

MANNING RIVER DISCOVERY

Draft Program of the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley

Adopted 12 June 2007 subject in the case of the Manning River Enhancement Program to adoption by the other Rotary Clubs or there being an indication that some major sponsorship will be available to limit the Auction Night target to \$30,000.

Background:

The Manning River system is a unique waterway on the mid north coast of New South Wales, Australia. It incorporates a rare delta system with two river entrances – the only such system in Australia. The two major branches of the River create three very large islands, Dumaresq Island, Oxley Island and Manning Island. The associated rivers and creeks the Lansdowne River, the Dawson River, Scotts Creek, Cathai Creek and Ghinni Ghinni Creek result in the creation of a number of other islands including Jones Island, Cabbage Tree Island and Charlies Island. All of these rivers and creeks are navigable by boat.

The Manning River System contains an increasing number of public ramps, wharves, pontoons, riverside parks and commercial tourist destinations. This river system is the heart of the Manning Valley, including 150 kms of navigable waterways.

However, the river system is greatly underutilised. It is largely undiscovered by the boating public.

Objectives:

The objectives of this program are as follows:

1. To raise awareness of the magnificent Manning River system amongst the inhabitants of the Manning Valley and the surrounding areas of the Great Lakes including Forster Tuncurry, the Hastings including Port Macquarie and Gloucester.

2. To increase recreational usage of the Manning River system, thereby further enriching the lives of those who participate.
3. To provide a stimulus to local government, state government, federal government and private enterprise to further develop river access, recreational facilities and river destinations on the Manning system.
4. To share this wonderful asset with others.

Implementation:

5. Register and promote the brand, Manning River Discovery as an initiative of the Rotary Clubs of the Manning.
6. Prepare and distribute widely a glossy brochure depicting the Manning River between Wingham, Harrington and Old Bar, highlighting each public ramp, public jetty, public park adjoining the river system and each privately owned tourism destination accessible by the river system. Some of the information is on the GTCC website as below.
7. To encourage the widespread distribution of this brochure through Rotary Clubs, the Manning Valley Tourism Association, the Greater Taree City Council and local tourism operators.
8. To seek community sponsorship and support for the preparation and distribution of such a brochure.
9. To regularly reprint that brochure to show and hand to the public and private destinations on the river system.
10. To hold an annual Manning River Discovery day as per the attached document.
11. To encourage the Greater Taree City Council to develop a public five year Manning River enhancement program as per the attached document.

Methodology

12. Formation of a committee to consist of the Presidents and Presidents Elect of the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley with an invitation to join to be extended to a representative of the Greater Taree City Council and such other persons as the Committee considers appropriate from time to time.

MANNING RIVER DISCOVERY DAYS

1. Identify a Sunday (eg 3rd Sunday in November) during the warmer months being a Sunday which would maximise the likelihood of sunshine and the minimum likelihood of rain – a Sunday event which can be supported by the local committee and is therefore not during holidays or on a long weekend.
2. Each year identify a destination on the River which can be reached by boat and encourage all citizens of the Manning Valley, Great Lakes, Hastings, Gloucester and tourists generally who can obtain access to a boat to travel to the destination as part of discovery of the Manning River system.
3. Encourage boats of all sizes from the largest luxury cruisers to the smallest tinnies to participate.
4. Seek to promote the date on the Tourism Calendar.
5. Determine each year an attractive destination for the event which can be either a public or private facility. It is suggested that in the first year Manning River Discovery be held at the restored wharf on the Manning River at Wingham, but in future years visits could include a visit to a place such as the new Irish hotel on the Manning River at Harrington.
6. A festival atmosphere would be created at the destination including:
 - continuous live music from 10 am to 4 pm including at least one outside feature group;
 - a series of barbeques to be manned by Rotarians with hamburger buns, lettuce and tomato so as to sell hamburgers, sausage sandwiches and steak sandwiches at a modest profit;
 - those attending be invited to bring their own food and drinks along with publicity that hamburgers, sausage sandwiches and steak sandwiches will be available for purchase;
 - those attending by boat to be entitled to register – registration to be encouraged beforehand, but late registration on arrival to be accepted;
 - those registering to be issued with vouchers, one for each person on their boat (no matter how many);

- a local butcher be approached to provide meat at cost, that butcher to be promoted on the day as the butcher to the Manning River Discovery Day and to be invited to attend with free vouchers for his or her family;
- sponsors to be sought for the music, sound equipment and the cost of food, with the objective that the event make a small profit to be used as seed funding for the next years event;
- sponsorship to be sought from private businesses including but not restricted to the businesses of participating Rotarians, the Greater Taree City Council, Midcoast Water and from the media (TV, newspaper and radio). Publicity to be given to sponsors as part of the media publicity for the event'
- consideration to be given to a form of sponsorship, including gold sponsorship (with naming rights), silver sponsorship and bronze sponsorship, the amounts to be determined by allocation of a budget each year;
- entry to the Manning River Discovery Day to be free of charge, this to be an article of faith and never changed;
- the event to be promoted as an event sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley and a large sign to that effect to be made to be erected at the annual destination, with the individual clubs being encouraged to erect their own signage as well;
- the Manning River Discovery Day to be promoted as preceding and in fact to precede notwithstanding inclement weather and to be cancelled only in the event of serious flooding or torrential rain.
- local cafes and restaurants to be invited to put up tents/small marquees selling food and promoting their business. Agreement to be reached with the committee on prices, with the objective being to keep prices modest and affordable.
- It is suggested that boats participating depart from Taree at about 10 am, with a boat manned by Rotarians and prominently marked be moored in the River from 9.45 am to 10.30 am. handing out food

vouchers, with food vouchers available at the destination for late comers.

MANNING RIVER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Background

The Manning River contains many excellent destinations but there are still many destinations which are either inadequately serviced or where there is no convenient boating access. If we are to promote usage of the magnificent Manning River system then this needs to be addressed. It is suggested that the areas needing attention are as follows:

- T Wharf outside GTCC – to be demolished and requires replacement now because otherwise a lengthy application process will have to be followed.
- Wingham Brush – floating pontoon needed.
- Tinonee – floating pontoon needed
- Manning Point – floating pontoon needed
- Croki – floating pontoon needed
- Private facilities need to be encouraged and supported (by submission not funds) in obtaining permission and building floating pontoons in front of their establishments.
- There is a need for a marina in the Manning River where both visitors and local residents can conveniently hire boats – the Pitt Street precinct development may meet this need.
- There is a long term need to stabilise and deepen the Manning River entrance to Harrington by the erection of a southern rock wall and there is a long term need to develop a stable permanent access of the River to the ocean at Old Bar.

Proposal

1. The provision of these capital works is beyond the capacity of voluntary organisations.
2. The Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley would urge the Greater Taree City Council to develop a 5 year strategy plan to address these needs and to make annual applications to the State Government for contribution towards these costs.

3. The Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley would urge the New South Wales Government to adopt a plan to provide funding within 5 years to enable planning and construction of the necessary public works at the Harrington and Old Bar entrances to the River, in the case of Harrington to make destinations on the Manning River an attractive option to persons travelling by boat along the mid north coast of New South Wales and in the case of Old Bar to facilitate access to the ocean by recreational fisherman and to protect the local oyster industry.
4. In order to demonstrate community interest in the need for these works the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley will, during the 2007/2008 financial year, undertake to raise the sum of \$50,000 toward the construction of floating pontoons at the Wingham Wharf and as a replacement for the T Wharf at Taree on the basis that the Greater Taree City Council contributes an equal amount in cash or kind and on the basis that matching funding be obtained from the New South Wales Government in order to provide a budget of \$200,000.
5. The fund raising by the Rotary Clubs of the Manning Valley will be conducted by way of
 - a. seeking a Major Sponsor of each of the proposed facilities to be recognised on a suitable permanent plaque,
 - b. the balance to be raised by a major charity auction to be conducted separately from, but after the first Manning River Discovery Day, the auction to be promoted as part of the lead up to the Manning River Discovery Day and on the day itself.

Parks, Reserves and Picnic Areas

- :: The Manning Valley features a great range of picnic areas, reserves and parks in which to enjoy views of the Manning River. These include:
- :: Fotheringham Park, Victoria Street, Taree.
- :: Queen Elizabeth Park, on the riverbank end of Pulteney Street, Taree.
- :: Endeavour Park, River Street, Taree.
- :: Andrews Reserve, end of Edinburgh Drive, Taree.
- :: Mudbishops Reserve, Old Bar.
- :: Wingham Brush, Farquhar Street, Wingham.

- ⌘ Lansdowne Reserve
- ⌘ Croki
- ⌘ Pampoolah Reserve, picnic area located on the Manning River
- ⌘ Kendall Reserve, Cundletown
- ⌘ Harrington
- ⌘ Tinonee Park
- ⌘ Manning Point
- ⌘ Farquhar Park Recreation Reserve

Discover the beautiful Manning River

The Manning River is rare because it's Australia's only river delta system featuring two river entrances at Harrington and Old Bar. It also offers visitors 150km of navigable waterways in which to enjoy boating, watersports and fishing. The Manning River was named a recreational fishing area in December 2001 with 150km of saltwater estuary and 1500km of fresh water in the Manning River and its tributaries available for recreational anglers. The recreational fishing area spans from the mouth of the Manning River at Old Bar to Berady Creek and from Harrington to Ghinni Ghinni.

The Manning River used to be the economic lifeblood of the Mid North Coast region, being used as a transportation link for timber and agricultural products to ports in Sydney. Today, its importance is more of an environmental and recreational one offering local residents and visitors the opportunity to use and enjoy it for leisure activities.

The Manning River is ideal for exploring either from your own personal boat or a cruise. One of the main features of the Manning River is its peace and tranquility. A trip to the Manning Valley is not complete without enjoying the recreational delights of this rare river system.

The River Story: early beginnings

John Oxley crossed and named Harrington and Farquhar inlets in 1818 during a journey along the beaches from Hastings River to Port Stephens but he was not aware that a large river flowed through them to the sea.

The Manning River was first sighted by Surveyor Henry Dangar in 1825 and again in 1826 during the exploration of part of the country between the upper Hunter River and Port Stephens on behalf of the Australian Agricultural Company. The river was recorded on his survey map by its Aboriginal name "boolumbahtee".

Later in 1826 the river was named "Mannings River" by Robert Dawson, the first manager of the Australian Agricultural Company, in honour of Sir William Manning, the Deputy Governor of the Company.