



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



QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

— Queen Elizabeth II

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Jennifer Hartich

I was kayaking when I noticed the pelican sitting on the pole with the palm tree behind. It looked like he was masquerading as a peacock.

Monthly Prizes for Photo of the Month Winner

Receives: \$30 voucher from Shelly's Cafe

\$10 PuppCo voucher from Jas Brewer

\$50 voucher donated by 3 Villages Community Group for drinks or dining at a local cafe or the DAVO RSL.

Many thanks to our sponsors for their support of the Photo of the Month Comp.



Paula Taylor

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PROJECT REPORT

Pippi Point Dog Park Victory

Many congratulations to the whole team led by Johnny Row in the protest against Central Coast Council wanting to close Pippi Point off-leash dog park. It took over three years. While it is great to have won the cause, users should be mindful that there are also ON-LEASH areas along Illoura Waters to access Pippi Point. Dog owners - please stay respectful to laws so this scenario can never come up again. Here is a (shortened) extract of Johnny's speech to Council on 23 July 2024.

"The petition ... to keep the off leash exactly as it is had 3572 signatures. It is very clear what the people want. ... After a concerted effort from the 3 Villages locals we managed to raise \$3904 to pay for the Keystone Ecological Report ... [which states]:

"The presence of the important species now – after 40 years of almost uninterrupted use of the Pippi Point on a formal basis as Off-leash Area (OLA) – suggest that no significant impacts have manifested. Therefore, continued use of the Pippi Point OLA is also unlikely to manifest in significant adverse impacts.

...This conclusion ... is also based on a set of impact assessments. These assessments, pursuant to the requirements under NSW and Commonwealth legislation

determine that a significant adverse impact is unlikely to arise from the continued use of the Pippi Point OLA."

... We urge you to make your decision tonight based on what the people want, what the ecological evidence supports, in the interest of saving money and in line with the legislation. We urge you to make no changes to the Davistown, Illoura Waters dog park and not spend any more rate payers' money on environmental studies into this area.

The off-leash area at Pippi Point serves the community not just as a dog park but as an outdoor community centre which is the backbone of our little suburb."

Taia Sansom, 3VCG President

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

What to Look for in a Councillor

Council under Administration comes to an end in September in the Central Coast LGA, and on 14 September you will be voting for your new representatives. I recently attended a meeting about what being a Councillor entailed, which made me think about the hard and very important role these representatives will be undertaking.

I'd therefore like to share my views on what we should be looking for in a Councillor, and not just ticking boxes for people whose names we may or may not know. So here are a few to think about.

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Photo: Merilyn Vale from Central Coast Council Watch

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION cont.

Councillors must be able to:

- Work cooperatively as a team on all Council decisions.
- Understand clearly the finances of Council.
- Take a "Helicopter View" of issues, seeing the benefits to the whole of the Central Coast, while keeping in mind the residents they represent.
- Debate issues in a considered manner. Not everyone will share the same views, and it is for the Councillor to understand other's point of view.
- Understand decisions are made on a majority basis, and Councillors must be able to accept these.
- Accept that many decisions made by Council under Administration while not popular were done for good reason at the time, and cannot be overturned.



- Work cooperatively with the CEO and Executive Team, the Council makes the decisions, but this team is tasked with implementing those decisions.
- Understand many infrastructure issues take many years to complete, therefore the first term will see the fruition of many decisions made by the Council under Administration. A second 4 year term would be necessary to see many of the new decisions finalised. That is an 8 Year commitment in all.
- Accept that those nominating for Council on a one ticket issue may not be able to get consensus on that issue, and would need to adhere to the decisions of the Council as a whole, so no bad blood should be carried forward after a decision is made.

I'd ask you to think about these things, and carefully consider where the tick goes on 14 September, those elected will be our representatives for 4 years, and making important decisions for the future of our area and the whole Central Coast.

Stephanie Blower



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BELLS AND WHISTLES

Marine Rescue NSW

Saving lives at sea and on our waterways



Photo: Marine Rescue NSW Sydney

David Golding is a Saratoga resident and wrote about Marine Rescue NSW on the 3 Villages Facebook page recently. I thought his story was worth sharing here.

"As a raw newbie who only moved to Saratoga 14 months ago for a sea-change retirement, I saw a brave ideal in Marine Rescue's words, 'Provision of a world class rescue service to prevent injury and death on NSW waterways'," says David. "At age 68 and having finished full time work, I realised that retirement is what you make it, and what greater way to give back to the local community than by volunteering and helping save lives on the water. The dedication and mateship at Marine Rescue is phenomenal, with volunteers from all walks of life who are most respectful, professional and friendly."

David has started as a Marine Rescue NSW Central Coast trainee radio operator and laughs as he says, "They tell me I have a great face for radio!"

To help boaties, there's a Marine Rescue app that can track a GPS position every 20 minutes as long as your device is switched on – "location-on" – and in mobile signal range. If there's an emergency or you've broken down, you can contact Marine Rescue through the app. You can also log in with a finishing time and destination and, if you go past that time, an alert is raised. Marine Rescue attempts to call you, and if there's no response, dispatches a rescue boat to your GPS coordinates.

Surprisingly, Brisbane Water can get very rough, very unexpectedly. Users of the Marine Rescue app should include all who use our waterways from small and large powerboat owners, bbq and houseboats users, yachties, kayakers, rock anglers and surfers. Go to <https://www.marinerescuensw.com.au/> for more information on the app or joining Marine Rescue Central Coast. Their local base is at Point Clare.

Taia Sansom



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MEET THE LOCALS



I would like to introduce you to one of the 3 Villages' newest additions, Sam Hiley. Sam has kindly shared her story with us below.

We purchased our forever home in Saratoga 6 months ago. We lived in The Hills area in Sydney for 16 years before deciding that we wanted a quieter, more relaxed upbringing for our girls. Initially, we wanted to settle down in Umina Beach. We decided to rent for a few months to get a feel for the area. Although we loved it, we fell in love with Saratoga and knew that is where we wanted to bring up our girls.

I have been married to my husband Jean for 9 years, and we have 2 beautiful girls, ages 3 and 5. We also have the cutest 1-year-old puppy, Bailey.

I have worked in the Disability Sector for 12 years, starting as the HR Manager for a Disability Organization for 10 years, but decided it was time for a career change in 2022. I completed my postgraduate certificate in Positive Behaviour Support and now work as a Behaviour Support Practitioner.

Coming from South Africa, we are big Rugby Union supporters. We also enjoy the MotoGP and enjoyed going to Phillip Island every October before we had our girls.

A few years ago, my husband and I travelled to the USA for a road trip. Although we enjoyed all the places we

visited, Nashville was the most amazing place of all. Good food, good music, and good people. We look forward to visiting again one day.

What we love about the 3 Villages community is that everyone is very welcoming and caring. There is a real sense of community. The area is beautiful, family-friendly, and very accepting.

Unfortunately, with young kids, free days are few and far between, but if I am lucky enough to have a day to myself, all I like to do is as little as possible, watching a movie in my pyjamas while enjoying a hot cup of coffee. Something people may not know about me is that I have a passion for working with people, particularly kids and young adults who struggle to navigate some of the challenges in life.

Maggie Vincent

SCHOOLS



Sydney Prayer Breakfast

Some of our Year 12 student leaders attended the Sydney Prayer Breakfast in May with our Principal, Mr. Van Bentum, and Mrs McKay (Head of English). They joined 1,400 people from across Sydney to pray for all parts of society and to hear Dr Andrew Browning from the Barbara May Foundation speak about how his faith and prayer have significantly shaped his life. It was so encouraging to be reminded that there are opportunities for Christians to be witnesses and role models in all workplaces and walks of life.



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HERITAGE

William IV



Top: *William IV* at full steam

Above: *William IV* in Sydney for the Bicentenary

Below: L–R: Bill, Bob and Peter onboard *William IV* last month. Bill is currently constructing a model, Bob hopefully will engineer working paddles while Peter can help with the rigging while also hoping to arrange a visit of the *William IV* to Brisbane Water.



A few weeks ago I went to Newcastle Harbour to see a replica of the old steamship *William IV*, which was launched by Hazel Hawke for the Australian Bicentenary. I made the trip with two mates: Bill Bollard and Bob Hornby. Bill was a Naval Architect who produced drawings of some Brisbane Water ships so I could have scale models made, Bob gained his second engineer's ticket with Blue Funnel Lines before emigrating to Australia and taking up land based engineering employment. On leaving school before I pursued a career in graphics, an apprenticeship took me to engine rooms of luxury yachts to fishing boats, merchant ships to warships like the *HMAS Vampire* now at the National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour.

The original *William IV* was a side paddle wheeler and the first steamship ever built in Australia, constructed 100 km north of Gosford at Clarence Town on the Williams River, a tributary of the Hunter River. From 1831, the ship worked for 30 years along the Australian east coast. The ship's speed made the newspapers, taking 10 hours to cover the 140 km from Newcastle to Sydney and four days for the 620 km round trip to Port Macquarie. In 1839, the ship made its first trip to Brisbane Water and the next year was acquired by the Brisbane Water Steam Packet Co., mooring at the East Gosford wharf twice a week. Sold on in the 1860s, it operated in the China/ Japan trade.

The replica *William IV* is currently having its deck replaced, which is an ideal time to get a clearer view of its workings. Understandably, the public isn't admitted on the ship for safety reasons. However, we were permitted aboard as Bill did the design work to install a diesel engine some years ago. This was necessary because the steam boiler had worn out, and the phenomenal expense of providing a replacement forced an alternative method of propulsion to be found. Fortunately, the steam engine remains in place and can still be made operational.

Bob and I, with our marine engineering experience, were fascinated with the double expansion, dual-acting rocking beam steam engine. Most people know what a normal petrol car engine looks like, basically a small box with all the moving parts hidden inside, doing around 6,000 revolutions per minute. This steam engine is hundreds of times bigger, with most of the moving parts working at a slow 60 rpm in clear view. At the bottom of a petrol engine is the crankshaft; however, this steam engine's crankshaft had to be on top, directly linked to the center of the paddle wheels, requiring a complicated arrangement of double-acting rocking beams. I am in awe of those who, over 200 years ago, conceived and designed this complex machinery and of the tradesmen who hand-built it without all the modern machine tools, lathes, mills, etc.

Currently Bill has commenced a 1.4m long model of the ship, while I am exploring the possibility of getting the *William IV* replica visiting its old Brisbane Water home, 185 years after the original one did.

Peter Rea

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WHAT'S ON

AUG

- Frid. 16** **The Big Bike Film Night 2024**
7 pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
- Wed. 21** **Showtime Luncheon – The Fabulous Four**
11 am - Film of the Month – Avoca Beach Theatre
- Fri. 23** **Bathtub Gin Orchestra - Gin Tasting & Live Concert**
7.30 pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
- Sat. 24** **Gosford Art Prize 2024 Opening**
9.30 am - 4 pm - Gosford Regional Gallery
- Sun. 25** **Central Coast Wedding Fair 2024**
2 pm - Kooindah Waters, Wyong
- Fri. 30** **Women of Song**
7.30 pm - Laycock Street Theatre, Wyoming.

SEP

- Sun. 1** **FABBA - Celebrating 50 Years from Eurovision to Mamma Mia**
3 pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
- Mon. 2** **My National Gallery, London – Exhibition on Screen**
11 am - Avoca Beach Theatre
- Sat. 7** **Paco Lara - Flamenco Trio – 7.30pm Avoca Beach Theatre**
- Sat. 7** **The Fish That Wanted to Fly (produced by Little Wing Puppets) – Suitable 3 yrs - 8 yrs**
10.30 am & 1 pm - Laycock Street Community Theatre, Wyoming
- Sun. 8** **Avoca Beach Public School Fair**
10 am - 3 pm - 91A The Round Drive, Avoca
- Wed. 11** **Morning Melodies – Lumieres De Paris**
11 am - Laycock Street Theatre, Wyoming
- Wed. 11** **Burn The Floor – Dare to Dream**
Headlined by Human Nature's Phil Burton
7.30 pm - Art House, Wyong
- Fri. 13** **Sustainable Future Festival 2024**
- Sat. 14** **Memorial Park, The Entrance**
- Sat. 14** **Australia's Beach Boy Tribute Show**
8 pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
- Sun. 15** **Judy – The Judy Garland Story**
2 pm - Laycock Street Theatre, Wyoming
- Thurs. 19** **The Peasant Prince (Children's edition of Mao's Last Dancer)**
6 pm - The Art House, Wyong
- Mon. 23** **Advanced Family Research – Problem solving, advanced searching online & overseas resources**
Central Coast Family History Society – East Gosford - 43245164
- Sat. 28** **Bark Park – Central Coast Dogs Day Out**
Gosford Waterfront Park – 1-7 pm

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