



Redhead Village Newsletter

No.35

July 2021

Landcare Planting

It's been a cold, wet winter and the vegetation in the Cain Street Reserve – both weeds and natives - has been enjoying the rain. Our Landcare group has been working towards the goal of planting 100 plants at the end of August. We have concentrated our efforts on clearing the lantana, bitou bush and other noxious weeds such as asparagus fern from the ridge at the south end of the reserve. We've tackled some large stands of lantana and for the most part, we're winning! Battling lantana is like working through a maze – you start cutting branches to try to find the trunk of the tree, only to find it's a large branch running near the ground – dead end! You start cutting in another direction and hope you're on target this time. When we find a trunk, there's a victory cry!

There is now a sizable area on the ridge ready for replanting with natives. The planting, which will take place during our usual Landcare session on the last Sunday in August, will be a late celebration of National Tree Day, which is on 30 July. We've ordered the plants from the Landcare office and are looking forward to the opportunity to restore a little of the native flora to the area.

Although there is still much work to be done, our Landcare group has achieved great things over the past few years and we love the fact that so many people enjoy walking through the Reserve.

If you love gardening or you just enjoy some hard work, come along and join us. We meet at the Cain Street Landcare shipping container at 8 am on the last Sunday of every month and we work until around 11 am. Our tree planting take place on 29 August.

Climate Change Conversations

If you're passionate about climate change but you just can't talk about it to your friends and relatives, Climate for Change's website is the place to go. It's an organisation specifically focused on helping people to have effective conversations with their peers on climate change. For more information, visit <https://climateforchange.org.au>.

An Update on Council Works in Redhead

You may have noticed that the Lake Macquarie City Council has a number of planned works around Redhead at the moment:

- Repairs to the George Stanton Lookout off the corner of Steel Street and Dodds Street have been completed and it looks fantastic.
- The replacement of the boardwalk along the Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway is due to commence. The closed section has been fenced off for some time.
- Works have begun to transform the former Redhead quarry site at the top of Oakdale Road. The Council is aiming to return the site to its former natural state, planting more than 4,000 trees, 10,000 shrubs and 20,000 vines and other ground cover species across the area. Clean fill will be trucked in to reshape the landscape into a more natural form that aids drainage and minimises erosion.

If you'd like to know more about these projects, you can visit the Lake Macquarie City Council website.

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- Saving on paper

Passionate about the environment?

Why not register your area of interest and/or expertise with the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood. We would like your support and the community's support behind us.

Please send your name and details to

Email: sustainableredhead@gmail.com

Floodlights at Liles Oval

This Soccer season, the Dudley Redhead United Football Club has over 500 registered players in competitions ranging from under 6 years girls' and boys' teams to teenage and All Age teams.

The club's home ground is Liles Oval and if you drive past the oval on a Soccer Saturday, you realise the popularity of soccer with our local kids, as parking overflows from around the oval and into our local streets.




Fields 1, 2 and 3 at Liles Oval

Just one of the two full size soccer pitches, Field No 2, has floodlights and with weekly team training, a record number of all girls teams and Friday night competition games, there have been more teams needing to use the ground at night than there is time available.

To fix this, the club has plans to erect lights on the other full size pitch, Field No 1, and has been applying for sporting grants and saving for the lights for almost 5 years. Past grant applications were unsuccessful. However, the latest grant application to the 2020/21 NSW Regional Sport Facility Fund, was recently approved by the NSW Minister for Sport, Natalie Ward, and the club can look forward to a second floodlit field next year.


The field is bounded by the Fernleigh Track and the Industrial area and lights should not be a problem for residents. Thanks to Club Committee members and especially to David Hadden for his perseverance with applications over many years and in getting this year's grant application approved. And thanks also to the 34 registered team coaches and managers and other volunteers that make the club such a community success.




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Green Waste

article by Alison Cleary

I recently had the opportunity to go on a very informative "guided tour" of the Organics Resource Recovery Facility at Awaba Waste Management Facility with a small group of other interested people.

Our guide was from the Council, but the facility is run by Remondis, and once on site the green waste becomes the property of Remondis. The trucks unload the waste onto a huge, roofed, concrete pad. A person manually goes through the waste, taking out any contaminants - which make up about 3% of the waste - although plans are in place to install a conveyor belt system to make the process easier and more efficient.

The waste is loaded into a shredding machine and from there into one of five tunnels, which are like giant garage with roller doors, where the waste decomposes for a week, with help from air vents and sprinklers. The waste then decomposes further outside, again in a carefully monitored environment.

Some of the composted waste is again shredded before it is sold to Hunter Valley wineries, a macadamia farm and some of the fruit farms in Port Macquarie. The Council has a contract to buy back a certain amount of compost from Remondis each year.

More information about green waste can be found on the Council's website.

Robberies in Redhead

The armed robbery at Redhead Service Station, and the robberies at the grocery store and the paper shop in the last few months have been a wake-up call for Redhead, with recent discussion on Redhead social media and the latest police crime statistics confirming a trend toward more serious local crime.



In addition to the robberies, in the last 3 months there have been 9 break-ins compared with 11 for the whole of last year and none for the same period 7 years ago. As well, the incidence of malicious damage has also increased.

Police advise that Redhead still compares favourably with other areas for criminal activity, and they continue to do a great job. However we can assist by taking extra care with home maintenance and basic security measures to discourage would-be thieves and minimise the chances of our homes being targeted.

If you are concerned about home security, there are some good guidelines available on the **Police NSW website under safety and prevention/safe and secure/residential home.**

Possibly because there were more police patrols over summer, there was a temporary dip in burnouts and yahoo behaviour which now seems to be resuming. As a reminder, the numbers to call to report over-exuberant yahoo behaviour and suspicious activity are:

Belmont Police: 4922 8899

Crimestoppers: 1800 333 000.

For crimes being committed and other emergencies, call: **Emergency: 000**

Save Redhead Beach Action Group Meeting

A group of concerned citizens from Redhead met on 13 July to discuss camping and access to Nine Mile Beach. The meeting went well and the group is planning to put together a committee and work out an action plan with some objectives.

A second meeting has been scheduled on 3 August 2021 at 6 pm at Redhead Bowling Club. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Council's Mental Health Partnership Project

From the editor: We apologise that this content didn't make it into our March newsletter.

Thank you to all residents who responded to Council's letter in February seeking feedback on placing Lifeline crisis signage at Redhead Bluff. With the support of the community who responded, the Council will be seeking to place permanent signage at the Bluff at end of Ocean Street and Illuka Street, Redhead. Currently we have temporary Lifeline signage at these locations which will be replicated onto permanent materials.

If you would like to undertake any further activities to improve mental health and suicide prevention in Redhead please get in touch. For example, we can connect you with free local training and resources or we could create community engagement activities. We welcome any future comments and suggestions to be made to Council's Community Development Officer via email at – council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

Upcoming Activities in Lake Macquarie

Despite COVID and the associated restrictions, there are a lot of activities in our area that you can participate in over the coming months.

- **Celebrate National Tree Day**

If you can't make it to the Redhead tree planting day in August, there are a number of tree planting events planned across Lake Macquarie City from 24 July to 7 August. Visit treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site for registrations and more information.

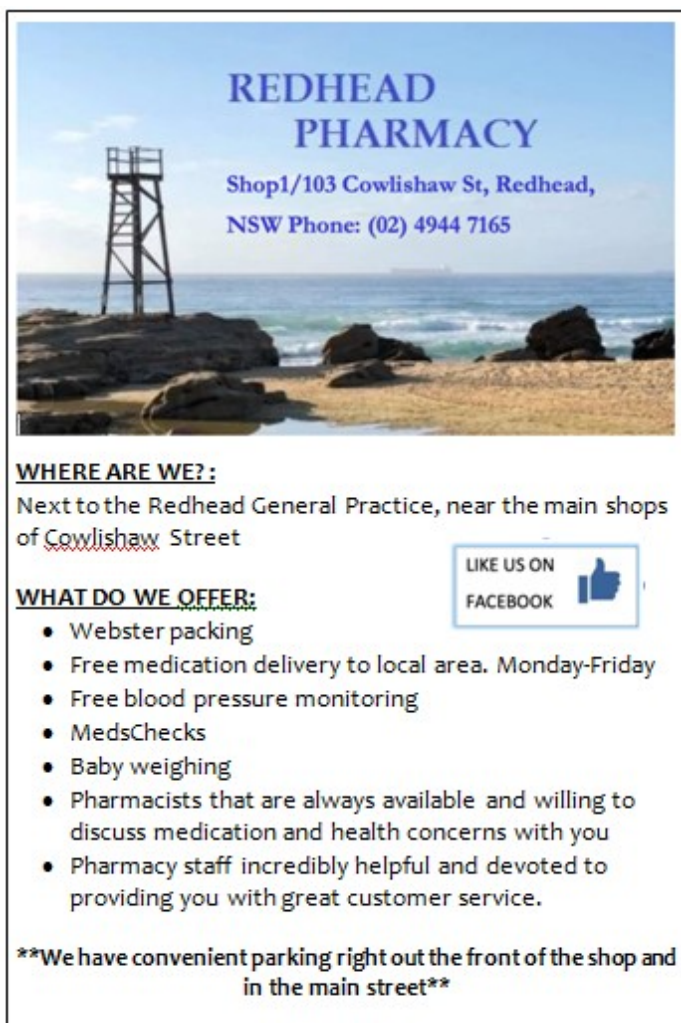
- **Waste to Art**

You can create an artwork for the Waste to Art Exhibition. Registrations are open until 31 August and community members, groups and school students are invited to create an art work for the exhibition in October. The exhibition will be held over four different spaces from 9 October to 18 December.

- **Living Smart Festival**

The Living Smart Festival will be held this year at Speers Point Park from 17 to 19 September and will feature events and activities for all ages, themed around creating a more sustainable, livable world for generations to come.

Gardening guru and Logie-winner Costa Georgiadis will headline Saturday's festivities!



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HELP WANTED

Have you always wanted to be an editor?
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WE NEED YOU!

The wonderful editor of the Redhead Village Newsletter has taken a well-deserved retirement and we are looking for a new editor.

You will be supported by the great team of dedicated team members of the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.

If you're interested in the position, or just want to know more of what is involved, please email us at sustainablehead@gmail.com.