



## *A New Playground for Avoca*



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On Saturday 8th September the long awaited new playground in Ross Park behind the surf club was officially opened by the Mayor Laurie Maher despite the event being plagued by wet weather.

The playground is the fruit of a determined effort of two Avoca Beach mums, namely Karen Power and Sonya Walters lobbying the Council to

provide an adequate and safe play area for the ever-growing population of local and visiting children. It is not all for the young ones however - some gym exercise equipment to suit all ages is included within the playground and the area has been extensively landscaped with native plants, sculptures (by local artists), seating and tables, a barbeque and a

variety of ground surface treatments. One major consideration in the planning was the need to provide perimeter safety fencing to stop "littlies" making a dash for freedom and into the path of oncoming cars, to the beach, getting lost or some other danger. With the increase of usage of this area this was seen as a vital component.



# president's message

**IAN ESPLIN**

This is the first newsletter after our Annual General Meeting in August and (as expected) the current committee has largely been re-elected for another year. On the one hand I think it is commendable that we have a core of members who are committed to the cause however I must say that it does require some perseverance to keep going.

The Association has a history of over 50 years and past members include many of the formative personalities in the area. All current committee members feel that there is an importance to keeping the institution of the ABCA going however obviously there must be change and adapting to contemporary needs and circumstances to remain relevant.

We have had some good news on the membership front. You may remember in the last issue where I mentioned that our current Secretary – Maree Piper had to prematurely resign due to an overseas work commitment and we were struggling to keep things up to date administratively with no one to replace her. Well at the last meeting local resident John Solan and his partner Robyn attended and after some gentle persuasion - we now have a brand new Secretary!

John is a talented, experienced and community-minded person who I'm sure will be a great asset to the association. One of the things we are going to try to do this year is to reduce the time consuming administrative tasks that can be a turn-off to all concerned by streamlining the system. In particular we are hoping to use a totally digital system of minute-taking/approving/record-keeping, etc. The intention is to leave more time for the interesting items – such as talks by visiting speakers.

At the AGM we discussed the frequency and timing of meetings due to the difficulties some members were having with the existing timing. Generally it was agreed not to reduce the frequency beyond the current bi-monthly arrangement due to the risk of any

correspondence or action arising being out of date by the next meeting. Also the Monday slot has been maintained due to the fact that no other time could be nominated that didn't conflict somewhere else.

Generally as you will see in this issue there is no shortage of interesting things going on in Avoca with the new playground, the grower's market, the formidable performance of Avoca artists and performers at the 5 Lands Walk and the ongoing work of the tireless Bushcare volunteers.

We have identified two areas of where we want to direct our attention over the coming year. Firstly we want to have another look at the entry along Avoca Drive with a letter to the Council about the status of the land on the Northern side of the road which was acquired by the Council some years ago. It's been suggested that the possibility exists to make better use of this land as an accessible recreational area.

In the same area we want to keep the cycleway issue alive. This ran into a dead-end previously with feedback from the Council that they regarded us a low priority as compared to other areas. We question this assessment especially since Avoca is the second most heavily visited area by tourists on the Central Coast after Terrigal and many coastal villages around the state have well developed cycleways and walking paths.

The other area of concern is the development of South Avoca parklands and public spaces. The Central Coast has unfortunately not been well planned in the past and we have to live with the legacy of these decisions today and into the future. However much we celebrate the new playground there still seems to be a lack of overall comprehensive planning in this area which must be tackled if we are to preserve the character and amenity of this area.

I encourage anyone with an interest in either of these issues to come to the next meeting on 1st October at the Surf Club to become involved in the discussion.

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**IAN ESPLIN**  
**ARCHITECT**  
**4381 1894**  
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# A new playground for Avoca

*Continued on from page 1*

The playground is taking the form of a surf/beach theme with a tricycle track in the shape of a huge surfboard, with other equipment in the form of a rocking surfboard, a rescue boat, etc. There are two sets of swings, one of which will be for less able bodied people, a climbing net up to 4.5m high plus a variety of slippery dips, razzle-dazzles and roundabouts.

The equipment, sourced from Australia and overseas, is regarded as state-of-the-art and is basically aluminium powder-coated, steel triple powder-coated and plastic. The Gosford City Project Officer, Mr. Terry Arnold, stated that it is the biggest playground of the 113 in the local government area to be built to date.

The funding for the playground, approximately \$190,000, is being provided from a variety of areas. The main source of funds is from Council's recurrent budgets and \$21,000 from Section 94 contributions which is a fee collected from developers to provide amenities in Council open space. A further \$12,000 is required to purchase the large shade cloth cover to shade a portion of the playground. \$7,000 towards this is being contributed by the Council and a further \$5,000 is hoped to be raised by the Avoca mums in fund raising activities in the local area.

This is Stage 1 of five stages for the overall redevelopment of the park areas around the surf club. At this time, a date has not yet been set for Stage 2, but will be undertaken as funds become available. So we hope to keep you informed as various stages are implemented.

Unfortunately vandalism and graffiti are the curse of all communities these days and too much of the Council's precious financial resources are wasted in repairs and clean-ups and so the community is being asked to be vigilant and report any incident to police and/or Council as soon as possible.



*Despite the downpour the children wasted no time in making use of the new facilities*



*Laurie Maher at the official opening*

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## History of Ross Park

Ross Park was named after Ken Ross, Sonya's grandfather who was an internationally recognised cyclist with a career that included winning the Goulburn to Sydney race as well as competitions in Denmark, Germany, Belgium, France and Italy. He was made a life member of the Surf Club in 1948.

Mr and Mrs Ross held card nights in their home for many years to raise money to put the original equipment in about 50 years ago. Later the Council took over the replacement of the equipment. Money was also raised to improve the rock pool and as time went by the money raised was donated to the Surf Club.



# Bulbararing Bushcare Grant Update

**We are now well into the second year of a three year Grant from the NSW Environmental Trust of funds totalling almost \$40,000 toward bush regeneration in the Bulbararing Reserve. This has enabled the employment of Bangalow Bushland Management, professional bush regeneration contractors, to undertake a considerable amount of primary weeding and follow-up work.**

In February, an extensive progress report was compiled by Gosford City Council Bushcare Officers, Bangalow and Bulbararing Bushcare Group which has met with the approval of the NSW Environmental Trust. Reports are required for continuation of funding under the Grant.

Important outcomes so far have included extensive areas of primary weeding, the planting of 30 native trees and ground covers and the excellent regeneration of native plant species in weeded areas.

Another milestone being achieved is community awareness and involvement. The Bulbararing Bushcare Group would love to welcome more volunteers to assist the reserve in its recovery and preservation providing habitat and haven for many species of indigenous plants and wildlife. For a couple of hours each month we meet for this purpose and to enjoy the sights and sounds of this little wilderness. If you can join us at 9.30 am on the third Monday of the month or would like further information please phone.

Eve Mahon

Member, Bulbararing Bushcare Group.

Phone 02 43822123



*Bushland area before regeneration*

## Invitation ! Mark Your Calendar!

Come celebrate the second year of this Grant at a barbeque (free) following a short walk to see the marvels of bush regeneration.

**Date:** Sunday Nov. 11, 2007 at 11 am.

**Venue:** Home beside the bush. Bookings essential.

**Phone:** Eve Mahon on 4382 2123 by Nov 2nd

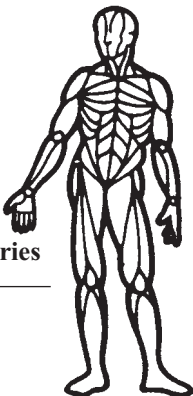
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Bushland area after regeneration

## Grower's market at Avoca

A grower's market has started operation on the first Sunday of every month in Hunter Park with growers from all over the state making their way to Avoca to display and sell their particular products. So far the event has been well attended and the promoters are keen to make it a permanent fixture.

The market will not be held over the summer holidays to reduce congestion with the final market for the year scheduled as a special one-off just prior to Christmas to allow Avocans the opportunity to stock up on delicacies for the festive season.



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# 5 Lands Walk

The now annual Five Lands Walk was a great success despite the walk itself being called off due to the weeks of wet weather preceding it making the route unsafe. The day itself turned out to be a gloriously sunny and pleasant winter's day and the events and exhibits organised around the beachfront were thoroughly appreciated by all. In particular the effort made by local artists was remarkable and was arguably the highlight of the event. Hopefully we will have more conducive weather for the walk next year.



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Marie Fuller  
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Ph: 4382 2264



## AVOCA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

Avoca Drive,  
Avoca Beach  
Ph: 4382 1342



## FIRE BRIGADE

Roy Dimond  
PO Box 16  
Avoca Beach 2251  
Fax: 4382 3739  
Ph: 4368 6127



## RUGBY

Ben Spindler  
PO Box 145  
Avoca Beach  
Mob. 0423 762 890  
E: ben@anztim.com



## AVOCA BEACH PLAY GROUP

10am-12am  
Tues and Fri  
Kerri Jones  
4382 4774



## GARDEN

Jen Graham  
Ph: 4382 1104



## SOCCER

President Ray Collins  
Ph: 4368 4835  
Mob. 0412 383 523  
www.avocafc.com



## BOARD RIDERS

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



## LANTERN

Esme Frickier  
17/24 Kincumber St  
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## SURF CLUB

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avoca's clubs  
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# dates for 2007



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<b>October 1</b>	<b>Third Monday of the month</b>
<b>December 3</b>	

*Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.*

## Membership Application

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Family Name: .....

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Family Name: .....

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**Register your interest in your community.**

*Please detach this form and return it with your subscription to:  
 "The Treasurer" Avoca Beach Community Association  
 PO Box 105, Avoca Beach 2251  
 Fee: \$10.00 per person per year (Donations also gratefully accepted)*

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 every second month.

The Association's newsletter The Avoca Beach Review is published every three months.

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 \$40 for 6cm x 6cm.

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

- President:.....Ian Esplin .....4381 2394
- V/President: .....Ron Leckie.....4382 2411
- Treasurer: .....Ken West .....4382 2916
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