AUGUST 2025

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VRRA Newsletter

Welcome to the VRRA newsletter for August; its purpose is to keep a connection with residents & ratepayers despite the organisation being in temporary suspension due to the lack of a committee. We are addressing an eclectic mix of matters, some serious & some light-hearted, with an update on the Vincentia Golf Club since the EGM on 3rd August, news on Burton Street Mall, and other issues pertaining to Vincentia – Jet Skis, and the future of Banksia Street

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Golf Club Update

Our previous Newsletter for July, placed great emphasis on members of the Country Club attending the EGM to vote on 5 Resolutions. For simplicity reasons and as an attempt to alleviate the antipathy since the Country Club closed Vincentia Golf Club, the recommendation to members was to Vote NO to all 5 resolutions.

The meeting was well attended - more than the 800 the Country Club expected, requiring the meeting to be broadcast further than the auditorium.
The President Mr. Proudfoot conducted the meeting efficiently, immediately dealing with the 5 resolutions. Voting was by hand. There could be no dispute from the sea of hands voting No to each resolution.

Of note, despite the CC board unanimously agreeing to vote NO to all 5 resolutions, it was disappointing to see several of the Board members go against their agreed position by not voting on Resolutions 4 & 5 – the removal of Phil Kennedy and changing the classification of the land to non-core.

The overall result was: the four directors remain on the CC Board, and most importantly the classification of the site remains Core golf club land. This means the site cannot be sold or developed, without member approval. The result also enabled the process of deamalgamation to proceed.

The Country Club have now accepted the offer of $2m lodged by the new entity Jervis Bay Community & Sports Club (JBCSC). The de-amalgamation process has commenced. It will take many months due to the numerous legal and regulatory steps to complete, and practical matters to address. To help Country Club members and the broader community understand the de-amalgamation process, the JBCSC Board

has published a new webpage that is dedicated to the De-amalgamation Information This link details a step-by-step roadmap where the progress can be tracked.

There will be more elections soon with the AGM scheduled for the Country Club on the 28th September. Six candidates are standing for election. Three of them are new candidates - Rosalie Wood, Trevor Ward and Oliver Griffiths. Three existing directors - Peter Chivers, Paul Davis and Malcolm Holland have thrown their hats in for another 3 year term. Information on the six candidates is available on the noticeboard in the foyer of the CC. It is recommended members make the effort to find out about each of the candidates to ensure they make an informed vote.

Voting occurs the week before the AGM not on the day, so you must visit the Club to vote during the week commencing Saturday 20th September from 12 till 7pm

Banksia Street Sale

The Friends of Banksia Street continue to run their campaign to prevent this site from being sold. The land has been used as a public Reserve and access to the beach for many years, as well as by the properties fronting the site for motor vehicle access to their homes.

On the 9th August a public meeting was held on the site with Cr Lou Casmiri and State Member Liza Butler in attendance. Brief background: Banksia Street was listed with a lot of other Shoalhaven properties as a potential revenue raiser for our debt strapped

Council. What makes this site different from most of the other properties listed is that it is a *street* that was not developed as a road or a street. From a process point of view, there are legal and compensation ramifications, and it has to receive State Government approval for the road to be permanently closed and to be sold.

It is located on Elizabeth Drive - to the water's edge on Ilfracombe Ave.

From a historical perspective, the City Planner in the 1980s had a planning principle which would allow for glimpses of Jervis Bay from Elizabeth Drive. This section of Banksia Street was left unsealed to enable drivers, pedestrians and residents to have unobstructed views across Jervis Bay to Point Perpendicular.

The matter is expected to come before Council during September.

You can support the Friends of Banksia Street Reserve by signing a petition. If you are unable to access the paper Petition, an online Petition can be accessed here:

Save Banksia St Petition

Burton Street Mall

AKA VINCENTIA SHOPPING VILLAGE

Charging sites for Electric Vehicles were being looked into by a group of residents when the Burton Street mall was refurbished due to the increasing numbers of visitors to the area with EVs, and the reticence by some locals interested in purchasing an EV but deterred by the lack of EV Charging facilities. Initially the top car park – entrance from Excellent Street, was thought to be ideal due to its equity, access & departure issues. Then after extensive investigations into potential Providers, charging capacities, Grid capacity, Hardware & Software, Fast Charging funding grants, Council support, the matter has evolved and shifted considerably. The location for an EV Charging station is now believed to be best suited near Coles rather than the top car park - determined by electrical capacity and the transformer near Coles.

Despite the practical challenges, two Vincentia residents - Julia Mitchell and Anne Hastings have persevered with the task, with the assistance of two delegates from Repower Shoalhaven. In hot pursuit of Fast Charging Grants, Julia reports they were unsuccessful in the last round. The NSW govt provided ($16.1m) and private investment ($25.1m) for a total of $41.2m in the May round of funding, resulting in 246 fast and ultra-fast EV chargers to be installed in 38 locations, by five successful grant recipients: BP, Energy Australia, Plus ES, Tesla and NRMA.

The ones closest to Vincentia will be located at Bega, Picton and Warrawong. Opportunities and funding for chargers at Vincentia Shopping Village will be pursued.

Here is an example of why an EV charging station is necessary. This electric vehicle owner decided he would charge his EV come what may and created a serious pedestrian hazard by running an electrical cable from a charging point in the car park next to the Service Station.

Other happenings in Burton Street

The Amenities block has finally got signs to tell people it is a toilet block. No longer will we see people wandering around searching to find the public toilets and going into shops asking if they can use their toilet.

The reason signage wasn't erected immediately was because of the pride for the new structure; the emphasis on being aesthetically pleasing with Aboriginal artwork on one external wall representative of the trails left in the sand by sea slugs.

Signage was certainly needed. This is what we got – only on one wall – facing Eliabeth Drive - so we might still find people panicking to find the toilets if they approach from any direction other than Elizabeth Drive.

Wool Road Repairs

The Wool Road at Old Erowal Bay has been closed again**.** This is where the sink hole occurred in June 2024 at Macgibbon Parade & Birriga Avenue, due to heavy rains. The site was in the process of repair with only one lane open for traffic. However, the inundation of rain in the past week created a massive volume of water through the culvert under the

road, compromising the road's stability. A complete closure of the site was necessary, inconveniencing residents and disadvantaging businesses reliant on the traffic from the Basin Villages.

The Wool Road was reopened on Saturday 23rd August after emergency rehabilitation repairs were conducted. It would appear the resumption of one lane will be returned, until all work is securely completed.

News on the Wool Road works can be found here

Noah's New Ark

Recently the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the Shoalhaven and said:

Once again, the earth has become wicked and over populated. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans.

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying: You have 6 months to build the Ark before I start the unending rain in Vincentia.

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. Noah!, He roared, Vincentia has been inundated with rain! The Wool Road has collapsed again, and pot holes are creating mayhem! Where is the Ark?"

Forgive me, Lord, begged Noah, but things have changed. I needed Planning Permission, a Building Permit, a Builder's Licence, Insurance, consent from my neighbours, a kerbside deposit, Site Survey, Engineering, Energy Efficiency Compliance Certificates, Fire Certification, and a full set of signed off working drawings.

I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for an on-board sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I'll violate the neighbourhood zoning and Bye-Laws by building the Ark in my backyard and exceed the

height limitations. We had to wait five months for a Council Planning Committee decision.

Then the Local Council and the Electricity Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they refused to listen.

Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting trees best suited for boat building. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the Huon Pine - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I was stopped by Unions and the Building Commission for not using Registered painters, plumbers, and electricians. Stopped again by Health and Safety because they wanted more scaffolding, ladders, harnesses, ramps and Hi-Vis clothing. All my tools had to be tested and tagged by electricians too!

Then the local Council demanded we provide Disabled Toilets, signs in Braille, widen passages and install ramps everywhere. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from The Human Rights Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building gang.

Everything then stopped when Immigration started checking the Visa status of most of the people who wanted to work. The Trade Unions even said I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, the Australian Taxation Office seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it will take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark. Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the skies of Vincentia.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, You mean you're not going to destroy us? No, said the Lord. Your Governments have beaten me to it.

Beach Safety

In February a request was made by VRRA to Council, and Marine Park management, to erect signage demonstrating Blenheim to Greenfields beaches be designated **Swim Zones**, with the intention to prevent Jet Skis entering and banking on these 2 beaches due to an element of Jet Skis users putting the safety of swimmers, snorkelers & passive users of Greenfield & Blenheim Beaches, at risk. There has been ongoing debate between the various authorities involved in Jervis Bay. The Council, and National Parks Wildlife Service are the authorities responsible for land-based activities, and Maritime is the complying authority for the Marine Park sanctuary zones. Council was concerned about monitoring and policing, but we argued it would be a Maritime responsibility.

Marine Park management have advised they are unable to discriminate by signalling out Jet Skis, arguing it becomes a 'class' matter. They also argue marine craft with propellers can be more dangerous than Jet skis.

To overcome the problem, Marine Park management have suggested exclusion of *all motorised marine craft* from the sanctuary zone that incudes Blenheim - Greenfields. This would mean all motorised marine craft would not be allowed within 60 metres of the waters edge. The suggestion by Marine Parks would remove the ambiguity regarding Jetskis traversing in Sanctuary zones, and make it simpler to police. It will also remove the argument by JetSki hoons denying knowledge because the sites would be mapped and listed as restricted to all motorised marine craft.

The matter has not progressed any further, anticipating desire by community to have input. It will make an ideal subject for the new Marine Park Advisory Committee to discuss with all user groups of Jervis Bay.

Note: A third beach area of concern was the most southern end of Collingwood Beach, next to Holden Street Boat ramp. This area is treated differently because it is not part of the Marine Park Sanctuary zone. The little beach to the left of the ramp is popular with young families. Unfortunately, there is a Jet Ski element who like to beach their Jetskis here, and from reports, with little regard for the safety of people in the water. Considering the site is next to the boat ramp specifically for the purpose of launching marine craft, the best we can probably hope for here is advocating for Marine Park management to limit Jetskis by direct transit routes preventing them from deviating close to the boat ramp.

Learn more about reporting Jet Skis here Jet Ski Hand Out

Service NSW

SERVICE NSW is coming to Vincentia on Wednesday 10th September, between 9.00am and 3.00pm. Located in the Coles Car Park

Services NSW are also setting up at the Country Club, Sanctuary Point, on Tuesday 2nd September.

This is a convenient service, saving us the trip into Nowra to deal with Pensions and numerous other matters pertaining to Driver licenses, checks on Working with Children, Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates.

Follow us on social

We hope you have found this newsletter informative.

The ideal way to be informed is to be involved.

Vincentia needs a fully functioning community consultative body because our domain is changing with the increase in our population and visitor numbers.

Please contact the Coordinator to advise if you would like to be involved in revamping our CCB

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