

CATHO CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHERINE HILL BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1901



THE FIGHT TO SAVE OUR BEACH

by Sue Whyte

Thank you to all the Association members who came to the demonstration against the threat from Solo Water to release treated effluent onto our beach, organised by the Catho Boardriders on Sunday 3rd June.

Mick McCall and Scott Myers, protest organisers and both passionate surfers at Catherine Hill Bay since the seventies, have expressed outrage at the possibility of the beach being destroyed by the pumping of 162,000 litres a day of treated effluent into the lagoon that sits on the beach.

As you can see there were lots of signs and the chant of SAVE CATHO for the **NBN News** to capture and the **Newcastle Herald** to report.

It was good to see our local member Yasmin Catley MP present, speaking to the gathered media and later speaking in Parliament on this issue. You can watch the speech to parliament [here](#). Over the page is an excerpt from our State Member's June report:

IN THE JUNE ISSUE...

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BOWLING CLUB UPDATE

SAVING OUR JETTY

NEXT MEETING:

5pm Sat 4th August 2018
at Catho SLSC Club

"The Fight to Protect the Environment at Catherine Hill Bay

The NSW Government is currently considering an application which if approved would allow a water utility provider to discharge recycled water into local ways around Catherine Hill Bay.

I, and the Catherine Hill Bay community have been calling on the Government to reject this proposal. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have submitted that the discharge of up to 162,000 litres of recycled water per day would pose an unacceptable risk to the environment and that Solo Water have failed to take the minimum steps to manage those risks.

Solo Water, which currently has a licence to provide water utility services to the Beaches Estate has made this application because the developer wants the site that currently houses the existing waste water management facility for additional development.

More than 100 people gathered at a rally organised by the Catherine Hill Bay Board Riders Club just recently to demonstrate that they won't tolerate this kind of environmental vandalism simply because a developer wants to make even more money." Yasmin Catley MP

The previous Saturday night was raining so heavily it was described as 'horizontal rain'. However, for an hour the rain stopped on the Sunday morning and the gods were kind. Thank to Carmel Brown, Scott Dunsford and Dan Wheatley for the 'artwork' and installation.

Where to from here?

IPART is currently assessing all 195 submissions. "A reputable consultant (will) review the environmental assessment reports provided by CHBWU with the application".

What you can do

We encourage members and friends of the CHB PA to please follow through and contact NSW Minister Harwin, who is due to make a final determination on Solo Water's licence application variation in the next two to three weeks. His contact details are as follows:

EMAIL: office@harwin.minister.nsw.gov.au

PHONE: 02 8574 7200

MAIL: GPO Box 5341, SYDNEY NSW 2001



Minister Harwin should be urged to reject the licence variation for the following reasons:

- 💡 This was not a proper application but rather an attempt to slip significant changes through under the pretext of a "variation"
- 💡 No proper studies were done. No Statement of Environmental Impact was prepared. No public consultation was conducted whatsoever.
- 💡 Old data was used in the application from another water catchment.
- 💡 Rainfall figures were used from Williamstown (equidistant from CHB as Sydney).
- 💡 The discharge of the treated effluent is to be diverted off site into a creek/lagoon on a pristine beach.
- 💡 The processing of the sewerage is planned to be downgraded from what was granted in the original licence.

PS. Ringing Minister Harwin's office is very effective.

Other news. It never rains then it pours ...

Catho is in the news again with an article in the Newcastle Herald this week mentioning the desire by Wallalong Landholdings P/L to build a new hotel at the northern end of the beach. Refer to link: www.theherald.com.au/story/5462764/housing-push-at-cathos-north-end/

Bowling Club

Lake Macquarie City Council has determined that the Bowling Club should be demolished. Demolition works are expected to commence in October, with the entire area to be grassed for ongoing community use. The site will remain Council-owned.

Council's Belmont Contributions Catchment Plan identifies \$7.98 million in funding for a new multi-purpose community and sporting facility at this site. Timeframes are not known but estimated to be approximately five years.

Catho Jetty Update

It is the Association's policy position that our iconic jetty should be retained and restored through the development of an adaptive reuse strategy for this wonderful structure. However, despite the PA's efforts over the past 10 years to establish funding support for this initiative, the jetty remains at risk of being lost forever due to lack of maintenance and restoration funding.

A committee has been set up by members B Baudinet, D Hale, J Hill and P Myors to develop a strategy to achieve this end. As a first step in this process, it was decided at the last General Meeting that the Progress Association should apply for an Interim Heritage Order (IHO) for the jetty. Such an order is given in a case of emergency and is only for 12 months.

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has given its in-principle support for the IHO. However, to move this process forward the local community will need to play a very important role in lobbying Council to support the strategy to save the jetty developed by the committee.

We strongly encourage members and friends to submit a letter of support to LMCC for the strategy to save the jetty. A template letter of support is attached to this newsletter, which can be used for submissions by entering your individual details. Letters can be emailed to council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au, and need to be received at Council by 15th July.

Membership renewals now due on 1st July

To comply with our new constitution and to simplify PA accounting practices, membership fees will now become due on the 1st July each year. For those members that have renewed their membership fees since 1 January 2018, you will receive a 50% credit towards your fees for the 2017/18 financial year. We will issue a reminder email when fees next become due in July.

Did you know ...

That the existing Catho jetty was actually the third jetty to be installed on this site?

The second jetty, a glorious wooden jetty built in 1898 (pictured next page), survived for more than 75 years before disaster struck in May 1974 when a cyclone blew half of the jetty down. Machinery and wooden piles lay on the ocean bed, and debris littered Middle Camp beach. This same storm also forced the massive coal ship the Sygna ashore at Stockton Bight north of Newcastle.

When the cyclone hit, the Thiess Bros had just finished building a jetty on the NSW south coast to load gravel for Pioneer. They were ideally positioned to assist at Catherine Hill Bay at short notice.

“They had all the gear, they had all the know-how, so the company didn’t even call tenders ... they started within a fortnight ... and just on 12 months we were back in operation ... a wonderful feat”, said J Thornton, Jetty Master.



During construction of this third jetty, coal trucks were used to take the coal to Newcastle, and when needed, directly to Sydney for use in the CSR sugar refineries.

Unlike its predecessor, this jetty was a steel structure. The piles were made of steel piping. The jetty was re-built in 3 stages. In Stage 1 the piles were raked to allow for heavy seas and ships moving alongside while the piles in Stage 2 were straight. The deck was made of concrete instead of wood. This jetty was easier to maintain, as the piles did not have to be replaced. It is also slightly longer than its predecessor.



“At a conference one day somebody suggested that we enlarge the jetty... they were all talking about going out 50 feet, 100 feet and finally because of the way the sea runs across that part of the jetty and there was a reef out there we decided no way. So somebody says ‘what about we go another 6 feet’. So, what that did I don’t know...then we had to cut the corner off that 6 feet so the ships wouldn’t get tangled around the sharp corner”, J Thornton recalled.

Larger ships could be brought into the third jetty such as the Branxton, Teralba, Ricky Miller and Lisa Miller, which carried up to 3,000 tons. The steel jetty served the mine well until the end of operations in 2002, and still stands proudly at the southern end of the beach today.

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:

www.facebook.com/CatherineHillBayTennisCourt

www.facebook.com/CathHillBay

www.facebook.com/CathHillBayLandcare

www.facebook.com/cathoboardriders

www.facebook.com/cathobowlo