



Residents Group

Bay news

“WORKING FOR A POSITIVE LIFESTYLE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND HARDYS BAY”

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THE GREAT OYSTER LEASE CLEANUP

It began earlier this year with a grant of \$15,000 to the Hardys Bay Residents Group from the NSW Environment Trust which was designed to materially assist with the restoration of the bay's foreshore and the removal of derelict oyster leases. The financial boost enabled the group to purchase an aluminium barge and subsequently establish working parties to remove the rows of roofing tiles, concrete slabs and other waste materials in the surrendered areas which had become a blight on the picturesque Brisbane Water haven.

As a glittering occasion, the official launching of the barge on the Hardys Bay Parade foreshore in June probably failed to match the pomp and splendour of such a ceremony at the fabled shipyards in the golden era of the transatlantic liner, but the enthusiasm displayed by the onlookers made up for any shortfall in this respect.

And John Della Bosca, the Minister for the Central Coast, who cast aside the affairs of office for the afternoon barbecue, entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the moment in joining with the assembled local residents to toast “Rocky”, the barge, which was resplendant in glittering silver, and wish it well in its oyster-lease cleansing missions.

“It's great to see the community working together on a project to improve the local environment”, Mr. Della Bosca said.

“This project will significantly improve the foreshore and I know the residents are very eager to get started on the clean-up.

“This will help protect seagrass beds and provide habitat for small marine life”.

“I want to congratulate the Hardys Bay Residents Group who have worked very hard to secure the grant and purchase the barge”.

The tasks embrace the removal of all material by hand at low tide into the barge and floated ashore at high tide.

This would then be used as backfill for Stage Two roadworks along Hardys Bay Parade.

HBRG president, Adrian Williams, said much of the credit for the “successful outcome” has been attributed to Residents Group members, Terry and Kay Feltham, who initiated the Stage One activity and constantly pursued the early negotiations in obtaining the official removal permits for the early cleanup.

Now well underway, the area is already showing the benefit of the working parties' efforts.

“It originally took a few weeks to get suitable tides”, Terry Feltham explained.

“It helps when we have very low tides to load, and medium to high tides to float it back to the shore.

“This was unfortunately disrupted with the June storms and we had over three

WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST ISSUE

In this quarterly issue of Bay News, among other features, we report in particular on the great work carried out by the various voluntary services during the violent storms we have recently experienced, the major oyster lease clean-up operations currently underway, and the ongoing concerns over sedimentation in the bay. On behalf of the community, we would like to offer special thanks to our dedicated Killcare Rural Fire Brigade for playing such a vital safeguarding role during and after the dramatic events of June.

Work on the oyster leases is well underway and we are grateful to those who are offering their enthusiastic assistance. We can always use more helpers and further details are listed in the newsletter.

The Sedimentation sub-committee represents us on various council committees and is making gradual, but satisfying, progress in addressing this issue.

We extend a warm welcome to our many new members and remind everybody that it is time for annual membership renewals. We continue to work on a broad range of matters, of long and short-term consequence, which are relevant to our community's welfare, and always look forward to receiving your comments.

We commend our website as an ideal communication source for all local matters.

Adrian Williams,
President

Hardys Bay Residents Group

August 2007

weeks with the tide being held back by stormwater run-off and wind. The tide didn't go out at all and neither did we.

"Over the past few weeks it's back on track again with great support from local residents. We have been extremely grateful to everyone who has helped out. Loading the barge is when we really need the numbers. If we can get six to eight people, it only takes 1.5 hours to do a load.

"We seem to get better support over the weekends so we are trying to work the roster's weekly load on mostly Saturdays or Sundays. There is time during the week to unload it and then it starts all over again the following weekend!"

According to Kay and Terry, the working parties, to date, have moved a significant 60 tons of derelict tiles and abandoned oyster rocks.

"In fact," Terry observed, "it's actually 120 tons - you have to double-handle it when loading and unloading!"

"So, if you see all the blue aprons, red gloves and green gumboots being paraded near the foreshore, you'll know what it's about. If you have a couple of hours to spare, why not come and give us a hand? The roster is on the website www.hardysbay.com"

OUR FIRE BRIGADE



"The Two Steves - Farrell and Biddulph"

The vital role played by the Killcare Rural Fire Brigade in safeguarding our community's welfare was emphatically underlined during the dramatic period of June 8th, 9th and 10th when violent storms raged at their fiercest throughout the region. In its recruitment brochure, the NSW Rural Fire Service, one of the world's largest volunteer emergency services, lists bushfires, structural and house fires, motor vehicle incidents, assistance in natural disasters, community education and fire prevention as its various responsibilities.

Throughout the frenetic 'holiday weekend' term, described by one media observer as "unrelenting mayhem", the Killcare brigade service, with limited resources at its disposal, was called on to address all the state body's gazetted issues in earning justifiable praise and gratitude from the community.

In collaboration with the SES, the lead agency, the Killcare service contributed notably as the events unfolded. Significantly, Killcare's records for the past 12 months confirm that a total of 1117 hours were spent on fire calls, with 550 of those hours taken up with the June weekend's commitment.

A further 2250 hours were involved attending to time-out incidents, in addition to programmed training sessions, meetings, hazard reduction operations, equipment and maintenance duties.

In e-mailed messages to Killcare RFB captain, Steve Farrell, a number of brigade members shared some interesting reflections on the June storms.

Writing to Steve, Bryce Cameron noted: "The damage that Killcare and the neighbouring areas suffered on the Friday was reminiscent of the 1974 storms ... beach gone, power out for numerous days and trees into houses. The '74 storm was over a number of days and seemed to have less impact on a far smaller population.

"In this recent case, the one thing I really noticed was that the areas where damage occurred were not directly facing the wind. The southern side of the bay was the area that received most damage, as far as I could see. Substantial trees were lost and these had obviously survived similar storms.

"The community spirit was obvious and our area should be congratulated on this. People should be reminded that this sort of storm has happened before and it will more than likely happen again in the future."

Another, Chris Radford, who joined the Killcare brigade service as a 16-year-old, wrote: "I would mention the fact that while it was bad, it could have been a lot worse - many trees narrowly missing houses on numerous occasions, wonderful support from local businesses and residents as far as food, warm drinks and soup were concerned and internal support from people like Greg Tedd who purchased and delivered hot pies and coffee when the canteen didn't arrive."

And this, from Steven Dunlop: "Things that stood out were the kindness of the Killcare Store, the Waggy shop (The Wagstaffe General Store), the South Kincumber Pie Shop, Annie Urie and her husband, Nick, for kindly supplying the soup, and I'm sure there are many others. Our brigade was working on its own, it planned and implemented its own tactics without assistance from any other agencies for at least 24 hours. And many brigade members were without power, etc, themselves for some six days, then backed up again, after five days, for the following weekend. What a way to spend a long weekend!"

In endorsing the various comments, Steve Biddulph, the KRFB senior deputy captain, expressed his brigade's gratitude for the ongoing support provided by community businesses such as the Killcare Cellars - where, for over a long period, the "furies" have been permitted to set up their monthly fund-raising cake stall outside the store - the Wagstaffe Store, Raine and Horne, Araluen Coastal Properties, NW6 Restaurant and a number of other generous local benefactors.

Recently, the Wagstaffe Store introduced a book-exchange system with proceeds donated to the Killcare brigade.

Steve is delighted with a pleasing membership-increasing trend at the Stanley Street headquarters.

"Throughout the last twelve months, a dozen new members have enlisted with us," he said.

"Our goal is a regular membership tally of 25 with others on standby. It's very satisfying, too, to have the younger people showing such interest."

Killcare's longest-serving active member is Warwick Teasdale who joined the service in 1976.

The contentious Fraser Road/Mudflat Creek issue moved into a new phase in late June when the Gosford City Council Floodplain Risk Management Committee convened to consider recommendations for channel works designed to assist in reducing the severity of flood occurrences. According to the Hardys Bay Residents Group's Graeme Smith, a highly-respected authority on estuary sedimentation matters, and the local area representative for the Brisbane Water Flood Study and Plan, the main item of significance to Hardys Bay residents was the issue of advancements in the plan.



Graeme Smith

In the submission, the consultants for the plan, Webb, McKeown and Associates, advocated the following :

- Replace Bridges : Replace private footbridges across the creek with specially designed causeways.
- Stabilise Banks : Continue existing creek hard rock bank and bed lining down to the Noble Road bridge.
- Re-vegetate with "Suitable"Vegetation : Use native plants and trees to complement bank stabilisation.
- Enhance Environmental Quality (pool and riffles) : Try to create a creek bed as natural as possible.
- Some Excavation Will Assist in Small Floods : Deepen and widen existing floodway down to Noble Road bridge.
- Lower Bed So Culverts Not Blocked : Extent of deepening should allow for flow from culverts into the creek and not the other way around as is now the case.
- Replace Noble Road Bridge : The existing bridge is well past its use-by period.
- Create a Sediment Trap/Filter : Create a zone within the re-designed creek for a sediment trap.

Graeme Smith proposed additional works that were supported by FRMC community representative, Richard Harper. These additional recommendations focused on designing the creek sediment trap zone so that it is easily accessible for cleanout purposes, and making the trap tidal which will necessitate the creation of a deep entrance into the bay.

Also proposed were the designing of a new, wider and higher bridge in place of the old Noble Road bridge to enhance the creek's flood-handling capacity, and the installation of sediment traps at the inlet to the existing twin stormwater pipes feeding into the creek and along all new and existing drainage systems.

" I realise that these additional recommendations will be costly but I firmly believe that they are necessary, not only to reduce flood risk but also to minimise sediment flow into the estuary. Making the creek tidal will regularly flush the creek and help reduce the mosquito numbers ", Graeme explained.

" If no work is done, the flood situation in this zone will get worse, irreparable damage to the bay's marine environment will continue and mosquito numbers will increase.

" We now go to the next stage in which the council and consultants consider our additional input".

BRIEFS

HAPPY 75TH ... The Killcare Surf Life Saving Club celebrated its 75th anniversary with functions at the clubhouse on August 18. These included a 'meet and greet ' afternoon tea, when the community was invited to mix with members, and a dinner, attended by a 'full house' of 150. Special commemorative glasses - beer, wine or champagne - were presented to each guest.

TIDELINES ... In a recent 3-part series in the Sydney Morning Herald's popular weekly boating feature " Tidelines ", journalist David Lockwood heaped unstinting praise on the local communities of Hardys Bay, Killcare, Pretty Beach and Wagstaffe. Focusing on the Brisbane Water in his series entitled " Sailing Into God's Country ", he variously identified, in flattering terms, the individual stores, restaurants, marina, our newsletter and other services. Of Hardys Bay, he described it, in part, as " a heavenly sanctuary of old world charm and modern sophistication - and great food." He concluded with " we looked west from the stores at Hardys Bay towards Rip Bridge to admire the signature sunsets that linger over the bay. Pure romance ! "

EXCELLENT RESPONSE ... Organisers of the " It's Easy Going Green Market Weekend " held at Hardys Bay during the holiday weekend of June 9th and 10th were delighted with the public response to this initial marketplace event. " We hope to maintain the momentum by sharing some handy hints on energy conservation with the community in the future", said co-ordinator, Anna McCall, who can be contacted on 43601442 or at annamccall@ozemail.com.au

KILLCARE MARINA ... Killcare Marina's broad range of facilities have been further boosted with the recent addition of a marine sewage pumpout system, following recent approval from Gosford Council for its installation. The pumpout, to be positioned at the end of the marina's wharf, will be fully supervised. According to marina operator, Michael Sparks, responsible use of the new facility will be imperative and users will be required to be conversant with the strict code of operation.

Michael plans to promote educational " open days " in the near future. For general enquiries, call 43601231 or email sales@killcaremarina.com.au

NEW MEMBERS APPLICATION

Annual Membership - Pensioners \$5 Members \$10 Families \$15
Post to: The Secretary, Hardys Bay Residents Group, PO Box 4123, Wagstaffe NSW 2257

Name: _____ Phone: _____ MOB _____

Address : _____

Email: _____ Signature: _____ Date _____

letters

The June long weekend storms were a wake-up call for everyone, especially in isolated areas such as ours. Like most residents we were caught a bit short by the blackouts - we had taken the electricity system for granted. When this family moved to Killcare Heights 28 years ago an oldtimer advised us, "The first thing you do here, mate, is to buy yourself a good torch". How wise those words proved over the years ! Yet this time we found some of our torches had flat batteries, our oil-fuelled lamps were empty and our barbecue was low on gas. Those faults have now been fixed and the items checked on a regular basis. Also, in future we will make sure we always have plenty of petrol in the car as many of the servos were knocked out of action by the storms. Also, a phone not reliant on electricity and definitely a battery-powered radio. During the 60-hour blackout up the top we managed to buy a single-burner camp stove and four small gas cylinders and it proved a real winner. These stoves only cost about \$20 and can be tucked away until the next emergency. The storms also raised the question of an evacuation plan for the area. I can't recall ever seeing one over the years and this is something maybe the emergency services could look at. Gosford and Wyong had Disaster Recovery Centres operating during the storms and they were very successful. So maybe we need something similar here if a major emergency occurred, such as cyclonic winds, major flooding, large bushfires and both roads out blocked. Four possible sites come to mind; Killcare Surf Club, Hardys Bay RSL Club, Pretty Beach School and Wagstaffe Hall. Smaller sites, such as the two churches and the bushfire brigade headquarters could also be utilised. It's food for thought.

Bob Staines
Killcare Heights

I have been a regular visitor to Hardys Bay and was pleasantly surprised when I visited during the July school holidays. My favourite fishing spot on the Extension Wharf has had a deserved make-over with new decking at the end of the wharf and great lighting installed. It makes my fishing much more pleasant when I can see what I am doing and it's a lot safer for my boys to fish off. Keep up the good work you are doing around the bay.

M. Segella

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