

# TIMELINE ON LOT 107 FOR MEDIA RELEASE

*Prepared by Tina Petroff President OSCA February 2006*

**1993 Council begins search** for sportsfields for the fast growing Greater Ocean Shores catchment area.

**1995 NSW State Government impose an Interim Protection Order (IPO)** for 12 months to investigate and determine which lands were environmentally sensitive, and which blocks should be purchased by NPWS.

LOT 107 was found to **'have no environmental significance'** and was not needed or purchased by NPWS.

**1996 Council purchased LOT 107** specifically for sportsfields for the Greater Ocean Shores area for a total of \$167,500 which included the bitumen roadway of Shara Boulevard. 18 acres of high, dry grassland.

**29<sup>th</sup> May 1997** A secret meeting in Byron Bay between RTA, Beacon, Greens Member Tom Tabart, now currently a Councillor on Byron Shire Council, Caldera Environment Centre to determine which parcels of land should be included in the Compensation Package for environmentally sensitive land lost in Brunswick Heads when the RTA begin construction of the new highway. **LOT 107 was one parcel suggested by the environmental groups present.** The Greater Ocean Shores community was not consulted at all.

**19<sup>th</sup> April 1999** The POM for sportsfields on LOT 107 was finally adopted with amendments to delete the hockey field at the southern end of the property.

**11<sup>th</sup> May 1999** A further confidential non public Meeting in Byron Bay between RTA and several environmental groups, including Green leaders, Stan and Val Scanlon confirmed the need to include LOT 107 in the Compensatory Habitat Package.

This resulted in LOT 107 not being gazetted for public exhibition, and Council now arguing that there never was a POM adopted.

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2000** Letter from the Hon Morris Iemma, now NSW Premier, stating that 'LOT 107 was mostly cleared land and therefore has no potential as an environmental facility'.

**2004** Over the next two years Council stalls their duty of care to provide sportsfields to the Greater Ocean Shores community with many Consultants Reports and valuations completed on numerous alternative sites other than LOT 107, including Reports on land they don't own.

**2005** Brunswick Valley Sports Assoc. Inc and Ocean Shores Community Assoc Inc. try to negotiate and compromise with Byron Shire Council, but Councillors Tabart, Westheimer, Lazarus, Staples and Mayor Barham are determined to sell off this community land for well under its market value. Council's Agenda papers note that RTA offers for LOT 107 range from \$34,000 to \$225,000.

## **LEGAL ACTION TAKEN due to the last 15 years of diversionary tactics.**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2006** Hearing in Land and Environment Court, Brunswick Valley Sports Assoc. v Byron Shire Council, who now have the support in court of RTA against the Greater Ocean Shores community. Depriving a whole generation of Greater Ocean Shores children of urgently needed sports facilities.

## **QUESTION THAT NEED TO BE ASKED**

Now the question has to be asked of Council ... **How much S94 and public money has been spent on Consultants Reports, valuations, POMs etc on land in the North of the Shire ?** and who's paying for the QC John Arling that Council appointed to fight against our community in the Court ?

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

**BVSA now need the communities financial support** in defending these urgently needed facilities. **If you support local sportsfields for Ocean Shores, then please send your donation to the BVSA Shara Boulevard Sportsfield Fund at the O/S Summerland Credit Union BSB 802-222 Account number 51603-S1 today.**