

## **OLD BAR BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT GROUP INC**

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### **NEWSLETTER NO 50 – MARCH, 2017**

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 13 – WHAT A DAY IT WAS!!!!**

All will be explained in detail later in this newsletter, but here is a summary

- Material arrived for dune fencing
- “Work for the dole crew” started work on the dune fencing
- sand traps are being restored by Barbara and Co.
- several meetings with various MidCoast officer.

#### **CHANGE OF MINISTER**

It has been confirmed that Minister Roberts is handling Coastal protection and as soon as that confirmation was given we wrote to the Minister advising of our plight and plans for protection, some of which depend on his approval of the funding from the stated \$83 million for coastal repair.

#### **UPDATE MEETING WITH GERARD TUCKERMAN AND GEOFF LOVE**

Our group had a very promising meeting with Gerard Tuckerman (Old Bar Manning Point Coastal Plan) and Geoff Love (Beach nourishment and beach scraping) on Monday, March 13. They are both working very hard and with sincerity to get protection for our beach with the sand scraping and the Old Bar Manning Point Coastal Program and advised of their progress, which will be explained later as we go through the many happenings to protect the beach.

#### **OLD BAR MANNING POINT COASTAL PROGRAM**

Gerard Tuckerman has gathered together a group of coastal engineers and environmental specialists to assist in the preparation of this very important program for the long term protection of the Old Bar Manning Point Coastline. It is expected that the Manly Hydraulics “Old Bar Beach and Manning Point Beach Erosion Analysis” (commissioned by Greater Taree City Council to assist in this program preparation) will be available by the end of March. Your committee will be following this up constantly as we are looking for the dredging of Farquhar Inlet for the tourist industry, restoration of some of our lost foredune and to assist the oyster oyster, prawning and fishing industries which have been asking for this, as I understand, since 2006. With regard to funding for the study the application is completed and will be submitted to the Minister in the next few days.

**SAND SCRAPING** – “Sand Scraping (or Beach Scraping) is defined as the movement of sand from the intertidal zone to the dune or upper beach by mechanical means”. Geoff Love has progressed well because of his constant surveillance of our beach, especially through the recent heavy seas, and he is pleased that there is a strong possibility of sand scraping to put a good amount of sand back on our beach. Here again funding is being searched out and sought. He has been consulting with James Carley of “Water Research Laboratory” who has supervised such work at New Brighton Beach, Byron Bay. In his study for the possible success, methodology and costing of “beach scraping” he has stated that it should be commenced by May 1 to take best advantages of probable weather conditions and existing sand stock in the “intertidal zone”.

## DUNE FENCING

- At 7.30 am Monday morning at the surf club the material (provided by David Gillespie's help through Federal Government Grant, Stronger Communities) arrived for our dune fencing one small truck bringing the hessian fencing. Then about a half hour later along came the big truck with 1500 stakes. Fortunately he had a machine which enabled them to be unloaded (with a lot of help from the gathered workers)
- At 8 am the "work for the dole crew" arrived and without missing a beat the materials were down on the beach and the fencing started.

Thank you to all who helped in the exercise!!!!



### **SAND TRAPS**

Thanks to the diligence of Barbara, Pat & Co. the storm damage to the sand traps is already being repaired – a lot of work to do it, but thanks to their resilience we will soon have all the sand traps on our beach restored. Here again officers of MidCoast Council are on board supplying advice and materials. It is great to have council working with us. A method of sand stabilisation that MidCoast have used successfully is “hay bales” and they are working with Barbara & Co to see if this can be adapted to suit our needs.

### **BUNNING’S BARBECUE**

Was a great success – we worked from 8 am until 4 pm – ran out of supplies which prompted two quick trip to Taree shops, and we finished up using all stock – no waste - which is always what we look for. The next Bunnings is Sunday, May 21. Thanks go to the happy workers who slaved in a hot tent over a really hot barbecue to serve the delicious sausage sandwiches, with onion sliced to perfection by “master chef” Ian Dimmock.

### **FOOTPATH TO THE BEACH**

This is the next project for the “work for the dole crew” who are doing our dune fencing – starting sometime in April – what an achievement that is for Carol Isaacs of the Chamber of Commerce – again congratulations Carol & co. for your success.

### **STOP PRESS- STEPHEN BROMHEAD VISIT – TENNIS COURTS -12 NOON–MONDAY, MARCH 20 -**

Our state representative, Stephen Bromhead, will be at the Tennis Courts, 12 noon, Monday, March 20 – as he is good enough to take the time to visit our area, I hope we have a good roll out to thank him for his effort in getting the funding for the footpath and discuss the new council and our beach work.

### **MIDCOAST COUNCIL QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING**

Old Bar meeting was held at 6 pm at Club Old Bar and there were approximately 35 in attendance. Glenn Handford addressed the meeting explaining the financials and ongoing progress with organising administration staff to achieve the best possible results for the amalgamation. Ron Hartley, Chief Engineer, advised on the progress in works in the engineering area. It was all very positive. Glenn Handford pointed out the Council Elections for our area will be held in September this year. At the end of the meeting a chart was issued of 2016/2017 Capital works recently completed or upcoming – as at March 2017 showing Manning, Great Lakes and Forster.

### **GOOD NEWS DESPITE STRONG AND POSSIBLY DAMAGING SEAS**

How enjoyable it has been to write this newsletter full of good news, despite the seas which decimated the sand traps, but the resilience of Barbara & co’s crew has us all smiling.

## **REMEMBER**

**“TO DO NOTHING IS DISASTER – WE MUST DO SOMETHING”**

## **MY MOTTO**

**SAND ON THE BEACH “ANY WHICH WAY”**

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