

CAREX

Good Morning Mayor Brown, Elected Councillors, General Manager, Staff and Gallery – My name is Patricia Hellier North Batemans Bay

ALBERT RYAN PARK – I have lived streamed the Council meeting 12th April resident Peter Bernard asked the question “who was Albert Ryan” – now I did not observe a reply to Peter’s question so I have to presume that none of the Councillors were aware of “who Albert Ryan was”, and the significance of this park, or perhaps those who did chose to remain silent.

I must admit that this issue did come to my attention when I read the Agenda for the meeting of the 12th April 2016 and I did start researching it unfortunately due to the fact that I was out of the area the day of the meeting, I was unable to speak against the rezoning and the reclassification of Lot 10 and Lot 11 DP 236342.

In my research I discovered in the Braidwood and District Advocate on Tuesday 25 December 1923 a report on the inquest of the death of Evelyn Adelaide Ryan who was burnt to death due a house fire on this property, unfortunately when the fire broke out Evelyn ran and hid under her parents bed and according to this report was never seen alive again by her 2 sisters, 2 brother and her parents.

Albert Ryan then purchased land in Pacific Street and later built a guest house and he called it “Ocean View House”.

According to information from the Batemans Bay Museum, Albert left the land which was later called Albert Ryan Park for the use and enjoyment of the people of Batemans Bay. I believe when Robyn Innes was a councillor to her credit she officially named the park Albert Ryan Park and had a sign appropriately erected.

On Wednesday last week it came to our attention that it would appear that Lot 10 is actually owned by the RMS, a staff person was contacted and given this information and at a meeting last Friday 6th May 2016 Mr Geoff Morgan Manager Strategic Services confirmed this. In examining the plan of this area it is obvious that Lot 10 is the larger of the two Lots. At this meeting those who were in attendance overwhelming voted against the proposal of the rezoning and reclassification of both Lot 10 and Lot 11 DP 236342.

I disagree with the view that this area is underutilised and a statement from Councillor Leslight at the Community Forum Meeting at Batemans Bay with words to the affect that the area attracts an element that is not wanted in the town only shows to me how uninformed he is, as this town replies primarily on tourism.

There are a number of very passionate people within this community that want this park to remain not only for its value for our community and visitors alike, but for the historical value. I am aware that there are many who do not have a “sentimental bone in their body” and the significance of the history of this park obviously mean very little to some or for that matter nothing at all.

NOW at the Council meeting on the 12th April Clr. Innes stated that she would be guided by the community on this issue and she reaffirmed this at the Community Meeting in Bateman Bay on Wednesday 27th April and at the same meeting Mayor Brown assured the meeting he would be guided by what the community wanted – I am now asking this Councillors not to waste anymore

time and money on this issue and I am calling for the Councillors to place a rescission motion in on the rezoning and reclassifying Lots 10 and Lot 11 DP 236342 Beach Road Batemans Bay.

This issue has become an embarrassed to all involved in Council including you the Councillors especially given that the most longest serving councillor seconded this motion even though Lot 10 is not owned by Council, incorrect dates for the closing of the submission being placed on letters, and a second date now given for the submission closure, one letter being sent to one effected residents in the area to one address, then a second letter to the same resident sent to a South Coast Property Specialists who is the Strata Manager of the unit – stop this now, don't waste staffs time and rate payers money on this issue any further – we have a project in the midst being the Council's purchase of the Bowling Club, let the community see that all Councillors and staff get behind this worthwhile project and make it a success and prove to those out in the community who are against this Bowling Club purchase that this is a viable and valuable project for all of the residents of the Eurobodalla.

