

BONNY HILLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Representatives of the BHPA had an on-site meeting with Garry Payne, Andrew Roche and Matt Rogers from Port Macquarie Hastings Council on 27 August 2009.

Areas discussed included:

- The need for a light industrial site to serve Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills communities in the future was raised by Council representatives. They indicated that this would help reduce the distance people/cars need to travel particularly on Ocean Drive for servicing mowers, cars etc given the expected population increases. Council is also of the view that it is desirable and feasible to have such a complex well hidden from view with shrubbery, banks etc.
- Corner of Bonny View Drive and Ocean Drive: PMHC identified the need to improve line marking on this corner and also at the entrance to the Bonny Hills Nursery. It is envisaged that the Carnegie Cove developers will be upgrading the McGilvray Rd and Ocean Drive intersection in the future as this is in poor condition.
- Beach Street development was also discussed. All agreed that retention of the integrity of the wildlife corridor along Saltwater Creek is high priority, but PMHC indicated that there are no planning regulations to prevent or discourage reduction of the proposed density of housing. Council also indicated the issue of rezoning the adjacent area Lot 2 from Rural to Residential 2A is still being assessed by the Department of Planning
- Saltwater Creek on Beach Street. The need for work to prevent further erosion was discussed [work is currently in progress] and the problem with the pathway being on the wrong side of the road [it was pointed out that under this path are service pipes etc and so it has a dual purpose], but the point was taken in relation to where most people actually walk.
- Rainbow Beach Reserve: The creation of a Master Plan for future planning of this reserve was discussed and the need for such a plan was readily acknowledged. BHPA indicated that they were getting some great suggestions already from members but a process needs to be put in place to enable widespread community participation, and particularly engagement with younger members.

BHPA will be following up with Council on many of these issues.

Public Meeting 18 August 2009: A public meeting was held on Tuesday 18th August at the Community Hall Bonny Hills to obtain the community's views on: a) Rainbow Beach Reserve, b) Beach Street development and rezoning and also c) What do we actually mean when we say we must retain the *village character* of Bonny Hills?

Attendance was modest but those community representatives present were as keen as mustard and recorded their ideas and opinions about these topics and 'posted them' at topic stations which were situated around the hall. A summary of these ideas will be included in the October Minutes of the BHPA.

Koala Watch update

The village of Bonny Hills is home to a small population of koalas, mainly concentrated in the area around Saltwater Creek, crossing Ocean Drive near the tavern, through the Rainbow Beach Holiday Village, and along Duchess Creek north to the bush around the Sewerage Treatment Plant. Numbers are uncertain, but through keeping records of sightings for some years we are getting a clearer picture of how many there really are. The community Koala Watch group has been keeping records since May 2005, and a village-wide census is held on the third Thursday of each November (between 4pm and 7pm) to try to get a clearer picture of the size and range of our local koala population. Anyone who has spotted (or heard) a koala anywhere in Bonny Hills is asked to keep a record of the date, time and location, and report it by email to BHPA (bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au) or contact Penny Marshall (local group co-ordinator) on 6586 3294.

Monthly committee meetings of BHPA are open to all residents and minutes and important notices are emailed to all on our database. If you are not on email, minutes are on display at the BH Post Office. Annual membership is only \$10 per household and can be paid at any meeting or c/- the PO. Fees for 2009 are now overdue.

Contact us: PO Box 44 Bonny Hills, email: bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au or phone:

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