

CATHO CHRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CATHERINE HILL BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1901



DEVELOPER APPROVALS AT MIDDLE CAMP

Wallalong Land Developments P/L has obtained Council approval for the Staging Plan of the subdivision of land near Middle Camp into 210 residential lots. This approval, granted by Lake Macquarie City Council on 28/01/21, represents a major milestone for the developer should it wish to proceed with consent for the subdivision.

The developer requires approval for a Staging Plan prior to development consent for subdivision. It is based on the 2012 Concept Design for Lots 1 & 2 (north of Middle Camp) prepared by the previous landowner, Coal & Allied.

Council also approved the subdivision of Lot 4 (41 Flowers Drive) into four lots on 19/03/2021. This is the 7.286ha expanse of land behind Middle Camp on the beach side that runs up to the cemetery. This approval opens the way for the developer to subdivide and sell the four lots.

The Executive of the CHBPA is currently reviewing both approvals and will provide a detailed report to the next General Meeting.

IN THE APRIL ISSUE...

HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENT

LANDCARE UPDATE

MARINER'S MEMORIAL

NEXT MEETING
5pm Sat 15th May 2021
at Catho SLSC Club

Jetty cover photo by James McCallum - Snap Canvas Blacksmiths

Australian Heritage Festival Event

The Australian Heritage Festival commences on World Heritage Day and runs from 18 April to 19 May 2021. As part of the festival activities in Catherine Hill Bay, a guided walking tour will be offered focusing on the jetty and the role our town played in the early maritime history of New South Wales. This important role was one of the reasons why our town has been heritage listed at state level.

Date: Sunday 16th May

Time: 3-4pm

Where to meet: Opposite the Catho Pub at 3pm.

New whale-watching platform

Delta Electricity has completed the transformation of the old mine Bin Building into a new facility suitable for a whale-watching platform and café overlooking the jetty. The obvious question is – when will the community be able to use it?

Unfortunately it isn't clear at this stage. We understand that the headland area will be handed over from Delta Electricity to Rose Group in June 2021. Until they take ownership of the site, Rose Group is unable to give estimated timing of the works that will include Beaches Stage 3 and walkways to the new viewing platform. It appears likely that this area will be a construction site for at least another two years.



Flowers Drive & Pacific Highway Intersection

After the close of the public consultation period for the proposed modifications to the intersection between Flowers Drive & the Pacific Highway, Transport NSW has indicated that they are still considering the public feedback and no decision has yet been made on next steps.

Landcare Update

Simon Lubinski from Lake Mac Landcare visited Catherine Hill Bay on 11th January to review and update the local team's plan. Hopefully, we will get the support of Lake Mac's Green Team mid-year to attack those morning glory and bitou bush weeds at the south site, Pat Slaven Reserve, and our other focus area between the carpark and the cemetery at the north end (affected by bitou, blackberry and lantana).

After a summer break we resumed our work on the 1st of March, maintaining the dunes in front of the Graveyard Beach carpark and the walkway. Yep, plenty of bitou bush in there now! Then in future months, we'll keep moving further north again.

Join us on the first Monday of each month, but call Carmel on 0438 499636 to check the time of day as we're changing it for autumn. Bring your sun safe gear, water and if you wish, a snack for afterwards while we chat!



Landcare team member Lindsey Goff removing bitou bush at Graveyard Beach

Did you know

... that we have a Mariner's Memorial in the heart of our village to remember the shipwrecks in the bay?

The Memorial, currently unmarked and rather neglected, can be found immediately to the west of the Surf Club on land now owned by Rose Group. It consists of a propellor and anchors believed to be from the *SS Wallarah*, which foundered on rocks near the coal jetty on April 14th, 1914.

Fully loaded with coal, it eventually sank without loss of life. The remains of the wreck can still be seen by divers to this day.



Other shipwrecks in Catherine Hill Bay include:

- In June 1867 the schooner *Catherine Hill*, sailing from the Richmond River to Sydney with a cargo of cedar and pine, was beached by the Captain during a heavy gale. Sadly, the ship's mate and cook were lost overboard during the storm. A local settler, Mr Taafe, rescued the ship's survivors and the area afterwards became known as Catherine Hill Bay.
- Carrying 2000 ton of coal for Adelaide, the *Shamrock* sprang a leak when leaving Catherine Hill Bay on March 31st 1903 and sank until its decks were awash. Investigations showed the hull to be badly damaged below the waterline and, after several attempts to refloat, it was dismantled.
- After striking a sunken object on the night of February 19th 1920, the 467 ton collier *Lubra* was beached in Catherine Hill Bay. It was pounded by heavy seas as it lay broadside to the beach about a kilometre north of the jetty. After a few days it began breaking up. At auction the remains were sold for 75 pounds.

Pink Cave at Moonee Beach

The "Pink Cave" at Moonee Beach has gone viral on the internet!

Spurred on by a flurry of Instagram posts, walkers from far and wide have been flocking to the Munmorah State Conservation Area to see the now famous "Pink" or "Cotton Candy" Cave (as it is now known). It is located at Deep Cave Bay between Moonee and Catho.

The "Rainbow" Cave at Ghosties Beach has also been getting a high level of attention with online walking groups.

It seems likely that these beautiful local landmarks are destined to become Instagram favourites with travellers, much like Wedding Cake Rock and the Figure 8 Pools in the Royal National Park.



Photo by Daniel Piggott – www.travelmademedoit.com

False killer whales in Catherine Hill Bay

A pod of five false killer whales was recently spotted in Catherine Hill Bay by tourism operator Coast XP. These whales are considered so rare that the event made it into the local TV news!



Photos courtesy of CoastXP– www.coastxp.com

Membership renewals

A reminder that membership fees are due from the 1st July each year. The annual membership fee is \$20 (\$10 for pensioners). The renewal form is attached to this newsletter email. Please email membership forms to:

accounts@catherinehillbay.org.au

If you are unsure of your financial status, please send an enquiry to the accounts email shown above.

Catho Chronicle Mailing List

If you would like to receive future editions of the Catho Chronicle by email, or would like to submit stories or photos, please email us at:

newsletter@catherinehillbay.org.au

Community Noticeboard

A training day for the **Community Defib Project** will be held at the Catho Surf Club on Saturday April 10th between 9am and 3pm. Please register interest on the Friends of Catho Facebook page or text 0412 283740. Bring a gold coin for a sausage sizzle.

www.facebook.com/catherinehillbay/photos/a.792503087428259/5569297083082145/

There will be a community **Twilight BBQ** in the Pat Slaven Reserve at 5pm on Saturday 17th April 2021. All local residents are welcome.

www.facebook.com/catherinehillbay/photos/a.792503087428259/5563171557028031/

Community Noticeboard (continued)

The **Older Persons Legal Clinic** recently opened in the Ocean Room at the Swansea Centre (228 Pacific Highway).

This free service is offered in partnership with the University of Newcastle, Australia Legal Centre. It assists older people over 60 years of age (and anyone with a pension concession card) with a range of matters, including elder abuse and care issues, wills and planning for the future, tenancy disputes and family law.

Upcoming dates for the clinics are shown below. For more information about the clinic please call 4947 9546.

Date & time: Thursday, 22 April 2021 (1.30-3.30pm)

Date & time: Thursday, 6 May 2021 (1.00-3.00pm)

Sea View Yoga has moved the regular Hatha yoga class in the Catho Surf Club from Monday to Wednesday at 9am. Further details can be found here:

www.facebook.com/groups/1601489383402359/

Newcastle-based tourism operator Coast XP is now offering a guided **Caves Coastal Walk** in the Wallarah National Park between Caves Beach and Catho. The cost is \$55 and further details can be found here:

www.coastxp.com/caves-coastal-hike/

For more details check out our website:

www.catherinehillbay.org.au

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

www.facebook.com/CathHillBay

www.facebook.com/catherinehillbay

www.facebook.com/CathHillBayLandcare

www.facebook.com/cathoslsc

www.facebook.com/cathoboardriders

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