



Residents Group

# Bay

# news

## CONTENTS

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

MARINA

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Autumn edition of “Bay News”. In this issue, we report on the controversial marina development proposal and provide updates on other matters we are currently addressing, in addition to featuring further items of local interest.

AMBASSADOR

We are pleased to support the Killcare Surf club as an important and vital part of the community, and, along with its members, look forward to the completion of the new clubhouse.

KILLCARE SURF CLUB

Recent months have been busy ones as our various sub-committees continue to work on a broad range of matters, of long and short-term consequence, which are relevant to our community's welfare.

MILLION DOLLAR MERMAID

Special thanks to our members and friends for the tremendous support they have provided in expressing their concerns over the proposed marina development. We always appreciate receiving their comments and extend a warm

SEDIMENTATION

welcome to our many new members. We wish to remind everybody that annual membership renewals are now due. We commend our website as an ideal communication source for all local matters.

BRIEFS

LETTERS

Adrian Williams  
President

## MARINA PROJECT “NOT PERMISSIBLE”



Recent findings handed down by the Department of Planning have dealt a severe blow to the Killcare Marina's hopes of re-developing the facility. In October, 2007, the proponents of the marina's development plans requested that its proposal be considered a

### Our Unspoilt Bay

major project to which part 3A of the Environmental and Assessment Act 1979 applied. However, the Department advised that the submission “could not be declared as a major project because it is not fully permissible in this location under Gosford's planning scheme.”

“Consequently,” it added, “the Department will not be dealing with this proposal in its current form.”

According to the Department, a marina and its additional proposed uses are not allowable because the majority of the said site is zoned 6(a) Open Space (Recreation) under Gosford Planning Scheme Ordinance. It is understood the Department sought legal advice. Consequently, the proposal cannot rely on either “heritage conservation” or “continuing use rights”.

Concerns were also raised by the Department regarding the size and scale of the current submission in the Hardys Bay context.

Community apprehensions were originally alerted at the Hardys Bay Residents Group's meeting on February 19 when an estimated gathering of 120 packed the Church Hall in Araluen Drive to hear the chief executive of the Killcare Marina outline his organisation's plans.

Major concerns expressed by the many speakers from the floor focused on infrastructure issues, car parking consequences, the size and scale of the proposed building complex, the industrial nature of the boat maintenance area which would accentuate noise and pollution, the extensive intrusion of the floating marina into the bay and a perceived “prostitution” of the bay's natural assets.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was little doubt that a “thumbs down” verdict to the redevelopment plan had

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been delivered by the large assembly and a motion to strenuously object to the marina's development plans was proposed.

The motion read : "The HBRG is concerned about the effects a larger marina would have on this community, but would support a suitable modernisation of the current marina provided its size was limited to its existing footprint, building height and location". It was unanimously passed.

A Department of Planning source later reported that the office had been inundated with letters from concerned members of the community.

Recent press coverage has been considerable with headers such as " Marina plans spark fears in community", " Residents rock boat over marina expansion", " Marina abandons consultation process ", and " Marina plan founders", progressively trumpeting the ongoing process which was rapidly creating a further community backlash of escalating proportions.

In a prominent article of March 3, the Daily Telegraph's Central Coast Extra quoted HBRG president, Adrian Williams - in reflecting the reactions of countless observers - as commenting : " I think it's fair to say that the community would not mind the marina being modernised but the problem is the size and scale of the development for the bay itself, which is a small residential bay, and the ambience of the community.

It's the industrial nature of the hard stand and boat maintenance area, and the incumbent noise and atmospheric pollution that goes with that, let alone the pollution that may or may not escape into the bay.

" This is a small residential area and they want to put in an industrial marina. They're in total conflict with each other."

## SEDIMENTATION

Gosford Council has confirmed that the keenly-awaited Mud Flat Study and Plan has been formulated and copies will be made available for public review.

The news closely follows the council's decision to meet with NSW Maritime and other government stakeholders to review the general sedimentation issue in Brisbane Water.

The positive steps being taken are an acknowledgment of the ongoing role Hardys Bay Residents Group member, Graeme Smith, has played in his endeavours to create an eventual solution to the grave concerns aroused over the dramatic increase in silt and other substances which are threatening to choke the scenic waterways and produce an alarming deterioration. The Hardys Bay-Pretty Beach zones of the network have been commonly identified as problem areas.

- Throughout the constant campaigning, Graeme and his colleagues have nominated a number of major concerns. These include:
- The adverse effects of sedimentation and foreshore erosion within the estuary.

- A lack of sedimentation traps in the stormwater drainage systems feeding into Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach and other parts of the estuary.
- The adverse consequences of unrestrained growth of mangroves in sedimentation-effected areas in Hardys Bay and Pretty Beach.

With regard to the welcome release of the Mudflat Creek Plan, Graeme has, nevertheless, remained cautious and, in fact, has even expressed disappointment that it does not directly recommend re-creating the deep outlet channel through the creek's delta that once existed, as he believes the recommendations in the plan will only work if such an outlet exists.

## PRETTY BEACH BATHS



Intensive "groundwork", highlighted by representations to the Gosford City Council by the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community

Association, and fully supported by the Hardys Bay Residents Group, paid off when the NSW Fisheries Department granted permission for the removal of mangroves from the Pretty Beach Baths.

Accordingly, on Saturday, April 5th, teamwork was on show when a working party, mainly consisting of members of the Community Association and the HBRG, joined council officers and staff - and aided by the Residents Group's barge, "Rocky", which had previously distinguished itself during the recent oyster lease cleanup operations on the Hardys Bay foreshore - in completing a successful mangrove-cleansing enterprise.

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## KILLCARE SURF CLUB... BIGGER AND BETTER

“ It was amazing to see how many members turned up to watch the old building being pulled down”, commented a long-serving Killcare Surf Club identity as demolition operations on the old structure got underway in early April.

“ I'm sure some of the sentimental old fellows had tears in their eyes as they watched it happening”.

The Time to Say Goodbye scenario represented the end of an era, the demise of a warm and friendly clubhouse which had served its members and visitors so well during a period which embraced the two-stage openings in 1971 and 1981.

In its place, a ' new look ' headquarters will be constructed and officials are anticipating a pre-Christmas opening. Features will include a downstairs gymnasium, first aid room, gear and storage area and training room, and upstairs will be the club's office and a meeting room, restaurant, bar and kitchen to service the auditorium and extensive decks. A special lift will provide access for the disabled to the entire clubhouse precincts.

Additionally, solar power and solar hot water will be incorporated. Rainwater storage tanks for various purposes, including boat and equipment washing, will be located behind the building. Allowances for a larger outside area will open up vehicle and equipment delivery capacity at the northern end, leaving the front - or eastern - and existing grassed sections available for safe public use such as outdoor eating and recreational facilities for children.

Credit for what has been freely described as an “ exciting concept in surf clubhouse design “ is attributed to the award-winning Killcare architect and club member, Karen Burke, who has worked in close co-operation with council officers, but ensuring, vitally, that the plan fulfils the requirements of the surf club.

After gaining her bronze medallion, Karen commenced patrol duties in 1987 and, with fellow member, Catherine McMaster, was largely instrumental in promoting the development of the Nippers program. At various times, she has also served as a Junior Activities Co-ordinator, a House Captain, and a club vice-president. She currently heads the Building Committee and is the Rookie Co-ordinator.

Throughout the course of the rebuilding operations, three fenced-off container sheds situated at the southern end of the beach's car park are being used to house all surf club equipment. Toilets have been provided for public use. In the meantime, surf club meetings are being held at the Killcare Wagstaffe Rural Fire Brigade's headquarters in Stanley Street, Killcare.

In January, a special ceremony was held in the old clubhouse when a sizeable combination of oldtimers, current and prospective members and

interested community supporters assembled for what would be the last official gathering there. It was decided to prepare a time capsule, showcasing the club's history, to be opened on the occasion of the centenary celebrations in 2032.

With an overall emphasis on safety at the beach, the club is justifiably proud of its excellent patrolling record throughout the decades of its existence.

Club captain, Jim Willis, summed it all up when he said : “ A major aim of this club, where there is a special companionship, is to promote healthy, enjoyable activities for all, particularly the youngsters and, as a consequence, we have benefited from a strong influx of junior members in recent times.

“ It is important to us that we present a club that the community can be proud of.”

## BRIEFS

• **PRETTY BEACH SCHOOL ...** The school will receive a welcome \$2,500 grant from the NSW Government's Environment Trust. The funds will go towards establishing an organic vegetable garden. The school has acknowledged the efforts of Mrs. Birchall, Di Perryman and Con Donnellan for their efforts in applying for this grant.

Principal Vicki Redrup has paid tribute to the voluntary work carried out by many parents and friends who devote so much of their time for the benefit of the school.

“ We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful support provided by so many caring people”, she said.

At its Annual General Meeting, the P and C Association elected its new office bearers for 2008. They are : President - Brian O'Heir, Vice Presidents - Laura Fraser, Maddi Steele, Secretary - Rose Mackay, Treasurer - Anne Marie Egger, Fundraising - Peta Randall.

• **OUR FIRE BRIGADE ...** Steve Farrell, the Killcare Wagstaffe Rural Fire Brigade captain, has reported that, despite a relatively quiet bushfire season, the brigade members have continued to deal with other incidents such as malicious outbreaks, downed power lines and car accidents.

“As we move into the cooler months, this is the time to be aware of a possible increase in house fires, due to the use of electric blankets and strip heaters, in addition to unattended fires and other unexpected consequences through a lack of close monitoring,” he warns.

“ We continue to receive calls from people wishing to join our brigade and, in particular, to become prospective members. Positions are still available for those folks who would like to be part of a vibrant community organization but may not wish to be involved in front line activities. At this stage, openings are available, for instance, for the roles of treasurer and secretary. We always welcome enquiries.”

• **MOSQUITOES** ... Following constant concerns expressed by the Hardys Bay Residents Group regarding a perceived lack of official action relating to the control of mosquitoes, Mr. John Della Bosca, the Minister for the Central Coast, won plaudits from many in the community when he recently announced a \$185,000 grant to embrace a “balanced approach towards the matter”.

The HBRG has advocated a mosquito management programme utilising a larvicide control spray agent BTI, to be employed appropriately when significant quantities of mosquito larvicide occur during heavy rains and extreme high tides.

• **HARDYS BAY RSL CLUB** ... Club president Steve Newman has been delighted with the response by members and visitors to the 'Live Music on the Green' performances currently being held each Sunday from 2pm. “Top artists are featured and it has attracted tremendous interest”, he says. “It's great seeing how much everyone seems to be enjoying it, particularly family groups. There's a wonderful atmosphere at these Sunday gatherings.”

It was a well-attended Anzac Day at the club on April 25th with a service at 2pm followed by the traditional “two-up” conducted from 12.30pm. A typical weekly program at the club presently features members' badge draws, including a Friday Super Draw, various meat and seafood raffles and sausage sizzles. The popular 'Fat Goose' restaurant continues to attract excellent patronage. Bookings are recommended. A club courtesy bus is available - phone 4360 1072. Regular updates on club activities can be checked on its website [www.hardysbayrsl.com.au](http://www.hardysbayrsl.com.au)

• **FORESHORE** ... Following a submission presented to Gosford City Council by the Hardys Bay Residents Group in late January concerning the draft Hardys Bay Foreshore Plan, the council's Project Engineer - City Services has recently confirmed that the process of summarising and compiling the subsequent 300-plus community questionnaire response forms that were received during the Public Display period is still proceeding. Council has further advised it will provide residents with feedback on the results from the comments received by the public “in due course”. The draft plan, drawn up by a number of council officers, included a range of options addressing all the safety concerns previously raised by the Hardys Bay Residents Group in July, 2006. Safety, open space, adopting a sensible, minimalist approach and maintaining the bay's special ambience have been key features of the HBRG submission in focusing on an issue, vital to our community's welfare, which has created widespread debate.

## WHEN A MERMAID SLIPPED INTO OUR BAY

In 1907, it was a time for change and for daring in Australia. It was a period when the basic wage concept was introduced - initially, at seven shillings per week for a 6-day working week -, the telephone trunkline between Sydney and Melbourne was opened, the first Ford motor car appeared in Australia, the first lifesaving reel was unveiled and Annette Kellerman was arrested for swimming in a revealing one-piece bathing costume.

The Kellerman incident was of significant interest as far as the Hardys Bay and Killcare communities were concerned.

Born in Sydney in 1887, she was stricken with infantile paralysis at an early age and spent many hours in the water to regain strength in her legs. She became the nation's champion lady swimmer of her time, developing a liking for marathons and attracting a good deal of publicity for her defiance of the conventional. Hence the turmoil over her one-piecer which ultimately led to a style reform of women's swimming costumes.

In America, the enterprising young pioneer of women's swimwear in Australia embarked on an ambitious tour with her own synchronised swimming troupe and appeared in vaudeville acts and about 20 films including “Neptune's Daughter” and “Venus of the South Seas”. A 1952 movie, “Million Dollar Mermaid”, starring Esther Williams, was based on her fascinating life.

During her early therapeutic sessions in the water, Annette Kellerman undertook the long trip north from Sydney on occasions with her parents to visit an uncle who lived alone in an isolated area later identified as Killcare.

According to accounts of those times, the uncle socialised little but obviously looked forward to the visits by his bubbly niece who would eventually become an international celebrity.

In her letters, held by the Public Library of NSW with many other personal items, Annette referred to her early disability, the necessary treatment involved during the rehabilitation process and “the many relaxed hours I spent at my uncle's, frequently being helped into the waters of the lovely tranquil bay where we had arrived in our boat.”

For the sparse local communities, it was an early brush with Hollywood, as the waterway of tranquillity, with its apparent healing qualities, was obviously Hardys Bay.

## THE AMBASSADOR FOR HARDYS BAY



"I just love this place. Let's hope it never changes."

Vic Boutmy probably never harboured any secret diplomatic ambitions but he could comfortably fit

into the role of an ambassador for Hardys Bay.

There can be no doubting his sincerity when he speaks of his genuine affection for "the bay." And he applauds the wisdom and foresight displayed by those who have campaigned for a retention of the area's unspoilt charms.

"Progress is inevitable and essential," he concedes, "but I'd hate to think it would eventually create a disruption to a lifestyle which must be second to none."

Affable and refreshingly laid-back, he has frequently been described as one who epitomises the true spirit of the bay.

The son of a trawler operator, Vic was born in Woolloomooloo and spent various periods of his early working life in Budgewoi, Byron Bay and Booker Bay before discovering his "Nirvana" at Hardys Bay 27 years ago. Not exactly an age away, compared with many of his old friends, but he fondly recalls the introductory gatherings at the Killcare bottle shop corner when a blending of the legal profession, fishermen, plumbers, Qantas personnel, builders and bricklayers used to meet for regular Friday night barbecues. There were also the social singalongs, with piano and organ accompaniment at the old RSL Club in Araluen Drive.

At one stage during a long and fulfilling service to the industry, Vic operated the only charter boat in Hardys Bay, an impressive 54-footer. He also crewed the well-known "Rakia" on two Sydney to Lord Howe Island yacht races during the yacht's duties as the prestigious event's official radio ship. He later carried out extensive trawler work before eventually, in a prolonged "farewell to arms" scenario, skippering a 43-foot gaming vessel, "Skeeter", which successfully plied up and down the coastline for seven years.

Old trawler identities in those times included Don Radford, Jack Dunne, Brian Burrows and Jack Cameron.

"Jack Cameron was a great character", Vic recalls. "He built his own trawler on Killcare beach where he knocked up a little working shed. He did his own engineering operations, the winch and electrical work and set up the trawl gear. An amazing fellow".

According to those many members of the community who hold Vic and his partner, Pam, in such high regard, it is highly probable that, during a conversation, the subject of his passion will eventually come shining through.

"Over the years, Pam and I have travelled all over Australia," he says, "and although we love to travel, it's always a wonderful feeling to get back to Hardys Bay.

"It still has that delightful village atmosphere. There's just no place like it."

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# letters

Wildlife in Suburbia or Sights and Sounds of the Central Coast ?

It WAS a deer I saw nonchalantly crossing the road near Bombi at MacMasters! And it was the same suicidal brush turkey I always see tearing across Ward's Hill Road, too ! Mother Duck with " lings " camped near the bridge at Hardy's Bay Parade and Eriostemon at Strom's Lookout, together with an occasional leftover flannel flower. What a treat ! Six bedraggled " oldies " at Warrah Trig heading for Patonga and a beer on their third day on the Great North Walk. They voted the view a high point and the night spent under the Mooney Bridge the lowest! Sound of the cockatoos thumping on the roof and eating our house - again - and that of my rubber thong missing as I try to move the brush turkey from the spinach to the rhubarb patch. I'm so glad it's someone else's turn to live in our Sydney house !

Marilyn Cartmill  
Hardy's Bay

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As Sydneysiders, my family and I always look forward to our visits to your beautiful area where we traditionally take up temporary residence during school holiday periods.

I would like to offer an " outsider's " observation, if I may be permitted.

Lately, we have heard and read of much of the indignation expressed by countless members of the local community regarding certain issues.

From our experience, we can only agree with the concerns they have expressed over these apparent threats by certain parties ( perhaps for purely selfish purposes ? ) to impose their seemingly unreasonable demands upon the community. Citing one example, I refer to a proposal by a certain facility to re-assemble a present development in the bay which, as has been well documented and, in the eyes of its objectors, could well stretch to overpowering proportions.

It is comforting to know that these actions directed against this tranquil place with such a charming ambience are obviously not being tolerated by a seemingly vast majority of the community who appreciate the uniqueness of their little corner of the world.

I enjoy reading your Bay News and sincerely thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts in your excellent newsletter.

Jane Ferguson  
Bellevue Hill

**Raine&Horne**

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