

Bonny Hills Progress Association News

May 2015

Just how well do we represent your view as a resident of Bonny Hills when we take up the cudgel - banging on doors for improved facilities and increased funding?

It's a question that Council and the 'Pollies' must ask themselves when we meet with them. The only real gauges we have to offer are membership - which hovers around 50-60 households, so probably around 5% of all households which you'd have to say is not that impressive given it costs only \$10 per household. The level of interest and feedback we get is another gauge and it seems to be the old story here: – only when there is a burning issue that affects us directly do we get excited enough to get involved.

Bottom line: we think membership needs to be at least 10% of households with a good spread across our demographic, including businesses, to be persuasive about representation. Remember that we are competing with all the other communities and interest groups in our LGA and beyond for funding and attention. To this end we propose to go on the front foot to get you involved! Be warned – but not alarmed!

A great example of our community getting involved has been with the current project to upgrade the playground at Rainbow Beach Reserve, where **volunteers and donations** have come out of the woodwork big-time: To date these have included **HyTech** [provided gravel for slide mound], **Bonny Hills Garden Centre** [equipment and labour for site preparation], **Greg Booker** [removal of spoil], **Dave Smith** [assisted with slide mound construction] and **Jenny Schouten** [providing mosaics for pathway] with **more offers on the table**.

There are a number of tasks ahead where assistance will be very useful to help stretch our limited budget. Immediately it is planned to construct circular wooden seat beneath a Banksia tree, and a winding concrete path that will allow local children to leave their hand prints. There is to be an artistic addition of a tiled serpent winding its way along the path. Some large Lomandra plants will be relocated along the beachfront to redirect foot traffic away from the fragile edges. All in all a very exciting project. More proposed in stage 2 but grant funding will be needed for this eg fence and shade.

Rainbow Beach Reserve drainage

The BHPA met onsite with Mayor, Peter Bessling, and PMHC General Manager, Craig Swift McNair to press for completion of Stage 2 works, with drainage infrastructure upgraded and realigned to discharge storm water into Saltwater Creek [as per the Reserves MasterPlan]. This work is being undertaken as we speak.

At our AGM in March, **Michelle McLennan** PMHC Environmental Health Officer, gave a very useful presentation on the life cycle and potential impacts of the **blue green algae** that appears occasionally in our waterways. **Michelle** has since provided detailed answers to follow-up questions from the floor which will be sent out to members by email and posted on our website.

The Committee offers sincere thanks to those who attended our AGM – the full version of the President's address, effectively our annual report is also posted on the website.

Bartlett's Beach Reserve

The picnic facilities at Bartlett's have been replaced and upgraded to a more pleasant area, with a wonderful view and lots of space to enjoy the area [as per the Reserves MasterPlan].

Pedestrian Safety in Bonny Hills

The NSW Government has provided matching funding for Council to build three Pedestrian Refuges along Ocean Drive in Bonny Hills, including one from the Post Office across to the Plaza Shops.

Monthly committee meetings of BHPA are open to all residents and minutes and important notices are emailed to all on our database. If you are not on email, minutes are on display at the BH Post Office. Annual membership is only \$10 per household and can be paid at any meeting or c/- the Bonny Hills PO.

Contact us: PO Box 44 Bonny Hills, 2445, email: bhpa@bonnyhills.org.au, or visit our web site www.bonnyhills.org.au