

Tuross Head Progress Association Inc
Minutes of General Meeting 7 October 2025
at Kyla Park Hall Tuross Head

Meeting opened at 2.10 pm.

1. Gary Smith, Acting Chairman, **welcomed all present** and commented on absence of some Committee members. Gary indicated that Bushfire Subcommittee and Infrastructure Subcommittee had been re-constituted and that the Publications Subcommittee was in process of being reconstituted. All were paused in April because of Committee member resignations and a need to devote the Committee's focus on securing the Doctor's presence in Tuross. The Health Subcommittee is currently paused but Consultant is available if required.

Bushfire Subcommittee: Gary indicated he had been appointed Chairman and that Tom Webster and Maj Gen Peter were part of the Committee.

Publications person required if anyone feels like putting their toe in the water. Committee issues are worked on jointly so there's assistance available. Please talk to Committee member.

2. **PRESENT:** 20 members.
3. **APOLOGIES:** Ross Davidson and Helen Davidson (President and Secretary - on urgent family business); Rob Evans and Peter Williamson (Joint chairs of Infrastructure Subcommittee) Eye Surgery and Interstate; Cathy Millican (Junior VP - Work commitment); Tom Webster (VP – Family health); Janet Jones.

Acceptance of apologies proposed: Leonie Beers; Seconded: Steve Smith. ACCEPTED

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of 1/7/2025 previously circulated, emailed and on website.**

Proposed: Peta Machala; Seconded: Barbara Gibbs. ACCEPTED

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES 1/7/2025**

- **New doctor has been installed in the surgery**, thanks to THPA JVP Cathy Millican's efforts. Availability commented on, with special note that the Doctor is operating Telehealth and that appointments are available on weekend. Peter Gready opens pharmacy on Sunday now also. Evelyn spoke of her very positive experience on appointment booking.

- Caring Group letter seeking contact with THPA – letter received in recent weeks indicating Caring Group were keen to hear of various group activities as their members had expressed lack of information generally about what happens in the village.

THPA member explained that the Caring group meet every Thursday; they have people who will change light bulbs or assist in driving or in other ways to help residents.

- **Coopers Island: Concern about public land being ‘donated’ to farmer.** Tom Webster has taken up this topic. He will advise on progress.

6. **Treasurers Reports:** 1/7/2025 – 30/8/2025 previously circulated. Jenny Irvine indicated cash and term deposit dollars along with income and expenses for September. Expenses included a sum for printing flyers which were distributed at the Country Club Picnic Day and the Google Memory Fee. Letter box drop not contemplated but flyers were available at entrance table for members to distribute to neighbours and would be placed in a few of the shop, chemist, butcher, hairdressers.

Acceptance of Reports Proposed: Kath Smith; Seconded: Leonie Beers. ACCEPTED

7. **Address by President deferred until next meeting. Accordingly, Gary as today’s Chairman, will address the infrastructure list suggestions.** Additional items can be added as required:

- **Bushfire management and safety:** Chris Jones spoke about concern with firebreaks on the grazing lands. Under terms of lease, leaseholder **obliged to maintain** firebreaks in place at the beginning of the lease. No firebreaks seem to have been created – **if no mention in lease there needs to be an extra condition inserted in next lease 2028 whereby leaseholder should be compelled to maintain firebreaks.** This needs to be incorporated into the terms of the lease now as routine issues can happen in the background on Council business without publication. Gary indicated there was a copy of lease in documents some years back and that Council are applying ‘**buffer**’ as a description to the grazing lands but Bushfire Subcommittee believe the grasslands **act as a wick. Proposed Committee need to act now.**
- **School Bus Zones** - Continue discussing with Council re child and road user safety at Bus stop opposite Lake Street (Correspondence to/from Council will be checked re this **and Peter** to follow up.) There is a view that more community land could be taken to make that bus halt safer for all road users. The space at the top of Anderson Street was a good example.
- Completion of toilet upgrade Coila Lake (as indicated by Council for past two years); there has been a delay with the sewage works at that location but scheduled for this year.

Noted from member comment that Council doing drainage at the start of Tuross Boulevard/Coila Toilets – there is a plan to use boulders uncovered for outlet to the river.

- Possibility of exercise equipment along the foreshore.
- Extension of sealed bike and walking pathway from Princes Highway to link up with walkways around the Lake Coila – dangerous for foot and cycle traffic as access road to Tuross is narrow. Good idea – but funding help would be needed. To be followed up with ESC. President pursuing this.
- Additional Seating would be very beneficial. Contact Faye and Leonie Beers – **Committee need to check suggested locations.**

Additional matters raised by Members:

- **Kyla Hall:** Proposal to offer invitation for visit from Council Infrastructure Coordinator re THPA and Kyla Hall issues – Steve Smith (Hall Committee Convenor) and Peter Williamson (in THPA Committee) commented on how helpful this new person was. Steve reported that they had still not been able to appoint a new president and secretary to **Hall Committee** – this committee is very beneficial to Tuross Head as our Hall is managed jointly with ESC and access to improvements and assistance is made easier by membership. **Volunteers should contact neither Steve Smith or THPA Committee.**
- **Gardens Committee:** Steve Smith and Tony Jackson, Gardens Convenor, spoke about THPA having contact with SHASA – contacting Kathryn Maxwell soon could be beneficial for THPA – a visit from Kathryn **could be arranged for the November meeting** to the advantage of THPA. Note: This visit has been offered by President to KM as at 13.10.2025.
- **Keep Left sign at top of Anderson knocked down for 4th time.** Each time previously Council have repaired very quickly but repeat damage almost immediate Suggestion that sign be moved or a camera or heavy cement base installed. One member suggested moving one of the boulders mentioned above to that location. Perhaps a bulky object would be more visible than the thin pole.
- Disability Access Lavender Bay ongoing
- Beach clean-up ongoing
- Sandy Point Disability Track project – funding for that transferred to Tuross River Bridge

- Emergency Heart Defibrillator locations in Tuross are on website – Kyla Hall does not have one despite many groups using the location – Steve couldn't recall getting that far.

8. Secretary's Report deferred till next meeting.

- 9. Minutes of 2025 AGM on 5 August** were circulated and put on website. These will be confirmed at the AGM in 2026.

10. Bush Fire Subcommittee Short Update by Gary Smith.

- Bushfire Committee met with local Member Michael Holland after the Independent bushfire assessment was received declaring aspects of Tuross high fire risk. This Report was forwarded to council with no immediate effect. Michael Holland indicated a public petition would give him power to table in Parliament. Petition available for signing at next meeting.
- One member suggested that Council's requirements were contradictory – Council insisted on fencing and screens on bushfire prone sites as in Viewpoint Court and Coral Crescent, also Hector McWilliam new builds; but were refusing to cull overgrown undergrowth on land under their responsibility even though the Fire Department's overlay shows inclusion in the fire risk zone.

**Acceptance of Report proposed: June Brown Seconded: Faye Beers.
ACCEPTED.**

- 11. Infrastructure Report: Deferred** until next meeting. Treasurer suggested using Council website as preferred option to notify infrastructure issues arising along with photographs. This was a **direct route to get action**. Also can use THPA Infrastructure email address.

12. General Business

- (a) Invitation for Nomination of members for the THPA Committee Positions still vacant –
- Minutes Secretary
 - Publications Member
- (b) **Picnic at Country Club** – THPA leaflets and Petition were made available at **very short notice thanks to Jenny Irvine and Gary Smith**. Thanks to Ross and Helen Davidson, June and Ray Brown and Evelyn Ashcroft for manning the THPA gazebo on the day from 10.30-3.00 pm. Thanks also to Steve and Jill Mawson for helping to erect the gazebo - much easier with a member at each corner **SO PLEASE FOLKS GIVE US 30 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME WHEN WE DO THIS AGAIN.**

- (c) **Christmas Decorations** – volunteers required to install decorations at entrance from Princes Highway to Hector McWilliam. **Please give your name to Secretary Helen via THPA secretary email address. Members suggested Men's Shed** could help with making the new Christmas Tree and organising one or two 'under aged 70 years' members to erect the decorations on the sign. Peta suggested perhaps installing toys on one side and Christmas Tree on the other could reduce the need for ladder climbing. **Please remember MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK.**
- (d) **Need for THPA to become more prominent in community** – despite **advertising on notice boards, having an excellent website and providing public meetings, and minutes, newsletters** and a Facebook page (temporarily on pause) to over 150 members, Committee members are getting feedback indicating people are not aware of the good things THPA is doing, for instance the reinstatement of access to a GP in Tuross and the comments received from the Caring Group about the vulnerability of their members. Please see minutes of 1/7/2025 if you need to refresh. **Suggestions for advertising welcome but best adverts are word of mouth – please talk about the advantages THPA brings to our community**
- (e) **Afternoon Tea Roster:** The 'Welcoming' ladies did a great job last year and are happy to continue to set up **but at least two volunteers are needed to clear up after the tea – that way it is a short time for all.** If we get 5 names that's only two turns on in the year giving half an hour of their time after a meeting. Come and see committee member, speak to Barbara or Peta or just volunteer on the day. **Please also remember also to put your chair away after the meeting.**
- (f) **Community Gardens** had visit by SHASA who are running sessions on mitigation and disaster prevention. Tony Steadman indicated a good talk from them, good extra materials. **SHASA would like to address THPA. Steve Smith will provide Kathryn Maxwell's email address to secretary THPA. Anglicare Disaster also helpful** – there is a need to spread the knowledge about disaster survival.

Gary indicated he has already been in touch with SHASA about the hall. Tony indicated SHASA have a working fund. Organisations can apply to them: **Kathryn has made it really clear they can see Tuross needs help with refuge. They would like to help Association push Council.** Kathryn gave impression that with the new manager on Council communication seemed easier. Additionally, SHASA might be able to provide somethings Council is not able to do. New GM might have a new opinion on matters. **There is a SHASA meeting next Tuesday in Moruya.** Opportunity to have Von Hutchison from Bushfire Relief from Anglicare who are working with SHASA. Dozen of evacuation centres in Bega and other shires – Tuross out on a limb.

Further comments –

Meetings in the Bay, Broulee and Moruya 1.00pm or 12.00 noon at the Moruya Church during 2nd week of November. Topics - what to do in disaster, how to obtain all the aps. **Notice in letterboxes. Please don't put in rubbish – follow up.**

Could Country Club board manager be invited to our General Meeting if we can have SHASA to speak? Insurance would have to be upped. This important matter referred to Committee for prompt action so we don't miss the opportunity.

- (g) **THPA Meeting Days** – several members asked about changing back to a Thursday – Gary indicated this would be brought up at Committee meeting.

9. RAFFLE

Blue 80 Steve Smith Red A94 Chris Jones

- 10. Meeting closed AT 3.10; and Afternoon Tea was served.
- 11. Next Meeting is currently scheduled for first Tuesday in November – 4 November 2025. **HOWEVER since this is Melbourne Cup Day the Committee decided to MOVE the meeting to the Thursday, 6 November.**

In addition General Meetings will be booked for the first THURSDAY in the month from November/December 2025 and then from February-September 2026.