

LAKE CATHIE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Lake Innes Project scope disappoints Lake Cathie residents with Estuary issues excluded

Having read the brochure mailed out with their Rates Notice Lake Cathie residents are extremely disappointed to find the Lake Innes Management Investigation Project excludes all reference to their Estuary system.

No previous Lake Innes Study

The Progress Association is not aware of any previous detailed study on Lake Innes while it is open to the sea. This data is essential to understand the environmental, social and economic impacts of the possible reversion to freshwater and will be collated by the Contractor.

From information included in the Project brochure the recommendation on whether or not to revert Innes to freshwater **will be based on the Lake Innes data only.**

However community members expected the Investigation would also update data from the previous Estuary studies and come to recommendations **based on the combined Innes and Estuary data.**

Studies recommend Lake Innes & Cathie Estuary return to their natural configuration

Prior to 1933, when Lake Innes was opened to the sea against all expert advice, the system operated successfully and all studies since 1983 recommend this status should be restored as additional water flows would improve flushing of the system plus other benefits to the Estuary & coast.

The heavy siltation of the tidal channels and growth in the size of sand islands are now so bad that a three day survey of residents in February 2012 reported 370 in favour of dredging west of Ocean Drive Bridge with 1 against.

Such is the community feeling on this issue that residents, frustrated by the lack of action, believe any further studies will just be a waste of time and money.

The Investigation is funded by almost \$1 million from the Commonwealth Government and is led by the Northern Rivers Catchment Authority.

Lively debate expected at LCPA General Meeting

This issue ranks highly on the Agenda for the Progress Association's public meeting on Sunday August 12.

Full details of this meeting are in the adjacent column and members of the public are welcome.

Progress Association General Meeting Sun. August 12

The LC Progress Association has called a General Meeting for 10.00am Sunday August 12 at the Community Hall.

Agenda items of importance include:

- Mayoral Candidates to address the meeting
- Coastal Plan of Management
- Lake Innes Investigation re reversion to fresh water
- Dredging west of Ocean Dr. Bridge
- Mobile Phone Tower – status
- Traffic Committee report
- Additional Sports Fields

Candidates for Mayor of our Council will be offered the chance to address the meeting and there will be limited time for residents' questions. All residents are welcome to attend.

Additional Sports Fields planned for 2015 in Area 14 development

Representatives of the LC Sports Council and Progress Association met with Council Administrator, Neil Porter, and senior Council staff on June 21 hoping for updated information on the much needed additional fields.

The good news is that Council has undertaken to construct new fields in Area 14 ready for use in 2015.

Work is included in the Council's 3 year Operational Plan and is fully funded. We were told the only risk could come from new Councillors modifying the Plan.

The Sports Council welcomes Council's decision to resolve this long outstanding matter.

Lake Cathie Health Complex

1459 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie NSW
65 84 88 99

Lake Cathie Medical Centre
Lake Cathie Dentistry
Lake Cathie Sports & Spinal Physiotherapy
Lavery Pathology
Dietician
Psychologist
Hearing Care

Power poles moved to allow Ocean Drive cycle lanes

In April's Cathie News we ran the story on our efforts to have Council construct the missing section of cycle lanes on Ocean Drive north of the village.

Council advised that a number of power poles needed relocation to allow space for the cycle lanes.

On July 6 Council advised Essential Energy had completed relocation of the poles and Council is now in a position to finalise design and cost estimates and investigate funding options.

We'll keep you posted.

Huge increases in home insurance

We have received reports from a number of home owners that renewal notices from insurers had been substantially increased to cover issues such as "FLOOD COVER".

One resident reported a premium increase of almost 160% with his premium increasing from about \$750.00 to almost \$2000.00.

The Association checked with Council for any amendments to the Flood Plan for the area and was advised no changes had been made.

We then discussed the matter with some of Port Macquarie's leading insurers and were told this action by some insurers was occurring on a regular basis. They believed the insurers were reacting to the massive claims resulting from floods in Queensland and other States and possibly the Victorian Fire disasters.

Get a new quotation

Our insurance contact suggests anyone with a similar problem call insurance brokers **Vero Insurance on 1800 677 266** and ask for a quotation.

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Pavy's Glass Pty Ltd Free quotes – All areas 6581 5555

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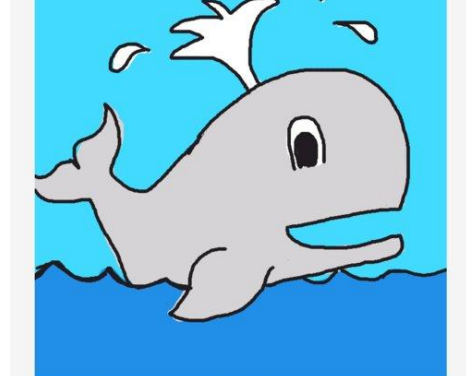
SHOWROOM

Unit 6, 25 Central Rd Port Macquarie

Website: www.pavysglass.com.au

Email: pavysglassptyltd@bigpond.com

Sea level Rises?



It's all his fault

On returning from a day's outside fishing a well known Lake Cathie fisherman (who also works as painting contractor) told his mates there had been a massive increase in the number of whales out there.

He then declared the dreaded Sea Level Rises were being caused by the additional thousands of these sea monsters in the waters along our coast.

Who needs Climate Scientists when we have people with this level of outstanding expertise in Lake Cathie?

PC Pitstop is moving

Ben Waters, MD of PC Pitstop, reacting to current economic conditions, has made a sensible business decision in consolidating the business's operation to its Port Macquarie premises.

The Port location is Shop 13/4 Bay Street (opposite Settlement City 2 doors from the Cheesecake Shop) and only 15 minutes from Lake Cathie.

Ben has operated the Cathie store for more than 12 years and grew up in the area. He said "Our highly qualified technicians will continue to make home or business calls to the village"

The Port Macquarie phone number is 6584 1551.

The Lake Cathie store will close mid August this year.

We wish Ben and Samantha best wishes for their future

Sign in Fitness Studio window

"Birthday suit alterations done here"

Voting methods for new Councillors need explanation

There will be two voting papers for the September election. One will be for the position of Mayor and the second for nine Councillors.

The voting paper for Councillors will be the ABOVE THE LINE and BELOW THE LINE format.

This type of voting paper requires detailed explanation of how to complete the form to meet your voting preferences.

We believe the detail on how to complete this form will be widely covered by Council and the local Press prior to Election Day. We strongly recommend residents study and understand how to complete this form before going to the polling booth.

Above the Line Group voting not favoured by Progress Association

The Association has concerns that if a group of Candidates succeeds in having all its members elected this could lead to control of voting on Council matters and not take the broader views of all residents into consideration.

In fact the Association does not support political parties or other groups operating in Local Government management for the same reason.

The Association will recommend to its members to vote BELOW THE LINE for individual Candidates of their choice.

Visit our website

You can access all the Progress Association's previous newsletters, information on the estuary and many other local issues. Website address is:

www.lakecathiepa.com



Ratepayer poll on Glasshouse supported by residents

The article in the June edition of Cathie News for a poll brought many positive responses from the community. Almost all local residents believing the continued operation of the Glasshouse benefits those in Port CBD and causes financial hardship for other parts of the LGA.

Some candidates for the September election have stated the Glasshouse should continue to operate as is.

Since Ernst & Young's 2010 report on operation of the Glasshouse the Progress Association has stressed that \$6 million dollar losses may be OK for a couple of years but continuing to incur losses of this size is unsustainable for any business.

For instance the accumulated loss over fifteen years will total about \$90 million. This cannot be allowed to occur.

Ernst & Young's 2010 market appraisal

Ernst & Young reported the building had a market value of \$18 million but recommended against a sale as Council would need to write off \$27 million. In other words the asset is on Council's books at a value of \$45 million but is only worth \$18 million.

Accountants tell us the practise of showing an asset value above its market valuation would not be allowed in commercial businesses. However the accounting rules of Local Government allow such practices.

If the building sold for \$18 million and this amount paid off the Glasshouse loan it would substantially reduce loan repayments and interest charges as well as eliminate the year after year \$4 million (approx) operational losses.

The Association will be pressing the new Council to compile a ten (10) year financial statement based on the sale of the building. It is probable this statement will show that in a few years the loan would be paid out and with that all interest charges eliminated with no ongoing loss of revenue to Council.

Options for Ratepayer Poll on Glasshouse

A ratepayer poll should include the following for residents to determine future management of the business:

1. Continue to operate the Glasshouse as is – a ten (10) forward statement of profits/(loses) included.
2. The sale of the building and Council to cease operation – ten (10) year financials included
3. Other options for continuing operation of the Glasshouse – ten (10) year financials included.

While the poll would have a cost the amount would be minor compared with the millions of ongoing annual losses under the present operating structure.

Lake Cathie Erosion Management Plan

It is expected Council will move ahead with the Lake Cathie Coastal Zone Management Plan in the near future.

This follows Council's July meeting at which the proposal for a revetment along a section of Illaroo Drive and to undertake beach nourishment (pumping sand from the estuary lagoon) were adopted.

The Progress Association lodged a 17 page submission supporting the revetment and beach nourishment and an amazing 4500 public submissions also supported this option.

The design, planning and sources of funding for the work will now commence.

We understand that until the revetment is built the affected properties will continue to be subject to planning controls as noted on their 149 Certificates. However some relaxations were allowed for owners to conduct minor additions and alterations to their properties.

Homeowners in Chepana Street are negotiating with Council to have their 149 Certificates cleared of the conditions as a matter of urgency.

Coastal Legislation complexities

Cathie News has been running articles on the failings of this Legalisation since it was passed by the previous Government in 2011. It is hoped the amendments to the flawed Coastal Protection Bill are completed in a timely manner so as not to delay this phase of the planning for construction of the revetment.

Residents Action Network "Meet the Candidates" events

With the aim of letting all our voters decide on their choice of Councillors for the next four years RAN has advised dates for its "Meet the Candidates" meetings:

Wauchope	6.00pm	Wed.	15/08	Senior Citizens Hall
Port Macquarie	5.30pm	Thurs	23/08	Port City Bowling
Laurieton	6.00pm	Thurs	30/08	LUSC

All members of the public will be made welcome.

Parking option for Base Hospital

Visitors to Port Macquarie Base Hospital can now park at the nearby racecourse and travel to and from the hospital via a shuttle bus.

The shuttle service operates every fifteen minutes between 6.00am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. There is no charge for parking or the bus service.

Hastings Macleay Community Transport

Pick up from your door to:

Medical Appointments	Hospital
Exercise classes	Shopping
Social outings	
Hairdressers	
Bus trips	Library
Airport	Clubs
Veterans' medical appointments	

Phone 6583 8644

for more information

Fishos' funding for Marine Rescue and Fire Brigade

Funds raised by the Lake Cathie Amateur Fishing Club at their recent auction day have been used to support two of the areas vital service groups.

Camden Haven Sea Rescue & Lake Cathie Rural Fire Brigade each received a cheque for \$3100.00 from Rhonda Bateman the newly elected President of the Fishing Club and the first woman to attain that position.

Well done Fishos!

Raiders now Minor Premiers

Lake Cathie-Bonny Hills Rugby League Club "The Raiders" has claimed the 2012 Minor Premiership and will now play Lower Macleay in the Major Semi Final at Wauchope on Saturday August 18.

The Raiders scored 842 points for the season with 132 points scored against. Their only defeat was a shock loss to Long Flat, beaten 32 to 20.

The team has been under the guidance of Coach, Bo Wilson, and local physiotherapist Steve Ryan.



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