

President: Elaine Pearce
Vice President: Rosemary Probst
Secretary: Rosemary Probst
Asst. Secretary: Position vacant
Treasurer: Bob Galvin
Executive Committee: Keith Stackman
Neil Cadden
Tracey Hamer
Working Committee: Alan Luxford
Kerrin Simpson
Lis. Sieverts

STATE ELECTIONS

Well, that is over and hopefully the fact that the government has been elected for a second term is in our favour in that we don't have to go back to square 1 and deal with a new government. Although we do have three new ministers, with Minister Stokes having been moved to Development. The new Minister for Environment, Mark Speakman, has a good history as do the other two we deal with, Niall Blair, Minister for Tourism and Stuart Ayres, Minister for Primary Industries

CONGRATULATIONS STEPHEN BROMHEAD

Congratulations Stephen. We hope that you will maintain contact with the new Environment Minister, Mark Speakman, and perhaps alert the new Minister for Tourism, Stuart Ayres, and the new Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, of the advantages that our reef will bring to Old Bar by way of increased fish stocks and lots of tourists to view the spectacle of this wondrous reef.

OFF-SHORE REEF

We are continually following up on our ground work with the State Government. We have written to the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Primary Industries pointing out the opportunity they have to take NSW forward by working with our feasibility study, and begin protecting the beaches of NSW commencing with Old Bar Beach's environmentally friendly plan, thus addressing the state's reputation of negativity towards beach protection. This will now be followed up with letters of congratulations to the new ministers with the possibilities of the three working together to make a 'GREATER NSW' as Premier Baird put it. At every opportunity the 'Benefit to Cost' ratio study done by Professor Thor Hundloe of Bond University is pointed out. The result of this study is that for "tourism" alone every dollar spent would return 4 dollars, with the added benefit of protection of property, the beach and sand replenishment.

SAND TRAPS AND DUNE FENCING

Best news I have to report is that our committee member, Lisette Sieverts, has prepared applications for the dune fencing work we want to do. She has worked on ascertaining costs in order that we can make complete and convincing applications for one of the grants which are available. The office of our local member, Stephen Bromhead, is aware of the work we intend doing and will consider the possibility of grants which may be available – *after the elections.*

GABION TRAINING WALL



This structure is well and truly exposed at the moment and it has been reported to council Service Desk by a local resident, being the action set out in report by M/s Jane Gibbs of the Office of Environment and Heritage to Stephen Bromhead's office on October 24, 2012.

This report followed a meeting on site the previous day attended by Jane Gibbs & another OEH officer, Elaine Pearce of OBBSRG, the Mayor, a Councillor and officers from Greater Taree City Council, and Department of Primary Industries (Crown Lands) as well as a number of community members (about 10).

In March 2012 we obtained a quote from a well experienced and reputable operator for the repair work. Stephen Bromhead had received assurance of the funds being available, but all was refused and 7 months of arguing followed terminating in this meeting involving the time, transport and accommodation costs of these State government officers – what for??? - To prove a point. The work will most assuredly be more expensive now as several of the front foundation baskets are gone completely. Minister Stokes on his visit on January 12 admitted that the wall was dangerous.

We comment that this gabion basket training wall has acted as a "groyne", but this has been

constantly dismissed by council and Department of Environment and Heritage, despite the brilliant comparison photos shown here.

Shakespeare's quote - "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" –

1989 - Before Erection of Gabion Wall



THE PHOTO TO THE LEFT IS THE SAME SCENE, INCLUDING THE GABION BASKET TRAINING WALL, TAKEN IN THE WINTER OF 2007. THE SAND IS NOW LOWER AND THE WATER IS NOW HIGHER, SHOWING THE EFFECTS OF THE WALL IN LOWER BEACHES. THE BASKET TRAINING WALL IS NOW IN PLACE AND IS LOWER BEACHES. THE BASKET TRAINING WALL IS NOW IN PLACE AND IS LOWER BEACHES. THE BASKET TRAINING WALL IS NOW IN PLACE AND IS LOWER BEACHES.

2007 - 17 years after the Gabion Wall was built.



SURF CLUB RAMP

It appears our estimate of cost of the one man, one machine, one day was close to the \$800 eventual charge, but the balance of the \$5,000 grant from Minister Stokes was absorbed by way of "internal costs". That is internal costs are 5 times the actual work done. Does that surprise anyone???

COUNCIL'S ATTEMPTED ACQUISITION OF PARK LANDS

"Community Forum" – congratulations to Old Bar-Manning Point Chamber of Commerce on a successful Community Forum at Club Old Bar which enabled the locals to discuss opinions on the Council's "Draft Open Space Improvement Plan", and gave quite a clear message to Council of the residents' desires in respect to what they want in their village – VOCAL MINORITY we were called at the Council meeting. We must all remain vigilant and be determined in our defence of our parklands and prove it is the entire community upset by this attempted council action

APATHY ABOUT THE BEACH

It must sound funny to hear someone say, "Unfortunately we have had a prolonged period of good weather" but that is the case – due to the good weather the storms and rapid loss of our fortune seem to have been forgotten by both owners and the community. However OBBSRG cannot forget and our committee must work hard to get at least the Badger's Reef in place as quickly as possible.

RESIGNATION OF OUR SECRETARY

It is with great sorrow that I have to report that our Secretary, Gail Willan, with us from the very early days, has resigned due to family reasons. She was present at all do's with a happy smile and gentle humming of a tune, our best raffle ticket seller and barbeque worker and always a steady thinker keeping us on the right track. It leaves a big space in our committee. Our Vice-president, Rosemary Probst, has taken up the challenge as Secretary.

BUNNING'S BARBEQUES

I will apply for new dates for this year, but we need workers and I am doubtful that we can raise enough workers.

We have to sit quietly and await the outcome of the deliberations of the NSW Coastal Panel which will hopefully be in favour of the environmental protection of our beach and property and the replenishment of sand to our beach.