

President's Address

on behalf of the

2012 Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee

Annual General Meeting, 19 March 2013

1. Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose

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

2. So what did we do in 2012/13?

Summarising under each of the Vision themes:

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

Master Plans for Bonny Hills (BH) Reserves.

The Masterplan is now in place and agreed actions are being worked through systematically, with opportunities for collaboration and additional funding pursued.

- Bike racks have been installed at Rainbow Beach Reserve with the aid of a \$2600 grant from the FRRR¹.
- A grant application was submitted to CBPP² for installation of public toilets adjacent to the skate park and playground in the Hall Reserve – this was part of the Reserves Masterplan. Fingers crossed on this.
- Remedial work on the grassed parking area at the northern end of the SLSC; and new plantings are planned with Landcare support.

Major developments. Our role in this regard has generally been to ensure compliance with State and Local Government regulations eg in relation to the environment; and to question the extent to which additional requirements for infrastructure, facilities and amenities has been considered. Submissions were made by BHPA regarding:

- Proposed expansion of extraction rate from Grant's Head Quarry – while this appears to have gone into hibernation we have been advised recently that a draft Voluntary Planning Agreement should be on public exhibition soon. Following this Council will be able to determine the Development Application itself.
- Plan of Management for BH Holiday Park. The two cabins on the seafront have been removed to make way for the coastal walking track. BHPA has been working on this for some years so this is a **big win for the community**.
- Draft Amendment regarding area-based planning provisions for Area 14, and the accompanying draft Koala Plan of Management (KPoM) – this was recently approved by Council.

¹ Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

² Community Building Partnerships Program

Community Strength Group: During 2012/13 the Community Strength Group provided opportunities for residents to come together in a pleasurable atmosphere, aiming to strengthen feelings of “belonging to a community”. Events included:

- Bands on the Deck
- Carols on the Deck which was a huge success with fine weather for a change.

- **Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife**

Matt Rogers (Director, Development and Environmental Services, PMHC) has advised that:

- Vegetation mapping for our LGA is complete and Council is waiting to receive the final digital data sets.
- Koala habitat mapping is complete and Council has received a draft report on the findings.
- The next steps are to brief the Councillors on the results, formally report the mapping for the purpose of community engagement and following that
- Proceed with the development of a biodiversity strategy and a comprehensive koala plan of management.

This is at the core of why we all want to live here. Hence it will be important for both BHPA and the BH community to get involved at the community engagement stage.

- **Water quality in Duchess Creek and Rainbow Beach**

BHPA has been working with Council staff to pin down the source(s) of any faecal contamination in Duchess Creek and the adjacent ocean. This has proven to be quite elusive based on weekly water testing alone.

Consequently Dr Maree Smith (Laboratory Manager) has advised that Council proposes to use other methods and to seek additional funding to determine the reasons for occasional spikes in counts, any implications for human health, and possible solutions.

- **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. Additionally the proposal to expand the current output from the Grant’s Head quarry is likely to have significant implications for road wear and safety.

While considerable works have been conducted, a tight budget and wet weather over the last 12 months has not been helpful. However considerable work has been conducted on Ocean Drive particularly on the N side of BH and resurfacing of two roads within the village. A meeting was held with the Mayor and GM in December at which we drew their attention to the key issues regarding safety within the village itself.

3. Consultation and communication

- Public meetings

One in relation to the Grant's Head Quarry proposal.

- Discussions with Mayor, General Manager and Council Officers

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

- BHPA website

The BHPA website www.bonnyhills.org.au has been up and running for two years now. It captures the activities of BHPA quite well but will continue to be a work in progress regarding the pages on the village. And we know now that the site runs hot when there is an issue of interest to the community.

- 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 a number of the above issues.

- Coast and Estuaries Committee delegate

We understand representation will be through Councillor Lisa Intemann henceforth.

- Consultation with other Progress Associations and RAN

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

4. Report Card

Were BHPA's efforts in 2012/13 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills? We have quite positive feelings about the outcomes over the past year, even though there is more to do.

And special thanks to:

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- my outgoing committee – Bill, Carmel, Florence, Joyce, Pam, Paul, Penny and Phil, and also to Ken Smith and Scott Williams;
 - and to PMHC staff for all their efforts on our behalf over the last 12 months
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5. Challenges for the incoming committee

These will include:

- a. Working through the actions already identified as high priority.
- b. Acquiring funding for the highest priorities in the Reserves Master Plan. The toilet facilities at the Hall Reserve loom large on our radar.
- c. Continue to work on improved engagement and communication with the wider Bonny Hills community and other relevant organisations.

Roger Barlow
President

On behalf of the 2012/13 BHPA Committee.