



Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association Newsletter - March 2023

Hi Members,

Up front, a big congratulations to our hard working and committed local member, Kate Washington MP for a big win in Port Stephens. Kate is a strong supporter of the Hawks Nest - Tea Gardens community and has been very supportive of the Progress Association over the years. We welcome her support for several improvements in our area, in particular the Myall Way (roads, roads, roads!) and grants (funds to get things done!). The Committee notes that the MCC is also lobbying relevant MPs for the Myall Way to be included in the NSW Regional Transport - Pacific Highway Future Growth Program, which we strongly support for a safer interchange.



Kate Washington MP (centre) opened our last Seniors Festival

Around our twin villages we have updates on several projects we continue to support and monitor:

- Tea Gardens Pontoon & Jetty (Apex Park): This much delayed replacement is being progressed by Magryn Engineering who have completed the structural drawings. MCC are finalising the Review of Environment Factors (REF report) and will be lodging the Crown Licence application with works planned to commence after April this year.

The Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association - PO Box 19, Hawks Nest, NSW 2324, AUSTRALIA
www.hntgprogressassociation.com - 0432 764 333 - Registered with NSW Fair Trading - INC9881748

Working together for the benefit of the Myall Coast community and our environment. We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this land and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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- Hawks Nest Community Hall Extensions: The tender has been reportedly finalised by the MCC and we are seeking clarification around schedule with delays evident.
- Hawks Nest Beach: Following lobbying by the HNTGPA, additional external showers will be installed over winter. Works will include erosion prevention improvements, including sandstone block landscaping. Our volunteers will also be renewing the murals and improving the gardens.
- MCC is progressing local water and wastewater improvements, of note the \$45M Hawks Nest sewer upgrade program which includes a new pump station and rising main connecting Tea Gardens to Hawks Nest (for the new residential developments). Public consultation commenced last week and will be ongoing.
- Mobile coverage, particularly in Hawks Nest remains poor. The MCC are advocating to be included in the Australian Government funded program to improve service across the LGA. The Committee will continue to lobby The Hon. Dr David Gillespie and government to deliver.

The Committee notes that the Hunter Regional Plan has now been in place since December 2022. The MCC is currently aligning relevant planning guidance. However, there are increasing community concerns about “zombie DA” approvals in coastal communities such as ours. There have been a several recent controversial approvals, including 90 Viney Creek Road (a new 226 lot subdivision), and 91-95 Marine Drive. Progress matters, however, there may be merit in supporting a five-year development consent limit to ensure developments comply with modern planning standards and local community expectations.

The Committee is pleased to advise we are finalising the \$117,000 Funding Deed with the NSW Government to install the new outdoor gym equipment at Providence Bay Park by next summer.

There has been increased graffiti across the villages and we continue to support the rapid removal and restoration of vandalised public places. This also applies dumping which continues in our beaches and parks.

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We start fundraising with a two BBQ scheduled for Bunnings this year (starting 10 June) to cover our insurance costs which continue to increase.

Finally, our next Public General Meeting will be in the Dolphin Room at the Tea Gardens Pub from 6.30pm on Monday 17 April. This will be the location for all our meetings until the upgrades to the Hawks Nest Community Hall are completed. This meeting we plan to open with a 20-minute screen presentation from the national [Black Dog Institute](#) on regional mental health and available wrap around services.

Thank you.

Sandra Bourke, Secretary and Public Officer, HNTGPA

Issues or Agenda Items - Please email before meeting hntgprogress@gmail.com

Thank you & keep supporting local - Management Committee team.



Inaugural Anderson Art Award: An exhibition of the competition entries will be held in The Gallery from Friday 14th April until Sunday 30th April 2023. Ms Kim Blunt, Senior Curator, Maitland Regional Art Gallery, will be the judge for the competition.

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