

The Tuross Giant

Special Edition April 20th, 2010

Welcome to a Special edition of the Tuross Head Community newsletter

Tuross Tennis Courts Proposed to be reduced from four to two

under Council's
Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030

Tuross Tennis court fees to increase by as much as 74%

under Councils Draft Fees and Charges 2010-2011

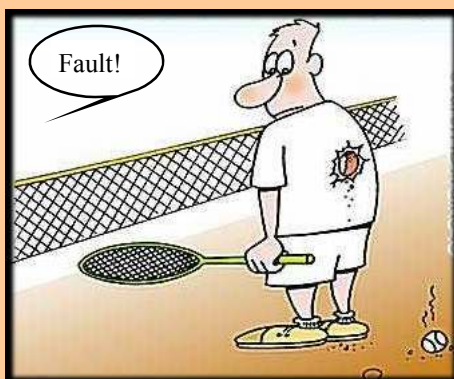
The Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030
is on exhibition for comment between
Monday April 19 and Friday May 28, 2010

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/208748/draftrecreationopenspacestrategy.pdf>

The Draft Fees and Charges is on exhibition for comment
from April 7 until May 5, 2010

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/publications/corporate-reports/2010-11/draft-management-plan-2010-14>

The following pages of content and opinion might encourage the Tuross Head Community to have their say in the proposed changes.



It is absolutely vital that the Tuross Community makes a submission to the Council regarding the Strategy if they wish to see any variation to the document.

Thank you to the many contributors of this Edition.

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Dear Tuross Community

Councillors recently adopted a Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy for public comment.

From the early feedback received, Council is now well aware that some of the recommendations contained within this draft Strategy, particularly the proposal to reduce the Tuross Tennis Complex from a four court to a two court facility, has generated considerable interest and discussion within the Tuross community.

In light of this, the Tuross Head Progress Association has kindly offered Council the opportunity to provide further information on its position as outlined in the draft Strategy, to Tuross residents through this special edition of the Tuross Giant.

This draft Strategy has been researched and developed over the past 12 months and involved an extensive consultation program with the community and sporting clubs across the Shire. The Tuross Giant promoted the online survey and encouraged Tuross residents to make their recreation needs known to Council so they could be included in the draft Strategy. It is, to say the least, regrettable that the contact details on file for Tuross Tennis at the time sporting club surveys were sent out, were incorrect. However, Council staff have since rectified this and offered Tuross Tennis the opportunity to complete the survey, and to meet with Council staff to discuss in-depth the background information behind the key recommendations. In response to this, Councillors and key Council staff have been invited by Tuross Progress Association to 'present their case' to the community as a whole on Friday, April 30th. This is an invitation we are more than happy to accept and hope to see as many members of the Tuross community there as possible.

On a positive note, this draft Strategy also provides for some new and exciting key recommendations for the Tuross Community, including a much needed youth facility, an upgrade of foreshore reserves and facilities (such as One Tree Point Look Out), investigation into the provision of a community garden, and the redevelopment of Kyla Park Hall. These proposals however, can only be achieved with community support and agreement on the recreation facility needs and funding priorities for the Tuross area.

As members of the Tuross community may be aware, and for those who participated in the recent community forums regarding Council's current financial position, Council's existing income is insufficient to fund the infrastructure and services that our community expects.

As Councillors, we have been elected to make the best decisions we can for the community, which is not an easy task by any measure. In the case of the Shire's recreation facilities and open space, the best decision may involve rationalisation and divestment in some facilities, to enable the strategic reallocation of funding to alternative recreation priorities in order for Council to achieve the best possible results for the Community Shire wide. As a community we need to consider all our options before we make these important decisions.

So how can you help to ensure your community gets the best possible outcome? This special edition of the Tuross Giant is a great starting point in bringing together community views and information for the residents of Tuross. However, once you have read this newsletter we encourage you to read the draft Strategy, ask questions, offer feedback, suggest alternatives, tell us what we got wrong and what we got right in a submission. This draft Strategy is exactly that, a draft. It is a starting point to kick off a conversation which will lead to more in-depth discussions to enable Council to deliver the best outcomes for the community in the long term.

Fergus Thomson
Mayor

Council Media Release

Recreation strategy on public exhibition

Eurobodalla Shire Council is seeking community input to its Recreation and Open Space Strategy that has been adopted for public exhibition.

The Strategy has been developed to guide the provision, management and development of recreation facilities and open space in the Eurobodalla Shire for the next 20 years and to ensure that Council resources are distributed fairly and equitably in these areas, with consideration given to areas with high needs for improved recreation infrastructure.

Council's Strategy and Recreation Planner, Lane Tucker, says the Recreation and Open Space Strategy has been developed after lengthy consideration of the many aspects and issues affecting the future recreational needs of the Eurobodalla and considers areas with high needs for improved recreation infrastructure. "It also provides direction for a consistent approach to ensuring that recreation infrastructure is of a high quality and design and suitable for our community."

"Current programs, geographical spread and diversity across the Shire, the changing expectations of sport and recreation, and the needs of user groups, sporting clubs and the general community have also been considered in the Strategy," she said.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy will be on public exhibition for six weeks from 19 April to 28 May 2010.

"Council really values community input on the strategy, its outcomes and the delivery plan," Ms Tucker said, adding that Council will hold drop-in sessions across the Shire to allow residents to learn more about and discuss the strategy.

Drop in sessions:

- Batemans Bay Village Centre – Thursday 22 April, 2pm – 7pm
- Moruya Country Markets, Riverside Park – Saturday 24 April, 8am – 12pm
- Narooma Flat, IGA Supermarket – Saturday 1 May from 8am – 12pm

The Strategy can be viewed under 'On Exhibition' on the Publications menu on Council's website www.esc.nsw.gov.au, at the administration building in Moruya and at the Shire's three libraries.

Interested people are encouraged to review the exhibition material and make a submission by 4.30pm, Friday 28 May 2010. Submissions can be made via Council's website or via mail to The General Manager, Recreation and Open Space Strategy, Eurobodalla Shire Council, PO Box 99, Moruya NSW 2537.

If you have any questions regarding the Strategy or would like to discuss it further please contact Lane Tucker on 4474 1246 or by email, lane.tucker@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au

Media Release

From Councils Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy:

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/208748/draftrecreationopenspacestrategy.pdf>

Introduction:

The *Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010 - 2030* provides a 20 year blueprint to guide strategic planning and investment in recreation and open space. It is anticipated that this Strategy will be reviewed every five years to maintain currency and adaptability to shifting community needs.

The *Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010 - 2030* provides a 20 year blueprint to guide strategic planning and investment in recreation and open space. It is anticipated that this Strategy will be reviewed every five years to maintain currency and adaptability to shifting community needs.

The strategy is set out under three key sections:

- **Demand Analysis** –provides a community snapshot of the shire. It outlines demographic information, recreation participation data at state and local levels, trends that affect recreation and open space use and delivery and summarises the community consultation undertaken.
- **Situation Analysis** –provides a basis for decision making. It outlines the planning framework that was used for conducting the supply audit to categorise all Council owned spaces and facilities and concludes with a gap analysis resulting from a supply/demand study. As well as summarising the planning and policy context within which the Strategy will operate.
- **The Strategic Way Forward** –outlines the purpose of the *Recreation and Open Space Strategy*. It details the objectives and lists goals and strategies for achieving them. This is accompanied by the action plan which outlines the implementation process for the strategy with priorities and timeframes.

Some more information of interest about Tuross from Council's Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy:

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/208748/draftrecreationopenspacestrategy.pdf>

A Shire Snapshot :

Increased demand for open space and recreation will come from an additional 11,490 permanent residents over the 20 year life of this strategy. With the main groups who will influence demand being seniors, families with children, couples without children, people living alone, youth and visitors. The anticipated demands from each of these groups are:

- Seniors:** will require parks and gardens which are easily accessible and offer safety and security, along with social activities and programs.
- Families with children:** will predominantly require facilities for structured recreation such as, playgrounds, organised sport and cycling.
- Couples without children:** will require a blend of structured and unstructured recreation. Focus will be on recreational pursuits such as swimming, bushwalking, fishing, picnicking and cycling.
- Visitors:** will require a range of open space and facilities. The majority of which will be focused in the vicinity of foreshore and beaches including demand for facilities such as boat ramps and major foreshore reserves.
- People living alone:** will require opportunities for social interaction through organised sport as well as unstructured opportunities. **Youth:** have a distinct set of recreation needs. They require safe, acceptable places to socialise and youth venues such as basket ball courts, skate parks and youth cafes. As well as structural recreation such as organised sport and linkages to higher level competition and coaching.

Tuross Head Is a township and retiree and holiday area **Characteristics and Planning Implications Population**

- Forecast average annual growth rate of 0.53%(medium growth)
- Population in 2010 estimated at **2353** and expected to grow to **2603** over the life of this strategy

Demographics

- Most significant concentration of retirees and empty nesters (55-74)
- Decreasing number of children (0-4)(5-11)
- Loss of couple families with children
- Most significant concentration of couples without children

Recreation and Open Space Provision- Key Spaces and Facilities

- 331.674Ha of Open Space
- Kyla Park Sporting Precinct
- Kyla Park Grazing Lands
- Beaches/ Foreshore Areas
- Tuross Cycle way

Area Profile Analysis

- Growth is constrained due to land availability and topography creating an isolated community.*
- The ageing demographic of this area will require unstructured recreation opportunities, such as community gardens, cycle ways and gentle exercise opportunities.*
- Opportunities for youth and children will need to be provided to cater for visitors and the existing youth base that are restricted by lack of transport opportunities.*
- This area has an excess of recreational lands that need to be rationalised to allow resources to be allocated to enhancing existing facilities.*



Courts 1 and 2



Courts 3 and 4

What is Council's Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030

In the report to Council on April 13th seeking Councils endorsement of the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy (draft Strategy) 2010-2030 to enable its public exhibition it said, *in part*:

BACKGROUND

Changing lifestyles and demographics are having an impact on recreation trends. It is essential that Eurobodalla Shire Council respond to these changes to ensure that the community is able to maintain health and wellbeing. In the absence of a strategic direction or document, the draft Strategy has been developed to inform recreation provision in the Shire up to 2030. The draft Strategy aims to ...*develop an innovative action plan for the recreation provision and management throughout the Shire.*

The report to Council also identified in part;

ISSUES

Strategy Methodology

The draft strategy has been developed after lengthy consideration of the many aspects and issues affecting the future recreational needs of the Eurobodalla Shire, including current programs, geographical spread and diversity across the Shire, changing expectations in sport and recreation, and the needs of user groups, sporting clubs and the general community.

Further on it presented:

Strategy goals

The draft Strategy is designed to guide the provision, management and development of recreation facilities and open space in the Eurobodalla Shire for the next 20 years. Four key themes and eight core objectives underpin it. They are as follows:

Community

- Provide inclusive recreation opportunities to support active and healthy lifestyles
- Support and enhance community identity, character and ownership

Environment

- Conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity
- Recognise and enhance opportunities for education and experience

Economy

- Enable and encourage productive partnerships
- Increase the value of open space through better management

Infrastructure

- Strategic provision of quality, functional and holistic facilities and spaces
- Address gaps in provision

The report to Council also included;

Policy

The draft Strategy needs to be integrated with the plans and adopted policies of Council. To this aim, the draft Strategy will provide a basis for subsequent Council planning and policy documents especially Asset Management Plans, Plans of Management and Master Plans. This will ensure that existing and future needs of the community will be met in a coordinated, efficient and effective program by all Council services. Opportunities afforded by this coordinated approach may also be identified as funding of joint use facilities, co-location of complimentary facilities and timely service provision.

In the report it clearly identifies the **Gaps in Provision One Tree Point**

- Quality of existing lookout, path, beach access and seating needs to be upgraded

Youth Facilities

- Unmet demand for provision of recreation facilities and spaces for Youth and children

Kyla Park

- Current planning for area is outdated and needs to be replaced
- Current hall does not best meet community needs
- Tennis Courts - Surplus of courts. Current and projected community need and use does not justify continued allocation of funding

Tennis—National trends and local consultation has shown a declining membership base and interest in tennis. In response to this and in line with supporting documentation from Tennis Australia this strategy recommends a rationalisation of courts and consolidation of facilities.

Tuross Head Key Recommendations

Implement Tuross Coastal Headland Reserves Assessment

- One Tree Point Upgrade of lookout/path/seating
- Upgrade of beach access Youth Facilities Provide a youth facility in form of rage cage, basketball half court or skate able break out bays along cycle ways

Implement Kyla Park Community Land, Foreshore Reserves and Boat Ramp Plan of Management - Adopted 2003

Implement Kyla Park Community Land Areas of Cultural Significance Plan of Management – Adopted December 2003

Kyla Park Grazing Lands Investigate possibility of Tomakin Model Aero Club using this land for flying

Kyla Park New Master Plan to be prepared Feasibility study to be undertaken to redevelop Kyla Park Hall Remove two tennis courts in line with rationalisation shire wide and supply clubhouse upgrade and court resurfacing Investigate possibility of developing a village green and community garden

To read the entire report seeking Council endorsement to publicly exhibit the strategy click on the following link

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/207328/100413wpr.pdf>

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Below: The Appendix (4) that shows Property Number 19822 which is the location of the two tennis courts proposed to be removed.

The Blue Colouring over the whole of the Kyla Oval area below simply is intended to show the parcel of land affected . Council DOES NOT propose the sale of this land or any other of its community facilities—it is Community Land.



The following is from the Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy making reference to Item S in the above map:

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/208748/draftrecreationopenspacestrategy.pdf>

As an outcome of the supply audit undertaken, the *Recreation and Open Space Strategy* has identified a list of:

- Land for investigation for disposal
- Land for investigation for acquisition
- Assets for investigation for disposal Funds raised should be restricted and used to implement the strategy and obtain grants to increase available funding to invest in developing open space and recreation and community facilities. The lands and assets proposed are outlined below and mapped in **Appendix (4)**

Item S— Property Number 19822, Tennis Courts, Kyla Park, Tuross Head



Above: From the mapping error we see on the previous page it can be seen that the intention of the blue colouring at Eva Mylott Park is in relation to the removal of the swing set returning the park to an open space with no facilities with no intention to sell the parcel of land.

WHAT SOME FOLK MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED IN THE DOCUMENT IS THE GREEN “INVESTIGATION” PARCEL OF LAND AT THE CORNER OF BEACH ROAD AND TUROSS BOULEVARDE and a Pathway that runs between Hood Cres and Trafalgar Road as listed in



Table (11) Land for investigation for disposal by planning district of the Draft Strategy

**Item 30 Lot 277 DP218664 Tuross Boulevard Tuross Head— 1539m²
Item 30 Path DP 15425 Trafalgar Road Tuross Head—255.30m²**

Item 30- In 1964 this parcel of land was dedicated as Public Garden and Recreation Space as noted in DP218664.

The land belongs to the people of Tuross Head—it is Community Land. Exactly what does Council mean by identifying this land for “Investigation for disposal”.

Exactly what does it mean on page 9 of the Draft Strategy under Community Profiles by Planning Area—Tuross Head

“This area (Tuross Head) has an excess of recreational lands that need to be rationalised to allow resources to be allocated to enhancing existing facilities.”

Do they intend to reclassify the land, rezone it and then sell it?

What would be allowed to be built on this block?

Would the money raised from any disposal of this land (or the pathway) be returned ONLY to the Tuross Head community?

The Draft Strategy states in relation to this:

Page 52..... Property Rationalisation As an outcome of the supply audit undertaken, the *Recreation and Open Space Strategy* has identified a list of:

- Land for investigation for disposal
- Land for investigation for acquisition
- Assets for investigation for disposal

Funds raised should be restricted and used to implement the strategy and obtain grants to increase available funding to invest in developing open space and recreation and community facilities.

A little bit of Tuross Tennis background

For those who are new to the Tuross Community the following might throw some light on exactly what the Tuross community have done over the years in building up its tennis facilities and what the **Tuross Tennis Club** has continued to do since the courts were taken over by **Councils Sports Council** in 2005

1978 The Club Established with 2 courts (referred to as #1 & #2 courts)
Mid 80's An Additional 2 courts were constructed by Club members (referred to as #3 & #4 courts)
Late 1995 Courts 3 & 4 were surfaced with Synthetic Grass (previously clay/loam)
Jan 2002 Courts 1 & 2 surfaced with Synthetic Grass (previously painted bitumen).
Council provides an interest free loan of \$30,000 over five years which the Tennis Club pays off in full and on time.

2005 Eurobodalla Council introduces a Sports Council and indicate that Eurobodalla Council will be resuming management of tennis courts. The Sports Council was to be made up of representatives from each of the sports within the shire which would assign priorities for sports funding as a group, rather than as individual associations. E.g. in theory, if Soccer wanted funds for X and Netball wanted funds for Y, the members of the Sports Council would decide by a vote, one per sport

2006 Council tries to introduce new fee structure as part of managing courts. Previously, the Tennis Club paid a single annual fee for court usage for all Tennis Club activities. The new fee structure introduced a "per player per session" fee, resulting in an increase of around 900% (yes, 9 times) in fees paid to Council in the first full year of the new fee. The trade off for this was that Council would supposedly assume responsibility for the courts. The new fee structure took effect from 1st October, 2006

As a result of the opposition by tennis clubs within the Eurobodalla to Council's proposal, a sub committee of the Sports Council was formed to deal with Tennis Matters.

23 July 2007 The Tuross Tennis Club writes to Council asking them to confirm what Council is responsible for in terms of court maintenance. After receiving no response, the Tennis Club e-mailed all Councillors to help in getting Council staff to respond. Letter dated 4 September, 2007 then received. It stated that "Court surfaces, surrounds, lighting, net-posts, nets, parking areas are maintained by Council".

August 2007 Extracts from the minutes of the Eurobodalla Council Tennis Sub-committee, 13 August, 2007, with my comments in yellow highlight:

DISCUSSION OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (names have been withheld)

The Sport Council chair outlined the building maintenance agreement which is being developed for the Hanging Rock Complex. He/She advised that when this Agreement is finalised it would be the basis of a template for future agreements with the individual Tennis Clubs..... Comment – the Building Maintenance agreement relates to the building/clubhouse only, NOT the actual tennis courts

.....The Council staff member said the recommendation to Council at its August meeting will be that the Policy will go on exhibition for public comment for 28 days. He/She then outlined the Code of Practice.....A club representative asked if the Code of Practice only relates to the building and not to the courts. He/She said the Code is generic. A Council staff member will set up a maintenance agreement for the courts so the Clubs will know who is responsible for what... Comment : 3 years on, this agreement has not appeared

The Sport Council chair advised they were trying to collect information about when courts were put in for inclusion in a database in order to plan when renewals are due. A schedule of priorities would be considered at each meeting to see whether the priorities need to be changed.

Comment : 3 years on, this Schedule has not been presented

A club representative referred to the agreements with the Clubs and asked if the Committee is the correct forum in which to raise a maintenance problem or would it be a Tennis Management Committee matter. The Sport Council chair replied that they would initially advise him/her of the problem. It would then be included in the spread sheet which would then go to the Tennis Club to set priorities, then to the Sports Council and then to Council to make a decision. Comment: This process has not taken place

The Sport Council chair undertook to prepare a time plan. He/She said she would like to get the policy adopted, but the Code still needs work. It is a priority to get the asset plans done and for Council staff to work with one Club, possibly Tuross, to get the first court maintenance agreement prepared and to distribute it to the other Clubs for comment.

Comment: No court maintenance agreement ever received by Tuross

Nov 2007 Extracts from the minutes of the Eurobodalla Council Tennis Sub-committee, 11 November, 2007,

...Brian Carmichael spoke with regard to maintenance issues that he raised at the previous Tennis Sub Committee meeting. A Council staff member would be going to Asset Management training and maintenance issues for tennis courts will be done as part of his/her training. He/She will let the Committee know following the training.

What standard Council are looking after courts? He was advised that until Council gets its Asset management Plans in place to then work out maintenance scheduling. Council were then advised that there was a perceived lack of confidence in getting information from Council.

Comment: No court maintenance agreement ever received by Tuross

January 2008 Due to lack of any action on court maintenance by Council, Tennis Club arranged for sand to be redistributed and topped up on all 4 courts by ABC Sportsclean. Cost of \$2,167.55 inc GST paid by Council.

continues next page.....

The Background.....Continued from previous page.....

March 2008 Council sends copy of Draft Building Maintenance Agreement to Tennis Club for comment. This related to the clubhouse ONLY. Nothing to do with courts. Tennis Club asked members for comment and sent response to Council on 15 April 2008.

10 May 2008 The last Tennis Sub-Committee meeting prior to March 2010.
Comment; almost a two year gap without consulting the Tennis Sub-Committee on tennis issues.

23 July, 2008 Council sends back amended Draft Building Maintenance Agreement (related to Clubhouse ONLY). Tennis Club sends back comments. After no response from Council to this and other letters, Tennis Club e-mailed The Chair of the Tennis Sub Committee on **17 Dec 2008** to seek assistance in the Tuross Tennis Club obtaining a response from Council. A response was then received saying that "Once there is consensus from the Tennis Sub Committee then individual documents will be presented in the final draft form to individual clubs".
Comment; There was no Tennis Subcommittee meeting between May 2008 and March 2010 so nothing has been received.

Please Note: this timeline is not comprehensive, just picking up some key points but not all correspondence. (e.g. Does not include multiple letters sent to Council over the years about the damage and safety issues caused by the trees on the lake side of the courts, with rarely a response received).

Court Maintenance by Council

Since taking responsibility for the courts, Council has initiated zero court maintenance and provided no details of asset maintenance or replacement programmes. Frustrated by lack of action by Council, the Tuross Tennis Club initiated replacement of sand on all 4 courts, hoping to kick start some action by Council. Council funded the work (\$2,167) but nothing since.

Tennis Club volunteers, who had previously built, funded and maintained the facility are reluctant to do work that Council is NOW being paid to do.

Council have also shown either their lack of interest or expertise in being unable to undertake basic repairs e.g. repairs to a loose netpost. Council sought quotes for the job which ran into thousands of dollars and were unwilling to do the work. Again, frustrated by lack of action, club members did the work for the cost of few bags of rapid-set concrete and their own labour.

Clubhouse Maintenance.



When the Tennis Club reported to Council that the servery doors had become less than secure, Council's first response was to threaten to brick up the servery. Upon approach by the Club, Council agreed to install a roller door instead. However, the finished work was so poor, the club house was left exposed both to weather and rodents. Again, club members were required to finish the job and make good the works.

The only other significant cost incurred by Council for the clubhouse was the supply of insect screens (\$590) and blinds (\$290). However, it was again up to Club members to organise and supervise the installation.

Some facts/figures regarding court usage and replacement costs

Court Resurfacing

Using Tennis Australia's Court Lifecycle table, (<http://www.tennis.com.au/pages/Default.aspx?id=4&pageid=14272>) shows replacement cost of a synthetic grass court at \$20,000.

Lifespan of a court is 7-14 years depending on usage and maintenance (Tuross would be light usage as shown by courts 3 & 4 still in reasonable condition after 14 years)

So sinking fund for court surface replacement could be based as follows:

$$\frac{4 \text{ courts @ } \$20,000}{14 \text{ years lifespan}} = \$5,715 \text{ per annum}$$

i.e. As the Tennis Club sent around \$5,500 to Council in court usage fees last financial year, by adding income that Council receives from casual hire (i.e. collected by Sales Cafe (who assist as an outlet for public court bookings) – amount not known but say 20% of Tennis Club amounts), the courts appear to fund themselves just on current patronage (not necessarily including replacement of fencing or lights)

In terms of usage by the club, the annual total player numbers for 2008/9 was an increase of nearly 20% over the previous year, indicating that patronage levels are improving, not declining.

It is hoped that the above information might be of use to Councillors in realising that the courts present little in the way of financial burden, that to that little of the funds that Council have collected to date have managed to find themselves returned to the Tuross head community tennis facilities.

Where would the idea of rationalisation, complex development, strategic planning of Tennis infrastructure and maximising on social and financial investment come from?

Possibly from a Tennis Australia document entitled:

Tennis 2020: facility development and management framework for Australian tennis

endorsed by
Craig Tiley
Director - Tennis | Tennis Australia

The document is available to read at the following link:
<http://www.turosshead.org/Tempstuff/Tennis2020.pdf>

For those without access to the internet it reads, in part:

In 2008 there were more than 2100 affiliated tennis clubs and centres throughout Australia supporting over 203,000 registered members and, according to the Australian Sports Commission's most recent study (2006) over 1.3 million people aged 15 years and over were playing tennis – 6.8 per cent of the population. The substantial national tennis facility infrastructure to support this participation has largely evolved in an uncoordinated manner – often without government, owners, private developers and the sport working together to plan and manage facilities more effectively for the future. We believe it is time for Tennis Australia to demonstrate leadership and deliver a national master plan that communicates a practical and sustainable facility vision for the game.

The *Tennis 2020: facility development and management framework for Australian tennis* integrates our vision and strategies to deliver a sustainable and vibrant environment for tennis facilities and clubs for the period 2008 to the year 2020. We now have a robust community tennis strategy backed by modern management practices, quality programs and coaching to significantly grow participation in tennis over the next 10–15 years. It is imperative that our infrastructure and clubs are well prepared to both cater and cope with these increased demands.

In contemporary society the importance of sport as a tool for social, economic and personal development, as well as a source of entertainment, has become too important to be left to the uncoordinated planning of fragmented stakeholders. As noted in the introduction, national leadership towards long-term facility planning is required to confidently deliver on the ever increasing demands of both the sport customers and members of the wider community.

Changes in tennis infrastructure and needs

Community expectation of tennis facilities is commensurate with other leading leisure facility options and must be met in order to attract and retain participants. The provision of welcoming tennis facilities promotes a desirable, positive club culture and encourages socially engaged tennis players to play more tennis more often. The tennis clubhouse

environment allows for the facility to be utilised for a variety of community activities for multiple user groups and creating much needed revenue options. Nationally, increasing maintenance and replacement costs of court surfaces and the need to fund lighting has resulted in standards decreasing in clubhouse environments. As a result, clubhouses are presented in their original condition with clear signs of wear.

It is imperative that local governments and facility owners seek to provide tennis environments that are more commercially focused in order to create self-sustaining operations.

Tennis in Australia has over 15,000 accessible tennis courts, which historically have been constructed, managed and operated within a volunteer and committee-based environment. With most courts residing on government land, there is a general trend of increased and significant investment required by various government sectors to maintain and upgrade courts for local communities.

Rising costs of surface replacement and consumer expectation of quality tennis program services, courts, clubhouse and surrounds makes small clusters of courts increasingly difficult to manage as self-sufficient and sustainable venues.

Sustainable practice, in tennis terms, is defined as a tennis entity having the resources to consistently maintain and upgrade the asset without reliance on external support.

Many existing tennis clubs, centres and associations operate in an environment of declining facility standard and service provision. These facilities require address towards change if tennis is to remain viable and relevant to government and local communities.

It is now becoming more common for all levels of government to strategically plan for any community infrastructure. Increasingly, governments are adopting a hierarchy of facilities provision in order to balance regional and community needs with sustainable practices.

Tennis Australia believes that a similar planned approach should be taken with tennis infrastructure across Australia in the future. It is critical to the health of tennis that a hierarchy of facilities is developed in order to meet the stated vision and objectives and to develop the sport as a whole.

Be sure to read the whole document if possible as there is a major presentation on the Tennis Australia dream for tennis in Australia.

<http://www.turosshead.org/Tempstuff/Tennis2020.pdf>

NOTE:

Page 66 of the Strategy—item 2.2.1 states:

Improve quality, function and maintenance of Sports grounds and facilities

Undertake the Shire wide consolidation and upgrade of tennis courts in line with supporting documentation from **Tennis Australia**.

Priorities include:

Removal - Dalmeny - Nelligen - Malua Bay - Kyla Park (2 Courts)
Upgrades - Batemans Bay Regional Facility - Narooma District Facility - Broulee - Bodalla

Eurobodalla Shire Council Councilors and Council staff are invited to attend a

**Special meeting at the
Tuross Progress Hall
Jutland Avenue
at 6:00pm on Friday April 30th, 2010
called by the
Tuross Head Progress Association**

**where the community can hear first hand of the Council's Draft Recreation Strategy
for Tuross Head and hear responses to the following questions;**

Absolute Questions to Council

- 1. Can Council clearly advise the community of exactly how much revenue it has received since taking over management of the Tuross Tennis Courts?**
- 2. Can Council clearly advise exactly how much it has spent on the Tuross Head Tennis court facilities since taking over management ?**
- 3. Can council advise why it continues to disregard requests by the Tuross Tennis Club to remove the adjacent trees that have been long reported as causing damage to the courts and mottling the light for tennis play which is of particular concern to older players and of major concern in regards to player safety in terms of slips and falls ?**
- 4. Can council clearly define exactly which courts it proposes to remove**

Is council aware that the top courts are well utilised when the lower courts are unplayable due to the fact that they hold water and tend not to dry as fast under shady conditions. The tennis club has long reported that leaves from the trees when wet become slimy and add a further risk to players.

- 5. Can council advise exactly what prior consultation was carried out between Council and the Tuross Tennis Club and the Tuross Community prior to drafting the strategy?**

In the report to Council seeking endorsement of the Draft Strategy it says:

Community Consultation

The draft Strategy was developed over a 12 month program of consultation with State agencies, Council staff, local residents, community and sporting organisations and the Sports Council. A series of focus group meetings and field survey work was undertaken to capture a snapshot of how the community considered Council to be performing in regard to open space and recreation infrastructure provision and management.

- 6. Council were advised, in person, by the current Tuross Head Tennis Club president of the contact details of both himself and the new committee. THTC Records also show that Council was emailed the contact details of each of the new committee members. The committee has received no correspondence in regard to the proposal and as such are of the opinion that no consultation has been carried out. Can Council comment?**
 - 7. Can Council advise why there is such an enormous hike in tennis fees in the Draft Fees and Charges 2010-2011. On observation the increase in fees for a Fee per player (no lights) is in the order of 74%**
 - 8. Can Council advise the Tuross Head Tennis Club and the Tuross Head Community on exactly how much it is subsidising the TUROSS HEAD tennis Courts**
- Comment: The Draft Fees and Charges for 2010-2011 identifies player fees as subsidised by "partial cost recovery"*
- 9. Can Council advise why there is nothing proposed in the way of any new facilities for the proposed population increase over the next twenty years. Can Council please advise why there is no proposed extension to the Tuross netball courts?**

- 10. Can Council staff advise if the distinct (and Council acknowledged) lack of public transport was taken into consideration when it was determined to rationalise Tuross tennis facilities with a view to expanding more centralised facilities at Narooma and Moruya? How did Council imagine younger and older Tuross tennis players accessing these centralised facilities/**

For those unable to attend the meeting Council has been asked to provide written answers to the above questions and their responses will be posted on the Tuross Head Community website along with additional notes from the meeting the following day so that the community at large can remain informed.

Did you know that Council also Proposes a 74% Increase In Player Fees!

Eurobodalla Shire Council is proposing to increase court usage fees
by up to 74% from 1st July, 2010.

Court Usage Fees	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	\$ Increase	%Increase
Fee per player (no lights)	\$2.30	\$4.00	\$1.70	74%
Fee per player (lights used)	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$1.50	43%

This means that if you play Social (Mon, Wed, Sat), Thursday Competition or Saturday competition, you will need to pay an **extra \$1.70** each time you play.

If you play Monday nights, you will need to pay an **extra \$1.50** each time you play.

The fee for members hiring the court will also increase from \$5.00 to \$6.50 per hour per court. These fee increases are part of the Council's Draft Management Plan 2010- 2014 which is on public exhibition from Wed 7 April, 2010 to Wed 5 May, 2010.

Members are encouraged to view these changes and submit their views to Council prior to the closing date of **Wed 5 May, 2010**.

Do you know about Councils Draft increase in FEES and Charges 2010-2011

User Fees and Charges

The Draft Management Plan includes: Draft Fees and Charges 2010-2011. This inclusion covers all known fees and charges in total. The default variation used was a 5% increase. Statutory and other fees will be more or less than this depending on various factors such as Management Committee recommendations, market forces and so forth.

Council's pricing policy generally supports the cost recovery philosophy. It recognises people's ability to pay and balances an expectation that some services will be cross subsidised from rates for the common good of the community.

Pricing will:

- Explore cost recovery opportunities.
- Ensure value for money by providing effective and efficient service.
- Balance rates and grants against other funding sources.
- Manage financial risk in a volatile climate.
- Ensure that debt financing is limited to works of a capital nature and that the total debt is limited to ensure long-term financial stability.
- Develop pricing structures that can be administered simply and cheaply and be understood by

the public.

- Develop pricing structures that reflect real life-cycle and environmental costs
- Recognise pricing encourages or discourages consumer use and behaviours

FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and charges in general (not including statutory fees, fees set by management committees, fees assessed by the community services such as respite care) will be increased generally by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATION

Council is mindful of the effect of its pricing policies when considering the 'bottom line' cost of services or products, or its intention to encourage or discourage consumption or usage patterns. Council may choose not to recover the full cost of delivering a service or product, in recognition of the community's interest in having that service subsidised to enable access to that service by most users. That 'subsidy' is considered a community service obligation and generally applies where the fees and charges schedule discloses 'partial cost recovery' or 'statutory fees'.

Source: <http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/media/203888/100330%20cr>

With a major population boom identified in Tuross Head why would Council reduce its sporting facilities ?

The Eurobodalla has been identified as one of NSW's boom areas, with a big population increase expected in the next 26 years.

The population in Eurobodalla Shire is set to grow by 54,900 in 2036, according to Planning NSW. These figures are contained in a new local area population projections report, produced by the NSW Department of Planning.

The figures are projections based on an analysis of existing demographic trends and informed assumptions about expected future changes.

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx?tabid=381>

Eurobodalla is grouped with Coffs Harbour and Yass Valley in population growth.

According to the Bay Post report of April 9th, 2010 Eurobodalla Shire Mayor Fergus Thomson said council was aware of the projected increase and was acting accordingly.

“We know that the increase in our shire will be consistent with coastal areas across Australia, and these are issues that we are advancing through the National Sea Change Task Force “

“We are campaigning for more support for infrastructure from the Federal Government, as a large percentage of the people will be retirees and those in the later stages of their working lives, and with these comes a range of special needs such as health care and public transport.”

Cr Thomson said the Federal Government was already responding to these needs, as evidenced by the \$1.034 million funding package for 17 new projects in the Eurobodalla, officially announced last month.

“They realise we have special needs on the coast,” he said.



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Good used 4 ball tin—\$4

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all proceeds to Eurobodalla District Tennis Assoc

Clr Rob Pollock is totally opposed to the proposed removal and says that he had no knowledge of the proposal prior to release of the Draft Strategy and will offer no endorsement at all to the proposal.



He also voiced dismay at the complete lack of consultation with either the Tuross Tennis Club or with the Tuross Community in drafting the strategy of removing of community facilities.

Will the population of Tuross Head boom as predicted?

The Draft LEP proposed by Council is a document that clearly recognises growth and is written to provide instruments in order to best meet that growth.

Within the Draft LEP a population increase of 1600 has been identified over the coming years and zoning modifications have been suggested that will accommodate these increases.

The Eurobodalla Shire Council has developed a Eurobodalla Shire Council Community Profile includes with results from the 2006, 2001, 1996, and 1991 Censuses of Population and Housing and a Forecast tool allowing for population projections up to 2031.

The Population Forecast tool is available on Councils website and is designed to inform community groups, Council, investors, business, students and the general public.

For more information click on the following link:

<http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/community/community-profile-statistics>

Clr Alan Brown



“We are elected by the community to help them with outcomes. We are not there to keep public servants and bureaucrats in jobs.”

“If the Tuross Head community comes out and says NO to removal of the two tennis courts in its submissions to the Draft Recreation Strategy I will firmly support the community in their decision.”

“The community have not caused the problem. It is bureaucrats in the public service sector that have caused them. If they can't afford to maintain a community asset and they always choose to reduce the facilities and not the administrative overheads—which isn't the answer”

Clr Lindsay Brown passes on apologies for not being able to submit comment due to unexpected family matters.



His concern and assistance with the Dalmeny Tennis Club in regards to the proposal to remove their tennis facility is however appreciated and acknowledged by that community.

Letters to the Editor

From the Tuross Head Tennis Club President

Dear Editor, Tuross Giant

Tuross Tennis Club members are currently in a state of shock after being informed that Eurobodalla Shire Council intends to remove 2 of our 4 playing courts from use, under the proposed Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

The courts at Kyla Park enjoy good usage with 68 current members who are able to play on Mondays, Wednesdays Thursdays and Saturdays. The regular roll up can include between 15 and 25 players on any one day, with usage of all 4 courts being required. It appears ridiculous that Council would wish to remove 2 courts which are in fair repair and are used on a regular basis.

We have also been informed that Council proposes an increase in court fees of 74% for daylight play. Therefore we have a proposed reduction in the number of courts and an increase in court fees, this appears to be a "Win/Win" for Council; they do no maintenance on the courts, they remove 2 of the courts and yet they get an increase in fees. We, the Tuross Tennis Club get a "Loss/Loss" situation; fewer courts, more fees and continued maintenance. Does this seem fair? On what does the Eurobodalla Shire Council base this Draft Strategy? When more people are being encouraged to keep active in their community, Council plans to strip Tuross Head of facilities which keep our members of all ages fit and active.

The community built these courts in the 1980's, The Tennis Club borrowed \$30,000 from council in 2002 to resurface the courts with synthetic grass, and this loan was repaid in full and on time to Council.

In 2005 Council introduced a Sports Council and indicated they would be resuming management of all tennis courts in the shire. In 2006 Council introduced a new fee structure as part of the managing of the courts which saw our payment to council rise by 900% in the first full year of the new fee.

But basic maintenance on the courts has been done by Tuross Tennis Club members over the years and up to the present time and we have yet to see, despite many requests a maintenance agreement from the Council for the courts, which was promised in August 2007.

We wonder what is behind this proposed strategy; a usable and profitable asset is to be removed from the Tuross Head Community, where is the sense in this and what cost to the community as a whole?

Yours faithfully,
Victor Smith
Tuross Tennis Club, President

Submit your views to Council

I would encourage, not only current tennis players, but all members of the Tuross community who have volunteered their time, labour and money to build and maintain these courts over the last 30 years, to view the Strategy when it becomes available and submit their views to Council.

Brian Carmichael,
Tuross Head Tennis Club member

From the Tuross Head Progress Assoc President

Dear Editor,

I have been living in Tuross Head for sometime. I have been involved in the community since the early 80's and have watched and been a part of the community work involved with the Kyla Hall, oval and tennis courts. All the work was done by volunteers and, when completed, all the maintenance was by volunteers. None of this could be done today due to the regulations that have been put into place over the years by local government and their representatives.

Additionally the local government has taken over by stealth and/or by legislative force nearly all community built assets and facilities. Since these take-overs the community assets have, by and large, been run-down due to lack of maintenance by the council until they are pretty well unusable. The standard council strategy is to then declare that the community no longer uses these assets and therefore the council will take them away and use the saved money elsewhere.

The Tuross Head tennis courts were originally built and maintained by the locals. It was once a thriving and growing concern, now it struggles to be either. The council has spent little to no money maintaining the courts and are now planning to save money by reducing the costs of maintaining the courts. Saving money that they already don't spend.

Similarly the council has informed the community that it cannot afford to maintain the two town halls in Tuross Head. The fact that it doesn't spend any money on either is neither here nor there to the council, as it continues it's drive to save money by no longer maintaining community assets that it does not maintain anyway.

The facts are the community built and maintained these assets. The council took them over and, now, does not, will not and cannot maintain them to a standard that existed prior to their takeover. The council will not return these assets to the community, but rather, offers to reduce or remove them.

In return the community receives flowery, feel-good documents titled Draft Strategies that, in reality, say how little the council will do for the community and how much more they will charge to do it.

The residents and ratepayers of the Eurobodalla Shire have every right to feel that they are being ripped off by their council because they are.

Michael Johnson
President Progress Association of Tuross Head

Plans to reduce Tuross Tennis Courts from four to two

Dear editor,
Re Tuross tennis courts

I have received, in my mail bag, this morning an IMPORTANT NOTICE – Councils strategy recommends reducing tennis courts at Tuross from four to two etc etc

As a long time member and active player and social competition co-ordinator I am shocked and dismayed that this (the above) has been thought of, contemplated, or even acted upon without consultation. Our attitude is to promote and progress tennis in Tuross to include more participation in a wonderful individual, team, or family sport.

These courts were built by volunteer community dedication and action to provide for past, present and future generations. We have recently, as a club, completed payment \$35,000 to cover Courts One and Two compound courts with artificial grass. Each play and pay day had players contributing to this loan by a set levy.

Personally, in recent years, I have often observed the use of all four courts. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are social tennis days which are attracting larger member and visitor numbers. - from before Christmas '09 averaging 16 per day with up to 22 players.

We pay a fee per person (approx 76.66% goes to Council) each and every time we pay and play. Council to date has only constructed a set of steps and replaced a roller door on the server side of the clubhouse and has done nothing towards on maintenance of the courts. All maintenance of the courts is carried out by member working bees. What exactly are the court hire fees for if it isn't for the future refurbishment of the courts complex.

Sadly Council has refused to act on several requests to remove adjacent trees from the courts. The problems that the trees bring is debris, rotting leaves retain moisture that then rot and further compromise the court surface and player safety. Additionally, the shade from the trees is totally contrary to the players needs and actually impedes the game of tennis, especially for our older shire wide tennis players who have difficulty in adjusting to the change of light from sun to shade.

An important note to consider here is that when the lower courts are moist and covered with debris play needs to be diverted to the dryer upper courts which causes complications to the rostering of play and impacts on limiting designated playtime.

Tuross Head Tennis has promoted tennis in the community to such an extent that there is a strong turnout to nightly social events. Sadly, once again, Council seems to have failed in seeking any grant funding that was readily available that would have provided the additional lighting that no doubt would be paid for in increased patronage fees.

Tuross Tennis is keen to continue with its positive expansion of tennis within the Tuross community and further afield with the introduction of twilight youth focused competitions. The prospect of losing two courts totally goes against any measure this community is making to increase sport participation and seems totally contrary to all the initiatives, both State and Federal, in expanding sporting participation.

I have observed various courts in many areas and our court surfaces are the best maintained by players that I have seen anywhere. These courts belong to the Tuross Community – they were built by the Tuross community and have been maintained by the Community. I am appalled that Council seems to have alienated itself from the Tuross Community by disregarding the true owners of these facilities and it is disgusting to hear that proposed downgrading has been carried out in such a bold bureaucratic way without any prior consultation. Shame !!!!

I have also observed and consulted on various playing rosters and have ideas of increased social use for the benefit of individual (fitness), community and Council. Council is doing little to assist this dream and bring it to realisation.

Trevor Brown



A Letter from Clr Keith Dance

This week council has released a DRAFT Recreation & Open Space Strategy to essentially plan the way forward to provide sporting and open space strategy's for the next 20 years.

Council requires the community's comments on this proposed policy to ascertain whether the community agrees with the suggested way forward. Having read the report there is much to recommend it however I have misgivings about sections of this report as will the community.

The suggested closure of tennis courts at Neligen, Malua Bay, Broulee Tuross and Dalmeny to establish regional centers at Batemans Bay and Narooma is clearly premature. Councillors have not been provided with income and expenditure figures of these courts, the life and due upgrade costs needed for these courts or options that could enable these courts to continue with or without council's involvement. Clearly if necessary council may need to reverse the path taken in removing community run facilities and returning these facilities back to the community to manage.

Council also should consider the different needs of separate communities in distance, availability of transport, age and comfort factors that keep these facilities operational. With anticipated growth in our population in makes no sense to remove assets that still have a long and active life.

I suggest that as many people as possible acquaint themselves with this report taking note of the suggested changes on the large variety of issues addressed in this report and provide feedback both positive and negative to council.

I will be at the meeting being called at Tuross on the 30th April and look forward to a robust discussion on this draft policy.

Please remember it is only a draft and it is critical that your voice is heard.

Clr Keith Dance

A Letter from Guy Brantingham

Letter to the Editor of the Tuross Giant.

I write this letter, as the former Council Engineer responsible for the original development of the Kyla Sports Reserve, including all of the Tennis Courts. I also write as a life member of what was in 1978 the Tuross Head Tennis, Youth and Sports Club.

First some history:

- The lower two courts were constructed mainly by Council in 1978 utilising a State Government unemployment relief grant. (Dalmeny and Hanging Rock received courts at the same time).
- The Club painted the hot mix surface and then spent \$6000 on nets, fencing and flood lighting. The surface was marked as both a tennis court and also as a basketball court. The basket ball rings being funded and erected by the Club.
- The Club then funded and built the Tennis Clubhouse adjacent to the lower courts.
- These first two courts consequently cost ratepayers very little.
- Heavy use of the first two courts including a strong junior program necessitated the need for additional courts.
- The upper two courts were funded by the Club, via a Council loan. Club volunteer labour used Bowling Club equipment to lay and level the gravel surface. The fencing and nets were erected by volunteer Club labour.
- Trees were supplied and planted around the courts by Club volunteers.
- The gravel surface proved to be slow to dry out after rain and the Club then funded the provision of an artificial grass surface, via a Council loan.

It is clear therefore that Council's financial input into the original provision of the four courts was very small. In other words the courts morally belong to the Community.

Council seems to be relying heavily on a Strategy Report from Tennis Australia. This report is referenced but not attached to the strategy for public scrutiny.

My reading of the report indicates that Tennis Australia is recommending that for a Local Tennis Facility

- The facility should have two to four courts with fifty percent of the courts floodlit

The Tennis Clubhouse should, in part, meet the following requirements:

- male and female change rooms and showers
- café/kiosk and preferably licensed social facilities
- administration office/s
- outdoor shaded area

The facility should serve a population of 5000 within a 30km radius.

It seems to me that Tuross satisfies the population requirement and there is no justification in the Tennis Australia report to remove two of the courts. In fact there is an argument that Council should fund the upgrading of the clubhouse to meet Tennis Australia requirements.

Most sports go through peaks and troughs in popularity. The Sailing Club boomed in Tuross in the 80's and 90's. It died in 1999 due to diminished membership. Fortunately the sailing equipment was retained and stored at Kyla Oval. In 2007 sailing was resurrected and the new club was able to use the significant assets left by the previous club.

BMX in Batemans Bay is another case in point where good facilities were developed by the community. The use died many years ago but has recently been resurrected by a new club.

Tuross tennis player numbers currently appear to be reasonable and it will only be a matter of time before tennis has a significant local resurgence. It needs to be remembered that the rapidly increasing number of baby boomers retiring to Tuross are desperately looking for ways to keep active and healthy. They have decades of an active lifestyle ahead and tennis provides a wonderful physical and social outlet.

It is also worth noting at this point that the community also built the Kyla Oval public toilet block. It then went on to fully fund and build the Kyla Hall, the turf wicket and the boat storage and machinery shed. The Kyla Sports Area development and management through a combined Sports Club was a model that Council advocated for other Sports Areas in the Shire.

The proposed destruction of such a community funded tennis court, without prior consultation, is an insult to the community that worked so hard to create the facility. It also appears to make no economic sense. It will cost many thousands of dollars to properly remove and restore the area of the top courts. Leaving the facility in place will enable its use in peak periods and result in very small cost to Council if the usage is small as Council seems to be implying.

It is of great concern that the Draft Recreation Strategy provides no costings. It is full of expensive ideas without any real indication of how it will fund the ideas. This is a major shortcoming of the Strategy. It is also intriguing that it proposes on page 92 of the Strategy to dispose of the whole of the Kyla Sports Area. (I can only hope that this is an error)

There is no financial justification given in the Strategy for the removal of two Tuross tennis courts

There is a strong moral imperative for Council to support the hard work of the present Tennis Club in helping to maintain a facility that has served the Tuross community so well for over 30 years. This facility should be retained for use by the expanding and changing Tuross community over the next 30 years. Any thing else would be reprehensible.

Guy Brantingham

A Letter from Max Oakley

Dear Editor,

I refer—Eurobodalla Shire Council Tennis Courts Sub-committee of 30-3-2010.

It has been stated that ESC intends placing their Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy on public exhibition for 6 weeks from 19-4-2010.

It was disclosed that as part of “rationalising” asset resources one of the recommendations would be to remove two of the four courts of the Tuross Head. I look forward to viewing and studying the strategy when it shortly becomes available.

In the meantime I state the following from my personal experience.

Whilst I am getting a “bit long in the tooth” and haven’t used my tennis racquet for a few years I had played on the Tuross Head Tennis courts for many years, including a period as the president of the club.

During this time I humbly state that I contributed a considerable part in arranging the building of the courts and particularly the mod-grassing of all courts with the surface coming from the Sydney area and the salt-free sand for Newcastle.

I add that all the work done at the courts was done by voluntary tennis club labour and that the club paid for the material.

Apart from occasionally reinforcing some posts and recently providing steps from the lower courts and the tennis shed to the top courts ESC has done little for Tennis Tuross Head.

Presently these four courts are used a great deal by day and night and they are all necessary for the enjoyment of local and visiting tennis players and our youngsters whether or not they become future Federers.

If ESC were to move two courts from Tuross Head it would (if possible and practicable) deplete ESC finances to transport them to The Bay or Broulee.

In my opinion instead of considering Tuross Head losing two of its tennis courts Eurobodalla Shire Council Tennis Court Sub-committee should have a “look-see” to determine if it could help to improve anything at the tennis area at Tuross Head.

As a brief plug for the Tuross Head Tennis Club I report that the surface of all the courts is still in a satisfactory condition even though the life expectancy of the material used is long past.

This position is due entirely to the TLC of a few dedicated members of the club.

Max Oakley



Clr Graham Scobie

I strongly recommend that residents have a close look at the Draft Strategy as the closure of a number of playgrounds throughout the Eurobodalla is proposed as well as the sale of certain portions of public land.

I look forward to attending the public meeting in Tuross on April 30th to listen to the concerns of the residents of Tuross Head.



There are other options rather than closing a community sporting facility

The closing of tennis courts in Tuross would be a backward step. Tennis courts are better utilised when located close to the local community, particularly as public transport is almost non-existent in the Shire.

We really should be planning to keep residents off the highway rather than facing a costly drive to another town, especially with kids.

Council can be congratulated for looking at ways to save money but I'm sure there are other options rather than closing a community sporting facility - they will be too hard to replace in the future as our population increases.
Gary Smith , Coila Creek.



Clr Chris Kowal

Letter to the Editor,

The drafting of a 'Recreation and Open Space Strategy' can be viewed as a positive initiative overall, and that the document, as a sub-set of the Cultural Strategy, is appropriate in the order of things. The Strategy has many good things to say about the importance of outdoor activities and the wider health of the community.

The draft strategy sets about creating a list of priorities for rationalising a variety of sporting infrastructure and that's a good thing for the popular team sports whose competitions reach across district and regional levels.

Although, some sports in this category such as tennis also have a very strong local and social basis as their mainstay, that is to say it's a social game played in the local community.

Many tennis clubs started out this way and are very important to their respective local communities, so it was concerning to read about the proposal to sell off two of the Tuross courts as well as some others in the Shire. These courts are usually the product of considerable community fund-raising efforts and as a result especially important to the community.

It was also concerning to see in the document the possible disposal of a significant amount of public land that does provide varying degrees of passive recreation opportunity, this included some waterfront lands particularly in Tuross. These public lands are some of the communities greatest assets and once gone are virtually impossible to get back. Another point to think about is whether this plan adequately deals with the issue of 'open space' and passive recreation, is there enough 'local' space within walking distance of where one lives?

Regards
Chris Kowal

A Letter from Tuross Head Tennis Club Vice President

Dear Editor,

Player Fees up by 74%, Court closures in 6 areas—where is the logic?

No tennis player can see the sense in this. Would Council please explain the logic from their point of view.

The very first meeting with Council and Tennis members was held at Council chambers on 13th June 2006 . No minutes were recorded at that meeting. At this very first meeting the meeting's chair said "Fewer is Better" talking about tennis courts.

Less than four years on—guess what? Council propose closing courts.

\$6 was the first suggested amount for player fees. Players objected severely. Fees were then reduced to \$2 per player.

Less than four years on—guess what? Fees are to double.

In the past tennis has never been a cost to Council. In each area the tennis community have worked hard for their clubs, from the ground level up including the ongoing maintenance. No club has been in debt. No club has been a burden to Council.

Now since Council have taken over our complexes they do seem to be a burden to them having a need to now put player fees up as well as demolishing or closing courts in the shire.

Just give the players back the courts and club houses to be run as before.

All Problems solved with no cost or work needed by Council.

The Leisure Coast readily advertises promoting fitness and well being for all ages to keep fit and active. Tennis is a very active sport where people from the age of 8 to 88 participate. It is also an affordable sport for all ages.

One would think it better all around to have more players paying a lesser fee than fewer players paying a higher fee.

In closing local area courts players won't travel to larger venues to play as often or at all as they did on their local courts. Mainly social players and seniors will be disadvantaged the most

Players cannot see the reasoning for any of this except as a money grab and/or control by Council

Tuross Head Tennis Club Vice President

Kay Crisp



Above: The Playford Rage_cage is similar to the rage cage proposed by Council for Tuross Youth. .



Have your say on things that matter in Tuross Head

The new Tuross Head Tennis Club website has a forum for your opinions

Click in and see what everyone else is saying and have your own say

The link to the forum is:

<http://turossstennis.org.au/yoursayinput.html>

Editorial

If you have made it this far then congratulations. Hopefully I have been able to present a reasonable cross-section of information, links to further information and also availed a forum for a wide range of comment and viewpoint.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition and I encourage the Tuross Community to attend the Public meeting being held on April 30th at 6pm at the Progress Hall, Jutland Avenue to listen to Council present the Strategy and answer questions of concern..

I also appreciate that many readers of the Tuross Giant cannot attend the public meeting regarding the tennis courts and the strategy as they are busy or elsewhere. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the www.turosshead.org website and an email with the link will be sent out so that residents can keep informed.

There is a lot to read and at the end of the day it is vital that you have your say.

Council's Strategy in Recreation with proposals of rationalisation sit hand in hand with the reality that it costs more to look after things at the level of current expectation and that in time Councils across NSW are going to have to rationalise other assets and services. Further difficult decisions are on the horizon if NSW rate pegging remains. Fund maintaining roads and bridges or fund Libraries and Arts..... Which way will you vote?
Lei.



Photos and snippets



Tennis The Tuross tennis courts are for your pleasure and can be used by you at any time—a party can hire a court or courts for its exclusive use per half day or daily. Insufficient numbers to hire a court need not stop you—arrangements can be made for others to join you.

COURTS 12/6 PER HALF-DAY (exclusive use) . . . or 2/- PER INDIVIDUAL.

Racquets for Hire—2/- half day.

Write or ring "FOUR WINDS", Trafalgar Road
Phone 16, Tuross Head

Above: from the Tuross Brochure –30 Sept , 1956 when the tennis courts were at the top of Jellicoe Road

Tuross Head Tennis Club Inc "Celebrating 30 Years of Tennis"

The Tuross Head Tennis Club Inc has been in operation since 1981.

Situated at the Tuross Head Tennis Complex in Kyla Park, between the beautiful Coila and Tuross Lakes, the 4 synthetic grass courts (2 with lights) provide the perfect setting for tennis.

Office Bearers:-

President/Public Officer: Vic Smith

Vice President: Kay Crisp

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Carmichael

Representatives:

Monday Night Ladies Social Comp: Deirdre Sinclair

EDTA Thursday Ladies Comp: Kay Crisp

EDTA Saturday Mixed Comp: Jenny Irvine

Social Tennis: Trevor Brown

Tuross Head Tennis Club is always looking for new members.

Club membership entitles you to discounted court hire, discounted playing fees for Tennis Club activities, and, eligibility to participate in Eurobodalla District Tennis Association competitions.

For more information please visit our new website
<http://turossstennis.org.au/>



Councils are reducing the number of courts they have as Wii TV console sales of the popular Wii Tennis Games increase.

A local sales rep for TV console games argued however that the increase demand for indoor console games could not be held responsible for the reduction of real-world facilities.

“Virtual tennis has hawk-eye, it can be played in all weather, white attire is not required and players need not drive longer distances to the new centralised Tennis Facilities “ he said

Aware that the local Council proposed removal of sporting facilities due to underutilisation Wii Sports programmers are working on adding a social component to their products with chatter and anecdotes of post war memories to make older Wii tennis players feel less lonely.

Wii Dog has also seen a steady downturn in puppy sales and communities are now enjoying poop free parks and reserves should they ever decide to take a proper walk and not a virtual one.

There has also been a strong demand of late for the latest Wii product—a Wii Spouse however the software still lacks a logical interface.

TUROSS HEAD TENNIS CLUB SOCIAL TENNIS

GAME TIMES

MONDAY - FROM 8.00 AM

WEDNESDAY - FROM 4.30 PM

SATURDAY - 8.00 AM TO 12 NOON

COME AND JOIN US FOR A GREAT GAME OF TENNIS, 4 COURTS,

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, KYLA PARK, TUROSS HEAD



To play at times other than above, please book the courts at Sails at Tuross , Evans Road Shopping Centre, Tuross 4473 6076 or contact Trevor Brown on 4473 8308