

President's Report

on behalf of the

Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee

Annual General Meeting, 26 March 2019

Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose

BHPA committee is a group of volunteers elected annually. The nub of our charter is to champion and protect the Vision for Bonny Hills agreed by our community.

So what did we do in 2018/19?

The definite highlights were:

- the **Back to Bonny's** Event on 28, 29, 30 September which drew an estimated crowd of over 4,000
- publication of a **pictorial history** of Bonny Hills, and an archive and **display of Bonny's memorabilia**
- installation of a **half netball court** at the Hall Reserve

The hallmark of these projects was the huge effort put in by volunteers, generous donations from local businesses and the level of engagement with our community.

- and together with Council, bringing Bonny's **Draft Community Plan** to fruition, and high priority projects identified by CCAT¹ for the 2019/20 Operational Plan.

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

1. Maintaining village character and quality of lifestyle

Community Plan for Bonny Hills.

Following a series of community meetings BHPA worked with Council to collate the views expressed by residents for inclusion in a Draft Community Plan. The Draft was signed off by Council and following this CCAT was formed to take it to finality, as a prioritised, 5-year investment plan for our village. BHPA is well represented on CCAT.

Of interest, little has changed regarding the broad Community Vision and the main themes (numbered 1 to 4 in this report). What has changed considerably is the Community's level of angst regarding rampant development and an inability to ensure that this is sympathetic with the natural environment; and to respond effectively to flow-on impacts on infrastructure and services.

¹ CCAT = Council-Community Action Team

The immediate task was to trawl through the community's views and identify those that should be included in Council's 2019/20 Operational Plan, (to be released in March for public comment). These were identified as:

- Key footpath connections following an audit of Bonny's paths conducted by BHPA.
- Review of the 2012 Master Plan for Rainbow Beach, Bartlett's and Hall Reserves
- Undertake environmental studies specifically for the area west of Ocean Drive, nature reserves around Bonny Hills, Saltwater Creek and Duchess Creek incl.

The next step is to produce the final Plan with priorities staged over the next 5 years.

Half netball court.

A \$33, 000 Grant from Community Building Partnerships Program enabled construction of a half netball court at the Hall Reserve, together with massive inputs by volunteers and donations of time and materials by local businesses. It was opened by our local member Leslie Williams in November. Since then we have had approaches to install a basketball hoop and backboard as well. Agreement has been reached with Council, with funding coming from Back to Bonny's revenue.

Back to Bonny's (Refer to Community Events below).

Mural Design Competition

A mural design competitions has been initiated by BHPA and Council as an anti-graffiti initiative aimed at engaging with young budding artists.

And a grant application has been submitted for covered seating at the Hall Reserve.

2. Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife

BHPA has been involved in promoting protection of local fauna and flora from overdevelopment; protecting the corridors between the coastal littoral rainforest and the 'hinterland' on the W side of Ocean Drive. Refer to comments under Community Plan above.

Also we have been supporting our local Landcare group with their approaches to Council for improvements to the Grant's Head track starting at the southern end of Honeysuckle Drive. A boardwalk is proposed across the wet section at the northern end. Landcare has some funds available but more will be needed.

3. Water quality in our creeks and Rainbow Beach

BHPA has supported concerned residents during the year to effect great outcomes:

- Improved signage at Rainbow Beach warning of potential health impacts of poor water quality and the occurrence of incidents
- Bringing pressure to bear on Council and EPA regarding seepage onto the beach from the retention trench at the Sewage Treatment Plant and the adverse impact it is having on adjacent flora. This has resulted in bringing forward the program for installing pink pipes for effluent reuse at the Port Macquarie golf club., so reducing the amount going to the trench. Works should be completed this year.

4. Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife

Our Community has stated a strong position regarding the need for more footpaths in Bonny's and priorities have been identified in the Community Plan. Unfortunately, the project contained in Council's 2017-18 Operational Plan: *4.4.1.32 Commence corridor planning - Kendall Road - Ocean Drive- Hastings River Drive regional road corridor (MR538 / MR600) to identify priorities for improvements on Ocean Drive*, has been postponed². CCAT and BHPA need to keep the pressure on here.

Community events

Planning for and execution of the Back to Bonny's event on the weekend of 28, 29 30th September 2018 was a massive exercise involving many volunteers and generous donations by businesses. The event was a partnership between BHPA, W-BHSLSC and PMH Council, with the aim of *encouraging businesses, community groups, residents and visitors to cooperate, share and celebrate their special history and place in the Bonny Hills community. This worked in spades.*

There were many elements to it including a movie on Friday night; production of an historical photographic booklet and a display of memorabilia in the Surf Club; markets, a surf competition; kids' games; live entertainment; Back to Bonny's T-Shirts; a gala dinner on the Saturday night; and an open day at Eagle's Nest on the Sunday.

Make or break 'on the day' hinged entirely on having favourable weather – in hind-sight a high-risk element given the amount of effort required to stage it. Fortunately, the weather gods were with us and it was a huge success.

Legacies from Back to Bonny's include a publication, Pictorial history of Bonny Hills; an archive and display of Bonny's memorabilia; and increased understanding and cooperation among the various 'parties' in Bonny's.

Consultation and communication

- Discussions with Council
Many meetings have been held locally and at Council chambers, and email communication has been maintained in relation to the issues outlined above. As indicated already community meetings were convened in Bonny's by Council with our assistance. Additionally, a number of our members are on CCAT.
- Submissions made by BHPA during the year regarding:
 - PMHC Draft Operational Plan
 - Community Plan x 2
 - Lot 2 Beach Street

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

² We have been advised by John Hanlon that this high-level project will investigate the future form of the entire Ocean Drive corridor including through Bonny Hills. It will look at the road cross-section from property boundary to property boundary considering elements such as travel lanes, parking lanes, footpaths, shared paths, utilities, drainage etc. This project will allow a proposed shared path to be considered in the broader context of Ocean Drive through the entire length of Bonny Hills.

- BHPA Facebook pages
 - Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonnyHillsProgressAssociation> has generated a lot of interest this year. Being interactive it connects with a broader cross section of the community and now has 416 followers.
 - The Back to Bonny's Facebook page had a specific role in gathering historical material for, and publicising the Back to Bonny's event, viz
Back to Bonny Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/backtobonnyhills/>
Back to Bonny Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/411606442611713/>
- The BHPA website www.bonnyhills.org.au 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 also go to Kylie Moss for her efforts in supporting the BHPA and other community groups with this newsletter.
Articles are placed in the Camden Haven Courier as events dictate.

Fund raising

The biggest annual 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. A number of volunteers helped to raise additional funds with the annual Iron Man event, which was greatly appreciated.

Report Card

Were BHPA's efforts in 2018/19 a useful contribution to Bonny's? We consider that we had highly a successful year.

And special thanks to:

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- my amazing outgoing committee – Bill, Helen, Ian, John, Kathy, Kylie, Nigel, Pam, Phil, Ross, Surya; and to Jon Slater our auditor.
 - the support of BHPA members and the Wauchope-Bonny Hills SLSC
 - 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 will include:

- Progressing existing projects:
 - ½ netball court – addition of a basketball hoop and backboard
 - Mural competition and execution
 - Developing a Community Plan for Bonny's, with a commitment for commensurate funding.
- Developing new project areas including seating at the Hall reserve
- Build on the engagement and communication forged in Back to Bonny's
- Fund raising – the BHPA budget is generally under pressure
- Membership – keep working on it; aim is 10% of our households engaged

Roger Barlow
President
On behalf of the 2018/19 BHPA Committee.