VRRA CCB
Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2
July 2016

Aerial view of Collingwood Beach
Photo Credit: Mark Fleming

VRRA General Meeting June 16 2016

An interesting meeting was had as the three Federal Candidates for the recently held Federal Elections attended to provide a brief Q & A, Ann Sudmalis (Liberal), Fiona Phillips (Labour) and Carmel McCallum (Greens). We were also pleased to have Mayor Joanna Gash, and Councillors Jemma Tribe and Patricia White in attendance.
Local issues were the main interest with questions on business, infrastructure, higher and tertiary education, communications such as the NBN and funding availability. Questions also diverged onto singular issues such as euthanasia, registration of wills, treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, authentication when voting and the problems of double voting.
Our thanks to all three candidates and congratulations to Ann Sudmalis on her election win.

From Our Last Issue

Garbage Bins: Council have restored the removed garbage bins along the cycleway on Collingwood Beach between Church and Ilfracombe street. A rewarding experience of the community and Council working together.

Wool Road Bicycle Path: Council were quick to respond to the drainage and water run off issues that were raised. As a temporary solution the foliage was cut back and a shallow trench dug along the side of the footpath/cycleway. It was soon put to the test with the heavy rainfall and storms over the weekend of June 4. Bob Proudfoot commented at the last VRRA general meeting that, although a temporary solution, the work done by Council made a significant difference to drainage and pooling, he thanked our President for his initiative and Council for responding.

Vincentia Village: It's exciting times in Vincentia for shoppers, not only because of the new Vincentia Marketplace shopping complex but also because of the community "buzz" around the original shopping village in the heart of Vincentia. Recently a small grant from Council has enabled a facelift with new signs and brighter colours. Stocklands are improving the carpark and shopkeepers are gearing up with new offers and initiatives. Watch out for the new Vincentia Village Business Directory which is due out soon. A vast array of shops and professional services are listed.

If you have heard the rumour that wine and tapas will soon be on offer then who better to confirm this than Richard Walker from the newly opened speciality food café, **'Albert N Miso'**. "Yes it is true. We'll be extending our hours and we can't wait ...". (*Neither can we...*)
As if to highlight the shopping diversity, further up the village, in a small shop, is **'Ian's Keys and More'**. All your key cutting requirements, computerised engraving (including edible cake images) and more are on offer.
For more information visit the website at www.vincentiashops.com.au or view the facebook page, Vincentia Shopping Village.

DPOP Submissions: We are still waiting to hear from Council regarding the outcome of our submissions.

Around Vincentia

Bike Racks: New bike racks are to be installed in Vincentia Village. One will replace one of the phone boxes (the one without the WiFi) and the other will be on the eastern northern end of the piazza. "Both are good locations" said our Secretary who is a regular bike user.

Little Blue Dinosaurs: The signs that appeared over the holiday period were considered a great success and have now been taken down. With the number of familes that holiday at Vincentia, Bob Pullinger originally lobbied for the introduction of these signs to increase awareness for motorists. With the many road signs that can confront motorists, it's easy for one sign to blur into another and the message lost. These colourful signs will be back in time for the next holiday period and the message is clear.

Vandalism: Very disappointing to see these great facilities which support and complement the area around Blenheim Beach and Violet Clark Reserve needlessly and wantonly vandalised. If you have any suggestions to stop this type of activity in our neighbourhood, Council would be pleased to hear from you.

Bay and Basin Hub: A presentation by 'GroupGSA', Architects and Landscaping, was held on July 21 which showed concepts and layouts for improving the current Leisure Centre at Vincentia. Now referred to as the Bay and Basin Community Hub, significant additions were a Library, an expansion of the existing gym and improved sectional conference centres which can be combined into one large conference or reception centre. What fell short however was the limited increase in sporting facilities due to the availability of land. It was commented that the available land would be insufficient for current needs and hence would not serve future needs. Noting this limitation, some doubt was expressed as to the viability of the project.

Our Coast Our Lifestyle: This program from Council sought community input regarding crucial factors that impact our coastline. Part of this input was a workshop held by consultants, 'Straight Talk', at Vincentia High School on June 29. Attendees were assigned to various groups and a round table discussion followed. The results from the various workshops that have been held will be collated and formalised into a report which will be made publicly available.

Play Equipment: With ageing equipment, vandalism and other issues, Play Equipment is under threat! Council are looking at ways this can be reduced and kept to a minimum. With a young population and the number of newborns Vincentia is producing, playgrounds and play equipment are essential. The VRRA has arranged for a group of young Mums to meet with Council on site to discuss this issue.

Speed Monitoring. As a project Council are proposing to introduce speed monitoring cameras. These cameras monitor

a vehicle's speed and light up an electronic variable message sign (VMS). The aim of the program is to collect speed data over the course of 6 weeks and to relay the information back to the police. From there the data will be analysed, displayed to the community and where appropriate used to devise suitable procedures or used to assist other engineering and behavioural projects.

Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Plan (DVMP): Following a motion by Councillor Amanda Findley and the presentation of a petition, the Community Consultation Process involving a public exhibition of the DVMP, amendments proposed by the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group and a demonstration zone of 50 metres along Collingwood Beach has been put on hold until further legal advice.

Plantation Point Access Track: Following storm damage from the June 4 storms, Council feels that it is no longer viable to maintain the access track to Nelson Beach located near the tip of Plantation Point. The VRRA is aware that this access track is very popular and widely used at holiday time when families and visitors picnic for the day at Plantation Point - it is constantly used to access Nelson Beach. The VRRA has advised Council against this closure.

Community Building Partnership 2016

Overhearing a disabled person say "wouldn't it be great if we could see or access the beach...", our President, Peter Gaffey, has responded to the NSW Community Building Partnership program which offers grants across the State at an individual State Electorate level for the enhancement of community facilities.
With support and encouragement from Council, Peter through the VRRA, has applied for funding to convert one of the Collingwood Beach access paths into a disabled access path leading onto a viewing platform.
Peter's submission is an engineered solution and with the help of Tony Thompson who helped survey the area, our treasurer Peter Livingston, and a professional estimator, a fully costed proposal has been submitted. A great initiative from Peter and his team and if successful a great addition to our area.

Council Elections

A reminder that Council elections will be on September 10. Nominations open on the 1st August and close on the 10th August. Vincentia is in Ward 2.

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting is on August 18th at 7:30pm at the Vincentia Community Hall in the Coles car park.

Not a member? It doesn't matter, everyone is welcomed and if you are a Ratepayer or Resident of Vincentia, come and have your say.
Why not join? It's only $5 per person for the 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

Further information contact the secretary : vrra.ccb@gmail.com

Feature Story

If you want to swim the English Channel then you need a trainer and somewhere to train. Where better than Collingwood Beach and who better than someone who has already achieved 16 solo crossings which includes; 9 singles, 2 doubles and the first Australian non stop solo triple crossing (36 hrs 12 mins). However the accomplishments do not stop there; there are over a dozen awards from the Channel Swimming Association, a world record for the longest unassisted ocean swim (124.4 kms in 41 hrs 21 mins) and many more too numerous to mention here. Meet **Chloe McCardel**. Chloe is an ultra-marathon swimmer, a motivational speaker, ambassador, fundraiser and a renowned international marathon swimming coach.

Collingwood Beach came alive recently with large coloured buoys for navigation, observers in kayaks and a train of swimmers swimming up and down the length of Collingwood Beach for up to 6 hours at a time. Chloe is currently coaching 18 swimmers of whom 4 will be swimming solo, the youngest being 15 yrs. Their channel crossing attempt will be in September this year. "I need to run camps where the water temp is 14 - 16 Celsius. As this is approximately the water temperature my swimmers will swim in when they cross the English Channel....We were drawn to Jervis Bay as it is a regional hub renowned for a beautiful coast line & dolphins (we like picturesque locations! ...)".

The next time you take a swim at Collingwood Beach you can be forgiven for dreaming that you are conquering the English Channel. If you want to try for real, either solo or relay, then contact Chloe, she would love to hear from you. Alternatively if swimming in cold water for up to 12 hours is not your thing but you would still like to be involved, Chloe will be appreciative for any assistance or help with her camps whether in, out or on the water. She hopes to be back next year in July. We hope she comes back.

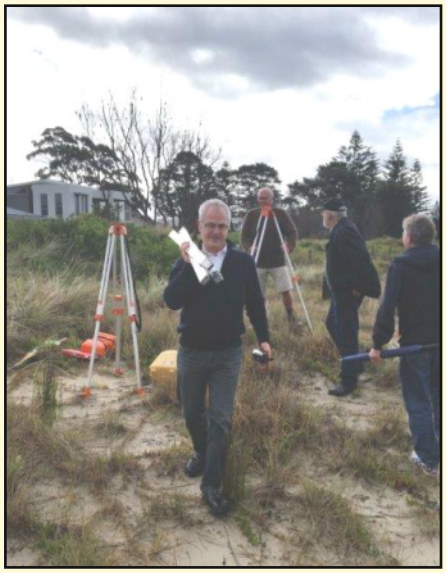
Preparing for the English Channel crossing in Sept.
Photo Credit: Fernanda Lopez Garza 15 years.
solo Channel swimmer

Contact: chloe@chloemccardel.com, www.chloemccardel.com

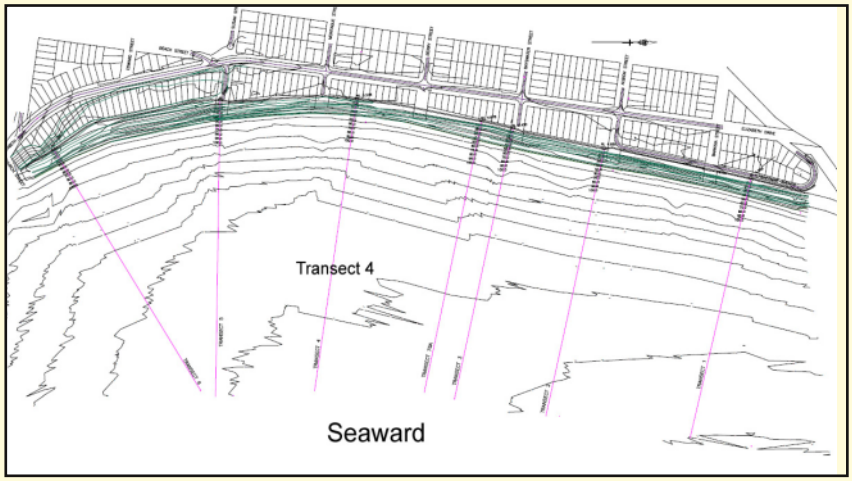
Note: By the time the next newsletter is out, Chloe hopes to have surpassed the Australian record of 19 solo crossings by Australia's other great English Channel swimmer, Des Renford.

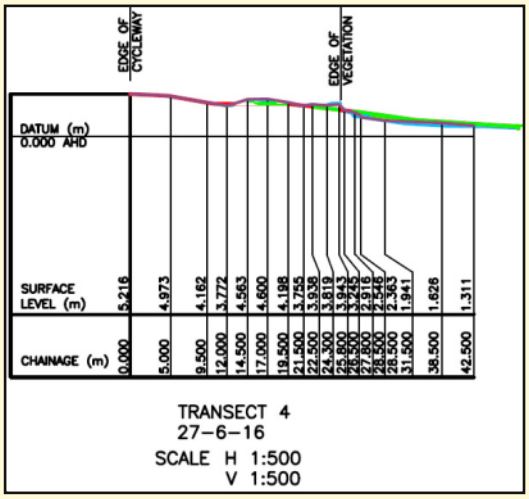
Collingwood Beach Preservation Group (CBPG)

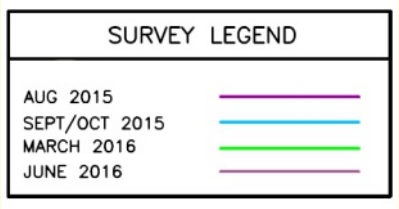
For over 10 years the owners along Collingwood Beach have been interested in the progress of the Coastal Zone Management Plan and formalised their interest 2 years ago by requesting recognition of the CBPG under the Council's new Community Engagement Policy. Among its members are engineers and scientists. Other members can trace their association with Collingwood Beach back to the dune restoration program of 1978 following the 1974 storms - they are are able to recite a full history of the dunes and the evolvement of the vegetation that exists today. Recently the group has been attacked and maligned for advocating vegetation that allows views of Jervis Bay. A position they claim is scientifically founded and conforms with the Dune Vegetation Manuals published by the NSW and QLD State Governments.



What is less publicised however is the scientific work they have undertaken to monitor and measure the dunes. Wanting to better understand the Collingwood Beach coastline and the science of the dunes they engaged Emeritus Professor Roger McClean to share his knowledge and experience in coastal geography. Professor McClean is internationally recognised for his work in the geomorphology of coastlines and along with Al Gore is a joint recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize being one of the colleagues comprising the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) scientists. Professor McClean spent a day with members of the CBPG setting up the equipment and explaining the methodology in taking dune measurements.







Subsequently the group approached Council and obtained a topographic survey map of Collingwood Beach in a format that could be read by AUTOCAD which is a leading computer aided design software program. They then invested in a self levelling laser level and proceeded to take measurements. The method involves dividing Collingwood Beach into 7 transect locations. At each location the laser level is set up and at approximately 20 chainage positions seaward, laser readings are taken. The readings are then entered into the AUTOCAD software and plotted to produce a dune profile. A copy of the readings are also submitted to Council. The latest measurements taken in June 2016 are reproduced above. For illustration purposes only one transect is shown.

Although it's still early days, the measurements so far indicate that Collingwood Beach is an accreting beach, a very important factor in the erosion and accreting cycle of a beach. This augers well for Collingwood Beach as it suggests that Collingwood Beach should naturally repair itself following any storm damage. To quote Professor McClean after reviewing early measurements, "I do think an interesting story will emerge from your surveys and at sometime you might suggest to SCC that a presentation - say to the Annual NSW Coastal Conference - be considered. That [is] to demonstrate both technique and results".