



Produced by the 3 Villages Community Group volunteers

WELCOME

Welcome to the very first edition of The 3 Villages Community Group newsletter.

We are very excited to serve Yattalunga, Saratoga, and Davistown by keeping our community updated with what is happening, supporting local businesses, and giving locals a platform to present ideas that unite us to grow this amazing community.

Being quite new to the area, I am overwhelmed to see the amount of effort and passion that is going into this small district, not only for us, but for our children as well. I was more than happy to help with this project when first approached. I look forward to meeting more of the 3 Villages community and working towards a brighter future!

Two lines are featured in the Newsletter, the blue represents our waterways and the green our tree covered ridges. The green line goes below the blue to symbolise our intertidal zones of seagrass, salt-marsh and mangroves.

We really hope you all enjoy this first edition and we aim to bring out one issue per month. If you would like to contribute, please get in touch via our Facebook page or our website.

Ally Adamson

Media & Communications Team Leader

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



And the winner for March is...

Sandra-Maree Christie

As part of our new community newsletter we will be holding a "Photo of the Month" competition. The photo must be from the 3 Villages - Saratoga, Davistown or Yattalunga. We will announce the winner on Facebook, and the winner will get a \$30 voucher from Shelly's Cafe.

For more information, please follow and check out our Facebook page.

We also acknowledge Louise Fisher for contributing the cover photo. Thank you, Louise!



THE PROJECT REPORT

The 3 Villages Community Group (3VCG) was founded to develop projects that will improve and enhance public spaces and initiate activities in Davistown, Saratoga and Yattalunga. The project report is our update on projects we are planning, have underway or have completed.

If you're reading this, you've received one of our projects—a community newsletter. We aim to bring you a new issue every month, highlighting 3 Village projects, places and people.

Another of our smaller projects is the 'shopping bag exchange' at Saratoga shops. Bags donated by 'Boomerang Bags' are available for when you forgot to take a bag with you. In return, if you're at the shops with too many bags, you can leave one there for someone else in need. We can all do little bit to help the community and the environment.

Due to changes in all of our lives from Covid19 we are thinking of ways to support our local businesses. Over the next month we'll try to build a local business directory including trades, services, any type of local business so we can all try to support each other.

We are lucky to have formed such an enthusiastic team. Thanks everyone who has come onboard and helped get the 3VCG off the ground. If you looking for a great opportunity to support your local community, we still require a treasurer. Please get in touch via the website or the facebook page.



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THE BELLS AND WHISTLES

As we begin to welcome in autumn, she brings with her the perfect kind of conditions to still enjoy her sunshine and subtle warmth, while her soft airy breeze will help to keep you cool. This kind of weather is ideal for taking up a new outdoor recreation, such as Tennis.

Just ask Kim and Steve of Saratoga, who frequently enjoy our local tennis grounds that welcomed upgrades in 2018. Our two courts boast vibrancy with new synthetic surfacing, freshly painted lines, brand new nets, secure fencing and surrounded lighting for those twilight matches.

Kim and Steve, often accompanied with friends, enjoy visiting the courts on a fortnightly weekend basis, for both fitness and fun. Steve also utilises the courts on school afternoons for extra practice with their youngest daughter Jacqueline (age 9) who is learning the skills of the game and demonstrates an exceptional start-point serve (pictured).

Located on Wilaroo Road, on the same waterfront corner as the Saratoga Sailing Club, our local tennis courts are a Central Coast Council open recreational space for all to use and, even more conveniently, free of charge with no booking required. So unless of course you're a fish out of water and you don't like nets (#mumjoke) I encourage you to head on down to the Saratoga Tennis Courts and enjoy one of the many Bells & Whistles on offer in our wonderful 3 Village community.

Sandi Bellchambers



MEET THE LOCALS



My name is Shelly Luck, owner of Shelly's Cafe in Saratoga. Davistown/ Saratoga has been my home for nearly 46 years. The closeness and friendly vibes here are my favourite things about this community.

My family has a strong presence, descending back to the Settler family—the original boat builders

of Davistown. I attended Brisbania Public School from Kindergarten to Year 6, following my mum, aunties, uncles and cousins. My grandmother—turning 94 in June—still resides in Davistown, and my 24 year old son chooses to stay here. We can't bring ourselves to leave!

Shelly's Cafe was a take away shop that I worked when I was 17 years old. I purchased it in January 2013 with my partner Brian. The cafe is a great meeting place for locals and all visitors to Saratoga. We promote young local musicians each weekend (Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 1pm) and sponsor local fundraising events.

Although my happy place is Shelly's Cafe, I like to spend time down at the Davistown Waterfront under the pines with a bottle of wine, cheese and biscuits, and a blanket. I also enjoy netball and softball which I discovered locally and now am the softball representative for the Central Coast.

I couldn't do any of this without the support of our community and visitors.

SEE YOU AT THE DAVO

We memorialise the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the 'Anzacs', every year on the 25th of April. It was officially designated 'Anzac Day' in 1916, one year after Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out early in the morning to capture the Gallipoli peninsula during World War I.

The Dawn Service solemnly commemorates the soldiers' comradeship in the peaceful moments before first light during wartime.

Reverend White with approximately 20 men in 1923 (though some historians suspect 1931), silently sent a wreath floating out to sea while reciting lines from Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen', particularly, 'As the sun riseth and goeth down, we will remember them'.

In 1927, five members of the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Club were on their way home from an Anzac Day function when they saw an elderly woman laying a wreath of flowers on a Cenotaph. (The Cenotaph—meaning empty tomb honouring a person whose body is elsewhere—was erected in Sydney's centre, Martin Place, where many soldiers had enlisted for WW1.) The men joined her and paid tribute together, bowing their heads in prayer. By the 20th anniversary in 1935, more than 10,000 people came to pay their respects.

The Davistown RSL traditionally hosts a beautiful Dawn Service. Unfortunately, records of the first Dawn Service were lost when the club suffered significant fire damage in 1991. This year's planned Dawn Service and events surrounding it have been cancelled due to COVID-19. The Davistown RSL club looks forward to holding the ANZAC service again next year.

Remember our service men, women and animals. Lest We Forget.



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DAVISTOWN RSL CLUB

HISTORY

Our three villages form the captivating peninsula we share. Every month we will divulge in its history, and what a history it is!

In 1788, only six weeks after the First Fleet anchored at Sydney Cove, Governor Arthur Phillip came to a place identified by Lt. James Cook in 1776 as 'Broken Land' north of Port Jackson. Phillip camped first on the western shore of 'Broken Bay'. The next day he entered the 'North West Arm', which would later be named Brisbane Water, after the then Governor of NSW.

The local Aboriginals were friendly and showed the party where to find fresh water. Proceeding northeast, Phillip passed the site of Davistown, then later what is now Saratoga and Yattalunga. Green Point, about adjacent to Aldi, was the most northerly point reached.

Phillip was searching for farmland but was disappointed to be confronted with steep sandstone hills covered with dense forests of immense trees. Thirty years later, those great forests of the finest cedar, the seawater-resistant turpentine and the toughest gum trees would supply a timber industry which at its peak supported over 80 sawmills, employing over 4,000 people.

For over 100 years the forests also supported the largest shipbuilding industry on the entire Australian eastern seaboard. Over 500 registered vessels were built in the Brisbane Water area; the first probably being constructed by Robert Henderson at what is now Veteran Hall, Saratoga. Our three villages went on to support some of the earliest shipbuilding yards.

To celebrate this heritage, with the support of Rotary, a Shipbuilders Memorial Trail was established in 2016 along with the commencement of an annual walk. Now called the Shipbuilders Heritage Walk, it is timed to coincide with the NSW Heritage Festival. Over the next five years advocates aim to develop the walk as a major cultural event. The Rotary Shipbuilders Heritage Walk is held annually on the first Sunday in May, so come and be part of it.

Peter Rea,
4hresearch.com



Above: One of the plinths erected with the support of Rotary and dedicated to the shipbuilders of our waterfronts.

WHAT'S ON

April 5th - Daylight Savings Finishes (at 2:00 am)

April 9th - Last Day School Term 1

April 10th - Good Friday

April 11th - Easter Saturday

April 12th - Easter Sunday

April 13th - Easter Monday

April 25th - Anzac Day

April 27th - Anzac Day Public Holiday

April 28th - First Day School Term 2

IMPORTANT NOTE:

At the time of going to press, organisers of the Shipbuilders Heritage Walk 2020 anticipate cancellation due to COVID-19. This will only allow more time to make the 2021 event even better.

Keep updated at: shipbuildersheritagewalk.com.au

More than expected

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