

Avoca Beach review



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AVOCA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2004

New push for by Ian Esplin *pedestrian/cycle link*

The ABCA has joined forces with the Chamber of Commerce to lobby for the construction of a pedestrian and cycle link between the Bowling Club and Hotel area and the CBD. With the commencement of the final stage of the CBD upgrade and the Council's recent approval of another major tourist development in the area, it is thought that the time is right to renew efforts to construct this important link.

The need for the link is well established. The commercial and tourist development in the Bowling Club area is expanding steadily and the businesses in the area are the largest source of employment in Avoca Beach. Avoca is also now the most visited tourist destination in the shire after Terrigal.



The tourist development currently under construction in Hillside Rd. and the recently approved 146 cabin and motel complex in Townsend Ave. will significantly add to movements to and from the CBD and beach. This traffic is almost entirely by private cars adding to congestion and parking problems in the CBD and beach areas.

It should also be remembered that the bowling club and hotel are places where alcohol is sold. It is inevitable that both car drivers and pedestrians are leaving

the premises with some degree of alcohol in the bloodstream. A pedestrian fatality some years ago in the area was investigated by the Coroner. One of the recommendations in the report was for construction of an adequate footpath.

A scenic pedestrian and cycle link could be a significant tourist attraction in its own right. Unlike Terrigal, Avoca does not have a promenade linking the features of the area. The link could have an environmental aspect passing through the lakefront wetland area. There are also health benefits in encouraging exercise and decreasing car use.

The lack of planning for a cycleway is also puzzling especially since cycleways are planned along the Scenic Highway between Kincumber and Terrigal and another on Cullens Rd. The proposed route from the roundabout to the CBD and beach is ideally suited to a cycleway due to the importance of the destination and the fact that it is almost completely flat unlike the other planned hilly routes.



The concept has been proposed to the Council in a variety of forms by a number of bodies over recent years. In every case the response has been the same. Whilst supporting the idea, lack of funding has always been used as a reason to not develop the concept further. The ABCA

and Chamber of Commerce argue that at the very least a feasibility study and design concept plan could be developed.

Funding for footpaths is already stretched to the point that planned footpath works in The Round Drive and Cape Three Points Rd. are well behind the original schedules. However, there are separate funding programs for cycleways. The federal government has also just renewed the Roads to Recovery program in Gosford which nominates footpaths and cycleways as potential targets for funding.

Other forms of funding exist such as the sale of Council assets in the area and possibly contributions from groups within the community. It should also be remembered that the new developments in the area are contributing to the revenue base through rates and developers' contributions.

This link need not necessarily incorporate the full extent of work such as drainage, kerb and guttering and road re-surfacing that is involved with the other projects due to the prohibitive expense. A number of options could be considered ranging in cost and complexity.

The first stage is to investigate design options. Some parts of the route have wide flat areas adjoining the road that would accommodate a footpath/cycleway quite simply whereas others do not due to inadequate space and obstructions.

Agreeing upon the route and the details is another issue. It's possible that the project could be divided into a number of segments. Firstly, Heazlett Park to the Round Drive, then to Hillside road junction, the Hotel, Townsend Ave and finally to the roundabout. Many details need to be worked out including which side of the road it runs on, where crossings occur and the construction and form of the surface.

At this stage letters of support are being written by local businesses and the idea is being developed and promoted. The possibility of developing a proposal within the community to present to the Council is also being explored. All contributions are welcome.



president's message

IAN ESPLIN

It's the end of the Association's year and all positions on the Committee will be open for new nominations. I would like to continue on for a little longer but that will depend on the voting. In the meantime, it's worth looking back over the year to consider what's happened and where we are going.

Associations such as this rely very much on the efforts and interest of individuals. There are a dedicated group of "true believers" who have worked tirelessly this year and in the past. We are seeing the fruits of this effort at the moment with the construction of the final stage of the CBD Upgrade. This project was originally conceived nearly a decade ago.

We have also focused more on environmental issues. The Bushcare group has been active in obtaining funds and labour to continue the regeneration of Bulbararing Reserve which has been acknowledged as one of the best examples of its kind on the Central Coast.

As a result of our efforts the Council is now actively assessing the environmental problems on Bareena Island. This involves mapping of areas of weed infestations and developing programs to begin to deal with this problem.

We have reviewed many large and small development applications over the year and have lodged submissions when we have felt that there are issues requiring careful assessment. We do not adopt an anti-development attitude and always try to base our submissions on Council's policies and character statements for the area. There have been many examples of amendments being made which have improved the environmental outcome for the community. Generally these amendments have not adversely affected the applicant.

Hopefully this co-operative approach can prevail and the concepts of sharing views and sunlight and trying to fit buildings harmoniously into the landscape will become more common. The Council has some good design controls developed over the last few years which we've noticed are now being applied more stringently.

Building design is always a contentious area and total agreement is impossible. I think that a building "culture" can develop that allows diversity but which shares some commonly held values and aspirations. We are concerned especially with the public

spaces, environment and infrastructure that provide an overall framework for the private development.

The CBD program has reinvigorated the feel of Avoca and we look forward to other projects such as the pedestrian link and cycleway (see cover story) and a revamp of South Avoca coming to fruition hopefully in less time than the decade it took for the CBD project.

I think the role of community associations is evolving along with changes in society and technology. Many people think we are moving away from direct personal interactions and towards "virtual communities". We see this newsletter as one of the most important contributions of the association. The format has been redesigned and it is now more professionally laid out and printed. It is now also available online in full colour.

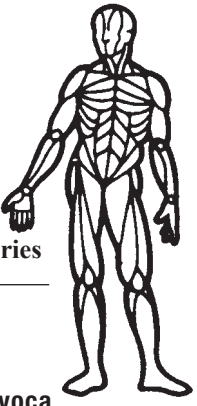
There is a new web-site www.avocabeach.com which will feature the current issue as a .pdf download to be read on the site, be printed or forwarded to friends. The site is run independently of us by Avoca Beach resident Mike McGee and will be a local community and business electronic directory. It's a good idea that should be supported.

Avoca Beach and the Central Coast generally continues to change rapidly. A friend told me how she went back to her home town in Europe and was amazed at how little the place had altered. We have become acclimatised to the constant change, and are part of the process ourselves. The danger is that we can lose perspective and not notice the impact of major changes until too late.

People are moving to Avoca for a reason, partly because of what's here but also to bring their own changes with them. It's important that this change be managed, which means that its effects need to be considered. Clear long and short term plans are required. It's easy to know what's not wanted but it can be harder to define what is. We want to be part of the process of "imagining the future".

If you would like to get involved in any way, please come to a meeting, send a letter or email or phone us. It's interesting to become aware of the issues in the local community and maybe have some influence on what happens.

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works in progress

IAN ESPLIN



Work underway on the final stage of the CBD Upgrade

By now the final form of the CBD street and footpath layout is taking shape. A similar avenue of Tuckeroo trees is planned for the southern side to that now on the Northern side. One thing this photograph illustrates is the unfortunate dominance of the powerlines. It would have been ideal to have buried them however funds were not available. They will become less prominent after the trees become more established.



Work underway in The Round Drive on replacing the old water main.

There has been some confusion as to what has been going on in The Round Drive with many people believing that it is the extension of the footpath. The work currently going on is the replacement of the faulty old water main in this area which has burst many times over recent times causing extensive damage and disruption to houses on the lower side of the road. The work is funded out of the Water and Sewerage budget independently of road works. The new works are being co-ordinated with the footpath design to avoid future disruption.

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don't waste avoca

JAMES LAWSON SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER - WASTE SERVICES

Once again thanks for the opportunity for John Whyte and myself to speak at your April meeting regarding Council's domestic waste management service and importantly what Council's future plans are for waste. I work at Council in the Waste Services section, as part of a team that manages the domestic waste management contract. I am also a local Avoca Beach resident, so I have touched on a couple of important and topical issues that are of interest.

Domestic Waste Service

Since the service began in July 2001, Gosford residents have saved over 68,000 tonnes of material going to landfill, or the equivalent of 500 full Olympic swimming pools of material. Of that 68,000 tonnes, almost half or 32,000 tonnes was garden organics and 36,000 tonnes was recyclable material including paper, cardboard, plastics and glass.

Council has been working very hard through the "Let's Get It Sorted" waste education campaign, which was launched during National Recycling Week in November last year, to increase the level of awareness of Council's domestic waste management system. This has included highlighting the need to reduce the level of contamination in the recycling and garden organics bin, particularly plastic bags.

Council recently conducted a waste audit (Feb 04) of the service and the results were outstanding - less than 1% contamination in the garden organics (green) bin and less than 5% in the recycling (yellow) bin. Also, households are putting out 50% less waste than in

1999 - mainly due to the green waste service. Keep up the good work!

You may want to take the opportunity to visit the Material's Recovery facility (the place where the recyclables are sorted!) at Somersby for a tour, I would thoroughly recommend it, please contact Earthcare Recyclers on 4340 4922.

Landfills

Based on current disposal rates, Kincumber landfill will close in 2007 and Woy Woy landfill will close in 2009. Council will soon consider a number of options which outlines ways to extend the life of the landfills - I'll keep you posted.

Plastic Bags

The issue of plastic bags, particularly their use and disposal has been very much in the public spotlight over the last few months. Council is aware that the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have recently produced a consultation paper, Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2004 which identifies wastes of concern, including plastic bags. The paper states that industries producing these waste products need to take physical or financial responsibility for the environmental impact of their products throughout their life cycle. In particular, they need to reduce the amount and/or impact of their products in

Household waste
Let's get it sorted.

Since July 2001, residents of Gosford City Council have been provided with 3 bins - one for recycling, one for garden organics and one for household waste. If you're still unsure about what waste should go where, here's some information about the service just to remind you how it all works...

Recycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clean bottles and jars ✓ Steel and aluminium cans ✓ Milk and juice cartons with gable tops ✓ Empty aerosol cans ✓ Any plastic container from your kitchen that comes with a lid ✓ Clean paper and clean cardboard 	Garden organics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lawn clippings ✓ Prunings ✓ Small tree branches ✓ Small pieces of untreated timber ✓ Road drainage 	Household waste <p>The rest goes in here. Remember - if in doubt, throw it out!</p> <p>Good on you Gosford! Since the service began in July 2001, over 68,000 tonnes of material has been recycled and did not end up in landfill. That would fill 500 Olympic swimming pools. 32,000 tonnes, almost 36,000 tonnes, was recyclable material including paper and cardboard, plastics, and glass, and 32,000 tonnes was garden organics. What a fantastic effort, Gosford. Keep up the good work, and Let's get it sorted!</p> <p>SITA Environmental Solutions</p>
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Waste bloopers
These photos show some of the dangerous and unpleasant things our recycling and garden organics workers have to deal with every day.

Box bottles	Car batteries	Plastic bags and garbage	Flammable chemicals
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the waste stream. For further information on the priority please contact DEC on 131 555 or you can download the document from DEC's website at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/eprps2004.pdf.

Council recognise that plastic bags when disposed of in the general community is a problem, not only to our flora and fauna, but to our environment as a whole. You may be interested to know that we recently conducted an audit of our domestic waste management system and contamination through plastic bags was very low.

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avoca - australia's cleanest beach in 2004?

ROMAINE RUTNAM

The Avoca Beach Community Association plans to join the local Chamber of Commerce this year in nominating Avoca Beach for the Clean Beach Challenge. This is the Keep Australia Beautiful [KAB] fun beach program, which was started to provide a community focus and link to the preservation and management of beaches.

Over the past three years the competition has been open to all NSW and Queensland local governments, community groups, dune care groups, coast care groups, beach care groups, individuals, in fact any person or group involved in the care of our beaches. This year Victoria will be participating, and it is hoped Tasmania will too. So there is an opportunity for us to strive to become a near-National winner early next year.

In last year's competition Avoca Beach won the NSW Central Coast Region's Partners Local Government Leadership Award, and was highly commended for the Energy Australia Friendly Beach Award as well as the Clean Beach Challenge Overall Award.

Other categories we can aim for are Sydney Water's Resource Conservation and Waste Management award, Alcoa Australia Roller Products Litter Prevention award, ClubsNSW's Community Action award, the Young Legends award, and Country Energy's Beach Spirit award.

Added incentives for us this year might be that the designer of the excellent trophies, Rosie Castiaux, has recently moved from Sydney to live in North Avoca, and that the Central Coast/Newcastle regional challenge will be launched at "Aspex on Avoca" on 8 June 2004.

The Association is also working with Gosford City Council on a nomination of our joint work on Bareena Island for KAB's Metro Pride Program, under its Urban wildlife habitat restoration and renewal category. As a result of our reports last year, Council arranged for the WorkWise/ CCCEN's Bush Regeneration Support Team to start removing bitou bush from the island last month, and will continue the work as needed.

Anyone can put in a nomination, but if you would like to suggest ideas that would improve the beach, we'd be happy to coordinate a combined community nomination. For example, should we nominate the superb local support for the Sean MacGugan Foundation for the Community Action or Beach Spirit awards? Please talk to me on 4382 6516.

For more information on these or any of Keep Australia Beautiful's programs and activities, please contact info@kabnsw.org.au or call 9633 3380.



Keep Australia Beautiful
NEW SOUTH WALES

BIOBAGS AT AVOCA – Sandy West

Robbie Hunt and his staff at the Avoca Beach Butchery are very conscious of the environment, to the extent that about eight months ago they invested in the BioBag, a totally degradable plastic bag, produced from commodity plastic resins and incorporating a specific product, EPI's Totally Degradable Plastic Additive (TDPA). They have a shelf life of two years.

These bags have been proven to break down in about 55 days when exposed to the elements, as confirmed by several tests conducted by major companies such as Exxon Chemical Co. and the Packaging Industries Research Association (PIRA) International. These tests have been conducted under the strictest guidelines for use in both direct and non-food contact applications.

BioBags have EPI's TDPATM catalyst added during the manufacturing process and the bags will begin to break down when exposed to heat, mechanical stress (wear and tear) and sunlight. Unlike conventional plastic bags which do not break down, BioBags progressively convert to ultimately become CO₂ and water. Ordinary plastic bags simply end up as landfill or blowing in the wind and water, hence using biodegradable bags saves in both space and visual pollution, and reduces harm to animals.

Our thanks to the Welcome Mart and Avoca Beach Chemist who are also now using specially treated bags. Of course, we can all help by carrying our own calico shopping bags too!

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avoca's clubs & organisations

AVOCA BEACH GARDEN CLUB INC.

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc. has nearly 700 associated clubs scattered across all states of Australia. Avoca Beach Garden Club is one of them. Some of these Clubs have very enthusiastic members whose gardens are a joy to behold. They compete in competitions, hold flower shows, open their beautiful gardens to the public, and generally devote the whole of their waking hours to tending their pride and joy.

Avoca Beach Garden Club Inc. is not quite in that category. True, we have some members with beautiful gardens. True also that we have some members who have specialised knowledge in growing and propagating specific types of plants, including native species, and in the art of bonsai.

We are essentially all interested in the aim of every Garden Club, which is to foster friendship through gardens. We arrange visits to private and commercial gardens, and hold meetings to which we invite guest speakers. We indulge ourselves with short coach tours, ferry tours of the wonderful lakes and waterways of the Central Coast, and the odd picnic or barbeque.

In short, we enjoy each other's company, especially if the venue is in a garden. For further information ring Margaret on 4381 1482 or Kath on 4382 3567.

AVOCABEACH.COM IS LIVE!- Michael McGee

Avoca Beach now has a website it can definitely call its own. Webmaster Michael McGee from Virtual Property Development confirmed that the planning stage for the community site is now over and the rollout has begun.

The site creates an online presence for Avoca Beach, to provide both a powerful directory of businesses and services to the local community as well as a useful resource to potential visitors from across the globe.

AB.com Account Managers will be contacting local businesses over the coming months with a view to including them in the business directory. Sporting Clubs and other not for profit groups are also encouraged to provide newsletters emailed in word format, for publication on AvocaBeach.com at no charge so long as they reside within the Avoca community.

AvocaBeach.com are also calling for Minor & Major Sponsors, and volunteer community journalists to provide us with relevant community information.

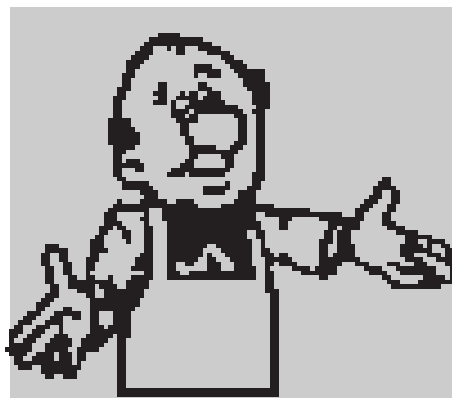
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

Peter Whelan
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E: avocabch@p.schools.nsw.edu.au
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Avoca Beach

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BY SANDY WEST

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family and friends, plus essential household items. The Welcome Mart even offers home delivery! As Eric says, he sells everything from milk and bread to beach balls!

Eric has lived in Avoca since 1988 and is very community minded, being a sponsor of the Avoca Beach Rugby Club, Surf Lifesaving Club and Primary School.

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letters to the editor

AVOCA BEACH REVIEW - BILL ROBERTSON

The Avoca Beach Community Association recently received a letter from a member of the Lake Macquarie Action Group, calling for our readers to write to the Premier of NSW on the subject of Beach Hauling.

Whilst some forms of trawling and netting of fish is prohibited or controlled in certain areas, it is still legal to cast a net from a trawler out at sea, and to haul the net to the shore onto a beach. The end result as far as the fish in the net are concerned is still the same!

The main target of this type of fishing is the "Eastern Seaboard Mullet". Quite often the fish are harvested solely for their roe, mainly destined for the Asian market.

Apart from being a waste of good fish, this roe is the egg mass which would otherwise have provided our future fish stock.

The main thrust of the letter was to push for the banning of commercial fishing of breeding stock on their way to breeding grounds, particularly by way of beach hauling.



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 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 Leckie4382 2411
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