FERRY SERVICE RUNNING AGAIN

Great news, from November 19th normal ferry service resumes.

Since early May this year we have been without our much loved and used Palm Beach Ferry service. But now that is all behind us.

Fantasea Ferries were forced to cease the service for safety issues after the shallowing of the entrance to Brisbane waters and the Lobster Beach area known as Ettalong Channel.

Public outcry was loud and long, involving many meetings with State Government and Council. We must thank the NSW Government for providing $660,000 to fund a two stage emergency dredging programme.

Stage 1; has dredged the channel mouth at Little Box Head. Dredging off Lobster Beach is now complete and provides a 30m wide channel with a minimum clearance at low tide of some 2.5m.

Stage 2 of this emergency dredging will widen the channel further to 40m, and new markers will then be set.

The longer term solution is a planned full dredge and maintenance plan. Again the state government has provided ($1.225m) 50% of the funding required for a full dredge of the channel. We await council to provide their 50% share and take over the necessary works.

The Hardys Bay Residents Group (HBRG) is the only local community group with a voting representative on the Council’s “Coastal and Catchment committee” and continues to press council to meet their obligations. A recent motion passed at council to develop a longer term plan and to investigate the purchase of a dredge. We too await their decision.

This is still a work in progress. In late October the HBRG attended a meeting where the NRMA formally announced that it had acquired Fantasea Ferries to add to its existing Ferry (Maritime Division) portfolio which includes the Sydney Harbour fast ferries. At this meeting Maritime Division CEO Mr Richard Ford indicated their commitment for a safe and continuous ferry service to Wagstaffe and Ettalong. At the same meeting the Central Coast Council GM Mr Gary Murphy also made it clear that council were committed resolve the dredging issue.
President’s Message

Well, Christmas is upon us and here we are again with our Christmas newsletter.

I would particularly like to thank the committee and all the people who have helped during the past year.

We have been involved in a number of activities this year, which the HBRG can take some pride in achieving, or at least helping to produce better outcomes.

We have attended numerous meetings at all governmental levels in respect of the ongoing major issue “Dredging the Ettalong Channel” this is well covered in the newsletter article.

I am also very pleased to advise we have through the expert assistance of HBRG member Rob Watson updated our web site. We will continue to bring all its aspects up-to-date and I recommend it to you. www.hardysbay.com.

During the year we had a number of meetings covering the developments in the area and some distinguished speakers on energy issues.

We also again had a couple of highly successful “Reclaim the Bay dinners”, which are held after the holiday period and when all the visitors have left, these dinners are held at the Hardys Bistro on the appropriately named “Locals night”.

Seasons Greetings to all and Safe and Happy New Year.

A SURF CLUB WITH BENEFITS

Whether you are a local or just staying for holidays, this summer take a closer look at what the Killcare Surf Club has to offer. It might just be the thing for you, your friends, or for the children looking for something exciting and rewarding.

Learn to ride a surfboard: Surfboard training is done on Wednesdays from 4.40pm and Sundays from 3.30pm. To enable your children to participate for insurance reasons the participant must become an “Associate Member” for only $60.

Access to the Gym: Become a “Associate Holiday Member” for only $80, and use the clubs gym equipment for 12 months. The membership also enables the children to join Young Nippers.

View the Art Gallery- Dec 27th - Jan 6th: “Art by The Sea” for the past 10 years, this annual event has grown in stature attracting talented local artists. For a sneak preview and a chance to meet the artists, book for the December 27th Cocktail Function opening. Exhibition open daily from December 28th

Beach side drinks at the Bar! The Club Bar on the upstairs verandah has panoramic views of the beach and ocean. Open from 4pm until 7pm on Sundays serving beer, wines spirits and the odd cocktail. It is staffed by volunteer club members and all profits go to the club.

Iconic Beach Café: At the beachside café, the irrepressible Helena and her wonderful team serve tasty breakfasts and great coffee. Lunchtime menu has been widened with many tasty offerings. Drop in for live jazz on Monday mornings.

Stretch your body and mind: At the club you can go to Pilates, Yoga Taekwondo, or creative writing.

For bookings and information check the website. www.killcaresurfclub.com.au
"YOUR" CLUB IS THE PLACE TO BE!

If you have never been to the “new” Hardys Bay Club, or haven’t been for ages, the club has been born and boasts attractions that are well worth checking out.

The rustic old log cabin is much lighter and brighter, more in keeping with its bayside location.

Gone are the Pokies, but you can still place a bet if you are the gambling type. Unfortunately, no Pokies also means it is a constant struggle for the club to survive. So your support is really needed!

The old restaurant has been replaced with “Goong’s Kitchen”. Goong, is a legendary figure in the area and ran her Thai restaurant in Woy Woy for many years before hanging up her woks. Very soon, the irrepressible Goong became bored, so she has re-opened in “The Club”. She is a bubbly host. The food is terrific. And the price is right! Take-away is available.

SUMMER HEAT CAN MEAN FIRES

Following the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires, today, nearly 70% of people now say they have developed or discussed a proper plan for what to do during a bush fire. Are you one of them?

Local RFS captain Michelle Biddulph emphasizes the importance of testing how fireproof is your Plan? Or challenge you on your understanding of what to do. You can find out in 5 minutes at www.myfireplan.com.au

But what if you don’t have a plan? Will you leave early in a bushfire, or stay?

Are you planning to leave? When will you leave? What will you take? Does everyone agree? Where will you go?

Are you planning to stay? If so, have you prepared your property? Do you have the right equipment? Do you know when to start defending your property?

It is critical that you are in a position to have an answer to each of these questions.

Whatever your position - Michelle strongly recommends investing 5 minutes visiting the RFS website: www.myfireplan.com.au

Tree and vegetation clearing: Most of us live in an area close to the bush. The “10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme” gives people a quick, on line way to find out if you are legally able to in a “10/50 Zone” that authorises you to:

- Clear trees on your property within 10 metres of home, without seeking approval;
- Clear underlying vegetation such as shrubs (but not trees) on their property within 50 metres of a home, without seeking approval.

You can find out if your property is in a 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area using an online tool: search www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

There are many reasons to also consider joining the NSW RFS. You may want to protect your families, your friends, your home and assets, your community, and your way of life.
WELCOME TO "BEACH & BAY VET"

We now have a new veterinary practice that has moved into 436 Empire Bay Dr, Empire Bay, where the Empire Bay Vet clinic used to be.

The Clinic has generously provided funding for the doggie bags and new signs. And for that, we should all thank them ... and support them.

The new Principal Vet and Proprietor is Dr Alice Dunn BVSc BA (Hons). Alice has worked on the Central Coast for most of the past decade, having previously worked in mixed practice in the Hunter Valley and a small animal practice in Sydney.

Today, Beach & Bay Vet is a full service general practice whose services include general health care, vaccinations, puppy pre-school, soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery, dermatology, dental surgery, emergency care, full in-house biochemistry and clinical pathology and internal medicine.

State of the art equipment now include a new blood machine, a digital Xray, and Ultra sonic machines. These high tech "toys" make the hospital one of the most complete on the coast.

Their aim is to "provide honest, genuine care for the four legged members of your family".

KILLY CARES – "AHEAD OF THE GAME"

Killy Cares, is a recently formed community charity, that encourages locals to look out for, and look after each other in times of urgent need.

Already making an impact, it was praised by Glenn Cannard, Central Coast Council’s Unit Manager for Community Partnerships as "being ahead of the game by already doing what Council would like to see happen in local communities across the region".

Killy Cares now has over 50 volunteers helping locals in times of need:

- Provides transport for medical appointments, or going to the bank etc.
- Preparing home-cooked meals and delivering them to those out of action for a short time. Or to families struggling with terminal illness, with visits to helping them through tough times.
- Volunteers to keep lawns and gardens under control where dad has had a serious accident.

Killy Cares can also provide urgent help when neighbours or relatives may find an elderly resident lying helpless and immobilised in their home after a fall and unable to get to the phone or personal alarm.

It has built community capacity to handle emergencies

- Over 90 people have attended St John First Aid training sponsored by Killy Cares.
- Training how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
- Adding more AEDs and publicising their locations.

Killy Cares depends upon the good will of members and volunteers, as well as local businesses and individuals who make generous donations. Thanks to a wonderful group of ladies, KC received the proceeds from a pre-loved clothing sale held in Waggie hall. The annual fundraising dinner at the Surf Club brought over 100 supporters together for a great night.

Killy Cares wishes to thank you all for your support!
FUR SEAL IN THE BAY

Keep your eye out for a new visitor to Hardys Bay for an Australian Fur Seal which has taken up residence in the Bay. He has spent most of his time sunning himself and resting on the “marlin board” of a moored local motor vessel.

Residents soon gave him the nickname of “Sammy”. Some thought Sammy was ill or hurt, so the rescue organisation ORRCA was called to do a health check. Sammy was found to be a young male Fur Seal, approximately 180 cm long and weighed approximately 113 kg He was “just fine!”...just resting.

With thick brown layered fur, Sammy had engaging large eyes, a broad head, a pointed snout with long whiskers. Less engaging were his large carnivore-like teeth which he showed when the boat owner “dared” to board his boat!!

Whilst protecting his new “home”, he would raise his body onto his front flippers and “smile” at passersby.

If you do see Sammy, or any of his friends, stay well away from them and on no account taunt them.

FOOTNOTE: After the HBRG cleaned up the abandoned oyster leases, the Bay has had visits from Dolphins, turtles and sting rays. Maybe other seals will find Hardys Bay is a great place to holiday!

CAROLS ON THE WATERFRONT

Amid the busyenss of Christmas, there is an opportunity for us as a community, to enjoy the unique atmosphere of celebrating Christmas together at “Carols on the Waterfront” on the evening of Saturday 22 December.

Hosted by the Hardys Bay Community Church, this Christmas tradition has seen hundreds of locals and visitors gather together for drinks or a picnic dinner as the sun sets.

Be entertained. On stage this year, we feature two talented young musicians from the Boudi Foundation for the Arts; the Students Strings Group from Pretty Beach School will perform; and carol-singing will be led by local musicians and vocalists.

Entertainment and food begins at 6.30pm, with the Carols program from 7.30 to 9pm. Santa will drop in seeking assistance to raise funds to support the work of Coast Shelter.
REAL ESTATE MARKET & HOLIDAY RENTALS RUNNING HOT

Discussions with Belle Properties Principal, Cathy Baker, have revealed that property values in the Peninsular are expected to continue to rise during 2019. Belle Properties is forecasting 8% growth.

But then she said that the top end of the holiday rental market is expected to grow even faster.

To stay ahead of the curve, Cathy has employed Leslie Coles to head up Belle’s “Premium” rental business. An ex professional butler to numerous wealthy families and the odd Political luminary, Leslie manages all guest services as Concierge, adding the "Butler’s Professional Touch".

This involves not only “Meet and Greet” but also doing property inspections before and after the rental period, ensuring that the standard of cleaning and preparation are in line with the expectations of wealthy, and typically fussy guests. Leslie’s previous career as a Butler comes through with his attention to detail on the supply of linen, arranging restaurant bookings before the guest arrive, yacht hire and even organising an in-house chef. All to satisfy the expectations of the new wave of wealthy visitors.

Investors, architects and builders are also being attracted to the holiday letting market, buying properties for holiday letting, to renovate or demolish and rebuild in a grander style, as the prices for short and long term holidays as well as weekend get-aways are now showing a very good return on investment. .. and getting better. Or just for resale.

NEW DEVELOPMENT & RELOCATION

The new black and white building on Killcare Road, where Leslie is located, will become Belle’s “Holiday Office” later in the year.

Belle’s current office will be demolished to make way for a major new development in the new year. Construction is expected to commence sometime in mid 2019. Cathy believes that the developers will be briefing Community groups in the New Year once discussions with architects and the Council are nearer completion.
PRECISION FLYING RESCUE
Following a serious domestic accident in Hardys Bay, the NSW ambulance helicopter service showed some precision flying skills in landing the helicopter on the reserve in Araluen Drive. Avoiding power lines, trees and other obstacles the chopper landed smoothly on the reserve. The two road ambulances that were in attendance transported the patient directly to the helicopter which then with equal precision took off for RNS Hospital.
This is not the first time air ambulances have landed in the area, Killcare beach and Pretty beach have also been used to assist in ferrying badly injured patients to hospital in a timely manner.
families

PRETTY BEACH PUBLIC
SCHOOL REPORT-2018

It has been a busy year for the Pretty Beach School. We simply can’t include everything. But here are a few highlights

Physically Fit! Students participated in our Swimming Carnival, Cross Country Carnival and Athletics Carnival with some competing in the Zone Carnivals. One went on to represent Sydney North Zone at the State Swimming Carnival.

Smart too! Our debating team took part in the Premiers Debating Challenge; the Premiers Spelling Challenge and Public Speaking Competition.

Indigenous Learning: Students were entertained as part of NAIDOC celebrations with ‘Wadjiny’

Future Doctors: Year 3 to Year 6 participated in a St Johns Ambulance Kids First Aid training course.

Surf Safe: The whole school attended Surf Life Saving Talks on beach safety.

Computer Savvy: Students took part in weekly Scope IT lessons on coding, 3D printing, JavaScript, snap on electronics and website design.

Future Leaders: Year 5 & 6 students trained to be Peer Support Leaders to run Peer Support Groups.

Sporty: Training and participation for tennis; lacrosse; gymnastics; and the Footsteps Dance Program; the knockouts for netball, and touch football.

Artistic: Students also participated in the Central Coast Dance Festival. Four artworks entered in the Operation Art Exhibition with one displayed at 2018 World’s Biggest Classroom Exhibition Program.

H.B.R.G.

President ........................................ Adrian Williams
Treasurer ................................. Brent Walker
Memberships ............................. Cliff Daniels

Bay News Editor ............................... Quentin Munro

Executive .......................... Adrian Williams, Pauline Garde, Brent Walker, Cliff Daniels, Virginia Henderson, Quentin Munro.