

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Newsletter

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association and Dune Care Inc

March 2013

www.catherinehillbay.org.au

For Association members, Friends of Catherine Hill Bay, residents and supporters everywhere

***THE NEXT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING IS ON
FRIDAY 5TH APRIL, 7:30 PM, AT THE CATHERINE HILL
BAY BOWLING CLUB.***

AGENDA: *TRAFFIC TRAFFIC TRAFFIC*

Peter McMurray from Lake Macquarie City Council will be presenting the draft LATM Plan document prepared by GTA Consultants. The consultants will also be at this meeting.

We are hoping that the new licensee of the Catho Pub can attend.

***The Association would like to thank you for your
ongoing membership and donations – a BIG THANK YOU!
Keep them coming in!***

Lots of visitors come to Catherine Hill Bay for many reasons: for some it is the patrolled beach; others want to experience a beach in a natural environment; some come to rent out a cottage for a holiday, others to hold celebrations such as a weddings, birthday parties or family reunions, and some come to walk in the National Park or listen to a band at the historic Wallarah Pub.

Now that coal mining has ceased, tourism, whether day trippers or longer stay visitors, has become a major focus of Catherine Hill Bay. The district might not have vineyards but it does have the magnificent Lake Macquarie, and historic and beautiful Catherine Hill Bay, one of only two heritage towns in the State. What a drawcard!

This is where we are now turning our attention. As yet there are no self- guided heritage trails or heritage signage to help visitors understand the significance of the coal mining

heritage township. The Progress Association is working with the Council and the Heritage Office to redress this.

Coal & Allied has agreed to reinstate the old railway track from the old “E” pit to the beach as a bicycle and walking track. Eventually, we would like to see a bicycle track that begins at the jetty lookout and follows the route of the former railway line along the beach cliff joining the planned Coal & Allied section. This bicycle / walk track could link to Murrays Beach, through Swansea and then join onto the fabulous Fernleigh Track and become one of the best tracks in Australia if not the world!

Yes, coal mining has finished but the Bay has a great future as a heritage drawcard for Lake Macquarie.

The Progress Association continues to campaign for the Bay but this comes at a cost and the Association needs funds either through membership subscriptions or via a donation. A membership form is attached and this year we would love to see new faces at our meetings.

Please note that our next Progress Association meeting is at the Catherine Hill Bay Bowling Club, at 7:30 pm on Friday 5th April. So please come along, everyone is welcome.

Clean Up Australia Day



- On the 3rd March our fearless Dune Care Coordinator Carmel Brown organized a successful community Clean Up Australia Day. 19 bags were filled, plus guttering, a mattress, a washed up TV with barnacles, a radiator and half a bike. Recognise anything?!



..neat littering?!





- After the hard yakka was done, Jan Gartelmann put on a wonderful “thank you” lunch for the volunteers. The food was fabulous, complemented by trophy winning Gartelmann wines. All monies raised are going into our Heritage Signage Fund. A special thanks to those who helped: Jan, Carmel, David Knock, Bev Mackie, Don and Christine Graham, Sue and Alex Whyte, Ali Nasser and Barbara, Trent, Charlotte and Rhys Mannell.



Progress Association Meeting

- A good meeting was held on Friday night 22nd February and given the terrible weather we had a respectable turnout. Minutes to be forwarded to all, shortly.
- A special thanks to all those that attended on such a bleak night.

What is happening with the proposed developments?

- Coal & Allied will soon lodge their development application to LMCC. The Planning Assessment Commission approval for a rezoning of the land came with a number of requirements that need to be fulfilled before the DA can be approved by LMCC.
- The Rose group planned subdivision, approved by the Planning Assessment Commission in 2011, is quite a way off yet. The rehabilitation of the land is far from complete and the sorting out of how water and sewerage will be delivered is all “still in the pipeline”.. Rose group’s requested ‘modifications’ to the approval will be determined by the PAC in the coming months.

Traffic issues in the Bay...



Village Burn Outs – Getting Worse

- Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges that we have a major traffic problem and in support appointed in November 2012 GTA Consultants to prepare a Local Area Traffic Management Plan (LATM) for the Bay.

The Progress Association and community made submissions to GTA Consultants and a LATM draft report is to be presented to Council week commencing 25th February.

On review by Council this Plan will be presented to the Bay community at the **Friday 5th April** meeting. Keep an eye on our newsletter for any updates.

Coal trolley update...

- We are thrilled to be given the news that LMCC has confirmed “it has been agreed that Council will pay the heritage funding assistance for the restoration of the skip (up to \$1000 on a dollar for dollar basis)”.
- LMCC would like to see the coal skip incorporated into the proposed heritage walks so thinking caps on as to the best location, please.



The Mens Shed's jigsaw puzzle – what coal trolley?

- We wish the Men's Shed all the best in this exciting restoration which we know will be a great success given the Shed's extensive resources.

Heritage walk update...

- The Association is seeking increased heritage signage so Bay visitors can have a greater understanding of its unique heritage significance.
- Lisa Wrightson (Heritage Officer - LMCC) has spoken to the Roads and Maritime Services as to how best improve the heritage signage at the Pacific Highway entrances. Lisa said that she will get back to the Association when more news comes to hand.
- Jennifer Hill, heritage architect, has been running heritage walks for a number of years in the Bay. To support these walks a number of pamphlets and photographs have been prepared. These have provided valuable information for Lisa Wrightson who is setting up a series of self-guided heritage walks in the Bay. The Association is meeting with LMCC's Community Planning Group in March / April 2013 to discuss further.
- Also, Bill Laing has put forward the concept of the Catho Rock Trail and Catho Mining Trail, both fantastic walks focusing on the area's geology and mining history – walks for young and old.
- Regarding the proposed walk(s) all ideas / contributions are welcome.

Land care - getting better all the time!

- Did you know that Catho has its own indigenous banksia called *banksia spinulosa* 'stumpy gold' which was found about 20 years ago and propagated for nurseries. Linda Ross our own 'celebrity' gardener has offered to come up with a "wee planting plan incorporating this and a few other salt tolerant natives for the Surf Club house". Wow, won't this put us in contention for the most beautiful beach award!
- With assistance from LMCC, Dunecare has been reinvigorated but we need people power to help keep Catho beautiful! Our volunteers have been working on Land Care in the Bay for years and they (and the Bay) need help from the community and general public. Details about future Land Care working bees will be posted in upcoming newsletters. Great to see people weeding and collecting litter on their walks.
- LMCC's Mel Weber advised those "Green Team" days are to be arranged for the Bay and she will get back to Carmel and Damien Hawcroft with some dates.

- Take a look at the area in front of the Surf Club – we are getting rid of the bitou bush and morning glory - a vast improvement with more work to do, including planting.



Please note that all helping hands are welcome as a lot of the gardening in this area will be less physical and will involve the VIP weeding, etc.

- Also, a special thanks to Damien and Warren Holden (LifeGuard) who have been doing a terrific job in beautifying this very visible area.

Bay care – many improvements....

- Association members met with Council to address problems around the surf club and beach front, and LMCC have released work orders for these tasks. To date, broken fencing and loose wire has been fixed and the dilapidated BBQ area has been cleaned up.

- Old waste bins and poorly sealed car parking areas are still to be addressed by LMCC and a recent reminder was sent to Brad Sutton (Acting Section Manager Parks, Buildings

& Natural Areas). Brad has been very helpful to date and we want to encourage that ongoing positive relationship.

What is happening with the jetty?

- In January 2013, Sue and Damien once again met with Lake Coal to further discuss the jetty and its possible use as a publicly accessible lookout. Lake Coal approximate provided costs for partial demolition (they would save \$400,000) and rehabilitation (cost \$900,000) and annual maintenance (\$100,000) using figures from a 2009 structural engineers report. Based on our discussions concern was raised regarding the use of old \$ figures and we asked Lake Coal, if possible, to provide us with current estimates. Current and more accurate \$ will enable us to go to Government Departments and politicians to seek their support.
- As Damien pointed out the proposed lookout would be used for people access only so fixing up the jetty would be to ensure public's safety only. Obviously the rehabilitation work would involve the installation of an appropriate, unobtrusive fence.

The Bay's web site...

- The volume of traffic on our website is amazing! In January and February, there were around 160,000 visits! The majority came via Google, followed by Facebook, then the University of Newcastle.
- The most popular page was the 'Save Catho' page; then the History pages.
- The Progress Association documents and media items are uploaded to the website.
- Contact Ben Brown at Ralim@me.com for queries and suggestions.

Social calendar

- We plan to have a full social calendar for this year as our energies need to be directed towards the community. Most of the monies raised will go directly into a Heritage Signage fund. Only monies going into our general account will be those needed to cover insurance costs, web fees and running costs for the Association.
- All ideas that may contribute to a more spectacular event are welcome; please speak to Jan Gartelmann.
- Please enter proposed dates in your calendar and advice on specific dates will follow.

MARCH **Sunday 3rd** **Clean Up day & thankyou lunch for volunteers**

APRIL **Piano Concert at the RSL Hall. High Tea provided at the interval.
Prize for the most outrageous hat (Catho themed). \$50 adult, \$25 child**

JUNE	10th	Long weekend, Art Exhibition, Tennis Clubhouse
AUGUST/SEPT		Kitchen Garden Talk and Luncheon
OCTOBER		Gala Dinner - Chef prepared and a Wine Maker as Guest Speaker. Very special price - \$80 a head
NOVEMBER		Film Night and Christmas Party
DECEMBER	Friday 27th	Tennis / Cricket Gathering