

Avoca Beach review



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AVOCA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2004

Council gives go-ahead to CBD upgrade completion

Funding for the long awaited completion of the CBD Upgrade has been approved and construction is expected to commence in late February or early March. The Chairman of the CBD committee, Mayor Robert Bell announced the decision at the end of last year after a funding review and in response to community submissions including representations from the Chamber of Commerce and the ABCA.

The primary element of the final stage is the widening of the Southern footpath to approximately double its present width, the removal of the existing median strip and the introduction of parallel parking on both sides of the road. This widened footpath will be paved to match the existing work and Tuckeroo trees planted to complete the tree-lined avenue through the CBD area

A paved "entry treatment" just on the CBD side of the roundabout with Cape Three Points Road will double as a speed reduction device to slow the traffic through the CBD area. In addition the existing footpath crossing in the middle of the CBD will be re-constructed with kerb and guttering, footpath paving and landscaping.

Also included is re-construction of the kerbside garden beds adjacent to the roundabout with Ficus Ave. The new streetscape will provide opportunities for "alfresco" dining and other activities and will create a new dimension to the Avoca village.



This ugly footpath area will soon be a wide paved tree-lined avenue

This project will complete the works first planned as part of the Financial Strategy in 1997 and is expected to cost in the order of \$250,000.00 bringing the total cost to around \$800,000.00. The benefit of completing this project has been recognised by the Council and it has been given a priority over other roadworks in the Avoca area.

The other major roadwork projects in the Avoca area are in Cape Three Points Drive and The Round Drive. Work in both these areas is very expensive due to the steep terrain in the areas concerned and with the current level of funding will take many years to complete. Mayor Bell gave an undertaking that this funding program will be reviewed however the Council has many competing interests and unless significant new funding can be attracted the progress will remain relatively slow.



presidents message

IAN ESPLIN

At the end of last year Council finally gave approval to a tourist development of 146 units with a central motel building in Townsend Avenue behind the Bowling Club. This proposal was a revised version of a previous application lodged some years earlier which had been rejected and was subject to appeal in the Land and Environment Court.

There was considerable community opposition to the development primarily based on the environmental impact as well as the impacts on traffic. The original application was rejected on the environmental grounds, primarily stormwater control and flooding issues.

The developer engaged in negotiations with the Council to determine the areas of concern whilst simultaneously lodging the appeal. It was generally considered that this appeal would not be successful in its original form and in fact the appeal was indefinitely postponed when the new DA was lodged.

The site was largely cleared of native vegetation historically and had been used for grazing cattle. Windbreaks between individual paddocks had been planted and over the years had grown into mature stands of trees. The proposed development included cabin-like structures intended for holiday or part-time use situated in the areas between these vegetation zones. One portion of the site was also regarded as particularly sensitive and the revised plan eliminated development in this area. Also new measures to reduce the environmental impact were added.

Whilst developments of this type often attract strong community opposition there was a body of opinion in Council that a co-ordinated development with one ownership gave the chance of a better environmental outcome than a rural residential subdivision which could otherwise be a possible future alternative.

The approval that was granted included 111 conditions which are unusually detailed in regard to the environment. In particular the developer is required to develop a Bushland Management Plan which outlines bush regeneration programs with an emphasis on providing food sources for the Yellow-bellied Glider population. This plan will be subject to a positive public covenant over the site. The plan will also

limit recreational use and prohibit entry of any vehicles to Conservation areas. Street lights are prohibited from providing excessive illumination to disturb wildlife.

A separate Landscape plan requiring the maintenance and replanting of native trees also requires hollow logs left on site as habitat for fauna. A restriction over the whole site will prohibit the keeping of domestic cats and dogs.

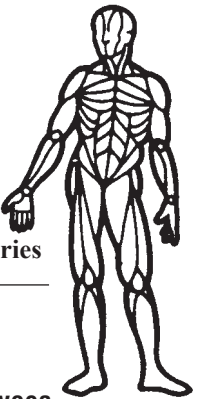
Conservation areas are to be protected during construction with a condition calling for the engagement of a wildlife carer to monitor and assist in the care of wildlife during the construction period.

The stormwater and potential impact on the water quality of Avoca Lake has been given a lot of attention with a detailed stormwater management plan requiring amongst other things the creation of two artificial wetlands as filtering devices. Systems to slow the entry of water into the lake are required, as is on-going monitoring and reporting of water entering the lake during the construction period. All stormwater will first be recycled by the use of rainwater tanks before it enters the disposal system.

As is detailed further on page 4, Council recently wrote to all private landowners with a lake frontage as part of Wetlands week, circulating a brochure containing information about protection of the foreshore and lake environment. The ABCA has been monitoring development around the lakes and have noticed that many of the problems identified in the brochure are present at Avoca. Native plant and tree removal, weed infestations, illegal structures including jetties, walls and embankments, private equipment and open stormwater drains are all present and continue to occur.

With this in mind it makes me think perhaps the Council planners are right, in that perhaps the biggest environmental problems are in our own backyards. Major developments attract a lot of attention; however, the cumulative effect of thousands of minor developments is probably more of a problem. Much information is available from the Council and Bushcare groups and with a bit of effort we can preserve and enhance this magnificent asset that we jointly own rather than be contributors to its slow decline.

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clean up day in avoca

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2004



Mick Kilp, manager of Aquamuse at Avoca Lake, will once again supervise Clean Up day in Avoca this year. As always, this will be a fun day for families keen to help clean up our parkland and bush from the Shark tower to the Scout Hall. Mick has also very generously offered free use of his boats to volunteers willing to clean up the rubbish around the lake foreshores.

All willing Avoca residents are invited to come to the Aquamuse site on the lake on Sunday 7 March at about 8.30am, when workers will be registered and given collection bags. Please bring your gloves, appropriate footwear, hats and sunscreen etc. The clean up must be finished by 12 noon at which time trucks will visit to pick up collected materials.

The Avoca Beach Community Association will be making a \$100 donation towards the cost of the free barbeque lunch put on for all the volunteers involved. Remember, there'll be prizes and giveaways too for the volunteers!

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avoca chosen for "no mow" trial

ROMAINE RUTNAM

A section of Heazlett Park (see map below) will be one of three locations where Gosford City Council will trial its new "No Mow" initiative. The aim of the trial is to ensure that Council's maintenance and management practices protect the native vegetation around our waterways.

On World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2004, Council wrote to all foreshore residents, including those living around Avoca Lake, with a copy of a new brochure "Protecting our Waterway Foreshores – a guide for residents in foreshore areas".

Other Avoca residents, who were unable to get to the very informative display and talks Council put on at Erina Centre during Wetlands week, 2-6 February, may not know that foreshore vegetation and wetlands are extremely important for bird and marine life as feeding, breeding and shelter sites. Mangrove and saltmarsh areas are breeding grounds and nurseries for numerous species of fish (flathead, bream), molluscs (oysters, mussels, snails) and crustaceans (prawns, crabs, barnacles), many of which are of environmental, commercial and recreational value.

It was disturbing to learn, from Jane Frances of the Central Region of NSW Fisheries, that NSW has lost 75% of its original coastal wetlands, which have been estimated to support a minimum of 52 fish species.

Mown turf of introduced grass species is commonly seen around the edge of Gosford's waterways. However, mowing of all foreshore areas is not desirable. Ideally the foreshore should be vegetated with its normal diversity of native plant species. Native trees and understorey plants are crucial for providing shoreline stabilisation, wildlife habitat and a buffer zone to filter pollutants.

Council has decided to take the lead by reducing mowing and developing more ecologically sustainable maintenance practices. However, they have accepted a need for balance between environmental protection and recreational use, and so we may soon see foreshore areas that are a mosaic of wildlife habitat and recreation areas.

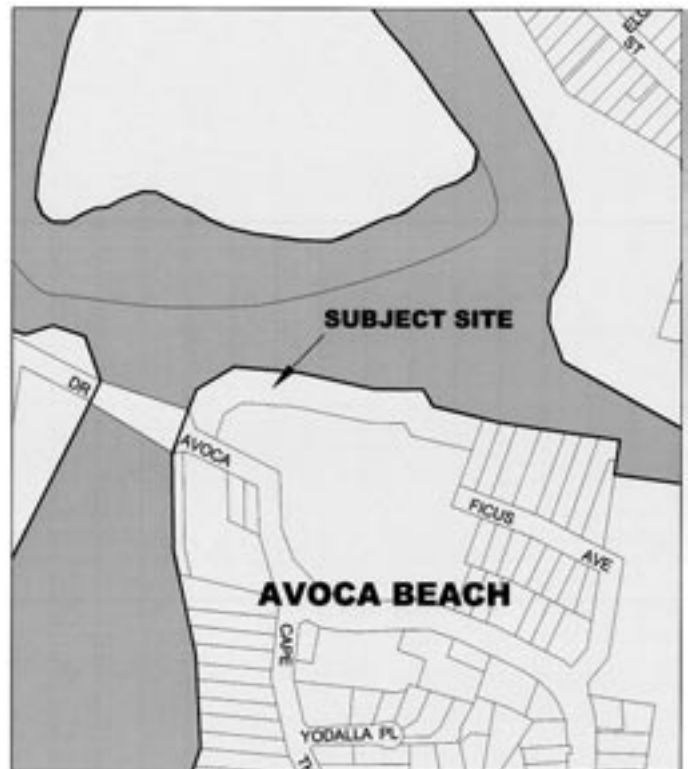
The Avoca Beach Community Association supports this new Council policy and 12 month trial and is willing to help with their evaluation of the process. As part of this, we would like

to hear from any of Avoca Lake's foreshore residents who may see problems with this.

For example, the brochure encourages them to become "good neighbours" to the foreshore between their residence and the water. This would mean avoiding the following practices:

- Planting non-native garden plants near the foreshores
- Dumping grass clippings and other garden waste on the foreshore
- Building structures and storing private goods on it
- Directing outdoor lighting onto the foreshore, disturbing native animal habitat.

Contact the Association (phone numbers on p.8) if we can assist in any way.



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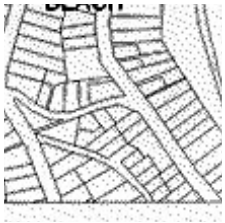
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dog owners take care!

ROSALIND BONSER AND RON LECKIE

Dog owners of Avoca are reminded that Gosford Council is trialing their new dog exercise policy for a period of 12 months.

Under this policy, dogs are prohibited from all parts of the beach (both on and off-lead) except for the designated OFF-LEAD exercise areas of the beaches which are available for dog exercise 24 hours a day.

For Avoca, the off-lead dog exercise area runs along the beachfront from the beach access walkway in the Ficus Avenue Car Park (ie the walkway immediately north of the Viewing Platform) north to the View Street beach access walkway (the third access point north of Avoca Lake) at North Avoca. The new policy prohibits dogs from the northern and southern sides of Avoca Lake. Dogs may access the Lake from the beachfront only.

The new policy also provides for an additional off-lead dog exercise area in the small reserve between Fitzgibbon Close and The Round Drive.

This policy relies on Avoca dog owners to exercise care and common sense when exercising their dogs near Avoca Lake, particularly during peak holiday season times when visitors and children may be using the Lake. Dogs may only be exercised under direct human supervision and by law, must be kept under control.

Dog waste must be picked up and disposed of properly in any of Council's public or private waste disposal bins. Non-compliance can

attract fines of \$220.00. Rangers can also fine any dog owner whose dog is outside the designated area.

Some dog owners have already begun to be fined around Avoca Lake for not adhering to this new policy, despite signs not having appeared as yet to show the new designated exercise areas. The new signage has now been approved and should appear shortly. The delay and confusion to date has been due to Council awaiting the State Government legislation

The Companion Animals Act requires:

1. Council to provide for dog exercise areas, bins for dog waste, signage & education.
2. Owners to register and control their dogs, pick up dog waste and abide by local ordinances.
3. Dogs are prohibited from within 10m of children's playground equipment and food preparation areas, and



school yards unless with the Principal's permission.

4. Rangers can fine owners for breaches of these provisions.

The Council's dog exercise policy may be viewed and photocopied at any of our local libraries, and a short version of the policy can also be found at <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/Information/Recreation/dogExercise.htm>

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avoca's clubs & organisations

AVOCA BEACH RUGBY CLUB INC. CCRU Senior Club Champions 2003!

The Avoca Beach Rugby Club grew out of some members of the surf club taking up rugby in the winter season. Initially, games were played in Sydney. However, when the competition commenced on the Central Coast proper in 1975, Avoca Beach Rugby were the inaugural winners of the CCRU first grade competition.

Since that time the club has grown from one team, to now where the club fields over 13 teams in both the senior and junior competition. Not only does the club provide a focal point for many of the youth of Avoca Beach, Copacabana, Kincumber and MacMaster's Beach, but home games at Heazlett Park attract many rugby supporters to the village of Avoca Beach during the winter months. The strong support the club receives from the businesses of the area indicates how the club's contribution to the area is valued.

The club not only boasts players to fill 13 teams but also benefits from the growing supporter base of parents, friends, supporters and visitors to the area.

In season 2003 the club had arguably its best year since the inception of the competition, winning not only the CCRU Seniors Club Championships but premierships in First Grade, Second Grade, under 19's, under 17's, under 14's, under 13's and under 12's.

The club some 20 years ago combined with the labour and fundraising of members, Gosford Council and the Department of Sport & Recreation to build the clubhouse rooms located on the eastern side of Heazlett Park. In 2004 the club has instigated plans to renovate and extend the clubhouse, with plans providing a larger and more modern facility for the enjoyment of not only the growing number of rugby players and supporters but the Avoca Beach community as a whole. The plans are currently awaiting DA approval.

In season 2004 our senior teams will be training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm. The first game of the season will be on 10 April (Easter Saturday) at Graham Park where the grades from under 19 up will play Gosford.

New players, supporters and interested rugby people are always welcome to the club. Interested players, both senior and junior, can contact any of the following for further information:

- Senior President
Tony Lewis Mob. 0417 468 643
- Junior President
Terry Sturgess Mob. 0414 442 355
- Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Burns Mob. 0417 649 242
- Sponsorship Manager
Don Anderson Mob. 0407 200 061
- Club Coaches
Gerard Meyn Mob. 0412 236 520
Bradd Hoban Mob. 0408 400 362



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POST

AVOCA BEACH BOOK CLUB

Several local men and women are meeting to discuss recent releases and old favourites in an informal and non-academic way. We meet in group members' homes on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7pm to 9pm. Although group numbers are limited, we presently have vacancies. If you are interested, please phone Judith 4382 4869 or Sandra 4382 3984.

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Les Robinson
Ph: 4369 4598



BOARD RIDERS

Nick Leslie (Pres.)
PO Box 161 Avoca Beach
Ph: 4382 3719
E: les069nick@optusnet.com



CWA

Jean Borchard
101 Cape Three Pts Road
Avoca Beach 2251
Ph: 4382 1282

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Geoff Kidd Video Store
Avoca Drive
Avoca Beach 2251
Ph: 4381 1118
Ph: 4382 2264



FIRE BRIGADE

Roy Dimond (Capt.)
PO Box 16
Avoca Beach 2251
Fax: 4382 3739
Ph: 4368 6127

GARDEN

Kath Robertson
38 Ascot Ave
Avoca Beach 2251
Ph: 4382 3567



LANTERN

H. Ford
18/306 Terrigal Drive
Terrigal 2260
Ph: 4384 1430

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Peter Whelan
The Round Dr
Avoca Beach 2251
E: avocabch@p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 4382 1416



RED CROSS

Marie Fuller
45 Cape Three Pts Rd
Avoca Beach 2251
Ph: 4382 2264



RUGBY

Paul Robertson
PO Box 145
Avoca Beach.
Mob. 0421 320 666.



SURF CLUB

Gary Clarke (Pres.)
PO Box 22,
Avoca Beach 2251
Ph. 4382 2444.



Joel, who has only recently turned eighteen but loves cooking and is in charge of the kitchen, mainly prepares the food. Eldest daughter Angela, and son Luke, assist their parents. Clare and Leana will take their turn when old enough.

The food is mainly Greco-Australian, influenced by Bill's ancestry. The family does have some background of running a restaurant, as they had a business in Parramatta before moving to Avoca Beach some years ago.

The whole family is passionate about food and only the freshest ingredients are used. The menus are constantly evolving, and they will be offering specials such as Tuesday nights for Pasta. So, if you want a meal out with the family at a reasonable price, you can't go past the Andonopoulos family at the Avoca Terrace Café.

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avoca's Bill Robertson honoured

ROMAINE RUTNAM

The Avoca Beach Community Association's first meeting for 2004 was delighted to record and celebrate Bill Robertson's success as a finalist in the "Service to the community" Category at Gosford City Council's 2004 Australia Day Awards.

The Association coordinated the nomination, which was contributed to by several grateful members of the many different voluntary organisations for whom he has been an inspiration over many years on the Central Coast, particularly since he retired here full time in 1986.

These contributors included:

- Ron Leckie for the Avoca Beach Community (formerly Progress) Association and Garden Club;
- Joan Mylecharane and Pat Frost for the Avoca Beach Lantern Club;
- Roy Dimond for the Avoca Beach Brigade of the Rural Fire Service;
- Carol Gumley for the Bulbararing Reserve Bushcare Group;
- Sally Hunt for the Central Coast Community Environment Network's Waterwatch program; and

- Jeannie Lawson from the Ocean and Coast Care Initiative (OCCI).

As Bill might say, "Phew, what an effort!" And as Ron said in the conclusion to the nomination:

"Finally, what does Bill do in his spare time? He has immense patience and skill which he puts to good use in building large scale models of famous ships, such as Endeavour, Victory and presently in 2003, the Bounty. Happy sailing, Bill!"

Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.

Membership Application

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ABCA is a community group for residents and non-resident property owners which tries to protect the relatively relaxed lifestyle that Avoca's village character and natural beauty offers. We support and initiate plans which promote this lifestyle and work to oppose proposals that threaten it.

ABCA meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month in the CWA Hall (next to the Bowtells Garage).


The Association's newsletter The Avoca Beach Review is published every three months and hand delivered to all households.

It is financed by advertisements from local businesses who can show their support for the community and promote themselves to the community through the advertising. Rates \$30 for 6cm x 6cm.

Contributions and letters are welcome. Please send to:
The Editor, Avoca Beach Community Association,
PO Box 105, Avoca Beach 2251

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V/President:	Ron Leckie	4382 2411
Treasurer:	Ken West	4382 2916
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