

# President's Address

on behalf of the

**2011 Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee**

**Annual General Meeting, March 2012**

## 1. Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose

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

## 2. So what did we do in 2011/12?

In a nutshell:

- **Maintaining village character and quality of lifestyle**

Master Plans for Bonny Hills (BH) Reserves. BHPA has been working with Council staff over the last 18 months to develop Master Plans for the three Reserves in Bonny Hills. The aim was to get onto the front foot and develop a planned approach to the way we want to see these Reserves developed and maintained into the future. BHPA's main role has been to ensure that the Bonny Hills community had a real input into this planning and then to represent these views.

The Draft 'Final' Masterplans and priorities will be on public display shortly for a month.

Support for 'Skate Park Committee': The push here has been for installation of toilet amenities adjacent to the skate park and playground in the Hall Reserve – this has been part of the Reserves Masterplanning.

New development applications/processes in BH for major projects. Our role has been to ensure compliance with State and Local Government regulations and to question the extent to which additional requirements for infrastructure, facilities and amenities has been considered. Generally things have been very quiet on this front over the last 12 months due no doubt to the flow on effects of the GFC. No new applications have been presented to Council for major projects however the main Area 14 Concept plan was approved recently. Visit [www.bonnyhills.org.au](http://www.bonnyhills.org.au) for our previous submissions.

Both we and the community lobbied hard to retain a Post Office in Bonny Hills and the result was well worth the effort. Council is to be congratulated for its support during this difficult period.

Community Strength Group: During 2011/12 the Community Strength Group has endeavoured to provide opportunities for residents to group together in a pleasurable atmosphere, believing that this could strengthen feelings of "belonging to a community".

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, so both Bands on the Deck and Carols on the Deck were cut short.

However, we shall prevail, and if there are those who would like to assist us to stage such occasions, we would welcome you warmly.

- Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife

BHPA's role has been to monitor progress of PMH Council's project – 'Planning for Protection of the Natural Environment in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA', particularly as it relates to Bonny Hills and surrounds. Matt Rogers, PMHC, reports the latest on this:

- Field mapping for Koalas is all but complete
- Vegetation mapping of the coastal areas has been completed and verified while that for the western parts is nearly complete and will then go through a verification process.
- Once the vegetation mapping is complete, we will need to develop a detailed project plan that directs the development of the Biodiversity Strategy including community engagement.

Council is proposing to run a community engagement process on the mapping once completed. It is important that the community has a chance to see the mapping and engage with Council at this stage, given that the development of the Biodiversity Strategy will take some time.

- Water quality in Duchess Creek and Rainbow Beach

BHPA has been working with Council staff to pin down the source of 'lead indicators' of any faecal contamination in Duchess Creek and the adjacent ocean. Since the Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade this now appears to be primarily of 'animal' origin rather than human, but the hunt goes on to find the exact source(s) and to be able to predict, if possible, when higher counts are likely to occur and any implications for human health.

- Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife

The BH LATM (Local Area Traffic Management) plan for BH is part of Council's rolling works program. BHPA maintains a 'watching brief' on this to ensure that progress is as planned and budgeted. While considerable works have been conducted, a tight budget and wet weather over the last 12 months has not been helpful. And considerable work is being conducted on Ocean Drive either side of BH.

### **3. Consultation and communication**

- Public meetings

Three were held regarding the development of Reserves Masterplans

- Discussions with Administrator and/or Council Officers

A number of meetings have been held and email communication maintained with Council staff particularly in relation to the issues outlined above.

- BHPA website

The BHPA website [www.bonnyhills.org.au](http://www.bonnyhills.org.au) has been up and running for 12 months now. It captures the activities of BHPA quite well but it is a work in progress regarding the pages on Bonny Hills itself.

- Bonny Hills Newsletter articles and Press releases

Our Publicity Officer has delivered articles about BHPA activities on time for each issue of the BH Newsletter and has orchestrated press releases or articles regarding many of the above issues.

- Coast and Estuaries Committee delegate from BH

This Committee has not met during the past 12 months – past its use-by date?.

- Consultation with Lake Cathie PA

Consultation and cooperation with LCPA is productive on issues in which we have a common stake, such as Area 14 development proposals.

#### **4. Report Card**

Were BHPA's efforts in 2011/12 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills? We have quite positive feelings about the outcomes over the past year - but we will let you be the final judge of this.

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

---

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

These will include:

- a. Consolidating a number of the tasks described above.
- b. Working on and acquiring funding for the highest priorities in the Reserves Master Plan. The larger budget items in this list will be particular challenges.
- c. And continue to work on improved engagement and communication with the wider Bonny Hills community

Roger Barlow  
President

On behalf of the 2011/12 BHPA Committee.