

President's Report

on behalf of the

Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee

Annual General Meeting, 15 March 2016

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 2015/16?**

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

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

Master Plans for Bonny Hills (BH) Reserves.

- Rainbow Beach Reserve (RBR) Playground upgrade: stage 1 was launched by the Mayor in June with considerable fanfare and participation of local residents and school children. A water bubbler was installed thanks to a CBPP¹ grant. Stage 2 is now underway: **CBPP** grant funds have been secured to install an educational bike path; and a **Kendall Op Shop** grant plus Council funds will see additional shaded seating installed for carers.
- RBR dune revegetation which has involved considerable community input and has come on nicely with more favourable weather conditions. Minimising damage by people is the current challenge.
- Newly relocated picnic facilities have been installed by Council at Bartlett's Reserve.

Safety concerns raised by residents with BHPA regarding para- and hang- gliding activities at Bartlett's have been referred to Council, the Trustee for this Reserve, as have concerns about vegetation damage, cliff-top safety and drainage issues on the Reserve. We have been advised that Council is acting on these concerns.

Major developments.

The reason for focusing on the really big developments in our vicinity is because of the potential flow on effects – both positive and negative, with some being unintended consequences. This is the subject of our public forum tonight.

¹ Community Building Partnerships Program

- **Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife**
 - The main areas that BHPA is directly involved in are attempting to protect 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 had representation on the Community Panel associated with this project.
- **Water quality in our creeks and Rainbow Beach**
 - There was a comprehensive presentation at the 2015 AGM regarding how Blue Green Algae (BGA) episodes and communication are being handled by Council staff. A summary of this can be found in the 2015 President's report on our website. Since then we have been talking to them about ways of improving the communication of results to the community
 - Possible faecal contamination in Duchess Creek: Again this was covered in detail at the 2015 AGM and is summarised in the President's report. Since then Council staff have been monitoring ground water around evaporation ponds for any sign of contaminated subsurface water movement. While there has been no evidence of this to date, one of the two ponds being monitored has been relined already, with relining of the second pond planned.
- **Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife**

The design of two pedestrian refuges² (near Rodley Street and near Jungarra Crescent) have been finalised. The projects are now with Council's delivery team for construction. April 2016 is looking most likely as a starting date.

Council is undertaking preliminary design work for a footpath along Ocean Drive from the Rodley Street refuge to the refuge near the 'Top Shop'. Early indications are that this will be a very difficult section of path to construct and so will be expensive. Once Council has a better understanding of the key issues they will consult with BHPA.

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

The two refuges and footpath, referred to above, stem directly from the PAMP³. We will see these through before pursuing more elements of the PAMP.

The passing lane adjacent to the Grant's Head quarry is going in at long last. It is much needed and was one of the conditions of development consent for the quarry increasing extraction depth a few moons back.

Council has advised that the next priority in improving access to Lake Cathie Public School is the construction of the fourth leg off the new Houston Mitchell Drive roundabout. Once this has been constructed consideration can be given to broader pedestrian connections across the Area 14 area.

3. Consultation and communication

- Public consultation
The Rainbow Beach Reserve Playground sub-committee did an excellent job in bringing the community together on the project.
- 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.
- Submissions were made by BHPA during the year regarding:
 - PMH Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
 - Federal Electoral boundary changes
 - PMH Council's Operational Plan
 - Commercial Activity on Council Land DRAFT POLICY

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

- BHPA Facebook page and website
Our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonnyHillsProgressAssociation> is creating a lot of interest. Being interactive it appears to be connecting with a broader cross section of the community.
The BHPA website www.bonnyhills.org.au has been up and running for five years now and serves as a publicly available resource regarding BHPA activities.
- Bonny Hills Newsletter articles and press releases
Our Publicity Officer has changed the format of articles in the BH Newsletter to make it more interesting and readable - more photographs and less text. Thanks must go to Kylie Moss from Ocean Drive Realty for her efforts in supporting the BHPA and other community groups with this newsletter.

³ Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

4. Report Card

Were BHPA's efforts in 2015/16 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills?

We feel that 2015 has been a year of considerable achievement. But as always there is more to do.

And special thanks to:

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- my outgoing committee – Bill, Carmel, Florence, Helen, Joyce, Julie, Lucas, Pam, Penny, Phil, and also to Jon Slater.
 - 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 viz:

- Dave Smith (assistance with the slide mound construction)
- Greg Booker (assistance with removal of spoil from site)
- Jenny Schouten (Rainbow Serpent)
- Bunnings Port Macquarie (donation of tiles)
- Hy-Tech (donation of road base material for the slide)
- Bonny Hills Garden Centre (assistance with site preparation and old equipment removal)
- Bill Lawrence (helped us move soil and plant material across to the dune)
- LC-BH School and P&C (kids laying tiles in the concrete; open day catering)
- CBPP grants (for the Bubbler and bike path)
- Kendall Op Shop grant (toward tree surround bench seat)
- Kylie Moss from Camden Haven TV
- Jenny Daniel, Bill and Jake Shelley, Ramise
- Jon Slater and Kylie Moss of Ocean Drive Realty
- Landcare

5. Challenges for the incoming committee

These will include:

- Progress the current suite of projects – funding is required
- Keep the pressure on regarding priorities identified in review of road safety - implementation plan and funding commitments.
- Continue to work on improved engagement and communication
- BHPA budget is under pressure
- Membership – keep working on it

And maybe

- A Bonny Hills historical memorabilia project to bring the community together -----?

Roger Barlow
President

On behalf of the 2015/16 BHPA Committee.