



Residents Group

# Bay

# news

## CONTENTS

OUR FIRE BRIGADE

BERT'S UTOPIA

HARDYS BAY RSL CLUB

MOSQUITOES

NEW FERRY SERVICE

MEALS ON WHEELS

SEDIMENTATION

MAYORS MESSAGE

KILLCARE SLSC

BRIEFS

OUR WEBSITE

LETTERS

“WORKING FOR A POSITIVE LIFESTYLE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND HARDYS BAY”



## OUR FIRE BRIGADE

Fourteen months ago, the Killcare Wagstaff Rural Fire Brigade members formulated a process designed to assess the demands on the fire service and enable it to reinforce its commitment to the local communities. Steve Farrell, a six-year “veteran” of the KWRFB and its current captain, explained that approximately thirty items on the agenda were underlined and prioritized.

“A pressing matter was a new vehicle. Following discussions with district officers we were provided with a Category 7 Tanker, which significantly boosted our fleet to three,” explained Steve.

“But we have to foot the bill for many things such as the installation of radios, and even paying the costs of widening the driveway and doorways at the fire station because of the size of the new tanker. We also have to pay our own telephone bills. “Donations from the public, of course, greatly assist in defraying costs and a monthly cake stall set up by KWRFB members at Killcare has also yielded much-needed funds.”

The present fire station at Stanley Street, Killcare, provides a most comfortable headquarters for its members. Behind the front entrance where the three tanker vehicles are housed is a hallway leading to a modern, spacious lounge complete with a kitchen, refrigerator, cooking facilities and TV for training and educational videos.

“We believe it is important to maintain a relaxed and comfortable standard in our quarters in view of the amount of time our members spend away from their homes”, explained Steve.

The quarters are a far cry from the humble tin shed which was transported from Empire Bay in 1955 and re-located at Killcare. In those times, a “blitz” truck, an ex-military vehicle, was used for the brigade's operations.

Volunteers to take on roles with the KWBFB are always welcomed and needed. Training sessions are provided, enabling them to perform many other functions outside the fire lines which could, in turn, assist them in coping with other responsibilities.

“Despite our limited manpower and volunteer status, we are happy to report we haven't missed a single call for assistance in the past four months,” Steve added. Three new probationary members have “enlisted” within the last three months. A variety of roles have constituted the duties performed during the year. Last year, brigade members contributed over 2,500 hours to the service. Steve Farrell stated that the hours of duty have been on the increase with 319 recorded last September and a remarkable 588 in October.

“If one district in the State is overwhelmed, it can call the RFS HQ for additional personnel from elsewhere”, said Steve. “In fact, two of our people volunteered to attend an out of area response at Bathurst. One of the men took a week's leave from work to help out.”

The KWBFB stresses to the community that it is vital, during emergency periods, to always keep a battery-operated AM/FM radio on hand and phone 000 for assistance.

### WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER ISSUE

*On behalf of the Hardys Bay Residents Group, I wish to thank everyone for the generous response to our first issue and the overwhelming support of our aims and the acknowledgment of the positive approach we are taking to various issues. The dramatic increase in our membership ranks certainly endorses this.*

*In this edition, with other features, we have particularly focused on matters which are vital to our community's welfare and highlighted the splendid service provided by our voluntary organizations.*

*We continue to work with the appropriate authorities in approaching the relevant concerns and always seek solutions, rather than searching for objections, when addressing them.*

*An excellent communication agency, we feel, is the HBRG website, [www.hardysbay.com](http://www.hardysbay.com) which carries a broad range of general information relating to our community and is regularly updated.*

*From the executive committee, we extend our warmest Season's Greetings and sincere good wishes to all for a happy and successful New Year.*

**Adrian Williams, President  
Hardys Bay Residents Group**

Dec 2006

## BERT'S UTOPIA

"I consider myself most fortunate to have enjoyed the beauty and natural attributes of Hardys Bay and Killcare in my lifetime but it saddens me to witness the damage caused by the mangroves and sedimentation.

"It appals me to see what has happened to our treasured bay. There is little sand left and it has been replaced in the main by mud which is oozing more and more into the bay and enveloping and destroying the sea grass.

"The unnecessary mangroves were confined to a small cluster near Mudflat Creek in my younger days. Now, they have encroached around most of the bay and attracted mud and rubbish, causing unpleasant odours. They obstruct and mar views of one of the most tranquil and picturesque areas in the country."

Bert Myer looks back on life with sentiment. It is a deep fondness for the uncomplicated times of the past, but tempered with a genuine concern for environmental matters of the present.

A chat with him could be described as a therapeutic experience. An alert 89-year old, he has lived in Killcare for 87 of those years. To those in the local community, he contributes a delightful old-world charm.

In handling memories with certainty, he whimsically reflects - with remarkable clarity - on the early times in the area when he and his mates fished and swam in the bay and walked to the nearest school at Empire Bay before Pretty Beach opened up its classroom when he was nine. He was an original pupil.

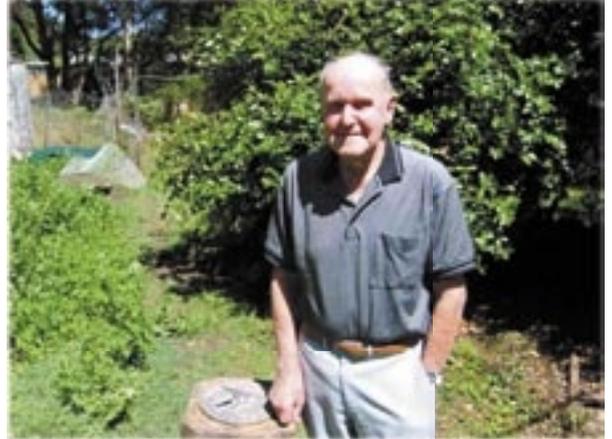
When he and his new bride moved into their Killcare property in 1942, they purchased the home for 250 pounds. A year later, they bought the block next door for fifty pounds.

Widowed a year ago, he took his doctor's advice and remained active. Recently, he undertook his first airline trip, flying from Darwin to Sydney in a Boeing 737.

He walks on Tuesdays with a group called the Terrigal Trekkers. According to Bert, their ages range from "one or two fellows in their nineties to some youngsters in their seventies".

Utopia, according to Bert, is a blend of Hardys Bay and Killcare.

But don't mention the mangroves.



## HARDYS BAY RSL CLUB

"The fat lady hasn't sung yet but she is clearing her throat and the orchestra is tuning up".

President Steve Newman's statement that the Hardys Bay RSL Club would overcome its financial difficulties and "return to the vibrant asset of the community it has been in the past" closely followed the news that his Board had successfully established a refinancing arrangement with members of the community which will enable it to relieve the Administrators of their duties and leave sufficient working capital for a revamped Board to work on.

At an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING held at the club on September 17th, and attended by a large gathering of concerned residents and visitors, a resolution was passed, as follows:

"The Club offer its members and other interested community persons the opportunity to advance to the Club upon the terms herein generally provided, parcels of funds in multiples of \$25,000 to a maximum aggregate sum of \$700,000 secured by a contributory first mortgage and fixed and floating charge over the real property and assets and undertaking of the Club. The terms and conditions of this offer are:

1. Minimum Investment - \$25,000 2. Term of advance 3 years 3. Interest rate 8% per annum payable monthly in arrears. 4. Other covenants usually included in a mortgage and charge of this nature.

At a subsequent well-attended meeting at the club on October 29, Steve Newman followed up on the previous month's announcement by outlining plans for the relevant refinancing and focusing on an evaluation of the Club's assets. He was supported by Gordon Stebbing who explained the conditions governing the investment and produced a summary of the Club's present financial status. Happily, the required funds were raised.

According to Mr. Newman, volunteers will be essential to the Club's future fortunes.

"We are looking for recruits to assist with a Meet and Greet program in which they will welcome visitors, check membership cards, sign up new members at a special half-price rate of \$7.50 commencing from January 1st, 2007 until next June, and ensure that people who sign in are from outside the 5km limit or are members of a similar club.

"Additionally, volunteers will play an important role with our Club bus arrangements, where there will be a drivers' roster set up to cover, at least, the Monday to Friday period. A letter box drop, too, will operate for our newsletters.

"A bush regeneration program will be organized and no experience in this area will be necessary as training will be provided.

"Members' support in volunteering to run the Thursday and Friday raffles will be greatly appreciated, too, as it will be a welcome saving on bar staff wages."

---

## MOSQUITOES

The salt marsh mosquito issue, and the need for funding a management program, which has aroused a considerable amount of publicity this year, was referred several months ago to the local authorities who, in turn, passed the matter on to State Government with the recommendation that the appropriate action be taken.

With the “ mosquito season “ again upon us, the requested Bti spray program, designed to control the debilitating menace, has yet to be carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, despite overwhelming evidence that the spray is a safe, cost-effective and ecologically-friendly solution. Nevertheless, the Hardys Bay Residents Group will continue to lobby council, the State Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure this important issue remains an “ urgent item “ on the agenda.

Irrefutable scientific proof has been provided by experts to surely prompt the relevant authorities to take immediate, remedial action to solve the problem.

The NPWS have openly expressed interest in the details presented by Mr. Mike Muller, the Medical Entomologist from Brisbane Council, and one of the country's most qualified in investigating matters of this nature, who, as a result of a Hardys Bay Residents Group initiative, addressed Gosford Council and impressed observers with his comprehensive knowledge of the vexing issue. Writing in the Central Coast Express Advocate, popular columnist, Bob Staines, left no doubts in his readers' minds over his feelings towards the salt marsh mosquito.

Commenting on the alarming potential the species possesses, he noted that “ this monster's bite can cause serious instances of Ross River and Barmah Forest fevers, as well as the nasty skin disease, cellulitis.

“ Especially vulnerable “, he emphasised, “ are children and the elderly”.

Members of the community are urged to contact council or their local member in expressing their concerns over this serious problem.

---

## NEW FERRY SERVICE

Ferry travel on the Brisbane Water network has been boosted by the introduction of a service which will enable passengers to enjoy a link between the existing Palm Beach run with Woy Woy, Saratoga, Hardys Bay, Ettalong and Wagstaff.

Launched on Monday, November 13th, the Codock 11 - an ex-Cockatoo Island ferry - was built in 1945 as a standard workboat for the defence forces. It was recently restored by the Conway family and will be operated by Central Coast Ferries.

The vintage vessel will make two daily round trips on the Brisbane Water run. Each round trip departs from Woy Woy at 9.40 am and 1.10pm. It will intercept the Palm Beach services and the journey will take just over two hours.

Bets Conway, the Central Coast Ferries director, expressed her company's appreciation of the initiative of the Hardys Bay Residents Group who lent “ valuable support “ when the ferry run application was lodged with the NSW Ministry of Transport.

Explaining his organization's reasoning behind its involvement, HBRG president, Adrian Williams, said his members believed a new ferry run of this nature would provide a relaxing, sightseeing experience for residents and visitors and could significantly assist in reducing some traffic concerns.

---

## MEALS ON WHEELS

A Meals on Wheels delivery service of frozen meals is provided by local volunteers to Killcare, Wagstaff, Pretty Beach and MacMasters Beach each Monday.

This service is made available under the auspices of the Woy Woy Depot of the Gosford City Food Services. It is funded through HACC ( Home and Community Care) and a personal contribution of \$5.30 by each client is made.

Each meal consists of pure orange juice, soup ( in winter months ), and a main course of meat/fish/poultry with vegetables and a dessert.

Meals are provided to the frail, aged, young disabled and their carers. To receive Meals on Wheels, clients of this service may be referred by any person such as, a family member, a neighbour or medical staff. The meals may also be supplied on a short-term basis to those who are ill or have a temporary disability.

For further information, please telephone 43416699 on weekdays.

## SEDIMENTATION

Sedimentation build-up within the Brisbane Water Estuary remains a major concern to the zone's long term existence and health and is currently the subject of an investigation by Gosford Council's Estuary Processes Study.

Hardys Bay and Pretty Beach are among many areas within the estuary identified as being adversely affected by sediment escalation which is now serious enough to threaten the future existence of our beautiful bays.

Graeme Smith, who has conducted extensive research into the subject for many years, explains that sediment flow into the estuary is a one-way journey and has only one result - the eventual demise of a priceless natural asset that must, at any cost, he stresses, " be maintained and protected".

" There has to be an estuary here in another hundred years. Mangroves that have very quickly colonized many of the most seriously sediment-affected areas of our estuary must not provide a barrier to sediment removal," Graeme insists.. " It won't remove itself - society must have a mandate to remove it".

The arguments he submitted at a recent Hardys Bay Residents Group meeting were strongly supported by the members. In particular, Bill Egan, a colleague, asserts that we should be adopting the positive approach of recognizing the need to protect mangroves in certain areas but, in doing so, balancing this by restricting their growth from zones where they would seriously restrict drainage outlets, reduce tidal sweep, or create unhealthy bogs in areas that were once clean sand flats.

Graeme has also observed that other significant concerns, in addition to flood risks, are the lack of sediment traps in some local stormwater drainage systems, an absence of an effective Brisbane Water Maintenance Plan and a resultant alarming neglect of the estuary's foreshores and public facilities. He quotes the poor state of Pretty Beach baths as a prime example.

During the HBRG meeting, Graeme and Bill Egan provided the gathering with telling evidence of the waterways' gradual deterioration over time, through a series of photographs, in a screen-presentation form, which graphically illustrated a worsening situation.

It was strongly emphasised, and agreed at the meeting, that, through a close and regular liaison with the relevant authorities, and decision-makers in government departments, concerted efforts should be taken to reduce the size of sediment deltas and to replenish and environmentally rehabilitate eroded bay foreshores.

Additionally, sediment traps on all high-flow-rate drains should be installed, with further recommendations to be submitted for the deepening of Mudflat Creek, the limiting of mangrove growth and the removal of disused oyster lease rubbish.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'm sure many members of the Hardys Bay Residents Group participated in the forums leading to Vision 2025 - our community-driven blueprint for Gosford City in 2025.

With the NSW government's draft Gosford City Centre plan unveiled on November 10, I now urge you to lodge your comments on this to ensure the concepts of Vision 2025 remain central to Gosford's revitalization. Getting it right will mean, to name just a few major factors, increased local employment opportunities, linking and growing Gosford's health precinct, and a regional arts and culture facility located within the proposed \$15 million waterfront upgrade.

Public opinion on the plan is sought between now and December 22, with the plan's four documents available from Gosford Library, Council's four Customer Service Centres, and online at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au) . I am sure, too, that many of you participated in Gosford Council's online playground survey that closed on December 1. Your feedback will influence the location of future playgrounds and their equipment, as well as assisting in the continuing development of the Gosford Regional Playground Strategy.

My sincere thanks to your members at the Hardys Bay Residents Group for their ongoing participation in issues of vital community importance.

Councillor Laurie Maher  
Mayor, Gosford City

### NEW MEMBERS APPLICATION

Annual Membership - Pensioners \$5 Members \$10 Families \$15  
Post to: The Secretary, Hardys Bay Residents Group, PO Box 4123, Wagstaffe NSW 2257

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ MOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Members of the Killcare Surf Life Saving Club will be busy in January with the Annual Door Knock Appeal and a Senior Surf Carnival scheduled for that month, according to club president, Jim Macfadyen.

“ The Door Knock, set down for Sunday the 7th, is one of the few sources of revenue enjoyed by the club and the proceeds from the collection are used for much-needed surf club gear and equipment.”, explained Jim.

“ On the following Saturday, the 13th, the club will be hosting the Central Coast Branch's senior carnival and this will provide the local communities with an excellent opportunity to watch some of the best surfers in action on our own beach,” he added.

In other surf club news, the design plans for a ' new look ' surf club

have been completed and a Development Application will go before Council in February or March.

At that time, Killcare and Wamberal Surf Life Saving Clubs will be put out to tender simultaneously and it is hoped that the construction of the new Killcare building will commence in September or October , 2007.

Another significant event on the club's calendar is its 75th Anniversary celebrations which are planned for June or July, 2007.

Killcare SLSC is one of the few foundation members of the Central Coast Branch. With the overall emphasis on safety at the beach, the club is proud of its excellent patrolling record and its many outstanding rescues performed over the years. On a competitive basis, it has been successful at a national level with outstanding boat crews, swimmers, R and R, March Past and beach sprinting performers.

A great beach sprinting era surfaced in 2000 and over the following 6 years, when the club's Beach Relay team totally re-wrote the record book, winning 4 world, 5 Australian and 5 State titles in succession, without suffering a defeat.

A major aim of the Killcare club is to promote enjoyable, healthy activities for the youngsters and, as a consequence, it has benefited from a strong influx of junior members in recent times. Club stalwarts Karen Burke and Catherine McMaster have been largely instrumental in promoting the development of a Nippers program.

The club has been blessed with long-serving members who have assisted and are still involved in the everyday running of the club including President Macfadyen, club historians Jim Tubby and Brian Green, lifesavers Lex Cameron and Greg White and current club coach John Bourne

## BRIEFS

- OYSTER LEASES ... A meeting has been held with the Minister for the Environment in which the HBRG has presented strong evidence to support an environmental grant application. A response to the request is expected shortly.
- KILLCARE MARINA has announced that boats and canoes are now available for hire with special discounted rates applying to local residents on weekdays, excluding school holidays.
- BOAT OWNERS in Hardys Bay can log into the Brisbane Water Marine Watch website [www.bwmw.net](http://www.bwmw.net) for information relating to local craft safety and security in these waters. It is seen as a Boat Watch initiative, with memberships available through the website.
- The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Hardys Bay Residents Group will be held at the Hardys Bay Community Church Hall on Tuesday, February 27th, 2007, at 7.30pm.

## OUR WEBSITE

What is the easiest way to find out what's on at the local theatres, to investigate bus, rail and ferry timetables, locate a doctor, plumber, carpenter, etc, check out restaurants, find accommodation, look at the weather and tides, or anything else that's local? It's all just a click away at <http://www.hardysbay.com> This website is run by the Hardys Bay Residents Group and provides access to all the local information you could need, as well as keeping you up to date on the issues important to the local community.

Is there something we could add to make the website even more comprehensive? Please email your suggestions to [webmaster@hardysbay.com](mailto:webmaster@hardysbay.com)

# letters

Thanks for introducing the newsletter, Bay News, to the community. It is very refreshing to see common sense presented instead of hearing of the radical ideas of some who wish to leave the whole area untouched.

We all want what is best for tourists and the environment but there has to be a win-win situation.

On the list of things, could you please put down a note to replace some of the mud in the swimming baths area at Pretty Beach with sand?

No one uses the pool because of the thick, smelly mud. My grandchildren and I have loved taking a dip there but you would never touch the bottom - it's revolting. Why have these amenities if they are unusable?

Dianne and Charles Sibley  
Killcare

On behalf of Central Coast Ferries, we were delighted to receive the approval of the Ministry of Transport for the new ferry run which is now providing regular services on our truly special vintage ferry, Codock 11, taking in Woy Woy, Saratoga, Hardys Bay and Ettalong.

It is an exciting time for us and our sincere thanks go to the following people who supported our application to the MOT : Marie Andrews, Robert Bell, Chris Holstein, Laurie Maher, Horst Endrulat, Dean Ridge ( KDR Graphics ), Danny and Sam ( Oomah.com ) and Adrian Williams and his Hardys Bay Residents Group.

Bets Conway  
Central Coast Ferries

Gosford Council should be made aware of the damage to the waterfront bank from the marina to Killcare Road that has occurred over the past years, due to erosion by the sea. Many areas of the bank along Araluen Drive have been reduced considerably and the area from the bank to the road is very narrow.

Action must be taken to prevent potentially dangerous damage to the road and the traffic.

A rock sea wall should be built, similar to the wall constructed on the Hardy's Bay side of Killcare Road.

Robert and Robin Hill  
Killcare

President .....	Adrian Williams	Executive
Vice President .....	Bill Egan	Kel Gulliver
Secretary .....	Kay Feltham	Fiona Atkinson
Treasurer .....	Carolyn Smith	Graeme Smith
Publicity .....	Allan Wilson	Terry Feltham
Bay News Editor....	Allan Wilson	Email: secretary@hardysbay.com



100A Araluen Drive, Hardy's Bay  
via Woy Woy NSW 2257  
phone: 02 4360 2631  
fax/message: 02 4360 1004  
www.mcgregorsbythebay.com.au



Hardy's Bay Fish & Chip Co.  
58 Araluen Drive, Hardy's Bay NSW 2257  
PO Box R1194, Royal Exchange NSW 1225  
02 4360 2360

hardysbayfishandchips.com.au

www.hardysbayfishandchips.com.au

## Raine & Horne Killcare Beach

2 Killcare Road  
Hardy's Bay NSW 2257  
Telephone (02) 4360 1107  
Facsimile (02) 4360 1575

## Amcal Clarke's Amcal Pharmacy

Lance Clarke B.Pharm., M.P.S.  
Shop 4 Peninsula Plaza,  
Woy Woy NSW 2256  
Telephone (02) 4342 2256

## The Old Killcare Store

Peter & Claire Compton

Ph: 4360 1667 54 Araluen Drive, Killcare 2257  
Fax: 4360 1181 Mob: 0438 232 984

## araluen COASTAL PROPERTIES

60 Araluen Drive  
Killcare 2257

Phone: 4360 2222  
Fax: 4360 1100  
E-mail: info@araluencp.com.au  
www.araluencp.com.au

Kerrie Ryan  
0402 858 935  
Wendy Best  
0438 602 222