



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Leesa Pratt, this month's winner!
 "A Young Noisy Minor, living its best life, negotiating a Hibiscus in full bloom right here in Saradise!"

Many thanks to our sponsors for donating the following prizes:
\$30 voucher – Village Cafe Co.
\$10 @puppco voucher – Jas Art Brewer

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow is our doubts of today."
 — Franklin D. Roosevelt
 "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."
 — T.S. Eliot



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Saratoga Community Hall

So much has happened already in the New Year with new groups like Scrabble and Mahjong started. If you would like to join or form a new group like Backgammon, Chess, Rummy Kub, Euchre or 500, please send me a message.

Saratoga Community Hall Garden

With a few working bees in January, and Roz Bailey spending many hours purchasing plants, many of the garden beds are now full of different kinds of vegetables, fruits and herbs. It all looks wonderful and everything is growing well.

School Uniforms

The Hall is keeping an array of school uniform seconds from many schools, for those needing extra supplies, including private school uniforms. Message me to check out what we have or drop off your unwanted ones.

"Pirate Park" Playground, Davistown

We celebrated the opening of "Pirate Park" with Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal, who sought \$340,000 of grant funding whilst in government. Adam and his staff supplied and cooked boxes of sausages at the park bbq. There was quite a line up of people eager to get theirs. Jenny McCulla, ex President of the Davistown Progress Assoc., joined in. Jenny had lobbied tirelessly for this to happen.

The 3 Villages Community Group also advocated for the new playground and, over the years, raised \$25,000 to go towards extra play equipment.

*Taia Sansom, President, 3 VCG
Ph 0414 425301*

**3 VILLAGES
NEWS**

Editor: Taia Sansom
Graphic Design: Peter Rea
Layout Assistance: Dora Rea



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MEET THE LOCALS

COREY VOGT

Owner of The Village Cafe Co. – Saratoga Shops

Corey, born at Gosford Hospital, lived in Copacabana, and began school at Copacabana Primary School in its very first year of opening. At around 10, his family moved to Saratoga, attending Brisbania Primary School and then to Erina High.

Corey followed his passion for cooking and jumped straight into a Commercial Cookery Apprenticeship, worked at Salt Water, West Gosford. Tafe, originally at Surrey Hills, and then the Ourimbah campus opening made life much easier to spend time with friends.

He met his wife Michelle, who is now a Physio Assistant and Social Worker at Gosford Hospital, not long later at the restaurant he worked at and they were married at Pt Clare Baptist Church. This church was special to Michelle because her grandfather, Harold Woods, helped build it and he also donated its beautiful bell. The bell needed to be repaired so it could be rung out specially for their wedding in 2004.

After work, Corey does yardwork, watches the NBA, reads Sci Fi and catches up for dinners with his four children, ranging from 15 to 25 years old, and an under two granddaughter as much as possible. He has two labradors Bonnie (6) & Harvey (4).

Cont. Page 3



Above: Trish Bourke, Taia Sansom, Stephanie Blower, Wendy Byrne, Jack Robinson, Jenny McCulla, Julie McFadden, Margaret Sheridan.

MEET THE LOCALS

From Page 2.

Corey and his wife Michelle's favourite place to go is the Chefs Garden at Empire Bay Nursery, and he enjoys the chilled scrambled eggs on sour dough, lapping up the beautiful rainforest setting.

Corey says he has been a customer of the cafe at Saratoga shops for 38 years, and always loved to grab a VHS movie from the Video shop and a dinner of hamburger and chips from the cafe. He bought Shelly's Cafe there around 18 months ago.

Story and photo: Taia Sansom



Above: Corey Vogt with the Dragon Boat Ladies

DAVO' RSL AMATEUR FISHING CLUB



Above: Simon Cole, Lucy Harris, Hamish Studdard & Dave Wilson – Winners of Last Season's Central Coast Fishing Club competition

The last comp was not for the faint-hearted, with 11 brave fishos tackling the Rock and Beach in hot, humid, mozzie-raging conditions that tested patience as much as skill. It was one of those sticky summer evenings where you earn every point.

Despite the tough going, Jay Woodley came out on top, with Colin "The Stingray" Farr snapping at his heels in second place.

Over in the Estuary, a strong field of 20 competitors turned up. Sub-junior Malachi Woodley put on a cracking performance, edging out Hamish Studdard by eight points in a tight contest. In the Men's Veterans, the long-awaited return of Len 'Where are the Luderick' Shanks proved worth the wait. Showing he hasn't lost his touch, Len took the win over Jimmy K. The Ladies division was a nail-biter, with just three points separating Bobbie-Jean Cole and Nicki Woodley, Bobbie-Jean claiming the round. In the Men's, Simon Cole secured first place, closely followed by Billy Splatt in a hard-fought battle.

Rounding things out, the Ladies' Veterans division went to Karen Atchison. All in all, a steamy, challenging comp, but as always, plenty of laughs, great camaraderie, and all those mozzie bites to remember it by.

Story and photo: Simon Cole, President



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FIRST WEEK FUN

Well done to all our amazing students who are smiling, thriving and having fun in their new classes! We can't wait to celebrate your achievements in 2026!

Source: *Brisbania Public School Facebook*



GET ON YOUR 'PUSH' BIKE!

Isla Conway has just begun Year 6 at Green Point Christian College — and now she is old enough, her favourite way to go is on her bike and says, "Riding to school is great fun! The best part is going down the hills!" Morning traffic along Davistown Road most days is very heavy, and the afternoon bus trip home, a short 3km away, can take a whole hour. Although school finishes at 3.10pm, the bus doesn't depart until after 3.49pm, arriving at her Saratoga stop at 4.07pm before continuing to Davistown — meaning an even longer trip for others.

"It's better than sitting in traffic in the car. I love riding my bike to school and, on the weekends," Isla said.

Her positive attitude in getting on the bike in the morning is fantastic to see.

Story and Photo: Taia Sansom



Above: Nicola Olyslagers – 2025 Women's Field Athlete of the Year GPCC is celebrating an extraordinary season in high jump by former student Nicola Olyslagers. After a dominant 2025 season, Nicola attained Women's Field Athlete of the Year at the 2025 World Athletics Awards having won both the world indoor and outdoor titles. She cleared 2.04m, setting a new Oceanian record, and secured the Diamond League crown.

Nicola has firmly established herself as the world's best in Field Athletics and says, "GPCC was a big turning point in my development. I grew in confidence and started to aim higher when I was surrounded by a community that cared about multiple areas of my life. The Chapel services and daily devotionals shaped my relationship with God, and in class I learnt how to work hard to reach my full potential. I believe this High School environment created a solid foundation for my future, and where I learned the love of Jesus."

Nicola's achievements are a powerful reminder of what can grow from a supportive, values-driven community. We are incredibly proud of Nicola and the way she represents GPCC with excellence, humility and faith on the world stage.

Story and Photo: Christina Hutchinson



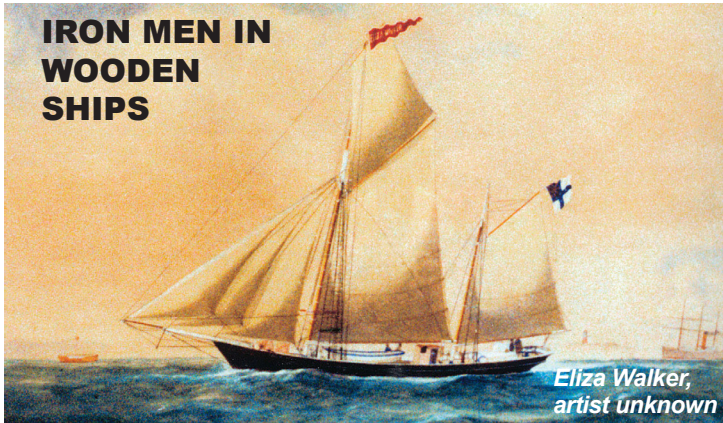
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IRON MEN IN WOODEN SHIPS



I have written much in these pages regarding Brisbane Water's shipbuilding history, particularly the significant role the 3 Villages area played in the story. The first ship identified as being built on Brisbane Water to enter Sydney was the 'Sarah' constructed at Veteran Hall, Saratoga, the first major shipyard was that of Jonathan Piper at Yattalunga. Four of Piper's apprentices – the Davis brothers, went on to become the most prolific shipbuilders in the district, possibly the entire nation.

More than 500 registered ocean-going vessels were constructed in the area, along with an estimated 100 additional unregistered. Brisbane Water is acknowledged as second only to Sydney in the volume of registered shipping tonnage produced during the nineteenth century.

Less well known, however, is that paralleling this vast amount of shipbuilding was the tragically short life span of many vessels. This was mainly due to the east coast of Australia having the entire power of the world's largest ocean pounding against its shores. Also the prevailing winds and a long rugged coast offering few safe havens between the major ports and river mouths made voyages particularly hazardous.

For many ships launched with such promise from Brisbane Water yards, the sea proved an ever-present and formidable adversary. For vessels powered solely by sail, the sand bars at the river and port mouths posed a particular threat. As ships turned to enter, they frequently lost the wind in their sails, drastically reducing steerage at the very moment precise control was most critical. Running aground they would be broken by the relentless ocean waves. Early steam engines provided little better propulsion being both low powered and relatively unreliable.

Many vessels met their end within sight of the very ports they were seeking to reach, while others simply vanished without trace. Although *bills of lading* carefully recorded cargo and documented the ships themselves, crew records were far less thorough, with scant detail to tell the story of the men who sailed

aboard her or what became of them when disaster struck. Perhaps next time you walk along the Rotary Shipbuilders Memorial between Kincumber and Davistown, spare a thought for the many unnamed crew members who sailed these vessels — and especially for those who lost their lives.

Their labour and sacrifice provided the essential coastal transport that helped build the Australian nation, often at great personal risk and with little recognition. Their stories, though sometimes unrecorded, remain an enduring part of our maritime heritage.

Captains' Paintings

'Captains Paintings' were a particular art form popular in the 19th Century, early works were often by self-taught, itinerant artists, however, as they became more popular more accomplished artists were commissioned. Although usually in a 'naive' style, the paintings have become very valuable and while I don't have any originals, I am fortunate to have five copied images of *Captains Paintings* ships built in the Brisbane Water District which tell the story of the short lives of Australian coastal vessels:

'SURPRISE' - built by Arthur Davis 1884, wrecked 18 June 1884. On only her second voyage en route from Macleay River was driven onto Seal Rocks.

'ACME' - built by Edward Davis in 1876, wrecked at Seal Rocks on July 1876

'CANDIDATE' - built by Thomas Davis at Terrigal Haven in 1885. Nine years later, capsized and was wrecked on the bar at Port Macquarie in Oct. 1894.

'SARSFEILD' - built by Ben Davis 1883. In 1887, took ground while being towed out of Richmond River and after being rolled in heavy seas for a number of days began to break-up.

'ELIZA WALKER' built by Giles Jenkins at Davistown in 1884, leaving Sydney on the maiden voyage bound for Nambucca, went missing without trace with all hands on 8 Oct 1884.

Story by Peter Rea with thanks to Gwen Dundon AOM



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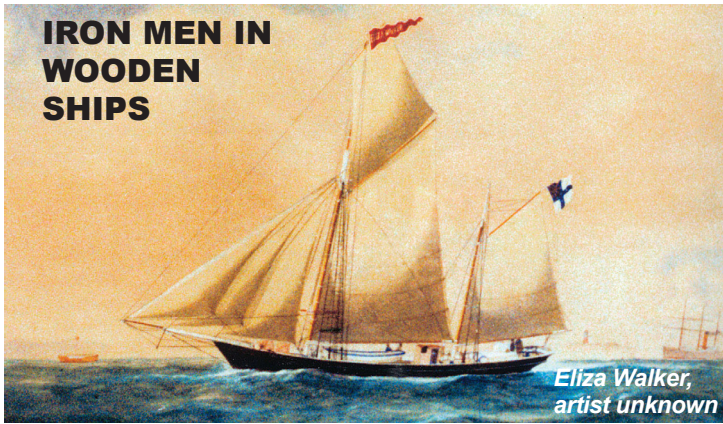


ADAM CROUCH MP
MEMBER FOR TERRIGAL

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Sun 1st	DIVA's - She's Every Woman – Musical Comedy Bringing 21 Celebrities To The Stage 1.30pm - 3.30pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Sun 1st	Rebecca O'Connor As Tina Turner "Simply The Best" 8.00pm - 10.15pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Mon 2nd	Central Coast Family History - Workshop: Start Your Family History 9.30 - 12.30pm – Learn how to use print and online resources 8 Russell Drysdale St East Gosford Cost \$30 with morning tea provided
Wed 4th	Trivia Night – Walk For Type 1 Diabetes 5.30pm – Grill'd Erina Fair – Raffle & Lucky Door Prizes
Thu 5th	The Ultimate Tribute Beatles - The Fab Four 7.30pm - 9.30pm – The Art House Theatre, Wyong
Sat 7th	Saradise Social Dance featuring RareTreats 6.30pm - Saratoga Community Hall – Kyeema Ave
Sat 7th	The Gospel According To George Michael & Whitney Houston 8.00pm - 10.15pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Sun 8th	The Album Show Presents - 50 Years of 1976 1.30pm - 4.00pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Sun 8th	Tribute to Eric Clapton's Unplugged & Hits Matt Arthur & The Lazybones 7.30pm - 9.45pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
Fri 13th	The Album Show Presents – The Travelling Wilburys 8.00pm - 10.15pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Fri 13th - Sat 14	ABBA Thank You For The Music 7.30pm - 9.50pm – The Art House Theatre, Wyong
Sun 15th	Jazz & Blues Piano Bar 1.00pm - 3.00pm – FunHaus Factory 141 Mann Street, Gosford
Fri 20 - Sat 21	Options Theatre Company Presents The Wizard Of Oz Fri 5.00pm, Sat 5.00pm & 8.00pm (1 hour show) Laycock Street Community Theatre, Gosford
Sat 21st	Ballet of Lights: Sleeping Beauty In A Sparking Show 4.00pm - 5.00pm, 6.00pm - 7.00pm The Art House Theatre, Wyong
Thu 26 - Fri 27th	Queen Forever - Greatest Hits Tour 7.30pm - 9.40pm – The Art House Theatre, Wyong
Fri 27th	Neil Diamond & Tom Jones–The Ultimate Tribute Concert 8.00pm - 10.30pm - Avoca Beach Theatre
Fri 27th	The Australian Eagles Show - 50 Years of Hotel California 7.30pm - 9.30pm Laycock Street Community Theatre, Gosford
Sat 28th	Grease VS Rocky Horror - The Ultimate Musical Mashup 7.30pm - 10.00pm – The Art House Theatre, Wyong
Sat 28th	Blues Brothers Rebooted Tribute 8.00pm - 10.30pm – Avoca Beach Theatre
Sun 29th	Central Coast Breakthrough T1D Walk For Type 1 Diabetes From 10am at Davistown Waterfront – Stalls, Food, Entertainment & more

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