



CATHO CHRONICLE

CATHERINE HILL BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HERITAGE VALUES OF CATHERINE HILL BAY



CONSULTATION BEGINS ON RECREATIONAL MASTER PLAN

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has begun the initial public consultation phase of the Master Plan for recreational facilities in Catherine Hill Bay.

The Master Plan will be specific to two areas of Council-owned land - the Surf Club Precinct and the Sport & Recreation Precinct (old Bowling Club site). Planned facilities include new playing fields & other sports facilities, a community building, a coastal walkway, a new surf club building & children's play areas.

We encourage the local community to provide input to the process via the following web link: <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/chb>

The web page includes a survey questionnaire and the opportunity to provide comments via a local map. There is also an opportunity for community members to be join a Master Plan Working Group.

The initial consultation phase closes on the 10th December 2021. A Draft Concept Plan will be issued to the public for comment in February-March 2022 and the Draft Master Plan will be placed on exhibition in June-September 2022.

IN THE SUMMER ISSUE...

**UPDATE ON MINER
JOEY WARREN**

BUSHFIRE SEASON

**HOW TO
SPOT A RIP**

LANDCARE UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING
5pm on Sat 8 Jan at
Catho SLSC**

*Cover photo by Reed Plummer at
Central Coast Drones
www.centralcoastdrones.com.au*

Update on other community facilities in Catherine Hill Bay

We approached Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd seeking information on the status of the community facilities that they committed to provide in and around Beaches as part of their development approval. These include the coastal walk along Catho Headland, the village shops, and the village green (including children's playground). They advised us that they intend to commence works on these facilities within six months of each being approved by the relevant consent authority.

Given that the Beaches development was approved at State Government level, it is unclear if the consent authority for these individual projects is LMCC or the State Government.

Corrections and clarifications

In response to a request from Rose Group, the Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association (the PA) makes the following corrections to content in our April 2021 & August 2021 newsletters:

1. All references to "Rose Group" in relation to land ownership on the Catho Headland and behind the Surf Club should instead be "Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd".
2. We retract all references to the capped bin building on Catho Headland as being suitable for a "whale-watching platform". Whilst the NSW Resources Regulator, responsible for oversight of the mine rehabilitation works, describes it in public documents as a "terraced viewing platform", this use has not been approved by the relevant consent authority.
3. In relation to the sea anchors and propellor located behind the Surf Club, we retract the statement "believed to be from the SS Wallarah" and replace it with "the Marine Archaeology Section at Heritage NSW has stated that the propellor is from the SS Wallarah, however the origin of the anchors cannot be ascertained". In addition, we retract all references to the sea anchors behind the Surf Club as a "Mariner's Memorial", and replace it with "has the potential to be part of a future Mariner's Memorial which could be relocated to Lake Macquarie City Council land."

The PA unreservedly apologises for these errors. The PA does not condone trespass on private land. Members of the public should not enter private land on the Catherine Hill Bay Headland and immediately west of the Surf Club without the express permission of Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd.

Update on Moonee Beach Walkway

As foreshadowed in the last newsletter, Yasmin Catley MP has contacted the Minister for Energy and Environment on behalf of the local community to raise safety concerns about the design of the new raised walkway to Moonee Beach.

In a written response, the NPWS has acknowledged the concerns of local residents and has committed to investigate the potential to provide additional width to the pathway to allow passing in some locations. Local residents have been offered the opportunity for an onsite meeting with a NPWS representative to discuss the matter further.

Update on developer subdivisions in Middle Camp

Wallalong Land Development - Subdivision of Lots 1 & 2 into 210 lots

Lots 1 & 2 are land parcels to the north-west of Middle Camp acquired by Wallalong Land Developments Pty Ltd when it purchased the remnant Coal & Allied land in Catherine Hill Bay.

Coal & Allied's proposed subdivision of this land into 210 lots received State Government **concept design** approval in 2012. Wallalong Land Development P/L submitted a development application in 2017 for approval to carry out the subdivision. It has been under consideration for almost five years.

We have been advised that **development consent** for the subdivision was deferred on the 27th October 2021 by the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Planning Panel due to shortcomings in the proposed design and insufficient control measures to mitigate impacts on the adjacent National Park, the environment and the local community.

Update on Catho miner Joey Warren

Over six thousand supporters signed the petition supporting retired coal miner Joey Warren, who had been served an eviction notice from his home by property developer Wallalong Land Development Pty Ltd. The petition called on the developer to allow Joey to remain in his family home - which he's lived in for more than 50 years - for the remainder of his natural life.



The good news is that Joey is still in his home. He continues to be supported by the Tenant's Union in the ongoing legal battle with the developer, who recently served a writ on Joey to appear in the Supreme Court. The fight continues.

Legal opinion from the Tenant's Union was tabled at the Hunter & Central Coast Regional Planning Panel meeting and played a role in deferring approval for the 210 lot residential development at the northern end of Catherine Hill Bay.

It's clear from the overwhelming community feedback that Joey is a much-loved local legend, having unique knowledge of Catho's history given he's lived his entire life near E Pit.

Wallalong Land Development P/L should honour Joey by naming a street or park after him rather than trying to evict an elderly man from his home.

Landcare Update

We finally resumed on November 1 to find the patch along the cemetery fence overgrown with lantana & morning glory. We'll be focusing on that site next year. Our dunes work has held up well - not too much bitou bush, and taller bushes everywhere. We trimmed the walkways and planted a wheelbarrow load of healthy, budding Pigface from Lindsay in Beaches - thank you!

We'll now break for the three summer months due to the heat, so please join us on the first Monday of each month from March. Please call ahead to Carmel on 0438 499636 to check the time of day. Bring your sun safe gear, water and a snack for afterwards while we chat!

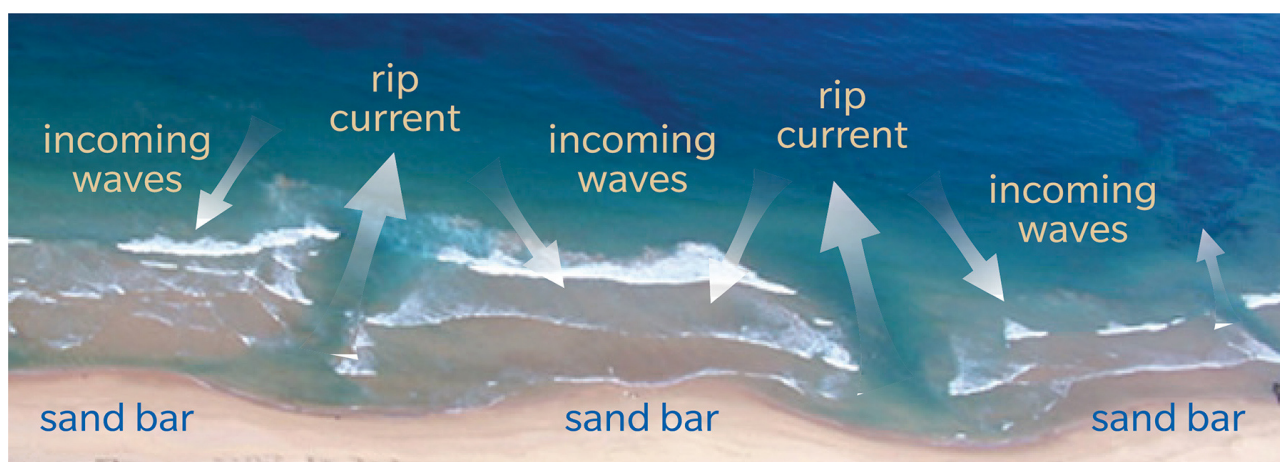
How to spot a rip

A rip current - often simply called a rip - is a specific kind of water current that can occur near beaches with breaking waves. A rip is a strong, localized, and narrow current of water which moves directly away from the shore, cutting through the lines of breaking waves like a river running out to sea. As water is pushed into the shore via the waves, rips are where all that extra water goes back out to sea.

Many people find themselves in difficulty with rips as they can appear to be the calmest part of the ocean for swimming (when viewed from the beach). However, rips are dangerous and inexperienced swimmers can find themselves in serious trouble if caught in one, particularly if panic sets in.

There are four main characteristics to look for when identifying a rip from the beach. They are:

- Darker patches of water,
- Fewer breaking waves,
- Rippled water surface,
- There may be items floating on the surface out beyond the breaking waves.



The best way to avoid getting caught in a rip and being safe at the beach is:

- Always swim at a patrolled beach,
- Swim between the red and yellow flags,
- If you are not a strong swimmer then stay in the shallows,
- Talk to the lifeguards if you have any questions before going in the water,
- If you are in trouble in the water, raise one arm for assistance.

If caught in a rip:

- Try to relax as rip currents don't pull you under,
- Don't try to swim directly against the current, but
- Swim parallel to the shore, then swim back in once out of the rip.
- If you can't get out of the rip, float or tread water as rips eventually stop beyond the breaking waves,
- Raise your arm and wave for assistance.

Content kindly provided by Catho SLSC

Did you know

... that in 1964 a new coal-loading plant with a capacity of 1,500 tons per hour came into operation at Catherine Hill Bay. It replaced the earlier system where coal was carried by lorry to the screening plant at Middle Camp, then transported via 10 ton railway cars along the beachfront to the jetty and dumped into ships.

An integral part of the new system, which made the processing of coal efficient and cost effective, was the new **Bin Building** with a capacity of 13,000 tons.

This was a steel structure covered in galvanized iron enclosing a conveyor system which fed washed coal into reinforced concrete bins carved into the cliff. The general shape of the concrete lined bin is a vee, and at the time had a covered rectangular top. This large bin was divided to allow various grades of coal to be stored in separate areas. Beneath the bins was a feed-out tunnel where remotely controlled feeders would regulate the flow of coal to the jetty conveyor.

When the mine was closed in 2003 and the jetty no longer required, the question raised was - what do we do with this large vee cut into the cliff and a dangerous big hole on the cliff top?

At the time, the land was zoned *conservation* and was to be rehabilitated by the mining company to native heathland. However, the land was then purchased by the developer Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd and rezoned as *residential*.



Some pretty wild ideas for adaptive reuse of this building and the jetty were floated at the time, such as a hotel with climbing walls that would lead onto the jetty, and an abalone industry operation. However, both the Bin Building site and the jetty were excluded from the residential housing proposal.

The mining company was still responsible for rehabilitation of the former Bin Building site however, and after many false starts, this was recently completed by Delta Electricity. They have now delivered a concrete-capped terraced platform, including safety railings. The site has now been handed over to Coastal Hamlets Pty Ltd and is currently inaccessible to the public.

There is strong community support for a future coastal walk connecting Middle Camp, Main Camp (& Surf Club), the Beaches Estate, and Moonee Beach. We hope that this public walkway will also be connected to the rejuvenated Bin Building site.

Bushfire Season

It's the time of year again when we need to prepare our homes for the risks posed by the summer bushfire season. The RFS has some great information on their website here:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan

The recommended bushfire season checklist includes:

1. Discuss among household occupants what to do if bushfire threatens your home and make a plan
2. Trim trees and shrubs overhanging your home
3. Mow grass to keep it low and remove the clippings
4. Remove items from around the home that can burn (wood piles, mulch etc)
5. Remove leaves from gutters and install metal gutter guards
6. Install a sturdy hose that will reach around your house and ensure water tanks are full.

Local walking guide for Catherine Hill Bay

We are very lucky to live in a beautiful coastal village surrounded by National Parks. Walking is a great way to enjoy our environment and to stay fit and healthy. We have compiled a list of great local walking options for summer below:

Moonee Beach Trail

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/moonee-beach-trail

Frazer Park – Palms Circuit Track

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/palms-circuit-track

Caves Beach to Pinny Beach

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/coastal-walking-track

Yondeo Trail

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/yondeo-trail

Summary of walks in Lake Mac LGA

www.newywithkids.com.au/best-lake-macquarie-walks/

Membership renewals are now due!

Are your membership fees up to date? If you have not received a confirmation email recently from our accounts address to confirm your financial status, then your fees are not up to date.

The membership renewal form is attached to this newsletter email. Please email membership forms to **accounts@catherinehillbay.org.au**. Thank you to all our members and friends that have already renewed their payments.

To join the Catho Chronicle mailing list, please email us at **newsletter@catherinehillbay.org.au**

For more details check out our website:

www.catherinehillbay.org.au

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

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www.facebook.com/swanseaSES

www.facebook.com/Wallarah-Rural-Fire-Brigade-1014414335240696