

## KOOLEWONG AND POINT CLARE-TASCOTT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2012

### **President's Report to our Annual General Meeting**

A copy of Jon's report may be found on this website. There is also one posted on our Association board at the Hall.

### **New footpath at Point Clare**

As foreshadowed last year the new concrete footpath along the western side of Brisbane Water Drive between Scott St and Penang St has now been completed by Gosford City Council. It just awaits a section of protection and earth build up on the side at the Scott St end to be fully in use. We are pleased that added safety has now been provided for children walking to school and pedestrians making their way to Point Clare shopping centre.

### **Tascott Creek Works**

Contractors have recently started cleaning the young mangrove plants from the silted up section of the creek to allow run off to get away more effectively. Local residents are to be congratulated on their initiative to get these improvements done by Council under State Fisheries and Primary Industry auspices. Not only will the visual impact be enhanced from the nearby parkland but also the chance of flooding during a high tide/storm combination will be lessened. We may even see some kayaks returning to the creek.

The replacement of the series of culverts under the adjoining Glenrock Parade has also now moved a step closer with the re-routing of the natural gas supply line from the road sub-surface itself to a deep tunneled trench under the creek. These latter works are a permanent improvement and not just a temporary measure prior to the rebuild.

### **Couche Park Foreshore Protection**

As well as announcing plans and displaying design proposals for a seawall to protect against erosion, Council has said they wish to install small dinghy ramps on either side of the public wharf at the park. Members felt that one ramp is probably enough and that the urgent priority should be the strengthening of the shoreline. Local resident and Association member Gary Slack will keep us up to date on progress there.

### **Bushcare at Goodaywang**

Our thanks go to the small group from our community who have been attending our working bees on the first Friday morning of each month. The wet summer has produced amazing growth by most of the seedlings and recent work has allowed the lowering of protective plastic guards to allow for stem strengthening. Contractors have recently felled some dangerous dead tree trunks in the reserve and these will now form part of the ground coverage. On the lower side some trees have fallen in recent storms but will be left there as part of natural regeneration.

### **Combined approach on Rail Noise**

Our association under Fred Beringer's guidance has joined with other groups in Northern Sydney—Beecroft, Hornsby, Brooklyn—to present petitions to local members at Parliament House on the need to take stronger action to have the private rail operators using old and screeching roller stock to work within Environmental Protection Licences.

Our thanks go to those of our members and in the community who lent their signatures to help lessen this ongoing problem. Their next combined move may be to approach the Environmental Defender Office. Our committee has authorised Fred to move to this next step on our behalf.

## Cycleway Safety for Rail Tunnel

Congratulations to resident and recreational cyclist Ian Rowatt who has lobbied Council for some safety measures to be installed on the cycle-way where it turns sharply under the railway line at the end of Welwyn Grove. Cyclists and pedestrians alike should keep to the left at this blind corner as indicated by the new line markings on the path. We still would encourage all cyclists to clearly signal their presence when entering and leaving the tunnel.

## Ongoing Matters

We are still awaiting word from Council and the Lands Dept. about the naming of **Bungaree Reserve** at West Gosford. A recent letter to the Sydney Morning Herald decried the fact that nowhere in the Sydney and Central Coast region is there an actual memorial installed to honour this significant Guringai leader.

The reconstruction of the dangerous corner of **Glenrock Parade** at Koolewong (near the Nimala Ave steps) has now reached the design stage. The job is not straightforward as construction will involve many of the driveways onto the properties in the vicinity. Unfortunately for us, apparently there is as yet no time frame for the job to commence.

Recently some members have expressed concern at what seems to be differences in the focus and finances spent on development in different parts of Gosford City. They suggest that it would be more equitable to return to the **Ward System** as in the past. What do our community members think about this?

The Koolewong **Boathouse Marina** development application is shortly to go before an independent commission for review. It is believed that Council can still reject the submission after this if they wish. Committee member Zaga Palalic will supply updated information as it comes to hand. For a very thorough objection to the project you might like to go to the NSW Gov't Planning and Infrastructure website. Look for the Submissions for job 10\_0209 Koolewong Marina. Click on Submission 22290 (name withheld) of Koolewong and read the attachment 311011 thereunder.

Another letter has gone to Roads and Maritime (formerly RTA) requesting a **left turn only lane** into Talinga Avenue from Brisbane Water Drive since there has now been a major accident at the intersection. The earlier letter from RMS has been on our noticeboard in the Pt Clare Hall, so watch that space for any change.

Interesting news for computer and internet users is that the **National Broadband Network** is planned to be extended into our area as part of the current focus on the central business district of Gosford. A recent news release gives a starting timeframe for this but not a rollout completion date.

Preliminary work on the proposed new **Medical Centre** at Point Clare is due to start in June. You will remember it will involve an expansion into the adjoining lot which has now been rezoned. The practice manager advises that the new modern surgery will open next year.

## Peter Freewater speaks at March AGM

It was great to see 26 members in attendance at our Annual General Meeting last month. There were 5 apologies and 3 visitors. Out of a total paid up membership of 93 this was a good roll up for such a meeting to get our new year under way.

Peter Freewater, a councillor for Gosford City, focused on three particular areas in his talk: the Gosford Landing, Bambara Road and Seal Level Rise. He indicated that he was originally supportive of the **Gosford Landing Development** when it focused on parklands and gardens. Once it was seen to be changing into the construction of high rise units on the waterfront and becoming part of State Government Authority because of some crown land issues, then he could no longer take a positive stance. He did say, however, that he still supports Council's wish to proceed with the development of Stage 1, which includes the Performing Arts Centre, but not beyond that. Later stages involved an extension to Point Clare via the railway corridor.

**Bambara Road**, excites his interest a great deal, particularly since he was shown over the area recently. Hundreds of indigenous rock engravings are to be found in the three parcels of land in question, together with at least twelve endangered species. He asserted that all the three parcels should be bought by council, if not compulsorily acquired, and that a fair price be given to the owner-developers who can no longer proceed with their plans. The area should immediately become part of the Brisbane Water National Park which surrounds it. [Editor's note: The boundary markers of the easternmost block of land are just 250 metres from private homes at West Tascott]

The final part of Peter's talk referred to the prospect of **Sea Level Rise** and the S149 certificates. He said people should be aware if they are buying flood-prone land and that Gosford Council, like so many others, and on advice from the State Government, believes that a rise of over 900mm is a real possibility over a period of 100 years. He did agree that measurements over longer increments, e.g. in decades, should be taken into account and that future projections of the amount of rise could well be less than currently anticipated. [Note: A more detailed account of Peter Freewater's talk can be found in the meeting minutes posted on our board in the Point Clare Hall].

### **Association Archives**

The earliest minute books we are holding date from 9th December, 1977 under the presidency of Mr. A. Angell.

Our history is much older than this. Do any of our readers know where we might find official records of earlier years, or even copies of the Westside Newsletter which began in 1978? As indicated at our recent meeting the two minute books from Dec. 1977 to February 1992 will be presented to Mr. Geoff Potter, the Gosford Local Studies Librarian. In this way they will be available for research by the wider community.

### **Management Committee 2012—2013**

<b>Hon. President:</b>	Jon Fearon: jkfearon@iinet.net.au
<b>Hon. Secretary:</b>	Helen Orchard: kpctpa@bigpond.com .au
<b>Minutes Secretary:</b>	Lisa Hagarty:- l_bocxe@hotmail.com
<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Peter Shelden: psheld@virginbroadband.com.au
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<b>Committee Member:</b>	Fred Beringer: l.beringer@iinet.net.au Grahame Orchard: g_horchy@bigpond.com Zaga Palalic: ZagaP@gsaib.com.au

### **Meeting Dates for 2012**

Thursday Evenings 7.30 pm Point Clare Hall

10th May

12th July

13th September

8th November

13th December

Mark your calendar today and join us at the Hall

### **Calling Small Businesses on our Area**

Are you interested in having your business brochures delivered to residences throughout our area? Our Association is happy to do this for the cost of printing one issue of our newsletter. Your brochure will then be delivered at the same time as the newsletter.