

**Minutes of the Torres Shire Tourism Steering Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2010,  
Torres Shire Council Chambers.**

**Present:**

Cr. Bill Shibasaki - Committee Chairman, Dalassa Yorkston – TSC, Bernie McCarthy – TSC, Mayor Pedro Stephen, Pam Wasaga – TSC, Vanessa SeeKee – Gateway Torres Strait, Leitha Assan – TSRA, Christine Connor – Peddells TI Tours, Joseph Nicloas – McDonalds Charters, Tony McAlary – TSRA, Ron Laifoo – TI Taxis, Karen Burke.

**Apologies:**

Adam Delany –TSRA, Darlene Fell – CEA, Cheryl Sanders – Cape York Ice & Tackle.

**Opening Prayer:**

Cr. Bill Shibasaki opened the meeting with a prayer, the meeting commenced at 10:40am.

**Minutes silence for the late Mick Crawley**

The committee observed a minutes silence in respect for the late Mick Crawley acknowledging his valuable contribution as a TSRA representative on the Torres Shire Tourism Steering Committee.

Bernie McCarthy acknowledged TSRA for conducting the Memorial Service on Thursday Island for Mick Crawley.

**Minutes of Tourism Steering Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2009**

The Minutes of the Tourism Steering Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2009 was tabled and accepted by the committee. Moved by Dalassa Yorkston, Seconded by Cr. Bill Shibasaki.

**Business Arising from 3 December 2009 Meeting**

- Leitha Assan to provide information on the Brisbane Caravan and Camping Expo scheduled for July 2010
- Leitha Assan to look into the possibility of sending a letter advising networks of Mick Crawley's passing
- The Tourism Steering Committee provide a letter to TSRA acknowledging Mick Crawley's contribution and expressing the need for ongoing support from TSRA for the Tourism Steering Committee
- Leitha Assan was to advise the committee in relation to the dates of the proposed visit to Thursday Island by Tourism Queensland which was scheduled for June 2010

### **Steering Committee Information (for new members)**

Dalassa Yorkston gave the meeting an overview of the formation of the Tourism Steering Committee as an introduction to the new members. The overview included Steering Committee background, history on the Tourism Development Plan, active committee members in 2009 and the achievements for 2009. Cr. Bill Shibasaki welcomed the new members and asked each one to introduce themselves to the meeting.

### **World War 2 Sites Conservation Project**

Vanessa SeeKee and Tony McAlary gave the meeting an overview on the proposed World War Two Sites Conservation Project. The purpose of the Torres Strait WW2 Conservation Project was to see the sensitive conservation of World War Two sites in Torres Strait, with additional interpretational signage.

### **Lions Lookout access options for residents and visitors**

The committee tabled the current status of the access options available to residents and visitors to see the other significant war sites on Thursday Island at Lions lookout. The committee also raised the issue of more signage around the island.

### **TSRA Training – Indigenous Tour Guides**

Leitha Assan advised the committee that TSRA was proposing to roll out training in the new financial year for Indigenous Tour Guides.

### **“Man versus Wild” Mer Island – Torres Strait (Bear Grylls)**

Vanessa SeeKee advised the committee that she accompanied Bear Grylls and Co. during the screening of “Man versus Wild” at Mer Island Torres Strait. The series which is scheduled to be viewed internationally will assist in promoting tourism in the region.

### **Veteran’s ‘Final Fling’ – September 2010**

Vanessa SeeKee informed the committee of the Veterans’ ‘Final Fling’ visit to Horn Island. This was to be the final time the Veterans would return to Horn Island and pay tribute to the conflict. The ‘Final Fling’ was scheduled to commence 26<sup>th</sup> September for six nights.

### **Victoria Parade Project - Update**

Bernie McCarthy gave the committee an update on the Q150 Victoria Parade Project. He advised that Torres Shire works staff had contributed significantly to the reclamation and parking area works and the expenditure to date had been in the vicinity of \$2.5 million. The remaining drainage works were to be completed by Torres Shire works staff during the next few months.

The major project funds of \$2.2million had been provided from the Queensland Government Q150 Program. To date Torres Shire Council had received many compliments in respect of the works undertaken. This project had enhanced the entrance and foreshore recreation area of Thursday Island was certainly providing a major benefit to the local tourism experience.

Bernie McCarthy also advised the committee that the provision of quotes for totem poles for the project is being investigated.

Christine Connor raised a concern residents had in relation to the access on Victoria Parade to launch small boats.

### **Airport Extension/Upgrade - Update**

Bernie McCarthy gave the committee an update on the Horn Island Airport Extension/Upgrade Works. The project was scheduled to be overlaid with asphalt in August by the successful tenderer Fulton Hogan. The works were scheduled to be done during night shifts and the asphaltting works were estimated to take one month. The Q400 planes would then be able to fly in fully loaded. The final works were to be the grooving of the runway surface which were to be completed by the end of the 2010.

### **Tourism Development Action Plan – Progress**

The committee briefly tabled the 10 actions from the Tourism Development Plan which were to be accomplished or worked on by the committee in 2010.

### **2010 Tourism Steering Committee Activities**

The committee discussed the activities for action in 2010. These included the continuation of the cruise ship meet and greet functions, hosting two tourism networking functions for the tourism operators, regular committee meetings, workings on the actions from the Tourism Development Plan and to continue to promote tourism in the Shire.

**Action:** Dalassa Yorkston was to seek the committee members input on the tourism networking functions scheduled for the year (July & November 2010).

Christine Connor gave the committee an update on the Peddells Ferry Service schedule over the next couple of months.

### **Winds of Zenadth Cultural Festival 2010**

The committee was advised that the Winds of Zendath Cultural Festival was scheduled to be held from 14 to 17 September 2010. The theme for the Festival is “**Back to our Giz/Lak Kuniya Kuykupa**”. The festival is to be held at the Tagai State College Secondary Campus this year.

### **Dog attack on Tour Group Leader 19/5/10**

The committee tabled a report in relation to a dog attack on a tour group leader on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The committee was advised that a Police report had been lodged including a complaint to Torres Shire Council.

### **Horn Island Foreshore Redevelopment**

The committee discussed the proposed redevelopment on Horn Island's foreshore. This project was to be delivered by partners Torres Shire Council, Ports North and CEA (Community Enterprises Australia).

**Closing Prayer** – There being no further business the meeting was closed with a prayer from Mayor Pedro Stephen at 12:40pm.