

Lake Cathie Village Master Plan 2000 UPDATE UNDERWAY

An excellent Plan for the future of Lake Cathie was completed in 2000 and an update is now underway. The Plan developed by the Progress Association and produced by Hastings Council was aimed at having essential services in the village implemented in a planned manner.

Among the recommended actions implemented / outstanding are:

IMPLEMENTED

- **SPEED LIMIT:** 50 km/h speed limit through the village
- **CYCLE LANES:** Cycle lanes along Ocean Dr north of Cathie (all but 1.3km completed)
- **MEDICAL:** Medical Centre opened December 2008.
- **FORESHORE RESERVE:** Upgrading of the foreshore reserve facilities. Excellent result.
- **LANDCARE:** Actively promote work of Dunecare Group (now Lake Cathie Landcare)
- **BITOU BUSH:** Removal of Bitou Bush – done by Landcare.
- **WALKING TRACKS:** Additional walking tracks (some Jonathon Dickson & Endeavour Park complete)
- **AQUA RESERVE.** Shelters, BBQs and paths installed.
- **USE OF ABORIGINAL NAMES:** New name for Area 14 is NGANBA.

OUTSTANDING

- **LAKE INNES:** Reversion of Lake Innes to freshwater and dredging implemented. An EIS is required.
- **KENWOOD CAUSEWAY:** Widening and dredging of Cathie Creek & Lake Cathie.
- **PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**
- **TOURISM PLAN**
- **SPORTS & LEISURE** Additional sporting fields & facilities were a High Priority in the Plan. SEE UPDATE OVER PAGE.
- **FOOTPATHS:** Upgrade existing condition of footpaths and address the need for more to be constructed.
- **GOOGIK TRACK:** Tourist walks to be developed.
- **CHEPANA STREET:** Traffic calming.
- **ILLAROO/BUNDELLA:** Beach access & Traffic Plan – now depends on Coastal Study options.
- **PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Seems committed for inclusion in Area 14.

A sub-committee is now reviewing the Master Plan to prepare for publication of an update and will be in contact with residents to review past activities and the need for new initiatives for inclusion. Completion of the update will focus attention LCPA, Council, NPWS and the Community on issues requiring attention.

Should residents desire to obtain a copy of the 2000 Plan it is available at a small cost from the National Library of Aust. website or visit the Port Macquarie Library to view the document.

Port Panthers funding for Plan update.

The Association acknowledges the generosity of Port Panthers in providing necessary funds to cover costs of printing questionnaires and other documents for preparation of the Plan update.

Government funding for Medical Centre

Our Medical Centre has been successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Grant of \$550,000.00 for implementation of stage 2 of the Centre's development. The additional rooms will allow for new equipment and ancillary medical services. The Association provided a letter supporting the application for funding.

Additional doctors and nurses are now on duty at the Centre. New patients are restricted to residents of Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills postcodes.

More news over page

Progress Association Estuary Policy

The Association's Annual General Meeting on February 22 adopted the following Policy for the entire Estuary:

The Lake Cathie Progress Association requires a Comprehensive Management Plan for the entire estuary to be developed as a matter of urgency. This Plan should include:

- **The prompt resolution of the proposal for Lake Innes to be reverted to fresh water.**
- **Remedial action for Lake Cathie, Cathie Creek and the Foreshore area east of the Ocean Drive Bridge to be undertaken including:**
 - **Widening of the Kenwood Causeway.**
 - **Dredging of the area upstream of the Ocean Drive Bridge to increase water depth.**
 - **A new dredging strategy for the area east of the Ocean Drive Bridge be developed to allow use as a safe public amenity and a satisfactory Marine Habitat.**
- **Lake Cathie Progress Association Inc. opposes declaration of the estuary as an Aquatic Reserve or any other classification which leads to it being declared a "NO TAKE ZONE"**

The Association is currently working with Council developing the scenarios for Hydrodynamic Modeling of the estuary which will provide necessary data, in conjunction with previous studies & plans, to achieve many of the Policy's aims.

Executive Committee 2009/10

The following members were elected at the 2009 AGM.

President:	Rob Tate
Vic e- President	Jason Warneken
Secretary	Jack Jones
Treasurer	Elaine Jones
Committee	Shirley Drewett
	Val Evans
	John Hunt
Committee/Membership	Bob Jolly
Committee	Kevin Tye

Additional Sporting fields

The Association continues to support the drive by the Lake Cathie Sports Council (LCSC) for additional playing fields.

LCPA & LCSC representatives inspected the Area 14 site on April 15 at the invitation of St Vincent's Foundation.

The best indication is the four new fields in Area 14 will be ready in 2014. This depends on approvals from NSW Planning and other uncertainties such as the current financial turmoil.

The result is we must continue to endure the current shortage of playing fields for another five years.

Even then no provision has been made for Women's Softball, Netball, or additional Tennis Courts.

LCPA & LCSC believe that the total of five local fields, after Area 14 is fully developed, will still fall short of requirements and remain an ongoing problem. A solution is still needed to ensure we don't have a permanent shortage of sporting facilities for the youth of Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills.

Speed limit at Ocean Drive School bus stop

At Council's request the Association submitted a proposal in December 2008 regarding speed limits along the entire length of Ocean Drive.

The proposal again included reduction for speed limit at the Abel Tasman school bus stop to 50 km/h.

The request from Council followed an on site inspection with local member, Peter Besseling, Council GM, Andrew Roach, RTA Regional Manager, David Bell and Association Secretary, Jack Jones.

The proposal also included allowing a right turn into the Medical Centre for traffic travelling from the north.

At the time of preparing this edition the matter is before the RTA and Council.

Unsafe stormwater outlet rebuilt

Following approaches to Council regarding the serious erosion and public safety issues related to the stormwater outlet near the toilet block in Jonathon Dickson Reserve Council completely rebuilt the outlet in March this year.

Council will revegetate the affected dunal area which will then be maintained by our Landcare Group.

There are a number of other outlets causing erosion however we believe these will be addressed in the options included in the Coastal Study & Plan.

Thanks to our Council for acting positively.

NEW FEATURE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

From the Association's Archives

Archives dating back to the early 1950's reveal some of LCPA's successes and frustrations. The extract below will whet your appetite. Another one next Newsletter.

Date: 5 January 1981
From: Council of the Municipality of Hastings
To: Lake Cathie Progress Association
Subject: Kenwood Drive Bridge

"There is sufficient opening under the bridge to allow the free flow of water into and out of the lake"

That decision by the 1981 Council completely ignored the fact that in 1978 the entire bridge section was washed away by a flood event making it unusable for weeks. From available data it is not considered an extreme event.

Additionally subsequent Studies by Colin Creighton, GHD, Webb McKeown, Umwelt & NSW Works Dept between 1983 and 2003 unanimously agreed the opening should be increased by at least three (3) times its present configuration.