

Newsletter.....February, 2017

Roslyn Lodge closure

On Thursday, 9th February, everyone (including Council) was stunned to hear that PresCare will be closing this facility on 31st March.

Ongoing financial viability and the age of the building were some of the reasons given for this decision. Assistance is to be provided for each person and their family to access alternative service providers.

Tamborine Mountain has a larger proportion of older residents than other communities. Its relative isolation and lack of full urban facilities has ensured that people tended to arrive after their families had grown or after full retirement. Having an aged care facility here means that its residents can keep in close touch with family and the many friends they had acquired in the years spent here. It adds some quality to life in one's declining years. Its prospective closure is a serious loss to the community.

There is to be a public meeting on Thursday, 16th February, 7 pm, at the Vonda Youngman Centre. Entry will be restricted to the first 350 people.

The current T.M. News on page 4 has two templates people can use to write to the CEO, PresCare and also to Scott Buchholz, MP.

Guanaba Experience development

Unsurprisingly, there is yet another delay to this protracted court case. The court session on Thursday, 9th February was listed to deal with the variation between the modified plans submitted to the Federal Department of Environment and those that Council approved. Mr. Noort claims these differences to be a "Minor Change".

There appear to be many things wrong in Mr. Noort's list of claimed changes to the plans and documents in Council's negotiated decision notice. A confused and unreliable presentation continues to be made to the court. Currently Mr. Noort has been asked to clarify and expand on a series of points (by our lawyers as well as the government SARA agency) and the delay is to have this sorted out.

If the developer's changes are not minor then the developer would need to submit a fresh application to Council. Time has passed, and the early concerns regarding Council's approval in the face of SRRC's Biodiversity Report stirred especially one shire resident. And as we all know, we now have a new mayor as a result.

Advices from EDO's lawyers have confirmed our activities adding a definition of a minor change (Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld) – Section 350 **Meaning of a minor change**

- (1) A *minor change* in relation to an application, is any of the following changes to the application -
 - (a) a change that merely corrects a mistake about the name of address of the applicant or owner, of the address or other property details of the land to which the application applies, if the assessment manager is satisfied the change would not adversely affect the ability of a person to assess the changed application.
 - (b) a change of applicant, if the assessment manager is satisfied the change would not adversely affect the ability to assess the changed application;
 - (c) a change that merely corrects a spelling or grammatical error
 - (d) a change that –
 - (i) does not result in a substantially different development, and

- (ii) does not require the application to be referred to any additional referral agencies, and
- (iii) does not change the type of development approval sought, and
- (iv) does not require impact assessment for any part of the changed application, if the original application did not involve impact assessment..

It now seems that the fundamental nature of the Guanaba development has been changed to open as a facility to cater overwhelmingly for experienced Downhill Mountain Bikers, not the general public, family tourism or eco-tourism. The list of changes is substantial and contains misleading sections.

The Appeal, including the Minor Change Application, will be reviewed on Wednesday, 22nd February.

Courier Mail article, 14th Feb...(referred to by one wit as “fake news”).....This is a one sided presentation seemingly more concerned with blanket business use of national parks “to promote tourism” without close inspection of individual projects, some of which can do more harm than good for the tourism industry itself. Certainly, the mountain’s 100 year old tourist attraction here (the most visited day destination in SEQ) has continued to attract people from far and wide. The trick is to work out what so many people come here for.

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

Court sessions started with two appearances in one week – 18th and 20th January when Orders were set.

Further documents have been exchanged. The hearing is set down for 27th February for one week. A number of people have expressed interest to attend one of these court sessions, so here is your chance. The Court building is directly across the road from Roma Street Station. Inside, the board on the left tells you the location and time, probably 10 am. Planning and Environment Court. Upstairs, walk into the court room, bow to the judge, then take a seat (preferably back row). Prior to exiting the chamber, one once again bows to the judge. The judge can’t help noticing if there is strong community interest in the case.

With a bit of luck this could see the end of this tortuous saga, but we’re not holding our breath. As Judge Rackamann said “where would we be without Gillion !!”.

Annual subscriptions due

These become due 1st January each year. \$15 per person. Whilst the association does not generate fun meetings (unless you consider the hilarity raised in meetings trying to deal with absurd situations in the shire), the subs give people the opportunity to contribute in a small way to the *horrendous* bills that are incurred fighting to preserve our lifestyles and a unique tourist destination. We are lucky to have a handful of generous donors. This could be your way to show support and appreciation.

Subscriptions can be dropped off in the TMPA box near Travelling Places, Main St, North Tamborine; by cheque to P.O. Box 106, North Tamborine, or directly into TMPA’s account at Suncorp – BSB 484 799, account no. 0838 171 99. *Please reference your name.*

Jeanette