



Residents Group

Bay news

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“WORKING FOR A POSITIVE LIFESTYLE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our May edition. When Bay News was launched in August 2006, it was done so with the prime objective of providing information on issues of local relevance as a service to our community. We intend to maintain this role by continuing to engage with the community through the resources of our ever-increasing membership. The Hardys Bay Residents Group is working towards positive outcomes on matters important to our area and at all levels of government. In this edition of Bay News there is again evidence of this rewarding liaison, with council acknowledging the community's concerns over various matters including water contamination in the bay and traffic safety issues. All this is only possible through the continued support and dedicated efforts of the executive committee and all HBRG members. We are fortunate in having such commitment and enthusiasm. Our grateful thanks to all.

Sincere good wishes,
Adrian Williams
President

NEW DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SUBMITTED

Architects representing the developer, Bespoke Properties, have submitted a Development Application to council, providing a new set of plans for the redevelopment of properties at 58 to 62 Araluen Drive, Hardys Bay.



A new look? ...A view of the proposed development from the public jetty at Hardys Bay.

This follows a previous application which had twice been denied by Gosford Council before being taken to the Land and Environment Court where it was finally rejected in March last year on the grounds of :

- * It was not suitable or in keeping with the surrounding character of two-storey modest housing in a leafy area in wooded slopes.
- * It would have caused the removal of more than 100 trees, with no possible replacement on site.
- * Heights, lack of privacy, bulk and scale were not acceptable.

Following the rejection of the proposal, which had created a wave of controversy in the local community at the time over this perceived “blatant overdevelopment”, speculation in the community was, nevertheless, widespread that another approach would be consequently made.

These fears were realised when architects representing the developer displayed a new set of plans to a large gathering attending a general meeting of the Hardys Bay Residents Group in February this year and recently followed through with an official DA - listed 40472/2011 - to local council.

The revised plans, as displayed at the HBRG meeting, show 2 shops and 4 residential units with a pool, gymnasium and barbecue area, with parking at the rear of the shops under the first level of units.

This still leaves a 3-storey building facing the bay. However,

May 2011

the general consensus of opinion amongst those in attendance at the meeting was that the submitted designs had been “ somewhat modified “ when compared with the previous concept of 2010. Concerns, though, continue to linger over the bulk and scale and whether the new plans comply with the L.and E. Commissioner’s ruling of last year, particularly in relation to a Character Statement for the area.

Doubts were also expressed over the size and need for the pool, gymnasium and BBQ area in the middle back section of the blocks which could impact on the number of trees to be removed.

A full set of plans and photomontage is available on the HBRG website www.hardysbay.com Comments may be addressed to da.submissions@gosford.nsw.gov.au

WATER QUALITY TESTING ... A HARDYS BAY NECESSITY

Water quality testing in Hardys Bay remains a key priority, with

Hardys Bay Residents Group member Brent Walker spearheading a committed campaign to rid the waters of bacterial contamination to ensure the precious



CAMPAIGNER... Brent Walker surveys the contaminated site at Mudflat Creek.

environment of the tranquil haven and, essentially, the health of its community.

An initiative of the HBRG which arose from the development of the group’s Residents Environmental Action Plan - or REAP - the process has been in operation since October 20 last year when a water testing kit was obtained from NSW Waterwatch and several volunteers from the Residents Group underwent training courses for the important strategy.

From the outset, testing provided consistent results and Waterwatch contacted Gosford Council which consequently sent the Director of Environment and Planning to undertake his own studies in conjunction with a senior Waterwatch officer. Both parties collected these water samples, confirming the previous findings of Brent and his colleagues who had nominated three sites where the water was unfit for swimming in certain Hardys Bay areas, namely Mudflat Creek, RSL Creek and the area near the drain opposite 36 Araluen Drive.

Recently, Brent’s credibility was questioned in a

local media release of ‘ nuisance value proportions ‘ by an ill-informed person in public office, who was obviously unaware aware of the facts, that the Residents Group had acted irresponsibly in announcing the findings relating to the supposedly contaminated sites, at the same time casting doubts on the group’s reports that water coming from these creeks was not safe.

When the truth of the matter was confirmed, Council sent a letter to the HBRG praising it for the “ professional manner in which the tests have been conducted.”

According to Brent, weekly water testing continued until mid-March and since then, has been occurring every fortnight. The results of each set of tests follow a similar pattern. He provides a fascinating insight into the complex techniques adopted and the role that Council has played in which high coliform and e-coli readings are involved.

“ Generally, there are either low or zero readings for these pollutants taken from Killcare jetty and the public jetty at the southern end of Hardys Bay, “ he says. “Gosford Council commenced taking some action on the Martha Jane drain in February and March as it provided the highest pollution readings of the three sites it had tested.

“ Council subsequently found cracks in some sewer pipes in Araluen Drive near this drain and these were repaired by inserting new sleeves in the pipes. They also dye-tested certain properties in Martha Jane but no dye appeared in the drain. But then, no substantial rain fell for some weeks so it was not surprising that dye did not appear, as any discharge made to sullage trenches may not necessarily overflow into drains in dry conditions.

“ I believe that Council would very quickly determine the source of pollution at RSL Creek as there can only be a few suspect properties and dye tests would quickly reveal the problem “, he adds. “ I suspect that part of the problem at Mudflat Creek is that when Council connected the rest of the bay to the sewer, it did not provide sewer to all the properties in nearby Fraser Road. Heavy rain in mid-April caused Mudflat Creek to overflow its banks and run across several properties in Noble Road, as water testing before and after these downpours showed significant e-coli and coli-form pollution of this creek.”

In the meantime, Brent Walker confirms that water testing will be maintained and the results will continue to be posted on the NSW Waterwatch website at www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au/waterwatch.jsp

INTERSECTION ... RESOLUTION IN SIGHT?

Community optimism for an eventual resolution of the Araluen Drive and Killcare Road intersection controversy has heightened following recent encouraging signs emerging from meetings and exchanges of correspondence with Gosford Council authorities.

Consequent to concerns expressed by local organizations and the general public, relating to traffic and pedestrian safety fears in the troubled section, which had steadily gained momentum, a letter sent by David Medcalf, the Gosford City Council's Project Officer/Engineering Services, dated March 28 and directed to the Hardys Bay Residents Group and the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association, advised, in part, that "as a result of the comments provided by the community on the proposed changing of the priority at the intersection of Araluen Drive and Killcare Road, the plan has been adjusted to reflect the concerns raised.

"These include reducing the number of signs, retaining parking, retaining the current T intersection and improving pedestrian safety."

In response, the HBRG offered a broad assessment of this vital issue, agreeing that progress has been made by the marking of the road edge (Araluen Drive) east of the intersection with flexible guide posts and noting the adoption of the bus stop on Araluen Drive west of the intersection. There had also been consideration by council in the matter of reducing the number of new signs.

However, the entire safety issue must be considered in conjunction with the pedestrian, parking and traffic flow conditions. A safe pedestrian crossing area is required across the intersection area as this is a high pedestrian traffic point during weekends and holiday periods when a high volume of road traffic is in the village.

Safe parking along Araluen Drive can be achieved by minor widening of the drive on the reserve side leading to the existing indent. This would conse-

quently improve safe traffic flow and allow parallel parking.

The HBRG has thanked Council for the action taken to date but has emphasised the point, that above all, traffic and safety considerations must always be a major consideration in our community.

The council proposal can be viewed on the HBRG website www.hardysbay.com

ROB HIMBURY ... A RICH HERITAGE

"Respect" is the word that keeps recurring in accounts of the career of renowned drummer, Killcare resident

Robin Himbury, and is evidence of the high and enduring regard for a man who has expanded its boundaries by adding an elegant

dimension to this oldest member of the percussion group of musical instruments.

His fascination with the drumming technique began, as he vividly recalls, in a London air-raid shelter during the Second World War when a band was playing in an underground refuge to lift the spirits of the inhabitants. He was just 6 years of age.

As a consequence of that experience he commenced playing when he was 12, with his professional engagements debuting at a tender 15.

An early inspiration was the American jazz



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drummer and bandleader, Buddy Rich, who was renowned for his procedure, power, groove and speed. His unique style and smooth execution are still considered the “ holy grails “ of drum technique. To aspire to the dizzy heights of the virtuoso was, to the young Himbury, well beyond the realms of fantasy.

Over the years, the challenge, and sheer enjoyment, he has experienced from searching for this pinnacle in his chosen field have brought him immense satisfaction.

Arriving in Australia in 1949 with his mother and sister - his father was serving at sea, having transferred to the Royal Australian Navy at the time - Rob was conscripted into the Army before joining the Royal Australian Navy Band as a percussionist in 1958. While serving in the Fleet Band aboard HMAS Melbourne, he saw service in South East Asian waters during the campaigns in Vietnam and Malaya and was awarded service campaign medals for active duty in those theatres.

Leaving the Navy after his 9-year engagement, he worked as a professional musician in Sydney, sharing the bill with a number of top international artists, before moving to the NSW Central Coast.

In 2013, the Royal Australian Navy Band will celebrate its centenary. Since its humble beginnings in 1913 when 8 musicians were recruited to serve on HMAS Australia, the RAN Band has become an important part of Australia's military history. When the Ceremonial Silver Drums were officially presented to the RAN in December 1963, Robin Himbury was the recipient of the first drum at a formal ceremony in Sydney. Years later, on a visit

to the Naval Heritage Centre where the Ceremonial Drums were on display, he realised that very little had been recorded about these instruments.

This realisation was the catalyst for intensive research culminating in a book he has recently completed, *The Evolution of the Royal Australian Navy Band: A Chromatic Chronicle* which traces the band's history from the events which initiated its foundation to its current allocation of over 200 musicians in either full or part-time roles. This well-detailed 206-page publication has been applauded by the authorities and those absorbed in the history and growth of one of Australia's most renowned bands.

Killcare residents for 22 years, Rob and his wife Jan are both closely associated with community activities. Rob's outstanding background as a percussionist is fully utilised in his involvements with the 15-member U-Bouddi Swing Band and the “ five to ten ” members who comprise the Jazz Under The Stars group which practices regularly at the MacMasters Beach Surf Club. Requests for personal appearances at prominent venues have occasionally been politely declined in favour of a local situation designed to provide support for the nearby communities.

Under his direction and patronage, numerous benefit performances by the bands are carried out for various bodies which embrace Cancer Research, the Killcare-Wagstaffe and MacMasters Beach Rural Fire Brigade services, Probus and the annual Red Cross Fashion Parade, the latter traditionally attracting large audiences and creating huge community interest. Venues have ranged from the Laycock Street Theatre to retirement villages, shopping centres and sporting clubs across the peninsula.

More recently, Rob and his groups have played at a number of functions to assist in raising funds for Disaster Relief.

It has been an exciting journey for the youngster who huddled in that London air-raid shelter so many years ago when his future career was determined by that wartime band.

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KILLCARE SURF CLUB UPHOLDS PROUD TRADITIONS

Killcare Surf Club competitors maintained an enviable record when they figured in a medal haul in the recent State and Australian Masters titles.

In the women's category at the State event at Kingscliff, Michaela Muir scored a double with victories in the 35 to 39 years Beach Sprint and the

Beach Flags, with second placings to Leah Fotofili in the 35 to 39 years Beach Flags, and the 140 years (combined ages) Beach Relay team of Lisa Sanasi, Michaela, Leah and Laura Washington.



National Silver Medallists ... the ladies' beach relay team, Tegan Spackman, Michaela Muir, Leah Fotofili and Laura Washington with coach John Bourne.

For the men, Bryce Cameron gained a second placing in the 40 to 44 years Tube Rescue and Phillip Tubby finished second in both the 50 to 54 years Beach Sprint and the Beach Flags.

In early April, five women and six men, in addition to a manager/coach, represented the club at the national carnival staged at Kurrawa, Queensland, with ten club members lending support.

Michaela Muir finished agonisingly close to recording a state and national double when she was narrowly edged out in the women's Beach Sprint, whilst the beach relay team of Spackman, Fotofili, Washington and Muir repeated their State performance with another silver medal in the 140 years Beach Relay.

Killcare's Joel Maybury, who was selected in the Australian 4-man Bobsled team to compete in the elimination trials for the 2006 Olympic Games, emphasised his remarkable versatility by clinching a gold medal in the 35 to 39 years men's Beach Sprint and a second placing in the 35 to 39 years Beach Flags.

Phillip Tubby joined Maybury on the gold medal-winning dais when he won the 50 to 54 years Beach Flags, and a bronze medal went to Colin Tubby with his third placing in the 45 to 49 years Beach Flags.

Much of the overall credit for the Killcare team's performances at the state and national events - and, indeed, over many years - has been attributed to club coach John Bourne whose association with

the club stretches back to 1959 when he gained his bronze medallion and has subsequently enjoyed various other responsibilities including those of club captain and, of course, instructor and coach of beach teams.

He often reflects, with a good deal of fondness, on the club's wonderful achievements over the years which have embraced its initial Australian Open Men's Beach Relay gold medal at Cronulla in 1968 when he was closely involved with the team as organiser.

And John proudly calls on the statistics as he recounts Killcare's dazzling run of successes throughout the years which include being the only Open Men's Beach Relay team from the Central Coast to win the national title. In fact, the club has triumphed on six occasions - in 1968, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, with the pinnacle, the world event, being achieved at Manly in 2000, Daytona, USA, (2002) , Viareggio, Italy (2004) and Lorne, Victoria, in 2006.

It has been remarked by those associated with the Killcare SLSC - where the public's safety is paramount - that " it is important to us that we can present a club that the community can be proud of".

Surely, that wish has been fulfilled.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN ... ACHIEVING GOALS

Achieving general and specific goals and overseeing the management of priorities are major considerations in the ongoing processes of the Residents Environmental Action Plan, or REAP, an initiative of the Hardys Bay Residents Group, designed to address issues impacting on the community.

In general terms, an aim is to improve the Hardys Bay community awareness and understanding of the estuarine system by involving the local community in implementing a Council-approved environmental plan which is to be consistent with the NSW Rivers and Estuaries Policy and the Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development to ensure that all stakeholders, including State Regulators, are comfortable with, and support, this community

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initiative.

Other aims embrace protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the natural estuarine environment within the bay, managing the bay's environment in the public interest to ensure its health and vitality and to improve the recreational amenity of the bay and its foreshores.

Additionally, it is vital to recognise and accommodate natural processes and climate change thus ensuring ecologically sustainable development and the use of the bay's resources.

Having regard to the relevant recommendations to Council contained in the Brisbane Water Estuary Management Processes Study and Plan, the Residents Group proposes to:

* **ENHANCE WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY WITHIN HARDYS BAY** ... that is, to measurably improve the standard of water and raw sediment quality within the bay, thereby protecting and promoting a healthy aquatic ecosystem in accordance with the general goals above, while allowing aesthetic enjoyment and appropriate recreational use for the bay's residents and visitors.

* **MINIMISE SEDIMENTARY PROCESSES** by reducing, as far as possible, further estuary sedimentation within Hardys Bay including the erosion of the foreshore, whatever the cause.

* **REDUCE FORESHORE FLOODING** to minimise the impact of catchment flooding and foreshore inundation on existing and future Hardys Bay foreshores (in accordance with Council's Floodplain Risk Management Plans).

* **UNDERTAKE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES** to ensure that residents are aware of the key relevant environmental and climate change issues impacting on Hardys Bay.

It is apparent from the above goals that the management of REAP inherently contains overarching strategies. Accordingly, in prioritising any initiative, it seems that the residents must consider and allocate priority in accordance with the general and specific goals outlined above.

The first objective successfully completed by the HBRG was the residents' cleanup of the former

oyster leases at the northern end of Hardys Bay.

Another initiative, namely the management of the foreshore area between Killcare Marina and the public wharf, at the end of Killcare Road, has experienced prolific sedimentation over the last five years due to a number of factors. This problem poses health, safety and amenity problems to the community.

The executive committee of the HBRG has scheduled a meeting with relevant government regulators to discuss what options may be available to address these concerns. Residents will be informed of the outcome of these meetings.

PRETTY BEACH SCHOOL ... A PERIOD OF ACHIEVEMENT

It was an eventful first term of the year for the students at Pretty Beach Public School which was highlighted by the annual Australia Day ceremony at Wagstaffe when the various captains represented the school by raising the flag,

a special honour as the gathering was attended by parliamentarians and other dignitaries.

During a fulfilling Term One, pupils also engaged in a special gymnastics program and participated in the Annual Schools Swimming Carnival and Zone events, with two representing the Zone at regional level. The school was later visited by playing members of the Sydney Swans who were promoting the sport of AFL football when they conducted a clinic for the enthusiastic youngsters.

The pupils displayed commendable community spirit on " Maroon Day " in raising \$175 for the Queensland flood victims, with a number even collecting donations during a weekend. And the



Leaders of the future Pretty Beach students attending the National Young Leaders Forum in Sydney.

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annual "Clean Up Australia Day" was another example of a dedicated band of students supporting a worthy cause when a large number set to work cleaning up around the school grounds and the nearby foreshore.

The school participated in another special event, the annual "Ride2SchoolDay" which is designed to encourage students to become healthier by riding a bike to school, followed by a Harmony Day celebration with its purpose of unifying and reflecting the inclusive nature of our nation.

More recently, the Year 6 pupils attended the National Young Leaders' Day Forum in Sydney which provided them with a wonderful opportunity to absorb leadership qualities by listening to the personal experiences of some of our admired leaders. Keynote speakers at the forum included Paralympian Kurt Fearnley, Talia Fowler (winner of the 'So You Think You Can Dance' program, 2009), Jessica Watson, the Young Australian of the Year for her solo globe-circling sailing achievement, Mike Martin (General Manager of the Halogen Foundation) and Greg Mullins, the NSW Fire Brigade Commissioner.

These special people, in their particular fields, were all exceptional examples of quality leadership who have endeavoured to achieve their best against all odds and, in turn, inspire our students to develop an understanding of what it means to be a leader and the manner in which they, in turn, can implement their own positive skills.

This term, the school's program will feature the annual cross country and athletics carnivals, with Year 3 and 5 members participating in the NAPLAN - the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy national tests.

OUR FIRE BRIGADE ...MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

To be a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service is to be part of a rich tradition to which men and women have contributed throughout the organization's long history.

For over fifty years, the RFS volunteers of

Killcare/Wagstaffe have been protecting lives and homes in our area. Without a diverse membership that reflects the community's makeup, a volunteer-based emergency service such as ours risks



At your Service..... Steve Farrell, brigade captain, Kellie Robinson, deputy captain & members Callum Woulfe & Jannah Farnan.

becoming less relevant over time, less attractive to new members and, eventually, less able to fulfill its role in protecting the community.

Steve Farrell, the Killcare/Wagstaffe RFB captain, in tandem with his enthusiastic team, professes to deriving "sheer pleasure" in the progress of our local brigade.

"Amongst a wonderful, dedicated group of members, we have several juniors who have worked most successfully over the last nine months in developing into active firefighters - which is our investment for the future - and, additionally, three young females, including two who hold Deputy Captain positions", he advises.

"It is in the interests of the whole community to foster an inclusive and welcoming culture, and embrace the benefits of a diverse and vibrant membership.

"Even during the winter months we continue to encourage any member of the community to consider membership with the NSW RFS and the opportunities it brings with it.

"Protecting our communities", Steve emphasises, "is not just about firefighting. There are plenty of other areas where one can contribute - a person just needs to decide what is most suitable to him or her. There are roles in brigade administration, training, community engagement, communications, logistics, catering and many others just as important as being out on the Fireground. And as we move into the cooler months, now is the time when we ask .. IS YOUR HOME WINTER FIRE SAFE? And

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have you changed your batteries in your fire alarms?

" We are also looking for new ways to engage with our community ... would you like us to attend your next community group or school meeting? We're open to discussing any relevant requests or concerns.

" Bush fire management is a co-operative effort by the whole community and the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan can direct us to areas at most risk from bush fire but it is specifically designed to direct us to individuals at risk. Therefore, if there is someone in your street or a friend or relative that we haven't been able to reach, the RFS has developed a new program called Assist Infirm Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER).

" The NSW RFS AIDER program is a one-off free service supporting vulnerable residents in living more safely and confidently in their home on bush fire-prone land. AIDER services can be provided to vulnerable people who have limited domestic support available from family, relatives, friends or other services.

Steve further advises that all of the above information is detailed on the NSW RFS website - <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> Information can also be sourced by phoning 1800 679 737.

BRIEFS ...

REPLACEMENT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ... Responding to a request by the Hardys Bay Residents Group in February, Gosford City Council has confirmed that it intends to commit funds in the coming financial year to replace the playground equipment removed from Turo Reserve, Pretty Beach. GCC Parks and Development Officer Derek Hill advised that " selection of the replacement equipment will commence in the near future so that it can be ordered as soon as funding is available ".

Mr. Hill thanked the HBRG for its ongoing interest and commitment to community development in Pretty Beach.

H.B.R.G

President Adrian Williams
Vice President Alan Bennett
Secretary/Treasurer ... Kay Feltham
Bay News Editor Allan Wilson
Design/Layout Sandy Robinson
Memberships Pauline Garde
Executive ... Adrian Williams, Alan Bennett, Kay Feltham, Terry Feltham, Allan Wilson, Robert Hill, Brent Walker, Pauline Garde, Graeme Smith

NEW WEBSITE FOR STRATEGIC PLAN ...

Retired architect and town planner James Jarrett of Pretty Beach, with 40 years' experience here and in the US, has created a website which is designed to facilitate a community network enabling people to participate in the development of a strategic plan for the Bouddi Peninsula. " By working together, we can devise this plan that adapts and responds to the area's needs", he says. Enquiries : <http://bouddiplan.net.au>

FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL JUNIOR RUGBY ...

A fundraising dinner on behalf of the Woy Woy Junior Rugby Union will be held at The Fat Goose cafe on Friday, June 24, at 7pm. Many youngsters in our local communities are involved in the burgeoning junior rugby movement. For enquiries and tickets, please phone 4360 1888.

POSTAL DELIVERIES ... Australia Post is currently providing handy hints to householders on ways and means in assisting our popular local postie to deliver mail earlier and more conveniently. Enquiries can be made through the Customer Contact Centre at 13 13 18 or on the HBRG website www.hardysbay.com

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