

President's Report

on behalf of the

Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee

Annual General Meeting, 21 March 2017

Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose

The nub of our charter is to champion and protect the agreed community Vision for Bonny Hills.

So what did we do in 2016/17?

Summarising under each of our community's four Vision themes:

1. Maintaining village character and quality of lifestyle

Master Plans for Bonny Hills (BH) Reserves.

- Following the launch of the Rainbow Beach Reserve (RBR) Playground upgrade last year, stage 2 was initiated: **CBPP** grant funds enabled the installation of an educational bike path and associated landscaping; and a **Kendall Op Shop** grant plus Council funds saw additional seating installed.
- Between Council, Disability funding, Laurieton Rotary and a Kendall Op Shop grant we have secured sufficient funds to replace and relocate the aged amenity block at Rainbow Beach. Council plans to undertake this work before 30 June 2017.
- RBR dune revegetation involving considerable community input has strengthened considerably during the year which is timely given that many of the old Banksias are now in decline.
- BHPA has been working with Council staff to address safety and floral damage concerns raised by residents regarding para- and hang- gliding activities at Bartlett's Reserve. A trial of new licencing conditions has been extended to 31 May 2017, during which there is an opportunity for the public and flyers to report any incidents. A review will follow.

Major developments.

The reason for focusing on developments in our vicinity is because we need to revisit the Vision that our community has for the future of Bonny Hills [last reviewed close to ten years ago]. The Vision will need to incorporate the inevitability of more people wanting to come and live here and the consequent flow on effects – both positive and negative.

This is the subject of our public forum tonight.

2. Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife

The main areas that BHPA is involved in promoting are protecting the local fauna and flora from overdevelopment; protecting the corridors between the coastal littoral rainforest and the ‘hinterland’ on the W side of Ocean Drive; and monitoring Koala numbers in Bonny Hills

PMH Council mapping and biodiversity strategy: Following sign-off on the vegetation mapping phase, Council staff have been working on development of a Biodiversity Strategy for our LGA. BHPA has maintained representation on the Community Panel associated with this project which now requires Council ratification.

3. Water quality in our creeks and Rainbow Beach

Blue-Green algae

The outlets to Duchess and Saltwater Creek at Rainbow Beach are routinely monitored by Council for cyanobacteria [Blue-Green algae] both in the water and sand¹. BHPA is kept abreast of sampling results, and there are permanent signs at the boat ramp and main beach access points displaying a contact number for those who have concerns or queries.

In the past 12 months Council has not received any advice from NSW Health requiring the placement of warning signs at Duchess or Saltwater Creek outlets.

Duchess Creek water quality

The two old sludge lagoons at the north of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) were taken offline several months ago. Given that it has been some time since this occurred, additional samples will be taken from the boreholes around these lagoons to compare with previous results and see if there has been any significant change.

Water monitoring data for the past two years including North and South Rainbow Beach, Duchess Creek at the Caravan Park and the Bridge at the STP sites have been examined in detail. The dry period during the latter period of last year indicates low levels of microbiological activity in the creek. Raised levels of contamination appear to coincide with periods of rainfall. This suggests that poor water quality is the result of surface run-off.

¹ Guided by the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Waters, 2008 these sites will continue to be monitored with actions being taken as per the guidelines (signage implementation, notification of health authorities as required etc.).

4. Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife

Two pedestrian refuges² (near Rodley Street and near the Post Office) have been installed. Parking issues around the Post Office are the subject of further discussion with Council.

Council has undertaken survey work for a footpath along Ocean Drive from the Rodley Street refuge to the Hall Reserve. BHPA will follow up with Council regarding their conclusions about constructing this pathway. It is anticipated that it will be a very difficult and expensive section of path to construct.

The two refuges and footpath, referred to above, stem directly from the PAMP³.

Construction of the roundabout on Ocean Drive at the junction with Houston Mitchell has been completed and work to upgrade Houston Mitchell is progressing. When this and the new Stingray Bridge are finished we will be watching impacts on traffic flows with considerable interest.

Similarly development of Area 14 requires additional junctions with Ocean Drive pedestrian which will impact traffic flows; but it will also open up the opportunity for pathway connections between Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie.

Consultation and communication

- Discussions with Council Officers
Meetings have been held on site in BH and at Council chambers, and email communication has been maintained in relation to the issues outlined above. In addition a number of our members are on Council's Community Reference Group.
- BHPA and Lake Cathie Progress Association now have a solid working relationship which should improve the impact of submissions to Council on issues of common interest, such as Ocean Drive.
- Submissions were made by BHPA during the year regarding:
 - PMHC Draft Operational Plan
 - Paragliding at Bartlett's Reserve
 - Area 14 Amendment 36 re lots sizes and building heights

These are available on the BHPA website at – www.bonnyhills.org.au/bhpactions.html

- BHPA Facebook page and website
 - Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonnyHillsProgressAssociation> is still creating a lot of interest. Being interactive it appears to be connecting with a broader cross section of the community.

² Part funded by NSW State Government, via our local member, Leslie Williams

³ PAMP: Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

- The BHPA website www.bonnyhills.org.au has been up and running for six years now and serves as a publicly available resource regarding BHPA modus operandi and activities.
- Bonny Hills Newsletter articles and press releases
Our Publicity Officer has been keeping the community abreast of our activities via the BH Newsletter.. Thanks go to Kylie Moss from Ocean Drive Realty for her efforts in supporting the BHPA and other community groups with this newsletter. Articles are published in the Camden Haven Courier as events unfold.

Fund raising

The biggest cost of running BHPA is maintaining public liability insurance which among other things is necessary for accessing grant funding. Annual membership fees do not cover this cost so last year a number of people helped to raise additional funds with the annual Iron Man event, which was greatly appreciated.

Report Card

Were BHPA's efforts in 2016/17 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills? We feel that 2016 was one of our better years.

And special thanks to:

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- my outgoing committee – Bill, Carmel, Florence, Helen, Julie, Kylie, Nigel, Pam, Phil, Surya and also to Jon Slater our auditor.
 - the support of BHPA members
 - PMHC staff for all their efforts on our behalf over the last 12 months
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And also to our donors and volunteers.

Challenges for the incoming committee

These will include:

- Progress the current projects including
 - Renewal of the Rainbow Beach amenity block
 - Revisiting the community's Vision for Bonny Hills
 - Bonny Hills historical memorabilia project
- Keep the pressure on regarding road and pathway priorities - implementation plan and funding commitments.
- Continue to work on improved engagement and communication
- Fund raising - BHPA budget is under pressure
- Membership – keep working on it; we need at least 10% of our community engaged

Roger Barlow

President

On behalf of the 2016/17 BHPA Committee.