

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

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### **NEWSLETTER NO 55, OCTOBER, 2017**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS – FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

2017 – Old Bar Festival – yet another success – bringing tourists to Old Bar –  
**WELL DONE**

#### **PROCRASTINATION BY THOSE IN CHARGE**

No way our beach and Farquhar Inlet, are going to bring tourists any more. Farquhar Inlet is so blocked with sand that mangroves are now growing in the middle of the inlet. No fish in the inlet because there is so little water – next thing we will have the Department of Environment and Heritage telling us we can't dredge Farquhar because of the mangroves growing there. They didn't intervene when there was not enough water for the fish to swim in their natural habitat. Dredging would have solved that problem, and now, the opening is blocked completely.

#### **WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?????**

I will constantly repeat from International Coastal Engineer, Angus Jackson's email to me, July 15, 2014

- NSW have never been greatly proactive with beach management works and has done almost no nourishment. Just reports and planning approaches.
- It seems to me that the harsh reality is that NSW will continue to spend huge amounts of money drawing red hazard lines along the coast until sometime in the future when Qld has beaches [and the tourists from nsw] and NSW has erosion, no beaches and more court cases nothing will happen in NSW.
- We can suggest really good engineering solutions but presently it is really the political / legal issues need to be solved first.

**!!!! HOW TRUE THIS IS !!!!**

#### **COMMUNITY HELP ESSENTIAL**

OBBS group have done our utmost – MidCoast Council has done everything asked of them. Last newsletter reported in detail where the MidCoast council is at.

**OUR COMMUNITY NOW HAS TO MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD**

**OUR GROUP IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS – COME ON WITH THE IDEAS**

**PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES AND LET YOUR FEELINGS BE KNOWN**

**STEPHEN BROMHEAD WILL BE VISITING OLD BAR,**

***This is an opportunity to hand to him completed petitions (attached) for road funding – please get as many signatures as possible. Show our endeavours to help with these matters. Get signatures – present them in person -***

- ***Also make known our desperate need for the dredging of FARQUHAR INLET and our extreme disappointment at the State Government's performance***

**Thursday November 2 – 1.30 pm – Tennis Courts**

### **MIDCOAST COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

MidCoast Council takes the time to meet with us to discuss their planned direction and listen to any suggestions our community may have to offer. This time the community really does have something to want fixed

#### **WHAT DO WE WANT? ---- DREDGE FARQUHAR INLET**

**Please come along and meet with them at the Club Old Bar.-  
Monday October 30 – 6pm-8pm Club Old Bar**

The following information includes material from a report that has been given to us by Andrew Staniland, Project Manager at MidCoast Council.

### **SAND SCRAPING**

Council submitted the REF along with a licence application, requesting permission to undertake sand scraping on Crown Lands. The REF and licence application was sent to the Department of Industry Crown Lands on Wednesday 11 October 2017 and it has been acknowledged. Andrew has rung several contacts within Crown Lands to ensure that they know about the licence application and stress the importance of a quick turnaround on the assessment of the application. As soon as Council receives the permission from Crown Lands, a sand scraping commencement date will be set. Andrew advises "that for New Brighton to get where they are now, they did the same process as Old Bar is doing now. Their works has been through the initial rigmarole and from my understanding following a positive first campaign applied for permits for follow up scraping. Old Bar is riding on the coat tails of New Brighton, we have reviewed their processes and speaking with the same experts (James Carley) that they used". The trial sand scraping on Old Bar aims to source 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand.

### **SAND SCRAPING – BRIGHTON BEACH**

Attached is information on New Brighton Beach, Byron Bay – sand scraping was carried out in 2013 and will again be carried out between October and December, 2017. This article will give you an idea of what we can expect as part of the work and it is extremely interesting.

**RACECOURSE CREEK FLOODPLAIN STUDY AND RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN** - On the 27 April 2017, MidCoast Council submitted a grant application to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) requesting \$100,000 of funding to develop the Racecourse Creek Floodplain Study and Risk Management Plan. If funding is successful, Council will contribute \$50,000 to the project. Following information from OEH that the final determination of the grant sits with the NSW Minister for the Environment's office, Council have approached MP Stephen Bromhead. Council have requested that Mr Bromhead stress the importance of the Racecourse Creek Floodplain Study and Plan to the Minister for the Environment, Gabrielle Upton. It is hoped that Mr Bromhead will get an opportunity to peruse this, when he heads to Sydney to sit for Parliament this week.

**OLD BAR MANNING POINT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP)** - Andrew has commenced the required documentation to engage multiple consultants. The varied consultants will be tasked with one of the following: undertaking the Ground Penetrating Radar study, review and update of existing hazard line information, development and implementation of a community engagement model and development and collocation of the CMP.

**FARQUHAR INLET-** Whilst it is very good to get such updates from MidCoast Council that they are doing the best they can, we differ and have to put pressure to get that sand out of the Inlet onto Old Bar Beach – where it came from!!! Farquhar inlet has closed. This is a natural process we are told with this section of the river wanting to naturally silt up. Checking with fishermen who have been fishing the area for many years they confirm their last seeing Farquhar Inlet this silted up was 15 years ago. It is obvious that the lack of flow down the Manning River because of lack of rain has caused the entrance to close. But Council tells us they will not be undertaking actions to open this entrance anytime soon.

This appears an ideal time to use the Worley Parsons suggested “inland lake with notch” and utilise the sand (30,000 cu.metres = 2 kmx1.5mx10m on Old Bar Beach) before it is washed out sea in a great flood, which is what I am told happened 15 years ago with the opening of the Inlet.

It was good to get confirmation from Andrew that “Council is responsible for the management of the Farquhar inlet” so we know the actual position (it is not the State Government we have to look to) but not so good where he continues “that Council will not be undertaking dredging at this point in time. He continues “even if Council were to place a dredge in Farquhar at the moment, it would not achieve a desirable result” - our group feels that a desirable result would be **30,000 cu.metres of sand on Old Bar Beach instead of its being washed out into the ocean.** One has to get their priorities right and the sand would be lost in the ocean, whereas dredged onto Old Bar Beach it would protect property for so many more years, enable boating and fishing again in the Farquhar Inlet. Also talking to the oyster and prawn farmers and the fisherman it would assist them.

*This is where you, the community, can help by bringing these matters to the attention of the General Manager and Councillors on October 30 and Stephen Bromhead on November 2*

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

**MY MOTTO**  
**SAND ON THE BEACH “ANY WHICH WAY”**  
**ELAINE PEARCE – PRESIDENT – mob. 0407 229 145**