

## SBCCA NEWS

The year has flown incredibly quickly with Christmas just around the corner. Throughout the year, the Southlake Business Chamber and Community Alliance have undertaken a number of initiatives including marketing workshops in July and August and the successful Street Beat Street Fair in October. Our new website is just about to be launched and the Southlake Christmas Spectacular is only a couple of weeks away.

It has been busy behind the scenes with preparation for the Southlake Business and Community directory well underway and plans for a town centre art project and some landscaping in Dora Street also in the pipeline for the new year.

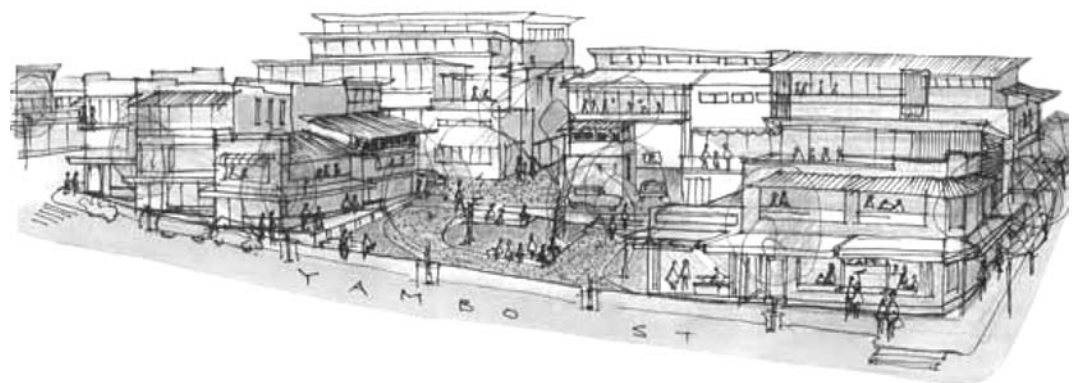
Morisset has settled over the last year since the upheaval that occurred during the construction phases of the bus/rail interchange and the new Woolworths Morisset Shopping Centre. We can now access our town centre with relative ease and unhindered by ongoing road works. The brand new footpaths that were uprooted by the Ausgrid cable laying project are now being replaced. Commuters parking in timed areas have got the message and mostly leave those spaces for business parking patrons. Shoppers are enjoying the benefits of competition with two major supermarket chains in town and retail leakage has reduced as a result.

A number of new residential developments have commenced including the Station Street/Fishery Point Road estate of 165 houses (commonly known as Dr. Drew's land). There has been some

demolition in Avondale Road preparing for the commencement of the Johnson Property Group North Cooranbong development with more than 2,500 residential blocks. Other areas of development include 250 – 300 blocks in Gradwells Road, Dora Creek and 70 blocks in Deaves Road. We are yet to hear more about the large tourism based development at Trinity Point. Since the state government approved the concept plans, final detailed plans have not yet been submitted. This development will provide the only commercial access to the lake on Morisset peninsula as well as tourism accommodation, function and restaurant facilities.

The population of this district is set to rise by some 15,000 people over the next 10 years. This bodes well for the economic development of our town and local business.

Infrastructure, however, remains a key focus of lobbying by the SBCCA to support the large population increase projected. Lake Macquarie City Council have been planning for the future and have focussed on the Morisset town centre. The development of the Morisset Town Centre Area Plan outlines future business development guidelines and community infrastructure concepts. The future Morisset Town Square is the centre piece and the redevelopment of the block bordered by Dora, Station, Yambo and Short Streets, is projected to include a new 2,000 square meter library, function and meeting facilities, council outreach service desk and other community



*Impression of future Morisset Town Square and surrounding development*

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## SBCCA NEWS continued

services. The development of this block calls for public/private partnerships to create a thriving town centre focus for Morisset.

The Morisset Section 94 plan is an ongoing project that LMCC are also undertaking and this document is key to funding the community infrastructure required. This plan centres on where the Section 94 developer contributions will be spent and will provide costings and capital work schedules. The detail and commitment that our community has been looking for from council will be found in this plan. When we have more news on that plan, we will update you.

The SBCCA are proud to work with the South Lake Macquarie community towards sustainable growth, lobbying for infrastructure, support for community issues and linking strong networks within our community.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year. Please have a safe and happy holiday season.

## STREET BEAT SAYS...

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# Christmas Spectacular

Saturday 17th December

4pm – 9pm

Morisset Showground

Gates open at 4pm. \$5 entry per car.

\$2 pp on foot (includes program)

\$10 Unlimited Rides from 4pm – 8pm

– This year Dodgem Cars!

Stage Program commences 5pm

The Little Scallywagz on stage at 6.30pm

Amusement rides 4pm to 8pm

Fireworks finale 9pm

Food on site or bring a picnic

Event will proceed rain or shine

#### FEATURING:

- MAD Dance
- A Glimmer of Hope
- Deborah Lee's Dance Academy
- Toronto Brass Band
- Little Scallywagz
- Central Coast Drama Academy
- Voyage of Irish Dance
- The Rough Diamonds

**Christmas Hamper Draw 8.30pm**



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**Lakes Mail**





# STREET BEAT STREET FAIR 2011

The 3rd annual Street Beat Street Fair harnessed the spirit of community in Morisset once again this year. Blessed with stunning spring weather, crowds were treated to a huge variety of market stalls, emergency service displays, community information and a wonderful stage program that brought the town to life.

The main feature program on stage, Lake Mac's Got Talent, saw 16 hopefuls perform their best in the competition. Hearts were warmed as gorgeous six year old Jack Elsworth wowed the crowd with his "Bob the Builder" dance routine. But fourteen year old Sophie Curtis stole the show with her rendition of "Moves like Jagger", by Maroon 5

and her winning number in the finals "Someone Like You" from Adele. Cooranbong local and second place winner, Stavri Comino, aged seventeen, was a close runner up with his ukulele accompanied renditions of "Saving Grace" by Pete Murray and his final song, old favourite "Leaving on a jet plane".

Other entertainment also included the stunning vocals of local sisters, Cec, Emily and Louise of The Rough Diamonds and seasoned performers Lianna Rose and Dai Pritchard (formerly Rose Tattoo lead guitarist) gave the crowd a fantastic show. Lianna and Dai have taken over the music shop in Cooranbong now called iPlay Music.

Rosmairi Okeno, Town Centre Coordinator and event organiser, said "It's so wonderful to see the community come out to support budding young talent on stage. The fair also gives great opportunities to our local business and community organisations to reach customers they might not otherwise have contact with. All in all, I am very happy with how the day went, bringing that sort of vibrancy into a normally quiet town centre on a Sunday is worth every bit of effort that goes into the organisation".

"I will work towards getting funding to stage the fair again in 2012, but it's not guaranteed" Ms Okeno said. "as people well know, I will do my best to make sure that we "Feel the Beat of Morisset" once again in 2012.



## Lake Mac's Got Talent 2011 Results

- 1st Prize Sophie Curtis \$500 cash sponsored by Rotary Club of Morisset
- 2nd Prize Stavri Comino \$300 cash sponsored by Avondale College
- 3rd Prize Jack Elsworth \$100 gift voucher sponsored by iPlay Music, Cooranbong

## INVITATION

### Christmas Function Annual General Meeting New Website Launch

The Southlake Business Chamber and Community Alliance would like to invite you to our Christmas and Annual General Meeting to be held at the Lake Macquarie Hotel, Dora Street, Morisset.

**On Tuesday 13th December, 2011.**

Annual General Meeting commences 6pm

Website Launch commences 6.30pm

Break for Christmas networking and supper 6.45pm

*A light supper will be served at no charge.*

RSVP to the Town Centre Coordinator by email to [coordinator@southlakemac.com.au](mailto:coordinator@southlakemac.com.au) or phone 0458 733 483

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The Southlake Business and Community Directory is business economic development initiative of the

**southlake**  
BUSINESS CHAMBER & COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
Lake Macquarie NSW



# NEW WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY LAWS IN 2012

NSW is working towards new work health and safety (WHS) laws to take effect from 1 January 2012.

The WHS laws will replace the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) laws in NSW.

These new laws will be consistent across Australia, making it easier for you to operate in different parts of the country.

If you are complying with the current OHS laws then you are well on your way to complying with the new WHS laws.

However, there are some changes and you need to know how they will affect you.



## What are the main changes?

- If you are an employer, sole trader, association, partnership, corporation or volunteer organisation with paid workers, you will be classed as a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU). PCBU will replace the current term employer.

- If you are an employee, volunteer, labour hire staff, apprentice, work experience student, trainee, outworker, sub-contractor or contractor, working for a PCBU you will be classed as a worker. Worker will replace the current term employee.
- If you are a supplier, designer, manufacturer, importer, or manager or controller of a workplace, you will have specific duties in addition to those as a PCBU.
- Health and safety representatives (HSRs) will replace current OHS representatives and play a key role in consultation.
- Your industry may also be affected by specific changes.
- If you work in – or even just visit – a workplace, you will have WHS rights and duties.

## What should I do?

WorkCover is here to help you get ready, providing information, advice and regular updates.

For the latest on the new laws or to register for our free workshops and presentations, visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au/newlegislation2012)

For specific advice, call us on 13 10 50.



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# MORISSET PCYC KICKS OFF IN A FLURRY OF RIBBONS

By Nikita Almond

A ribbon cutting ceremony like no other: MP Greg Combet, Mayor Greg Piper and PCYC CEO Chris Gardener cut the many colourful ribbons covering a futsal goal to mark the official opening of Morisset PCYC. "We were looking at a few options to officially open the club, and we eventually decided on a bit more of a novel approach; art2264, our arts program, decorated it..." said Andrew Best, club manager for Lake Macquarie and Morisset PCYC.

A speech by Rosmairi Okeno encapsulated the journey up until this point; she thanked all those involved, naming every member of the team, saying how without their support it would not have been possible to open the Morisset PCYC.

Mr Best emphasised how important particular people were in the journey leading up to the opening of the facility. "Council have been the huge supporters; both the State Member and Federal Members are here today and have supported us; finally John Mills, along with Rosmairi Okeno, would be considered the great contributors to getting this off the ground" said Mr Best. Ms Okeno was again congratulated on her efforts in making a PCYC in Morisset possible. Anita Barker, Aboriginal Community Justice Group Coordinator, smiled as she noted Ms Okeno's tenacity: "I applaud Rosi and her people for not giving up on this facility" she said.

The opening of the facility will allow the community to engage with one another and give people, especially youth, a place to enjoy themselves and make friends.

"The main benefit of Morisset PCYC is to get young people active in life" exclaimed Ms Okeno. "We need access, kids down here need something to do" agreed Ms Barker. Like Okeno, she expressed how much of an impact the PCYC facility will have on the community. "It will be really positive; it's all about linking. We all work together in partnership for the benefit of the kids in the community" she said. "It's not only about a place to go, it's about activities. If we get kids involved in sports it reduces their risk of harm and failing to attend school". The PCYC will make that happen by running sport programmes, hosting the monthly art2264 art program, and providing positive youth activities, to develop their skills character and leadership.

The Rotary Club presented a cheque for \$4000 to the Morisset PCYC, funding which will allow for new programmes and workshops to be run.

The turnout included over 100 members of the public who, after the official ribbon cutting



*From left to right: Greg Weir, Coordinator of Recreation and Land Planning; Rosmairi Okeno, Town Centre Coordinator; Chris Gardiner, CEO PCYC; and Mayor Greg Piper, State Member for Lake Macquarie.*

ceremony, either participated in the art workshops or snacked on the delicious food donated by Brumby's Bakery. "To be honest, I was a bit cynical of the numbers to expect; but I have quickly learnt that in a community like this, the community wants to engage," noted a pleased Mr Best.

art2264 @ Morisset PCYC, the new free monthly youth arts program to be hosted by the PCYC, held three workshops at the opening including African Drumming, Mosaic mural and Hip-Hop dance. Led by artist Margrete Erling the mosaic workshop was designed to allow any age to participate, and used tiles of various colours, with emphasis on the blue and red of the PCYC. Adults and children alike revelled in the activity allowing themselves to get messy and creative. The finished mosaic mural will be a boy and a girl, which will become the signs for the toilets in the facility.

Meanwhile, the infectious rhythms of African drumming resonated through the building. Wearing a long flowered dress, drum leader Issabella Berrigan taught participants how to 'slap' the drum. "Base, base, tone, tone, slap, slap", Ms Berrigan instructed the group, then helped them build a rhythm using the

elements they had learnt. Participants engaged with each other as they drummed in unison, encouraging each other to keep up with the ever increasing rhythm.

The increase in pace led to lots of laughter and smiles from those trying to keep up, "It's working on your coordination," Ms Berrigan said with a grin as her hands fluttered across the drum's surface. Drumming will feature in future art2264 workshops; as Ms Berrigan explained, "It's really accessible, and it's actually quite physical as well".

As the afternoon sun beat down, and the temperature inside soared, Lauren Wheatley of Lift Dance Fitness led a hip-hop dance workshop. Children did a group dance following Ms Wheatley's moves, to chart music, with some participants showing off their solo skills. When the noise of the drums temporarily overpowered their music, the group did 'Zumba' moves to the beat of the drums instead.

Everyone at the opening was wearing a smile, showing just how positive Morisset PCYC is for the community. The whole atmosphere was playful with all in attendance getting involved somehow.



art2264 will continue to run workshops on the third Friday of the month from 4 to about 8pm with all events focussing on being creative. The next event, catering for both primary and high school aged children, will include circus, drama and art workshops, and will be on the 16th December at the Morisset PCYC.

The Morisset Neighbourhood Sustainability Group have given unwavering support for the programme and for the benefits the whole centre will bring to the community. It will provide a positive place for youths to engage and enjoy their community as well as somewhere groups can be run to promote youths learning about and becoming sustainable. By giving the youths something to do it will eliminate the risk of vandalism and un-social behaviour in the community, which

will in turn allow the area to be more sustainable and viable.

With the support of many people and groups in the Morisset and Lake Macquarie community the centre is sure to thrive, if the opening is anything to go by, there will be a constant elevated buzz and community spirit by the residents of the Lake Macquarie precinct.

Those attending who did not participate in the creative workshops, formed their own groups. People played basketball in a group laughing and enjoying the new facilities. Both MP Greg Combet and Mayor Greg Piper participated in a group of soccer with those at the opening, showing their enthusiasm for the new facility.



art2264, Morisset PCYC's resident youth arts program, runs on the third Friday of every month from 4pm onwards. Designed for primary and secondary school aged kids,

art2264 brings an exciting range of arts activities to the newly renovated PCYC.

Our next event, on Friday 16th December, features a range of circus and drama workshops. At 4pm Circus Avalon will kick off an exciting hour long workshop to introduce young people to basic circus skills (this workshop is limited to ages seven and above). While at 5pm the well known actor Andrew McDonell will return for another one of his great drama workshops, Introduction to Drama through Theatre Games, this one's for primary school students of all ages. Andrew was a hit last month, with over thirty kids taking part, so please email to book your place. Finally at 6pm we'll have Introduction to Drama through Mask, a workshop designed for secondary students, all welcome! As an added incentive, we'll have face painting and visual art activities all afternoon.

art2264 is free, we provide snacks and families are most welcome to accompany their children. And although we're called art2264, it doesn't mean you have to live in Morisset or surrounding areas to attend.

Next month, on Friday 20th January, in the middle of the long school holidays, we'll return with another fun packed circus themed event! Expect more drama, visual art, circus et al. And in February on Friday 17th February, we'll bring another jam packed afternoon of art activities to the super cool PCYC space.

art2264 is funded for three years by a \$45,000 Community Builders grant, it's believed to be one of the largest arts grants awarded in the local area.

For more information on the art2264 program, email [art2264morisset@gmail.com](mailto:art2264morisset@gmail.com) or visit [www.art2264morisset.blogspot.com](http://www.art2264morisset.blogspot.com) or ring either Margrete Erling 0412 324 228 or Helen Hopcroft 0408 637 404.

**FREE! theatre games!**

**drama workshops!**

**circus skills!**

**art!**

**face painting!**

**art2264 @ MORISSET PCYC**

**COME JOIN THE CIRCUS!**  
Join us from 4pm on Friday 16th December at Morisset PCYC for a free afternoon of circus skills, drama workshops and art!

Circus Avalon will present a **dazzling circus skill workshop at 4pm**  
(suitable for ages seven and up - primary and secondary students welcome)

Acclaimed actor **Andrew McDonell** will return for **two drama workshops**  
(numbers limited some come early or email us to reserve your place):

**5pm: Introduction to acting through theatre games** (primary students)

**6pm: Introduction to acting through mask** (secondary students)

We've also got **art all arvo** and snacks will be served

art2264 is a free monthly youth arts workshop that runs from 4-8pm every third Friday of the month

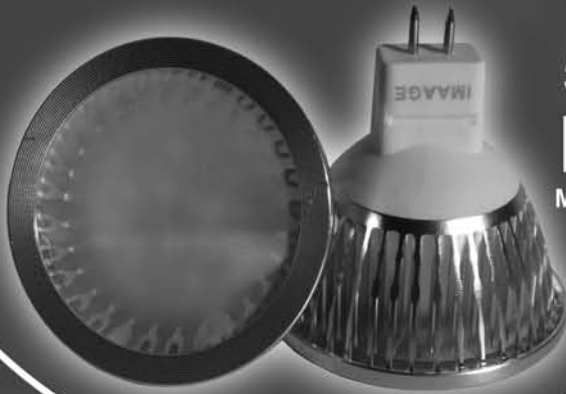
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# VISION CAMP

How would you like to be blindfolded by a perfect stranger, taken up a narrow ladder to the top of a 10 metre cliff, have a strange harness attached to your body and being told to step backwards off that cliff? That is what happened recently to members of a group of primary and secondary school boys and girls at the Vision Camp at Myuna Bay - and they loved it! But they didn't need to be blindfolded; they were all mild to severely visually impaired and some were legally blind!

Another favourite is the giant swing where the child is strapped into a parachute-type harness and hoisted 50 metres horizontally and 10 metres high on a rope similar to a flying fox. They are given a "rip cord" to hold and at the apex, in their own time, they countdown 3 - 2 - 1 and pull the rip cord causing them to drop well clear of the ground and swing several times, up to 45 degrees in each direction, with delighted yells and cheers from their mates.

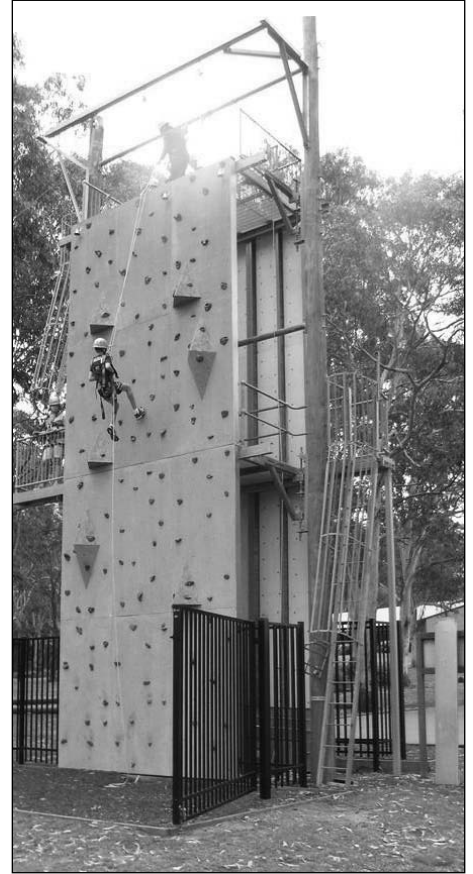
In addition to abseiling, there is rock climbing, sailing, canoeing and at night dancing and drumming. Guide dog instructors attended the camp and played orientation and mobility games with the students (no dogs attended). Also a local man from Toronto brought along

some reptiles, including snakes and a crocodile, for a "hands feeling session" – this was a huge hit.

The 32 children and 16 teachers from 25 Hunter Valley schools were attending a four day camp which is held every two years at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. Assistant Principal, Vision, Mandy Huber proudly conducted Lions Bill Carr and Jim Williams of the Lions Club of Morisset on a tour of the camp following a donation of \$500 which provided sponsorship to two students. Anyone interested in learning more about Morisset Lion's activities can contact Jim, 4970 5418 or Bill 4973 1091.



*A ten year old visually impaired boy takes a leap of faith on the abseiling wall at Myuna Bay.*



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# MESSAGE FROM GREG COMBET

As the year draws to a close, it's a good opportunity to look back over the past twelve months – and a lot has happened in Charlton this year.

The Building the Education Revolution (BER) has rolled through our local schools, with many building projects being finished this year.

Locally, Toronto Adventist School, Avondale School, Morisset Public School, Dora Creek Public School, Cooranbong Public School, Wye Public School, Bonnells Bay Public School and Toronto Public School have all enjoyed the official opening of their new classrooms, libraries, multipurpose halls, outdoor areas and classroom facilities.

These are just some of the 144 projects being carried out in the 64 schools in Charlton, with the Government's total investment in local schools more than \$100 million. I am so pleased to see students enjoying the quality infrastructure the BER provides, especially as many of these schools have not experienced this kind of funding for decades.

I was pleased to see the tremendous support the Government provided for the Southlakes Community this year through various funding and grants programs.

Morisset Library welcomed the delivery of new digital playback devices, known as DAISY players, which allow people with a vision impairment or disability to experience the joy of reading.

Federal funding has enabled Southlakes Community Services to build the Anzac and Armistice Remembrance Garden in Morisset, and Wangi Wangi RSL Sub Branch to order their new bus, both of which will provide important benefits to the veteran community.

Southlakes Community Services were also supported through the Government's Home and Community Care program, which will enable them to build new planter boxes and wheelchair access at the Morisset Multipurpose Centre.

The Salvation Army at Bonnells Bay were grateful for further funding of their emergency relief program, which is helping those in our community who need it most.

Dora Creek Rural Fire Brigade, Morisset Bowling Club, Morisset Rotary Club, Southlakes Community Services, and Wangi Arcadia Vale Netball Club were all recipients of the popular Volunteer Grants, which will deliver much needed funding to volunteer organisations who work tirelessly within our community.

I was delighted to open the Morisset PCYC in October, which the Federal Government initially committed funds to in 2007. Since that time, I have been following the refurbishment over the PCYC over the years and it was really great to see the community work



together with the Government and the Council to deliver this amazing facility.

Finally, on a national level, the Federal Government has delivered many key reforms this year. Most pertinent to me in my role as the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency was, of course, the passage of the Clean Energy Future legislation through the Parliament.

Many locals will recall the Prime Minister's visit to Centennial Coal's Mandalong colliery in July to visit local coalminers and explain the measures the Government has taken to ensure that the mining industry remains a pillar of our economy. I am very proud to say that this important reform will protect jobs whilst our nation responds to the threat of climate change.

I extend my sincere wishes to the Southlakes community for a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. I look forward to 2012 and the opportunities it will bring to the Charlton electorate.

Greg Combet.

## Bonnells Bay Progress Association Inc.

1 Kalani Road,  
Bonnells Bay 2264  
Phone 49734571

# BONNELLS BAY YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT

Residents of the Morisset Peninsula will be aware of the increased utilisation of the Bonnells Bay Youth & Community Centre since the operation of this valuable asset was placed under the management of the Southlake Community Services.

Bonnells Bay Progress Association Inc. has been working with Lake Macquarie City Council to look at the better utilisation of the reserve at the rear of the Centre to see if this area can be developed into a Sporting and Leisure area for all Peninsula residents to enjoy.

Meetings to date with Council Planning Staff have resulted in many ideas which are now proceeding to the design and costing stages. Bonnells Bay Progress Association Inc. with the assistance of our Council Officers has made application for a NSW State Government Community Building Partnership Grant to cover the initial costs of Stage 1 of the proposed development.

Progress Association President Col Roach said "the proposed plans for the area will help fill a much needed Leisure / Sporting void which currently exists on the Peninsula".



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## DYNAMIC DORA CREEK TOASTMASTERS ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Dynamic Dora Creek Toastmasters Club celebrated twenty five years of Service to the Community. This event took place on the 3rd of November 2011, at the Eraring Power Station Training Rooms, Cross street, Eraring. The club chartered on the 3rd of November 1986. Norbert Lica the present club president graciously allowed the foundation members to conduct a short meeting. The club then broke for a dinner party to celebrate the memorable event.

Foundation member Jenny Neale said that Dynamic Dora Creek Toastmasters has helped hundreds of people over these twenty-five years. Krista Greenwood another foundation member spoke briefly about the clubs history and a toast was given by another long term member Mr. Alex Mueller.

Toastmasters are a non-profit organization dedicated to help people overcome nervousness when speaking to groups. Some benefits of joining a toastmasters club are:

- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Increased communication skills
- Increased listening skills (a large part in any communication)
- Being able to "Think on your feet" while speaking
- And a good deal of fun as you learn

Our meetings are held at Eraring Power Station Training Rooms.

Public are welcome as a guest (free) on any Thursday evening at 7pm and meetings conclude promptly at 9.30pm for further information please telephone Peter on 4973 4255



*Pictured L to R: Norbert Lica (President), Jenny Neale, Krista Greenwood and Peter Gambrill (foundation Members)*

## MORISSET SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

The next Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Group Meeting will be on Tuesday the 13th of December at 6:30pm at the Morisset Multi Purpose Centre

We'll send out a reminder and the previous minutes a few days beforehand.

Please contact Joy on 0412 416 787 or Merrilee on [merrilee.harris2011@gmail.com](mailto:merrilee.harris2011@gmail.com) for more information, to add any agenda items, or to let them know if you are planning to come along.

At our meetings, we've been discussing some upcoming events and projects for next year. Some of our plans include:

- Preserving Workshop in February
- Potential trip to the Wyong Cheese Factory
- Project proposed with Morisset Primary School: "I Live Here Too" – Seek funding

to produce educational materials and resources, highlighting locally endemic species (mammals, amphibians, birds, flora and their habitat needs and threats.

- Setting up a local food cooperative or buyers group to source local, bulk dry goods and other things we can't grow ourselves
- Setting up an Ecovillage – check out these for some inspiration [www.ceres.org.au](http://www.ceres.org.au) and also <http://gen.ecovillage.org>

We'd love your assistance to plan and implement any of these activities.

### **Membership of the Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Group**

Attached is a membership form and the Morisset Sustainable Neighbourhood Group's



Terms of Reference, for your reference. All residents of the Morisset neighbourhood area, as well as people who closely identify with the Morisset area, are encouraged to become formal members of the Group.

To become a member, you can complete the attached Membership Form, and pay a fee of \$2 – bring it along to the next meeting, or contact Joy (Chairperson) on 0412 416 787 to make alternative arrangements.



# SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

By Helen Hopcroft

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE EATING?

There are a number of compelling reasons why we should be encouraging the backyard production of food, using sustainable organic production practices.

- Did you know that it is still legal in NSW to sell fertiliser, under the Fertiliser Act 1985, that contains industrial waste products?
- Did you know that large quantities of sprays, such as herbicides and pesticides, end up in our food supply either directly or indirectly by contaminating soil and water?
- Did you know that the average food item in a supermarket has travelled over 2,000 km from farm to kitchen and goes through 16 pairs of hands between the farmer and consumer (do we really need oranges from California or mangoes from Mexico)?

Food production problems do not stop with the above list.

Huge amounts of food are thrown out both before it reaches the consumer and by us, the consumer. In Australia, this cost is estimated to be worth, in the order of, \$5.2 billion annually. This, in a world where many people are dying of starvation!

It has been claimed that Australia's biggest contribution to world security would be technical aid to help boost productivity in developing countries and yet we are starving



our research organisations, such as CSIRO, of funds.

We are also facing conflicts over the use of fertile land for housing estates and the encroachment of mining on agricultural land.

It is claimed that, by the mid century, Australia will be making more money out of food production than from mining.

As individuals we need to take stock of this situation. One way is to lobby politicians to take action against undesirable and unnecessary food production and supply activities and for their support into research

on food production. Another way is to take a look at our own activities. A good way to do this is to consult Lake Macquarie City Council's Sustainable Living Guide (available on the internet, local libraries and from the council office). Perhaps you could join one of Lake Macquarie City's Sustainable Neighbourhood groups. The main thing is to take some action.

Don't assume these problems will go away by themselves or that it is someone else's problem. We are all part of the problem and, hence, we all need to be part of the solution.

# Christmas Community Lunch

Transport is available by arrangement

2 course lunch with trimmings, decorations & entertainment

CHRISTMAS DAY 2011

11.30am – 3.00pm at the Morisset Multi Purpose Centre, 143 Dora Street, Morisset

A Christmas Day Lunch is planned for any person who might find themselves isolated or alone on Christmas Day.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH US

Bookings Essential by 14 December on 4973 3855.

Proudly brought to you by Community Christmas Steering Committee – under the auspice of Southlakes Carers

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For more information call Southlake Carers on 4973 3855



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