



We pay our respects and acknowledge all the traditional custodians of this land, the elders and the descendants, past and present



WELCOME

'All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.'

Walt Disney

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Brad Walker

With Australia Day in mind I wanted to take a photo that typifies something that truly represents Australia. What better way than with my mate "Boss" the Kookaburra. He seemed to know my intention, jumped off my hand, onto the Flag and proceeded to laugh.

Thanks Boss!

Brad Walker

Monthly Prizes for Photo of the Month Winner

Receives: \$30 voucher from Shelly's Cafe; \$10 PuppCo voucher from Jas Brewer; and a \$50 drinks or dining voucher donated by 3 Villages Community Group to spend at a local cafe or the DAVO RSL. Many thanks to our sponsors for their support of the Photo of the Month



Paula Taylor

0410 588 306

e: paulataylor@theagency.com.au

w: paulataylorproperty.com.au

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Saratoga

3 VILLAGES COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD

Australia Day Award Recognition

The presentation by Central Coast Council of an Australia Day Award is the highest possible recognition of significant contribution to community services. Members from the 3 Villages Community Group unexpectedly accepted the Community Group category award with enormous pride at a highly prestigious evening ceremony held at Laycock St Theatre in Gosford on 24 January.

The dedicated support given by each of the committee members since our foundation is enormously appreciated. Generous donations and sponsorship support from businesses, too. Not forgetting Green Point Avoca Beach Lions Club and the many volunteers helping with fundraising events and the compilation and delivery of the 3 Villages monthly newsletters. Then there are those who assist with record keeping, website input, community garden involvement and other ongoing projects including grant writing, delivery and acquittals. The list goes on and we THANK YOU ALL.

Lastly, thanks to the support from the many representatives from Central Coast Council, NSW & Federal Governments with whom we constantly negotiate and deal with.

It has been an extremely busy journey from the time a few of us created the group in November 2019 and there is still so much to do.

Taia Sansom, Group President 3VCG

BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM

Become a member of the 3 Villages Community Group, and support the group that does so much for our area.

Simply visit www.3villages.com.au




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RUTH CAMERON
SALES PRINCIPAL



LYN BARNETT
RECEPTION

PROJECT REPORT

Saratoga Community Hall



The 3 Villages Community Group held several meetings in January and met up with Briony Glenn from Community Services and Facilities from Central Coast Council. We are pleased to confirm the group will become new custodians of the Saratoga Community Hall in Kyeema Ave, taking effect from 5 February 2024.

We are honoured to have been chosen for the role and we want to thank the previous custodians, Gaille Martin and her daughter Rebecca who have taken great care of the hall over many decades until now. They have left the hall in great order and looking clean and tidy. We understand it was a difficult decision for Gaille as they have been a to heart and soul of the hall since Rebecca started dancing lessons there when she was a young girl and they lived nearby in Saratoga. As a community we have been lucky they kept up a great standard ensuring it was in good order and took care of the thousands of bookings in all that time under the banner of the Saratoga Residents' Association.

Some of you may not know there is a Saratoga Hall as it is hidden and out the way, but it is a busy little hub with something happening each day of the week such as Pilates, boxing, sewing group, dance classes, Tai Chi, and Friday night social dance group.

Bookings can be taken for most kinds of parties or social occasions, except 18th and 21st and is still available for regular weekly or monthly hire. We welcome Leanne Ball from Saratoga as the new bookings officer, and we would like to thank her very much for taking this key role on so happily. The new number to call for bookings is 0493 842 220 or you can visit the website 3villages.com.au for more information or to check out the timetable.

Taia Sansom, 3VCG Group President



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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Street Paws Festival



Rock at the Races



The Wizard of Oz



History Ferry Tours



See What's On Page 4

For More What's On and many more events on the Central Coast go to 'What's On Central Coast'.

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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- 1 Fri. **History Ferry Tour** - Brisbane Water
areahistorytours.com.au Ph: 0418 631 313
- 1-2 **Street Paws Festival** - Central Coast
Fri.-Sat. 20 Australia Ave, Umina Beach
- 1-3 **The Wizard of Oz** – Gosford Musical Society
8-10 Varying times each day
15-17 Laycock Street Community Theatre, Wyoming
Fri.-Sun.
- 3 Sat. **Clean Up Australia Day**
- 3 Sat. **Secret Comedy Club at Gosford**
7.30 – 10pm Bay Road Brewing, Gosford
- 9 Sat. **Daryl Braithwaite**
6pm Sunken Monkey, Erina
- 12-14 **Grandparent Story Time**
Tue.-Thu. 10.30am Kincumber Library
- 13 Wed. **Felicity Ward, I'm Exhausted**
7.30pm Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford
- 19 Tue. **History Ferry Tour** - Brisbane Water
areahistorytours.com.au Ph: 0418 631 313
- 23 Sat. **Rock at the Races**
10am – 6pm The Entertainment Grounds, Gosford
- 23 Sat **Shakespeare in Magical Spaces - The Tempest**
6pm Edogawa Community Garden, East Gosford
- Book Now For April Holidays**
- 14 Sun. **History Ferry Tour** - Brisbane Water
areahistorytours.com.au Ph: 0418 631 313
- 21 Sun **History Ferry Tour** Broken Bay/Hawkesbury R
areahistorytours.com.au Ph: 0418 631 313

WEEKLY EVENTS

MON

KIDS EAT FREE

after 5.30pm
12yrs & under (t's & c's apply)

TRIVIA

7pm FREE to play, \$170 in prizes to win

TUE

WED

WIN PETROL CARDS

\$100 at 6pm, \$100 at 7pm
(t's & c's apply)

\$500 CASH LUCKY LOOT

8pm draw (t's & c's apply)

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ENVIRONMENT

Helen's Nature Notes.

Brush turkeys are smart. My friend Peter is friends with one.

She's on the small side, bottom of the pecking order. Peter was putting out food for his chooks and she came right up to him, in a friendly way, so he gave her some food. That's smart, training her human.

She has a bare red head, no feathers just skin, and a bare yellow necklace. In males the necklace is like a large loose bright yellow gorget and he will swell it out and make a booming call when he is chasing other turkeys away from his mound.

He puts a lot of work into his mighty mound, raking dirt and leaves together with

his huge feet (hence he's a "megapode"). Photo: Mary Elias
It's like a giant compost heap and it can get hot, so at least daily he will stick his head right into the mound to check the temperature (33°C), and scrape some off to cool it down, or pile it up – which he'll also do to deflect rain. He struts around like a lord of creation, but is he really? A lady turkey will approach and check out the mound, and if she likes what she sees, they'll mate quickly and she will dig deep into the mound to lay her huge egg, up to 250g! And then he's quite likely to beat her up.

But she actually rules. DNA studies have shown that he's not necessarily the father. She may mate with several males, store their semen in different ducts, choose the mound she wants for her egg but then choose to fertilise it with semen from a different male! Neither parent provides any childcare and the newly hatched babies have a tough time.

Helen Gould

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MEET THE LOCALS

Stephanie Blower

Hi, I'm Stephanie and I have the pleasure of living in beautiful Yattalunga, overlooking Brisbane Water.

Born in Leamington Spa, UK, I moved to Australia in 1976 for a 2 year holiday to get over a broken heart, and 48 years later I'm still here. Nigel, my husband, a friend in the UK, came chasing a girl (not me) and we became a couple on a trip back to the UK at the same time.

Married in 1983, we brought up our 2 children, Michael and Victoria in Blacktown, a fantastic street where neighbours became like

family. My work was mainly in Conference Organising and Association Management, challenging but fun roles, giving me access to travel and interaction with professionals from all walks of life.

Our move to the Central Coast started with a house in Llewellyn Street Saratoga which we utilised as a weekender and holiday home, before moving to Yattalunga 7 years ago. Becoming full time residents 4 years ago upon retirement. Our two children now live in the area, Michael in Kincumber, and Victoria in Saratoga, which ensures we have plenty of time with our beautiful grandchildren, Kelly and Charlotte. Bailey, our French Bulldog, is also an integral part of the Yattalunga community, insisting on visiting many of the neighbours when he goes for walks.

The sound of motorbikes revving up is a familiar sound in the neighbourhood, as Nigel takes one of his bikes on rides with the Central Coast Classic Bike Club around the coast, as well as riding with other friends.

I sometimes wonder how I ever fitted work into my life, as my life is now full of fun things and good friends. I am part of 2 bookclubs, 2 walking groups and attend Kincumber gym. To keep my brain active I'm a Director with Meals on Wheels Central Coast, and Secretary of the 3 Villages Community Group. Both roles that I really enjoy. Nigel and I are also part of a trivia team at the DAVO every Tuesday.



COMMUNITY

The Davo RSL Fishing Club

Davo RSL Fishing Club presents \$250 to Central Coast Kids In Need. The proceeds of a 'Go fish' day were organised and supervised by DPI NSW.

Davistown waterfront was the location, an excellent area to introduce kids of all ages to try their luck at fishing. Davo RSL supported and helped on the day, providing show bags and the Davo RSL Fishing Club supplied a sausage sizzle. The monies raised were donated to Central Coast Kids In Need.

Based in the Davistown RSL Club, the Davo RSL Fishing Club are a family oriented amateur fishing club. With members from 8 to 80, we encourage safe and respectful fishing. Fishing ranges from estuary, rock, beach and deep sea, something for most interests. We meet at the Davo RSL on the first Sunday of every month at 2pm.



Sandie Callaway and Dave Wilson



Adam CROUCH MP

Member for Terrigal

Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast

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Authorised by Adam Crouch MP, Shop 3 Fountain Plaza, 148-158 The Entrance Road, Erina NSW 2250, funded with parliamentary entitlements.

HERITAGE

Jonathan Piper is considered the father of Brisbane Water shipbuilding which saw an estimated 600 ocean going ships built over 125 year period. With wife Ann, he took up residence on a portion of his brother-in-law's property called **Brisbania** in today's suburb of **Yattalunga** in 1829. Piper was born in Sydney on 1 January 1819 and married Ann Bates at Pitt Town on the Hawkesbury River in 1835. A year earlier his sister Sarah married Joseph Spears, the son of a member of the NSW Corps (Rum Corps), and who in 1829, was promised 60 acres of land on Brisbane Water. This grant was at the head waters of the Cockle (Kincumber) Broadwater, being identified as being 50 chains and 50 links from the mouth of Kincumber Creek (a chain is 20.1168 m and a link is 21 cm). There appears to be strong family ties between the families of Spears and Piper which probably influenced Jonathan and Ann moving to Brisbane Water in 1829.

The Ketch Peacock was the first recorded vessel (1844) built by Jonathan Piper, however, in the 15 years preceding a good number of ships were probably constructed by him without being recorded.

The owners of Peacock were registered as: Jonathan Piper, builder and Joseph Spears,

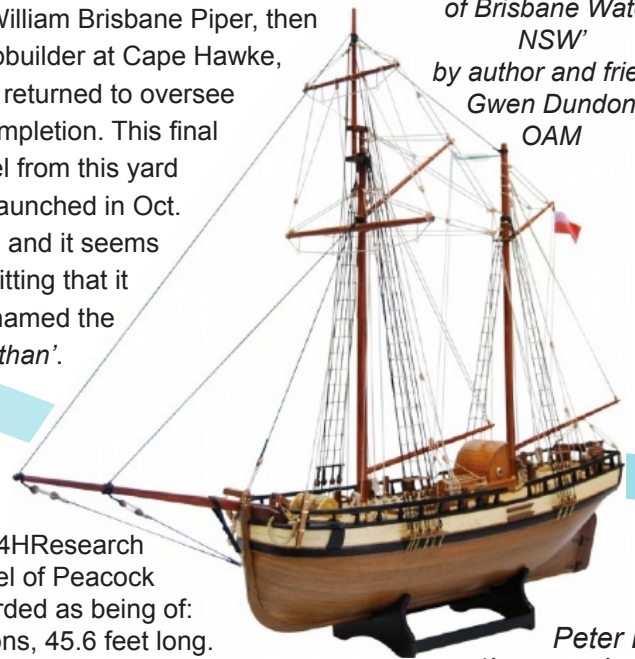
The ship changed hands three times until being wrecked on 22 January 1876 at the entrance to Camden Haven River, south of Port Macquarie. The second last owner was noted as Edward Foster whose family ran a store at East Gosford in a house formerly owned by Edward Hargraves, the first person to discover gold in Australia. Edward Foster was a mariner, who was a crewman on 'Tim Whiffer' when that vessel capsized in at the Brisbane Water Rip in 1869.

The influence Jonathan, Ann and the Piper family on the region's waters and use of the land cannot be overstated; they were early full time residents not absent landlords as many landowners were. Also significant was the large number of ships built over a 35-year period. During this time Piper taught the shipbuilding trade to many of the area's young men including the four Davis brothers.

Jonathan Piper died on 18 April 1879 age 69; his headstone at St Paul's Church states his birth incorrectly as 1813 but it was really 1810. Ann Piper had 14 children and died in Sydney in 1901 aged 83.

An unfinished ketch was on the stocks at the time of Piper's death, so his son William Brisbane Piper, then a shipbuilder at Cape Hawke, NSW returned to oversee its completion. This final vessel from this yard was launched in Oct. 1879; and it seems very fitting that it was named the 'Jonathan'.

Acknowledgement to 'The Shipbuilders of Brisbane Water NSW' by author and friend Gwen Dundon OAM



The 4HResearch model of Peacock recorded as being of: 20 tons, 45.6 feet long. 11.7 feet beam and 3.8 feet draft

Peter Rea
4hresearch.com

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