

21 November 2017

General Manager
Eurobodalla Shire Council
PO Box 99
MORUYA NSW 2537

**LETTER OF SUPPORT
RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST GRANT**

On behalf of the Committee and members of the Rosedale Association Inc (RAI), I am pleased to provide this letter of support to assist Council with its grant application to the Recreational Fishing Trust for the Yowani Road stair project in Rosedale, NSW. For many years, our Association has advocated for a Council upgrade of the informal track in north Rosedale. At our 2017 AGM, our members voted in favour of providing a financial contribution towards this project.

We welcomed news that Council was lodging the application through the Recreational Fishing Trust. We see this as particularly fitting, as Rosedale has a long history of recreational fishing, not only in the main bay but also off the rocks and in the coves to the north and south of Rosedale Beach. The proposed stair project will significantly improve access to an area that provides a diverse habitat of sand and rock, which hosts a wide variety of fish species of value to recreational fishers. The area has long been of special interest to recreational fishers, particularly those who participate in rod, reel, line and spear fishing, and others exploring and gathering fish by other legal means, including lobster and abalone. It is also a source of sand worms and pipis, which are favoured baits for fishing in this locality.

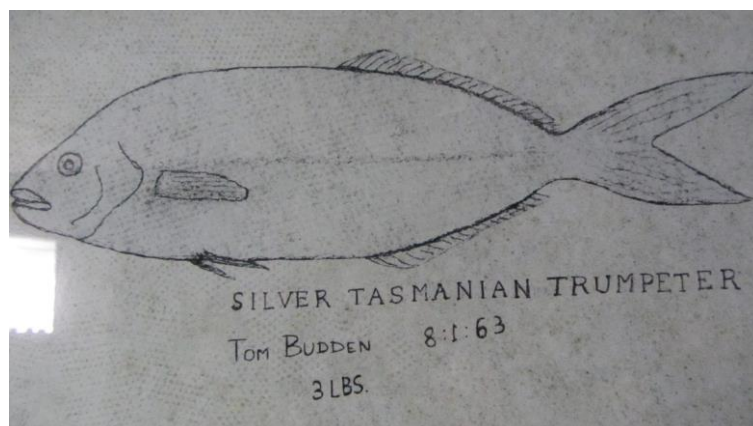
The area is currently frequented by people of various ages but restricted to those who can manage the challenge of difficult access. Improved access would greatly encourage and enhance the number of people who could enjoy the area and the variety of recreational fishing it offers. Unfortunately such areas can also attract people who 'do the wrong thing' and the stairs would facilitate improved policing by Fisheries officers. There have also been situations that required access by emergency services, which was made more difficult by the poor condition of the track.

Council Communications: I have been communicating with Council on this matter since 2013. Prior to this, our Rosedale Landcare group had been pressing Council to address serious erosion and weed infestation issues that developed on the beach track at the end of Yowani Road.

I recently wrote to Council to report our concerns about the projected increasing population numbers for our area over the next 20 years. This will place even more pressure on Rosedale's beach tracks, as increasing numbers of people want to access recreational areas within the Rosedale precinct for fishing and other activities. I strongly argued for properly designed and installed access paths and stairs in both north and south Rosedale to reduce the risk of multiple informal tracks proliferating. These tracks quickly erode and become dangerous, posing a risk to people and degrading the natural environment.

The issue of safe beach access paths and stairs at Rosedale has also featured prominently in discussions at our Association's AGMs over several years. At the 2016 AGM attended by former Mayor Brown, our members expressed their continued strong interest in having new access stairs designed and installed in North Rosedale. One member reported slipping and hitting her head while trying to navigate a poorly maintained track to the beach from north Rosedale. Members at our 2017 AGM voted in favour of the Rosedale Association Committee continuing to pursue beach access projects, in both north and south Rosedale. I subsequently advised Council of our community's continuing strong interest in these projects and that our members had voted in favour of providing a financial contribution towards the Yowani Road stair project. Agreement was reached for our Committee to go back to members to approve the final figure, once we have received a firm estimate of costs from Council.

History of Recreational Fishing at Rosedale: There is a long history of recreational fishing at Rosedale, which is evidenced by several fish drawings that line the walls of the historic log cabins on main beach. These drawings were done to mark the catch of recreational fishers staying at the cabins, with the drawings dating from the 1930s through to the 1980s.



Thirty-five families also own boatsheds that feature at the northern end of Rosedale's main beach. They are maintained in good order and managed by the Rosedale Boatshed Company. The Company was formally set up in 1967, although some of the boatsheds existed before that time. It has an elected Board of five and holds an AGM for owners between Christmas and New Year each year. The Chairman of the Company has expressed his support for the stair project, echoing our Association's view that fishing has been, and remains, a 'top priority' recreational activity at Rosedale.



The boatsheds are used to store fishing, boating and beach equipment, including motors and oars for fishing boats. Boats are kept towards the back of the beach near the boatsheds and are used for fishing excursions into the bay and beyond. Immediately in front of the boatsheds is a bench seat that was donated by the family of Clive Murray in 2014. Mr Murray was a keen fisherman, who drowned at Rosedale trying to rescue a young girl from a rip in 1985. He was awarded a posthumous Bravery Medal by the Governor-General in 1986. Mr Murray's family specifically requested that the seat be placed at the boatsheds. They incorporated a shelf in the design to be of use to recreational fishers getting their rods and gear ready.

Conclusion: The project to install stairs at the end of Yowani Road is of significant importance to our community on several fronts and we would welcome a positive response to Council's application for a Recreational Fishing Trust grant. The project will provide:

- safer access for local and visiting recreational fishers to the beach, rocks and adjoining coves, as well as Fisheries officers policing the regulations that apply to recreational fishing;
- safer walking and access for other locals and visitors wanting to enjoy the beach and natural environment;
- enhanced environmental protection of the bushland reserve in North Rosedale; and
- easier access for emergency services, if required.

I reiterate our community's strong support for Council's grant application from the Recreational Fishing Trust, including a vote by our members in favour of making a financial contribution towards the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Boardman', written in a cursive style.

David Boardman
President