

Friends of Old Bega Hospital Newsletter #4

The end of 2014 finds the Old Bega Hospital still without a roof, but with some movement at the station.

Funding for a new roof?

Crown Lands in Nowra, which is the NSW body that administers the site for the NSW Government, which owns it, let us know that the Crown Reserves Management Fund (PRMF) has had an influx of funding, and with a State election due in March 2015 the government is likely to be inclined to spend it if there are suitable projects. Following further discussions, the Old Bega Hospital Reserve Trust proceeded to put together an application for funding to put a roof on the main Hospital building. That necessitated consultations with architects, quantity surveyors, engineers, roofing firms and Council to get together sufficient factual material to support the application, much of it coordinated by Jay Ellard. Tim Winton from the Friends of Old Bega Hospital put together a strategic plan based on existing information and some new thoughts, to accompany the application. The application was submitted, and a result should be known early in 2015.

If successful, the PRMF grant will only fund the roof. That will still leave a lot of work to be done, and money to be found, for the walls, floors, windows and doors before the building can get to lockup stage, and much more work after that for electricity, plumbing and the like before it is usable again. Crown Lands has identified another possible source of NSW government funds, the Commonwealth has funding for regional infrastructure under its Regional Development Australia program, and the National Trust may be able to conduct a public appeal for tax deductible donations. The Trust and the Friends are talking to various people about those leads, as there is little point for either the Hospital or the NSW government to have a building with a roof but no prospect of getting the work completed. It would be an opportune time to write to the NSW government expressing your support for the project, or to identify people in the community who might be prepared to make a substantial financial contribution if the conditions are right. So far we have about \$30,000 raised from the community since the fire in 2004, and a commitment to a further \$100,000.

Men's Shed

The Bega Men's Shed reached agreement with the Trust, approved by Crown Lands, to use part of the Old Hospital site to put up a new shed. After much seeking of funding and unexpected setbacks, as well as the not inconsiderable expected difficulties of design and building, concrete was poured, walls clad and water and power connected to give the Bega Men's Shed a home. There is still work to be done, but the building will be officially opened early in 2015. Congratulations to all involved.

Membership renewals!

Subscriptions for all Friends of the Old Bega Hospital expired on 30 June 2014. If you have not already renewed your membership, please do it now. Details can be found at

Reserve Trust Trustees

The terms of appointment of the existing trustees on the Old Bega Hospital Reserve Trust expired on 12 December. New trustees were appointed by notice in the NSW Government Gazette on 28 November, and will hold their positions from 13 December 2014 to 12 December 2019. The members appointed are:

- Claire Lupton
- Pat Jones
- Richard Bomford
- John Reynolds
- David Stocker
- Jay Ellard
- Warren Page

Claire, Pat and Jay are reappointments.

The Trust and the Friends of the Old Bega Hospital meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Old Bega Hospital. Contact information and much more is on the OBH website, www.obh.org.au.

Bega, 4 January 2015