

Association
AGM
26th Feb.
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for detail

CATHIE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

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

Council refuses to dredge tidal channels west of Ocean Dr Bridge

On October 12 2009 the Association wrote to Council requesting a Bathymetry (Depth) Survey be included in the planned Hydrodynamic Modelling of the estuary channels. (Cathie News October 2009)

A copy of the letter was sent to Government Departments with an interest in the estuary west of the Ocean Dr. Bridge. There were no issues raised by these bodies. In fact the National Parks and Wildlife Service said the survey data could inform future decisions about dredging etc.

Council replied that the Bathymetry (Depth) data from such a study would be used in the modelling for future works. Inclusion depended on available funding.

This depth survey request followed many complaints from fishers and boating enthusiasts about navigation problems due to the shallowing of tidal channels.

Unfortunately Council did not include the Depth Survey in the Hydrodynamic Modelling.

**In 2012 Council says it will not act because:
THERE IS NO DATA**

In response to a recent Association media release Council is reported as stating:

- Best practice information showed dredging west of Ocean Drive Bridge was not warranted.
- There is no data to support the decreased depth of the tidal channels
- An Act of Parliament would be needed to dredge Lake Cathie west of Ocean Drive.

SOLUTION: Get the depth data & obtain Government approvals for dredging and other necessary works by an Act of Parliament if necessary.



There may be a lack of data on channel depths but locals John Hunt and John Robbins are only knee deep in a channel which was over 3.0 metres deep.

Coalition Government pledge to Dredge west of the Bridge

In a media interview at Lake Cathie in February 2011 the Leader of the Nationals and now Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner committed \$1.5million in funding to support urgent dredging projects across NSW. (Cathie News March 2011). For Lake Cathie this included:

“At Lake Cathie dredging of the area upstream of the Ocean Drive Bridge and the foreshore area should be undertaken in the short term”.

The Association has supplied Leslie Williams MP with the letter to Council requesting the channel depth survey together with past survey data.

Council adopts a recommendation for no dredging west of the Bridge

On July 27 2011 Council adopted a recommendation that no dredging be undertaken west of Ocean Drive Bridge.

The Association rejects this decision and we believe once the data on the reduction of channel depths is made public Council will have no option other than to rescind its decision.

Have your say by completing our Community Survey on dredging

Submission forms and deposit box are at the Lake Cathie BLOCKBUSTER store

Survey forms are also available on our Website:
www.lakecathiepa.com

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Email: pavysglassptyltd@bigpond.com



Storm Water Outlets - Repairs

The rebuilding of the storm water outlets has been a priority project for the Association for many years.

Reconstruction of the outlets was set as a high priority in the Lake Cathie (southern) Foreshore Management Plan adopted by Council in 2004. Council did not act on the recommendation.

The Erosion being caused by the outlets was a serious concern for LCPA and residents affected by erosion.

Late in 2011 Council received a grant from the NSW Government for \$75,000.00 to be matched by Council.

As a result of this funding the outlet at the corner of Illaroo and Kywong is expected to be repaired by July this year.

Another outlet at 68 Chepana will also be repaired. Council is arranging access to the area with property owners to undertake the works.

Council believes the remaining outlets are in reasonable condition and has no immediate plans for other outlet works. The Association will inspect the remaining outlets in the near future.

Tidy Towns Group

Our Tidy Towns group has been formed but does not have enough members to operate effectively.

Chair of the Group, Pam Tye AM, will address the Progress Association's Annual Meeting on February 26. Pam will discuss the aims of the new Group and call for more residents to join and help make Lake Cathie an even better place to live and visit.



School Bus Crossing at Raine & Horne a long time coming

Parents of the 50 to 60 school children who use this busy stop daily have been pressing for more than six years to have a formal Pedestrian Crossing installed at this location.

The crossing has been approved by Council and parents tell us that as there is already a concrete refuge in the centre of the road and all that is required is to paint the crossing lines on each side of the road and install two signs.

A letter from Leslie Williams MP enclosed correspondence from the Minister for Roads and Ports advising Council had approached the NSW Government for funding to install the crossing. The Government advised all funding for 2011/12 has been allocated and funding would be considered in future programs.

The parents wonder why Council had to apply for Government funding for such a seemingly small job.

Dangerous curve on Tallong Drive

LCPA wrote to Council on January 25 regarding dangerous pedestrian issues at the curve in Tallong Drive just south of Melaleuca Ave.

About 7.00PM on Feb. 5 when a vehicle hit a tree on the western side of the road after losing control has brought the issue to the fore. Fortunately no pedestrians were close by at the time.

The Lake Cathie Village Master Plan 2010 states "Tallong Drive represents a highly dangerous road for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists" and the curve in the road which is currently badly potholed poses a very risky walkway for pedestrians particularly those pushing prams and walking dogs.

We have requested Council to address the current road condition and give consideration to adding a pedestrian pathway.



Council supports extending current sporting fields.

In December 2011 we received a letter from Council Administrator, Neil Porter, advising that "Council is happy to support the Lake Cathie Progress Association's endeavours to gain additional land for sporting fields at the existing Lake Cathie sporting complex from the National Parks & Wildlife Service".

Council's support does not include any financial assistance for the expansion of the fields.

The Association has passed the letter of support on to the Lake Cathie Sports Council which has in turn provided a copy to Port Macquarie MP, Leslie Williams.

As we understand the current position it is now over to our local Member and the responsible NSW Government Minister to take action on the matter.

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 | |

Lake Innes – 102 years ago they were told not to open Lake Innes to the sea

In November 1907 the State Works Department sent a surveyor to the area “SO THAT A SCHEME MAY BE DEvised FOR THE DRAINAGE OF LAKE INNES AND SWAMP”.

The surveyor’s report became available to the Government in 1909: Its recommendation was that the scheme couldn’t proceed.

In 1926 an official report on the matter indicated the drainage of the lake system was not feasible and in no circumstances could the Crown undertake any drainage scheme.

That was the start of the bally-hoo which achieved nothing other than the destruction of the natural environment of Lake Innes when a drain was cut from the lake into Cathie Creek.

In February 1933 it was decided to use a Government grant for drainage purposes to provide a “trial drain” out of Lake Innes.

In 1935 the news was that “The drain has proved a success so far as lowering the level of lake water is concerned ... this has enabled salt water to reach Lake Innes where its effect has been most noticeable. Innumerable freshwater catfish died in thousands, the reeds and water lilies which grew flourishingly had been completely killed... we understand the intention was to put floodgates in to keep the salt water back. Unless this is done the salt water will have a very damaging effect on the lowlands.

(Source: Port Macquarie News Centenary Issue July 7 1982)

8000 to 10000 Hardhead Ducks on Lake Innes in 1929

In 1929 Albert Dick reported eight to ten thousand ducks on the freshwater lake. It also supported breeding Pacific Black Ducks, Black Swans, Chestnut Teal, Australian Shovelers, Black-necked Storks and other freshwater birds.

All left when salt water flowed into the lake.

Little did they know their actions would wreck the entire Estuary System

The silted-up mess we have today can be in great part attributed the actions of 1933. All studies done since the early 1980’s have recommended closing the Lake and returning it to a fresh water body.

The Federal Government has allocated close to \$1 million for a study to return Lake Innes to its natural freshwater condition. Hopefully the Study will begin soon.

Progress Association Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Sunday February 26 at 10.00AM at the Lake Cathie Community Hall.

Agenda items will include:

- Dredging channels west of Ocean Drive
- New Mobile Phone Tower
- Reversion of Lake Innes to Fresh Water
- Additional sports fields
- Tidy Towns Group
- Traffic/Pedestrian issues Abel Tasman & Tallong
- Formation of a Traffic Committee
- Proposed Council Rate Rises
- President’s Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Election of Office Bearers for 2012

Major items of interest will be the need for dredging west of the Bridge and the status of construction of the Optus Mobile Phone Tower.

A formal notice will be sent to our members and information on the meeting will be sent to local papers.

The meeting is open to all residents and visitors

Warning: Don’t climb ladders if you are getting on in years

ABC Radio recently issued a warning to those in their older years not to climb ladders.

A lady obviously in this age category called in from regional NSW asking:

“How am I going to make calls on my mobile phone if I can’t climb to the top of my ladder?”

We’d bet the caller lives in Lake Cathie!

(LCPA does not recommend people of any age use ladders to overcome mobile phone reception problems)

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

Optus Mobile Phone Tower

Council approved the Development Application for installation of the Tower at the rear of the Discount Shop in the Lake Cathie shopping complex in December.

Optus is ready to move on with installation but have been delayed due to a change in owners of the Woolworths site.

They are currently negotiating a lease with the new owners and hope to have this signed in the near future.

We hope to be in a position to make an announcement about timing for the long awaited improvement in Mobile Phone and Wireless Internet signals at our AGM on February 26. (Detail of AGM on page 3)

Carols by the Lake draws record crowd

Congratulations to the newly formed Lake Cathie-Bonny Hills Lions Club for their first time management of the annual Carols by the Lake.

The event attracted a record crowd with a sunny afternoon and a light sea breeze blowing. To add to the picture the entrance was open to the sea, an attraction that guarantees visitors from all over the Hastings.

The Lions Club is looking at adding more attractions for the 2012 Carols.



Lic. No. 42579C

Bay 21, Bayside Cct. Laurieton NSW 2443

Phone: 6559-7446

Association rejects Rate Increase Options

Following an overwhelming vote at our 2011 Annual General Meeting that all the proposed Rate Increase Options be opposed we have lodged a submission formally opposing the increases.

Reasons for reaching this position include:

- A very large number of people in the LGA cannot afford these increases. These include many on low pension incomes, those currently unemployed (or only partially employed) and others with dependents such as children or invalid family members.
- We have also received input from a number of Business Owners whose turnover is down due to the current economic situation.
- Another Business Owner with several properties will have additional annual expense of \$50,000.00 in rates and says it will damage his financial position.
- In addition to the proposed rate increase residents have to deal with other increases in State and Federal Government charges. These include electricity, potential petrol price rises, future widespread impacts of the Carbon Tax and others.
- The feeling of the community is that Council should reduce its current expenses rather than look to the Ratepayers for additional funding.

We understand Council is currently reviewing submissions for their approach to IPART for the increases.

Join your Progress Association

Cost is only \$10.00 per family per year. Application forms can be found on our Website:

www.lakecathiepa.com

or by calling or emailing the Secretary on the number at the top of this newsletter.

