

# MacMasters Beach Progress Association

## Newsletter March 2025



The Annual General Meeting of the Progress Association on 24 February saw a significant change, with a substantially new committee appointed, and some important working groups established. This follows the major revision we undertook to update our Constitution, to meet the requirements of the Dept of Fair Trading and the views of the current membership. Click here: <https://www.macmastersbeachprogress.com/about/>

Notably, the meeting was the last chaired by Barbara Wills, who stood down as President after 36 years and Assistant Secretary for eight years before that. The meeting immediately acknowledged Barbara's very long and significant commitment to the MacMasters Beach community. Her work through the Association was devoted to

fighting to keep the low rise and low commercial development of the community, which makes MacMasters Beach a unique location so near to Sydney and marks it as a great place to live and visit.

Long term Vice President Helen Waterhouse also stood down, again after long service devoted to our community. Thanks, too, to the 2023/4 committee members who did good work for the Association but did not seek re-election; Lesley Adamski, Craig Roberts, Louise Hyman and Jill Danks.

Ken Gardiner agreed to take over as President to assist with the changes that the Association will be making over the next year.

Ken and his wife Margot have visited the family home here in Macs since 1979. He retired from working as a rural property and operations manager and moved here to live full time in 2018.

NEW COMMITTEE	
President	Ken Gardiner
Vice President	Gai Judd
Secretary	Brigid Arnott
Treasurer	Jim Balderstone
Communications	Tony Powell
Hall Manager	Susie Ross
Committee	Rhidian Harrington

Ken and his wife Margot have visited the family home here in Macs since 1979. He retired from working as a rural property and operations manager and moved here to live full time in 2018.

When living in the country, Ken participated in community groups such as school councils, show committees and the RFS. Most recently, here in Macs, he was Treasurer of Macs Friends Helping Neighbours.

Ken's belief is that a community group will be successful if there is consultation with the membership, so that all views are considered when decisions are made. He also

# Barbara Wills Final Report

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24 February, 2025

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT** *Issues in 2024*

#### **Council Elections held 15 September, 2024**

*Finally the Central Coast Council are out of administration and now have the following Councillors who represent our ward, Gosford East. The newly elected Mayor, Lawrie McKinna, Councillor Sharon Walsh and Councillor Jared Wright.*

#### **Progress Hall**

*The Progress Association are still paying rent, water and public liability insurance to enable us to occupy the hall. We have had hardly any rentals of the hall due to covid and the size of the hall.*

*The Association is still in a financial position to pay these costs, dependant on membership and donations. Unfortunately, frequent shout outs for persons to run the book sale on a regular basis has not found a regular person.*

**5 Lands Walk** *continues to be a great event where MacMasters Beach community provide a free breakfast for the first 500 walkers and the Macs fire brigade cook the egg and bacon sandwiches.*

*This years event will be held on 21 June.*

#### **6 June 2017 Coastal Storm Beach Damage**

*A further public 'on-site' meeting was held in November 2024 with Council and NSW government to answer any questions from the public after the Council final choice of wall. The 'temporary' wall will be made of bags filled with loose 'rocks' from an unknown source. At the meeting there were markers of where the wall will extend onto the beach with the current height being up at the ground level, cafe, bar and hall. The association did not make a submission to the advertised temporary wall, and advised members to make their own enquires to form their own support.*

## **Membership**

*Seems to have improved but unfortunately not many takers for executive positions. This has been the norm for many years, where we have monetary support through membership and donations and leaving the active paperwork to a few.*

*I would sincerely like to thank last years executive committee, who completed a lot of catch up work with administration and web site work. Louise Hyman, the treasurer did an outstanding job of 4 years worth of financial reporting helped by Jim Balderstone. Louise also took control of the Progress web site, and Jill Danks who whipped the hall into shape. Ably supported by my vice presidents, Helen Waterhouse and Craig Roberts, and assistant Secretary Lesley Adamski who has been helpful with reporting jobs to Council and to me!*

*Also the sub committee for the work on our new constitution.*

*I wish to end my role as president as I am still working a full time job and a part time job and finding myself too busy. Of course I will be available for help or advice with any Association work that I can. The role I have been keen to carry over the years has been of connecting the community via communication and activities has been met until recent interruptions of Covid.*

*I hope the new executive can carry on this care and control of the association.*

**Barbara Wills**

**President 24 Feb 2025**

## Membership fees now due



Annual fees of \$10 per eligible person are now due and payable. Go to <https://www.macmastersbeachprogress.com/membership/> to complete the online renewal/application form and for info on how to pay your fees. You can include a donation with your fee if you wish. The annual subscription fee covers the calendar year 2025 and membership will lapse if it is not paid by 31st March.

## Two New Working Groups

There are two areas of immediate concern to the Association, warranting the establishment of two Working Groups to advise the committee:

1. Road safety on The Scenic Road
2. Rezoning of the Lagoon foreshore on the Copacabana side of Cockrone Lagoon and it's possible impact on MacMasters Beach

The recent painting of centre lines on The Scenic Road has been greatly appreciated by the community, but the Association will shortly send a letter to Council requesting better lane marking on the road edges.

Further work addressing issues such as lighting, open ditches, pedestrian access and speeding will be considered and prioritised. If you have any thoughts on safety issues on The Scenic Road, email us on [macsbeachprogress@gmail.com](mailto:macsbeachprogress@gmail.com)

## Our Revised Objects

- i. To protect, preserve and enhance the District's landscape and natural resources, its character and amenity, for the benefit of present and future landholders, residents and visitors.
- ii. Protect and preserve the low rise and non-commercial features of the MacMasters Beach area.
- iii. Foster community care and connection in the area.
- iv. Promote awareness of living in harmony with the native wildlife and protect their habitat.
- v. To provide means where members may come together to express views and discuss issues pertaining to MacMasters Beach and District.
- vi. To express the views of its members to local and state governments and other authorities and to carry out their lawful wishes as far as possible, co-operating where possible with local and state governments and other authorities
- vii. To support, co-operate and/or affiliate with other bodies or associations

continued...

If you want to participate in either of these groups by participating in meeting and the preparation of submissions email us on [macsbeachprogress@gmail.com](mailto:macsbeachprogress@gmail.com) and we'll be in touch to see how we can make it work

## Three Macs Beach residents join Council's Lagoons Planning Community Reference Group

Council has established a Community Reference Group to seek input from the community about the future management of the four Coastal Lagoons - Wamberal, Terrigal, Avoca and our own Cockrone. They will assist in the development of the Coastal Lagoons Coastal Management Program (CMP).



Our community's three representative are:

**Rhidian Harrington** : Rhidian is an ecologist with over 30 years' experience working throughout Australia and internationally in southern Africa and Pakistan.

**Barbara Wills**: Long term resident of the area, served on the original coastal beaches and lagoon management committee that made the current plans and sat on Council's committee for its Coastal Open Space System (COSS).

**Tony Powell**: Convenor of our Bushcare Group, which has been working to protect the environment of Cockrone Lagoon.

## Finances

A small working party has spent some time reviewing the Association's finances, and looking to improve reporting to the membership. Going back five years, this reconfiguration gave us a better start on reporting for 2024, and these accounts were approved at the meeting.

Thanks to Louise Hyman, Steve Simpson and new Treasurer Jim Balderstone to complete the review.

For 2024, there was a small surplus of \$265 and bank balances were \$30,165 including \$25,000 on Term Deposits. The Association has no liabilities.

## Next Meeting



The next Special General Meeting of the Association will be:

**Time:** 7.00pm 28 April 2025

**Place:** Progress Hall cnr Tudibaring Pde and Three Points Ave.

Anyone can attend, but only financial members will be able to vote on any matters arising. Come along and contribute to discussion on matters affecting our community or raise any issues you think the Association should consider.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Bushcare

The Bushcare Group is currently working with Council and specialist contractors to target asparagus fern in the dunes, behind 13 to 23 Tudibaring Pde.

Council and Bushcare are funding the contractors to do an initial herbicide spot-spray of any dense infestations, to be followed up by manual removal from under established shrubs and trees.

It is amazing how the dunes recover once this fierce competitor from Africa is removed from the environment, where it out-competes natives for moisture and nutrients. It is also a prolific breeder, so ensures that it spreads widely unless controlled by human intervention. It doesn't seem to have any natural predators here in Australia that we can use to control it. Herbicide spraying is done very carefully by approved contractors and in accordance with pesticide laws and to protect nearby native vegetation.



Volunteers and the public have no exposure to the herbicide.

We could use all the help we can find for the manual work, so if you can assist for a couple of hours on Friday mornings, call 0418 223 114. We'll provide the know-how and the tools –If you can weed a garden, you can do bushcare!!