Read the latest news from Vincentia

NOVEMBER 2025

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Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Asssociation



Regular Stories

Greetings everybody. This Newsletter is an eclectic mix of information – Tourism and Short Term Rentals, Cats, Report a Pothole, Shoalhaven Food Network, updates on the Vincentia Golf Club

from Vincentia

situation, and Banksia Street, Burton Street Mall, and other tit-bits of Vincentian info. We are starting off with the news that the VRRA is no longer in suspension - we now have a committee

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Report on Special General Meeting 13th November 2025

After 6 months of being in suspension due to no committee positions being filled, a Special General Meeting was held with the purpose of reinstating a new committee to ensure a Community Consultative Body (CCB) can operate for Vincentia. Nine committee positions were available. Five written nominations were received. All five were duly elected. The Office holders are:

David Pursley – President, Secretary and Public Officer,

Rosalie Wood – Treasurer

Anna Everts – Publicity Officer

Stan Bevanda, Anne Wakefield and James Cosham* – Committee members



Read the meeting minutes here

Discussion during the meeting included the likelihood of joining with our nearest CCBs if we can't get an active viable group happening. The meeting agreed to change the name from VRRA to demonstrate a fresh start for Vincentia's CCB, and to work in unison with other CCBs in the Shoalhaven on joint submissions to Council and other authorities on occasions dealing with broad matters affecting our area

* James joined to Committee on 27th November to fill one of several casual vacancies

Whilst in temporary suspension David Pursley filled the role of Co-Ordinator of Social Media activity, Web site maintenance, and following matters of Council. Anna Everts acted as Publicity Officer

Banksia Street Reserve Community Update

Banksia Street Reserve located south of Moona Moona Creek on Elizabeth Drive, Vincentia has been formally closed. At the 25 November Council meeting, a motion to revisit the Banksia Street road-closure and sale was defeated 3–9 even after new information revealed major procedural errors

Serious Legal Issues Raised

Local lawyer Mark Evans warned the process was "fatally flawed," pointing to:

· **Misclassification** – Banksia Street was wrongly listed as land ready for sale

· **Misinformation** – Councillors were given incorrect advice about how road-sale funds can be used

· **Consent Problems** – Neighbours' approved driveways are being altered without proper legal process

Despite clear risks, most councillors relied on staff advice and pushed ahead.

The Misclassification Mistake

Banksia Street was wrongly placed in Category 1 instead of Category 2 - a basic error that went unnoticed for 18 months and should invalidate the September decision.

Un-costed, Unproven Benefits

No proper valuation or costings were provided. Staff guessed $3 million in revenue and $300k in costs. But sewer, stormwater, asbestos, compensation and legal fees mean real costs will be far higher - and paid by ratepayers upfront.

Why This Matters

Banksia Street Reserve is part of the 1970s town plan that preserves view corridors to Jervis Bay along Elizabeth Drive. Losing it means:

· The best Bay view replaced by private housing

· A permanent loss to Vincentia's seaside charm
· The destruction of intentional planning that shaped our town

Next Steps
Residents are now seeking legal advice about appealing Council's decision on the Land and Environment Court

Learn more here

HOLIDAY SEASON Vincentia is a popular tourist destination

Economic benefits are available to homeowners using their property for short-term rental accommodation. Unfortunately, there can be negative impacts on residential neighbours if short-term rental occupants are inconsiderate or demonstrate anti-social behaviour. It is for this reason that the NSW Government has focused on accommodation platforms, letting agents, facilitators, hosts and guests by establishing a Code of Conduct, prepared by NSW Fair Trading.

It is important our laws support local economies while ensuring residential neighbours can enjoy the amenity of their homes without unreasonable disturbance. The Code of Conduct responds to this need by establishing behavioural obligations for participants of short-term rental accommodation.

It is worth familiarising yourself with the Code of Conduct, and that potential short-term tenants understand their behavioural obligations. The Code is mandatory, applies to all short-term rental accommodation industry participants

Code of Conduct for Short Term Rentals

Unfortunately, the info provided on lodging a complaint is not particularly helpful. Council's web site contains the following info on reporting complaints

Report a problem

1. If there is an immediate issue such as noise complaint or anti-social behaviour call the police on 131 444 (NSW Police Assistance line for non-life-threatening emergencies)
1. Follow the instructions from Fair Trading about how to resolve an issue or make a complaint
1. If Council receives a noise complaint regarding a STRA, Environmental Health Officers will assess and report the complaint to the owner or managing agent. Ongoing issues may be referred to Fair Trading if sufficient evidence provided. Development issues in a STRA can also be referred to Compliance, these may include habitual use of a garage/ shed or a caravan.

JET SKIS can be unwelcome visitors if the riders demonstrate unsafe behaviour and fail to comply with the rules. We have addressed this previously, however, here is a reminder of the need to report bad behaviour over the holiday period:

How to report a JetSki problem

LOCAL BUS SERVICE

The influx of tourists and visitors will place greater demands on our local roads, parking and walkways. Use of our local bus service can make the situation easier, and in some instances safer. Transport NSW has a helpful website for planning trips.

Trip Planner | transportnsw.info

When you type in the destination address the route, stops and times are shown with an easy map to follow. This will be beneficial on hot days when you want to travel to the shops, beach or have a cooling ale at one of the brewery facilities and don't want to risk driving after consuming alcohol.

Unfortunately the services are limited after 4.00pm, but check out the times to ascertain if there is a suitable time available.

Nowra Coaches are the contractor for our area

Nowra Coaches - Ticketing

Best to carry cash, and not big notes so the bus driver isn't held up. Opal card is not accepted.

Regional Excursion Daily (RED) Ticket

The RED ticket is a $2.50 all day multi-ride ticket for use on all Nowra Coaches Services for people who hold a valid:

- Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- NSW and interstate Seniors Card
- NSW War Widow/ers Card

Bayswood Bus Shelter

On the subject of local bus transport, a submission was made in 2022 by the VRRA in conjunction with Annette Pham to Transport NSW to fund a bus shelter at Halloran Street,

Bayswater. Advice was received 9/6/22 that a grant of $11,500 was successful. The first instalment of $3,540 was paid and deposited into VRRA's account. However, work did not commence. Our new VRRA committee are unaware of the reason why Council did not proceed.

A follow-up from Transport NSW received on 4th November, stated the due date was 8/6/24, and requested an acquittal submission. The $3540 grant will be refunded to Dept Transport NSW.

BURTON STREET MALL aka Vincentia Shopping Centre

We can soon welcome a new tenant - Dr. Alexandra Putica, Chiropractor. Alexandra trades as Calypso Chiropractic and treats elite athletes and busy families, to pre and post-natal mums, seniors and everyone in between. Her practice will be in Shop 4, next to the Thai Massage and Good Things Organic.

Taco Tuesday is a welcome return by The Locale Café from 4.30 to 7.00pm.

Its popularity on Tuesday evenings will be taken advantage of by members of the Friends of Vincentia Golf Club, and Jervis Bay Community Working Group, by having representatives available in Burton Street Mall to speak to people about the Vincentia Golf Club de amalgamation process and establishing the Jervis Bay Community & Sports Club. They look forward to talking to people and answering questions

KEEPING CATS SAFE AT HOME PROGRAM

Cats roaming freely are notorious for maiming and killing our native animals. Shoalhaven City Council is partnering with the RSPCA and the NSW Government to encourage and enable cat owners to desex their pets and prevent them from roaming in local neighbourhoods through the 'Keeping Cats Safe At Home' program. It will also improve their wellbeing by removing cats from risks of injury by motor vehicles and other incidents.

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

De-Sexing: The RSPCA will be offering free desexing for microchipped cats as part of the program. Free microchipping will also be offered at the time of desexing.

Desexing reduces the mandatory registration fee for animals in New South Wales from $192 to $52.

Residents with a non-desexed cat over 4 months old must pay an annual permit that costs $99 or they may risk attracting a fine of more than $400.

If you choose to not desex your pet, and they will not become a breeding animal, you must complete a 'Non De-sexed Cat and Dog Fees form' and submit to Council with the relative fee. Read this Office of Local Government Fact Sheet:

https://www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-06/non-desexed-cat-and-dog-fees.pdf

For more information https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/extinction-emergency/ or to get involved visit council's dedicated webpage.

An update:

Our October newsletter contained an article on volunteers protecting endangered birds that lay their eggs on the sand of our beaches and their successful efforts with Little Terns and Pied Oystercatchers. Excitement was expressed with the hatching of 2 Pied Oystercatcher chicks at Moona Moona Creek, and 2 chicks at Collingwood. Soon followed by great sadness: 1 of the chicks disappeared at Moona, and 1 of the chicks at Collingwood found dead - (description provided by a dedicated volunteer: its guts were ripped - pointing to the mode of kill by a cat.)

'Thankyou to Chris Grounds for his photo of 2 Pied Oystercatchers with their chicks'

UPDATE - VINCENTIA GOLF CLUB DE AMALGAMATION FROM ST GEORGES BASIN COUNTRY CLUB

Matters are progressing well. To quote the President of our Jervis Bay Community & Sports Club (JBCSC) Craig Hatton: "We have turned the corner".
What has led to this statement: In the last month, JBCSC has

partnered with BY Group - a major Shoalhaven based building and construction company, enabling the acquisition of the Vincentia Golf Club site by guaranteeing the $2M required. This partnership is considered to be a better cultural fit than previous interested financial parties. BY Group is committed to the betterment of disadvantaged communities across Australia and New Zealand, and is an experienced delivery partner executing a large portfolio of Government contracts. Thus, is well positioned to help our Jervis Bay community to build a new community and sports club and to fulfil the vision for creating apprenticeships, training programs and job opportunities for local disadvantaged youth and other members of the community.

Liza Butler mentioned Vincentia Golf Club in a speech to Parliament on 13th November - where she recognised CC President Bob Proudfoot for leading de amalgamation and the entire St Georges Basin Country Club Board “for their courage, their compassion, and their commitment to community” pursuing the new vision for VGC. This is a significant Signpost pointing to de amalgamation proceeding without resistance, and the establishment of our new community and sports club is going to happen.

Cordial and respectful discussions have transpired and of note was an informal meeting with the two Boards of the CC and JBCSC, on 24th November. A Joint Statement is to be drafted and of course matters will be reviewed by solicitors.

The Directors of JBCSC, and the Jervis Bay Community Working Group are hopeful the matter of de amalgamation can be settled by June. It certainly would be wonderful if we could hold our 2026 Christmas gatherings and New Year celebrations in the club we can all refer to as our Community Club.

The JBCSC volunteer base is growing, and as we move towards

de-amalgamation in mid-2026 there's lots to be done and community help is needed.
To bring volunteers together JBCSC is hosting some Meet & Greet sessions. Please read about these in the latest community update at JBCSC Latest News

Bands on the Bay will be back at Vincentia Sailing Club

Here is a fun event for locals and visitors during the **Christmas–New Year break: Bands on the Bay** at Vincentia Sailing Club. Good music, a selection of cold beers from JBBrewery while raising funds for the **Australian Marine Conservation Society**.

Running from December 27th – January 4th

Check out the Bands and the dates they will be performing here:

https://jervisbaybrewing.co/whats-on/bands-on-the-bay/

OUR INPUT IS WANTED IN NUMEROUS WAYS:

The Shoalhaven Food Network want our advice on a new website. SFN has been involved in supporting restaurants, cafes and providores by organising and facilitating events like the Autumn Food Festival. They intend creating a greater awareness

of the diversity of local produce and talent, hospitality training and promoting events by showcasing the chefs, restaurants and producers of the Shoalhaven with a new web site. They are asking for our input:

“You are critical to our success.

Whether you're a Visitor to the Region, a Local or someone who loves to hear about what's happening in the Shoalhaven, what we're doing and where we are headed, we'd love your input”

SHOALHAVEN FOOD NETWORK WEBSITE

Click here to complete the survey:

Web site survey

Have you heard about the Report A Pothole Campaign?

Many of our roads are in a poor state of repair, and our Council has a restricted budget with competing demands for expenditure.

Liza Butler has tired of the complaints – securing $5 million in additional funding from the NSW Government to assist Shoalhaven Council to fix our roads. Through Liza’s “Report a Pothole” initiative every road issue reported is sent straight to where it belongs - Shoalhaven City Council if it’s a local road, or Transport for NSW if it’s a state road. If you know a pothole or road that needs attention, click HERE and fill out the form so Liza’s team can arrange to get it fixed. More Information

Do you know that singing is good for you?

It enhances lung function, releases endorphins and happy chemicals that boost your mood, reduces anxiety, and can improve memory. Singing in a choir is a fantastic communal activity.

Raised Voices is a local community choir, active for over 30 years, and they are always open to new members! They meet on Tuesdays 7pm – 9pm at the Jervis Bay Baptist Church Hall. They'll meet on Tuesday 2nd and 9th December and then re-start in February 2026.

They sing all styles of music. Go along and get into the spirit of song and experience the good vibrations.

Feel free to contact Rosalie on 0412 297 435 if you would like more info.

> *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The new Vincentia Ratepayers & Residents Committee send you the best of wishes this Christmas season. May the spirit of Christmas fill your heart with happiness.*

Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association

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