the Salamander Bay shopping complex which has attracted new members and raised awareness of the project, and we have an extremely active community engagement program," THHG president Peter Clough said.

"We are undertaking these measures because we feel this is such an important issue for Port Stephens."

Mr Clough said that a concept plan has been developed with key elements addressing issues such as potential education and research opportunities, as well as showcasing, interpreting and restoring key heritage assets/themes of an indigenous, military (WWII) and marine nature.

"It includes the potential for adaptive re-use of approximately 10 on-site cottages, a large meeting hall, an administration block and a number of other structures. We will also consider any eco-tourism opportunities including visitor facilities and conservation of the natural environment.

"Other considerations include the appropriate and sensitive commercial activities such as accommodation, cafe and/or restaurant, excursions, visitor information kiosk, history and nature based tours, events and marine related activities.

"The on-site museum or interpretation centre would relate to the history of the area. The plan will also consider public recreation, amenities, car parking, park and ride and public transport arrangements, and the potential reinstatement of a jetty with a pontoon platform."