

President's Report

on behalf of the

Bonny Hills Progress Association (BHPA) Committee

Annual General Meeting, 20 March 2018

Brief introduction to BHPA and its purpose

BHPA committee is a group of volunteers elected annually. The nub of our charter is to champion and protect the agreed community Vision for Bonny Hills.

So what did we do in 2017/18?

Summarising under each of our community's four Vision themes:

1. Maintaining village character and quality of lifestyle

Master Plans for Bonny Hills (BH) Reserves.

A new amenity block was constructed at Rainbow Beach Reserve and the aged facility was removed. This was funded by Council, Disability, Laurieton Rotary and a Kendall Op Shop grant. Council added three new seats, gardens and turf around the new amenity and turfed the site of the old block. Volunteers followed up with watering.

Another big win was obtaining a \$33, 000 Grant from Community Building Partnerships Program to construct a half netball court at the Hall Reserve. This will be a great boon for girls and young women in Bonny Hills.

BHPA has been working with Council staff to address safety and floral damage concerns raised by residents regarding para- and hang- gliding activities at Bartlett's Reserve. Annual licences have been granted to the MNC Fliers and two commercial operators. Continual monitoring of compliance is now in place but this does rely heavily on reports from fliers and the community.

Community Vision for Bonny Hills.

The BH Community's Vision had not been 'revisited' for close to 10 years, so when Council approached BHPA about convening community meetings to ask residents about their concerns and aspirations, we jumped at the opportunity.

A clear result from two meetings was that little has changed regarding the broad Community Vision and its main themes (numbered 1 to 4 in this report). What has changed is the Community's level of angst regarding rampant development (examples of which, both within and adjacent to BH, have caused considerable concern) stemming from an apparent inability to ensure that this is sympathetic with the natural environment; and to respond to flow-on impacts on infrastructure and services. There was also a number of specific areas that residents wanted addressed.

BHPA has been working with Council since the two community meetings to collate the views expressed by residents and bring this back to the community as a draft “MasterPlan” for Bonny Hills. Our view is that this should be the basis of a prioritised, medium-term investment plan for our village.

2. Conservation of the natural environment and wildlife

BHPA has been involved in promoting protection of local fauna and flora from overdevelopment; protecting the corridors between the coastal littoral rainforest and the ‘hinterland’ on the W side of Ocean Drive.

PMH Council mapping and biodiversity strategy: Council’s Draft Biodiversity Strategy has been out on public exhibition, to which BHPA and many residents responded. The next steps will be evaluation and response to public submissions, and then to submit the final version to Councillors for ratification. This Strategy is the key to identifying and limiting future damage from development to higher value biodiversity in our LGA.

3. Water quality in our creeks and Rainbow Beach

Blue-Green algae

The outlets to Duchess and Saltwater Creek at Rainbow Beach are routinely monitored by Council for cyanobacteria [Blue-Green algae] both in the water and sand¹. BHPA is kept abreast of sampling results, and there are permanent signs at the boat ramp and main beach access points displaying a contact number for concerns or queries.

In the past 12 months there have been no major incidents of algal ‘blooms’.

Duchess and Saltwater Creek water quality

Raised levels of contamination and odour generally coincide with periods of high rainfall. Council considers that poor water quality is the result of surface run-off and in the case of Saltwater Creek in particular, flushing of stagnant water holes after long dry periods. But they are ready to investigate further when incidents are reported

4. Ensuring safe roads for people and wildlife

Our Community has stated a strong position regarding the need for more footpaths in Bonny’s and it is expected that priorities will emerge in the BH “Masterplan”. We trust that the project contained in Council’s 2017-18 Operational Plan: *4.4.1.32 Commence corridor planning - Kendall Road - Ocean Drive- Hastings River Drive regional road corridor (MR538 / MR600)* will identify priorities for improvements on Ocean Drive.²

¹ Guided by the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Waters, 2008 these sites will continue to be monitored with actions being taken as per the guidelines (signage implementation, notification of health authorities as required).

² We have been advised by John Hanlon that this high-level project will investigate the future form of the entire Ocean Drive corridor including through Bonny Hills. It will look at the road cross-section from property boundary to property boundary considering elements such as travel lanes, parking lanes, footpaths, shared paths, utilities, drainage etc. This project will allow a proposed shared path to be considered in the broader context of Ocean Drive through the entire length of Bonny Hills.

Community events

- BHPA approached Council to run a movie night for families on Rainbow Beach Reserve in the newly created space. 'Moana' proved to be a great success on Friday night at the start of the September school holidays.
- Planning for the Back to Bonny's event on the weekend of 28, 29 September 2018 is well underway. The event is a partnership between BHPA, W-BHSLSC and PMH Council.

The purpose is to encourage businesses, community groups, residents and visitors to cooperate, share and celebrate their special history and place in the Bonny Hills community. A number of projects are being worked on in the lead-up to the event, including production of an historical photographic booklet and displays.

Consultation and communication

- Discussions with Council
Meetings have been held locally and at Council chambers, and email communication has been maintained in relation to the issues outlined above. As indicated already two community meetings were convened in BH by Council with our assistance. Additionally, a number of our members are on Council's Community Reference Group.

Along with the BH Hall Committee, BHPA declined to enter into a lease agreement with Council as a basis for managing the Hall as the terms were quite onerous. There has been no subsequent response from Council.

- Submissions made by BHPA during the year:
 - PMHC Draft Operational Plan
 - Rezoning of Lot 2 Beach St
 - Lot 2 Beach Street Development Application
 - PMHC Draft Urban Growth Management Strategy
 - PMHC Draft Biodiversity Strategy

These are available on the BHPA website at – www.bonnyhills.org.au/bhpa_actions.html

- BHPA Facebook pages and website
 - Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonnyHillsProgressAssociation> has generated a lot of interest this year. Being interactive it connects with a broader cross section of the community and now has 310 followers.
 - Recently developed Facebook pages have a specific role in gathering historical material for, and publicising the Back to Bonny's event, viz

Back to Bonny Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/backtobonnyhills/>

Back to Bonny Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/411606442611713/>

- The BHPA website www.bonnyhills.org.au serves as a publicly available resource regarding BHPA modus operandi and activities.
- Bonny Hills Newsletter articles and press releases
Our Publicity Officer has been keeping the community abreast of our activities via the BH Newsletter. Thanks go to Kylie Moss from Ocean Drive Realty for her efforts in supporting the BHPA and other community groups with this newsletter. Articles are placed in the Camden Haven Courier as events dictate.

Fund raising

The biggest cost of running BHPA is maintaining public liability insurance which among other things is necessary for accessing grant funding. Annual membership fees do not cover this cost, so a number of volunteers helped to raise additional funds with the annual Iron Man event, which was greatly appreciated.

Report Card

Were BHPA's efforts in 2017/18 a useful contribution to Bonny Hills? We feel that we had quite a successful year.

And special thanks to:

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- my outgoing committee – Bill, Carmel, Helen, Ian, Julie, Kathy, Kylie, Nigel, Pam, Phil, Surya and also to Jon Slater our auditor.
 - the support of BHPA members
 - PMHC staff for all their efforts on our behalf over the last 12 months
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And also to our donors and volunteers.

Challenges for the incoming committee

These will include:

- Progress the existing projects:
 - ½ netball court
 - Back to Bonny's in September and lead-up projects
 - Developing a "Masterplan" for Bonny's, with a commitment for commensurate funding.
- Continue to work on improved engagement and communication
- Fund raising - BHPA budget is generally under pressure
- Membership – keep working on it; we need at least 10% of our community engaged

Roger Barlow

President

On behalf of the 2017/18 BHPA Committee.