PRESIDENT’S REPORT

BELLINGER HEALTH ACTION GROUP Inc. 2014/2015 AGM 29th July 2014

Thank you
I wish to thank the outgoing committee who have done a stellar job this past year: Fenella Briscomb (Secretary & Public Officer), John Conway (Treasurer) & non-executive members Pauline Murphy (Chief Fundraiser), Shirley Dunne & Charlotte Blesing. We operated without a Vice-President during the past year (without detriment). My special thanks also go to Dr Cain English our consultant VMO who has (without breaching confidentiality) provided us with invaluable updates on the amazing works & progress at the hospital. This is a team effort & without their support BHAG could not function.

I would also like to acknowledge & thank the silent volunteers who regularly garden at the hospital – Fenella Briscomb, Shirley Dunne, Jodie Neal, Rhonda MacGraw, Marlene Howes, Daniel Flesch, Tony Bate & Phornthip & Greg Hawke our most recent members. Bellingen Hospital now relies on their volunteer work & most recently the large landscaping project adjacent to the new Sub-Acute Wing – The Patient Wellness Garden (PWG). Their commitment to BHAG & its core role in our community has been one of dedication & focus – “It’s all about preserving our local hospital in Bellingen & the Public Health Services it provides by all means possible”.

Your’ Committee
Our previous AGM was held on the 30th July 2014
- Your Committee agreed to hold Quarterly Meetings & met on the 10/9/14, 15/12/14, 25/3/15 & 3/6/15
- During this past year we celebrated the success of some of our past campaigns.
- The Gardening Group commenced a new landscaping project.
- We continue to monitor Health Services at Bellingen Hospital & are delighted when we hear of new Services.

Re-Roofing Funds donation
8th of October 2014: A celebration was arranged by Health to thank the Bellingen Community for their generous donation of $48,543.00 to assist in the re-roofing of both Hewitt Block & Hartley House roofs. Past & current volunteers from BHAG who had raised funds over the previous 4 years attended. It was a wonderful day showcasing the solidarity & passion our community has for our Hospital. The Chairman of the Board (Warren Grimshaw), the CE (Stewart Dowrick) & the Mayor (Cr. Mark Troy) congratulated the Bellingen Community for their commitment to Bellingen Hospital & the donation.

Official opening of the Sub-Acute wing
18th December 2014: Pauline Murphy & I attended the ceremony. The wing had been operational for the previous 6 months providing Rehabilitation & Palliative services to patients. The Wollemi Pine, a memorial
tree in memory of Dr George Hewitt to be planted in the ‘Patient Wellness Garden’ was unveiled by Melinda Pavey & Alex Floyd who worked with Dr Hewitt on the Arboretum. The C.E. once again acknowledged the commitment of the Bellingen Community.

Melinda Pavey MP & Warren Grimshaw (Chairman of the Board MNCLHD)

Melinda Pavey & Alex Floyd Unveiling the Wollemi Pine

**Solar Hot Water Hartley House**

In February 2010 discussions on this project commenced with Health. Martin Hogan led the discussions with BHAG overseeing & bringing the project to its completion. Over many years of fund raising by Bellingen E.Y.E. using a formula to calculate Carbon Offset Credits, **$6,474.12** was donated to Health on the 17th June 2014 to purchase an appropriate system. After intense negotiations by BHAG with the manufacturer, Supplier & Health there was a shortfall of **$612.79** however Health agreed to pay this as well as the installation costs. On the 15th of January 2015 an Apricus Glass Evacuated Tube Solar Hot Water system was installed on the roof of Hartley House. On the 10th of June 2015 a morning tea celebration was arranged by Health to thank all who contributed to this amazing project. It may have taken 4 years but this project will set Bellingen apart from other public hospitals. The Hot Water system for Hewitt Block has failed & the MNCLHD are connecting it to the Sub-acute wing system. So not only does Hartley House have Solar Hot Water but the entire hospital is now serviced by this technology.
Garden Club tour
22nd April 2015: After 2 earlier failed tours cancelled due to rain the Bellingen Garden & Rose Club visited the hospital gardens. BHAG showcased the work they had been doing since July 2010 with ‘before photos’ located at various garden areas. The club members were also introduced to the current ‘Patient Wellness Garden’ Landscaping project. We gained 2 new BHAG Volunteer gardeners from this tour.

BHAG Also
- **MNCLHD annual public meeting:** 26th November 2014: I attended the meeting & the Chairman of the Board was surprised that I did not raise any matters with them!
- **Save Bellingen Hospital Website** [https://savebellingenhospital.wordpress.com/](https://savebellingenhospital.wordpress.com/)
  December 2014 Fenella Briscomb designed a new Website using Wordpress. It automatically opens from the earlier domain site. Fenella transferred the existing history & the Gardening Group activities are now accessed via this updated website. BHAG is very grateful for the previous administration of the website by Sebastian Syder. Many new articles have been written on the works of BHAG over the past 12 months. Thank you Fenella.
- We attended the hospitals Volunteers Afternoon Tea in May 2015
- **BHAG in our Community:** April 2015: BHAG invited other Community Service organisations to be involved with our new Website with stories of their works at Bellingen Hospital. BHAG re-visited an old campaign regarding the fate of Donated Equipment & invited these organisations to advise us of their opinion. We have received mixed responses & some have not replied. BHAG would like to follow through on these 2 invitations in the following months.

Capital Investment in Bellingen Hospital Continues
- Sometimes **DAILY** & Sometimes **WEEKLY** there are **Contractors on site** undertaking various projects both - **Internally & Externally**.
- The Hospital is **Buzzing**.
- What a **Difference** we are witnessing since 2009/10.

BHAG Gardening Group
With the establishment of many new gardens over the past years our main activities have been pruning, weeding & mulching. We are blessed with an amazing climate where everything grows at an amazing rate (including weeds). As if these activities were not enough to occupy us we have commenced a new Landscaping project surrounding the new Sub-Acute Wing.
BHAG held an information/discussion meeting at the hospital on the 13th May 2014 & from there the project design commenced.
On the 12th of August 2014 we applied for $5,000 from Bellingen Council’s Environmental Levy Community Fund (ELCF) & we were notified of our successful application on the 28th October 2014 with the 12 month project to be completed by the 31/12/15.

‘Patient Wellness Garden’ – A Community Project was born
After many hours of research, preparation & meetings BHAG is partnering with:
✓ Bellingen Lions, Rotary, Garden & View Clubs as well as the Free Masons, Bellingen High School & Local Artists are working alongside BHAG who is project managing & undertaking the bulk of the on-ground work of plant propagation & planting.
✓ And Bellingen Hospital is contributing towards the project
✓ Other businesses have donated generously towards the project: Valley Tree Services, Boggy Creek Natives, Taggart Bricklaying & Gus’s Gravel

In Kind value as at 29th July 2015 is $34,196.62
• 1,325 donated plants - $3,975
• 25.5hrs of Bobcat & Whacker Packer - $2,550
• 473.25 hrs of manual labour - $14,197.50
• Lions Gazebo structure to date - $4,700
• Health (Concrete slab & path) - $7,461.22

AND we are Just Over half way through the Project

We have had 38 Separate Working Bees since November 2014

Our 1st activity was in Zone 9 (near the Admin buildings) & within one month the area was transformed.

1st Major Bobcat Works
On the 17th Feb 2015 (after 2 postponements) Grahame Maddeford & his Bobcat (Bellingen Lions Club) commenced the first of many major works.

Grahame Maddeford moving wood mulch to Zone 3 & in April BHAG commenced stage 1 of the planting
A Ute Load of Donated Plants for Zone 4 – 9th April 2015

With BHAG propagated plants ready we planted Zone 4 including tying Bromeliad’s in trees

Mona Lavender, Native Violet, Bromeliad & Native Tree Orchids

Zone 4 piled high with wood mulch & Now Landscaped

And a Frog Pond in Zone 6

- With the removal of an old Brick Paved Path & digging a hole (thanks to the Lions) we now have a Frog Pond
- We are recycling the Brick Pavers as Border edges between Aggregate & Wood Mulches.
- Bellingen Rotary assisted with the Frog Pond & Brick Edging

Old Brick Path Is now a Frog Pond & The Bricks have been recycled

Bellingen Lions Raise the Gazebo Frame 30/5/2015 in Zone 1

During the early days of the project the Lions Club approached us with a proposal we could not refuse: They wanted to construct & donate the Gazebo structure & with some financial assistance from the grant construct the furniture thus freeing up our available funds. The Gazebo Shelter will be in memory of Lion Carl Foster.

Bellingen Hospital had already offered to pay for the Gazebo concrete slab & disabled access path. The project was evolving to a level beyond our initial concept.

Grahame Maddeford levelled the site & then the Bellingen Lions Club crew raised the Steel Frame on 30th May – designed & built by Grahame Maddeford
BHAG provides Morning/Afternoon Tea for Volunteers – yes we feed our volunteers

And Health Poured the Concrete - 8\(^{th}\) – 10\(^{th}\) July 2015
✓ Due to the presence of underground services & the strict requirements by Health to use their own Contractors & specifications the Slab & Disable Path access was undertaken as their ‘In-Kind’ contribution.
✓ The cost was higher than the original estimate due to the increased size of the Gazebo & the addition of a disabled access path & they agreed to proceed
✓

Our most recent Volunteers (Phornthip & Greg Hawke) are Landscaping Zone 10
✓ Rocks donated by Barb Moore
✓ Plants donated by Phornthip
✓ A Succulent Garden with Aggregate Mulch is evolving

Thank You
Your committee & membership of BHAG Inc. remains active & focussed on preserving Bellingen Hospital & its services in the many & varied opportunities that arise.
Thank you for trusting & providing me with the privilege to serve our community as President of BHAG.
Barbara Moore (2014/15)

More photos of the Patient Wellness Garden project
- [https://bhaggardengroup.wordpress.com/2014/11/](https://bhaggardengroup.wordpress.com/2014/11/) - View our month by month activities
- There are 10 separate Zones in the Patient Wellness Garden each with its own unique design & environmental requirements.
- To date every Zone has had some level of activity with some zones completed.
- We will recommence planting in the Spring & during the Winter months we will concentrate our works on infrastructure based activities & ground preparation works
- Following are photos of examples of works in other zones

![Zone 5 Aggregate Spread 5th May](image1)
![Zone 6 planted 1st June 2015](image2)
![Zone 6 in 2014 before work](image3)
![Zone 6 Current July 2015](image4)
![Zone 7 in 2014 before work](image5)
![Pigface on Aggregate 22nd June 2015](image6)
![Zone 8 West end 2014 before work](image7)
![1st Planting 22nd May 2015](image8)
Zone 8 East end 2014 with Erosion  Staged Planting as at July 2015