

TOMERONG COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes, meeting 27 July 2005

Present: Gerard Proust, Todd Gallant, Richard Bates, Tom Donohue, Dennis Argall, Ev Pettigrew, Jill Lord, John Lord, Kerry Thompson, Lindsay Parnell, Bev Stewart, Michael Davis.

Guests: Eric Zarrella and Patricia Mason

Apologies: Ruth McKinnon, Meryl McGinn, Bernie Cusack

Facilitator: Dennis Argall

**Next meeting at 7 pm on
Wednesday 24 August.
All welcome.**

Shoalhaven Landcare Association

Pat Mason spoke as a member of the Shoalhaven Landcare Association. She is also a member of Shoalhaven River Watch. Eric Zarrella spoke as Community Support Officer for the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority [SRCMA]. They have identified gaps in Landcare work in Wandandian and Tomerong, although there are active groups in surrounding areas. They attended the forum meeting to suggest initiating a Tomerong Landcare Group.

Grants, training and tools can be made available for local projects addressing such issues as erosion prevention, fencing, planting, weed removal, sustainable land use and increased production. Work is done by volunteers. Projects can be done on public or private land provided the result will provide a community benefit. Applications for grants need to show community support and identify the benefit. Local groups liaise with the Shoalhaven Landcare Group to obtain grants and other assistance.

Eric noted that SRCMA is working on a forward plan for the next ten years. By the end of 2005 he needs to provide a forecast of the investment required over the next 3 years. He requested the forum to jointly host an initial public meeting at some time in the next couple of months, with a view to starting a Tomerong Landcare Group. At this meeting representatives of the Shoalhaven Landcare Group would provide information on what can be done by a Landcare Group and the help available. They would provide a series of aerial maps and photos and start the process of identifying possible problem areas. They will then visit these areas to help assess resources required. Large projects may potentially be able to seek assistance from Green Corps.

The forum was keen to support this initiative. A small working party was formed, consisting of Gerard Proust, Bev Stewart, Ev Pettigrew and John Lord. They will seek to arrange a meeting jointly hosted with Shoalhaven Landcare and SRCMA on a Saturday, after the Country Fair, with the date to be decided but perhaps Saturday 8 October. They will arrange to publicise the event with stalls at the Tomerong markets and at the Country Fair. The SRCMA will also assist with publicity for the meeting, including using their facilities to provide mailouts to landowners.

Matters arising from previous minutes

School Council

Ev spoke with Chris McLean regarding the suspension of the School Council. It is in a 6 month recess. This year has seen a very large turnover in the P&C committee, and the new committee are to be congratulated on the energy and enthusiasm which they are applying to their work, especially in the context of this being a Country Fair year. The new P&C handbook has expanded the role of the P&C in the running of the school. The combination of the large workload, need for clarifying the roles of the Council and P&C, and difficulties in finding suitable meeting times have led to the temporary suspension. However the intention is to reconstitute the council early next year. Ev will write a letter to the school expressing the forum's support for the P&C and the Council.

Toilet block on "Timberhills" Ruth McKinnon has let the forum know that the grant application has been made and she has had an indication that it was favourably received. She is now awaiting the outcome.

Road Safety

Richard reported that the Council has passed the works program. Church Road will be sealed this financial year, possibly by Christmas. Some other matters we had sought are being done. New markers of the crossing between school and hall have regrettably already been interfered with, one stolen. Re-marking is to make bus parking outside the school safer. The Pine Forest-Hawken intersection has been re-marked. However, there seems to be a problem with the Council's application to the RTA for bus bay funding. Cllr Bates said he would pursue this.

School of Arts grant

The amount of the grant is \$20,000.

Correspondence

Out

27/6 Application for grant funding Toilet block – "Timber Hills"

In

30/6 Minutes of ward 2 principal consultative bodies.

6/7 SCC-DA Eucalypt lane - new house with garage and pool.

22/6 SCC-DA William Bryce Rd - new dwelling

29/6 SCC-DA 385 Hawken Rd - Extensions

...concern to be expressed to council that notice was not sent to the Community Forum of the plan variation for the Parnell Subdivision.

Treasurer's Report

Gerard reported no receipts or payments.

Other Matters

Welcome Brochure

Ev presented the draft Welcome Brochure, which was well received and now only requires final fine tuning. It will be published in the next couple of weeks and dated August 2005. Future updated versions will be released as required. It will be available at the shop, the school and Tomerong markets.

The School

Todd reported that the P&C has been pursuing the Education Dept on the matter raised with the Minister in the Forum's petition last year, urging acquisition of more land behind the school, to ensure it is not locked in by the Watt subdivision. The Dept plans a demographic study, postponed from first half to the second half of the year to assess future needs. The TCF will offer to assist in this if required. There is no talk of relocation of the school.

The P&C is also seeking funding through the *Investing in Our Schools* project which has funding available to schools. They have identified some projects and had quotes done to support their application. These include a sign for the front of the school, exercise stations, a second flagpole and other items.

Dennis will write a letter supporting school pursuit of heritage status of the school residence and library.

Towns, Villages and Futures Program

This program can make available some funding for development in villages. Ev will contact Louise Conibear with regard to visiting the forum. Ev to advise Louise that we would like to take up this opportunity after the Landcare matter, with a view to considering possible grant application in 2006.

School of Arts

Reminder that the SofA AGM is on Wed 3 August at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm. Lindsay will facilitate the next meeting.