

LAKE CATHIE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

President: Rob Tate Vice President: Gary Dowling Treasurer: Elaine Jones
PO Box 247 Lake Cathie NSW 2445 Secretary: Jack Jones Phone: 6584 8211
EMAIL: lcpa@live.com.au WEBSITE: www.lakecathiepa.com



Action on missing link in 100kmh Ocean Dr Cycle Lanes



Additional hazards are created in the lead up to the IRONMAN with many more cyclists in training.

In April 2011 the Progress Association wrote to Council re the 1.3 km section of Ocean Drive north of the village where cycle lanes are not provided. This creates a danger for cyclists and motorists when they must merge.

Council advised in May 2011 that part of the problem was the location of power poles on the west of Ocean Dr.

Council has now confirmed with Essential Energy the need to relocate the poles. This should be completed by mid May after which Council will finalize design for the road widening, develop cost estimates and funding options.

The Lake Cathie 2010 Village Master Plan sets a high priority on linking the cycle lanes: The Plan describes the current situation as “dangerous conditions for both motorists and cyclists”.

Lake Cathie Traffic Committee formed

A Traffic Committee was formed at the Progress Association’s Annual Meeting in February this year.

The Committee of five includes three members of the Executive Committee, a retired Police Officer and a retired Town Planner.

The group will follow through implementation of recommendations included in the Lake Cathie Village Master Plan 2010 and address other matters raised by members of the community.

If you have an issue you wish to put to the Traffic Committee please email or mail details to the contact points at the top of this newsletter.

Lake Cathie Coastal Erosion Plan

At Port Macquarie-Hastings Council March meeting it was resolved to place Stage 2 of the Lake Cathie Coastline Management Study on public display and open for submissions for ten (10) weeks from April 2. Stage 2 includes four (4) options for further assessment. These are:

1. Planned Retreat
2. Beach Nourishment
3. 400m Revetment
4. Groyne

The only option which removes building restrictions on affected residents of Illaroo Drive is a Revetment (a vertical or angled wall along the base of the dunes).

An OPEN DAY will be held at the Community Hall on Thursday May 10 when residents will have full access to the Plan’s detail. Residents will also be free to question Council officials on all aspects of the four options.

Council will also conduct a community survey to gauge response of residents to the four options.

Existing NSW Erosion Legislation fails to protect Lake Cathie

Coastal Erosion Legislation passed by the previous NSW Government in 2009 fails to provide protection for public assets. In Lake Cathie, Illaroo Road, Bundella Road, Jonathon Dickson Reserve and the Littoral Rainforest north of Middle Rock are all left unprotected.

Inclusion in the Legislation would protect all these assets including the roadway heavily used by residents and visitors for beach access and ocean views.

Protection of these public assets would not only protect the 17 homes now said to be at risk but each and every property from Middle Rock to the Estuary entrance.

The Progress Association lodged a submission with the then Shadow Minister for the Environment, Catherine Cusack, local Member Leslie Williams MP and other groups in early 2011 calling for the Legislation to be amended to include this and other matters in the proposed changes planned by the Coalition Government

We understand that amendments to the previously flawed Legalisation are in the hands of a Ministerial Taskforce expected to report to the NSW Cabinet later this year.

Lions' Trivia with a Twist Night

Lake Cathie Bonny Hills Lions Club will hold a Trivia Night at the Lake Cathie Bowling Club on Saturday April 21. Doors open at 7.00PM with proceedings underway at 7.30PM.

Tables of eight can be booked for \$80.00 per table or you can join a Social Table for \$10.00 per head.

Proceedings will include presentation of Lions Club funds to local community groups. These include:

- The Lake Cathie Rural Fire Brigade
- Lake Cathie Bonny Hills Junior Rugby League
- Lake Cathie Football Club (Soccer)
- Lake Cathie Progress Association
- Hastings Macleay Valley Community Transport
- Hastings Autism & Asperger's Resource Group
- Lake Cathie Bowls

This money was raised by Lions' members running BBQ's and other events. Well done Lions!

To book a table call Nikki on 0427 249 194 or Email:

nikkih@activetreeservices.com.au

Progress Association Annual General Meeting

The Association's AGM on February 26 elected the following representatives to its Executive Committee:

PRESIDENT:	Rob Tate
VICE PRESIDENT	Gary Dowling
SECRETARY	Jack Jones
TREASURER	Elaine Jones
COMMITTEE	Bob Jolly, Shirley Drewett, Martin Parish, John Hunt, Terry McDermott

A Traffic Committee was formed and the meeting received reports on the status of the Coastal Plan, Dredging west of the bridge, Sports Fields and the new Mobile Phone Tower.



Lic. No. 42579C

Bay 21, Bayside Cct. Laurieton NSW 2443

Phone: 6559-7446

Dangerous Curve on Tallong Dr

LCPA wrote to Council on January 25 2011 repeating the warning from the Lake Cathie Village Master Plan 2010 that the curved section of Tallong Drive **represents a highly dangerous road for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.**

Council responded that it had investigated the site and acknowledged the need for pedestrian facilities on that section of roadway. The reply added **"Unfortunately footpaths and cycle ways will not be given priority in the short term"**.

Council has listed the Tallong Dr. works for consideration of funding as part of Council's future infrastructure delivery programmes.

This issue has been passed on to our Traffic Committee for attention.

Dredging West of Ocean Dr. Bridge

The Progress Association continues to receive dozens of complaints from members of the community about the shallow water channels west of the Ocean Drive Bridge.

In particular Council's claims that there is no data to substantiate the low channel depths are being ridiculed by users of the estuary. One fisherman asks "How much data do they need beyond the fact that we cannot use our tinnies to travel upstream from the Bridge as we have done for 30 years.

Another said that the channel at Tallong Drive north of the Kenwood Bridge was only ankle deep at low tide.

Become a Landcare Volunteer

Join in with our Landcare Group in their weekly working bees every Wednesday from 8.00 till Noon.

The Group is maintaining the excellent revegetation work done in Jonathon Dickson Reserve that won it Second Place in the 2011 NSW Tidy Towns Awards.

For information call John Hunt on 6586 3322.

Lake Cathie Health Complex

1459 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie NSW
65 84 88 99

Lake Cathie Medical Centre
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12 Months Later No Additional Sporting Fields

Report from Richard Pierce
President Lake Cathie Sports Council.

Twelve months after the 2011 State election the Lake Cathie Sports Council is disappointed the need for additional fields is still not resolved.

Prior to the election the then Shadow Environment Minister, Catherine Cusack, Kevin Humphries now Minister for Healthy Lifestyles and now Local MP Leslie Williams all visited the village and were confident the need for extra fields would be easily solved by the incoming Coalition Government. The Sports Council reports it has received no satisfaction at this stage.

The Environment Minister, the Hon. Robyn Parker, advised in June 2011 that all that was needed was for her office to obtain a letter of support from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

After five months of waiting the Progress Association wrote to Council and received a letter of support. The Sports Council forwarded this correspondence to the Local Member and the Environment Minister. These were sent on 17/02/2012. The Sports Council is hoping for an early response.

It has been five years since the need for additional fields was first raised.

Optus Mobile Phone Tower

Optus has advised agreement has been reached with the new owners of the Woolworths site and a formal lease is being prepared.

The delay in putting a lease in place has delayed installation and the Geo-Tech testing for the footing of the tower is now being arranged. This requires drilling to design the footings and to finalise design of the structure. The good news is the tower is on its way but it will be a few months until it is operational.



Join your Progress Association

The more members we have the stronger our Association to address local issues

Cost is only \$10.00 per family per year.

Nomination forms are available from:

- Blockbuster Lake Cathie store
- Our Website: www.lakecathiepa.com

We will arrange nomination and seconding for membership.

On joining we will email you our Newsletter and any important issues related to the village.

Area 14 developments

Approval has been given by the Dept. Planning & Infrastructure for the Concept Plan for the St Vincent's Foundation development at Rainbow Beach.

The Plan includes 1100 Homes, a Village Centre, School site, Playing Fields and open space areas. No timing is yet available for the development.

The Progress Association's submission on the Plan included:

- Council brings forward planned road upgrades through the Lake Cathie village to match the timing of population increases south of the village.
- Council implements plans and carries out the necessary works to upgrade Houston Mitchell Drive to match the construction phases and population increases of the new developments.
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council undertakes to provide additional recreational space and car parking in the area of the Foreshore Reserve to accommodate the increased population.

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for more information

Lake Innes – 102 years ago They were told not to open Lake Innes. THE STORY CONTINUES:

In our February edition we told the story of the Government advising residents in 1909 not to open Lake Innes to the sea.

In 1933 Lake Innes was changed from a fresh water lake to a salt water body. What we did not include was the reason one gentleman had for ignoring the Government's advice.

The 1925 "dream"

A former Member for the Hastings Macleay electorate, Philip Henry Morton (the voters rejected him at the 1920 election) had, in his own words: **his eye on the Lake Innes swamp lands for some years.**

In 1925 he came up with a grandiose scheme which envisaged draining the entire Lake Innes swamp lands and adding another 51,000 acres which he planned to purchase. The expanded property would then be sold for farming activities including Dairying, Pigs, Maize, Sorghum, Lucerne Vegetables and other crops.

Profit on the venture was said to be 116,747 pounds (we are not sure how to convert this into today's cash but it would be billions of dollars).

The scheme came unstuck and folded when planning restrictions prevented drainage of the Lake Innes Swamp.

The Lake Innes opening achieved nothing other than despoiling the lake and over time has degraded the entire estuary.

SOURCE: Port Macquarie News Centenary Edition July 7 1982.



Additional \$150K for Stormwater Outlets

In our February Newsletter we reported Council had received grant funding of \$75,000 from the State Government for repair of Lake Cathie Stormwater Outlets. With matching funding from Council this provides a total of \$150,000 for these vital repairs.

In March Council advised it had received another \$75,000 from the State (again to be matched by Council). With the previous grant this brings the total to \$300,000 to repair one of the causes of Lake Cathie's erosion.

The Progress Association has been pressing Council to rebuild all the outlets along the Cathie coastline for many years. The Lake Cathie (Southern) Foreshore Management Plan in 2003 recommended the outlets be repaired as a high priority.

Funds for sea level rise mapping

Another part of current grant funding approval is \$75K (to be matched by Council) for mapping of possible sea level rises. Council intends to prepare computerised modelling to map the impacts of rising water levels from river & estuary mouths to upstream developed areas.

Proposed Rate Increase

As reported in February the Association wrote to Council opposing the rate increases. A copy was sent to IPART (the State body considering whether or not to approve the increases). IPART has included our letter with other residents' submissions on their Website.

Issues from other submissions included:

- Council indulges in activities which are not Core Business
- Council has not demonstrated to the community it is operating at 100% efficiency with the money it already receives.
- Council has lavished huge amounts of ratepayer's monies on glamorous projects such as The Glasshouse.
- Our rates were \$1500 last year and with the proposed increase would be almost \$3500 in 5 years.
- Get back to basics please
- We have the highest number of pensioners per capita of any LGA.

There was not one submission favouring a rate rise.



2012 Clean-up Day

Organiser of Lake Cathie's Clean-up Australia Day, Denise Wagner, reports 20 volunteers were on the ground on Sunday March 4. They included three family groups and the children enjoyed their day cleaning the village areas.

25 bags of rubbish were collected together with dumped items including a ladder.

Ocean Dr the north entrance to the village, received attention giving visitors a good sight on their entry to the village..

The volunteers also inspected the Perch Hole Track and reported no rubbish dumped in that area. National Parks & Wildlife Service had warned of the possibility of closing the track if rubbish dumping continued. The Clean-up Day report has been passed on to NPWS.

Thanks to Denise and all the volunteers.

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