



## Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association

# Stories About Vincentia

In this Newsletter for October there is an emphasis on community volunteering and establishing a functioning CCB for Vincentia. An update on the JBCSC, happenings in Burton St Mall, sale of Banksia St, and Whales in the Bay.



## What is a CCB?

A CCB is a non-political forum for residents, ratepayers & local business operators to discuss issues affecting them and impact on our community.

There are currently 23 CCBs in the Shoalhaven. The Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Association (VRRA) is/was the Community Consultative Body for Vincentia.

Shoalhaven City Council website contains a [document](#) on CCB guidelines, adopted in July 2005, on the operation of CCBs. It is an interesting read because it recognises the challenging responsibility of accommodating an acceptable and sustainable level of growth whilst protecting the inherent natural beauty and sensitive qualities of our environment, and the importance

of decision making with community input. There are calls for these 20 year old guidelines to be updated. You can read about this topic [here](#)

**The role & responsibility of a CCB is to obtain and disseminate information relevant to their community – what can affect them and provides a forum to discuss issues of concern.**

Think of how our area is changing with the increase in population since COVID, the influx of visitors & tourists and the demands placed on our limited infrastructure and facilities: proposed developments, plans to change allowable heights of buildings, re-zoning, drainage, sewerage, lack of amenities like public toilets, footpaths, garbage, social issues like lack of affordable housing. This impacts on our roads and traffic - like where to locate a roundabout or pedestrian crossing. It also includes environmental matters like loss of trees, the ramifications of flooding, dogs on beaches, value of our Parks and many other local matters that affect the domain we live in.

**A successful functioning CCB** has the widespread support and confidence of its community. It has the capacity and capability to facilitate open discussion on collective views of the community. Is sufficiently diverse to protect against being ‘taken over’ by a special interest or single-issue group. It commits to encourage the involvement of residents and ratepayers and communicates the collective views of the community to relevant authorities. It pursues improvements on public facilities and seeks grant funding from local, state or federal government to support such facilities.

A successful CCB is important. And Vincentia doesn't have one! We need to invigorate and inspire community involvement to get a proper CCB happening, starting with a community meeting to establish a full committee.

# Special General Meeting

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER at 5.30pm at The Community Connections Hub for a Special General Meeting to reestablish our CCB**

Note: For the critics in our community: There are many matters that can impact our domain. Rather than complain and demonstrate indifference, get involved. Apathy in a community results in the ambitious, and those with self-interest, taking on influential positions and having their way unopposed. Genuine community participation requires effort, diplomacy & democracy.

Residents have asked: Why doesn't Vincentia Matters take over the role of the CCB; or VRRRA join with Vincentia Matters?

The two groups have different charters. Vincentia Matters is an independent forum; a collective with shared goals for the area. One needs to be a 'resident', not simply a ratepayer, to be a member

Whereas a CCB is a community group for all residents and ratepayers. They can participate in meetings and contribute to submissions but voting on matters is limited to those who have paid the annual membership fee. Another difference is that CCB's are accountable to the Shoalhaven City Council. This accountability provides a direct line of communication to the SCC about matters of concern; and requires the CCB to follow Council directives when they are made.

Vincentia Matters is accountable to its members as per their constitution

# Agenda

A Special Meeting will be held at 5.30pm at the Community Connections Hub in Burton St Mall Vincentia. Please note the new time and location

**Welcome to Country**

**Membership - to Vote**

**Appointment of the Chairperson**

**Previous Minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Election of 2025-26 Office Bearers and Committee Members**

**Authorisation of Signatories and Payment methods**

**The VRRRA in 2025 and Forwards – An Open forum discussion**

**CAN YOU HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**WE'RE SEEKING PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS TO  
JOIN OUR COMMITTEE AND CREATE POSITIVE  
CHANGE IN VINCENTIA AND BAYSWOOD**

**READY TO LEND A VOICE?**

Call our Co-Ordinator 0412 218 693

# Volunteering

**VOLUNTEERS** have shaped Australian society, especially after the World Wars. Despite the recognised value of volunteering, it has declined - notably since COVID. Volunteering was generally 'formal' through an organisation, but in recent years 'informal' has become more common.

Volunteers make a difference. You may not recognise these people if they don't wear a uniform or have some identifying logo, but our community benefits and relies on their freely given time to helping others and their dedication to conservation and our environment.

Here are some examples of formal, and informal volunteering in Vincentia

## Yellow Crosses

Have you noticed the yellow painted crosses along some of our local roads? Their purpose is to warn drivers that the location has a high incidence for native animal roadkill. They have been put there by volunteers in the community who are concerned about the high numbers of wildlife killed by vehicles.

The sites are usually wildlife crossings for Kangaroos, Wallabies, Possums and Echidnas. The risk is greatest at dawn, and at dusk. Birds of Prey - Powerful Owls, Eagles and Kites are also at risk as they are attracted to the carcasses to feast upon.

The yellow crosses are an effective warning when an understanding of their purpose becomes known

## Sharing the Shores

'SHARING THE SHORE' is another volunteer led campaign, protecting birds that lay their eggs directly on the sand of our beaches. Little Terns, and the endangered Pied Oystercatchers and Hooded Plovers nest between August and March. The eggs are vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs traipsing through the sand.

The volunteers fence off the nesting sites and monitor movements and the chicks. Their efforts have been successful with Little Terns and Pied Oyster Catchers, but sadly the critically endangered Hooded Plovers are no longer seen on our Vincentia beaches.

If you would like to be involved in 'Sharing the Shore', contact them by email [sos.communications@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sos.communications@environment.nsw.gov.au)

(Thank you to Chris Grounds for his photo of the endangered Hooded Plover)

## Rural Fire Service

We have had a few fires in Vincentia caused by negligence and a lack of regard for our environment and safety

On Monday October 6 around 1.00am, a grass fire occurred in the dunes at 180 Elizabeth Drive, spreading to the nearby bush. It is believed to have been started by an illegal campfire.

The fire in December that damaged the disabled access ramp on Nelsons Beach resulted in the loss of the platform for mobility impaired people to sit and view the beach. It is believed to have been caused by fireworks. The platform has not been replaced.

Both fires were during School Holidays.

Fortunately, our voluntary [Rural Fire Service](#) extinguished both the fires before they spread further afield. These fires and many other incidents emphasise the importance of our voluntary fire

fighters and how we rely on them. Men and women are called out and avail themselves at all hours.

# Jervis Bay Community Sports Club

The establishment of the JBCSC, will enable all the community to make a difference by volunteering. Getting involved and contributing skills, time or simply physical effort will turn the vision of a community led club into a reality. It will also provide individuals with the benefits that comes with volunteering. These include a sense of purpose and satisfaction, improved mental & physical well-being. Volunteering can also provide our younger residents with opportunities to gain skills and build relationships that can create pathways to future job opportunities. In general, being a connected & respected member of our community.

A Volunteer Coordinator has now been appointed by JBCSC

Find out more [HERE](#)

***Get to know what is going on with the deamalgamation process and establishing the JBCSC by speaking to representatives at the Festival of Music and Art (FOMA) this weekend in the Mall. They will have a stall near the Toy shop***

# Banksia Street Sale

The Save Banksia Street Campaign are disappointed by the Council motion to sell the street and have written to the new

CEO Andrew Constance and The Council's Governance Team requesting an independent review of the decision. Stan Bevanda has provided the following report:

Despite 376 petition signatures, 25 submissions, and multiple deputations opposing the sale, Shoalhaven Council voted 7-4 to sell Banksia Street Reserve. Cr Jemma Tribe spoke eloquently in support of her community, but the majority prioritised budgeted revenue over community input—turns out profits from the sale were already locked into the 2025-26 budget before consultation concluded.

The community is devastated. Formal notification following road closure gazettal is pending, which will trigger a 60-day appeal window. Neighbours are exploring legal options, though costs are daunting.

Council's final development plan is worse than expected: a 1,903 sqm site that would permit six two-storey units with underground parking, eliminating the reserve and reducing the beach access corridor to a narrow 4m-wide "public road." This contradicts Council's claim the land isn't needed for road use and erases the last open space in the area.

The loss isn't just local - it's Vincentia-wide. The reserve offers the town's best view of Jervis Bay, from Elizabeth Drive with Point Perpendicular front and centre. Originally preserved by planners to enhance Elizabeth Drive's coastal charm, this view has long served as a special feature in Vincentia's main street and economic asset for tourism.

Council's decision sacrifices a defining feature of Vincentia's identity for short-term profit. Without a Vincentia Character Plan or Village Guide, vital public view corridors like Banksia Street remain unprotected. The community is left asking: why hasn't Council prioritised preserving what makes Vincentia special?

You can find out more [here](#)

# Whale Season



There have been many recent sightings of whales in the Bay. The whales are on their way home south with their calves, stopping off to rest in Jervis Bay. They are being monitored/researched by our local marine mammal research gteam in Jervis Bay, on board with [Sea Jervis Bay](#).

If you see marine craft harassing whales, that is, being within the 'no approach zone' of 300 metres, report them asap, because the whales need that rest. The lives of the calves in particular are being endangered; they need the strength to continue their long journey "Jet Skis can make fast and erratic movements and less noise underwater than other vessels, making them more likely to collide with a marine mammal" Learn more here [Water Craft Safety Zones](#) Note: This applies to dolphins and to other marine mammals being harassed.

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service call 1300 072 757 and NSW Police have the authority to issue fines for breaches. Unfortunately the contact for NPWS is less than ideal and they don't have a boat in close proximity. It is hoped Fisheries will be included to have jurisdiction in this matter and they have a boat.

## Burton Steet Mall

aka Vincentia Shopping Centre

Taco Tuesday is returning on Tuesday October 28 to the Local. Yay! The hours will be the same as last summer 4.30 to 7.00pm

A newsletter from LOCAL Jervis Bay addressed as "Hey Local Fam!" has informed us Margaritas will be included to celebrate. They also advised they have installed a canning machine for patrons to take away juices, cold coffees, and other cold drinks made on the site for picnicking and going to the beach.

Gary Waldron & Elizabeth Schofield have retired and the office has now become a branch of Burbank & Brown. The principal solicitor of the Vincentia practice Melissa Vine, advised that Waldron & Schofield have been incorporated ensuring existing clients of Waldron & Schofield will be relatively unaffected. The practice will run Wills & Estates, Family Law, Conveyancing, and

Crime litigation. The phone number remains the same 4441  
8888

# Not a VRRRA Member yet JOIN US

Would you like to join the VRRRA?

Come to the meeting and Join up

Its FREE for the balance of 2025!

Just scan the code below and to visit our web site

Or visit this [Link](#)

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**Vincentia Ratepayers and  
Residents Association**

VRRRA



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