

## Newsletter.....August, 2019

### Gillion Pty. Ltd. (Power Pde)....commercial water extraction

True to its decade long form this saga is still slowly winding up. The third trail through the courts commenced in 2015 with an eventual refusal of Gillion's appeal handed down in October, 2018. Council's subsequent filing for costs, followed by lengthy submission by both sides has yet to receive a court hearing date for a judgment to be handed down. So we are still waiting.

### The draft Scenic Rim Planning Scheme

Council has finished wading through all the submissions made during the public consultation period with further decisions made at their meeting on 22nd July. As mentioned previously, it is understood that submitters' main concerns were environment, no more sub division, water, secondary housing and dual occupancy, in that order.

There is to be a further opportunity for the community to have a say on the updated draft and residents will be notified of this time frame by TMPA and our councillors in their columns in the local papers.

### Tamborine Mountain Biosphere

About twelve years ago, in an attempt to have Tamborine Mountain's distinctive unique features more formally acknowledged, TMPA explored acquiring Iconic Status for the mountain. At that time Noosa and Port Douglas sought and obtained Iconic Status. Whilst this had no legal status, it did underline what made these areas special. Having an established formal "identity" probably helped these two shires obtain de-amalgamation in later years.

TMPA explored going down the same path, and sought advice and help from various sources. Unfortunately, we didn't get anywhere. The hope was that council planners would be alerted to take more care when dealing with inappropriate development applications. These were continuing to come in at regular intervals. .

Several years ago, the notion of a Biosphere here was discussed but most of our efforts were going into the two major court cases we were involved with. (Gillion and Guanaba).

More recently, a group within TMPA formed a Biosphere sub-committee. This has now separated & acquired incorporation to work solely to achieve UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status. Its three main functions are: (1) **active conservation** of landscapes, biodiversity & culture; (2) **responsible development** balancing the relationship between people & nature; (3) **learning & understanding** through environmental education, research & monitoring.

Acquiring UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status should help to preserve this unique South East Queensland asset. By sending out a clear message that this area requires special consideration in a wide range of matters, it is hoped that the values Tamborine Mountain can be saved for the future. *(TMPA submission supporting Biosphere status attached)*

### Proposed Tamborine Mountain Environmental Centre

When the Chamber of Commerce took over the Visitor Information Centre eight years ago, space for natural history displays was reduced. Consequently, the need to showcase Tamborine Mountain's key environmental characteristics prompted discussions to establish a full Environment Centre on the mountain.

Several mountain organizations with environmental links are now participating in this endeavour and a sub-committee within TMPA has been formed to formally take the necessary steps of enquiry and to seek support.

This is envisaged as a large long term project. Its aim is to establish a permanent centre for the general public and professional users that provides information, study and research facilities and interpretative resources for understanding the biodiverse natural environment and ecological value of Tamborine Mountain. This centre would need to be reasonably central, have toilets, parking and cafes nearby. A large vision indeed.

Currently several members will be visiting the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve in Maleny. This is a living museum of plant and animal life which no doubt will provide food for thought in the group's next meetings.

### **TMPA Saturday/Sunday monthly afternoon entertainment sessions**

No events were organized for August, but there are two in September. On September 1st, at the Zamia, a presentation will be made by SEQ Water, Prof. Lucy Reading will update on her (& her PhD student's) water research here and there will be input from "Save our Water". Full details will be circulated shortly.

On September 14th, again at the Zamia, the new feature film "2040" will be screened at 2 pm. As the theatre has been booked for the whole day, local organizations, makers & growers supportive of clean, green, and environmentally responsible actions & production will be showing their products/messages. Again, more details will be issued shortly.

### **Modified Monash Model – affecting the mountain's health & other services**

To again point out how ridiculous the MMM geographical reclassification for area services and funding for semi-rural Tamborine Mountain is, TMPA has written once again, this time to the Prime Minister listing the features which make this presented model totally inappropriate.

Scott Buchholz, our Federal member, has taken up this issue and has presented to the government a community petition so that the current reclassification of Tamborine Mountain under the MMM1 may be rescinded. We hope to have a more suitable MMM in place in the not too distant future.

### **Sub-committee – transport – Blueprint**

An independent group of residents has conducted a survey of Tamborine Mountain's qualities, opportunities and threats. This was well received and much data was collected and collated. One of the main concerns expressed concerned lack of public transport. At its July meeting TMPA agreed to host a sub-group or working group which will take on this task. This group, mostly TMPA members, will investigate potential options for some form of public transport with a view to presentations to council and state government.

### **Rare bird sightings on Tamborine Mountain**

Further to the report in April that Tamborine Mountain is home to the very rare Rawnsley's bowerbird (check Google), there have been further sightings on densely vegetated southern Main Western Road. This is only the fourth time this bird has been seen - 1867, then in 2004 at Binna Burra & third in Bellingen, NSW. Which goes to show how amazing our bird life is and what a treasure we are living with. The attached photos are courtesy of avid bird photographer Patrick Colley. Thank you Patrick. (3 attachments)

Jeanette