



# THE 3 VILLAGES NEWSLETTER

YATTALUNGA - SARATOGA - DAVISTOWN

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

PRODUCED BY 3 VILLAGES COMMUNITY GROUP Inc. VOLUNTEERS



PHOTO  
OF THE  
MONTH

**Marilyn  
Harbrow  
Mckay**

*"Yattalunga  
is one of my  
favourite  
places  
to take  
photos on  
the Central  
Coast. It is  
always so  
peaceful  
there."*

*Marilyn McKay Photography*

## WELCOME

Once again we find ourselves in the middle of a lockdown - thankfully it shouldn't get to the same level as it was last year, so let's all do the right thing, look after each other (and ourselves!) and continue to practice social distancing and good hygiene. Together we can all make a difference and help beat this virus together. We have been having some lovely winter weather, and I love seeing all the smoke rising from peoples chimneys in the community. It brings a lot of warmth and happiness (plus some happy memories from my childhood).

Photo of the Month Winners receive a \$30 voucher from Shelly's cafe and a \$20 voucher from Jas Art Photography, for whom we thank so much for their support of the 3 Villages Newsletter.

The last month has been a big one personally for me, and I've been reflecting on life a lot and while I'm taking a step back from social media, I will still be a part of the newsletter and the community. Family is so important, and when you lose a loved one, it puts everything into perspective for you. "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Albus Dumbledore



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## PROJECT REPORT

### LOCAL ROADS

In mid-June, Taia and I from the 3 Villages Community Group Committee were invited by our Federal Member Lucy Wicks to discuss the 3 Villages Community area, our roads and public spaces. It was a really productive meeting where we raised our concerns about significant funding in neighbouring suburbs and how Yattalunga, Saratoga & Davistown are constantly overlooked. Lucy listened to our concerns and suggested developing a local roads strategy using community input. Together we will highlight the most troublesome roads and develop a plan to have them funded and repaired with Lucy's help. We spoke about the lack of drainage, paths and curbing and the strategy will aim to cover these key concerns. Community will play a key part to ensure that all work funded meets the needs and wants of local residents. This is a huge win for our area, so please watch this space and get involved. It's a great opportunity to have a voice in significant change in our local infrastructure. Please let us know your thoughts and concerns through our website [www.3villages.com.au](http://www.3villages.com.au)

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Unfortunately, we struck a bit of a hurdle with council to do with the Community Garden due to the representative we had been dealing with leaving her job. Just at the same time we were about to sign the lease and get going with building it! However, we are now in more meetings with the new team at council and look forward to a positive resolution soon.

### 3 VILLAGES AGM

Our first ever Annual General Meeting is almost upon us. Can you believe it's been 1 year since we first became officially incorporated? Our annual report has been written and covers all the great things we have achieved over the past 12 months, our plan for the next 12 months and into the future. If you're interested in becoming a paid 3VCG member and support our group as well as have a say in community projects you can sign up via the website, membership fees cover insurance and operational costs. Paid members keep an eye out in your email inbox for details about the meeting.

## MEET THE LOCALS



I'm Libby, married to Derek and mum to Logan, Hugo, Oliver and Remy. We've lived in Saratoga for almost 8 years and absolutely love the area. Three of our kids go to the local school and we love being a part of that little community. I know we're in the thick of winter lockdown right now but a favourite spot of ours in the area is the swimming spot down by the pirate park. I love that I can take our kids (particularly my preschooler) to a safe swimming spot for an afternoon splash close to home on warm days. My favourite thing about where we live is the views - at this time of year, we see the most breathtaking sunsets over the Brisbane Water from our deck! We are thankful to live in such a beautiful part of the world!

\* Along with being a beautiful mum, Libby has a beautiful flare for embroidery and stitching of any kind. Libby has a gorgeous Etsy store where you can purchase beautiful stitching projects with downloadable PDF patterns including all the supplies you need as well as a simple to understand, visual stitch guide. If you have an interest in stitching - be sure to visit her store on Etsy: Threadfolk.

### THE FERRYMAN

at Central Wharf

Fully Licenced Restaurant

A: 1 McCauley Street, Davistown  
(Adjacent Central Wharf)

T: 4369 8122

Reservations Recommended

### WINTER OPENING HOURS

DINNER from 5:30pm

Thursday, Friday + Saturday

LUNCH – Midday-3:00pm

Thursday, Friday + Saturday

SUNDAY LONG LUNCH

Midday-5:00pm

SUNDAY HAPPY HOUR

3:00pm-5:00pm

### Every Thursday

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### RECYCLE YOUR SHOPPING BAGS AT SARATOGA SHOPPING VILLAGE

Are you tired of buying new plastic shopping bags? You left yours at home or you stopped off at the shops unexpectedly? If so, next time have a look out for the reusable bags stand, supplied especially by the 3 Villages Community Group, just outside of IGA, Saratoga. Here, anyone can drop their clean "used" plastic bags. Just fold them up and pop them in the box for the next person to use instead of throwing them out to the landfill.

Sometimes though, you might just find treasures in there because over this last year, Sue and Warren Dibley, with the help of their friend, Lyn Thompson, have been hard at work at home making and supplying lots of "free to use" fabric shopping bags. Just over five years ago, they started volunteering at Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre sewing for Boomerang Bags but then due to the impact of COVID, they decided to keep productive from home and therein ended up supplying the community with bags at the village shops.



The bags are washable and reusable. Some are rather beautiful and they can be reused over and over again. With the ultimate aim of helping save the environment, the team creates the bags from gifted, unwanted fabric and happily recycle that, too. Sue and Warren are advocates for recycling and eliminating plastic. The couple regularly spend hours pulling out plastic and other rubbish from Brisbane Waters foreshore. Sue says "You have no idea how much gets washed up after the incredible high tides have come in. We really need to be more aware of our environment and stop thinking about each plastic bag we so easily throw away."

With a passion for sewing, Sue also sews quilts for organisations such as Holy Quilts and Australian Hero (making beautiful quilts for Docs kids, palliative care patients at Gosford Hospital and for the Australian armed services personnel posted overseas). And together with Lyn Thompson they sew for Days for Girls up at Kariong.

Donations of pre-loved fabric can be made to the Uniting Church in Gosford. In case you are interested, there is plenty of charity work out there for budding volunteers. It's fun, creative and social, let alone, something nice to do.

*Taia Sansom*

**THE AGENCY**

**Paula Taylor**  
M. 0410 588 306  
Property Partner

paulataylor@theagency.com.au  
theagency.com.au

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Call our office on **4369 8500** for your Annual Termite Inspection. Mention the 3 Villages and get your inspection for the special Newsletter Price of \$250.00'. Ask for Peter or Andy.

## WHAT'S ON

Pending restrictions being eased, here is a brief list of some fun, interesting things happening on the coast during July/August.

**30th July** - Three Villages Trivia night at the Davo. You can purchase tickets for this event via the three villages website: [3villages.com.au](http://3villages.com.au). lots of fun and all the proceeds go straight back into our community.

**August 1st** - Food and wine festival - mt. Penang gardens. The Food & Wine Festival is aimed at young people, adults, and families who have an interest in gourmet food and wine. You can expect to find a range of food, ciders, beer, spirits and wine vendors as well as live entertainment and kids activities.

**August 2nd** - Bank Holiday NSW

**August 6th** - Coast Shelter Sleep out. Whilst this is an adults only event at Gosford

Stadium, perhaps organising a backyard sleep out with the kids (pitch a tent), could be a fun way to contribute to the cause. Fundraise with the help from family and friends and donate via the website: [coastsheltersleepout.com.au](http://coastsheltersleepout.com.au) The money you raise will help Coast Shelter provide support services for individuals experiencing domestic & family violence and homelessness on the NSW Central Coast.

**25th August** - The Whitlams concert. The Whitlams return to The Art House where their 2018 gig was considered by many as the best show of the year. With their first new songs in 14 years which will have been released over the winter, and a fresh spring in their step, their usual rambunctious show will feature a broad selection of tunes from their six Platinum and Gold albums

## SEE YOU AT THE DAVO

Going to the gym, not your thing? If you are looking to improve your mobility and lifestyle in a relaxed, informal setting, close to home we have the answer.

Davistown RSL is partnering with Stronger For Life Personal Training to present the "Living Longer Living Stronger" program for the over 50s on the Central Coast.

There is no age limit on exercise! Whether you are 50 or 90, tailored, progressive strength and balance training can help you live the lifestyle you choose.

Your accredited instructor will develop a tailored exercise plan, just for you. You can then work towards your goals in a fun and friendly group setting, with support and encouragement to become stronger and fitter regardless of your starting point.

If you would like to visit/experience the program or learn more about the Living Longer Living Stronger program or have any questions - you are welcome to call or text Katharina on 0410 534 620.



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### THE TIDE GOES OUT AT YATTALUNGA TO REVEAL EXTENSIVE MEADOWS OF SEAGRASS...

About ten years ago I assisted in an environmental program doing Seagrass monitoring in Cockle Channel, Davistown. While this did not make me an expert, it provided a great understanding of these often overlooked aquatic plants. The Brisbane Water can boast some of the best quality waters of all the six estuaries within the Sydney and Central Coast region and there are reasons for this, partly good management and partly good luck. Mangroves, of course, are the in your face hero of water quality, however two other Eco systems, *Tidal Salt Marsh* and *Sea Grass* are of more importance to small organisms and as a nursery for larger ones. But there are cases where these two species are retreating or been destroyed in the Brisbane Water. So this month lets look at Seagrass...

There are around 60 species of Seagrass worldwide, with over half of these growing in Australian waters. Within Brisbane Waters, seagrass meadows can be found in the tidal areas of the estuary. These beds comprise; *Zostera capricorni* (Eelgrass), *Posidonia australis* (Strapweed) and *Halophila ovalis* and *Halophila decipiens* (collectively known as paddleweed). The Seagrass Eco system of the Brisbane Water are highly productive and play a vital role in the productivity and biodiversity of coastal and estuarine habitats. They provide important nurseries, feeding grounds and shelter for numerous juvenile and adult species of fish, molluscs and invertebrates. Many commercially and recreationally important fish species, such as Luderick, Leatherjackets, Snapper and Sea Mullet live in seagrass habitats for all or part of their life cycle. Seagrasses provide an important source of nourishment within the food chain by converting sunlight into plant tissues that can be used by other organisms to obtain

energy. The leaves can either be ingested directly by aquatic grazers such as garfish and leatherjackets or indirectly when detritivores such as crabs, prawns and worms. These consume pieces of dead or dying tissues known as detritus and are consequently consumed by predators higher up in the food chain. While a lot goes on hidden in the Seagrass or underwater, one of the most notable things to most people is our Black Swans, which come here to feed in the Seagrass.

Despite all these benefits, Coastal ecosystems are some of the most threatened ecosystems on earth, sometimes even small disturbances can have far reaching effects including Brisbane Water, are now listed as an endangered population and are protected making it illegal to gather, cut, destroy or carry out any other activity which may cause them or any other seagrass harm. About 20 years ago truck loads of aggregate were dumped on a Waterfront Reserve during the re-grading of a dirt track. A heavy rain period followed, resulting in the run-off carrying the aggregate into the water. At one particular spot, a 4m diameter fan of aggregate smothered the Seagrass and a single Mangrove Tree took hold. This now mature tree is 4m high and the Pneumatophores, the lateral roots that grow upward out of the mud indicate the root system extends over a 100 sq m. area, where no Seagrass grows. At the other end of this small Bay run-off from main road works, 25 years ago, destroyed an area of natural salt-marsh. Only two years ago run-off from a large building site caused a dense sediment plume 1km wide and 500m out into the Brisbane Water, what long term effects this will have on Seagrass who knows, it should be officially monitored, but there won't be the funds for this.

Peter Rea



Above: Threats can be unusual, due to run-off, this one Mangrove established itself in a Seagrass Meadow now over 100sq m of Seagrass has disappeared from around the tree.

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## SCHOOLS



### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Did you know that Brisbania Public School has a Student Representative Council (SRC)? The SRC is a group of students from Years 2 – 6. Each class elects two representatives to share class ideas on ways to make their school an even greater place to be.

SRC projects include fundraising; organising school discos; mufti days, cake stalls and raffles etc. Funds are used to support worthwhile charities e.g. the very successful Pirate Day to raise money for research into childhood brain cancer. Other causes include replacing the "Buddy Chair" in the playground; install a water filler for drink bottles and the list goes on. The SRC also organises recycling in their classrooms.

Student Representative Council representatives are respected by their class peers and teachers. They are caring and reliable citizens within their school community. Brisbania Public School is very proud of the commitments each member of the Student Representative Council makes.



### NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

Green Point Christian College welcomed Urain Waraweena during our NAIDOC celebrations at the end of Term 2. Urain is a mother of six, an artist and works at the Brewarrina Aboriginal Culture Museum. Green Point Christian College sends students out to Brewarrina each year to encourage the local community.

Our students enjoyed talking with Urain about her heritage, and hearing the stories she shared with us. Urain held art workshops with students in Primary and Secondary school. Years 7 and 9 Art students created an artwork with Urain during her stay which will hang in our English block as a reminder of her visit. Urain engaged with our Year 11 Aboriginal Studies students about complex issues covered in their syllabus. It was a pleasure having Urain with us at Green Point Christian College. Our hope is to make stronger ties with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and groups so that we learn more about the history and culture in our area.



## Lucy Wicks and the Morrison Government are investing in infrastructure for Davistown



Funding a shared pathway along Malinya Road, Davistown from Coomal Avenue towards Henderson Road, making the pathway safer for families, pedestrians and cyclists.



**LUCY WICKS MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ROBERTSON

Authorised by L. Wicks MP, Liberal Party of Australia, Level 3, 69 Central Coast Hwy, West Gosford NSW 2250.

4322 2400 [lucy.wicks.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:lucy.wicks.mp@aph.gov.au)  
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