



VRRRA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the VRRRA was held on 16 February 2017. The AGM confirmed the minutes from the 2016 meeting, received reports from the outgoing President, Dr Peter Gaffey, on the Association's activities in 2016 and from the Treasurer, Mr Peter Livingston, on the financial statements. The AGM also confirmed the appointment of the new committee for 2017.

Dr Gaffey's presentation thanked all members and the outgoing 2016 committee for the cohesive manner in which the Association had worked over the past year. He drew particular attention to a range of achievements and new initiatives during 2016 including: publication of a bi-monthly Newsletter to promote what is going on in the Vincentia community; the installation of a water filling station at Plantation Point (with thanks to Shoalhaven Water); the opening of the Orion Beach Shared Path; and the application for a grant for inclusive wheelchair access at Collingwood Beach (to be revisited in 2017).

Peter was pleased that during 2016 the Association had completed the review of its governance arrangements and instituted a number of changes to its Constitution and implemented a Code of Practice. He noted these changes seek to ensure that the VRRRA committee will always be accountable to its members. Peter also noted that the Association's activities concerning the prospective rate increases had brought together a number of the neighbouring Community Consultative Bodies in a constructive manner. He hopes that the new committee will build upon these relationships in the future. Peter concluded by thanking all the members of the 2016 committee for their volunteer work and, in particular, Jo Pullinger who tirelessly performed the often thankless task of VRRRA Secretary.

The new committee for 2017 is comprised of:

President	Peter Livingston	Members	Peter McVay (Public Officer)
Vice President	Angela Johnstone		Irene Ross
Secretary	Sue Sheridan		John Ross
Treasurer	Bob Pullinger		Dawn Thompson
			Ros Vickery

The new President, Peter Livingston, gave a short address in which he hoped the new committee could build on the good work of the previous committee to provide a forum that all ratepayers and residents feel welcome to attend and accurately reflects their views to Council. He wants to change the perception in some sectors of the community that the VRRRA doesn't reflect all views and noted that the recently implemented reforms will ensure that the committee operates transparently and is responsible to all the community. The objective for 2017 will include engaging more fully with the whole community by undertaking a recruitment drive via a letterbox drop seeking e-mail contacts, investigating new mechanisms for electronic engagement, enhancing e-mail updates, web-pages, the Newsletter and General Meetings and, subject to members' agreement, inviting other groups to address meetings or submit articles to the Newsletter or co-sponsor grant applications.

Peter emphasised that all VRRRA committee members are volunteers whose only agenda is to encourage the involvement of all ratepayers and residents in Council's decision making processes. He noted that if we make mistakes, please let us know so that we can consider doing things differently in the future. Let's all work together in good faith to make the VRRRA and Vincentia CCB a success in 2017.

Bay and Basin Community Hub – Draft Master Plan

Shoalhaven City Council has endorsed public exhibition on a draft master plan to provide a Bay and Basin Community Hub. Council is seeking your comments on the draft master plan for a period of 42 days commencing 15 March 2017. Submissions will close at 5pm on 26 April 2017. Drop in sessions will be held at the Bay and Basin Leisure Centre Vincentia on Tuesday 4th April 2017 3pm – 6pm and Wednesday 5 April 8am – 11.30am. Submissions made to Council in relation to this proposal will be considered as public documents.



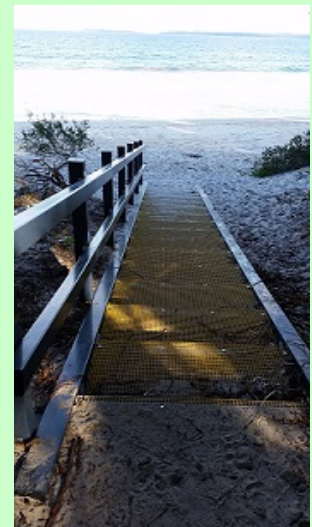
The draft master plan is available for viewing on Council's website and at Council's Administration Building, Councils libraries and Bay and Basin Leisure Centre. Comments on the draft master plan should reference file 53255e and can be forwarded to The General Manager via email at council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au, Council's website or post to PO Box 42, Nowra NSW 2541. For further information on the draft master plan please contact Susan Edwards, Senior Strategic Planner, on (02) 4429 3632.

The VRRRA has also been invited by Council to send a representative to the sub-committee that will finalise the Master Plan. If you are interested in nominating for this position, please forward your nomination to the secretary of VRRRA prior to the next General Meeting of the VRRRA on 20 April.

Council Improvements to Beach Access Paths

Recent improvements by Council to local beach access paths include an improved path onto Nelson Beach and a repaired and enhanced path onto Orion Beach. Both of these improvements are much appreciated by ratepayers, residents and tourists alike.

However we note that the access path on the northern end of Nelson Beach which was closed due to storms removing sand from the lower steps of the path, remains closed despite sand having recently been returned.



Update on Prospective Council Rate Increase

A member had expressed concern about the VRRRA's representation of the prospective rate increases in the previous Newsletter. In the interests of balance, we encourage all ratepayers and residents to attend one of the information sessions currently being run by Council. Below is a media release from Council notifying times, dates and venues for the sessions.



Your rates, *everybody's* future

THE FACTS

Special Rate Variation Information Sessions

presented by Shoalhaven City Council

We've been listening to your feedback and would like to invite you to hear firsthand rates information from specialised Council staff.

Meetings will be held on the following dates commencing at **7.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

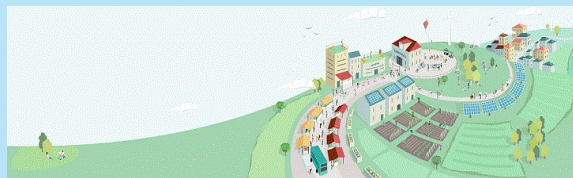
Date	Town	Venue
Mon 13 March	Ulladulla	Ulladulla Civic Centre
Wed 15 March	Sussex Inlet	Thomson St Facilities, (Community Centre) Upper Hall
Mon 20 March	Culburra	Waratah Hall, Culburra Beach Community Centre, Culburra Road (cnr Fred Evans Lane)
Wed 22 March	Wandandian	Wandandian Hall, D2683 Princes Highway
Mon 27 March	Nowra	Seven Mile Room, Level 2, City Administrative Centre,

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- The facts on why a rate rise is needed
- Where will the extra rates be spent in our City
- Our City rates compared to other regional Councils
- Actions taken and planned to cut expenditure
- Consultation and research that has been undertaken
- How Council currently monitors and maintains our current assets
- How the special rate rise increase was calculated
- What other options would be available for Council to be financially sustainable
- The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) process
- How residents who may find a rate increase difficult can access hardship and seniors rate discounts.

For more information email council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au or P: 4429 3111
No RSVP required

Shoalhaven Transition - Trivia Night



The VRRRA has recently been contacted by Judy Deane from Shoalhaven Transition on behalf of the Plastic Pollution Solutions' Campaign, asking for an indication of interest in the VRRRA booking a table for their Trivia Night. These events are being held around Australia to raise awareness about plastic pollution in our oceans. They will be holding The 33rd Family Trivia Night in our area at:

HUSKISSON COMMUNITY HALL Friday, 7th April, 5.30pm

Kids: \$2.50 - Adults: \$5 - Table of 8: \$20 BYO food & drink - Please note this is an alcohol free event.

FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO SUPPORT SHOALHAVEN TRANSITION.

If you are interested in participating in a VRRRA table, please contact the secretary at vrra.ccb@gmail.com. Individuals that would like to participate independent of a VRRRA team may indicate their attendance on the facebook event page (Plastic Bag Free Bay and Basin) or call Judy Deane on telephone 44437775 or email shoalhaventransition@yahoo.com.au.

Transition advise that they are a grassroots, worldwide movement where local communities initiate small scale projects in response to the challenges of global warming, shrinking supplies of finite energy and resources and potential economic hardship and prepare for the effect that this might have on particular communities. Projects examine more sustainable practices around food, transport, energy, housing and waste reduction, and how best to inform, educate and promote our activities, local activities, arts and re gain old crafts. It is about building inclusive, happier, and resilient communities. "The New Bush Telegraph" helps them reach out to other like-minded individuals and groups, inviting them to contribute articles, to share ideas, promote their group or upcoming events.

A recent deputation of Transition to council had councillors unanimously agree to contact our state representatives and environmental ministers to "ban the single use bag" in NSW and furthermore support: Plastic Bag Free July-by initiating signage asking to "did you bring you reusable bag"; Boomerang Bag Communities - borrow- bring back, reusable bags made from re-purposed material; Take#3FORTHESSEA - an initiative to encourage picking up beach litter; Plastic Pollution Solution Campaigns - education on plastic pollution and litter literacy in our schools; and Responsible Cafes Movement - an initiative to reward patrons who bring their own re-usable mugs, reduce "single use plastics" and food waste.

Should you like to receive their newsletter for their latest events email: shoalhaventransition@yahoo.com.au. Presently Transition support a Bay and Basin Boomerang Bag Community and will be hosting the community events for Anthony's Plastic Pollution Solutions Campaign for end of term then will start working with council on the Plastic Free July Campaign. Any Plastic Free Passionate activists are welcome to join them.

Collingwood Beach Storm Monitoring

The Collingwood Beach Preservation Group (CBPG) regularly monitors the impact of storms on Collingwood Beach. As recently noted by Councillor Patricia White "it is good to keep records of each storm event so we can build up a portfolio of what is actually happening, no two storms are the same." A summary of the CBPG's report following the storm that hung around the area for six days in early March follows.

The storm had eased off considerably by 8 March, the large swell substantially subsiding. The water has not reached the new sand bank (i.e. with fresh vegetation) being built up in front of the incipient (i.e. most seaward dune). In some ways this storm might be likened to the south easterly storms that happen twice per annum and create a large swell, but no erosion. What has been different about this storm is it has lasted with large swells for six days. However the waves could not be described as “pounding”. There was little wind and what wind there was switched quickly to the south west, so for Collingwood Beach not a threat at all. Certainly not strong winds, and not from the south east. Furthermore the high tides are not high when compared to say the 2.0m tides at Christmas. The CBPG concluded that the storm has not caused any erosion nor depleted the reserves of sand in the dunes of Collingwood Beach.



The picture at left shows high tide on 8 March compared with the photo at right that shows the condition of the beach prior to the storm on 27th Feb 2017. There is negligible difference between the new dune seaward of the former vegetation line. However it is these seaward dunes that are sacrificial when extreme storms eventuate. We have seen times when sand has been lost, but history shows it returns over time. We also have the benefit of our survey team to record the actual performance of the dunes, an initiative praised by the CBPG's mentor, Professor Roger Mclean. The CBPG believes there is great value to be gained by building a portfolio of not only storm events but the regular surveying of the beach. Collingwood Beach is probably setting the benchmark for the rest of the Shoalhaven beaches to follow.



Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20 April 2017 at 7.30pm at the Vincentia Community Hall in the Coles car park.

Not a VRRRA member? It doesn't matter for the consideration of local Council related issues. Everyone is welcome and if you are a ratepayer or resident of Vincentia, come and have your say.

Why not join the VRRRA? It is only \$10 per person per year. Membership application is quick and easy. It can be done on the night or online by going to our website www.vrra.org.

Input for Future Newsletters/Community Notices

Do you have any issues/news or community notices that you want circulated in the Vincentia community in future Newsletters?

Do you want to respond to something in a previous Newsletter?

If so, please send your contributions to vrra.ccb@gmail.com and we will consider its inclusion in future publications. Articles of no more than one page including photos are preferred. You do not need to be a VRRRA member to contribute, but the VRRRA reserves the right to determine whether an article will be included.