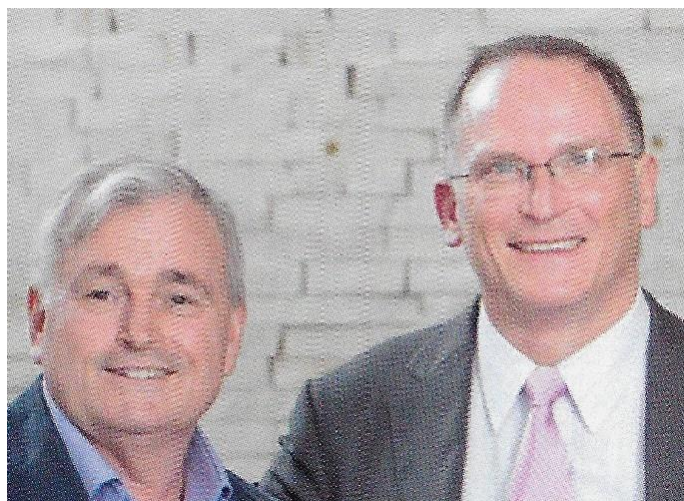


Redhead Village Newsletter

No 18, November 2016

Redhead Sons Gain National and International Acclaim



Andrew Walker and Glenn Keys

Last month **Andrew Walker and Glenn Keys**, school friends who grew up in Redhead, won the Australian Entrepreneur of the Year Award for their work with their company, Aspen Medical. You might recall that last year the newsletter reported on Andrew and Glenn's management of Australia's response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

Andrew and Glenn founded Aspen Medical in 2003, aiming to provide high quality healthcare in difficult and under-resourced environments. Since then, the company has grown to become one of the world's leading providers of innovative outsourced health care, with more than 2,200 staff spread across Australia, Africa, the United States, Europe and the Gulf Region. In 2017 they will represent Australia at



Tom Crockett

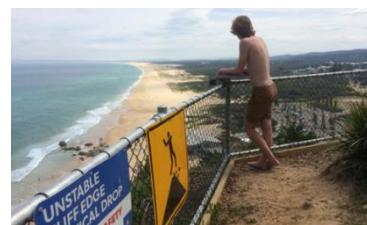
the International Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in Monte Carlo.

Back in August, sailing enthusiast **Tom Crockett** from Redhead, who is just 14, along with long term friend Harry Morton from Belmont, won the 29er sailing World Championship at the world titles regatta in Medemblik, the Netherlands. It was Tom's first overseas regatta. He won the national title in the Flying Eleven class in 2014 and started in the 29er division in February 2015. "I won't have much of a break", Tom said, "I want to start training and look to do the world championship regatta in Huntington, California next year."

Congratulations Andrew, Glenn and Tom.

Improved Lookouts

Lake Macquarie City Council have recently provided fencing for what used to be informal lookout points at the end of Ocean Street and Redhead Street on Redhead Bluff. Both lookouts are easy to walk to from the end of the road and offer an amazing view over the ocean, the beach and Belmont Wetlands State Park to the south. Although the peak months of June and October for whale migration are over, this year there have been more whales than ever to see and the lookouts will be excellent places for whale spotting next year.



Lookout at the end of Redhead Street

Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway to be Upgraded

Two years ago Council banned Redhead Landcare from using motorised equipment to maintain the track, and it had slowly deteriorated, to the point where missing boards in the boardwalk presented a danger to inattentive walkers.

There has been a lot of community representation to Council by the Landcare group, and others, since the ban and many partial solutions were tried, but the track still deteriorated. However, walkers on the Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway will have noticed a difference over the last few months.

Following a recent Council inspection, we can now look forward to the rectification of the defective sections of the walkway and eventually the replacement of the boardwalk. "A works request has been submitted to have the defects in the boardwalk repaired, and it has been included in Council's forward works program for replacement." Darren Wild from LMCC said. "After completing the boardwalk design, we will talk with the stakeholders about options and work programs prior to starting work." "In addition, the boardwalk will have increased inspections to help fix any problems and keep the boardwalk in sound condition until it can be replaced." As well, the viewing platform along the track, is in very poor condition, and repairs are planned to be completed before June 30th 2017."

Redhead NBN is on its way

You have probably noticed working crews and trench diggers around Redhead. They are installing plastic conduits and occasional large green boxes in the footpath area of some streets as part of the



NBN crew at corner of Woods and Hutchison Streets

installation of the NBN network for Redhead.

Next year there will be fibre optic cables installed and NBN advise that the network should be available 12 to 18 months from now. When the system is live, NBN will do a mail drop to all houses and businesses advising them that the network is available. They will also provide a comprehensive list of NBN providers who will be able to offer various service packages to suit your needs. The process of getting an NBN connection will be similar to that of getting a telephone connection, with the opportunity to phone around and compare prices before choosing a service provider.

Shark Buoy Adds Protection for our Surfers

You have probably noticed the yellow buoy that now sits in the water off Redhead Beach.



Shark buoy at Redhead Beach

Installed as part of a trial program to increase shark safety, it will complement the shark net at Redhead Beach that has been in place for many years. The trial program has, to date, tagged 100 white sharks and the buoy is one of twenty installed along the NSW coast that record when any of those sharks come within 500 metres. The state government has also created a smartphone App called "**SharkSmart**" which is available for free and will send you an alert when a shark is in the area. The App also provides suggestions to reduce your risk of contact with sharks. The buoy, the meshing and the App are also complemented by aerial shark spotting, so we can enjoy a safer swim at the beach.

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Support our Wetlands

Lake Macquarie City Council have developed a draft memorandum of understanding for the management of wetland areas between Dudley, Whitebridge, Gateshead and Jewells as a 'Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Conservation Park'.

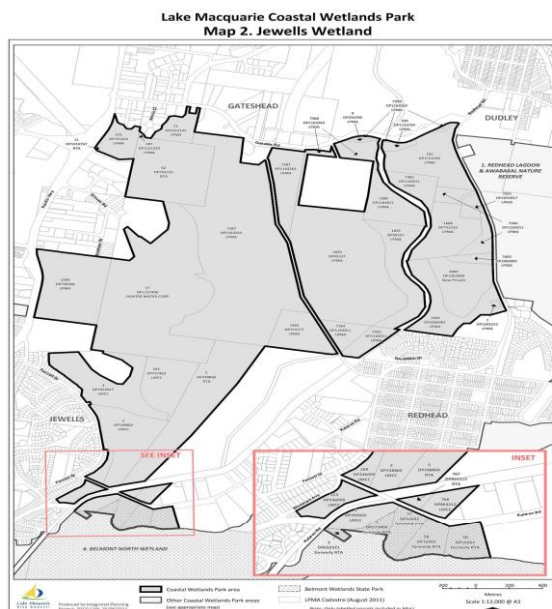
This comes as welcome news to members of the Redhead, Dudley and Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups who are highly committed to the conservation of these lands. The protected areas will include:

- a significant biodiversity corridor,
 - endangered ecological communities,
 - habitats for endangered flora and fauna species,
 - SEPP14 and Ramsar wetlands, that is wetlands of international importance, and
 - sensitive acid sulphate soils,
- constituting one of the largest remaining coastland native vegetation complexes in Lake Macquarie.

EcoLogical have identified areas of high conservation value following a survey of the wetlands in 2014. However, these lands remain threatened by the developmental pressures of urban growth and selling-off by government.

The Memorandum regarding the wetlands has been tabled for some years but has been delayed by funding and other issues.

It is imperative that the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park gets up and running as soon as possible. If you are interested in supporting this important project, please contact us at sustainableredhead@gmail.com.



Remembrance Day 2016



Service at the War Memorial

At 11 am on Friday 11 November the annual Remembrance Day service was held at the war memorial. Officiated by Don Patterson from the memorial committee, and conducted by Service Chaplain, Rev Wendy Dubojski, the service was attended by the students of Redhead school and many Redhead residents.

After wreath laying, school students Max Barrett and Jazmin Ledbury read the poem "In Flanders Fields" and Mary Wallace from the memorial committee spoke of the poem's history. In his closing remarks, Mr Patterson noted the growing number of residents that attend the service each year. The annual ANZAC Day service will take place at the memorial on 25th January 2017 at 11am.

Electronic Copies

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Newsletter Contributions

All contributions and comments are welcome from anyone receiving our Newsletter. If you have an article you'd like the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group to include in our next edition, or would like to learn more about us, please see our 'Contact Us' section.

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors Redhead Family Dental, Café on Cowlshaw, All About Pet Care and Phillip Rankin.

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