



Redhead Village Newsletter

No.30

March 2020

Extension of Fernleigh Track

Cyclists and walkers are celebrating, with a new section of the Fernleigh Track to go ahead passing through picturesque Belmont Wetlands. The NSW government will chip in \$7.4 million and Lake Macquarie Council will fund the rest of the \$12 million project. It will run from the Belmont end of the Fernleigh Track to an existing shared pathway at Blacksmiths, creating a 27 km continuous cycleway from Murrays Beach to Adamstown.



The NSW grant comes from the \$300 million Regional Growth - Environmental & Tourism Fund, set up to deliver infrastructure projects that improve the economic growth of the State.

The Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Pathway (FAST) includes an elevated boardwalk past Belmont Wetlands that will feature local indigenous art. The Council is taking feedback from the community on portal <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/fast>. Feedback closes 3 April 2020.

Clean Up Australia in Redhead

Clean Up Australia was held in Redhead on Sunday 1 March. We were pleased with the support we received



Jodie Aguiar, Jody Harrison MP & Colin Mondy

from Mayor Cr Kay Fraser, Lake Macquarie City Council, and Jodie Harrison MP Member for Charlestown and of course our volunteers young and old. The event was attended by 39 volunteers collecting 23

bags of rubbish and 4 bags of recyclable items. This is the smallest amount in 10 years – congratulations to the community for keeping Redhead cleaner! Another 400 kg of mixed rubbish such as carpet, tyres, chairs, mattress, exhaust pipe and microwave, was also collected.

Illegal dumping is still a major problem.

Dob in a Dumper

Report Illegal Dumping
Phone 131555



Let us make 2020 the year for Redhead residents and businesses to take a stand for our environment.

We need to reduce CO2 emissions, so making the decision to invest in renewable energy through solar electricity and solar hot water is a simple and affordable option for all of us.

A NO BRAINER you might even call it. The savings you will achieve will **pay back** the initial investment in **3-4 years**. Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood and its members encourage all in the community to join us in making a difference in 2020. Want to get started? Don't hesitate to contact us. We always welcome anyone passionate to make a contribution.

Let's send the EnergyWave through Redhead and make our community the first to go fully renewable energy.

Weeds – Turkey Rhubarb

Turkey Rhubarb is another invasive weed, found mostly along the coast in moist gullies and dunes. It is a low growing plant, with long scrambling, climbing stems, triangular, pointy leaves and cream flowers. The stems can be as long as 5 metres. The plant has a larger tuber which needs to be removed and it can produce chains of underground tubers. These can take considerable digging to remove. The Turkey Rhubarb will regenerate from the tubers if only the top growth is removed. The plants produce thousands of



papery seeds, with three wings. They germinate under native vegetation and smother the supporting plant. This weed should be removed as soon as it shows up in your garden.



Cain Street Landcare Group

The long, dry summer has ended with much needed rain, and for our Landcare site between Cain Street and the lagoon, a lot of new growth is springing up. Many native plants are beginning to recover but unfortunately so too are the weeds and unwanted invasive plants. We made a good start last year and are looking forward to being more strategic in our approach for 2020. Our Landcare group is committed to restoring the natural bush environment so that our indigenous plants and wildlife can thrive as well as creating pleasant spaces for us all to enjoy. If you would like to be a part of our enthusiastic team, **feel free to join us from 8.00 am to 12.00 noon on the last Sunday of each month at the Landcare shed in Cain Street.** We would love to see you!

MORE RAIN IN THE DAMS, but....

Level 1 Hunter Water Restrictions still apply from 24 February 2020

| Restriction level | Home and business |
|-------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor watering before 10am or after 4pm with a trigger nozzle• All hoses must have a trigger nozzle• No hosing of hard surfaces such as concrete, paths and driveways• Wash your vehicle using a trigger nozzle• No sprinklers |

Restorations of the Dunes

Council has undertaken dune rehabilitation works at Redhead Beach. The works include the installation of a dune protection timber and wire fence at the northern and southern dunes at First Creek, Redhead. These works are for the protection and enhancement of Redhead's sand dunes and the restoration of sand dune vegetation. Sadly, after the fences were installed 4WD drivers have already ventured into the dunes in this area, and crashed into some of the posts.

Belmont Wetlands State Park has received an Environmental Grant from the Shortland Communities Environment Program towards further stabilisation work restoring the North Nine Mile Beach Dunes replicating the work already done on the southern end. The stabilisation has included rehabilitation of the dune erosion and re-vegetation.

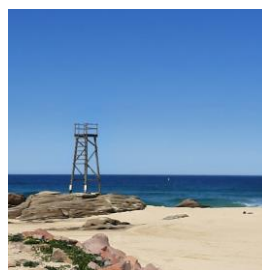


When visiting our beaches please remember to stay off dunes, avoid trampling dune vegetation and keep out of fenced areas.

Sharks and Conditions Monitoring at Redhead Beach

Lots of great news from Redhead Surf Life Saving Club and Lake Macquarie City Council in regards to keeping our beaches safe.

An array of cameras and sensors has been installed at Redhead and Blacksmiths Beaches. The technology will be trialled throughout the 2019-20 beach season. Sensors and other smart infrastructure will monitor wave and swell movement to provide earlier detection of dangerous conditions, while others will monitor visitor activity to gauge which beaches and amenities, parking, outdoor showers, are busiest at any given time. A trial special metal tower has also been erected to



provide shark alerts. The remote alerts can be transmitted to a mobile in real-time to a lifeguard, so especially useful overnight and in winter, when there are no Life Guards on duty. The shark detection drone trial is also still active mainly at

busy times and on weekends.

A \$20,000 artwork will also be installed at Redhead Beach as part of Council's Smart Beaches project. Expressions of interest have opened for the commission, calling for artists to take inspiration from the picturesque coastal setting, themed on beach conditions or beach safety. Submissions would be judged on their originality, quality, relevance and ability to articulate these core concepts.

What's happening at Whiddon Redhead?

In October 2019 Stage one of the development was completed and Whiddon Residential Care Facility Redhead opened a brand new two-storey home offering 80 single rooms with sea views, a café, health spaces, a hair salon, activities spaces, 8 small household-living areas and on-site Community Care. The new two-storey building has been designed to incorporate small household living areas that look and feel more like home. They are each centred around an interactive kitchen, lounge room and intimate dining space.



The expansion and refurbishment of the original home also commenced last year and once completed, it will include a Whiddon Clubhouse, bowling green, relaxing outdoor

spaces and a new dementia specific unit. The project is expected to be fully completed before mid-2020. There is a need for additional residential aged care places for older people in the area. The project will deliver an additional 115 places bringing the total number of residential places offered at Whiddon Redhead to 175. The development also brings new jobs in nursing, care, hospitality and hotel services, and a significant investment in our local community. During the construction phase Whiddon has had a construction, noise and vibration management plan in place and implemented a traffic management plan.

Let us know if you have any feedback.

Empowering Homes - solar battery offer

The NSW Government will help homeowners in Redhead access interest-free loans to install solar battery systems. Eligible households can get an interest-free loan:

- \$14,000 towards a solar PV and battery system (repayable over a range of terms up to 8 years), or
- \$9000 towards retrofitting a battery system to an existing solar PV system (repayable over a range of terms up to 10 years).

For more information visit energysaver.nsw.gov.au or call Service NSW on 13 77 88

Burnouts, break-ins and theft

Over our summer period just ended, most people in Redhead would agree that cars and motorbikes doing noisy burnouts or driving dangerously are now almost a daily (or nightly) occurrence. Just have a look at the



black tyre marks on the beach car park, Beach Road and Kalaroo Road.

Reporting these incidents so that police at least know that it is happening is a necessary first step. Police

want us to report any anti-social activity, because all reports go into a database that highlights hotspots for police attention and the scheduling of patrols. Police contact details for putting on your notice board at home are:

Belmont Police: 4922 8899
Crimestoppers: 1800 333 000
Crime in progress: 000

or go to <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/> to report online. Reporting can be anonymous if you wish.

Apart from burnouts, property crime in Redhead during the last 12 months includes:

Break and enter : 11 incidents
Malicious damage : 23 incidents
Stealing: 35 Incidents and 12 vehicles

December 2019 was our busiest month.

It is mildly reassuring that Redhead continues to be classified as a "low crime" area, but if you were a victim of any of the incidents above, it is obviously devastating and as a community we would like to prevent such crimes and make Redhead safer.

With car theft, since 2003 all cars have been fitted with immobilisers, and car thieves need your keys in order to steal your car. So we all need to keep our car keys secure! Stealing from motor vehicles is also a common crime, so suggest locking your cars.

If you are worried about home security, the police have some good guidelines available, including basic things like house numbers, good fencing, low bushes near windows and doors etc. You can find these **guidelines at <https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety> and prevention /safe and secure/residential home.**

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood

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

CONTACT US

Email: sustainableredhead@gmail.com

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of every month, Redhead Community Library 6:15-7:30pm

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

Newsletter Contributions

All contributions and comments are welcome from anyone receiving our Newsletter. Contact us, if you would like to place an ad, if you have an article, or would like to learn more about us.

Thanks to our sponsors for this edition, LONE, RVR, Redhead Family Dental, and Food Collective

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YOUR FOOD COLLECTIVE

Your Food Collective was created by two cousins who were constantly disappointed with the tasteless, limp produce dished up at major supermarkets.

So their mission for change started!

They're using technology to connect you directly to local farmers so you get the freshest food available. It means your **food is picked to order** from local farms and no one else is doing that.

Producers that work with YFC come from **within 200km of your front door**. That's pretty amazing! They also get paid fairly for what they do, up to 4 times more than in the major supermarkets.

Your Food Collective is open in **Redhead** and a number of other suburbs including Warners Bay, Kotara, Charlestown & Maitland.

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