

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



### Post Fire Update

The dust is settling and normality is slowly returning to the Bay.

Timbers from the jetty damaged stored by Lake Coal for use by the public have since been removed. If you wish to see examples of this beautiful timber some pieces are located in Usher St, opposite the Pub.

Representatives from the Association recently met with Garry Edwards (Local Member) re; a meeting with the Minister for Heritage, Robyn Parker MP concerning the loss of 4 historic buildings in the fire. Garry informed us that he will send a letter to Ms Parker expressing our concern as to the status of these buildings and their replacement. Association members have also met with National Trust and the Heritage Office.

Also, the Association discussed with Garry Edwards a sustainable Fire Plan for the Bay. The good news is that the Government is working to make further amendments to the *Rural Fires Act 1997* to permit owners to clear all vegetation including trees, within 10 m of a dwelling house and clear understorey (excluding trees) within 50 m of a dwelling house without the requirement for assessment or approval. This is limited to the landowners' own land. We were advised that it will be sometime before these amendments are introduced, hopefully earliest 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014.



## Documentary of the Fire at Catherine Hill Bay

A documentary on the October 2013 Fire is being made for the community and Heritage Week 2014. Susie Douglas will be interviewing residents and members of the Rural Fire Service about their experiences. These interviews together with fire footage obtained from the Rural Fire Service will be edited by Bernard Garry. This wonderful new documentary will be shown to the community and all interested at our next Film Event, hopefully in the first few months of 2014.

## Heritage Area Plan

Lake Macquarie City Council's (LMCC) Draft Heritage Area Plan is under further review. The Catherine Hill Bay community will be part of the process from the beginning and will be notified as soon as further details come to hand.

## Bay Traffic Management

Council considered the consultants Traffic Management Plan at its ordinary meeting on Monday 25 November 2013 and it was loved by everyone. No discussion, passed unanimously.

LMCC advised that some of the works are to commence in the 2014/15 financial year as the budget for 2013 / 2014 works program has already been committed. The Association has been asked to advocate to State and Federal agencies for funding assistance to LMCC regarding the project.



## Landcare

Landcare takes a break till February. Then we're lucky to have the Landcare Resource Office (LRO) Green Team commit to work in the Bay on the second Thursday commencing February followed by April, July and October 2014. These people are volunteers – join in!

## Bay Care

The Association wrote a letter to LMCC re; the possible relocation of the Surf Club. As advised by LMCC 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013, "Council is unaware of any recent discussions with the surf club and Rose group.....If such an application were prepared it would need to provide an assessment of the implications of the proposal. A number of issues would need to be considered including, but not limited to, heritage, views, coastal processes, vegetation and services. Consultation would also need to be part of this proposal, including with the community.....Approval would need to be sought from Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage". Watch this space!

## Bottle Clean-up Day

The 2 tonnes of bottles / cans collected 28<sup>th</sup> November are still sitting as a "contemporary midden" on the headland.

There are still thousands of bottles remaining on this headland and discussions are ongoing with the LMCC, National Parks and Wildlife, "Take 3" and other interested parties regarding a major clean up in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014. We will keep you advised as to proposed dates and actions for this future clean up.

## 2014 Association Membership

Please put some money aside to sign up to another year with the Association. We are always in need of your support and any contribution is also more than welcome!

## The Bay's Web Site

The number of hits to our website rose to 7000 following the fires. Our FACEBOOK page is building as a result of the posting of photos of the fires.

Check out our website or Facebook pages for the latest news and great photos.

[www.catherinehillbay.org.au](http://www.catherinehillbay.org.au)

[https://www.facebook.com/CathHillBay/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/CathHillBay/photos_albums)

## Association

The Association wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

We also wish everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous and mindful New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2014.