

## Walk Along Collingwood Beach with NSW Minister for the Environment



On 23 August 2017, the Honourable Gabrielle Upton MP, NSW Minister for the Environment, walked along Collingwood Beach with a number of Vincentia residents to discuss dune stabilisation, stormwater erosion and foreshore vegetation matters.

The visit by the Minister was arranged by the Hon Paul Green MLC and participants and attendees included Bob and Jo Pullinger, Santina and Dominic Tringalli, Tony Vukelic, John Parker, Tony and Dawn Thompson, Noel Ross Kelly (all from Collingwood Beach Preservation Group (CBPG)), Peter Livingston VRRRA President, Bruce McKenzie President of Vincentia Matters and Councillor Kaye Gartner. Local media from WIN Television News also attended and reported on the visit.

The issues surrounding Collingwood Beach are many and varied (and disputed by some), however, the team from the CBPG did an excellent job in presenting and demonstrating their research and findings. A large number of matters were raised with the Minister including the following:

- 1) Collingwood Beach is in an embayment and, as such, sand remains in the bay;
- 2) An explanation of the dune structure was provided - Conventional dune systems consist of three elements, namely an incipient dune, foredune (or frontal dune) and a hind dune. At Collingwood Beach houses are situated on the hind dune. Collingwood Beach has been assessed to be stable or accreting over time, that is the beach volume has been increasing or has remained relatively stable on average;
- 3) It was mentioned how CBPG regularly surveys the dunes and supplies this data to the Shoalhaven City Council (SCC);



4) The effect of stormwater erosion on the dune was examined - it was discussed how stormwater from the street flows to pits and flows through pipes to the dunes where the erosion occurs, it was shown where the beach access way had eroded due to storm water and the most significant immediate risk to Collingwood Beach being the vast volumes of sand being lost from the dunes due to the re-engineering in the early 2000's of the piping of the storm water from Elizabeth Drive and road heads at Montague St, Bayswater St and Illfracombe Ave through the sand dunes;

5) It was shown how Banksia roots have lifted the cycleway and required grinding to reduce trip hazards

6) Areas were shown where large sections of the cycleway had required replacement;

7) Sections of the dune were pointed out where low growth vegetation has successfully stabilised the dune since the replanting after the 1974 storm;

8) The old Mean High Water Mark peg was examined to show how far (8 metres) the dunes had accreted since the original development;

9) The original Mean High Water Mark and the debris line from the run up after the 1.88metre high tide on 21 August 2017 was shown;

10) Saplings growing along both sides of the cycleway were identified - it was explained how the Banksia roots have undermined private fences and invaded sewer pipes;

11) Healthy Banksias that had been under pruned by approximately 4 metres were examined at Montague St and it was discussed how this method could be successfully used in other areas along the dunes;

12) Dense areas of tall Coastal Wattle were discussed, it appeared the wrong species of Coastal Wattle had been used, that being a tall variety not the preferred low growing species;

13) Banksias propagating along the cycleway were identified sprouting from the Banksia roots;

14) Walking along the cycleway, old Banksias were pointed out where they had been planted to form a hedge along the edge of the cycleway;

15) Overgrown beach access ways were identified;

16) Spinifex on the incipient dune was identified as most important for sand catching and dune building and mentioned in the Coastal Dune Management Manual;

17) Dense thickets of Banksias were shown which would need to be culled or thinned at least;

18) Coastal Wattle was shown dominating the incipient dune, shadowing Spinifex from the sun showing over 1 metre long branches laying along the sand with no root structure to bind the sand;

19) The danger of vegetation preventing clear line of sight when leaving the beach access ways was shown; and

20) Dr Brady, Professor Roger McLean and Garry Druitt were put forward as experts on dune processes and vegetation requirements.

We thank the Minister for the generous time she gave to meet with local Collingwood Beach residents and the respectful consideration of the matters raised. We also thank Paul Green for his assistance in facilitating the visit.



## Visit to Vincentia by Mayor and Councillors



On Friday 15 September 2017 the Mayor of Shoalhaven City Council, Amanda Findley, together with a number of Councillors and senior Council staff made a short visit to Vincentia to meet with the Committee of the Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association (VRRRA) as the recognised Community Consultative Body (CCB) for Vincentia and Bayswood. The purpose of the meeting was to give CCBs an opportunity to discuss issues of local concern on site with Councillors and senior officials. The meeting took place at the Plantation Point Reserve.

The Mayor was accompanied by Cll Annette Alldrick, Cll Jo Gash, Cll Kaye Gartner and Cll Mark Kitchener. Also attending were General Manager Russ Pigg, Acting Assets and Works General Director Tony Fraser, Andrew McVey representing Shoalhaven Water and Cathy Bern representing Development, Planning and Environment.

The VRRRA was represented by the following Committee Members: Peter Livingston (President); Angela Johnstone (Vice President); Peter Gaffey (Secretary), John Ross and Dawn Thompson.

The VRRRA reminded Councillors of the 11 submissions that the VRRRA made to Council earlier in the year as part of consultation process on the development of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) for 2017/18. These submissions were listed in our Newsletter No 7. It is understood that the VRRRA made more submissions in the DPOP process than any other CCB in the Shoalhaven, a reflection of the VRRRA's commitment to reflect the community's concerns to Council.

Our discussion focussed, however, on three matters that we believe could be readily addressed within the Council's existing maintenance budgets. These were:

- 1) minor improvements to the Bayswood Village pathways and improving safe access from Bayswood to the Round the Bay walk with a pedestrian refuge at the intersection of Elizabeth Drive and Berry Street;
- 2) cutting back overgrown vegetation that is intruding into the Plantation Point Reserve and over the Round the Bay walk; and
- 3) re-positioning the beach access paths from the road heads at Berry St, Montague St and Bayswater street to reduce the risk of erosion of the dunes due to water run-off from those streets and Elizabeth Drive.

Council were presented with copies of all 11 submissions and undertook to give them further consideration.



## **Do you want a Representative Community Consultative Body?**

Community Consultation is an important component of responsible decision making. One means by which the Shoalhaven City Council is committed to consulting with the community is by a two-way communication process with organisations recognised by Council as Community Consultative Bodies (CCB).

The VRRRA is recognised by the Council as the sole CCB for Vincentia and Bayswood. The VRRRA is committed to operate in accordance with the Council's Guidelines for the Conduct of CCBs.

If you want a CCB that is truly representative of the Vincentia and Bayswood communities please consider getting involved - not only as an ordinary member but perhaps also as a committee member of the VRRRA. If you don't like the direction of the current CCB, consider getting involved to change it. All ratepayers and residents of Vincentia and Bayswood are welcome to get involved - it doesn't matter whether you are one of the salt water people on the foreshore or one of the hill tribes in the streets behind - everyone is invited and no-one is excluded.

We are approaching the end of the year and will be seeking nominations for Committee members during December 2017 and January 2018. There are currently seven Committee positions - President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three committee members. If you want to know what is involved in performing the duties of these positions, please contact Peter Livingston on mobile 0435168302 to discuss.

## **Our Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19 October 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.au](http://www.vrra.org.au). For information contact the secretary: [vrra.ccb@gmail.com](mailto:vrra.ccb@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto: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.

## Paul Patten - local poet and identity

Many locals will probably have seen Paul on his daily rides and walks along Collingwood Beach without knowing that he is also a local poet.

Paul has been a resident of Vincentia and Huskisson since 1988 when he made the shift to be near the sea. Paul has lived in many towns in NSW and at various times travelled around most of Australia with many tours by the local bus company, Stuarts, and others. Paul has been inspired by the various towns he has called home to write his poems of rhyme. The thoughts and feelings gathered as Paul swims year round in Jervis Bay have been put into words on Paul's typewriter and transpired into many poems. Paul hopes to fulfil his dreams of travelling from Darwin to Monkey Mia and thus complete his round Australia travels.



We have included below a sample of Paul's work below and also a poem written by Barry Wells of Tomerong about Paul. We hope you enjoy both poems.

### ***Close to the Sea*** (by Paul Patten)

*When I look up and see the clear blue sky  
I see white clouds passing on by  
When I see the water I think of a swim  
Even though I doubt if I would go in  
When I drive in to break the ice  
I feel as if I'm in paradise*

*As I touch the water it seems so nice  
It gives me back a new zest for life  
I often wonder where my spirit goes  
Over the ocean or with the wind that blows  
They say that man is immortal as long as he is  
remembered on earth  
I feel like that just by diving into the surf.*

*I know when I see the birds go into their nests  
It's their place of refuge and where they find rest  
I find the joy of living just by being at one  
With the oceans rolling seas to which I succumb*

*When I feel the water running down my face  
It transports my mind to another place  
There is nothing like the beach and its salt air I taste  
There's a touch of immortality in this life I embrace*

*Beauty is for all who have an eye to perceive  
It's an ultimate joy for one who has a heart to believe  
And everytime I'm out and having some fun  
I think of the ocean!! that's compared to none*

### ***The Sojourner!*** (by Barry Wells)

*There is a man I know, who rides near and far,  
He has a single speed push-bike, with raised handle-bar,  
In the mornings he rides the streets, that are wide and long!  
The exercise keeps him fit, and it makes his legs to feel so strong!  
He enjoys going on holidays, taking in the wonders of the land!  
He has been away on many road trips, over mountains, rivers and sand!  
He mostly leads a care-free life, down by the calm sea-shore,  
He looks forward to every new day, and what it has in store,  
He enjoys the vistas ever so grand, looking out over the bay!  
He casually relishes the magnificent views, on his rides everyday,  
Sometimes he often sits on the sand, under a shady tree,  
Thoughtfully he reflects as he writes down, a few lines of poetry!  
Paul delights in the time each day, that he spends under the Sun,  
You will find him somewhere on the streets, in the town of Huskisson,  
He believes true richness is not just found, in material wealth alone,  
But a golden rule he lives by, in which, good physical and mental health,  
is the keystone!  
He writes his thoughts down, and doesn't keep them bottled in a jar!  
He gets his inspiration while gazing, across the water, at Point  
Perpendicular!  
And when he has time he goes swimming, in the clear blue sea,  
He loves the sea so much, and that is where he longs to be!  
If you ever encounter Paul in your travels, just shake his hand, and give  
him a smile!  
He finds with the great camaraderie he has fostered, makes everything  
worth-while,  
Since he met Barry and Lydia Wells, they encourage him, to go to the  
beach to have some fun!  
He writes poetry about the sea, and he loves, to share it, with everyone!*