

catherine hill bay progress association

(Established 1901)

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2015



Grass Tree (Xanthorrhoea) ()*

Next Meeting

**Our next meeting is 7:30pm on Friday, 24th July 2015,
at the CHB Community Hall and Bowling Club**

Community survey results included in this Newsletter will be discussed at our next meeting.

Everyone is welcome to our meetings – you don't have to be a member to attend, being a friend of the Bay and being present is important!

(*) *Xanthorrhoea* is a genus of about 30 species of flowering plants to Australia. The rate of growth of *Xanthorrhoea* is very slow. However, this is often generalized to mean they all grow at the rate of about an inch (2½ cm) per year. Actually, after the initial establishment phase, the rate of growth varies widely from species to species. Thus, while a five-metre-tall member of the fastest-growing *Xanthorrhoea* may be 200 years old!

Xanthorrhoea is important to the Aboriginal people who live where it grows. The flowering spike makes the perfect fishing spear. It is also soaked in water and the nectar from the flowers gives a sweet-tasting drink. In the bush the flowers could reveal directions, since flowers on the warmer, sunnier side – usually north – of the spike often open before the flowers on the cooler side facing away from the sun.

The resin from *Xanthorrhoea* plants is used in spear-making and is an invaluable adhesive for Aboriginal people, often used to patch up leaky coolamons (water containers) and even yidaki (didgeridoos). The dried flower stalk scape was also used to generate fire by the hand drill friction method. (Courtesy : Wikipedia)

New Community Survey

Residents and people who own property in the town have been surveyed approximately every 4 years since 1994. The purpose is to help the PA speak for the Bay in discussions with RoseGroup and LMCC. Previous questions remain so opinion changes can be tracked; questions concerning current issues have been added.

Results of this survey follow.

Question 1

51 people completed this survey of which 43 own and 8 rent. Average years for owners in the Bay was 20 years.

Question 2

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

50 (98%) - people who completed the survey said that the Beach makes the Bay a special place

50 - Bushland

49 - Environment

47 - History

46 - Quiet

38 - Jetty

35 - Neighbours

34 - Sense of community

Question 3

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

38 (75%) - people who completed the survey said that constructing a walkway/cycleway from Middle Camp to the Jetty would improve the lifestyle of the Bay

35 (69%) - Better traffic management

23 - Some Shops

19 - Improve the tennis court and clubhouse

19 - Better bus service

9 - Mains Water supply

8 - Mains Sewerage

Question 4

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

For Sewer 8 said "Yes" and 43 said "No"

For Water supply 5 said "Yes" and 46 said "No"

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.

- 39 (76%) - Reduce the impact of traffic speed
- 36 (71%) - Control on motor bikes through the bush
- 36 (71%) - Toilet and garbage bins at the Graveyard Beach
- 29 - Rubbish collection
- 29 - Reduce excessive hotel noise and reduce unacceptable behaviour of hotel patrons
- 28 - Signposted heritage walkways
- 28 - Better management and maintenance of the coastal weed problem
- 25 - Better push bike / cycling facilities
- 23 - Better beach parking and picnic area facilities and cleaning
- 21 - Brochure (history, environment)
- 19 - Better signage
- 16 - Better paved streetscape, roads, parking
- 15 - Visits by Council Ranger

Question 6

Are you in favour of maintaining the rural style of the village much as it is today?

47 said "Yes" and 3 said "No"

Question 7

Do you want to retain the large grassed 'commons' areas behind the houses?

50 said "Yes" and 1 said "No"

Question 8

Do you consider that it is important to the town that the 'Catho Pub' continues to operate as a hotel?

42 said "Yes" and 9 said "No"

Question 9

With the new residential developments bookending each end of town, do you think that it is important to keep the heritage township separated from the new developments, e.g. visual, ridgeline, trees, traffic?

48 said "Yes" and 3 said "No"

Question 10

Catherine Hill Bay is one of only three towns in NSW to be listed as a heritage township. To celebrate the recognition of this unique town would you like to see:

- 38 (75%) - Better heritage signage
- 38 - Heritage walks
- 26 - Museum
- 22 - More heritage festivals
- 20 - Open air sculpture gallery
- 17 - Art gallery

Question 11

Development / renovations / extensions within the village, must be compatible with existing miners' cottages in the village. Is this important to you?

43 people said "Yes" and 7 said "No"

Question 12

Traffic calming devices will be built from this year in the town, starting with the northern end. This will reduce speeding by cars. Do you think that the trail bikes are also a problem?

43 people said "Yes" and 7 said "No"

Question 13

Do you think that Hale St should become a one way street (travelling south / up hill) and convert Clarke St into a one way street (travelling north / down hill), for safety?

11 people said "Yes" and 17 said "No" and 23 were "Unsure"

Question 14

Do you support constructing a cycle way / walkway path above the beach and along the original coal train railway starting at Middle Camp and ending at the Jetty

45 people said "Yes" and 3 said "No" and 3 were "Unsure"

Question 15

Do you support constructing better parking, toilet and waste collection facilities at the "Graveyard Beach" area

43 people said "Yes" and 2 said "No" and 6 were "Unsure"

Question 16

Do you support the improvement of the Northwood Rd playground with shade, table and chairs, and fencing?

35 people said "Yes" and 7 said "No" and 7 were "Unsure"

Question 17

Would you prefer that the Anzac Day ceremony and memorial plaques were moved to the Bowling and Community Club?

4 people said "Yes" and 11 said "No" and 28 were "Unsure"

Question 18

Would you support forming a whole village application for NBN connection when the new estates gain NBN connection?

38 people said "Yes" and 11 said "No"

Question 19

Do you receive and read the Progress Association's Newsletter?

38 people said "Yes" and 10 said "No"

Question 20

Where do we want to go in the future and what are your vision(s) for the Bay over the next 10 to 20 years?

22 (43%) – More heritage / history / environment aspects of the Bay

- 1 - Clean up surrounding mine areas
- 3 - Traffic control for Flowers drive / Hale St
- 3 - More permanent residents
- 3 - No more additional development
- 2 - Control of motor bikes through the bush
- 1 - Better tourist facilities
- 1 - Recognition of aboriginal culture
- 1 - Natural gas
- 1 - Better control of pub and patrons
- 1 - Develop cottage industries
- 1 - Information kit for new residents

Old Bay School Centenary – 100 Years!

The School opened in 1915 and there will be a **Back to the Bay Festival and School Reunion** to celebrate these wonderful 100 years.

For a great day, note in your diaries Saturday 26th September 2015 -10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

For more information about this very special day, see invitations at the end of this Newsletter. **SPREAD THE WORD!**

Tennis Court



Unfortunately the Anzac Day 25th April tennis / BBQ fundraising day was postponed due to storm damage; still not dry enough for Mothers Day. Watch this space for our next social gathering....ALL WELCOME!

Tony Osborne (R) has kindly donated a new fangled spray can line marker. Matt Parker (L) and son will roll the court for players who aren't up to this. And we thank Lyn Smith for filling in as Treasurer – the Club now has online banking!

If you wish to join and / or book our unique court please contact Eleanor on 49762368.

Email chbtenniscub@gmail.com



Development(s) Report

The Jetty Masters House and Wallarah House – no known changes at this stage.



View of Stage 1 and 2 Rose group Development (looking south / west)

Catherine Hill Bay Community Liaison Committee includes CHBPA members (Sue Whyte and Damien Hawcroft), Rose group (Nick Jackman), LMCC (Councillor Kay Fraser), Daracon (Phil Raftos) and ADWJohnson (Ian McNicol - Consultant and Chair). Occasionally in attendance is the National Parks and Wildlife (Glenn Gifford).

This Committee meets approximately every 2 months to discuss the status of the Rose group development. Most recent meeting was Monday 15th June.

A few matters that may be of interest to the Bay, follow:

- (1) Stages 1, 2, 4 and 5 – earthworks plan to be completed 3rd / 4th Quarter 2015.
- (2) Montefiori St – planned closure possibly July 2015 for approx. 4 months.
- (3) Rose group stated that “No works will occur in the SEPP 14 wetland (inland from Moonee) or in the minimum 50m buffer between the project works and edge of the mapped wetland. The subdivision design, project water management and construction water management have all been designed and are operated to protect adjoining land and water bodies. Ongoing construction and site monitoring has not identified any likely or potential impacts on the SEPP 14 wetlands.”
- (4) Water treatment plant – no approval received as yet.
- (5) Village Green and Hale St – no work planned for this area in the foreseeable future.

LakeCoal (LDO) has developed a new Mine Closure Plan for the Bay and this Plan is with the Department of Resources and Energy for Approval. LakeCoal is responsible for implementing this Plan. It includes rehabilitating the headland and the Hale St area.

Note: we were advised that the proposed sale of Lake Coal to Lake Macquarie Coal has been shelved.

Coal & Allied development at the northern end of the Bay:

3 coastal residential sites have been listed for sale by Coal & Allied: Gwandalan Estate, Nords Wharf Estate, and Middle Camp Estate. They are being sold in one line or as three separate properties via an expressions-of interest campaign. They total 115 hectares and have concept approval for up to 935 residential lots.



MIDDLE CAMP ESTATE

- Site Area: 42.771ha
- Concept Plan approved for up to 222 residential lots
- Lake Macquarie Council
- Zoning: Part R2 Low Density Residential, E2 Environmental Conservation & RE1 Public Recreation
- 16 existing houses (9 tenanted, 5 Occupier houses and 2 vacant)

Expressions of interest closed on Thursday, June 18.

<http://www.realcommercial.com.au/property-land+development-nsw-catherine+hill+bay-501561463>

The residents in Colliery Rd received letters from C&A before the listing; we are all sorry this day has come despite our decade or so of hard work.

Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

At the May 2015 Progress Association Meeting, Peter Mc Murray - Transport & Asset Planning Co Coordinator from LMCC advised that we should expect a phased installation over 2 to 3 years but progress depends on the Council's allocation of funds. The meeting was in agreement that the traffic calming platforms be first installed along Flowers Drive given the number of children in this area. At the May 2015 meeting, Peter again tabled maps showing where the calming platforms are proposed as well as styles of calming platforms.

In this new financial year, final design and construction can commence.

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. If you see something that looks out of place, this may be what the Police need to know! 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. You can also **report to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.**

Landcare

Our first 2015 Landcare Green Team visit was 20th April. Planting of native plants continued on the slopes from the Pat Slaven Reserve southwards to the beach stairway. The second visit was 15th June and the focus was the clearing of lantana and bitou bush between the beach side car park and cemetery, and finally we have Landcare signs at both sites!

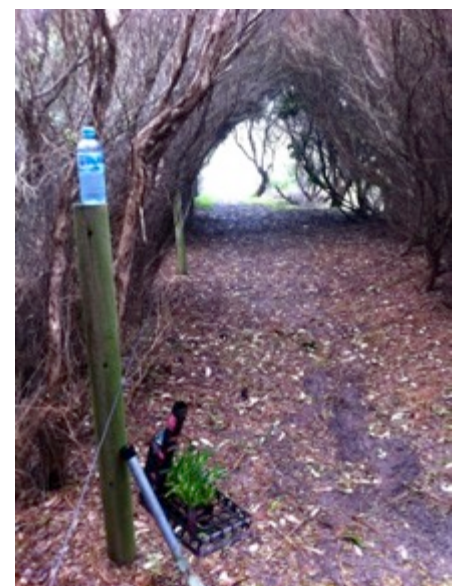


Check out these areas as the hard yakka is working! The next Green Team day is Wednesday 2nd September. We usually start at around 8.30am, morning tea around 10am and finish at noon with a BBQ. So people who are around on weekdays please join in with these volunteers.

Also our regular Landcare sessions, **first Saturdays of the month between**

10.00am and noon, need new volunteers. We meet at the Graveyard Beach car park this year. Text Carmel on 0438499636.

As requested by Middle Camp folk, Carmel emailed Coal & Allied about working on the creek behind the tennis court and the removal of the coral tree overhanging the tennis court; no response yet.



National Tree Day

Sunday, 26 July 2015 9:00am to 12:00pm. Starting at Graveyard Beach carpark for planting near there, then moving up the tea tree archway to plant ground covers. Bring morning tea, gloves and tools if you can, otherwise share ours!

<http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10008923> to register.

NP&WS walks

Call 4320 4205 (Monday to Wednesday and Friday 8.30am – 3 pm)

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/Munmorah-State-Conservation-Area>

‘Take 3 for the Sea’- it all helps!

When walking the beach or bush tracks, take a bag with you for collecting rubbish, please! Our car parks seem to be some of the worst areas for rubbish, so please pick up.

<http://www.take3.org.au/>

For more details and PA meeting minutes, check out our website
<http://catherinehillbay.org.au/>,
and the various Facebook pages for the latest news and great photos.

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

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

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/cathoboardriders?fref=ts>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/catherinehillbay?ref=hl> Friends of Catho

<https://www.facebook.com/cathobowlo?fref=ts>

CHBPS

1915

Catherine Hill Bay Public School
Festival

Centennial Anniversary

Free Entry

Garden talks hosted by Linda Ross and Angus Stewart

Garden and Seedling Stall

School Tours

Surfboards & Book Stall

Face Painting

Petting Zoo

and much more fun...

SATURDAY

SEPT 26

2015

10am to 4pm

26A Flowers Drive
Catherine Hill Bay



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Festival

Centennial Anniversary

Free Entry

School Reunion

bring a picnic lunch and catch up
with old school friends

School tours

talks by ex students

School memorabilia

old school photo displays

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