

# Miraculous Regeneration!

## Post Fire Update

The Bowling Club hosted a function on the 3rd November for the RFS with the help of SEAFM radio.

The Association took part in this event and ran the Chocolate Wheel. We raised \$1600 which was passed onto the Bowling / Community Club as a donation to the Rural Fire Service.

Timbers from the jetty damaged in the fire have been stored by Lake Coal in the small carpark at the intersection of Montifiore and Clarke Streets. You are welcome to take / use this timber so please do so as it will be removed shortly.

The Association will seek meetings with LMCC, Heritage Office, Minister for Heritage, Robyn Parker MP and the National Trust concerning the loss of 4 historic buildings in the fire.

Heather Jones, Deputy Captain of the Wallarah Brigade, spoke to the meeting as to how we could best protect the town in the future and identified the 'burnoff' on the western side of Flowers Drive last year as being a significant factor in holding the fire out of Middle Camp.

An interesting comment from Heather "at one stage in the evening I thought that the fire would not be stopped until it reached Swansea Channel". It has been arranged that film taken on the evening of the fire will be sent to us. Bernard Garry has agreed to edit this and it will be put onto our website: [www.catherinehillbay.org.au](http://www.catherinehillbay.org.au)

Also, the Association is approaching Garry Edwards (Local Member) to request that Bay stakeholders; that is, community representatives, Coal & Allied, LakeCoal, RoseGroup, LMCC, Rural Fire Services, Parks and Wildlife and other relevant groups get together to develop and implement a sustainable Fire Plan for the Bay.



## Festival Success

'Back to the Bay Festival' was a great success not only in monetary terms but it brought the community, past and present together.

A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day and a special thanks to those who worked tirelessly prior to / during and cleaning up after the Festival, guaranteeing a great success.

A profit of \$6,598.92 has been deposited into the Heritage Signage Fund. One of the aims of the Association for the year was to build this fund so that heritage signage could be erected through the town. Such signage will help visitors understand why Catherine Hill Bay has been placed on the NSW Heritage Register.

A special thanks to Sandy, Grant and Joyce Bourke who allowed the Association such generous use of the fabulous old school, and to Tess and Arthur Bevan for allowing use of their premises for the Art Show.



## Heritage Area Plan

Lake Macquarie City Council's (LMCC) Draft Heritage Area Plan is under further review and the Bay community will be notified as soon as further details come to hand.

## Bay Traffic Management

LMCC confirmed that the final plan, taking into consideration the public exhibition process and review of submissions, was considered by Council's Local Traffic Committee at its meeting last Tuesday 12th November 2013. The TFC recommendation was to adopt the plan.

Council will consider the matter at its ordinary meeting on Monday 25 November 2013 and no problems are envisaged at this stage with Council not adopting the TFC recommendation.

Once approved, 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 Resource Office (LRO) has given us 600 plants, wattle (acacia sophorae) and white flowering tea tree, and lomandra seeds. Call Carmel on 0438499636 to help plant or get some plants for your area, before this rain ends. This is a great opportunity to regenerate areas with local plants. Please pull or kick out the weeds in this photo on your walks: bitou bush, blackberry and lantana.

LRO Green Team has committed to work in the Bay on the second Thursday on the months of February, April, July and October 2014. These are volunteers, giving up a day to help us – please join in (they like cakes..)

The Association is going to approach LMCC as well as Parks and Wildlife to see what sustainable Flora and Fauna Plans they have for the Bay.





## Bay Care

As advised by LMCC, re; the BBQ and Surf Club areas “placement of any new infrastructure is governed by what happens over the whole Surf Club area. If the Surf Club is reconstructed further away from the shoreline, then an opportunity exists for detailed planning to redevelop the whole foreshore area into a more usable and attractive open space area.”  
Watch this space!

## Bottle Clean-up Day

Sunday 24th November was a very successful morning with 28 remarkable volunteers including residents of Catho and Nords Wharf, and people from Gwandalan Scouts, Catho Surf Club, Catho Boardriders Club, Waratah Fire Brigade, Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association, LMCC, as well as Nic Jones from Garry Edward's office. One person travelled all the way from Braxton to lend a hand!

Approximately 2 tonnes of bottles and cans were collected on the day, not bad for 3 hours work!

As there are still thousands of bottles remaining on the headland from south of the Jetty to north of Moonee Beach the challenge is getting together with relevant groups such as the National Parks and Wildlife and LMCC to develop a plan for future clean ups.

We let you know when the next day is happening, probably 1st Quarter 2014 as will allow us time to recover!  
As you can see from this photo, bottle and can return schemes are a must!

## Development Updates

Instead of water and sewerage for the RoseGroup development coming from Swansea a sewerage treatment plant along Montefiore Street has been proposed.

Coal & Allied has sought an extension of this plant to service their development at the northern end of town. This is currently under consideration by IPART.

## The Bay's Web Site

The number of hits to our website rose to 8000 in the week following the fires. Our FACEBOOK page visits are building as a result of the posting of media items and great photos of the fires. Contact us to add your photos and videos.

