



Bulletin 7 - 18th Aug. 2022

Guest speaker Peter Clough on Tomaree Headland



In this Bulletin:

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Thur. BBQ

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Radar

Birthdays:

23rd Aug. Y. Stuhmke
27th Aug. M. Bairstow

Anniversaries:

14th Aug H. & M. Ryan (46yr)

Member Duties 25th Aug.

Door:

n/a

Meet/Greet:

n/a

Loyal Toast:

n/a

Grace:

n/a

Intro Guest speaker:

n/a

Thank Guest Speaker:

n/a

Bulletin:

John Cropley

Photos:

Phill Smith

Binos:

n/a

Peter, supported by his team of Dennis Corr, Geoff Washington, David Redwood & Frank Future gave us a very enthusiastic presentation of the future possibilities to the Tomaree Headland and former Tomaree Lodge. They formed and are part of the Tomaree Headland Heritage Group comprised of 9 community groups.

The video about the headland featuring Frank Future can be downloaded/viewed [HERE](#).

The Tomaree Lodge has a very important history and was built as a military base to defend the port and was used as a training camp during WWII. The remains of canon placements on the headland are still there as a reminder of the past as is the radar installation on the summit (see pg3). The site comprises 9ha, with the lodge that housed people with disabilities and has been vacant since 2020. Video [HERE](#) The buildings are heritage listed and can't be demolished, currently still under the control of the Dept. of Communities & Justice.

The Headland is also the starting point of the [Tomaree Coastal Walking Track](#) a 20km track to Birubi Pt. to be completed by Dec. 2022 (and further along the beach all the way to Stockton)

Education and Research are some of the examples of the great opportunities.

A pontoon or jetty for local cruise-ships and ferries is to be considered as transport access is one of the issues that needs to be resolved.

By transitioning this site to the Port Stephens Community many other ideas have already been put forward by the community for consideration for the future use.

LOT 453
The Tomaree Lodge Site
is **Freehold** which is owned by the State Government and Managed by the Department of Communities and Justice
The Tomaree Lodge site is listed on the **State Heritage Register**.
*'The site is a physical demonstration of Port Stephen's important contribution to WWII when it was developed as a military base by the joint Australian Army-United States Navy defence venture in March 1942'.
This Statement also states 'The site is rare as one of the few surviving, relatively intact Army Garrison Camps dating from the Second World War in NSW'.*

LOT 454
The Tomaree Headland
is **owned by the National Parks and WLS**.
The National Park site has a **similar Heritage Status** with special mention of its Radar Station and fortifications including gun emplacements.





Meeting THURSDAY 25th August

BBQ at Tomaree Community College, hosted by Warwick. This is a partner's night, please RSVP if not done already. The usual format, bring plates and cutlery and your favourite beverage.

BBQ will be 3 course of steak, sausages, salads & icecream.

Warwick and CEO Linda Drake will give a talk about the history of the college and the future plans of a childcare centre, cost approx. \$1.5M, for which they have already received a government grant.

VP Don Report:

- Bunnings BBQ from Sun 7/8 netted approx. \$1000.- and he thanked the members for their work on a busy day; next date to diarise is **3rd Sept.** (check roster)
- Lesley F. has donated her surplus carport to the club to be installed at the Rotary shed to keep the trailer under cover. "Thank You" to Lesley for this generous donation
- PS Suicide Prevention Group is holding a charity event at B/Harbor Iluka Res. on the 10th Sept. and has asked for our BBQ trailer and assistance from 11:00 – 12:00 which we agreed.
- The State Science & Engineering Challenge is on this week Mo. Tue. Wed. anyone in N/castle on the day should go and witness what the students are up to. Ring Lesley for details



Tomaree High School Invitation



Richard's 3 min talk about his most embarrassing moment as president of the Cessnock club was when the Swedish Ambassador Bo Heineback visited the club and Richard introduced him as Bo Derick, the ambassador thanked him as Tina Turner. *Only those of a certain age will get the joke.*



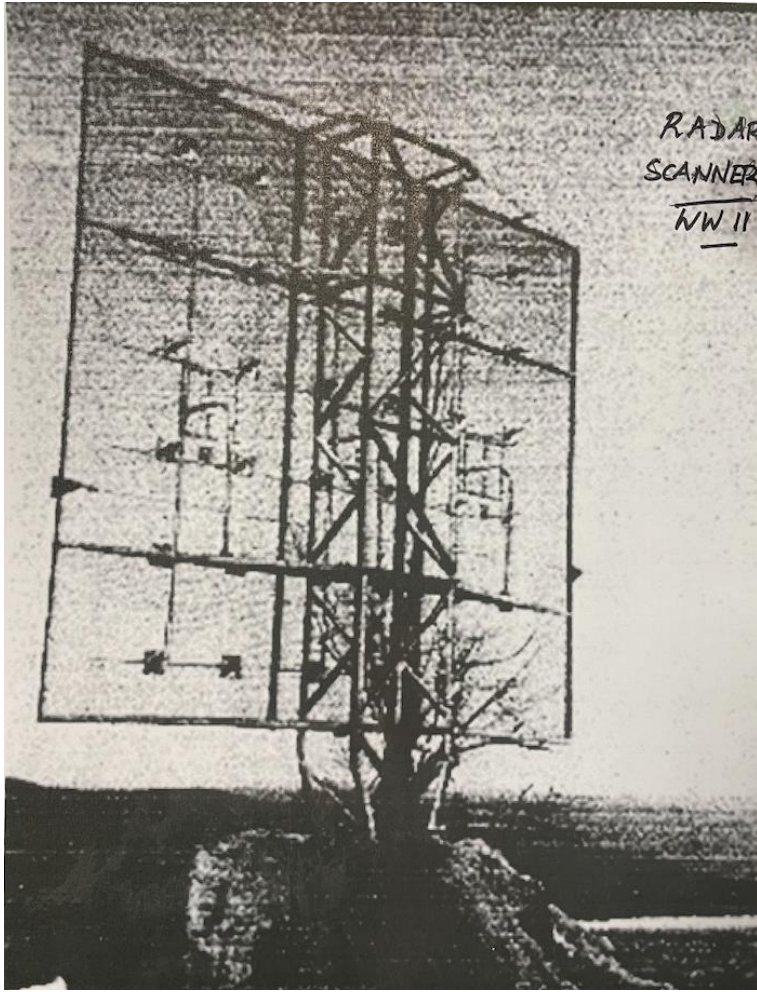
Question to our golfers in the club:

Why do golf courses have 18 holes?

During a discussion among the club's membership board at St. Andrews in 1858, one of the members pointed out that it takes exactly 18 shots to polish off a fifth (750ml) of Scotch. By limiting himself to only one shot of Scotch per hole, the Scot figured a round of golf was finished when the Scotch ran out.

Now you know..... I'll drink to that.

A restoration of the original Radar Scanner has been "work in progress" since 1996



Historic radar dish to be re-erected soon



■ A search and rescue helicopter lifts off with the WW2 radar dish last year

The RAAF is waiting for approval from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to re-erect the WW2 radar scanner it removed from the top of Tomaree Head about two years ago.

Wing-Commander Peter Smith told the *Sun* that the scanner had been refurbished and stabilised by a team of five electro mechanics from 3 Control and Reporting Unit at the RAAF Williamstown base.

He said the work had taken "a few months" to complete.

"It is planned that the radar unit be installed at the base of Tomaree Head, near the gates to the old hospital," Wg-Cdr Smith said.

"The National Parks and Wildlife Service plan to build an information centre there and the radar will be located near it.

"This will save people having to climb to the top of Tomaree Head to see the radar unit.

"We will place an information board at the lower site and another at the original site at the top of the hill," he said.

Wg-Cdr Smith said that he could give no dates as to when the radar would be re-erected, as the RAAF was waiting on advice from the NP&WLS.

The radar was used by

Number 20 Radar Station during WW2 and was the longest serving radar unit in Australia.

It became operational

on April 12, 1942 and was disbanded on January 20, 1947.

"It was the first radar produced by HMV in

Australia and there are still a few locals around who operated it during the war," Wg-Cdr Smith said.

He said it would not be mounted on the type of mast it was originally on, but on a smaller structure.

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