

Media Release

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Catho Progress Association Awarded at Coastal Conference

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association has won the "Community Involvement Award" at the NSW Coastal Conference in Wollongong last night.

Association President, Sue Whyte, accepted the award on behalf of the Catherine Hill Bay community. Nominated by the Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Greg Piper, the award recognises the "Catho" community's exceptional level of involvement in promoting and protecting coastal communities and environments.

Ms Whyte said the award recognises the impact a village of a few hundred residents that cares passionately for its history, its community and its environment, can have if it is willing to speak and act.

"We have managed to protect many natural and heritage features however, the coast is under continued pressure," Ms Whyte said.

"This award recognises not only our efforts, but that many coastal communities throughout NSW face similar problems and issues, and they can identify with and support our campaign. We would not have made the impact we have without the support of others."

Mayor Piper said the Association has been operating for more than 100 years and is a great example of community spirit.

"I congratulate Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association on this award and thank all its members for contributing so much to the township," Mayor Piper said.

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The Association's activities include the "Back to the Bay" heritage festival, bushland regeneration by local Landcare and Dunecare groups, inclusion of coastal beaches and bushland into the NSW National Park system , and research and development of a heritage listing for the historic township.

Current development proposals for nearly 1,000 new houses at Catherine Hill Bay have sparked strong community opposition. Through public campaigns and submissions to government, the Association has been successful in reducing their scale and impact.

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Editor's Notes

Interview: Association President, Sue Whyte, on 0409 344 253 or
Association Secretary, David Knock, on 0413 712 712 or
Mayor, Greg Piper, on 4921 0223.