



Happy and safe boating

# MLAC Bulletin

*"Respect the Past - Create the Future"*

NOVEMBER 2020

## **MLAC supports removal of leaning poles at Tea Gardens Public Wharf**

In 2010, a new floating pontoon wharf was constructed in Tea Gardens. This wharf had leaning poles installed to enable the local ferries, which operate between Tea Gardens and Nelson Bay, to "lean on them" while berthing, thereby protecting the pontoons.

A few years later, Council established a wharf dedicated to the ferry operators. As a result, the leaning poles at the public wharf became redundant as recreational vessels did not pose the same impact on the pontoons while berthing.

Paul Bendy, MLAC's treasurer, took up the task with Council to have the leaning poles removed as they restricted the number of vessels that could moor along the wharf face, thereby limiting the number of berths for visiting vessels.

As is normally the case, the discussion between Paul and Council went on for years until the Council, who conceded that it was their responsibility to have the leaning poles removed, stated that it was not a priority - pulling on the strings of their budgetary constraints.

As a result, further discussions were held within the MLAC Committee of Management as to our continued involvement in this worthwhile project. It was agreed that the pole removal was a worthwhile boating public infrastructure initiative, completely in-line with the Club's objectives. It was therefore decided to fund the leaning pole removal ourselves. This action ensured that not only did our own members enjoy a direct benefit, but many other recreational boat users also benefitted from the poles' removal.

The club received favourable publicity for funding this project, which highlighted that our work within the Myall region benefits many people, not just club members.

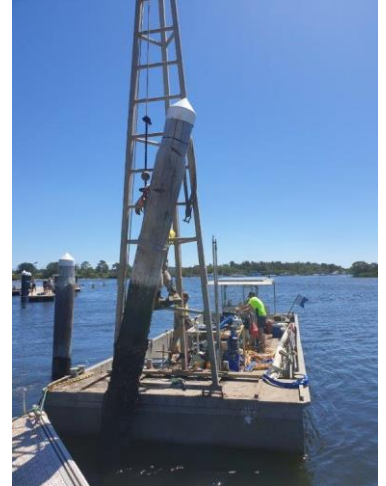
As the poles were in good condition and suitable for further use elsewhere, MLAC as the "new owner" of the poles moved them to the Lakes area to be used in a future project.

How did we get two 1-tonne poles moved?  
Simple - Council have a big truck!

MidCoast Council agreed to help out with the poles' transport to Bombah Point works depot.

The pole removal job was completed on Friday 9 October 2020 and the poles were transported the following week to NPWS depot.

Your committee will make some final decisions on the poles' further use very soon.



**Removal of leaning poles**



## Club Announcements

- As a result of the current COVID-19 circumstances, Myall Lakes Aquatic Club will not be holding an Annual General Meeting this year. NSW Fair Trading has announced that associations are not required to hold an AGM, but may conduct their AGM when restrictions are lifted or present 2020 financial information to members at the 2021 AGM.
- Due to uncertainty with COVID number restrictions, the committee has decided not to hold a Christmas outing in 2020.
- Stage 2 of Engels project is planned for completion on the weekend of 21/22 November. This will also be the official end of year get together for those who can make it to Engels for Sunday lunch at the new wharf . All self-catering; no RSVP required.
- The Club 50-year celebration is still planned to go ahead but has been deferred until next year.
- The Club will conduct its annual wharf inspection early in the new year and liaise with National Parks & Wildlife Service as to wharf upgrade project planning for 2021.
- MLAC is in a healthy financial position and remains strong. Balance year ending 30 June 2020 was \$72,426.36 without any outstanding liabilities.

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“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud” --- Maya Angelou