



**ANNUAL REPORT
AGM NOVEMBER 2025
SARATOGA HALL**

3 VCG WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Infrastructure & Amenities – Events – Volunteers – Hope – Friendships – You

Christmas Lights Competition – 2024:

Following our last AGM in November 2024 we went straight into promoting our Christmas Lights Competition. Thank you to Drew Hong once again for putting on such an amazing “Winter Wonderland” display for thousands of people to enjoy and also donating to Coast Shelter all the donations he received throughout the month. We are very sorry to hear that this was Drews last year holding his display, but we understand the time and commitment involved to hold the month-long, nightly event. Congratulations to Drew and all our other winners and to those who participated by lighting up their homes for the enjoyment of our community, and significantly adding to the overall Christmas Spirit here. 2024 saw the most homes decorated in the villages than ever before.

We again partnered with Brisbania School to decorate another lot of wooden cutouts with the theme being “Christmas Stockings”. The Stockings joined the 2022 “Tin Soldiers” and the 2023 “Candy Canes” and were proudly set up along Davistown Road. Keep an eye out in December for this year’s (2025) “Christmas Trees”, which will adorn the Saratoga Shops area and some of our local streets. Brisbania Primary and “Little Coasties” Kindergarten have put their hand up to decorate them.

A big thank you must go to the following: The Men’s Shed Erina, who cut out and primed the pieces ready for decoration by our local school children. Brisbania School Principal, teachers and students who get involved. Lorraine Parker helped redo and refresh some older pieces. Stephen Bailey and Nigel Parker lacquered, erected and

dismantled the pieces all along Davistown Road. And, to Maggie Vincent who coordinated this wonderful display.

3 Villages Christmas Party Trivia Night – Davo RSL –Nov 29th 2024:

Oh what a night! Once again, we had a fantastic attendance at this major fundraiser event. Sincere thanks to Paula Taylor's The Agency for donating \$2,000 towards expenses, prizes and the fundraising pool and to the DAVO RSL for taking on the ticketing service, and for allowing free use on the large ballroom area of the club. We were thrilled to have received forty or so donations of prizes and vouchers from all so many different businesses.

Upcoming New Amenities at Jirramba Park Playground:

Adam Crouch, MP for Terrigal, advised us in December, 2023 that he had achieved grant funding of \$150,000 from the NSW State Government to go towards new amenities at Jirramba Park. Thank you for this, Adam.

On January 15th 2024, the 3 VCG committee met with Troy Burnham and other representatives of the Central Coast Council on site and had the opportunity to review the plans and design for the new toilet block.

Although the new design will incorporate the old building, it will be modernised to today's standards and will look fabulous. The building, scheduled to commence in June 2025, has not yet started. Adam Crouch recently checked on the progress with Central Coast Council and he was advised that the project had been delayed due to a cost increase; however, construction is expected to begin in 2026, with the tender for the works to be advertised during the November/December period.

Saratoga Community Hall:

Activities at our local hall have continued to grow with Pickle Ball proving extremely popular.

Our Treasurer and Bookings Officer, Leanne Ball, handed over the booking role to Trudy Van Laar, one of our wonderful community members who volunteered earlier this year. A big thank you to Leanne for her hard work in setting up the bookings system which needed her expertise in the Google Drive forms, calendar and other systems, and to Trudy for so competently taking on this role. Trudy has also introduced monthly dance / music / jam afternoons at the Hall, featuring her band, "**RareTreats**". We encourage you to come along to the sessions and enjoy great music and friendship.

BUGG (Bush and Urban Garden Group):

Our BUGGs leader Tracey Ellis stepped away from her role and the committee this year, however we continued liaisons with the Council regarding establishing a Community Garden, while searching for a new leader. We thank Tracey for all her hard work and for being on the founding committee of 3 VCG.

After five frustrating years, we were hopeful and confident that the garden would be operational in early 2025 at Saratoga Hall, but a number of hiccups meant that it took longer than expected to see the turning of dirt on site. We did finally receive permission from Central Coast Council in around April.

During the process of obtaining approval, we were fortunate to have Roz Bailey from Davistown join us as Garden Manager. Roz is a passionate gardener with over forty years of experience, having designed many beautiful, award-winning gardens and is President of the Green Point Garden Club. She brings a wealth of knowledge and amazing creativity to her work. Roz knew what she wanted in the community garden design and so went about creating a beautiful new plan (attached). She has some clever ideas and will provide gardening workshops for those interested.

So! Here we go! The wait is over and two very large water tanks and some Besser Block garden beds have been installed just recently. Let us know if you are interested in working with the garden group by sending an email through the 3 VCG website at 3villages.com.au. You will need to join or renew your membership of 3 VCG to work, visit and use the garden. We hope you are as excited about the community garden as we are!

Australia Day Award Recognition – The Arthouse, Wyong – January 23rd 2025:

The Group felt incredibly proud to be nominated, again, in the Central Coast Council Australia Day Awards. The event was highly inspiring. Stephanie Blower (Group Secretary) and I had the pleasure of witnessing so many outstanding Central Coast achievers who dedicate their time to volunteering. Lawrie McKinna, the newly elected Mayor of the Central Coast Council, presented us with a lovely certificate of recognition acknowledging the significant contribution that 3VCG has made to its community. It was also wonderful to recall that we tied for first place at the previous awards ceremony.

Seniors Luncheon at the DAVO RSL – March 11th 2025:

Although we were unsuccessful in securing grant funding, the Group proudly organised and hosted a highly successful *Seniors Week* luncheon for 70 people. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone thoroughly enjoying the event. Highlights included wonderful performances by the Brisbania School Choir and a local entertainer who provided the perfect music to get everyone

up and dancing. We plan to host this event again in 2026 during *Seniors Week* and hope to secure grant funding to make the next luncheon even more special.

Community & Committee Volunteer Recognition Davo RSL – May 22nd 2025:

Our committee feels it is important to acknowledge and recognise all of our volunteers and let them know how much their help and support mean to us. This is just one small way we can say thank you for their wonderful contributions throughout the year. And to also give thanks to the hard-working committee who do so much behind the scenes throughout the year. Many thanks to all the 3 VCG committee members.

3 Villages Newsletter, Photo of the Month Competition & 2026 Calendar:

The monthly newsletter is still being distributed and we are proud to say Edition #67 is about to be delivered. There are over 30 volunteers who distribute the 3,000 copies. Many thanks to Peter & Dora Rea for their efforts in the graphic design side of the process. My main job is to pull together the articles and advertising within it. Each month photos which get sent in to the 3 Villages Facebook page are judged and selected to go on the front page of the newsletter. Prizes are awarded to the winner and these have come from The Village Cafe, Barks & Bubbles Pet Pawtique and Puppco.

The Photo of the Month then goes into the wall calendar which I produce at the end of each year. I collect advertisers and also extra photos from people who may not have won anything from their contributions, and add to the calendar content. This helps give community connection to the calendar and the advertisers help pay for the printing. The calendar is also a fundraiser and several volunteers put their hands up to help sell them at the Village Shops in Saratoga and to their friends or family.

The 3 Villages Lego Brick Fest & Sausage Sizzle Day – Saratoga Hall – June 22nd 2025:

The event is a fundraiser for our Group and is held in partnership with SYDLUG. Julie Wilks of Saratoga is the SYDLUG coordinator, making sure we have a hall full of Lego® exhibitors and a wide variety of models to inspire the attendees. This annual event continues to amaze everyone, including the children.

SYDLUG are generous, in that they do not collect any money from the door entries.. Julie stresses that they do it as a community event for us to raise funds for our community projects and for this we extend our sincere thanks.

Everyone is encouraged to donate Lego® Kits to go into raffles and prizes for the children building their own models on the day. So we do get a substantial number donated, including one each from Adam Crouch, MP for Terrigal and Gordon Reid, Federal Member for Robertson who visited on the day with their donation of kits. It was also a pleasure to see Jared Wright, newly elected local councillor, come by to check out what was happening.

Many thanks to Paula Taylor, owner of The Agency, Davistown for her generous donation of \$250 towards the fundraiser and also a beautiful Lego® kit.

3 VCG also holds a fundraiser Sausage Sizzle on the day with Jim Watts from Green Point/Avoca Lions Club helping out with set up, BBQ equipment and assistance throughout the day. Also thanks to Tracey and Trevor Ellis for being a great help, too, along with several committee members and locals volunteering for all the different jobs, including cooking bacon and egg rolls for the SYDLUG group and all the volunteers for brekky.

Two New Picnic Shelters – Saratoga Tennis Courts:

3 VCG extends its sincere thanks to Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal, and the NSW Government in 2023 for providing a generous \$10,000 grant. Also, many thanks to Central Coast Council and the 3 Villages Community Group contributing an additional \$4,000 each. We appreciate CCC for finally being able to install the picnic shelters on Mon, Sep 22nd 2025. The cost of the shelters came to over \$18,000, not including installation and delivery to site. This project shows what can be achieved when community groups, government and council work together. We're proud to finally see this space enhanced for everyone's use.

“Pirate Park” Playground Update:

The construction of the new park by Central Coast Council's contractors is making fantastic progress, and it's shaping up to be a wonderful new playground for everyone to enjoy. Council's goal is to have it completed in time for the Christmas school holidays. The “flying fox” is sure to be a real hit with the kids!

3 VCG contributed \$25,000 towards this project in two instalments from fundraising dollars saved up. This helped immensely in getting some extra equipment and ground padding added to the design.

LINTERN ST & VETERANS HALL WHARF FUNDING SECURED:

After years of community advocacy, thanks go out to our tireless local MP, Adam Crouch, who in August 2025 successfully secured significant funding to improve local waterfront infrastructure. This outcome is thanks to the many voices and emails

from the community—particularly the early efforts of DPA member Pam Israel, along with friends Tiny and Lee, who helped organise the petition signing. Additionally, years of requests from the Davistown Progress Association and the 3 Villages Community Group called for upgrades. As a result, the government announced \$1.245 million in funding for Central Coast Council to upgrade the Lintern Street Wharf and Boat Ramp, and on top, \$550,000 secured for a new ferry shelter and floating pontoon at Veterans Hall Wharf.

Taia Sansom

Group President

3 Villages Community Group

(Not-for-Profit Organisation)

November 10th 2025