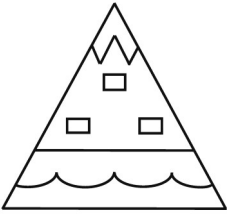


KOOLEWONG AND POINT CLARE-TASCOTT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

INCLUDING WEST GOSFORD SOUTH OF THE CENTRAL COAST HIGHWAY



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President's Report November 2015

Dear residents,

Welcome to our new members and new resident. For those of you reading our newsletter for the first time, we have an active local Progress Association made up of local residents who volunteer their time, knowledge and skills to help our local area in various ways. We have regular bi-monthly meetings and we welcome any new residents or members who would like to get involved. Thank you to our recent guest speakers; Dennis Gojak for speaking on the Kariang Hieroglyphs in our September meeting and, Cr Gabby Bowles for speaking at our November meeting and letting our audience 'pick your brains'. Membership of our Association is cheap and easy, it helps our community and it will keep you in the loop of local issues and activities that affect your local area.

I am very happy to announce that our volunteer Bush-care group officially began in October. If you would like to get involved, we would love to have you help care for our local flora, keep our public parks looking good and also learn how to identify the weeds that need to be removed. Please contact Jon Fearon for more information.

The association has continued to make representations to Gosford City Council for the Brisbane Water Floodplain Risk Management Study for a 0.3m freeboard, which we believe will provide for the best outcomes for affected residents.

Freight Train noise is a big issue for many residents in our area and something we have been tirelessly pursuing for years. Finally, we have a little good news for residents who live within 100m of the tracks in Koolewong and Tascott. As part of the Transport for NSW, Freight Noise Attenuation Program (FNAP), you may be eligible for noise reduction treatments on your home. The FNAP will treat homes using the following noise reduction treatments:

- * Installation of new or upgraded windows
- * Installation of new or upgraded external doors
- * Enclosing or sealing gaps, vents & openings, where practical
- * Installation of ventilation systems to allow for the circulation of fresh air when windows are closed.
- * Similar treatments have been used extensively by Roads & Maritime Services for reducing noise in homes impacted by main roads.

To access the application form and more information please go to: <http://freight.transport.nsw.gov.au/sustainability/rail-noise/fnap/index.html>

In other great news on this issue, Fred Beringer has reported that Environment Protection Licences will soon be forthcoming for private freight train operators. In the meantime – keep reporting that freight train noise!

EPA 131 555, Rail Greenline 1800 656 999, Enviroline 1300 550402

railnoise@transport.nsw.gov.au

I remember as a teenager, there was a very effective initiative called 'Keep Australia Beautiful'. It was about encouraging everyone put their litter in the bin (with a bit of National pride thrown in). It has occurred to me that parents, like myself with young children, probably notice rubbish on the ground in parks. I know my inquisitive little daughter will try and pick up all sorts of things. As a result, sometimes on my walks around our waterways I take along a plastic bag (when I remember) and pick up some rubbish to arrest it before my daughter notices it. I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know about 'Take 3'. This initiative started in 2009 to raise awareness about pollution which affects marine life. I first heard of it through our local high schools. The idea of 'Take 3' is that we all can easily do something to help reduce pollution that ends up in our waterways. Just take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave and dispose of it thoughtfully. More information about 'Take 3' can be found at www.take3.org.au

I'm so pleased to see so many people (and kids) releasing undersized fish, as we really need stocks replenished by ensuring little fish become big fish and breeding continues. I have seen a few people use a towel to handle fish they take off their lines. I have done this in the past as well, until I read about minimising the damage to the fish slime. Fish have a protective slime that is their main defence against infection and disease. I found this in my fishing book (and online) and was surprised that I could have been putting the fish in danger, even though I was releasing it. I admit I get a bit 'icky' handling fish, so a friend of mine put me onto a "fish gripper", which minimises actual handling of the fish and makes hook removal a breeze. I know it seems a bit odd, but please think about protecting the fish slime! Anyone who loves to fish will tell you how dire the situation has become. I encourage everyone who loves to fish to do all we can to help our fish stocks recover.

As you have probably heard, sadly, our resident dolphin passed away. This story was covered in the 14 Nov issue of the Express Advocate and online.

Our next meeting will incorporate our Christmas get-together, as well as Jon Fearon giving us a presentation on the history of Goodaywang Reserve. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards, **Rendall Wagner**




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GOODAYWANG BUSHCARE UP AND RUNNING.

There was a wonderful turnout by 21 local citizens to launch our own Bushcare Group at Goodaywang Reserve on Saturday 17 September. True, the fine Bacon and Egg Breakfast prepared by **Helen Orchard** and **Jill Greenwood** made for an excellent start to the morning.

Anna Deegan, Council's Bushcare Officer, led proceedings after breakfast and introduced all present to the Bushcare concept. Some had brought some of their own gardening equipment but Anna pointed out that as this is now an official group tools would be provided.

We were shown over the two zones that would be our responsibility and as we did so Anna pointed out both weeds and natural flora of the area. There were many questions, but not much work done on this our first day,

There were demonstrations of the correct methods of dealing with weeds such as asparagus fern, and some eager beavers got right down there and then to put into practice what they had learnt.

Registration papers were given out and would-be volunteers were encouraged to get these in to Council so they would be officially recognised as such on the third Saturday morning of each month. All are required to completing a free, short introductory workshop to formalise registration



FAIRHAVEN SERVICES

discover | belong | celebrate

Our friends at Fairhaven, 209 Brisbane Water Drive Point Clare, have announced some exciting developments:

The Vintage Fair - The Collective is a brand new shopping experience, based at Point Clare that offers the public an opportunity to take in the leafy ambience of the grounds and stroll through the revamped retail precinct.

Visitors can amble through their op shop, art gallery, pre loved furniture barn, second hand book store, handmade and up-cycled goods retail shop, and cafe coffee shop or fossick in the grey shed which is full to the brim with tested and tagged electrical items, lamps and appliances, new and used hardware supplies, CDs, vinyls and other hidden treasures. Apparently they even have a special section set aside on site for bargain priced liquidated stock!

With such a variety there is guaranteed to be something new to see each time. Their furniture up-cycling, soap making, felting and other crafts are made onsite by their supported employees. Proceeds from the sales in this retail area go straight back to Fairhaven to benefit people with disabilities.

Every Thursday in the school house book store **children's story time** will be on from 10-11am. This is a free activity, no bookings required. Parking is right at the door.

The Fair is open 9am - 3pm Mon - Fri and 9am - 2pm Sat.

SHORT NOTES

It would seem that we are getting the **Koolewong Marina**, albeit with one extra car space, but we don't know if **NBN** has fallen into a hole of its own making. Has anyone heard any news, good or otherwise, from their service providers?

Thank you community for reading these occasional newsletters. After 5 years and 15 issues as editor and postman I am calling it a day. I've enjoyed the task. Best wishes, **JON FEARON**

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MEETING SPEAKERS

At our September meeting **Denis Gojak** spoke about his research on the **KARIONG HIEROGLYPHS** There were many visitors, some of whom were, perhaps, true believers in an Egyptian provenance.

Alas, said Denis, from studies of the lichen on the rocks, the depth of the incisions and the photographic record it would appear the hieroglyphs are of a young age, perhaps no more than 40 years old.

Even so, no light has yet shone on who was responsible for their creation. **Note:** For those who missed the talk Denis's pictorial presentation is available from the Editor on 43231849.

In November our speaker was **Councillor Gabby Bowles** who gave us an excellent introduction to herself, her family, her journey into local government and her roles in the work of **GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL**

In response to questions from the floor she said that she is currently serving on Coastal Catchments, Playgrounds, Gosford Business Improvements and Australia Day committees. There was a good discussion, ing, on the proposals for amalgamation, how-ever Gabby's personal opinion revealed.

Other questions were about the Performing Arts Centre, the Tax Offices, the selling off of properties and the continuation of our innovative Coastal Open Space System. All were discussed and answered with consummate professionalism.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Those of you who attend our bi-monthly meetings will know that **Wendy Orchin** and **Mary Cesna** are our representatives on Neighbourhood Watch, a national incentive with organisational structures tied to the NSW Police force and its work in crime detection and community safety.

Wendy and Mary have brought along news of many incentives our community should know about.

The **NEXT OF KIN REGISTER** is free and enables persons living alone to record their details at the local police station. The register holds information of your nominated Next of Kin, doctors and dentist details and any medical alerts.

This information may assist the ambulance and police in an emergency situation, to contact a relative or other nominated person to inform of your situation.

You will be provided with a **key ring and a sticker** that is placed on your home phone to alert emergency services that you are registered with the Next of Kin programme.

To register, attend Gosford Police Station and ask to speak with the Crime Prevention Officer about the Next of Kin Programme.

Are you concerned about the amount of **GRAFFITI** appearing in our community? Did you know that anyone can report graffiti and fast-track its removal. Pick up a fridge magnet with the following details:

REPORT GRAFFITI

1800 707 125

Call the NSW Graffiti Hotline now

On 27 March 2016, Easter Day, Neighbourhood Watch through *Relationships Australia* is sponsoring **NEIGHBOURHOOD DAY**. Think about ways our communities can get together and celebrate real caring neighbourliness.

You may like to sponsor a street party, a park event, or even multi acts of random kindness. How about it?

WEST GOSFORD INTERSECTION

Well, it has been a long wait, but what a difference the road-works have made to traffic flow and the all important travel times at peak periods. As we go to press it seems that the contractors may soon be signing off on the project. Who knows, there may even be an official opening?

The naysayers have been out in force with their criticisms over the past couple of years but what have they to say now? Your Association counted it a privilege to be part of the original community planning group for the intersection upgrade and can now rest their case.

Do let us or RMS know if there are still issues that need to be dealt with in the fine tuning. It seems that the timing for pedestrian crossing times may need adjustment due to lack of space for mobility scooters to be waiting mid-crossing.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Koolewong and Point Clare-Tascott Progress Association Inc. is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving quality of life, sense of community and pride in our urban environment.

The coverage area is from the Central Coast Highway, West Gosford, south to the Woy Woy Bridge. This incorporates parts of West Gosford and the suburbs of Point Clare, Tascott, Koolewong and Parks Bay.

The Association aims to provide resources for special events and activities that promote community involvement, appreciation of heritage, diversity, education and safety, small business opportunities and effective communication.

BRISBANE WATER DRIVE

The Association has received an October update from Roads and Maritime Services as to how the committed \$2 million would be used on the safety improvements on Brisbane Water Drive.

We are advised that road safety traffic management will be the main focus of the study in order to 'identify potential treatments and priorities. Although pedestrians will be considered as part of the study, particularly access across Brisbane Water Drive, actual footpaths along the route are a matter for Council. This said, Roads and Maritime Services will as part of the study be liaising with Council regarding pedestrian connectivity in the area. Roads and Maritime will also consider the Association's footpath comments as part of the study.

Improvements will be made after community consultation.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

at Guides Hall, Fagan Park

Thursday 10th December; Christmas Sausage Sizzle at 6.30 pm

Annual History Talk: Jon Fearon, *The Goodaywang Story*.

Thursday 10th March 2016: Annual General Meeting

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