



REDHEAD VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

No 13 Surfest Edition February 2015

Iconic Surfest at Redhead Beach 14-15 February 2015

Surfest, one of the longest-running annual surfing events in Australia is coming to Redhead on February 14-15, 2015, when, as part of its 2015 itinerary, Redhead Beach will host the inaugural Longboard Challenge, the Lake Mac Short Board Masters and the Lake Mac SUP Classic .

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr. Jodie Harrison said, "I am very pleased that Lake Macquarie will host part of an event as iconic as Surfest." "It is particularly special that Surfest will be celebrating 30 successful years of the event, from its inception as the BHP Steel International in 1985 when it was the richest professional surfing event in the world, to now being a fixture of the ASP World Qualifying Series."



Surfest organizer, Warren Smith said "It is very exciting that the long board, short board and SUP events will be part of Surfest on our 30th birthday. To hold the event at Redhead is a very special moment for Surfest and the greater Newcastle and Lake Macquarie area. To have Lake Macquarie Council and the community of Redhead involved and hosting the event completes the circle for Surfest as we aim to achieve wider community involvement."

"The event will enhance the reputation of Redhead Beach as a vibrant and consistent surfing location, while adding significant economic returns for the local economy," he said.

Redhead businesses who are direct sponsors of the longboard competition include: **Airborne, Kuta Lines, Seatamer, Miles Nidori, Redhead (caravan park) Village and Redhead News and Post.** The venue sponsor is **Redhead Surf Club.**

Events

Smith said: "It is expected we will see all the facets of traditional long board, short board and SUP surfing across all age divisions. For us it is also very exciting to offer a further opportunity to many young up and coming long board and SUP surfers with their new style and manoeuvres on their modern equipment."

The Lake Mac Shortboard Masters features an over-35s and over-40s category. The Lake Mac Longboard Classic has a juniors under-18, open men's, open women's, over-40s and over-50s, and the Lake Mac SUP Classic, a juniors under-21, open women's, over-40s and over-50s events.

Beach Parking

Mike McKey, president of the surf club said that part of the beach carpark will be reserved for sponsors' marquees, so the carpark will fill early and he suggests that Redhead people would be able avoid traffic and parking congestion by walking to the beach during the Surfest weekend.

Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing

The Surfest events at Redhead Beach are the catalyst for Lake Macquarie City Council's Lake Macquarie Festival of Surfing which aims to highlight Redhead as a vibrant community beyond the beach and the surf club. Over the weekend of 14 and 15 February, the Festival will feature local markets, sponsor displays, wine tastings, kiteboard demonstrations and a Community Trail.

Community Trail

From 10 am on Sunday 15 Feb, the Community Trail will feature: the Redhead Men's Shed, the Library, the Guide Hall and Webb Park. Get a stamp at each venue and claim a prize at the beach*. At each location there will be activities and displays by Redhead community groups. **See the coloured Festival of Surfing flyer delivered with this newsletter for details.**



Surfest Community Trail, Redhead 15 February

Redhead Men's Shed Live Entertainment Program

As well as the sausage sizzle, jumping castle plus product and tool sale, the Redhead Men's Shed will feature an hourly program of family entertainment and activities:

- 10 am to 11 am Anna's School of music
- 11 am to 12 noon Sing Australia Choir
- 12 noon to 1 pm Anna's School of music
- 1 pm till finish Clan McEwan pipe band and Highland Dancers

Library Live Entertainment Program

At the Library, there will be a U3A choir performance starting at 11 am, plus buskers all day. The "Shark in a Bus" with a 5 metre White Pointer Shark inside is not to be missed.

Redhead Girl Guides Hall

Try your hand at rock climbing, plus craft activities

Sustainable Activities in Webb Park

Stop off at Webb Park to experience indigenous displays and a pedal powered smoothie. Choose a song and then jump on a bike to power the sound system! Also displays by the Redhead Community Garden and OCCI, or Ocean and Coastal Care Initiative.

*prizes are limited to the first 100 people with all stamps

Redhead Surf Club Receives Award for Difficult Rescue

Redhead Surf club will receive a federal award for a difficult but successful surf rescue in November last year, that could have ended in tragedy except for the proficiency of the volunteer surf lifesavers involved.

The lifesavers braved a strong southerly swell and gale force southerly winds to rescue four ocean racing paddlers as they were swept out from the beach and onto rocks under Redhead Bluff. In the process the club's rubber ducky was overturned and destroyed, and two rescue surfboards were lost. "The training and surf competition fostered by the club and the backup surf craft available, enabled our lifesavers to perform the rescue safely and without injury in extreme conditions" Mike McKey, Redhead Surf Club president said.

"And thanks to Michelle and Ryan Peden, from Redhead who, after hearing about the loss of equipment, have kindly donated new club boards to replace the ones that we lost."

Redhead SLSC

Started in 1908, the Surf Club is one of the longest running and most valued community organisation in Redhead. It has a total of 700 members drawn from Redhead and surrounding suburbs and includes one of the largest surf Nipper groups at 400 members, plus 160 active lifesavers. It is this group who take part in competition and who you see on surf patrol during weekends and public holidays.



Redhead SLSC On Patrol

"It is costly to insure our people and equip our patrols with all the necessary gear, so we are constantly raising funds through sponsorship, hall hire, bar takings and raffles" Mike said. "Although there is only a small percentage of Nippers who go on to become active club members, training includes using boogy boards and surf boards and the often rough surf at Redhead, prepares Nippers for most surf conditions they might encounter in their teenage and young adult years." Redhead Surf Club is a sponsor for the Surfest weekend.

Third Creek Incidents

Mike McKey has been concerned about the buildup of 4WD vehicles and campers at Third Creek on holiday weekends and their impact on the beach. "We have had to respond to a number of injuries involving alcohol and stupidity and our surf patrol resources have been diverted away from the beach at times of peak public usage." he said. "and after the New Year's Eve weekend we have helped with rubbish cleanup." he said.

Rainy weather and a police presence along the beach and around Third Creek on Australia Day meant that there were no injuries this year, and plans to introduce a permit system in July to fund better arrangements and control of 4WD's and camping at Third Creek should have a positive effect on safety. Thanks to the Lake Macquarie Eco-Angels group who organised the cleanup after that weekend.

Redhead Sons Lead Australia's Ebola Response

Andrew Walker and Glenn Keys, school friends who grew up in Redhead and went to Whitebridge High School, are key people in Australia's response to the Ebola crisis. Both have had distinguished military careers. After gaining a medical degree, Andrew served for 5 years as a military doctor before moving to private practice. Glenn became an engineer in the military and served for 15 years as an army officer. Glenn now lives in Canberra and through his work with people with disabilities, was chosen as ACT's Australian of the Year for 2015.

In 2003 Andrew and he started a company called Aspen Medical. It has since grown to be one of the world's leading providers of outsourced health care, with governments and other large organisations as their clients.



Aspen Medical CEO Glenn Keys and Chairman Dr. Andrew Walker

Aspen Medical provides medical support to Australian Defence Force bases both in Australia and overseas, and in November 2014, was awarded a contract to deliver Australia's response to the Ebola crisis. That currently involves staffing and operating a 100 bed hospital in Sierra Leone. Aspen Medical also has a contract to staff and operate a 100 bed facility in Liberia for the USA government which could grow to 4x100 bed facilities depending on demand, and to assist with the development of an Ebola vaccine.

"There has been no shortage of doctors and nurses offering to help out, and we are also training many local professionals to make the Ebola response more sustainable" Andrew said. "After ensuring rigorous infection control training for all health personnel, the biggest challenge has been to provide the materials and equipment needed to operate the facilities effectively." "Another key aspect has been the education of the local village populations to change their burial customs and accept cremation as a way to reduce the risk of infection," Andrew said. "In the last month the rate of new infections in Liberia has fallen so at last there is starting to be some good news from the region".

UNICEF and OXFAM Australia are running appeals to support the Ebola response in West Africa. For more information go to either of their websites.

Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan This is a chance to have your say

Lake Macquarie City Council is encouraging everyone who lives, works or plays on the coast to have their say on the *draft Coastal Zone Management Plan*. The draft plan identifies actions for the next four years to manage the Lake Macquarie coastline (beaches), the estuary (lake and catchment), and the Swansea Channel. To download the draft plan, find more information, and give your feedback, go to www.haveyoursaylakemac.com.au/coastal-zone-management-plan.

Redhead Property Crime Report



Police property crime statistics for Redhead over the last three months include:

35 incidents of stealing spread over: Beach and Kalaroo Roads; Bentley, Burns, Collier, Cowlshaw, Hutchinson, Shortland, Steel and Wood Streets, Bombora Close, Dryandra and Elandale Place and Geraldton Drive,

Five stolen vehicles, from the beach carpark, Elandale Place and Wood Street

Five Break and Enters in Burns, Cain, Ocean and Wood Streets plus Beach Road.

Three malicious damage (eg graffiti) in Hutchinson, Redhead and Shortland Streets.

There is an upward trend in the crime statistics reported in newsletters over the past few years and this matches peoples' perception of increased antisocial behaviour such as graffiti on walls and screeching tyres at night. Many of these incidents are not reported, however if we are more diligent with reporting, these issues might attract more attention from authorities.

World War 1 Murals Ready For Anzac Day 2015

In a joint project involving Redhead Public School and the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, murals will be painted on the walls of the storage shed adjacent to the memorial garden at the school. The cost of the project will be covered by a grant under Anzac Centenary Funding arrangements from the Federal Government.

The murals will have a WW1 theme and plaques that commemorate the three ex students of Redhead Public School who lost their lives in the war, will be installed. A local artist and a professional artist have offered to be involved and the school children will assist with the project. Plans are for the murals to be completed and available for when the school commemorates Anzac Day.

Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway Progress Report

The possible closure of the Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway due to a Council ban on use of motorised equipment by Landcare volunteers has been an ongoing community issue. Since last newsletter, there has been confirmation from Council that the walkway will remain open, but Council has still not resolved whether our Landcare volunteers can use motorised equipment.

Council has however undertaken to do two maintenance services to the edges of the walkway this financial year. In December, they did a structural assessment on the viewing platforms and said that they were OK, but identified a number of maintenance issues that they are now fixing. Council has invited people to contact the Council's Customer Service Centre to report any maintenance issues that present a hazard to the public and they will be resolved.

In late January, the walkway looked like it needed some attention, with broken boards and overgrown edges.

CALL 4944 9100



Bottlemart

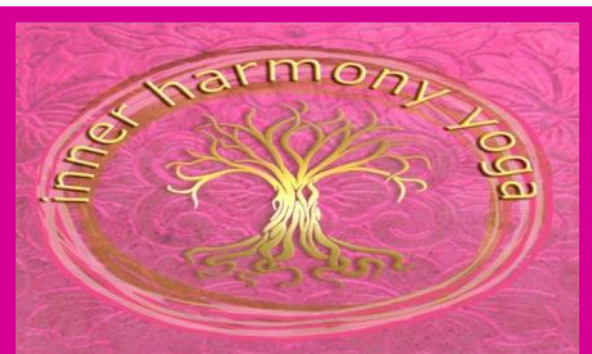
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rlawrie37@gmail.com or AH 0413 425 991

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\$13 DROP IN \$10 CONCESSION

For more info, email Rachel: rlawrie37@gmail.com

or phone : 0413 425 991

Thanks to our newsletter sponsors for this edition: Redhead Self Storage, Mighty Hands Massage, Inner Harmony Yoga, and Redhead Cellars Bottlemart.

Thanks also to our contributors and interviewees for this edition; Lindsay Black, Sharmala Whitehead, Andrew Dunkin, Dave Perkins, Andrew Walker, Mike McKey and Jasmin Kable.



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Wildlife Rescue Service in Redhead

Redhead is surrounded by bush and the chance of our meeting wildlife in and around our homes is more than likely.

Jasmin Kable lives in the area and is a wildlife rescuer/rehabilitator from the local wildlife rescue service of the Native Animal Trust Fund. She is licenced to rescue venomous and non-venomous snakes as well as bats and other native species and is offering to rescue local wildlife.

"I would just like to advertise my details locally so that if anyone finds injured wildlife, they can contact me for assistance." Jasmin said.

"The Trust also needs funds and equipment for their service and any help would be appreciated." she said "We are always in need of cages, aviaries, old towels and pillow cases, storage containers, baskets, wood for possum boxes and veterinary first aid equipment. As well, if anyone is interested in allowing native flowers to be harvested from their garden for possums, bats and birds, that would be great. Also we have a template for making possum boxes that is available online, and people can contribute by knitting and/or sewing liners for mammal pouches."

If anyone is interested in joining the Hunter branch of the Native Animal Trust or would like more details go to <http://.hunterwildlife.org.au>

To contact Jasmin, phone 0430 176443 or email jazzygal_9@hotmail.com

Newsletter Contributions

This newsletter is published by the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group for the benefit of the Redhead Community. Anyone receiving the newsletter can contribute an article, comment on any issues or send a letter to the editor. Your contributions would be most welcome.

Electronic Copies: If you would like to receive your newsletter by email and in colour, and save some paper, let us know by sending us an email and include your home address or call the Secretary on 4944 8110.

Our email address is sustainableredhead@gmail.com
Website: sustainableredhead.wordpress.com



Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 1 March 2015 8:00 am to 12:00
At Webb Park, Beach Road

It is on again! Bring your hat and gloves. Bring the kids! sign in, get your bag, get directions and help clean up the neighbourhood.



**Redhead
Sustainable
Neighbourhood**