

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Newsletter – October 2013

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association and Dune Care Inc. www.catherinehillbay.org.au

For Association members, Friends of the Bay, residents and supporters everywhere

What a month

A wonderful Festival followed by a disastrous Fire!

DATES TO NOTE:

Please note in your diaries the following events:

1. Friday 1st November - Bowlo / Community Hall – Trivia Night as a Fund Raiser for Cheryl and Ian ("The Pines) and Ken (Jetty Masters House) who lost their homes and possessions. Event depends on whether we can get someone to run the trivia night as a contribution to this cause. **Does anyone know of someone who could run the Trivia Night? If "yes" please call Sue Whyte ASAP.**
2. Saturday 2nd November – Catho Pub / Band Day – a Fund Raiser for the Salvation Army and to be sponsored by Star FM
3. Sunday 3rd November – Bowlo / Community Hall – a thank you and fund raising event for the Regional Fire Services (RFS), Police and other services that helped the Bay
4. Friday 22nd November – Bowlo / Community Hall – Progress Association Meeting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and come early and have dinner at the Hall's Bistro
5. Saturday 30th November - Bowlo / Community Hall – Wine Tasting and Gourmet Dinner hosted by a Cellar Master and Gartelmann's Wines. Everyone is welcome and booking is essential for this very entertaining and fun night

Please put aside these days and watch this space for more details.



Regeneration after the fire!

FIRE UPDATE

The following photos show the impact of the fire that passed through the Bay on Thursday 17th October 2013 – a black Thursday!

We would like to express our deepest condolences to those people whose properties were destroyed or damaged, our thoughts and hearts are with you.

It was a miracle that more damage was not done and the Community would like to thank all who helped fight the fire and a special thanks to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) for without their bravery under extreme and dangerous circumstances the town would most likely would have been lost – again, thank you!

Also, a big thanks to the Police and other Emergency Services who helped support the people of the Bay throughout this ordeal.



The Bay – Looking South



The Jetty – Looking North



The Jetty – Looking South

“BACK TO THE BAY” FESTIVAL

On the bright side, a great weekend and a great success. The spirit of the Bay, shone!



Linnie's Garden Talks with a captive audience



Kid's Cool Lemonade



The Garden Seedling Stall



The World's Best Cakes Stall



Sausage Sizzle



Devonshire Teas



Art Show

The Progress Association would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the two days, that is, the Festival Committee, volunteers, and all of the people supporting the Festival events such as the Raffle, Garden Talks, Devonshire Teas, BBQ Lunches, Cake Stall, Gartelmann Wine Tasting, Movie Night, Mufti Day at Bowlo, Craft / Garden / Lemonade Stalls, Heritage Walks, Historical Society, Art Show and artists, and the Bowling Club / Community Hall.

A special thanks to Sandy and Grant Bourke for their generosity in opening their home and gardens and a special thanks to Grant's mum (Joyce) for holding the fort in their absence, as well as preparing the wonderful scones for the yummy Devonshire teas. Also, to Tess and Arthur Bevan, thank you for providing us with the old shop to enable us to exhibit the most wonderful art in our hugely successful Art Show.

The Festival was a great success as it brought the community closer as well as provided us with additional funds to progress our "self-guided" Heritage Walks project.

Heritage Area Plan

- Lake Macquarie City Council's (LMCC) Draft Heritage Area Plan is under further review given LMCC's representatives having further consultation and a voluntary workshop with the community. Community members will be notified as soon as further details come to hand.

Bay Traffic Management

- LMCC released the traffic consultants (GTA) draft report for public comment and submissions by late September 2013. An extract from the Association's submission stated *"Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association which represents the community of Catherine Hill Bay, supports the findings of the Catherine Hill Bay Local Area Traffic Management Study."*

Every four years the Association surveys the town and landholders about issues of concern. As shown in the 2013 survey results, the greatest concern indicated by the respondents (over 80%) was the desire to reduce the impact of traffic speed. The Association supports all Recommendations (6.1). The Association supports the foreshadowed next Steps (6.2) and is very keen for the design and installation of traffic calming measures to proceed as quickly as possible.”

Peter McMurray from LMCC said the consultant’s draft report is going before LMCC councillors at the end of this month for final adoption without any changes. After this it will be implemented in a staged way through in the next budget.

Landcare / Fire Break

The fire has provided the Bay with an almost clean slate to enable us to develop a landcare program that should help avoid a repeat of the recent fire. We need to have the stakeholders; community representatives, Coal & Allied, LakeCoal, RoseGroup, LMCC, Rural Fire Services, Parks and Wildlife and other relevant groups to come to the party to develop and implement a sustainable fire break / landcare plan for the Bay.



Land recently cleared by Residents and LakeCoal – eastern side of Clarke Street



Land cleared / fire break by Residents – western side of Clarke Street



Land cleared / fire break by Residents – western side of Clarke Street



Land cleared / fire break by Residents – southern side of Lindsley Street



Land cleared / fire break by Residents – south and north of the Surf Club

- The LMCC “Green Team” and local volunteers have done a fantastic job in clearing bitou and lantana along the picnic area’s beach front. We will advise when next day is planned and you are very welcome to come along and help.

Some work is physically demanding and some work is lighter such as follow up weeding. Both tasks are as important so all help is welcome.

Also, great to see people weeding on their walks, don't forget, every weed counts!

- For more Landcare information, please contact Carmel, Ph: 0438499636.



LMCC and Landcare Volunteers

Bay Care

- 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, grading of the car park and the dilapidated BBQ area have been addressed with more to do.

Another structure at the BBQ area is planned to provide shade and seating for visitors to the Bay.

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

Clean-up Day

29th September – Community volunteers carried out a clean-up day of the Bay's access roads, Surf Club and Jetty areas. About 1 tonne of glass, plastic bottles and other paraphernalia was collected. A great job, thank you.



Clean Up Day Volunteers

After the fire, it was terrible to see the amount of dumped rubbish. How to address the clean-up of this rubbish is a community issue requiring a community answer. Suggestions are welcome as there is an enormous amount of work to be done, **1000s of bottles – see photos that follow!!**

Maybe a “Hug the Bay Day” whereby rubbish is collected. We look forward to an inspirational idea which would involve the community, surfers, surf club members, bush bikers, nature walkers, friends of the Bay, etc. Let’s not just talk about it – let’s get the job done!

In the meantime, please be mindful of where you are walking (watch your step) and the environment, and when walking take a garbage bag with you as every little bit of rubbish picked up, counts!



Headland South of Jetty



Headland south of Jetty

[The Jetty](#)

Community representatives have had discussions with LakeCoal regarding the immediate problem of managing the burnt sections (steel and timber) of the jetty as well as damage to the nearby retaining wall. LakeCoal have implemented a clean-up plan and they would appreciate the communities support by being careful when walking in this area.



Low Tide – Clean Up Started Tuesday 22/10/13

The jetty's future is an unknown at this stage but it would be good to have an independent structural engineer with heritage credentials examine the jetty as the jetty has now become an even more important icon of the Bay's heritage now that we have lost so many important heritage buildings in the fire.

Coal Trolley – Not Forgotten

- The coal trolleys' bits and pieces have been returned to the Bay where we are awaiting volunteers to pool their skills and resources to get this trolley built. **ANY HELP PARTICULARLY WELDING and / or CARPENTARY SKILLS WOULD BE MORE THAN WELCOME!!!!!!** Please call Damien: 0419263380.

The Bay's Web Site

- Please check out our website or Facebook pages for the latest news and great photos.
www.catherinehillbay.org.au