

Official Opening of Orion Beach Shared Pathway

The official opening of the Orion Beach Shared Pathway was held on Thursday 4 August 2016 involving short speeches by:

- Joanna Gash, the then Mayor of the City of Shoalhaven;
- Ann Sudmalis MP, the Federal Member for Gilmore;
- Craig Milburn, Group Director of Corporate & Community Services, Shoalhaven City Council; &
- Liz Tooley, former Secretary of the Vincentia Ratepayers and Resident's Association (VRRA).

A small but appreciative crowd braved the inclement weather to welcome the formal opening of the path, which is now a wonderful asset available to both locals and visitors to the Shoalhaven.

Liz Tooley gave the main speech and outlined how this new section of pathway forms part of the Round the Bay Walk that seeks to promote ecotourism and encourage overnight stays in surrounding villages. She noted that the walk has the potential to be marketed both nationally and internationally, as well as providing walking opportunities for Shoalhaven residents.



On behalf of the community, Liz thanked the efforts of Ann Sudmalis, Jo Gash and Craig Milburn in supporting the path. She acknowledged the Federal funding of \$450,000, which was matched by the Council, thereby enabling the section of the path from Minerva Avenue to Plantation Point Parade to be completed.

Liz paid tribute to the local members of the Vincentia community for whom this project took on a life of its own and were instrumental in the project being built. Credit was also given to the local residents who originally opposed the path but have now accepted it in good grace and who have enhanced everyone's enjoyment by their quiet tolerance of the path users.



Community Consultation on Dune Vegetation Management Plan

Shoalhaven City Council is encouraging residents to provide feedback on a revised Collingwood Beach Dune Vegetation Management Plan, which is now on public exhibition.

The draft Council's Dune Vegetation Management Plan for Collingwood Beach, has been developed over the last two years after extensive community consultation, and in its revised state, now displays an alternative approach developed by the Collingwood Beach Preservation Group (CBPG). Enquiries on this alternative approach can be emailed to collingwoodbeach@gmail.com.

The Dune Vegetation Management Plan will be used to help guide the restoration and future management of the area's dune vegetation system. The Plan would play a critical role in the protection of assets against sand ingress, erosion and salt spray, particularly during heavy storm periods.

The Council has also displayed notices along the Collingwood Beach walking path indicating the proposed vegetation management practices in the various zones in the Management Plan.



Residents are encouraged to provide submissions or feedback on either the Council's draft plan or the CBPG alternative approach or both. The Public can make a submission on Council's website under 'Documents on exhibition' <http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/My-Council/Public-exhibition/Documents-on-exhibition> or by writing to the General Manger at PO Box 42, Nowra, 2541. The public exhibition closes on 19 October 2016.

Both the Council's draft plan and the CBPG alternative approach as well as background information can be accessed at <http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Coastal-Landscape/Collingwood-Beach-Dune-Vegetation-Management>. The CBPG has a website www.collingwoodbeachpreservation.com.au, which also has lots of useful information.

The contact at the Council for these matters is Ms Kelie Lowe, Senior Manager, Environmental Services on telephone 4429 3501.

Shoalhaven City Council Election Results

Following the Shoalhaven City Council Local Government elections held on 10 September, the following have been elected as Councillors for the next four-year term of Council

The VRRRA congratulates all the successful candidates and looks forward to a constructive relationship with the new Council. We also note in particular the success in Ward 3 of the former President of the VRRRA and recently resigned Committee member, Bob Proudfoot. We wish him all the best in his new role, confident that he will take to the Council all the energy and enthusiasm for local issues that he displayed at the VRRRA.

Major:	Amanda Findley	Ward 2:	Greg Watson Jo Gash
Ward 1:	Andrew Guile John Wells Nina Cheyne Annette Alldrick	Ward 3:	John Levett Mitchell Pakes Mark Kitchener Patricia White Bob Proudfoot

Updates on Other Matters

Drinking Fountains

The Council has recently advised the VRRRA that a water filling station is proposed for a site at Plantation Point Parade. The site is just before the sailing club, left hand corner near two large placed bushrocks. This site has clear visibility, no impact study required, has street light for after dark use if needed and is in a place where foot traffic would slow because of people using the boat ramp etc.

Shoalhaven Water is rolling these stations out across the region to encourage adults and children alike to refill their drink bottles and discard the use of plastic water bottles.

They will in the future install further stations around our area and hope to have this station up and running by Christmas.

Bike Racks

As reported in the July Newsletter, two bike racks are proposed to be installed at the Vincentia Village shopping centre. While not yet installed, they are keenly anticipated.

Surveying Use of Beach Access

Our July Newsletter also noted that the VRRRA had advised the Council against the closure of a Nelsons Beach Access track following storm damage on 4 June. The Council has now arranged for some beach access points to be surveyed. Council has university students from Germany undertaking work experience. Two of these students will be onsite during the coming school holidays, to count visitors using six beach access ways, which service Nelsons and Blenheim Beaches.

Vincentia is not the only area where Council is addressing the issue of beach access rationalisation.

At Mollymook Beach an access way was successfully closed in 2015. At Huskisson Beach it was agreed, in consultation with the CCB, that two beach access ways would be closed whilst another has been identified for upgrade.

Community Building Partnership 2016

A decision is pending on the VRRRA's application for a grant to convert one of the Collingwood Beach access paths into a disabled access path leading to a viewing platform. A decision is expected in December.

Mystery Tree at Plantation Point

In early September, a lone tree sapling was planted in the middle of Plantation Point Park. It appeared to the VRRRA that it was an unauthorised planting so we advised the Council about it. On Thursday 15 September, Council visited the site and observed that the plant had been removed but the 3 treated pine stakes remained. The 3 stakes were removed, as they were a potential trip hazard. It is unknown who planted the small tree but Council reminds the public that they are not permitted to plant out any Council reserve areas/public land without Council approval.



New Businesses at the Vincentia Village

A number of intriguing new businesses have commenced trading at the Vincentia Village shopping centre, including the Emporium and Kiki Jewellery and Gifts. The Emporium, which was previously located in Huskisson, has an extensive range of new and recycled items for the house. Kiki Jewellery and Gifts describes itself as our local hippie shop. Both shops are well worth a visit. The Vincentia Bakery, a long-time favourite of Vincentia residents, has now extended its business, taking over the shopfront of the former delicatessen. The bakery now serves coffee and tea as well as its traditional cakes and pies. 'Albert N Miso', mentioned in our July issue, also continues to impress customers with its innovative café fare.

We encourage all residents and visitors to experience the Vincentia Village shopping centre and support our local businesses.



Bush Fire on Beecroft Peninsular

On Thursday 6 October, holiday makers were evacuated from the Beecroft Peninsular in response to a bushfire that is thought to have been caused by hazard burning. The fire started around 2.00pm and burned brightly into the evening and was spectacularly visible from Vincentia. The following photographs were taken from Plantation Point and Orion Beach during Thursday evening.



Our Next Meeting

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

Not a VRRRA 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? Its 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.vrrra.org.

Want to become a Committee member? The VRRRA now has a vacancy on the Committee following Bob Proudfoot's election to Council and we invite all interested VRRRA members to consider taking a more active role in the local community by nominating for this vacant position on the Committee.

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