



## The new surf club

– PAULINE WRIGHT

***A new Avoca Beach Surf Lifesaving Club has finally opened built on the foundations of the old building but which extensive new areas and fully equipped to contemporary standards. The building is larger and more elaborate than most on the Coast reflecting the strong local community support for surf lifesaving and associated activities.***

The opening coincided with the commemoration of its 75th (and a bit!) anniversary, with two nights of celebration at the newly-completed clubhouse on Friday 1st September and Saturday 2nd and with a "Back to the Beach" family day – complete with old-time games including pillow fights, chariot races and a treasure hunt – on Father's Day. Although established in 1929, and actually 77 years old, as event co-ordinator Con Ryan says: "Hey, we're on Avoca time!"

The two nights featured a theatrical revue bringing to life the cultural history of the Avoca Beach SLSC since its establishment. Written and directed by local lawyer and theatre director, Pauline Wright, the show was entitled "Eternal Recurrence", and explored the history

of the club against a broader historical context and the way surf lifesaving knowledge and skills are passed through the generations cyclically, echoing the tides and the seasons.

The narrative, performed by Mark Warren, linked dance with music and film made by Tony Heaney, to highlight key events in the Club's history. Dance numbers were brilliantly performed with enormous energy and professionalism by a team of local dancers choreographed by Carolyn McNamara, a veteran of Gosford Musical Society productions, Wendy and Kate Ellis of Jump Street Studios and Emma Russell of Avoca's Studio M.

The clubhouse was gloriously appointed by Events Decorations and the celebrations were made complete each night with a delectable gourmet feast

presented by H & H Catering of Avoca Beach, and exciting music from Jiri Kripac's Bulbararong Bay Big Band, featuring some of Australia's finest jazz musicians.

The club has a long history as a focal point of community life as well as providing vital protection for beachgoers from the dangers of the ocean. Over the years clubhouses have been built, modified and extended as needs and resources dictated. The physical, mental and financial resources required to achieve this achievement have to a large extent been donated by enthusiastic members and families in the local area. The new clubhouse stands as a memorial to all the effort, good will and good fun of a previous generation and will serve Avoca well into the future.





# president's message

**IAN ESPLIN**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 7th August and included the election of the new committee. In view of difficulty we have had in attracting new active members it probably will come as no surprise that the new committee is very similar to the outgoing with the notable exception of the position of Secretary.

Romaine Rutnum has held this position over the last few years and contributed in a very energetic and capable way to the smooth operation of the association. She is leaving us to take up another voluntary position as President of the Lantern Club. Romaine's effort was exemplary in organising the then rather haphazard procedures we had been using into a coherent system.

Most of all we appreciated her energy and application particularly in researching and following up on sources of funding for environmental programs such as the Bushcare regeneration project at Bulbararing Reserve.

Fortunately for us Maree Piper, a long term Avoca resident, has taken over the role and is already contributing her unique skills and knowledge in an enthusiastic way.

## Aims and objectives of the Association

In the last newsletter I said we would be reviewing our aims and objectives to see how relevant they are to current circumstances. For the record our Constitution lists the objects of the Association as:

- a. *To encourage the orderly improvement and advancement of the Avoca district for the benefit of landowners and residents*
- b. *To protect, preserve and enhance the natural resources and beauty of the district and of its character and amenity*
- c. *To support, co-operate and/or affiliate with any other body or Association for more effective furtherance of the above objectives*
- d. *The Association shall be strictly non-political, non-sectarian and non-racial*
- e. *The Association shall actively participate in the preparation and implementation of a PLAN OF MANAGEMENT for Avoca Beach*
- f. *The Association shall seek funding where available from Local, State and/or Federal Government sources by way of grants to further its objectives.*

We discussed these at the meeting and came to the conclusion that broadly speaking they did reflect current thinking. The one clause that has not been followed through is "e". This is not though lack of effort. Attempts have been made over the years by this association and other groups (notably Pearl Beach) to develop specific guidelines for the development of local areas focusing on unique natural and man made features.

Unfortunately these efforts have not been adequately supported by the Council and no management plan has ever been developed for Avoca. One of the arguments put forward by the Council is that the Character Statements (DCP 159) which are part of the Urban Design Strategy provide the same thing. This is fine in theory however the good intentions of this policy have been so watered down by recent amendments that it is now ineffective in providing any real guidelines for development.

We will continue to argue for some real planning policies especially for the South Avoca area since there is currently no adopted plan for the future growth in car parking demand and for the maintenance and regeneration of the green open space.

We will also continue to seek funding for worthwhile projects not just in the environmental area. A new initiative is currently underway and I will provide more details when the results are known.

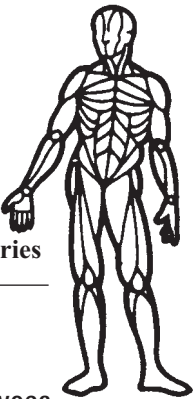
## Subscriptions

One point that was raised at the AGM was that we have been operating at an economic loss over the last few years which is obviously cannot be sustained over the long term. Our funds come from advertising in this newsletter, subscriptions and importantly donations.

The annual subscription over many years has been \$5.00 which when you consider that there are the design, printing and distribution costs of 4 newsletters per year as well as postage and incidental expenses is very little. Accordingly, we are increasing the subscription to \$10.00 which will take effect from next year.

I believe that the association can continue to be a relevant organisation and that by working in a complimentary way with other groups can provide a service to the local community. I encourage you to become a member or to renew your membership and to come along to meetings, write to us or send us an email about any ideas or concerns you might have.

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# CEN funding supports community efforts to rehabilitate lagoons

**The Community Environment Network (CEN) has been successful in a funding application to the NSW State government through its Environmental Trust for a project focusing on Community Rehabilitation of Gosford Coastal Lagoons. This project will work with local communities to develop a plan for the rehabilitation of foreshore areas around the four coastal lagoons in Gosford local government area.**

These lagoons have all been identified as modified (to varying degrees) in the Independent Inquiry into Coastal Lakes (Healthy Rivers Commission, 2002). Gosford Council monitoring of water quality also shows the lagoons often fail to meet target scores. This is confirmed by community Waterwatch monitoring.

The Gosford Council Coastal Lagoons Management Plan (1995) identified issues including loss of vegetation, water quality, acid sulphate soils, recreational usage and habitat values. The artificial opening of the lagoons also has an impact on the ecological health of the lagoons. The lagoons are located in popular coastal suburbs that are under pressure of increased urbanisation.

"Doing nothing" will result in further degradation of the foreshore areas, water quality and ecological processes of the lagoons.

The management of the lagoons requires a

strategic approach based on priority areas, involvement of the local community and landholders and increased community awareness, education, monitoring and valuing of the lagoons.

The project will work with the community and stakeholders including Council, Department of Natural Resources and the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority to develop and implement priority actions over two years. A project officer (part time) will be employed to develop and implement priority actions over two years. The methodology used will be based on the Rivercare approach and CEN's previous experience in similar projects.

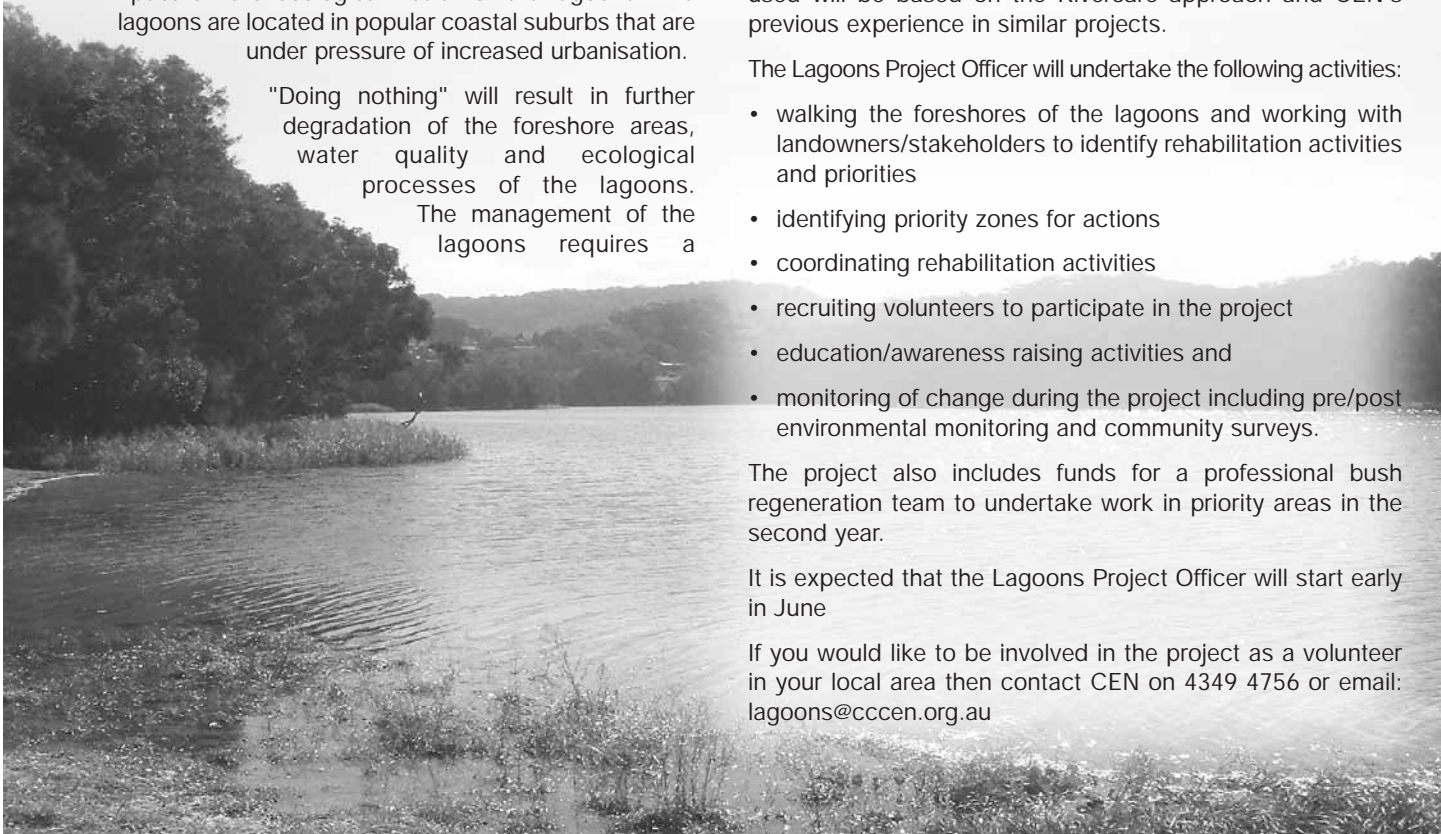
The Lagoons Project Officer will undertake the following activities:

- walking the foreshores of the lagoons and working with landowners/stakeholders to identify rehabilitation activities and priorities
- identifying priority zones for actions
- coordinating rehabilitation activities
- recruiting volunteers to participate in the project
- education/awareness raising activities and
- monitoring of change during the project including pre/post environmental monitoring and community surveys.

The project also includes funds for a professional bush regeneration team to undertake work in priority areas in the second year.

It is expected that the Lagoons Project Officer will start early in June

If you would like to be involved in the project as a volunteer in your local area then contact CEN on 4349 4756 or email: lagoons@cccen.org.au



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# The Five Lands Walk/Retrospective

NICOLE ESPLIN



**Sunday 24th June was the date set for the inaugural Five Lands Walk after many weeks of planning and organising by all involved. I helped to co-ordinate a group of local artists that made "land art" installations at various spots along the Walk as part of Avoca's contribution to the event.**

The event was very much a collaborative venture with many people involved not only in participation in the whole day but in the planning organizing and in the ideas phase. They include

Pauline Wright, Margaret Fortey, Sandy James, Nicola Read, Helen Holdgate, Charmain Cosgrove, Bronwyn Van De Graff, Phil Bligh, Gabi Duncan and Ian Sutton.

We aimed to work hand in hand with the indigenous community on this project. The significance of the land as an integral part of this process was embraced

wholeheartedly by the artists involved. The artists and I worked together to come up with a visual project that we could incorporate into the performances and the concept of the land and what it means.

Artwork was created using the local stories, people and materials which involved many enjoyable hours of walking, talking, meetings and consultation. The process was a pleasure and in many ways a challenge. What has come out of it as a result, beyond the day itself, is a group of people all committed to continue to work

together. A lot of observation was also made regarding areas where improvements can be made to the existing public access areas around the beachfront.

The artwork in Avoca was partly meant to highlight issues such as appropriate tree planting in coastal areas without compromising views, how to deal with graffiti and how we relate to the spatial environments, textures, colours and social rituals of this area. It was a response to some of the issues we as a community face here in Avoca.

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## *bushcare grant update* EVE MAHON *BULBARARING BUSHCARE*

Hello again!

Work funded by a NSW Environmental Trust Grant is now well under way in the Bulbararing Reserve, Avoca Beach. The bush regeneration contractor appointed to carry out the work is Damien Moey whose company is named Bangalow. Damien and his team have already cleared large areas of lantana and other weeds revealing small rain forest plants now able to breathe and flourish. A new battle has begun to further assist this valuable remnant of bush in our midst to once again return to its former natural beauty.

Bulbararing Reserve Bushcare Group has personally delivered an update on the progress of this project to neighbours of the reserve. These neighbours will also shortly receive invitations from Avoca Beach Community Association, Council and the bushcare group to a celebratory barbeque and site inspection.

Any one who would like to join our bushcare group or would like any further information please don't hesitate to contact Robyn Urquhart, Gosford City Council Bushcare Officer on 4325 8195 or myself on 4382 2123



Eve Mahon  
Bulbararing Bushcare Group  
August 18,2006



# Avoca Beach Lantern Club turning 35!

**ROMAINE RUTNAM**

The Lantern Club was first established in Avoca Beach in 1972, eight years after the first Lantern Club was formed in New South Wales. Lantern Clubs are one of the many organisations established by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) to assist its operations.

RIDBC is Australia's largest independent special educator of children from birth to 18, founded in Sydney in 1860. RIDBC provides a wide range of innovative educational services to deaf children and blind children, including children with additional disabilities. In 1961, RIDBC moved its headquarters and schools to North Rocks, where it is currently located. In addition to the North Rocks site, RIDBC has a school at North Parramatta, educational services at Penrith, in the Hunter region, and on the NSW Central Coast (Ourimbah campus). RIDBC has a very informative website at [www.ridbc.org.au](http://www.ridbc.org.au)

The 34th AGM of the Avoca Beach Lantern Club in June this year saw some changes in the office bearers. After an amazing 30 years of service, Joan Mylecharane stood down as President and nominated me in her place. Another newcomer to this committee is Avoca's local Bushcare convenor, Carol Gumley, who has become one of the three

Vice Presidents and has also taken on the role of Publicity Officer.

Our club is privileged to still have the monthly support of one of its original founding members, Doris (Dossie) Bryant. Over the past 34 years, the Club has raised over \$350,000 towards the RIDBC's educational services for children who are deaf and blind – a result the members are very proud of. But perhaps as important has been the strong social support and friendships the club has built up in the local community.

As we prepare to celebrate our 35th birthday in April next year, we very much welcome suggestions from readers on how to expand awareness in Avoca of our work and activities, and encourage greater local support and participation, especially among new generations of residents and business owners and managers. Please get in touch with me on 4382 6516 if you would like to join us or support us in some way.



**Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children**

## Gallery Latitude 33



PH: 43 821 463

In November 2004 the empty premises next to Ray White in Avoca Beach were taken by a local couple and turned into Gallery Latitude 33 and Artichoke Design, an architect's office. After a busy year they moved the architect's office and now use the whole space for the gallery.

Robert and Aleida Pullar moved to Avoca Beach with their three children in 1993, both continuing their professions in the area. Robert an architect has designed and built in the area and Aleida continued her studio practice. While they were waiting for council to pass the plans for their Cape Three Points home, 6 months became three years in a holiday cottage that allowed Aleida to keep her potters studio going. In 1995 they moved into their house and the large new studio. In the years since then many people have become familiar with the drive down through the trees to the studio, but the availability of 200 Avoca Drive in 2004 suddenly presented a new direction and challenge. Rob laid new floor, bagged walls, painted and built shelves creating a delightful

interior for paintings, ceramics and drawings.

The history of the area of Avoca Beach is a part of living here, with street names like Endeavour, Cape Three Points and Solander. The reference James Cook made in his ships log on the 7th May 1770, siting this part of the coast and calling it Cape Three Points, Latitude 33° 33min, has been a strong part of Aleida's work, in clay and painting. Her studio is about a kilometre as the crow flies from the 1st Point, Copacabana. In a trip on the water putting in at Terrigal and heading toward Sydney three years ago a GPS on board indicated where Cook's reading had been made....off Bombi Point and the view up the coast to the 2nd Point/Macmasters and the 1st point was breathtaking.

So when the choice of a simple name was needed for the gallery, Latitude 33 was it.

PS the GPS reading for the gallery is Latitude 33°, 27min.

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## AVOCA BEACH BOWLING CLUB

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Ph: 4368 6127



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E: terry@sturgesspurtill.com.au



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## BOARD RIDERS

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PO Box 161,  
Avoca Beach  
E: les069nick@optusnet.com



## LANTERN

Carol Gimley  
26 Reynolds Rd  
Avoca Beach 2251  
Ph: 4381 0175



## SURF CLUB

Garry Clarke (Pres.)  
PO Box 22,  
Avoca Beach 2251  
Ph: 4382 1514



## CWA

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



## PRIMARY SCHOOL

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avoca's clubs  
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*Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.*

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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 every second month in the CWA Hall (next to the Garage on Avoca Drive).

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 \$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
- Secretary: .....Maree Piper .....4381 2239
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