

Redhead Village Newsletter

No.28

September 2019

T....R....A.....C.....K.....S.....!!!



4WDs on Redhead Beach and Nine Mile Beach

A concerned Redhead resident took this photo on 14 July 2019. The driver drove a 4WD, in circles, at night, the length of Nine Mile Beach and onto Redhead Beach. The person unfortunately may enjoy the notoriety that will be gained by this photo, showing the vandalism caused, being published. There is lots of evidence of equally harmful events available on U Tube and other sources.

Among the questions that the community is asking:

"Is THIS the future for Nine Mile Beach that the community dreamt of and planned for when the coal mining, sand mining and sand extraction exploitations ceased?"

We ask this 4WD driver, and the 1000s of others that have been solicited and encouraged to come to Nine Mile Beach from local areas and from all over the State, to consider **ALL** of the outcomes from their activities.

Outcomes

- Nine Mile Beach is the barrier between Lake Macquarie and the South Pacific Ocean and people live in-between, and it is being destroyed.
- Stabilised Foredunes are essential for the beach structure and 'blow outs' result in sand rapidly moving inland, covering bushland and threatening well populated Caravan Parks.
- The foredunes are being destroyed by 4WD attempts to climb them for perceived "fun".

- People walk and run along the Beach for exercise, sometimes after dark, and are put into danger.
- Fishers use the beach during the day and after dark and are disturbed and put into dangerous situations.
- The beach and dunes consist of an ecosystem of animals and plants that are being threatened.
- Animals including Goannas inhabit the dunes and their habitat and food chain is being destroyed.
- 4WD Vehicle tyres crush sand dwelling shells such as pippies that are essential for the marine food chain.
- Declining populations of migrating marine birds rely on undisturbed beach, fore and hind dunes for habitat and rest spots. Almost all sites have been disturbed.
- Eggs laid in the sand by marine birds and turtles are being crushed by 4WD drive tyres.
- Walkers are repulsed by toilet paper, human faeces and rubbish deposited on the beach and in the dunes.
- Fitness groups and recreational walkers are prevented from enjoying the beach.

Responsibility for the current situation despite the best efforts of one 4WD group who work to clean up the beach, and the worthy community volunteers who work for the Belmont Wetlands State Park, lies with the NSW Government, Hunter Water and the Lake Macquarie City Council.

Your opinion and input is important.

A complete review of the management of 4WD access to Nine Mile Beach is needed to address the problems.

Contact: Jodie Harrison MP Charlestown.

charlestown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Yasmin Catley MP Swansea.

swansea@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Lake Macquarie City Council

council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Cain Street Redhead Landcare team – Regular update

Some significant changes have occurred recently in the Cain Street reserve. The team cleared the lantana from the storm water drain beside the shipping container, just before a recent storm. The remnants of the Madiera Vine we removed earlier were sprayed to prevent them from re-sprouting, and lots of natives have been planted in the reserve to revegetate areas where we've removed significant quantities of weeds.

Cain Street Redhead Landcare Team (cont)

In the light of recent fires around Belmont, some concerns were raised about the dry Lantana stacks. We have consulted with the Landcare experts and report that Lantana is a low burning plant and doesn't cause a lot of risk, but we will be reducing the size of the stacks during our October working bee.

We have a great Landcare team and we welcome new members. We meet from 8 am to 12 pm on the last Sunday of every month, at the shipping container in the Cain Street Reserve. Just turn up or for more information contact Team Leaders Allison Cleary and Paul Hubbard at sustainablethead@gmail.com.

Get to know your weeds – Asparagus Fern

It is not a fern but is one of the most significant garden escapees invading our coastlines. It competes with native ground cover and understorey plants by forming dense infestations that smother other species and prevent their germination and establishment. The Cain Street Landcare Group has encountered a lot of it in the reserve. It survives well on dunes and headlands and in our bush and is a very real problem.

It is a small shrub, about 60cm tall, with year-round foliage, consisting of short spiny "leaves". It has small greenish-white flowers and orange/red berries, about 5mm diam. It has a very fibrous root system. The crown (where the stems meet the roots, just below the soil surface) must be removed from the plant and disposed of to kill the fern. It is best to cut the crown out with a knife and put it in your green waste bin. The small, light brown globular parts of the roots store water, don't produce new plants, and can be left in the ground.

If you have Asparagus Fern at home in your garden or in a pot, please remove it and dispose of it carefully.

Nordic Inspiration

Berit Hanly is a recent and welcome resident of Redhead who has already shown a great commitment to community affairs and offers these ideas for us to consider.

Nordic Noir crime novels are very popular in Australia, but nail biting crime drama is not the only Nordic export worth watching. After a visit to Denmark and Sweden these past months I bring home new inspiration which could further our present efforts in the Australian sustainability field.

95% of Nordic waste is recycled. Lake Macquarie Council has now introduced bins for food waste as well as the general waste and recycling bins. In Denmark and Sweden everything has to be sorted. The legislation demands that everything is sorted at the rubbish tip in to metal, wood, metal, glass, polystyrene, hard and soft plastic, ceramics, soil, electrical, wire, cement etc and only 5% now goes unsorted in a single container. At peoples' homes shared containers for food, cardboard, glass, metal and general waste are provided, but people know to bring any other types of waste to the rubbish

tip themselves, as large fines applies to putting



recyclable items in the general waste.

Weed killing with steam.

Boiling water, poured directly on a weed, will kill it. Unfortunately spraying with weed killers is still widespread. I have noticed that Lake Macquarie City Council has started to burn weeds in some locations. In Denmark the Council have

specialised tractors driving around the road edges and killing weeds with steam.

It seems to work a dream ☺ says Berit.

Pedestrian Safety and Footpaths

We have watched the progression of the Beach Road modifications with the footpath now constructed on the beach side, the pedestrian refuge installed and railing extending around to the beach access road. The road construction had a lot more troubles than expected and it didn't help when an almighty downpour occurred just at knock-off time with a temporary road surface in place.

The flooding of the crossing and the traffic problems that ensued on the Thursday 29 and Friday 30th August emphasised just how busy this section of the road is. Well done to those bluff residents and others who contacted the Council to make the situation safer.

The new footpaths on Beach Road and Steel Street have prompted lots of discussion about **"Where next?"** So here is your chance to get more informed, AND have an input to fulfilling the need for additional footpaths to provide safety and opportunities for a more healthy and active community.

The Council has a Footpath Strategy that is well worth reading. You can have a look at the Council's process when planning for footpaths. Maps of existing, under way and proposed construction of footpaths are available and priorities are ranked. If we want to change or add to these priorities then we had better get active.

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/city/transport-and-road-infrastructure/footpaths-kerbs-and-channels>

Access the footpath strategy – due for renewal in 2023; and some further information on active transport in the city; <https://www.lakemac.com.au/activetransport>

We would like to see your Footpath suggestions for Redhead sustainablethead@gmail.com and if you would like to make a direct request as well, address it to: Lake Macquarie City Council, Infrastructure Strategy, Asset Management. council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Redhead Beach Dog Survey

Over 200 people responded to the on line community survey of the incidence and behaviour of irresponsible dog owners on Redhead Beach carried out by a student at Hunter School of Performing Arts.

"I am a local resident and this is of concern to me as the beach is a beautiful place and I don't want to see it be destroyed by irresponsible dog owners."

The student was able to analyse 100 responses, 60 respondents came from Redhead and 40 from 24 other suburbs, including from as far away as Barnsley.

All respondents visit the beach and 57% go to the beach either every day or once a week, and 57% of the people who responded take their dog.

"Do you believe there is an issue with dogs on the Beach?" When asked this question 61% of people replied **Yes**. The main issues people reported were with poo, uncontrolled dogs and when people fail to follow where their dog may be off lead. Too many dogs, dogs taking up too much of the beach (would rather they were moved down the beach), dog owners feeling entitled, not enough policing of the matter, poo in plastic bags, and un-socialised dogs.

The effects on the environment and other people's experiences of the Beach reported were:

- dog poo, the smell of dog poo
- effect on ocean.
- digging up dune plants,
- the increase in foot traffic,
- dogs in the wrong place on lead or off lead,
- dogs making people scared or nervous on the beach.

62% think that the Council is NOT doing enough to educate dog owners when they are walking their dogs on the Beach.

Let the Council know every time you see anything that causes you any health, safety or environmental concerns by emailing Council at council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Responsible dog owners have their dogs on leads until they reach the Off leash area that starts south of the Second Creek outlet.

Grow some healthy food for yourself and others.

The **Redhead Community Garden**, located in the grounds of Redhead Public School, is open for everyone in the community. After several great communal days working in the garden and with the gracious help of Redhead Men's Shed who have built four raised gardens, using recycled materials, we are definitely back in enjoyable action. Turn up, have a chat, be a part of planting out the new garden beds and before you know it you will be taking home some great healthy food.

They meet one Sunday of each month from 1 pm to 3 pm. Next dates 27th October and 24th November.

If you want information or inspiration, please contact Karen Fry at redheadcommunityofgardens@gmail.com

Redhead Community Library "Is Calling all Readers!"

Your newly renovated library has disabled parking, is wheelchair and pram friendly. We have a great selection of fiction, latest crime novels and a lovely children's reading corner with a large selection of picture books and junior fiction. The library has classes in art, guitar, creative writing and porcelain painting. See the Eastlakes U3A website.

Hours: Thursday-Friday 3-5pm and Saturday 10-12

Come in and meet the friendly volunteers.

Maybe you might like to join us?

Primary Ethics update

Since our last call for volunteers, Primary Ethics has now trained an additional teacher which will enable us to recommence Ethics classes at Redhead Primary School. Lidija Terzic completed her teacher training last month and is looking forward to getting in the classroom in Term 4. Thanks to everyone who showed interest in the role. We're always keen for new volunteers, so please get in touch if this is something you might be interested in doing. For more info see www.primaryethics.com.au or contact Daniela Gambotto dgambotto@hotmail.com

Redhead Public School

Needs your help!

They are planning the construction of an imaginative and sensory play space, and need the following items and materials.

- tyres/inner tubes, pallets, rocks, stones, boulders
- gardening tools eg rake, hosing, trowel, broom, hoe, watering can, wheelbarrow, wagon
- Plants for the sensory garden and two trees
- Artificial grass, Soft fall, or wood chip
- Cut logs for stepping stones AND
- A KITCHEN SINK !! **Ready to help?**

Contact the school office NOW on 49447215.

Welcome to KINDERGARTEN 2020

Meet, Greet and Eat Get-Together

Wednesday, 23rd October, 2019, 5:00 - 6:30pm

for parents/carers and children enrolling at Redhead Public School Kindergarten 2020.

KINDY CLUB

Thursday 31st October, 7th, 14th, 21st November

Kindy Club will run on **Thursday** from 2:00-3:00pm and is designed to help children familiarise with the school environment and routines. They will engage in a range of learning experiences.

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood

Our vision is: "To celebrate and sustain our coastal village community, its assets, and the surrounding natural environment for all to enjoy"

Newsletter Contributions


All contributions and comments are welcome from anyone receiving our Newsletter. Like to place an ad or if you have an article, or would like to learn more about us, get in contact.email: sustainableredhead@gmail.com

Website: <https://sustainableredhead.wordpress.com/>

Thanks to our sponsors for this 28th edition of the Redhead Village Newsletter: Pink Salt Hair, Redhead Family Dental, Hunter Valley Martial Arts-Redhead and Redhead Pharmacy.

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