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**PRESENT**

**Members:**

Brian Bucket - Access Building Designer  
Helen Booby - Physical Disability  
Max Waters - Port Macquarie & Vision Impairment  
Julie Priest- PMHC Aged & Disability Officer

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The meeting opened at 2.10pm.

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**01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

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**02 APOLOGIES**

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CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from;

Alex Momot - Camden Haven & Vision Impairment  
Angela Harrison -Guide Dogs NSW  
George Payne - Wauchope Seniors  
Mike Ipsen - Camden Haven Access  
Nik Sandeman-Allen - Care & Mobility  
Peter McLeod - Hastings Macleay Community Transport  
Phil White - Wauchope Access  
Sharon Beard - Education & Access

be accepted.

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**03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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CONSENSUS:

That the minutes of the Hastings Access Sub-Committee Meeting held 10 September 2012 be confirmed with the addition of the following amendment:

Port Macquarie Wharf replacement of planks identified by Max Waters as a tripping hazard with new planks 8-10mm higher than the old planks. There are also no safety rails along the wooden wharf.

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**04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

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There were no disclosures of interest presented.

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**05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**5.1 Yellow Brick Road:**

Council's graphic designer is updating the stencil design to include the directional stencil.

Discussion about launch of YBR at the wheelchair Cavalcade event for International Day of People with Disability.

Nik Sandeman-Allen has kindly volunteered the use of wheelchairs and mobility scooters from Care + Mobility. The Mayor & Councillors are invited to participate. Brian suggested an invitation to Mr Oakeshott too. Discussion about the route with opportunity from Town Beach to Town Green as a launch of YBR. Other proposed route was Garden Village to Settlement City as a strategic opportunity to lobby for footpath improvements in this area. Event could include a pop top marquee in the Settlement City/Panthers car park and the launch of the Access map.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Two stencils to be designed, a header and a directional stencil
2. Wheelchair Cavalcade route and event design to be confirmed at next meeting.

**5.4 Access Committee representatives meeting with Town Centre Masterplan Committee:****CONSENSUS:**

Julie Priest to arrange with Rachel Millett PMHC.

**5.8 Access Map:**

The Access Committee reviewed the fourth draft of the map. Brian suggested pages were swapped so that the Port Macquarie map is the first map when the brochure is opened.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Change the order of the maps
  2. Change the North point symbol so that it is located at the top of each map, stands out and is more of an arrow shape.
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#### 5.11 Access Improvement Works for Buildings:

The Committee reviewed the designs of the Accessible Fishing Platform at Dunbogan. Once the design and costings are available Julie will submit the grant proposal to the Dept of Fisheries.

#### CONSENSUS:

1. Include a handrail/safety rail at the portion of the fishing platform which directly leads to the walkway;
2. Include a handrail/safety rail on the two sides of the walkway;
3. Wheelchair car park – include a bollard in the shared zone (the end closest to the road); and
4. Include a courtesy sign which gives priority access to the fishing platform for people with a disability.

#### 5.12 Aldi Car Park:

Dan Croft, Group Manager Development Assessment has reviewed the response from Suter Architects in regards to the shared zone at the Aldi Car Park in Port Macquarie.

He has discussed the issue with his building surveyor and consider that the certifier is correct as per AS2890.6-2009, CI 1.3.2

The Building professional's Board would be the next point of call if the Committee wishes to pursue further.

The Committee discussed this as the intent of the design of a shared zone is to share between the two disability car parks not to share with shoppers with shopping trolleys. The former design of two accessible car parks would not allow this. In essence Aldi have saved themselves a car park space. Self-drivers who put together their wheelchairs and vehicles with wheelchair ramps will come into conflict with shoppers and their trolleys.

#### CONSENSUS:

The intent of the design of a 'shared space' is a space shared between the two wheelchair accessible car parks. It is not a space shared with trolleys, shoppers and pedestrians. Julie to escalate this with Dan Croft and Suters Architects.

#### 5.14 Access Friendly Project:

Still awaiting invitation for Nik and Julie to speak at Council's Tourism Customer Care event and Chamber of Commerce events.

Julie has approached businesses to be included as 'success stories' including:

- The Essential Ingredient 3/41 Short St
- TS & Virtue 1/41 Horton St
- CWA
- North Haven Shopping Centre
- Zaccola in Horton St

- Crema
- Terry Whites

Helen spoke about her experience booking accessible accommodation on her trip to Darwin and that two rooms which had been booked and she had telephoned and spoken to the motel in advance upon arrival were not accessible. The NRMA accommodation guide was unreliable and accommodation owners self-assessing rooms for access does not work. This exemplifies why the Access Friendly project is such a necessity.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Julie to follow up again with Lisa at Chamber of Commerce invitation to speak at events
2. Julie to follow up again with Customer Care for when they have re-scheduled our presentation.

**5.15 North Shore Ferry:**

Brian has investigated wheelchair access for pedestrians to use the ferry. He advised that the pedestrian walkway on the ferry is exceedingly narrow with high fencing and has two 90degree turns. Even if there was a threshold wedge to enable access onto the pedestrian walkway, the walkway is far too narrow to navigate in a wheelchair. The only possible access for a person in a wheelchair is as a passenger in a vehicle.

**CONSENSUS:**

The Committee thanked Brian for assessing the ferry and this matter is now closed.

**5.16 Development Approval & Footpaths:**

No update. The Access Committee will be involved in the PAMP review in the New Year.

**5.17 Access Requests:**

Review of the Lighthouse Road Footpath design.

The Committee reviewed the maps showing the proposed upgrade of Lighthouse Road from Pacific Drive to Matthew Flinders Drive. Brian queried how people get safely from Bus Shelter (near Matthew Flinders Drive) as no crossing or pedestrian refuge and proposed footpath on other side of road. Query bus route if it travels the entire section of Lighthouse Road as only one bus stop. There is also unstable land slippage in a portion of the area.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Recommend design includes a pedestrian crossing/refuge at the bus stop;
2. Julie to find out bus route as only one bus stop shown on map; and unstable land slippage where proposed footpath is.

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**06 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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06.01 Invitation to the Launch of the Wauchope All Abilities Playground & photo opportunity with the Mayor:

The Access Committee has been invited to the launch on Tuesday 23 October 2012 at 1pm followed by a photo opportunity with the Mayor at the Wauchope indoor Stadium to showcase the new access ramp and bathroom at 2.15pm.

Committee members to RSVP to Julie if they can attend. Attendees so far include Helen and Phil White, Max has an earlier appointment but will endeavour to be free at 12.30pm. Peter at Hastings Macleay Community Transport be approached to see if he can arrange transport for the Access Committee.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Committee members requiring transport to RSVP to Julie by 16 October.
2. Peter McLeod to be asked if HMCT can supply transport.

06.02 Westport Boat Ramp upgrade:

Storm Consulting has been engaged by PMHC to undertake detailed design of upgrade works to the existing boat launching ramp at Westport park. The Committee reviewed the designs which include installation of two new 25m boat ramp pontoons and widening of existing ramps plus a pathway to the fish table.

Discussion about Sail-ability which has clubs in Coffs Harbour, Tweed heads and Port Stephens and is gaining in popularity and was featured at the Paralympics.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. Remove all steps so that there are no steps to get access on to the pontoons;
2. Have an unobstructed access ramp from terra-firma to pontoons. i.e. install some form of well for the hinge to pivot;
3. Ideal to have an extra 5 metres of pontoon to reduce queues; and
4. Query why it is being built in two stages instead of a one stage project.

06.03 Tastings on the Hastings:

Julie attended the Council meeting with the event organisers for the Tastings on the Hastings. The main event on Sunday 16 October will include a number of road closures which will block access to approximately 8 wheelchair car parking spots. Upon her request the organisers have agreed to provide the following:

1. Disability drop off / pick up spot in front of Rydges
  2. Car parking for people with a disability– enter via Short St (near the Fish Co-Op) and show security your RTA disability car parking permit. (please note wheelchair spaces
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are limited so first in basis).

No further action required.

06.04 Port Macquarie Wharf improvements:

Brian has investigated the wharf where some planks have been replaced with new ones.

The new planks are approximately 8 to 9mm higher than the existing planks. Brian advised that over time as the new timber dries out the planks will sink to a similar level as the existing one. The edges have been bevelled 45degrees which will also reduce the tripping hazard. As it is an operational wharf it is impractical to have handrails and kerb rails installed as marine craft need to access the wharf.

No further action required.

06.05 New Medical Centre:

Max has identified an access issue at the new Medical Centre located near the roundabout at Park St & Hastings River Drive.

The egress from the main entry doors to the ramp to unload/load from a vehicle is impractical and forces wheelchair users to use a circuitous route. Brian volunteered to assess the site.

**CONSENSUS:**

Brian to view onsite disability access at the Medical Centre.

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The meeting closed at 4.10pm.