

# Bonny Hills Progress Association

## Annual General Meeting, March 2011

### President's Address

1. **Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose** – “toward the Community Vision”
2. **What did we do in 2010/11?** - In a nutshell:

Master Plans for Bonny Hills Reserves – In tandem with Council a community meeting was held in November with 100 people attending, and feedback from this was provided to participants and to the community at large. A follow-up survey has since been conducted to more accurately capture the views of younger people and families. The next step will be to consolidate this information and draw up conclusions about the community's views on the future shape of these valuable amenities.

Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife - Council is making progress on its Vegetation Mapping and Biodiversity Strategy. Both are expected to be completed in 2011. We will continue to follow up with Council to determine how koala habitat protection is being secured. BHPA has made submissions regarding the latter to Council and Planning NSW on both the Part 3a applications for Area 14 and the new Council LEP and DCP. BHPA has made its annual submission of records to the NSW wildlife database through the 'Koala Watch' group.

Maintaining village character and quality of lifestyle - The Community Strength Group has promoted events at Rainbow Beach Reserve including “Bands on the Deck” during Youth Week in 2010. More “Bands on the Deck” events are planned for 2011 with the first being run last month.

On-going discussions have been held with members of Council and the Constabulary with the aim of ensuring that Bonny Hills remains a safe environment for residents. A public meeting convened in January to provide the community with information about the Surf Club's application for a liquor licence is a good example. This was well attended and showed that the issue of alcohol related misbehavior is of general concern to the community.

Water quality in Duchess Creek and Rainbow Beach - A number of meetings have been held with Council staff and the results of past water sampling reviewed. The recently augmented STP appears to be performing well and should not be a source of contamination now. We await the results of further sampling to confirm this, and if possible identify any other possible source(s) of contamination.

Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife - The BH LATM (local area traffic management) plan is part of Council's rolling works program. BHPA maintains a 'watching brief' on this to ensure that progress is as proposed. Council's budget dilemma is bound to cause difficulties.

New development applications/processes in BH and adjacent areas – BHPA has made a number of submissions in the past year particularly in relation to proposed developments in Area 14. The primary thrust of these submissions has been to ensure compliance with State and local regulations and to question the extent to which additional requirements for infrastructure, facilities and amenities has been considered. Visit our website for these submissions in full (see below).

Unleashed areas for walking dogs - PMHC has recently released its draft policy for comment and submissions from the public are due shortly. The issue of dogs on beaches has been addressed in the draft policy but areas for exercising unleashed dogs away from the beaches is still under discussion, with no mention of a suitable area in Bonny Hills.

*And consultation and communication has been conducted at a number of levels viz:*

Discussions with Administrator and/or Council Officers - A number of meetings have been held and email communication maintained with Council staff – particularly with Jeffery Sharpe's team. See above items for specifics

BHPA website - The BHPA website [www.bonnyhills.org.au](http://www.bonnyhills.org.au) has been completely rebuilt by Peggy McCauley who has generously donated her time and expertise. We will see a demonstration of this at tonight's launch.

Bonny Hills Newsletter articles – Our Publicity Officer has delivered articles about BHPA activities on time for each issue of the BH Newsletter.

Coast and Estuaries Committee delegate from BH - Due to unforeseen circumstances there has been no communication on this front.

Consultation with Lake Cathie PA - although consultation with LCPA has been productive on some issues such as Area 14 development proposals, they have been fighting fires on other fronts which has generally reduced capacity for joint discussions. The revision of the LC Master Plan is well worth a look if you get the chance.

Support for 'Skate Park Committee' – stage one of the proposed enhancement is now well under way with the success of an initial grant and a combination of volunteer and paid labour in action as we speak. Congratulations to this committee and all those involved!!

Were BHPA's efforts in 2010/11 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills? – You be the judge.

And a special thanks to our outgoing committee – Bill, Carmel, Dennice, David, Greg, Joyce, Pam, Penny and Phil, and also to Jenny Daniels, Ken Smith and Scott Williams.

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### **3. Challenges for the incoming committee**

These will include:

- a. Consolidating a number of the tasks that were embarked upon in 2010, as given above.
- b. Working on the possibility of taking on a new project – an enhancement to the Community Hall to incorporate two meeting/change rooms and toilets that can be accessed from outside. The latter are particularly important given the improved skate park and playground facilities.
- c. And continue to work on improved engagement and communication with the community – in particular the 'younger end of town'. The new web site is one move in this direction.

Roger Barlow  
President

On behalf of the 2010/11 BHPA Committee.