

Bellingham Newsletter

Bellingham Progress Association

February 2017



Clean Up Australia Day



For some years, the Bellingham Progress Association has participated in Clean Up Australia Day. We are joining in again this year on Sunday March 5th. This year we are hopeful that some 4WD groups are going to join in and clean up the beaches from the cutting on Millers (East) Beach and along the traverse towards Bridport.

We usually only take 2 hours to clean up the village area, the roadside out to Bridport Rd, Gees Marsh Rd and the areas people camp etc. out that way. All equipment, safety vests etc. are provided. We need to meet at the Hall at 9.30 to sign in, collect our gear and be allocated an area to ensure all areas are covered.

We hope that many of our community members will join in. The session finishes up with a BBQ lunch at the Hall.

Working Bees

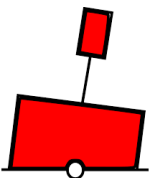
The Clean Up Australia Day is our first Working Bee for the year. Working Bees are usually held on the first Saturday of the month – though this can vary! We usually print a list of dates for the noticeboard at the Rec Ground and also publish dates in the Newsletter.



What work do we do? This varies and we often respond to requests or ideas just prior to the working bee. Some tasks we have undertaken include: clearing the area near the picnic shelter and walking tracks, cleaning the Hall, doing minor maintenance etc. Dates will be determined for the next few months at the General Meeting (see below)

Pontoon and River Buoys Update

The pontoon has recently undergone some repair as unfortunately due to sand movements – a lot of sand had built up under it. Jim Caulfield from MAST was able to assess the situation. He decided that the pontoon could be elevated with some beams and the George Town Council readily agreed to co-pay, together with MAST, for the modification. The response from both organisations was extremely prompt and the modifications have already been undertaken. Thank you to MAST and the Council. We are hopeful that this will alleviate the sand build up. The Council have also removed the backlog of sand.



The Progress Association has also taken on the task of ongoing maintenance of the buoys in the river. We would like to thank Gary Mondon, who together with Dane Burgess, helped install and maintain the buoys. Volunteers will check the chains regularly and as links show wear, they will be replaced. The first check was done on Sunday Feb 12 in somewhat chilly conditions. Thank you to the volunteers.

Annual General Meeting and March General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (a short meeting followed by the March General Meeting) will be held in the Community Hall at 2pm Saturday March 11. At the AGM new office bearers will be elected. If you would like to take an active role in our community or have a say on our community activities, please come to the meeting and perhaps join the Executive in some capacity. The



combined meetings are followed by afternoon tea. We welcome new members and ideas!

Bellingham Progress Association

Membership:

Membership to our Association is now due for 2017 – at the cost of \$5 per person. Judy Morrison (3 Lyndon Ave) is our Treasurer and will be available most weekends to accept payment. You may also pay at the AGM. Only paid-up members can vote at meetings!



Hall Hire:

New members to our community may not be aware that our Hall is available for hire for a nominal fee. If you wish to hire the facilities please contact Judy Morrison.

Community Lawn Mowing:

Several members of our community now have their Ride-on Mower Certification and are able to use the mower within our community. Thank you to Alan Clark, Ray East, Ken Dolley, Ray Hibbs and Mark Cage for doing this volunteer work and travelling into Pellows to get their certification. The Council provided our Association with this mower and it is used to mow the Rec ground and other accessible areas – established walking tracks, nature strips and fire breaks behind houses (where possible). Mowing has slowed a bit lately due to the Fuel Card not working - but it will resume shortly.



First Aid Follow Up

Following up from our First Aid Course in December, the Progress Association has taken the following initiatives:

EMERGENCY
DEFIBRILLATOR



AED

Defibrillator Unit:

We bought a defibrillator unit which is attached to the "Fire shed" – the small green shed at the gate of the Rec Ground. This unit cost over \$2000 and if it saves someone's life, it is money well spent! Prior to our New Year Dinner we were given a review of its use by Tim from St Johns Ambulance. They are easy to use and if you need to use it, voice prompts are given by the machine! It lives in an alarmed box and is obviously only for use in emergencies.

Pressure Bandages:



The Association has also purchased pressure bandages for use on severe wounds and for snake bite. These can be purchased for \$18 per bandage from Judy Morrison. Again they are easy to use and have indicators to show when the correct pressure is applied.



New Year's Dinner

This event was a great success on a lovely balmy evening with over 60 people in attendance and lots of yummy food!

The evening started with Tim from St Johns doing a quick revision of First Aid. We all tried to remember the First Aid Action Plan (DrsABCD):

D for Danger – check that you, then bystanders then the patient is not in any danger

R for Response – check for a response from the patient

S for Send for Help – call 000

A for Airway – open the patient's mouth and make sure the airway is clear

B for Breathing – look, listen feel – if no breathing start CPR

C for CPR – 30 chest compressions then 2 breaths

D for Defibrillation – follow the voice prompts

He then gave an introduction to the use of the defibrillator.



Email Address

If you wish to contact us by email, our address is: bellinghamnews1@gmail.com