Read the latest news from Vincentia

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Asssociation

Regular Stories from Vincentia

Here is the September Newsletter to keep a connection with our Vincentia community whilst the VRRA operation remains suspended due to lack of a committee



Current situation with Vincentia Golf Club and the Country Club

The de amalgamation process is underway although progressing slowly. As reported previously the Country Club have accepted the $2M offer lodged by the new entity Jervis Bay Community & Sports Club. Being a not-for-profit start-up company established by members of the Jervis Bay community there is an emphasis on raising funds to de amalgamate, repair and rebuild the club house which has deteriorated since its closure in August last year.

There is a call for community involvement and contributions. Tax deductible gifts will contribute to funding legal & business processes and aid JBCSC in the initial preparation of the Clubhouse and Golf Course. Details can be accessed here JBCSC Fund Raising

Questions about fundraising have been raised by people in the community. This link will take you to questions & answers Community Questions and Answers

This then raised the question what happened to the money raised through the GoFundMe program that Friends of Vincentia Golf Club started up last year? FoVGC have provided these details on where the money went and what is left:

Where has the "Go Fund Me" money been spent?
Most of the money has gone to provide legal advice and activities. Other money was spent on the establishment and initial costs for JBCSC

Background: Following the 25 August 2024 EGM where the Country Club members voted overwhelmingly to reject the recategorization and sale of Vincentia, the Country Club immediately shut both the course and the clubhouse. This prompted Friends of Vincentia Golf Club to set up a GFM to pay for legal advice and preparation for future legal action.

Prior to this point FoVGC had been funded entirely by personal donations from the committee. Legal advice and opinion had been provided for free.

With generous support of the community, the GFM raised $65,000 in fairly quick time. It is now over a year since then and a lot of progress has been made. The CC Board has agreed to de-amalgamation; the golf course has re-opened; JBCSC has been established as a new, separate entity: an EOI was submitted and has now been accepted in principle by the CC. Without the GFM funding, much of this progress would not have been possible.
The lawyer was recommended by Golf NSW as a firm qualified

to address the issues. Approximately $40,000 of the GFM money has been spent on legal fees:
· $11,000 on legal advice
· $7,000 on legislation advice
· $8,000 spent on a letter from our lawyers to the Country Club outlining concerns and irregularities. Note that this letter from our lawyers has not been responded to by the Country Club or their lawyers which is highly irregular
· $13,000 spent on de-amalgamation and EOI advice

Additional GFM money was spent on setting up the JBCSC to allow for an EOI to be submitted. This included ASIC costs, Golf NSW membership costs and website domain hosting. Legal advice regarding de-amalgamation was shared with JBCSC.

The remaining GFM $ are being held in reserve for future legal advice and action should the de-amalgamation process not proceed as expected. Once de-amalgamation is achieved, FoVGC have determined that the remaining funds will go to pay for JBCSC expenses (in accordance with the GFM charter). There is still a long way to go. Until JBCSC can be established as a registered club, the (likely substantial) costs of achieving regulatory approval and de-amalgamation, as well as on-going costs will need to be funded. Apart from donations and pledges, there will be community fundraising activities to enhance the sense of community whilst providing financial support. The JBCSC website provides details on how you can donate or pledge via a tax deductable mechanism (the Australian Sports Foundation) and what the money will go towards.

The Country Club Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday 28th September, 10.00am at Sanctuary Point premises. DONT FORGET TO VOTE for SGBCC Board of Directors the week before the AGM, not on the day of the AGM.

New Building Works

Wondering what is the work being done at the Wool Rd/Naval College Rd roundabout?

The Jervis Bay Anglican Church is finally building their new home. It will consist of a new auditorium, offices, foyer, kitchen, and Sunday School rooms and occupy 1 hectare on the corner of the Wool Road and Naval College Road. The larger block surrounding the church site is owned by the Anglican Diocese.

Initially the plans were approved by Council in 2023, but due to increasing costs the design was modified to enable more cost-effective construction methods. The amended DA was approved earlier this year.

Pastor Campbell Mackay reported “The builder expects to complete construction mid-2026. The church family will then take some time to complete fit out. God-willing, we hope to be in the new building before Christmas next year.”

Pastor Mackay advised their Sunday services are at 8:30am - a traditional service with familiar hymns, and 10:30am with children and youth programs.”

They are currently considering how best to serve the community in the new building by offering more programs and opportunities during the week - not just on Sunday.

The auditorium will seat 150 people. Parking for 35 cars, with an overflow parking area.

Banksia Street Sale

The Friends of Banksia Street Reserve continue their campaign to prevent the sale of Banksia Street. The Council Business papers of the meeting state over $500,000 of rate payers' money will be required to remove the existing sewer system running down the middle of the reserve and to change the electrical easement, and other easements to free it up before public sale. The matter goes before Council on 22 September, listed on the Agenda as CL25.308 Proposed Road Closure - Illfracombe Avenue (Banksia Street). Concerned residents can ring there local councillors with any concerns.

Shoalhaven Council still does not have a permanent CEO

A Mayoral Minute on the CEO recruitment process was presented and carried at the Council meeting on 10 September. The resolution confirmed final interviews were conducted by a sub committee comprising of the Mayor Patricia White, Cr Proudfoot, and Cr Clancy, and a candidate had been offered the position of CEO.

If declined the three remaining shortlisted names will be reconsidered. No names were provided but it is known that Andrew Constance was a candidate.

The Mayor will make a public announcement on receipt of written confirmation of acceptance.

Brian Barrett continues as Acting CEO since the resignation of the SIG appointed Acting CEO James Ruprai on 31st July. Mr

Ruprai also withdrew from the list of applicants for the CEO position.

Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2035

Shoalhaven Council are conducting a survey on their **Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2035.** The purpose is to establish priorities and create a plan to grow the Shoalhaven economy.

The strategy identifies key opportunities, objectives, and actions focused on revitalising the CBD, diversifying retail offerings, boosting employment and workforce participation, enhancing tourism infrastructure, and increasing visitor numbers and spending.

Economic Development and Tourism Survey

Whats Happening in Burton Street aka Vincentia Shopping Village

Bunya Wholefoods has recently changed hands, with Brontë passing the reins to Jessica Bromley, the owner of Good Things

Organic in Nowra.

The Vincentia store will no longer operate a café but instead will grow its focus on wholefoods and pantry staples — making it easier for locals to shop sustainably, reduce waste, and access organic produce.

Previously known as **BOMO BULK**, new branding to **Good Things Organic** is underway - Welcome Jess.

South Coast Soul Yoga studio closed its doors last month. Teachers will be hiring halls & working independently. It is expected that the brand itself will continue but without the expense of a bricks & mortar business.

Worrowing estate is opening a new space on the property where regular yoga classes and retreats will take place. Yoga classes will be starting at the beginning of October

WALDRON & SCHOFIELD ARE RETIRING
The legal office of Waldron Schofield is closing after 25 years, to retire. Garry and Elizabeth intend traveling overseas and spending more time with their children and grandchildren.

The practice has been purchased by Burbank and Brown who have offices in Nowra.

Community Hub

The availability of the space in Burton Street known as the **Community Hub, by Vincentia Community Connections** - a subgroup of Vincentia Matters, is proving to be a windfall for our area. Not only has it facilitated the loss of space our community relied on for meetings since the closure of the Vincentia Golf

Club, but it is also providing opportunities for classes by artists, writers, and health presentations.

Here are some events planned for October that will interest members of our community – a Wellness Day on 11 October, and a 2-day Festival on 25-26 October

Vale Jack Soeters

Jacob Soeters, known as Jack, died on 28th August. Jack was a warrior, having taken on the task of stopping large-scale scallop dredging in Jervis Bay. He was the foundation member of the Jervis Bay Protection Committee in 1981 initiating the Marine Reserve proposal which led to the creation of the Jervis Bay Marine National Park. Amongst many of his achievements was his leadership in preventing the relocation of Sydney's Armaments Depot to Jervis Bay. The introduction of habitat corridors to preserve species diversity can also be attributed to Jack.

National Drowning Report 2025

Royal Life Saving Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia have published the National Drowning Report 2025.
Australia has recorded the highest number of drowning deaths

since records began. **357 drowning deaths were identified** in the past year, which was **27% higher** than the 10-year average. This has prompted urgent warnings from **Royal Life Saving Australia** and **Surf Life Saving Australia**.

“The surge in drownings is attributed to a decline in swimming skills, an ageing population, and more people heading to remote and unfamiliar locations away from lifesaving services. Rip currents are Australia’s number one coastal hazard, responsible for more than 1 in 3 beach drowning deaths”

More than a third of drowning deaths were people born overseas.

Vincentia and nearby areas attract many people to our beaches on the Bay, the Basin, and the Sea. We don’t have surf lifesaving services in our area.

Check out the swim & survive lessons available at Bay & Basin Leisure Centre and other local aquatic centres. They range from Learn to Swim classes for pre-schoolers to Adults, Aquatics for people with a Disability. Private tuition is also available - ideal for focusing on specific skills, breathing, stroke development. Open link here:

Swimming lessons | Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness

> 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

Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association

You received this email because you signed up on our website or live in Vincentia.

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