

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Newsletter - May 2013

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association and Dune Care Inc

www.catherinehillbay.org.au

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

THE NEXT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING FRIDAY 16th AUGUST, 7:30 PM CATHERINE HILL BAY BOWLING CLUB

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
COME EARLY & ENJOY A GREAT MEAL AT THE
BOWLO BISTRO**

**The Association would like to thank all for
ongoing memberships and donations –
THANK YOU and keep them coming!**

Community and Progress Association Meeting

- A great meeting was held on Friday night 24th May with a group of more than 30!
- The Draft Heritage Area Plan prepared by Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) was presented by LMCC representatives.

The Council officers accepted that there has not been sufficient community consultation in preparation of the draft and will consider an extension of the usual 4 weeks of the exhibition period. Also, they supported the meeting's suggestion that a workshop be held on a Saturday afternoon at the Bowling Club to collect the communities concerns regarding the draft plan. Community members will be notified as soon as workshop details come to hand.

- The Association members discussed other issues and these are summarised as follows.

Community Survey Results

- **Big CONGRATULATIONS** to the 53 people who completed the survey and for their considered responses.
- The survey's results will be considered in CHBPA's future policies, as well as forwarded to LMCC's Councillors, as well as Federal and State Members.
- Please note, the following are the survey's preliminary results and on finalisation in late June the complete results will be emailed and letter box dropped for all to read.

Question 1

Catherine Hill Bay has a mixed population of permanent residents who own or rent property, and people who own property but do not live here full time.

Of the 53 respondents:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Own property</i> | <i>43 (81%)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rent</i> | <i>10 (19%)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>How long have you lived in the Bay?</i> | <i>22 years (average)</i> |

Question 2

What do you think makes the Bay such a "special place"?

Tick as many categories as you wish.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Beach</i> | <i>96%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment</i> | <i>90%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>History</i> | <i>87%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bushland</i> | <i>82%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Quiet</i> | <i>80%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jetty</i> | <i>72%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Neighbours</i> | <i>64%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sense of community</i> | <i>57%</i> |

Question 3

What do you think would improve your lifestyle in the Bay?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Better traffic management</i> | <i>88%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Some Shops</i> | <i>34%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Better bus service</i> | <i>32%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mains Sewerage</i> | <i>14%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mains Water supply</i> | <i>12%</i> |

Question 4

Would you be willing to pay connection fees (approximately \$6 000) and annual water rates?

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| For Sewer | <i>Yes – 17%</i> | <i>No – 83%</i> |
| For Water supply | <i>Yes – 11%</i> | <i>No – 89%</i> |

Question 5

If the Bay was to become more popular with visitors, what do you think should be done to maintain its attraction and to minimize unwanted effects? Please tick as many as you wish.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reduce the impact of traffic speed</i> | 81% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Control on motor bikes through the bush</i> | 72% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Toilet & garbage bins for Graveyard Beach</i> | 72% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reduce excessive hotel noise & reduce unacceptable behaviour of hotel patrons</i> | 70% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Signposted heritage walkways</i> | 64% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Better management / maintenance of coastal weed problem</i> | 62% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Rubbish collection</i> | 60% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Better push bike / cycling facilities</i> | 54% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Better beach parking/picnic area & cleaning</i> | 52% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Better streetscape, roads, parking</i> | 44% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Brochure (history, environment)</i> | 42% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Visits by Council Ranger</i> | 40% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Better signage</i> | 28% |

Question 6

Are you in favour of protecting the style of the village much as it is today, in keeping with the Lake Macquarie DCP heritage guidelines developed by Lake Macquarie Council and the Catherine Hill Bay community?

Yes – 81%

No – 7%

Unsure – 12%

Question 7

Are you in favour of more housing in the Bay?

Yes – 24%

No – 66%

Unsure – 10%

Question 8

Will be in complete results.

Question 9

If development takes place within the village, what style of dwellings would you like to see?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Consistent with existing miners' cottages in the village</i> | Yes – 86% | No – 2% | Unsure – 12% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Different styles of dwellings including two storey buildings</i> | Yes – 7% | No – 79% | Unsure – 14% |

Question 9a

Given the many pressures for people to increase the sizes of their houses do you support additions to the rear, which still contain the low scale miners' cottage character to the front?

Yes – 91%

No – 9%

Question 9b

Will be in complete results.

Question 10

Is there a problem with speeding traffic in the town?

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>strongly agree</i> | <i>81%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>agree</i> | <i>16%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>disagree</i> | <i>3%</i> |

Question 11

How can we best achieve the slowing of traffic through the town?

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>raised soft platforms every 80-100m throughout the town</i> | <i>34%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>a narrowing of the road to a single lane every 80-100m with a raised platform</i> | <i>34%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>reforming the straight road so that the road is narrowed and curved</i> | <i>14%</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i> | <i>18%</i> |

Question 12

Will be in complete results.

Question 13

Do you support the Progress Association's efforts to protect the Bay's sense of place, heritage, community and environment?

Yes – 91%

No – 9%

Question 14

Will be in complete results.

Bay Traffic Management

- LMCC advised that the traffic consultants (GTA) are still working on the draft traffic plan for presentation to Council and exhibition for public comment. Watch this space!

Heritage Walks – Great News

- The Progress Association has been successful in securing a grant from the Federal Government for \$10,000 for the preparation of material relating to self-guided heritage walking trails at Catherine Hill Bay.
- Regarding the proposed heritage walk(s) all ideas / suggestions are welcome.

Coal Trolley – Mission Not Impossible

- The LMCC's heritage funding assistance for the restoration of the skip (up to \$1000 on a dollar for dollar basis) has been withdrawn due to onerous restraints placed on the Swansea Mens Shed and others. Nothing like a challenge!
- The skip's pieces (before and after photos) are to be returned to the Bay where we will pool our skills and get this trolley built. Goal is to have finished for the October 2013 Back to the Bay Festival.

ANY HELP PARTICULARLY WELDING and / or CARPENTARY SKILLS WOULD BE MORE THAN WELCOME!!!!!! PLEASE CALL DAMIEN 0419263380.



In-situ



Mens Shed

Landcare

- Linnie Ross has just arrived back from the famous Chelsea Flower Show and is busily preparing a landscape master plan for the area in front of the Surf Club and BBQ / picnic area. What a showpiece for the community and friends of the Bay.
- A special thanks to Aaron Cobbin, Lewis Grainger, Damien Hawcroft and Warren Holden for all of the "hard yakka" in clearing the weeds making this area ready for replanting with wonderful natives.
- LMCC – "winter" Life Guards will be poisoning Lantana and Bitou bush in front of the Club and up to the picnic / BBQ area plus the immediate area north of the creek. This program has commenced but is very much weather dependant.
- Great to see people weeding and collecting litter on their walks. Keep up the great work and on your next walk take a bag for rubbish, it is amazing how much you will find!
- Next LMCC "Green Team" day is planned for Friday 5th July. If you wish to help you are more than welcome. Homemade cake at final gets together but not guaranteed! Meet at the Surf Club at say 9.00am.

- Next time at the beach take a look at areas in front, north and south of the Surf Club – we are getting rid of the bitou, lantana and morning glory - a vast improvement with more work to do, including planting.



Before



After



Before



After

- Some work is physically demanding and some work is lighter such as follow up weeding. Both tasks are as important as one another so all help, no matter how small or large, is welcome.
- Landcare day – planned for Thursday 6th June at 1.00pm meet at the Surf Club.
- Look for the Bitou moth doing its job on some Bitou!

LANDCARE HELP IS WELCOME! For information please speak to Aaron, Carmel or Damien.

Bay Care – Vast Improvements

- Since early 2013 the Association has been meeting with Council Officers to address problems around the Bay including the surf club and picnic / BBQ areas. To date, broken fencing, loose wire, old waste bins and the dilapidated BBQ area have been fixed.

We have been advised that resurfacing of the poorly sealed car parking area is to be budgeted for 2013 / 2104. Also, some fencing in this area is to be upgraded and budgeted for 2013 / 2104.

Another bench / seats plus some possible shading are planned for the BBQ area as well as the grassed area south of the Club.



High Risk Potholes in Public Car Park

A special thanks to LMCC for their assistance with these ongoing projects.

Weed Eradication - Lake Coal

- In April, Lake Coal's weed eradication contractor started poisoning Lantana (South America) and Bitou (South Africa) in the valley on eastern side of Clarke St – between Lindsey and Montefiore. This program is to include Pamas grass (South America), Blackberry bushes (Europe) and selected Coral trees (possibly New Zealand), and will recommence June, weather depending.

Cleanup Day

- 12th May – Mothers Day – Association volunteers joined *Project Aware on the Coast* to clean up the coast around graveyard beach. About 1 tonne of glass and plastic bottles and other interesting paraphernalia was collected.

A great job by all involved and well done Odyssea, keep up the fantastic work.

The Jetty

- The Association has discussed with Lake Coal the idea of shortening the jetty and establishing a lookout with historical signage for everyone to access. These discussions are ongoing and if anyone can lend a hand as far as promoting / encouraging this concept please call Damien.

The Bay's Web Site

- Any questions / suggestions / comments please contact Ben Brown at Ralim@me.com.

Back to the Bay Festival

- Please enter the following dates in your calendar:

OCTOBER - Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th - long weekend for the "Back to the Bay Festival".
Proposed for this Festival:

1. Art Exhibition
2. Garden Talks presented by 'celebrity gardener', Linnie Ross (2GB Saturday Morning Gardening Show)
3. Ploughman's Lunches, Gartelmann's wines
4. Movie Night at Bowlo
5. Mufti Day at Bowlo
6. The Pub, hosting great Bands
7. Craft / Garden Stalls

DECEMBER - Friday 27th Tennis / Cricket Gathering

TO HELP MAKE OUR *BACK TO THE BAY FESTIVAL* A SPECTACULAR EVENT, ALL IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME. PLEASE CONTACT OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY, JAN GARTELMANN (0410 549 213)