

Wildflowers - a year after the fire



See us on the ABC News? <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-18/fight-brewing-in-catherine-hill-bay-over/5824424>

We were also in the ABC 1233AM Newcastle hourly news bulletins, and on their website at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-18/one-year-on-from-the-worst-bush-fires-in-nsw2c-and-catherine-h/5823816>

Next Meeting

All are welcome to the Association. Our next meeting is on **Saturday, December 6th** and will be the AGM, followed by a normal meeting and a social gathering. We're at the Tennis Court, and hopefully this will include a movie!

Tennis Court

The people of Middle Camp are keen to restore the tennis court, east of Flowers Dr, behind the former shop. Residents, PA and Landcare people met with Geoffrey Rock from Coal & Allied in April seeking approval and support. Since then, Garry Stewart, Treasurer of Lake Macquarie Landcare Network, former CHB Bowling Club member, and an impressive



'Jack of all trades', has led the work to bring the tennis court back to being usable. The net winder, lines and clubhouse need more work; we need a tank; but it's getting there! At our October meeting, Garry and Carmel reported, with a photo article showing the dramatic improvement from waist high plants to clay surface, the new kids' square fencing and gates, and a roller attachment for towing by a ride on mower. Garry's been helping with Landcare,



photography, bird and plant identification in our area. David Knock has letterboxed all Middle Camp residents. He is keen to set up a group that will decide on painting, resurfacing, line marking, replacing 2 wallboards, high fencing, tank and pump, etc. **So an online forum has been set up as to how to proceed (email David with your ideas: david.knock888@gmail.com)**



Geoffrey Rock from Coal & Allied has not progressed re support for the tennis court but is aware of and pleased by the work being done. He will get the key to the clubhouse to us as soon as possible and also hopefully meet with the Association as to insurance concerns and maintenance.

Report - Coal & Allied's Middle Camp Development

There is a holding pattern with the DA: it has not progressed. The new LEP for LMCC will not have a significant affect other than requiring a few more reports.

All land transfers are complete. National Parks now own all the land zoned as conservation. C&A had committed to a 4 year weed eradication program which started in 2011 so they are still doing this on land now owned by National Parks.

Following up on a request from Joyce Bourke in our last meeting Geoffrey Rock has agreed to talk with the National Parks people about clearing the stream behind the school. Soil had been pushed into this by RFS and blocked the stream course. (Under Sect 44 they can do this).

There has been power line clearing at northern end of Flowers drive and slasher mowing. We're also liaising with National Parks, Dept. of the Environment and C & A, as some PA members think the weed eradication program is not yet successful.

Report - Rose Group's Development and other updates for the Bay

- About 65 submissions were sent in re a development proposal for the **Jetty Master's Cottage site**. Thank you! If we allow the heritage requirements to be ignored by the developer it makes a mockery of the heritage constraints that we abide by.

- Then we had the exhibition period for the replacement of Wallarah **House**. The proposed new dwelling is also considerably larger and replaces verandahs with "generous" sliding glass doors and banks of windows; a proposed swimming pool, spa and a half tennis court. Again the Association wrote and circulated a response: thank you to members who sent in submissions.

- **The clearing of bushland on Montefiore St** by Rose group is noted with dismay, as this valley is the wildlife corridor. A letter from the Association to be written to LMCC enquiring if this clearing of the north side of Montefiore St is in accordance with the Approval. Residents have been concerned that only a single line of trees screens Rose's subdivision from the heritage precinct. The dust is a major issue for a community that relies solely on tank water. It spoils the water and could cause some tanks to have to be emptied and cleaned. For further information, a website has been set up: <http://rosecommunity.com.au> or call Phil Raftos on ph. 02 4903 7000



- Coastal Hamlets (Rose group) has put in a Landscape Plan for the **Public Reserve behind the Surf Club and adjacent to Hale Street**, which is totally out of character with the heritage township – <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/VILLAGE-PARK-CONCEPT-REV-D-15-09-14.pdf> . **The reserve is part of the heritage village not part of Rose group's subdivision. So we have attached the Progress Associations response, and encourage members to send their responses. The closing date is 21st November.** Email: gfield@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
- The new **Mine Closure Plan** should be finalised soon. It will go to the Department of Resources and Energy for Approval so until such time not a lot is being done. The demolition of the Bin Building is part of the plan, suggesting bulk concrete at the front to stabilize the cliff and back fill with material such as fly ash that doesn't consolidate too much (this will have to be trucked in but it means that it won't sink or move too much when complete). If the Mine Closure Plan is accepted timing will depend on the willingness and the money from Lake Coal to implement the rehabilitation of the area. Rose group cannot develop the headland until this rehabilitation is completed.
- **CHB Jetty** will be treated separately under a new EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)

Glenn Gifford, **Ranger, National Parks & Wildlife Service Lakes Area**, updates us with:

- In terms of the wetland at Moonee, I have inspected the area a number of times as well as walking over the development site with Rory Charlton from Daracon to look at the proposed stormwater system. At the time of inspection Daracon were waiting for the Remedial Action Plan to be approved before the bulk earthworks begin. There doesn't appear to be any impact so far on the wetland and surrounding environment. There will however, be considerable fill imported onto the development site, and I will endeavour to meet with Daracon and monitor the progress as the development moves ahead. I am also meeting with Nick Jarman soon as part of the Conservation Risk Assessment for the work on the Catherine Hill Bay Water services main, which will traverse through 3.6km of NPWS land on the eastern and western side of the highway. When I meet with Nick I will discuss access to the water monitoring data for the Moonee area as discussed at the last community

consultation meeting. At some stage I think it would be worthwhile to meet with the scientist who raised the issue of acid sulphate soils to pinpoint where she detected possible abnormal sightings.

- The status of land transfers is as follows; we have had communications with Lake Macquarie City Council regarding two beachfront parcels of land. The next stage of that is to formally offer the transfer of those lots to LMCC, where Council's Biodiversity Offset Group will consider it. The proposed transfer will also include a long-standing schedule of rehabilitation works for one of the Lots by the previous landowner, Coal and Allied Operations Pty Ltd.

History signage funding

The large information board should be ready very soon. With the rest of the grant money from the Federal Government, we have recently been given approval for more brochures to be printed and 4 plaques to be made giving a photo and written information on the 3 houses and police cell that were destroyed in the bushfire, October 2013.

Lisa Wrightson has left LMCC, unfortunately; she was writing the new **Heritage DCP for Catherine Hill Bay**, and attended our Heritage Trail leaflet launch. Grant Alderson has taken over and Association representatives will be meeting with him in the New Year.

Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

The Association is seeking to have Peter McMurray (Transportation & Asset Planning Co-Coordinator, Lake Macquarie City Council) attend the February 2015 Progress Association meeting with documents showing the design details for speed reduction devices. (Note: funding set aside to implement the TMP for this financial year had had to be re-allocated to the Children's Games at Speers Point Park; ours will be in the next FY now).

On 15 Nov, two people were fined for riding unregistered trail bikes in the Wallarah National Park at Catherine Hill Bay. Lake Macquarie police and rangers from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife

Service targeted unregistered trail bikes, unlicensed riders, unregistered vehicle use, illegal dumping and poor behaviour on Saturday.

If you are annoyed by speeding cars and bikes, ring Charlestown Police Sat/Sun and public hols on 4942 9999 or Cardiff Police M-F on 4956 9875.



Landcare

Aug 2 Landcare – planting on Surf Club area slopes then wildflowers collected for vases at CHB Heritage Trail brochure launch. 6 Sept Landcare planting near Surf Club. Oct 4 Landcare planting the last trays we had and appreciating the 6 trays expertly planted on the slopes by LM Landcare Bush Regeneration team. See their work further north – rows of pig



face and more bushes!



Oct 9 Site leaders Garry Stewart (Lakeside Dr Swansea) and Don Roach (Windale) selected sites and plants, and assisted Carmel being interviewed by Jackson Vernon, ABC – see links above. His website piece has 2 of Carmel's photos – one from the SSS Landcare visit here in June! Lake Macquarie Landcare newsletters also feature our orchids and regeneration after the fire a year ago. The ridge south of the former churches is a pretty walk Aug-Nov. Endangered Tetra theca juncea (pink, 4 petals) and Diuris aurea (yellow donkey orchid) star! Volunteers are always welcome – we resume in February: **first Saturdays of the month, 10 – noon**. Meet at the Surf Club.

Keep the Bay Clean

Remember – when walking the beach or land, please take a bag with you for collecting rubbish and Take 3 - it all helps! LMCC EcoAngel had contacted us for another clean up day, but there have been no offers to join in to date – contact us! A Sunday morning for an hour?

The new licensee for the **Wallarrah Hotel**, Scott Brown, has great plans for the hotel and its role in the community. There will be a carols night and jumping castle closer to Christmas, with fundraising for our Firies (RFS). The Progress Association has delivered hundreds of their *Heritage Trail Catherine Hill Bay* brochures to Scott as he told us that many people come in and ask for information on the history of Catherine Hill Bay.

New fire lighting penalties

If you see something that looks out of place, this may be what Police are looking for. If you can, record the details of vehicles nearby such as the make, model and registration. Also take note of the appearance of anyone acting suspiciously. Report suspicious behaviour to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

To report a fire emergency call Triple Zero (000).

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/prevent-bush-fire-arson>

Check out our website <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/>

and the various Facebook pages for the latest news and great photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/CathHillBay>

<https://www.facebook.com/CathHillBayLandcare?ref=hl>

<https://www.facebook.com/cathoslsc>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fishing-lake-macquarie/122766861147345?fref=nf>

<https://www.facebook.com/swanseafirestation>