



WALKERVILLE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2008

Since our last newsletter in November 2007, many of us have been fortunate enough to enjoy a wonderful summer at Walkerville, either in our homes, caravans or boats. The season went without any major incidents, that we are aware of, and lots of people had great family holidays.

There was a sighting of two or more very large humpback whales in the bay near the lime kilns at 'south' on the Queens Birthday weekend, there were also sightings last year of whale with calf about 50 metres off the beach at Holt Street at 'north' last August, it looks the whales are making walkerville a regular stopover on their yearly pilgrimage to their breeding grounds in Queensland waters.

The various associations – Ratepayers; Boat club; Foreshore committee and ourselves held their Annual General Meetings during this busy period while at the same time the Friends of Walkerville were incorporated into the ratepayers group. We held our Annual General Meeting on the 20th January 2008 at the hall (minutes are located on our website) at which the following points were raised:-

- . no work on playground equipment at camping ground as yet;
- . new management in camping ground and kiosk;
- . all committees should work together where possible for the benefit of Walkerville;
- . increasing dangers of pedestrian families walking along the road from the camping ground to the hall at high tide.

As a result of these issues, we attended the public forums at the "foreshore" committee meetings in April and June and a follow up letter (website correspondence) was sent about matters of concern to the association, namely:-

- . no action on playground – they now say they may do nothing!
- . pedestrian problems on Bayside Drive in peak periods – they have no opinion on this matter!
- . Option 3(a) – despite spending \$40,000 or so on consultants to provide improved boat launching facilities "and" improved foreshore accessibility for beach users, the Foreshore Committee seem to be ignoring all the consultants expert knowledge on coastal, tidal, sand movements and tidal behaviour to enlarge and landscape the CAR PARK at Walkerville.

If this happens, all the consultant's money has been completely wasted. However, rather than get uptight at the moment, we should wait and see what the Foreshore Committee's response is to our offer of assistance with rock removal and ramp improvements at "North" and to their formal reply to our recent letter

Foreshore Committee

After the appointment of a new committee late last year, we now have three women on the committee who we believe will add a new dynamic to future outlooks and behaviour of the Foreshore Committee.

The new secretary, Ms Chelsea Taylor, now attends the meetings with a laptop computer and as a result their system seems a lot more professional and responsive

All we can say at this stage is "watch this space" and hope for the best.

The FCM have asked our association if we want to make any suggestions to the landscape consultant for the carpark, we will be suggesting three needs to be more 'people stuff' such as signage telling daytrippers, visitors where the good places are to swim and other tips for enjoying their visit, there has been many a day tripper who has turned around and gone home because they didn't know what was here,

W.B.A.C. (Boat Club)

After ten years of campaigning for a proper ramp, the boat club accepted that they no longer could beat "City Hall" (Foreshore Committee and DS&E) on this issue, and that Option 3(a) was all they were get in the short/medium term. Despite the serious loss of morale, they have regrouped their thoughts and set the following goals:-

- . remove larger rocks at the boat ramp and the Waratah Street beach to improve swimming and boating facilities;
- . provide a fish cleaning facility near the beach ramp at Holt Street;
- . work positively with Ratepayers, Progress Association and the Foreshore Committee, whilst reminding everyone that a little bit of give and take is required by all players;
- . the fishing club has \$48,000 and may be interested in supporting a rotunda at Waratah Street;
- . the fishing club actively supports the implementation of the "Walkerville Management Plan";

(These comments from the Boat Club are very positive for Walkerville and all thinking people should congratulate them on their new approach towards making Walkerville a better place).

W.R.P.A (Ratepayers)

The Association continues to meet regularly with property owners at Walkerville and discuss items of interest. Their newsletters are posted on our website (stakeholders) and the following items are of interest:-

- . Stubbs bequest – a significant amount of money was left by the late Beth Stubbs and is now being held in trust by the W.R.R.A. at the request of the “Friends of Walkerville”, who have disbanded. Mrs. Stubbs apparently wanted the money to be used for a new walking track in heathland areas and to raise awareness of Walkerville’s unique natural and cultural heritage.
- . C.F.A. Depot – Work continues on a proposal to provide some land at the tip site for a depot and possible shed for CFA future use.

WHATS NEXT

With the new dynamics in the Foreshore Committee and the goodwill from the Boat Club, we hope that things finally begin to happen that are good for all users of Walkerville, and sincerely hope there are positive outcomes from the Consultant’s report (3)a; with regard to the swimming and boating improvements and the refurbishments of the playground.

If these matters do not move forward, then there will be a lot of disquiet among a large percentage of stakeholders of Walkerville.

Let's be optimistic and wait and see.

