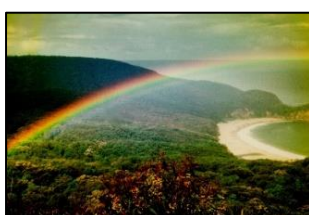
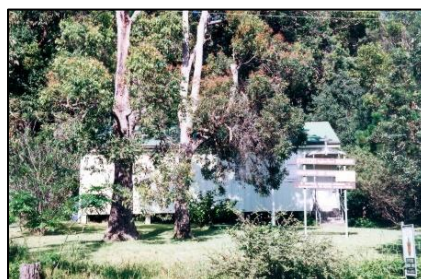


VOLUME 3 BOUDDI STORIES - PLACES and PEOPLE

Robyn Warburton (Ed)



FOREWORD

What an eclectic collection of stories, history and memorabilia, showcasing our amazing area. *Bouddi Stories – Places and People* takes the reader on a journey around Brisbane Water and throughout Bouddi National Park. We meet the people who have contributed and forged a tight knit community. Illustrated with a vast array of photographs, the reader will be fully immersed in the Bouddi story.

Starting with the history of the churches. Past and present, next comes the many uses of the broad Brisbane Water expanse at our doorstep: explorers, first settlers, ferries, wharves, boatsheds and pleasure craft are all covered. A few vessels and people, including the Radfords and putt putts, are highlighted.

The ‘triangle’ on Killcare Heights, as well as having a unique geology, has been home to a number of significant families contributing to our local history including the Bowes, Anstices, McCalls and Wilmotts. Preservation of the triangle was the impetus for the formation of the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust (its story is there too).

Bouddi National Park features strongly in the stories showcasing locations such as Maitland Bay, Lobster Beach and Rileys Bay. The dedication of local legends like David Dufty, Allen Strom and Beryl Strom is remembered and celebrated. David’s poetry is interspersed throughout. A potted history of the important work of volunteer bush regenerators who control invasive weeds in the park, starting with the original Bitou Bashers led by Don and Pat McConchie with Helen Warliker and Ian Thiering. The weeds at Maitland Bay were tackled by Robert McClure, David Dufty and friends. The work continues with Bouddi Bushcare today.

The strong sense of community has flourished on the Bouddi Peninsula with a plethora of community organisations. The local volunteer fire brigade dates back to the 1950s with Minutes of an AGM from 1956. There is a strong membership today captained by local hero, Michelle Biddulph.

The various community associations in the area all fill their own niche and come together co-operatively when needs be for a common cause. The Pretty beach/Wagstaffe Citizens Association was formed in 1951. The first project was to establish a community hall which was opened in 1954. The refurbished Wagstaffe Hall of 1999 was the result of the initiative and guidance of Fay Gunther and Gwen Perrie.

The stories of other local organisations, some of the past as well as the present, are told and they include the Country Womens Association (CWA), Red Cross, Frigid Digits, Garden Club and Bird Watchers. (The story of the Killcare Surf Lifesaving Club is told in Volume 2 of this history). All of the organisations and groups provide opportunities for friendship and comradery whilst pursuing passions in common. An abiding sense of community continues to flourish on the peninsula.

Deb Holloman 2022

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THE CHURCHES

Frankie Oates, Anne Jackson et al

The churches have played an active role in community life in the Bouddi Peninsula area. Their role is probably modified by the fact that many people in past years in the area have been holiday goers and holiday house owners and not permanent residents. There are more permanent residents in recent years. The following material comes primarily from Frankie Oates, Anne Jackson and the members of the Hardys Bay Community Church with special thanks to Doreen Janes, Ben Isaac with help from Robyn Warburton who has gathered the information about the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. Photos of the churches are from the Bouddi Society Photo collection unless stated. David Dufty, Ed.

Early Days

In 1825 William Ward purchased 150 acres at Ward's Bay, now Killcare Extension. Here he farmed using Indigenous people as workers. On Sunday, Mrs Ward is reported to have given Sunday School lessons to about 30 Indigenous people who did not work on that day.

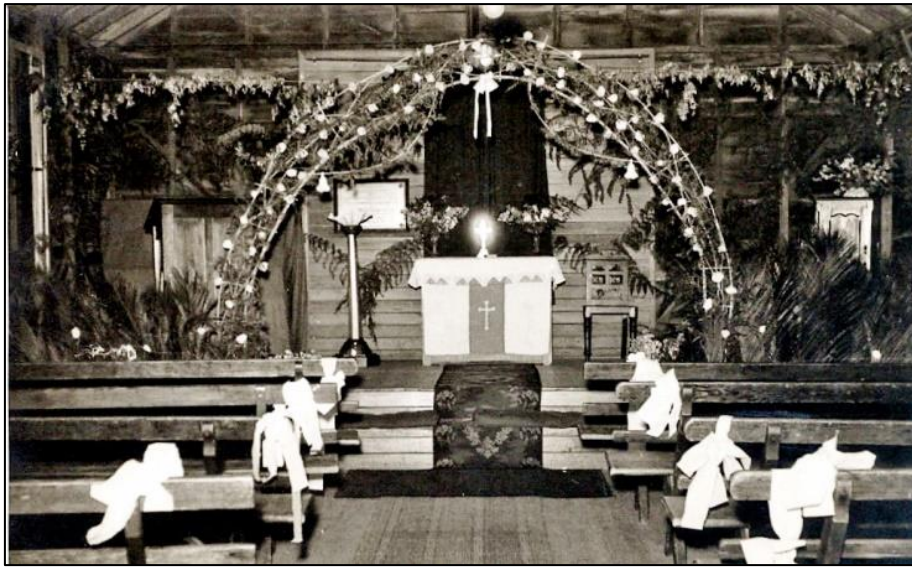
ST PETERS -WAGSTAFFE

Almost 90 years ago, a Mr Ransley held church services in his home at Wagstaffe. As the congregation grew, Rev. Tanner came across by rowing boat from Woy Woy. Here are two versions of the story of the origin of the hall that was to become St Peters, Wagstaffe.

On 16th June 1914, Lot 68 Wagstaff Point Estate was purchased by Alfred Thomas Pritchard, Harbour Master of Sydney, for 17 pounds 10 shillings and transferred on the same title to the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, John Francis Stretch for 10 shillings. Early residents recall a rough, general purpose, community-cum-mission hall in Wagstaffe Avenue being used for socials and occasional services. There were no pews in 1920.

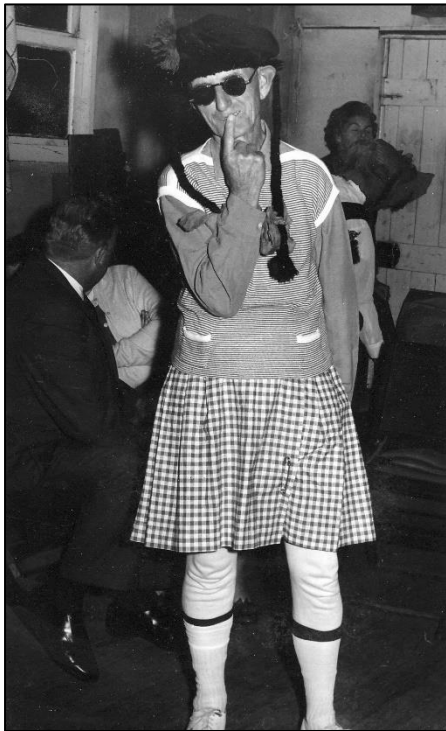
After World War 1, Mr Ransley with the help of locals, as timber cutting was the main industry, built a hall for dances. The proceeds were to be used to pay to build a Church of England on the present block bought for 10 shillings by the Diocese of Newcastle. As well as services, baptisms, funerals and weddings were held.





St Peters decorated for the Owens wedding at Wagstaffe, 1954.

In January 1927 Pretty Beach Public School opened with one teacher, Mr Charles Allen, from Ettalong. He was a hard-working Methodist lay preacher, who conducted church services along with his daughter, Joyce, who taught Sunday School, in the one roomed school until his sudden death in 1949.



Later, Frank Vehyl, a local resident, gave Sunday School lessons, and donated pews for a church to be named St Peters. Most of the furniture and fittings were donated as memorials.

Mr Frank Smith lived in Albert Street and was an important man in the community.

Described as the 'life of every party' you can see him dressed for a role in an entertainment at Wagstaffe Hall.

He was President of the Pretty Beach Wagstaffe Citizens (forerunner of the Progress and Community Association) Association in the 1950s

But he was more than that.

Mr Smith was a carpenter and 'his skill proved invaluable during the construction of the Wagstaffe Hall'. He worked during the many weekends he spent visiting his house in Albert Street, Wagstaffe. He had built his house too and when he retired he lived there permanently.

He also used his skill to enhance St Peters Church. He designed and built the altar seen in the photograph above.

All, or most, weddings and christenings took place at St Peters as it was too difficult to travel to St Pauls at Kincumber.

However, there was a close relationship with the little church at Kincumber, which was started with Home Services in 1830, and a church built in 1844. The graveyard is of historical importance as early settlers and many residents of Wagstaffe and the adjoining areas are buried there: Will Davis, the first teacher at Kincumber; Mary Hardy of Hardys Bay; James Dunlop, Astronomer; Turo, Aborigine of note and more recently, Russell Drysdale.



War-time wedding at St Peters, Wagstaffe. Beryl Leno married Joe Blackall circa 1943.
Photo: Dorothy Jenkins



Gwen and Belle Greenhalgh and two younger friends dance the hula at a concert at St Peters circa 1947. Below: Belle's wedding at the church.
Photos: Gwen Perrie



Belle Greenhalgh's wedding at St Peters, Wagstaffe. The bridesmaid is her sister, Gwen (Greenhalgh/Perrie), 1954. Photo: Gwen Perrie



Sunday School Picnic at the beach circa 1945. Photo: Gwen Perrie

About 1947 Mrs Jarrett ran a small Sunday School and in 1950 Mr Frank Dale drove an old van around the area collecting children for Sunday School and had 50 children enrolled with 5 teachers. This was discontinued in 1966 when the Dales left the district.

About 1954 Shirley and Jack Truscott held children's services on Killcare surf beach, until they moved away. It was reported that they later became missionaries

Frankie Oates wrote the following piece to tell the story of the little church, which may not have been commissioned as a church. It seems that it began its life as a community hall and developed into a church. To begin with, visiting ministers took services at the hall, so the denomination changed along with the visiting minister.

"ST. PETERS " - WAGSTAFF

Almost 90 years ago, a Mr. Ransley held church services in his home at Wagstaff. As the congregation grew, Rev. Tanner came across by rowing boat from Woy Woy.

After World War 1, Mr. Ransley, with the help of locals, as timber cutting was the main industry, built a hall for dances, the proceeds were to be used to pay to build a Church of England on the present block bought for 10 shillings by the Diocese of Newcastle. As well as services, baptisms, funerals and weddings were held.

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The graveyard is of historial importance as early settlers are buried there; Will Davis, the first teacher, Mary Hardy of Hardy's Bay, James Dunlop, Astronomer, "Turo", Aboriginie of note and more recently, Russell Drysdale.

St. Peters was closed, after much deliberation, mainly due to many deaths and ageing, on 15th December 1996 by Bishop Herft, and the few remaining members now worship at "All Saints", Empire Bay.

Frankie Oates
Nov.15, 1999



Bishop Herft and Frankie Oates photographed, possibly closing the door of St Peter's for the last time.
Photo: Frankie Oates

Frankie Oates was a great stalwart of St Peters from the time she came to live permanently at Killcare in the 1980s until the church was decommissioned in 1996.

On behalf of the little church, she organised an annual fete at Wagstaffe Hall on Easter Saturday each year for many years. After the church was decommissioned, Frankie and the congregation moved to All Saints at Empire Bay which also closed because of a diminishing congregation.

St Pauls at Kincumber then became the church for some but others, such as Jack and Shirley Battishall, chose to go to the Community Church at Hardys Bay. Frankie Oates died in November, 2007 and her funeral was held at the 'new' church, St Pauls, Kincumber across the road from the old church near the roundabout.



The church was sold and with some renovation has become a holiday house. In 2009, it is owned and often visited by a young family who are interested in its history.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY



The Parish of the Holy Family is part of the Catholic Diocese of Kincumber.

Towards the Future, A History of Kincumber Parish and Holy Cross Church by John Dawes has provided valuable information.

The religious history of the area seems to start with Patrick and Rachel Mulhall, a Catholic family, who were established at Wagstaffe in 1841. Another early settler, James Mallen, purchased a pew for 5 pounds at Holy Cross, evidence that he was a member of the congregation. Through the years, the Killcare, Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach and Wagstaffe section of the Holy Cross parish, appears to have had pockets of Catholicism. In early times the Catholic families crossed the water to attend mass at South Kincumber or Woy Woy when it was part of Holy Cross and later when it became St John the Baptist. The cemetery at Holy Cross, South Kincumber saw the burial of many of the peninsula's Catholic residents.

In 1947 the Rev. Patrick Croke was appointed the first Parish Priest of Kincumber.

The Catholics of the area wished to have Mass celebrated locally, so to begin with this was done once every three months and subsequently once a fortnight at Wagstaffe Hall. Increasing numbers however required a permanent site and, with the help of the late Pat Walshe, a local Real Estate Agent, a site on High View Road was secured.

It was a double block with an old house. Jack and Madge Young of Wagstaffe worked hard to fix up the old house to be used for Mass for some time, until white ant activity made it imperative that a new church be built.

Local residents, Eileen and Darcy Stewart and Monnie and Jack Dunn, were instrumental in establishing the plans for a church to be built on the site. This was done with much effort, hard work and the raising of money to cover costs. The result is the handsome Church of the Holy Family, opened in 1981. The congregation owes a large debt to the foresight and hard work of the pioneers and are very appreciative of that which they passed on.



Darcy and Eileen Stewart, the founding members of the committee, which brought about the building of the Holy Family Church at Pretty Beach. Photo: from *Towards the Future*.

Below: Tom Jackson, a loyal member of the catholic congregation, reads the prayer at an Australia Day event at Wagstaffe.



HARDYS BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH



In 1959, Rev. Thorburn from Gosford held Presbyterian services in the building which had been a community hall and was then owned by the RSL Sub Branch and is now the Community Church. Then Rev Coulther from Terrigal continued this work until the premises became licensed in 1964.

The Community Church members date their church back to May 1971 when Mr and Mrs Arthur Evans built a garage in Manly View Road, Killcare Heights, while their house was being built.

Mrs Evans asked three small children if they would like to hear stories about Jesus. At first they met in the garage and so began the after school Happy Hour. Mr Evans offered transport assistance, by driving children to and from the *Happy Hour*. In 1974, a large room was added to hold about 30 children. Mrs Claire Lidbury and Mrs Dawn Tadman assisted as teachers.

In November 1977 Mr and Mrs Evans took a trip to the United Kingdom and Mrs Tadman took *Happy Hour* to her home in The Scenic Road. At this time Mrs Pam Martin had been running a *Know Your Bible* study group on Wednesdays at 1 pm. While studying the book of Matthew - in particular obeying "seek ye first the kingdom of God" - they felt inspired to begin a Sunday School in Pam's home, which replaced *Happy Hour*. Its growth with an attendance of up to 40 children necessitated the building of a shed on the Martin's property at Maitland Bay Drive.

The Sunday School and Bible Study were having quite an impact on the community, and it was felt that the group needed to bring worship and fellowship together. Prior to 1983, a member of the Ettalong Uniting Church approached the RSL regarding a lease of the RSL premises for a Community Church. The RSL appreciated the work amongst the youth and encouraged the formation of a Community Church, rather than one of a particular denomination. After discussion with those involved with the *Happy Hour* at Maitland Bay Drive and the Broken Bay Parish Council of the Uniting Church, it was decided on a joint venture as a Christian Outreach.

In April 1983, preliminary inquiries indicated that the RSL Sub Branch was willing to let their hall for a nominal rent to allow religious services and work amongst the youth of the area. In June 1983 a survey form was delivered to all the houses in the local community to determine Community interest for ministries from a local Church in Araluen Drive.

The response to the letterbox survey of the local Community indicated an interest in regular worship services, Sunday School, Ladies Fellowship and activities for older people. On 22nd June, 1983 a meeting of nineteen local residents was held to discuss the establishment of a local Community Church. From the meeting an organising Committee was formed for Hardys Bay Community Church. The members were Rev Robert Saunders (Chairman), Mr Maurice Porter (Convenor), Dr Ern Pedersen, Mrs Jenny Dale, Mr Robin Tadman and Mrs Claire Lidbury

On Sunday 10th July, 1983 the interdenominational Sunday School that was functioning in the Martin's home in Maitland Bay Drive was transferred to the Hardys Bay RSL Hall in Araluen Drive.

The inaugural service of the Hardys Bay Community Church was held on Sunday 31st July 1983, in the then RSL Hall. The following was reported in the *Gosford Star* on 10th August, 1983: *There was an overflow congregation at the opening and dedication of the Hardys Bay Community Church. Rev Dr John Miller, of the Broken Bay Parish of the Uniting Church, chaired the service attended by 90 adults and 30 children.*

During the first year, Hardys Bay Community Church was supported by the Uniting Church with a regular evening service being held, concentrating on youth work. On 4th June, 1984 the first constitution of the non-denominational church that was to be known as 'Hardys Bay Community Church' was approved. The object of the Church was to *maintain and conduct Christian worship & witness in the communities of Killcare Heights, Killcare, Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach, Wagstaffe and beyond, as opportunities occur. To maintain Sunday School, Youth work and a full Christian outreach to all sections of the community as God gives guidance.*

On Sunday 28th October, 1984 Rev Jim Henderson was welcomed as honorary pastor, continuing the witness to the local community. He continued in this role until 1993.

In October 1988, the Church purchased the building in Araluen Drive from the RSL (which had moved to new premises, not far away in Heath Road). At about the time of the purchase, several alterations were made to the building. The dedication of the building was held on October 30th 1988.

In October 1991, Hardys Bay Community Church affiliated with the Churches of Christ in NSW because of their emphasis on autonomy of the local congregation and to provide access to loan funds for a manse as well as access to trained ministry resources.

Special conditions were attached to this affiliation including the retention of the name 'Hardys Bay Community Church', retaining a Community Church identity and interdenominational element, as well as keeping a constitution and decisions regarding of Church matters at a local Church level. At this time the trustees were Messrs R. Tadman, M. Lidbury and D. Hore.

In 1992, Andrew Ranucci began as a Student Pastor while studying at the Churches of Christ College at Carlingford. In 1993 Andrew began as a full-time intern and then in 1994 as the first full-time paid pastor. His salary was subsidised by the Churches of Christ.

In 1997, due to the growth of the Church and Sunday School and the lack of space at Hardys Bay, the main congregation moved to the Empire Bay Public School for a 10am Service and Kids Connection. Hardys Bay retained a 9am church service and Kids Church with the 7pm service for youth.

In 1998, the Church purchased the property at Lot 2 Bundaleer Crescent, Bensville, for a future Church and school. On 1st September 1998, the name of the Church was changed from Hardys Bay Community Church to The Coast Community Church, reflecting the growth of the church beyond the Hardys Bay community.

In 1999, Marilyn Nikoloff joined the ministry team as a volunteer with a specific focus on the Hardys Bay congregation and the local community. In that same year the growth of the 7pm evening service at Hardys Bay led to the congregation deciding to also move the location of this service to Empire Bay Public School. Hardys Bay continued to retain a 9am Church service and Kids Church.

By the year 2000 the growth of The Coast Community Church congregation meeting at Empire Bay required a focus by the ministry team. To enable ministry to continue at the congregation meeting at Hardys Bay, a Management Committee was appointed from the Hardys Bay congregation chaired by Merv Thatcher.

In 2001, the congregation at Hardys Bay became financially independent from the congregation at Empire Bay (later meeting at Kincumber), enabling the Hardys Bay congregation to employ their own pastors. Michael Littlefair was employed as a Student Pastor two days per week with Marilyn Nikoloff continuing her voluntary role as a Pastor at Hardys Bay.

By 2005, it became clear that The Coast Community Church had become two separate and financially independent congregations. A 'Heads of Agreement' was put in place by both congregations, to begin the process of formal separation to become independent churches. The name 'The Coast Community Church' was retained by the congregation meeting at Kincumber, while the original name 'Hardys Bay Community Church' was adopted by the congregation, meeting at Hardys Bay. As part of this Heads of Agreement (28th November 2005), affiliation with the Churches of Christ in NSW was required. The newly formed Hardys Bay Community Church came into being on 1st July, 2006.

The active life of the church over the years is revealed by the following photos.



One of many weddings conducted at the church.



Hardys Bay Community Church Kids Club above led by Narelle Jones, who also plays piano for church services.



FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP CLUB



From left around table: Kathy Pile, Olga Jones, Marie Dutton, Thelma Fraser, Max Lidbury, Jack Battishall, Ina Laing, Ruth Dunlop, Marge Pearsall, Shirley Battishall, Rose Moore having morning tea, March 2009.

Photo: Robyn Warburton

Other activities of the Church include:

- The Children's Ministry running concurrently with the morning service
- The Youth Ministry with meetings on Friday evenings.
- Bible Study Groups
- The Seniors Ministry on Fridays (Friday Friendship Club) with morning tea, bowls, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHS: The Bouddi Collection unless acknowledged.

BRISBANE WATER - MARINE ACTIVITIES

The Bouddi Peninsula is largely bounded by, and bonded to, the Pacific Ocean and the bays of the Brisbane Water. This section of our stories needs a whole book and not a chapter. We will raise some of the relevant items, make some contribution to the stories and images and leave the rest to future researchers and writers.

Our main references in this section will be to recreational boats since Fishing and Fishing Boats are dealt with under the heading 'Fishing' and Ferries will be briefly dealt with under 'Transport and Communications', 'Shipping and Shipwrecks', 'Commerce and Industry' and also mentioned in many of our Bouddi Bios. Above all, please refer to Gwen Dundon's deeply researched and referenced book 'The Shipbuilders of Brisbane Waters NSW' (Gwen Dundon, 17), which has much information relevant to this topic. The editors thank the many contributors to this chapter. Editors: David Dufty and Robyn Warburton.

Natural Setting

As brought out in the Natural History section of our CD-ROM the topography of the area lends itself to marine activities. The bays are safe harbours for ships of varied sizes but not for large vessels as it is not a Ria (a deep drowned river valley) like Sydney Harbour. Fish are abundant in the nearby seas, from the rocks and beaches and in the shallow waters of the bays.

First People

Aboriginal life centred around the water as evidenced by extensive middens surrounding the bays. Please refer to our sections on the First People.

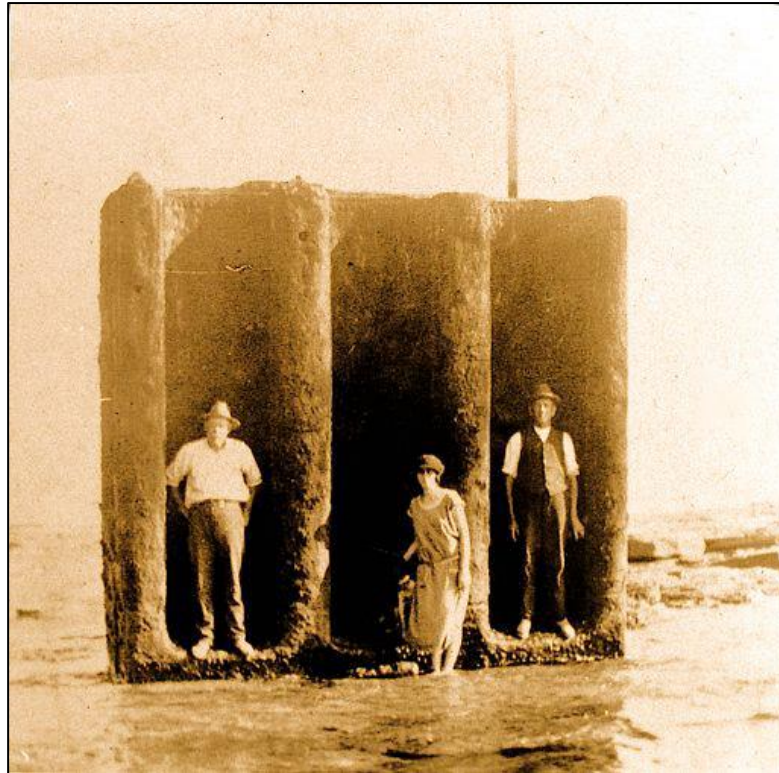
The First White Explorers, the Settlers and the Trading Ships

The explorers and the first settlers obviously came by sea and their only means of contact was via the sea. Bev Runcie's extensive research, *European Settlers and Their Land*, tells the story of the settlement of Bouddi Peninsula. The story, *Transport and Communications*, explains the part the trading ships played. Gwen Dundon's book is also very informative on the trading ships which were the lifeblood of this area before there were good roads into the area.

Shipwrecks



The demise of *The Maitland* is our most famous shipwreck but there were other ships which sank or went aground in the area. Helen Monk's contribution, *Shipping and Shipwrecks*, tells the story. Gwen Dundon (ibid. pp.13-15) also has useful information on the problems of ships crossing the sandy bars between Wagstaffe Point and Ettalong.



Remains of the wreck of *The Maitland* at Maitland Bay 1920s

Dredging

Dredging was resorted to on various occasions but was always problematic as dredged sand had to be placed somewhere and natural forces soon filled channels again. The question of dredging is again (in 2009) a highly topical issue due to ongoing silting of the channels from Brisbane Waters to the sea. In late 2009, dredging of the Lobster Beach channel was undertaken by contractors employed by Gosford City Council with funding aided by NSW State Government.



Dredging off Ettalong.

Photo: Radford Collection

The Boats in The Bay

Once the boats to be seen in the bays were almost all rowboats or putt-putt boats kept at the wharves or drawn up on the beaches. There were no boats moored in the bay. Today there are many boats attached to moorings in the bays, as well as to the public and private wharves and the Marina. These boats reflect the changing nature and types of recreational boats in our area. This is illustrated by the a luxury cruisers being given their final refinements at the Marina while at the public wharf we see a vintage launch reminding us of simpler boats in former days.



Hardys Bay Boats

Photo: Manfred Gottschalk

Rowboats

by David Dufty and Rod Radford

We have tried to encourage boat owners to tell the story of their boats. Here is one example.

Rowing boats, or rowboats as we will call them, are a vital part of our local history and once lined the beaches, were tied to wharves or hauled into boatsheds. I have some vivid memories of rowboats from my childhood holidays on the Central Coast and I have tried to recapture those days in the verse along with photos from our Bouddi photo collection, which follow. David Dufty Ed.

Rod Radford, who has visited or lived at Wagstaffe Point from the 1920s and whose family owned holiday cottages at Wagstaffe Point, supplied the following stories.



Wagstaffe Point and San Toy Estate viewed from Ettalong wharf and the Frank Lucas Boat Shed

Rowboats were the main way of moving about Brisbane Water in the holiday-house days.

They were working boats when houses were built in places where the Amalgamated Ferries couldn't deliver building materials and they had to be rowed in. For example a lot of our material for the San Toy cottages was delivered to Ettalong and we would mostly use rowboats, sometimes strapping two boats together for heavy, awkward articles like water tanks. This is how we brought our piano over from Ettalong to Wagstaffe. The lining material for home rebuilding and rail sleepers for seawalls were carried over on a 30ft boat with much fun.

Rowboats were used extensively for holiday fishing and also by professionals. Early in the weekend, the centre of activity would be Taylor and Young's boatshed in Woy Woy, where many boats would be hired out for fishermen from Sydney. Some other visitors would go a little further, say to Booker Bay or Ettalong, to fish in their favourite spots. Most holiday cottages would try to supply a rowboat in their letting; if not, then Bullions or Andersons were geared to hire boats and fishing lines on a daily or weekly basis. You could buy bait from them too. For the more privileged, each boatshed had a small fleet of launches with their inboard Vinco or Chapman pup engines.

You started them by pulling a strap on the flywheel and they then (hopefully) gave the characteristic 'Put Put' sound. Frank Lucas had a boatshed at Ettalong wharf and most days rowed round the bay selling prawn bait, with his voice of salesmanship floating over the bay. San Toy supplied rowboats, which always seemed to need repair and maintenance, for holiday renters.

Rowboats were commuting boats. Rod Radford commuted by rowboat, from Wagstaffe to Ettalong, where his pharmacy was, before he purchased his Amphicar, which we have written about elsewhere. Sometimes it was dark before he got home. If Pat and Rod Radford went to an evening Rotary event in Ettalong, they packed up their going-out clothes and rowed across in their rowing clothes, changed at the Pharmacy, went to their event and then reversed the process coming home.

Rod has many other stories such as having a launch try to run them over and having to confront the launch driver with a belligerent oar. Seeing a woman and a child in the boat, they finally desisted. On another occasion the two young Radford boys took their canoe and paddled beside Rod and Pat but a fog had descended and there was much concern about whether the boys would get lost in the fog. Some people would hitch a ride home to Wagstaffe with Rod including on occasions some inebriated ladies who had spent a happy afternoon at the pub. Stories of boating experiences appear throughout the recorded memoirs.

During the war years all the small boats were towed away to Gosford so that Japanese invaders, arriving through the mouth of the Hawkesbury, would not be able to make use of them. They were filled with water to stop them drying out. Some ended up casualties of the war. Rowboats were made of Australian hardwoods. Cedar was the most treasured. Boats could be ordered from Sydney and brought up on the *Erina* or the *Gosford*. There are various magazines for wooden boat lovers.

Rowing boats are commemorated at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Tasmania. We have the Putt Putt Regatta at Davistown each year celebrating the next stage of boating history.

Happy days; great memories from the Melville family album



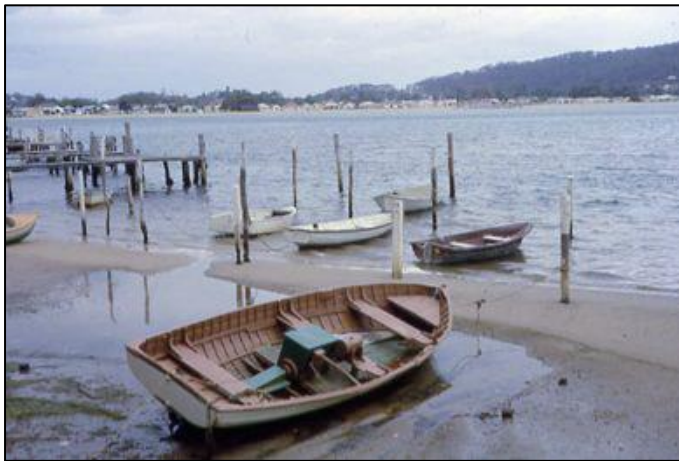
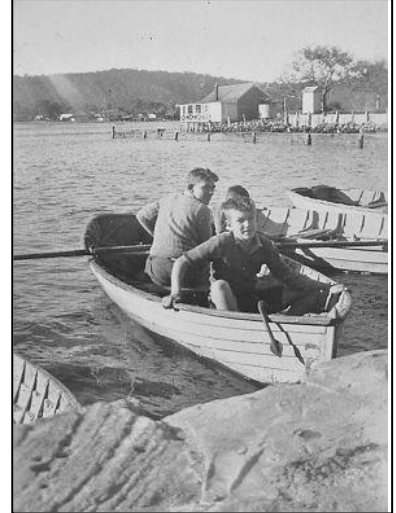
Mr Melville Snr did repairs successfully without being a shipwright. Where leaks occurred a small bucket got you out of trouble. Tenants coming to terms with an oar in each hand sometimes needed some training. There were plenty of laughs by experienced locals at the expense of holiday rowers. The experienced would seek the edge of the shoreline and row against the slower running tide.



The inexperienced, sometimes with a load of four to six people, would remain in the centre of the fast flowing tide, gain several boat lengths with great effort, change rowers and drift back to where they started from. Then they would repeat the same effort all over again.

There were some fine local oarsmen like Wal Abrams, an elderly gentleman, who would row double oars with a companion. It was always a polished exhibition of feathered oars. I understand that in his youth he and friends would row to Sydney and, if caught in rough weather, would land on a beach and wait for calmer weather.

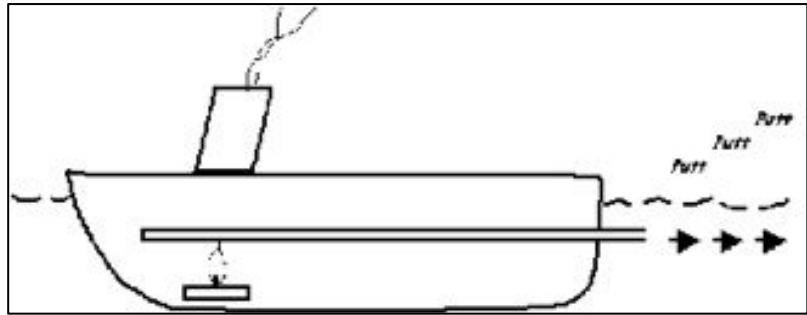
A friend of mine, Jack Chivers, a qualified shipwright, moved to Wagstaffe and maintained all types of craft. He built two surfboats for the Killcare Surf Club and kept the Kincumber Orphanage ferries in order. Sadly business got slow and he moved back to Sydney.



Photos: Rod Radford, Gosford Library, Killcare Surf Club, the Melville Collection and David Dufty

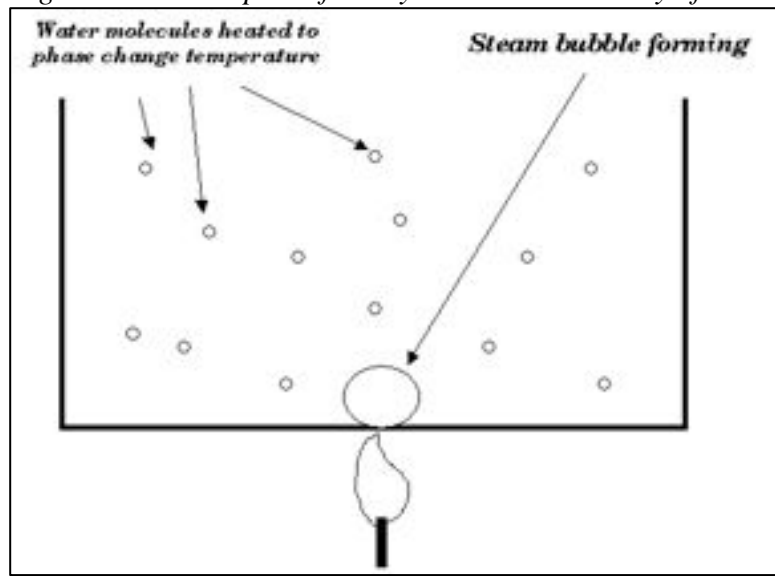
Putt-Putts

The motion is started by the formation, or snap of the bubbles (phase change of water into steam). This pushes the water out the tubs in the back of the boat.



The tube exit orifice coefficient is higher in exhaust part of the cycle than in the entry of the water. Also important is that the front of the boat is designed to move through the water easily and the rear of the boat does not allow movement through the water because of the square back.

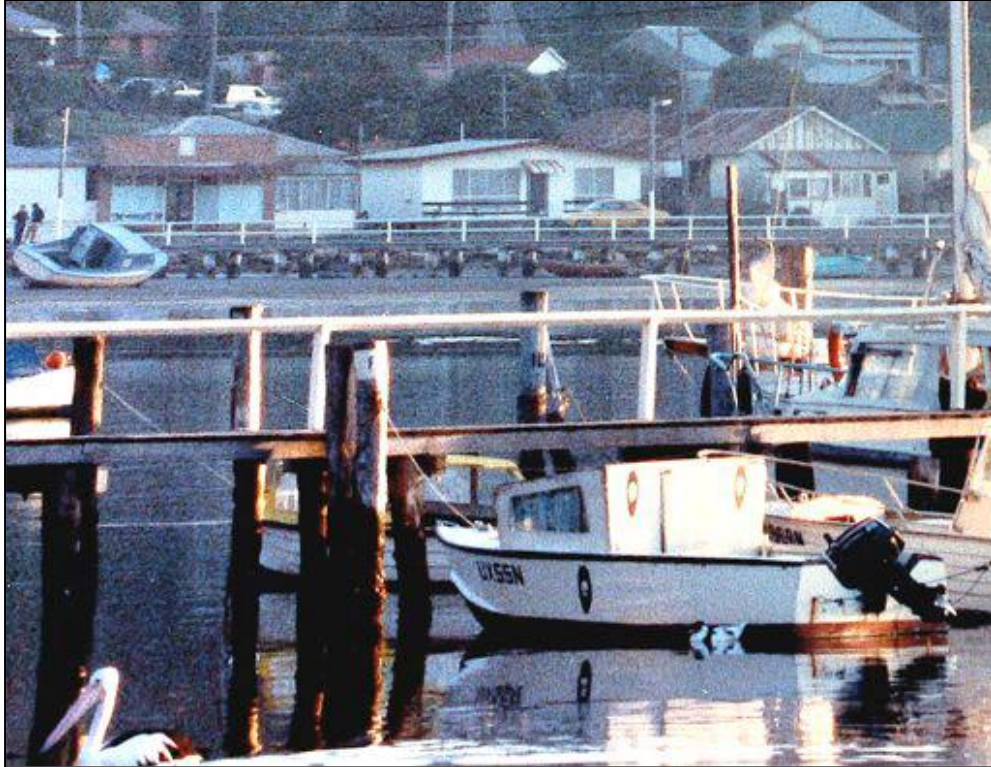
For many decades tin steam powered boats have brought joy and excitement to everyone who has had a chance to own one.



Even to this day, the basic design of the steam engine has not changed. People are amazed of the simple construction of the boat, yet, it is self-propelled by the internal engine. Putt-putt Boats are also known as candle boats. About 90 some years ago, the Great Depression brought grey skies to Putt-putt boat owners. In desperation, mom's candles were cut into pieces to provide fuel to run their boats.

Putt-putts were a very popular way to get out on about on the local waterways. There were many putt-putts, owned by permanent and holidaying people, to be found locally. They have been given the name, putt-putt, because that is exactly the sound the engines make as they motor along.

Max Lidbury, the proud owner of a putt-putt, remembers that all the boats for hire at Anderson's Boatshed at Ettalong were putt-putts. He also recalls the putt-putt his father, Norm Lidbury who lived at San Toy Estate, owned for fifty years. It was a beautiful boat and he regrets selling it. Steam powered putt-putts have a long rich history, dating back to the 19th century. This is how they work. Water in the boiler is heated until water begins forming steam bubbles. The steam bubbles form as a snap or pop, expanding rapidly. Steam by volume is 1600 times more than the water it was composed of before the change of phase. The following information was found in Wikipedia:



***Liz* is owned by Max Lidbury**

The term, putt-putt can also be used to describe open launches with older-style petrol-fuelled inboard motors. Max, long-time resident of Albert Street, is the owner of a putt-putt called *Liz*, short for *Elizabeth*, moored at Pretty Beach extension wharf. The boat is a 16ft clinker built boat with a Simplex 57 horsepower motor.

It runs on standard petrol. It has one cylinder and the engine is water-cooled; the water is filtered and pumped up through the motor and piped out the side of the boat. The exhaust pipe sticks out the side. The 'maggy' (magneto) is not kept with the boat. It is used to start the engine and removed when the outing is over.

He says the boat needs constant attention. It is very important to 'kick' the motor over often, keep it well-painted and see that anti-fouling is carried out every twelve months.



Max Lidbury doing a maintenance check on his Putt-Putt called *Liz*.

Some water must be left in its bottom, so the wood does not dry out. He has owned it for thirty five years and over that time it has taken him on many successful fishing trips inside Broken Bay and Brisbane Water. He says it is the best type of boat to use for fishing.

Bill and June Murphy and *The Putt-Putt*

If the weather's good, Bill and June Murphy set out in their putt-putt called *The Putt-Putt* whenever they get the urge. They have owned the little boat for thirty-eight years and have photos showing their five children on board. They recall taking their youngest daughter on board in a bouncinette.

They found the boat, sunk off Pretty Beach Extension and arranged for it to be lifted out of the water; they replaced two planks and some decking and have looked after it ever since.

It cost them \$200, all they could afford in those days with five children to care for. It would have to be the best \$200 they ever spent. They keep it on a mooring at Pretty Beach. Pictured is Bill Murphy and trophy aboard his putt-putt.



Bill Murphy with flathead after great fishing trip in their putt-putt.



Murphy's Putt-Putt at right

Graeme Anderson's Modern Putt-Putt

Graeme's boat is a Marshall-Lord Narrabeen 17. It is 17ft long and was built in 2002. Its cost was \$34,453. It is fibreglass, but clinker built so it looks like timber, with a teak inlaid deck and a diesel motor described as 13.5 HP twin cylinder 480CC.

Graeme has this to say about his boat: *It is a PUTT PUTT because all twin cylinder motors have the putt putt sound. It has a maximum speed of 8 knots, and I bought it in 2004 from the original owners because I first had a typical high speed boat with 150hp outboard that went at 80kph that scared everyone stiff. My kids would not use it, and I tried going across to the Hawkesbury River and the thump, thump across the waves was unpleasant on a good day. So if I was going to stay boating in Brisbane Water I thought I may as well enjoy it by chugging along at a speed where I could see things.*

My kids just tow a board behind on which young children can ride standing up very safely. The boat carries 5-6 people happily and is very stable and very safe. I keep it at the Killcare marina. All boats must have a registration number ending in N, so mine is called JEAN.



Forging ahead. Graeme Anderson's putt-putt, Jean.

Pleasure Boats



Photo taken from Heath Road in the 1960s, Hardys Bay with very few boats.

Once the boats found in the bays were almost all rowboats or putt-putt boats kept at the wharves or drawn up on the beaches. There were no big boats moored in the bay. A few older boats remain. There are many dinghies, new and old, (some of which are used to take owners out to their moorings in the bay and some abandoned), launches and trawlers. There are very few putt-putts; the stories associated with three of them are told here.

Today there are many boats attached to moorings in the bays, as well as to the larger private wharves and the Marina. These boats reflect the changing nature and types of recreational boats in our area. They range from old fishing trawlers and launches, to modern yachts, motor sailors and cruisers.

This part of the story is incomplete. Wonderful stories could and should be told about many more of the ‘The Boats in the Bay’ such as *Polaris* and *Police Car*, famous Sydney to Hobart race contenders and the boat that was used in the film, *Australia*. There are famous boats and what about the not-so-famous boats belonging to and enjoyed by people who love Brisbane Water.



Boats moored in Hardys Bay.

Photo: Robert Warburton

Graeme and Heather Morgan begin the story of boating for pleasure on our beautiful waterways.

Those people familiar with the Bouddi Peninsula know that the beach and the bay are significant features of the area. The bay refers specifically to Hardys Bay and more generally to the wider Brisbane Water. Hardys Bay is not only a lovely enclosed area of the ‘lake’. But it is also a first-class and desirable location for mooring small boats and some not so small. It is close to Broken Bay, Pittwater and the scenic Hawkesbury River. It is sheltered from all but the strong westerlies and has three public jetties for loading and unloading. Also it should be noted that dropping a line on a lazy afternoon while still at your mooring in Hardys Bay occasionally results in a nice feed of fish!

Motor Cruisers

Graeme and Heather Morgan talk about their boat.



Graeme and Heather Morgan's motor cruiser, *Shiloh*.

Taking up residence in Killcare some thirteen years ago, we knew that owning a boat was a must and after much consideration and searching we eventually purchased a small motor cruiser. Buying a boat is easy: arranging a mooring in Hardys Bay is difficult. After applying in September, 2001, it took until July 2002 to be allocated a swing mooring on the southern side of the bay. Today, the waiting time for a mooring in Hardys Bay is said to be about two years.

Our vessel, the MV 'Shiloh' is a Roberts Longboat, being 21ft, with an inboard Volvo Penta diesel motor, two bunks in the forward cabin and a galley, which is just right for an active couple. Although maximum speed would be no more than 7 knots, 'Shiloh' is quite suitable for fishing trips off Killcare Beach or Lion Island. We have taken many visitors on scenic trip around Daleys Point, past St Huberts Island and into the Broadwater, sometimes stopping at Fishermans Wharf for a lunch of fish and chips. Boating, by either motor or sail, in and around our great expanse of waterways is a wonderful recreational activity for our community.

***Jeannie T* belongs to Steve Teasdell and Deb Holloman**

Steve and Deb hope to convert her into a comfortable motor sailor. *Jeannie T* is moored at Hardys Bay. Steve described it like this: *The boat was built in 1952 at Port Adelaide by RT Seales. Its length is 36 ft and it is built of Jarrah with celery top pine decking. It was built as a crayfish vessel working in Spencer Gulf and later converted to a prawn trawler working in Victoria - then decommissioned and now a pleasure boat.*

Originally, 'Thistle', now it is named 'Jeannie T'.



The Australian Maritime Museum's Australian Register of Historic Vessels provided more information and provided the picture: ***Details of Vessel*** - monohull material and construction: timber; carvel; copper and bronze fastenings; deck material and construction: timber planked; bronze screw fastenings; cabin or superstructure material and construction: timber plywood; stainless steel and bronze fastenings.

JEANNIE T was launched in 1952 under its original name 'Thistle' for the Kemp Bros. The craft was used for cray fishing and prawn trawling for a number of years and the initial arrangement included a sailing rig. Searles added a 1.2m long counter at an unknown date. It no longer has the sailing rig and has had modifications to the superstructure; however, the hull structure is a good representation of its original configuration.

Significance

JEANNIE T is one of the few surviving examples of a commercial fishing boat hull from the 1950s. The designer and builder, R.T. Searles and Sons, is an important boatyard in South Australia. It is now used as a pleasure craft, and is in good condition thanks to its original sturdy construction. It no longer has the sailing rig and has had modifications to the superstructure; however, the hull structure is a good representation of its original configuration. *JEANNIE T* remains one of the few surviving examples of the scores of these craft that were built in the 1950s.



A modern fishing boat cruising past the Mantra at Ettalong.

Beltana of Wagstaffe

Rod Radford tells the story

Why is she always referred to as "she"? Is it because she has a sharp nose, or a beautiful superstructure or bountiful beam? Or is it because when drawn up on the Marina's slipway she shows a good, sound, round bottom? When Dad and Don Radford came back from Wollongong on a 30 foot hawser boat, she became "she". An old tub that presented itself as having for many years taken the mooring ropes from cargo boats to wharf, so that they could pull alongside to unload. We couldn't find a good name for her but she became known, more or less, as The Blue Boat.

After her last refit, we named her Beltana in recognition of the ship, which on her maiden trip in 1912 brought our Scottish family to Australia and was one of four P. and O. "B" class ships designed for such trade and also in preparation for a transport vessel for the 1914/18 war.

This brought recognition from Margaret and Bob's (Rod's daughter and her husband) Saratoga boating friends, that their family came out on the same boat on the same maiden voyage.

For two years or so before Dad's death in 1965 we had many days of open sea fishing or family days up the Hawkesbury. After his death all thoughts of professional fishing disappeared, so we used it in the same old way. It also became a work boat carrying sleepers, and rocks for seawalls, luggage and furniture of new permanent tenants, from Ettalong to San Toy. So much so the Tax Dept accepted "her" as a reduction.

Time moves on and "she" became a pleasure boat and subject to refits. The original old petrol engine, a "make and break" with two unusual external tappets, able to be adjusted whilst working, was changed for a safer Southern Cross diesel. Again years later, it was changed to a Perkin's four cylinder with a much better performance. From an original open deck and an open steering section, with a front cabin, it was changed to front and back cabins and an intermediate covered steering cabin and a walkway round the boat, making her more weatherproof. Later after some mould was found, the rear cabin became a low open deck and was sheltered with a canvas hood. A good sea boat but never really tested, yet it had an attraction for sandbanks, which I am sure, "she" felt they should not have been in Brisbane Waters. However "she" had a great respect for rocks and kept away from coastlines and bombores.

Ray Jacobs of Booker Bay Marina borrowed her for a towing job to Wollongong and coming home at night got caught in a bad southerly. He was very pleased with her performance. It is also worth reporting that she ('The Blue Boat') and Don Radford's trawler moored close together, both broke away during the early part of the Chilean tidal wave, with a desire to wander about Brisbane Water. Both were quickly returned to their moorings. Ettalong neighbours like to see "her on her moorings" and question her absence, if not there.

With the owner now restricted by age, "Beltana" is now cared for by the maintenance men around our bays and around the Central Coast.

More Marine Memories by Rod Radford

Some Drama near Half-Tide Rocks.

Half-Tide Rocks lost its claim to a romantic title, when the pinnacle that used to appear on the tidal runout was destroyed, because of abortive attempts made to establish a wartime-boom against submarines. Boats and yachts have been stranded on its rocks at different times The "SS Erina" and "Gosford" have taken their turns in being caught on the sandbars nearby to float off with rising tide. At Lobster Beach there is a plaque to the local fisherman who bravely saved lives yet was drowned himself a few days later.



Murder had been committed by a husband who claimed his wife and family had accidentally drowned. Notes to the value of 500 pounds, left in a coat pocket in a drifting boat, was not a tragedy but to cover an attempt to abscond. There have been many dramas: boats have been overturned on the bar sometimes with fatal consequences; the futile effort of helping a heart patient who had a heart attack whilst he was fishing in the cold of night; the youngster killed by a disturbed rock on an adjacent hillside; the search for a drowned child; “The Joyce” rounded these rocks one Saturday, to disappear with its five occupants. So the natural beauties of a pleasant area can hide many a tragedy, sometimes in circumstances created so casually.

Sailing Boats



Chelsea Liz

Adrian Williams owns *Chelsea Liz*, pictured above. *Chelsea Liz*, described as a sloop, is a 30 ft Carter (Annapolis, U.S.A.) design and was built at Berkley Vale. The yacht was launched in 1981 and remained in Sydney until purchased by Adrian in 2002. Named *Relentless*, it was a Sydney to Hobart contender in 1983. Adrian said he would have competed against it during earlier times when he was serious about racing competitively. Now he is retired but enjoys the competition of racing on Brisbane Water and Pittwater, where he has met with success recently. *Chelsea Liz* and crew have won several times in the Twilight Series at Gosford, and they won the 2009-2010 Broken Bay Inter-Club Challenge, held in Pittwater.

***Audrey* belongs to David Jackson.**

David Jackson's boat is unusual and highly valued by its owner. It is a 22ft Norwegian wooden 'Folk Boat'. Its name is *Audrey*. *Audrey*, moored at Wagstaffe, has sailed on Brisbane Water for over twenty years.



Hardys Bay Sailing Club

Karen Tinker tells the story of the Hardys Bay Sailing Club

Hardys Bay Sailing Club was formed in about 1985 by parents and citizens at Pretty Beach Public School. The club was established with the principal of the school at the time, Colin Tarbox , an avid sailor, together with people including Rick Moore, the Turiers, Gows, Beasleys, Jacksons, Dave Bentley, Max Lidbury, and others. They agreed to set up a sailing club centred around one class of sailing dinghy. The Mirror Dinghy was agreed upon as there were several already owned and available at the time and the Mirror class of dinghy was designed as a family boat such that an adult and child were the best combination as skipper and crew.

The club operated from the Hardys Bay beach and grass reserve area at the end of Araluen Drive. A club barbeque was held monthly after the race and was centred around the picnic table shelter. The sailing course was originally set out in the Hardys Bay area and then extended from Wagstaffe to Rileys Bay.

A lot of dinghies were bought from Sydney and a few were bought inter-state. Some were restored while one or two were built at home like the one built by the Brooman family from Booker Bay. The Police and Citizens Association donated a dinghy to the club for the purpose of teaching young people to sail. It was called Disco Dancer after the successful Blue Light Disco set up by the police in the Umina Woy Woy area.





Jeff and Karen Tinker volunteered to sail the dinghy alternatively and teach children to sail.

The club had an active committee including Dave Bentley, Rick Moore, Jeff Tinker and Barry Foster, who met monthly to organise and arrange race activities to build the club up and encourage new members. Hardys Bay Sailing Club joined the NSW Mirror Association and helped run and participate in interclub events.

The club's finances came from a combination of fees, fund raising and local business donations including the RSL sub-branch and the RSL Club where a weekly meat raffle was conducted.

Members conducted training sessions for all sailors who were encouraged to compete in the weekly races as well as in State and National regattas. The ages of the sailors ranged from 10 to 60 years old. The club was responsible for the safety of sailing members and a rescue motor boat was on service each race day. The races were conducted within a strong tidal affected area and the starter/rescue boat, manned by Morris Fitzgerald, helped many an inexperienced sailor out of trouble.



The club's rescue/starter boat needed replacement and after 10 years of operation the club committee and members agreed that due the cost to replace the boat, it was more beneficial to join the existing Saratoga club as a separate class and use their facilities. Therefore, the Hardys Bay Sailing Club regretfully moved its fleet to Saratoga. The Club Champion and Pointscore trophies and all the honour boards were transferred over to the Saratoga Sailing Club. The Mirror Dinghy sailors competed for these trophies which continued to hold the Hardys Bay name reminding all of their origin.

Kayaking at Killcare 1998 to 2010

Robert McClure tells his story.

One of the attractions of the Killcare area is the local waterways. These waterways are only limited by one's imagination. On retiring from gainful employment, we (that is Kay and myself) moved from Brisbane (where I started kayaking) to Killcare. And one of the first things I did was to start to explore the local waterways. There were no bounds. Launching my kayak from Hardys Bay, I would paddle to Iron Ladder Beach, to Gosford and anywhere I felt like on the day.



At Iron Ladder Beach mid-week - Robert McClure 68 years young!

At first, as I do, I paddle by myself; this allows me to observe all around me, from mangroves to buildings to birds and fish life below and the changes of everything around me. Yes, personal safety is a main concern, so all my trips are planned and of course many images recorded as can be seen on my website <http://www.killcare.id.au>. Of my favourite landing places, where I can stop and enjoy all with a cuppa are Iron Ladder, followed by little Tallow Beach and then of course Maitland Bay, all visited during the week as there are very few people about.

After the first year or so I obtained a Kayaker Guide qualification; this allowed me to now share my discoveries with others (I worked with Ocean Planet of Ettalong). Being a guide allowed me to show and tell about my greater area to up to 10 other paddlers, including lunch stops at my special places.

During my time with Ocean Planet I set up a Kayaking Club called The OP Kayak Club. The club had around 80 members and there were 2 trips each week. I also ran a Wednesday night paddle from Lions Park, Woy Woy with around 12 paddlers. During and after this time, other kayaks started to appear at Killcare.

There were a few camping trips away when kayaks were taken. Smiths Lake and Port Stevens are just one or two places that we went.

My other paddling would cover a lot of the NSW coast from Batemans Bay to north of town 1770 in Queensland; this was done by camping and paddling.

I have been now living in Killcare for nearly 13 years. I still kayak but I am somewhat limited with what I can do now. One thing that is my 'nearly every week paddling habit' is a paddle to Woy Woy with a group called TackTours. We paddle around 15 to 22 km during the day with stops for morning tea and a lunch stop at some other place; a very good day as there are often twelve or more paddlers. I started paddling with this group in 2003.

The future? I will keep paddling.



Kayakers having fun off Wagstaffe. Photo: Robert McClure

Ferries

The ferries brought holiday-makers to Manly House, the guest house and refreshment room at Wagstaffe from the early 1900s.



The Murphys and the Owens operated the ferries which plied the route between Woy Woy and the wharves of the Bouddi Peninsula for many years. (See photo of the *Wagstaff* below.)



‘Catch the Cockatoo Ferry for a great day out. Travel back in time on the vintage Codock 11.



Enjoy a round trip to Ettalong which is great for groups, private charters & sightseeing cruises’. Codock 11 is often seen travelling from wharf to wharf, ferrying sightseers around Brisbane Water.

Photo: Robyn Warburton

From the early 2000s Palm Beach Ferries have operated a ferry service from Palm Beach to Wagstaffe to Ettalong. Silver Spirit, above, is one of the ferries.

Wagstaffe Ferry



Furniture of the Bays:

Wharves, Boatsheds And Baths

All around the bays are wharves, boatsheds and swimming baths. Wagstaffe in particular still provides typical scenes which have not changed greatly since the 1930s. What follows is largely a photographic essay on these features.

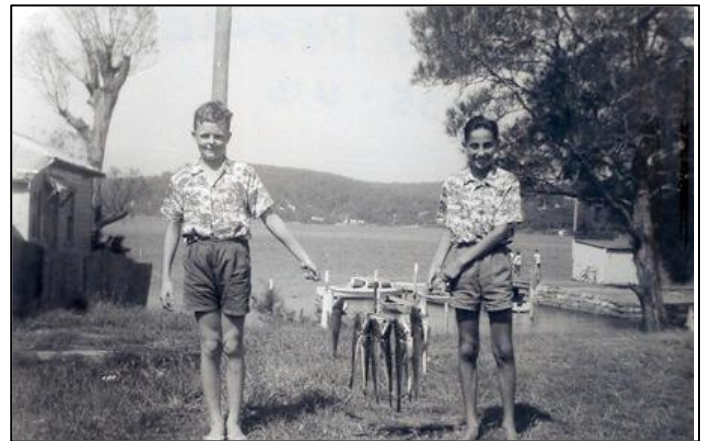
Wharves at Wagstaffe

A number of large public wharves were essential for the ferry services and also for the coastal steamers. Originally, the purchase of a block of land further up the hill was accompanied by a skinny block on the water's edge where a jetty was built. Eventually, the small blocks became the sites for houses.

Private jetties have always been attached to the houses on the waterfront at Wagstaffe.

Wagstaffe Wharf has always been (and still is) considered a very good fishing spot. The small beach is popular with families having small children. The children play happily on the sand or paddle in the shallows.

In the 1960s it was not very different to how it looks today. People still set up picnic tables like the scene below.





World War 2 recuperating soldiers wait to board a Murphy's ferry at Wagstaffe for a sightseeing tour of Brisbane Water. The tours were arranged by the Wagstaffe Branch of Red Cross.
Photo: Bill Murphy



Fishermen off-loading their catch onto the truck, which has been driven onto the wharf for the purpose. The fish being off-loaded in the photo above, could very well be mullet. The mullet run around Easter time each year and each day, during the season, the boats come into Wagstaffe. Locals could buy a fish for a dollar.

Photo: Arthur House



Boys will be boys. Older children enjoy jumping off the wharf and swimming to shore. Or, heaven forbid, riding bikes off the wharf, a practice that was popular with a group of boys in the early 2000s. Interested onlookers watch as a boy on a bike launches himself into the water from a specially built ramp, circa 2003. Wagstaffe Wharf is also a working wharf.
Photo: Barbara Morgan

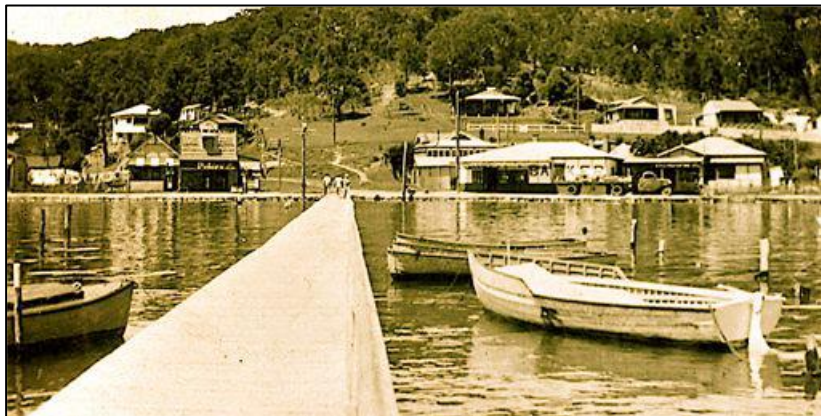


Two ladies at Wagstaffe Wharf, dressed in period costume for a special event.
Photo: Arthur House



Wharves at Wagstaffe circa 2017

Wharves At Pretty Beach



Pretty Beach was a separate settlement and needed its own wharf and store. The bakery and iceman, which served the various areas were also located there. Connecting tracks had become roads by the time of this photo. Another public wharf was Pretty Beach Extension wharf, opposite the school, which is still in use today and retains the original baths and a dressing shed.



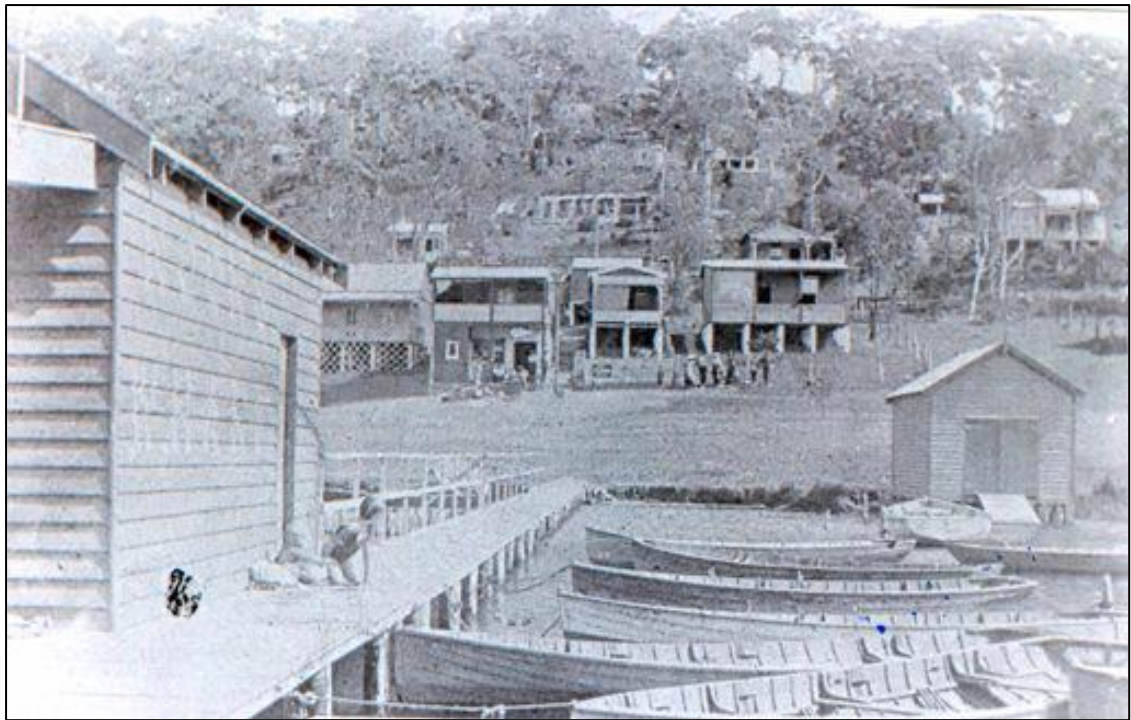
Funded by Gosford City Council and the State Government, the old wharf was replaced in 2006 with a new wharf and pontoon. A fishing table was provided a couple of years later and continues to be well used.

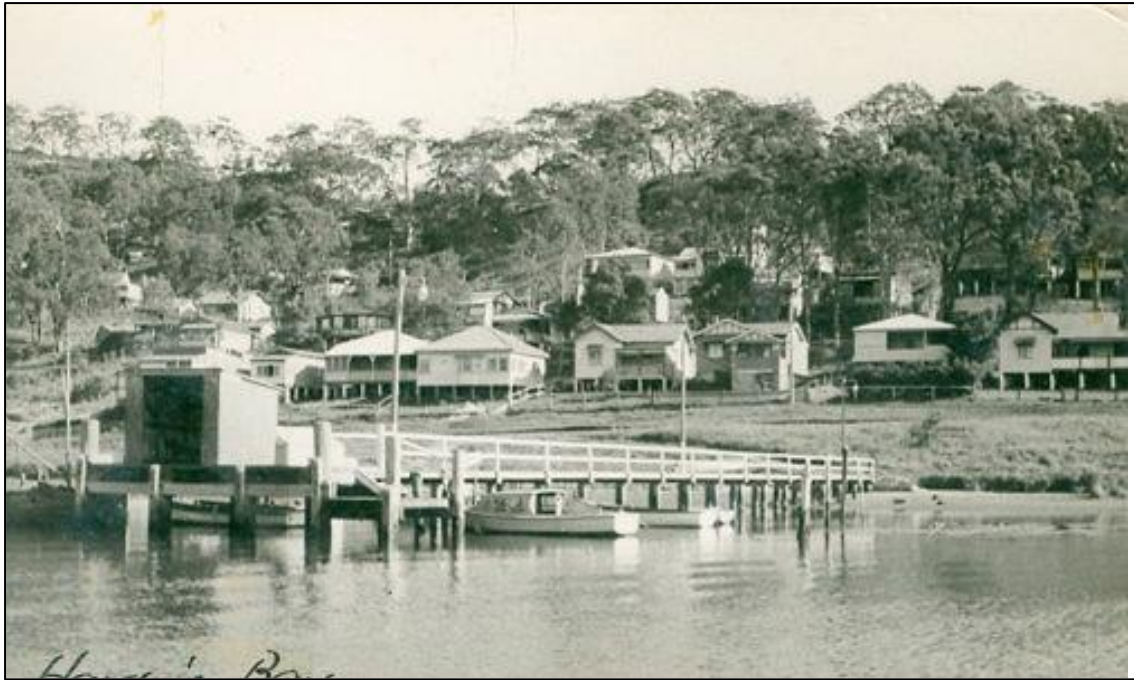
Hardys Bay Wharves

Nock's Wharf at Hardys Bay was close to the popular site for the first Killcare holiday houses and across the road from Nocks Store, post office and telephone.

It had been built by the store's proprietor circa 1920 and when it had suffered deterioration by 1929, the community raised money to for its maintenance.







Nock's Wharf was replaced by Hardys Bay Wharf built further along the road. Unlike Nock's Wharf it was built as a public wharf and is maintained by Council.



Hardys Bay Wharf in 2009 Photo: Robert Warburton



People disembark from the ferry, pulled into Hardys Bay Wharf, 1970s. Photo: Arthur House

Killcare Wharf



Killcare Wharf with pool attached and shops opposite. Killcare Road stretches up the hill.
Photo: Ruth Dunlop

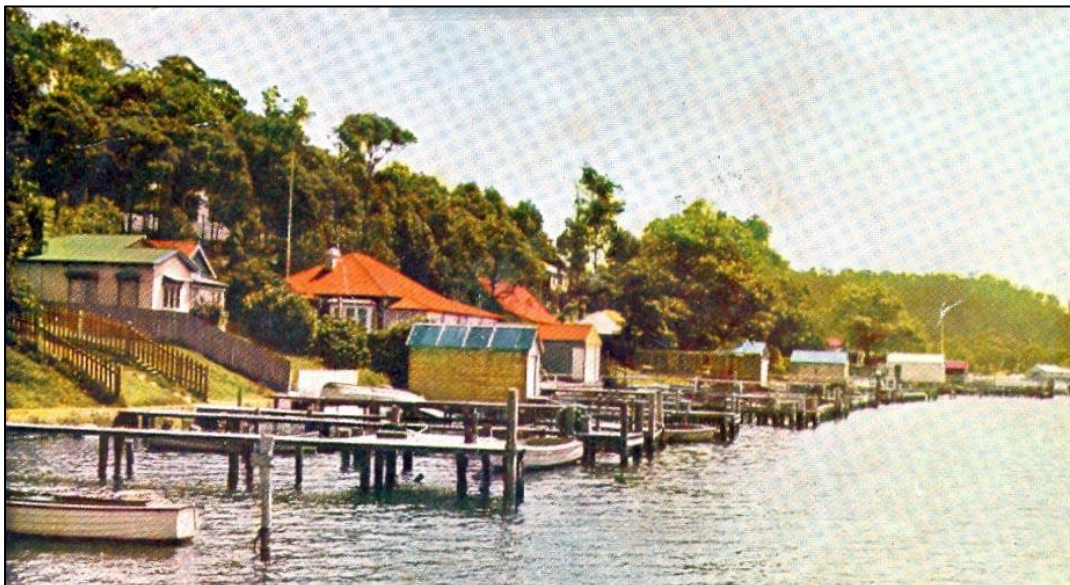
There was also a wharf, Killcare extension, at the end of Hardys Bay Parade, from which Sid Jenkins was sometimes rowed across the by his uncle to the wharf at the western end of the bay, Hardys Bay Wharf.



Where there is a wharf you will find someone fishing. Photo: Arthur House

Boatsheds

In early times there was a boatshed at the front of just about every house.



Private wharves, boat sheds and baths abounded at Wagstaffe in the thirties and forties, some of which are still there today. The baths made for great holidays as evidenced by the above photo from the excellent Melville collection.

There are fewer boatsheds now than there used to be. Council no longer gives permission for a boatshed to be built, but if maintained the old sheds can stay.



Boatshed along the Dog Track, adjacent to a house in Heath Road.
Photo: Robert Warburton

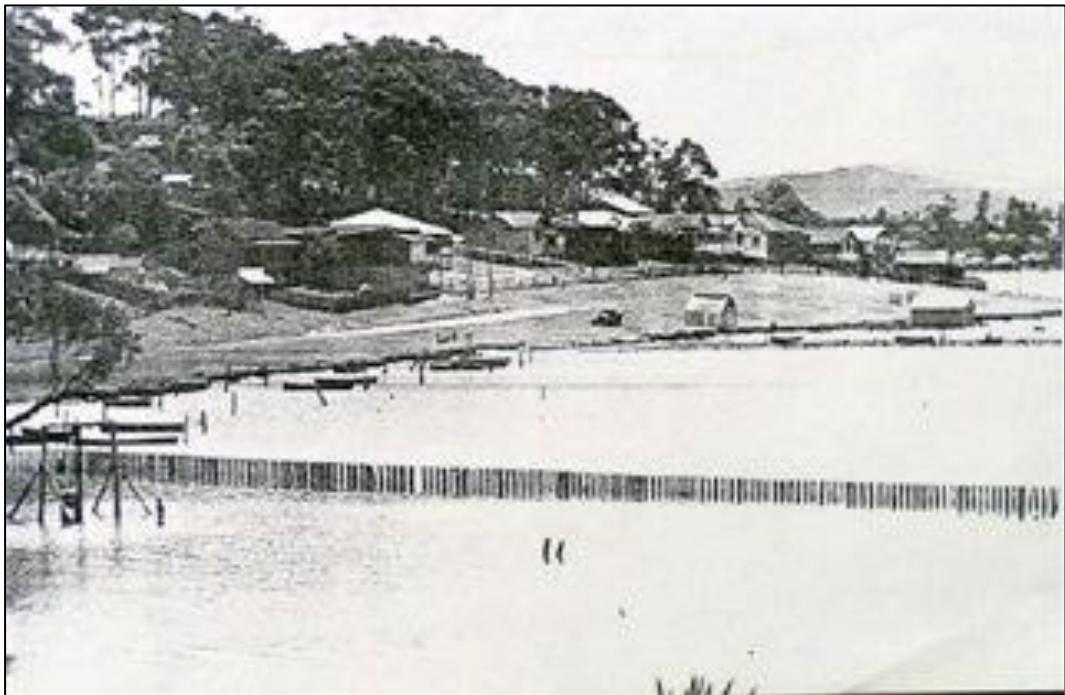
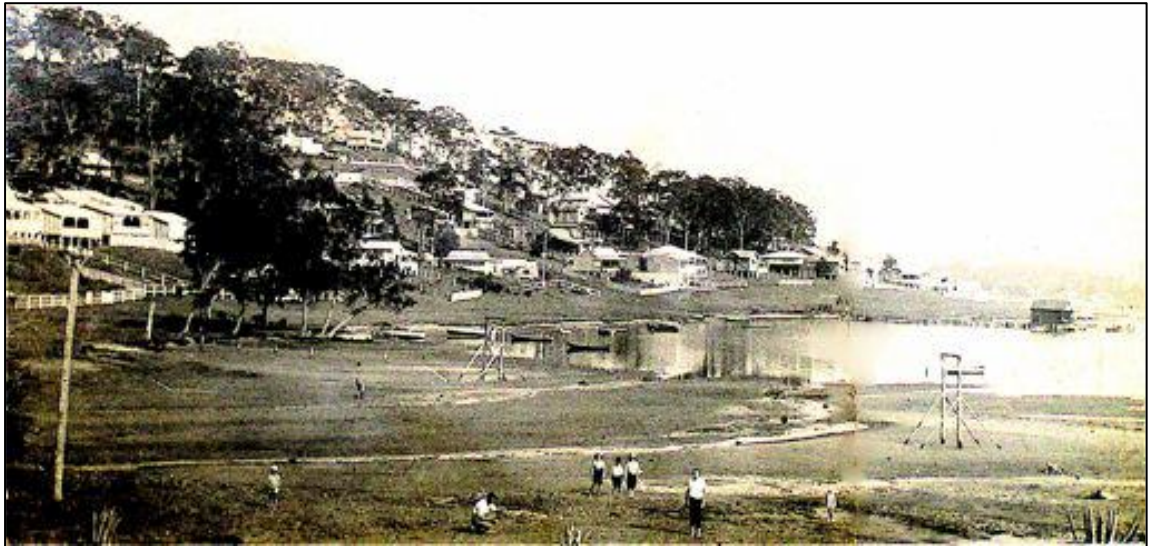


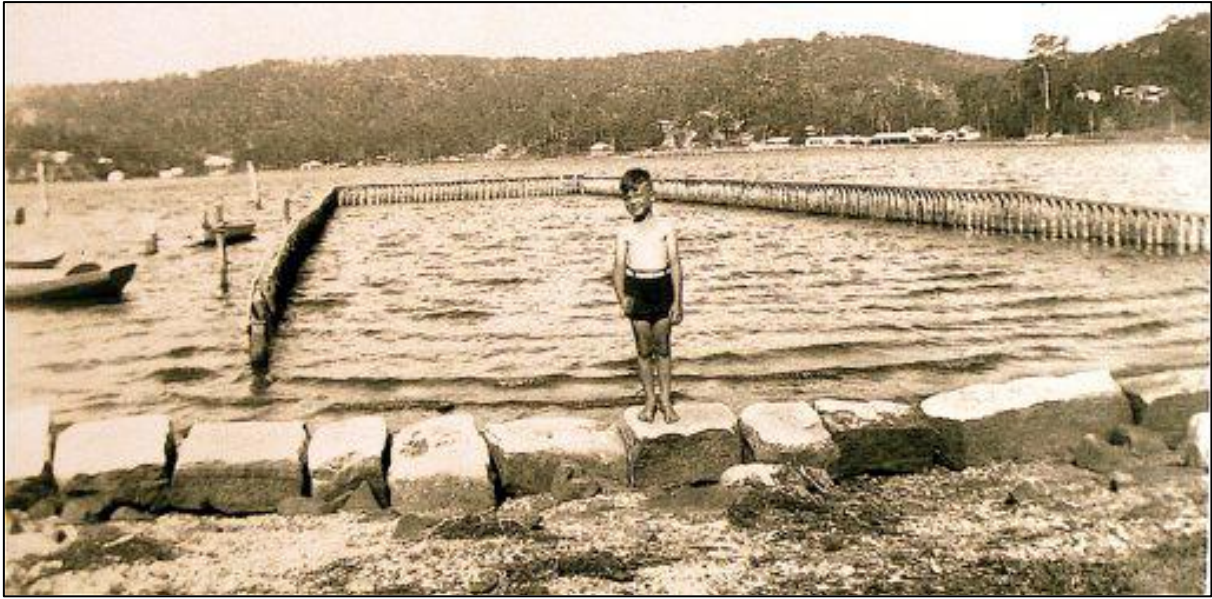
Changing shed at Pretty Beach. Still the same in 2009.

Swimming Pools

The swimming pool was in the southern corner of Hardys Bay. Two views of the large area at the corner of Hardys Bay, complete with play equipment, fenced off for swimming. At low tide it became a playground.

Hardys Bay public baths brought fun to many holiday goers. Note the absence of boats moored in the bay.

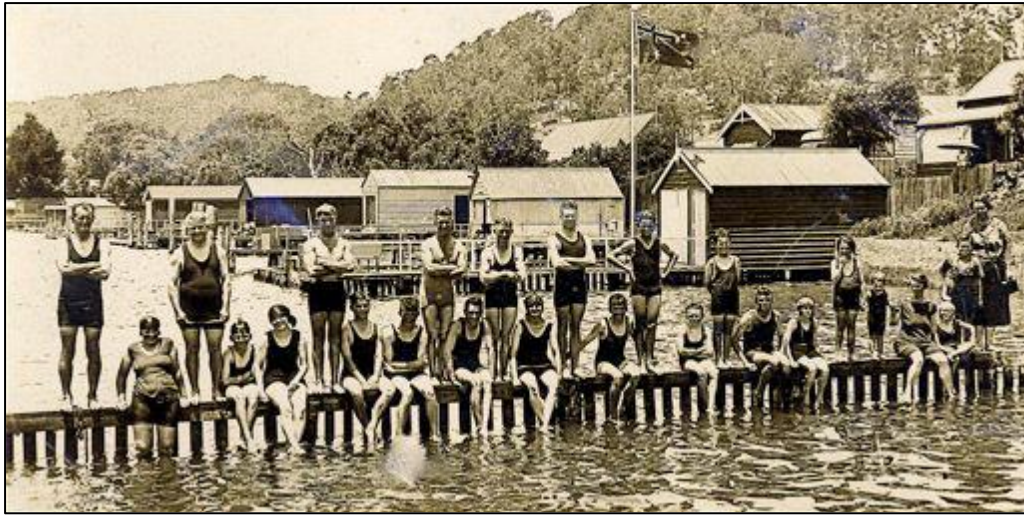




Above: The first swimming pool adjacent to Killcare Wharf. Below: The swimming pool adjoining Killcare Wharf

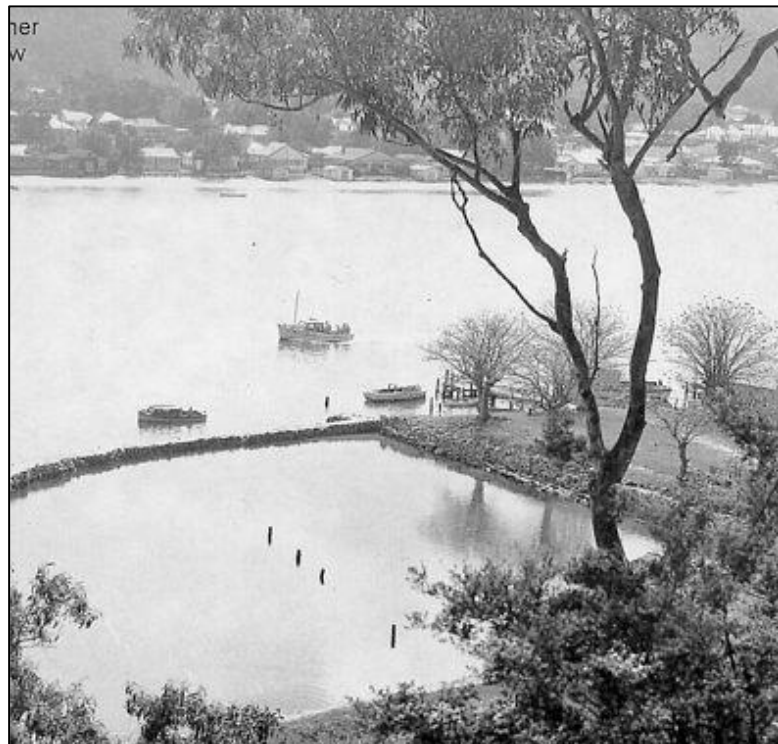


At Killcare Beach and Pretty Beach, bathing facilities for changing were very poor with a galvanised iron shed and a few benches supplied. During the Whitlam era when the Red Scheme to help unemployed people was in action, beaches including the Killcare end of Putty Beach had new sheds built.



This was the swimming pool at the front of the Melville house at Wagstaffe. The Melville family visited often, and the photographs tell us there was often guests.

The pool adjacent to San Toy served two purposes. It was there for the residents and holiday-makers to enjoy but it was also part of the reclamation scheme employed by the Radford family to recover land washed away by storms.





Kourung Gourung at Wagstaffe (San Toy), a modern house with a modern pool.

What Else?

Water Birds of course... pelicans... and ducks.





Mangroves



The mangroves which grow around the water's edge at Killcare and Pretty Beach are maligned by many, but most people appreciate them for the wonderful breeding ground that they are. The oldies claim there never were so many, so the siltation caused by development has increased their number.

The need for a Maritime Museum in Gosford

Rowing Boats are a major part of our heritage and only a few of the classic wooden rowboats are to be found in working condition around our bays and around the Central Coast. Each year more disappear such as the fine example illustrated at the end of the Rowboat poem, which could once be seen from Hardys Bay Parade but now can be seen no more. We would be interested to know of other boats still in working order. Perhaps there could be a chance of a Central Coast Marine Museum in the not too distant future. Sadly efforts to turn the home of boat builder George Frost at Kincumber into a museum have failed.

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The photos are from The Bouddi Collection unless otherwise acknowledged.

THE TRIANGLE

by Ann Bowe

'The Triangle' is how local people refer to the land bounded by Wards Hill Road, The Scenic Road and Maitland Bay Drive. Aerial photos show the actual triangle quite clearly although it has a cut across it, caused by Stewart Street. This study is limited to the land so delineated above, and does not include the opposite sides of these roads, which could also be said to be part of the plateau, as is the land immediately to the north.

The Macquarie Dictionary defines the concept *ecosystem* as 'a community of organisms, interacting with one another, plus the environment in which they live and with which they also interact...' The Triangle is here conceived as an ecosystem.

Geology/Landform/Soil/Climate

The Triangle is a unique part of the Bouddi Peninsula due to a combination of factors including its elevated, plateau-like relief; its mild frost-free climate sufficiently above the salty mists of the surfside area below and sheltered from the full force of the southerly winds: its lateritic soil, its natural spring, its plant communities and its human settlement patterns. (See story Natural History for further information.) Diagrams of these features may also be seen in *Bouddi Peninsula Study* edited by Beryl Strom.



Deep lateritic soil in the Triangle supports some plant communities and forms of agriculture and can be used for house building.

As pointed out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service: *Many people think that laterite is a volcanic rock, but it's actually produced by the weathering of sandstone. Over millions of years the surface of the sandstone at Killcare Heights has been chemically and mechanically decomposed to form soil.*

Under conditions of high rainfall and humidity this soil has been leached of silica and humus. What remains is a rich soil-like layer composed of oxides of iron and aluminium. It's soft and crumbly when formed, but it becomes extremely hard when exposed to the air, forming hard pea-shaped nodules and solid boulders.

Laterite is not a mineral, nor is it a complete soil. At Killcare Heights, laterite has been used for building, in particular for the walls of houses. It is dug up when it is soft, crumbly and rusty red. It can be moulded into blocks that harden in the open air and change to a duller reddish-brown colour.

The story of *The Mudbrick House* in this publication describes the method used to make the bricks from laterite, which proved to be very suitable for the purpose.

The following websites provide more information:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkGeology.aspx?id=N0005> See also:

http://adderley.net.au/geology/exhibition/04/04_02.htm

Vegetation

The Triangle ecosystem includes trees, shrubs and low growing herbs and grasses. Some of these are illustrated below.



Tree fern



Bracken fern



Eucalypts with Acacias



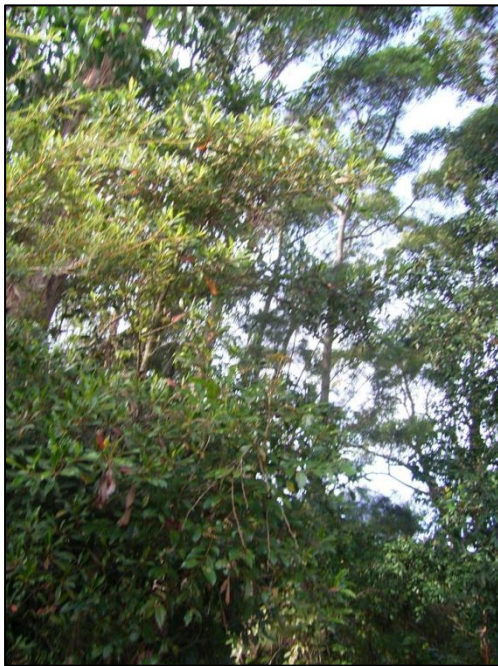
Allocasuarina



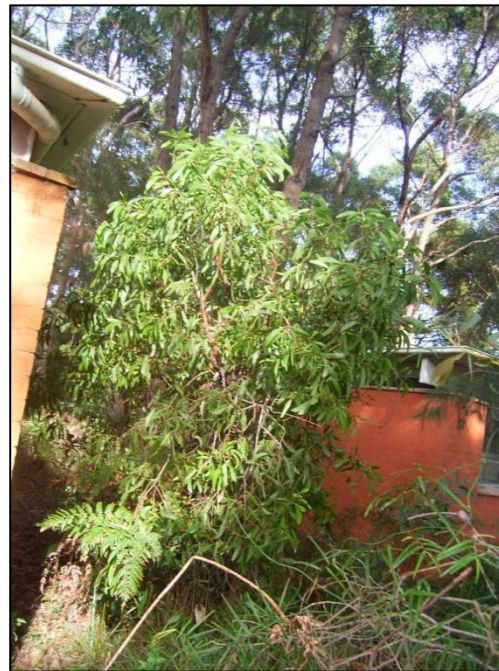
Eucalypts with *Breynia oblongifolia*.



Maidenhair Fern



Blueberry Ash



Persoonia

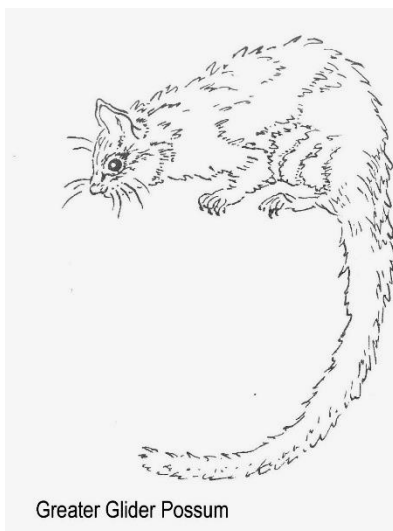


Cycad

Animals including Humankind

There is still evidence of the existence of many native animals within The Triangle, although unfortunately no law prevents cats roaming at all hours of the day and night. Birds abound, as do reptiles such as snakes and lizards and the Diamond Python, who basks happily in the sun outside a house within sight of humans. Bats, Owls, Antechinus, Phascagals and Cockatoos steal fruit from exotic trees and enjoy native fruits such as Persoonia and Wattle seeds. Kangaroos, Wallabies, Possums, Echidnas and other animals still inhabit the nearby Bouddi National Park. Insects occur, such as mosquitoes, butterflies, black ants; termites and spiders such as Funnel Webs, Huntsmen and black house spiders also abound.

The following drawings are from *Bouddi Peninsula Study*.



Echidna

Human beings have also lived here for countless generations.

It must be assumed that Aborigines made use of The Triangle for bush tucker.

For example, mammals, reptiles and snakes and birds such as Cockatoos and Kookaburras would have been hunted. Plant species, such as fruit bearing Persoonia, Lillipilli and Grevillea, were foraged and gathered and the women spent many hours grinding the seeds of various Acacias.

The Aborigines were the first people living in the area. There are records of indigenous people in the Wyong and Gosford districts near Mangrove Creek, where remains go back to 11 000 years. There is also much local evidence of their life in this area. (Recent research has indicated that Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 50,000 years but whether this applies to the Central Coast is unknown.)

Traditionally, the Aborigines had a special relationship with the land to which they belonged, unlike Europeans who believed that they alone owned the land.

Because Aborigines did not practise agriculture or live in permanent dwellings, Europeans thought they were not fully using the land and so felt justified in claiming it, settling it and changing it. Most coastal Aborigines were wiped out by disease and/or starvation through the loss of their land.

European Settlement

Research carried out for an earlier study, *Reflections from the Beach and the Bays*, edited by Jill Baxter, indicates that the earliest European settlers in the Triangle area were the Walters family, who were first associated with the Bouddi Peninsula in 1932 and took up residence in 1934, on uncleared virgin land. (See also chapters on Land Settlement and Real Estate.)

Ron Walter's father acquired 100 acres, stretching from The Scenic Road to Wards Hill Road to Maitland Bay Drive.

There was a good supply of water from natural springs, which were later dammed. Ron and his sons carved farming land out of the bush and built a house and sheds out of packing cases and galvanised iron, on what is now the Miles's property. Mrs Walters used cardboard to line the walls as protection from draughts and to create wallpaper.

They grew green vegetables, passion fruit and citrus and also raised poultry for meat, eggs and manure, and reared a couple of Shetland ponies.

There were eight (or seven) children in the family. During the Depression years, Ron's parents brought up eight extra children, whose own parents could not care for them.

After reading the above in the Draft CD-ROM, Barry Wall whose parents John and Dulcie lived in what is now the Maitland Bay Environment Centre in the 1940s and 50s sent this further information.

‘The earliest settlers and residents of ‘the Triangle’ were farmers, Clive Walters and his wife and family. They cleared the trees and scrub and over the years established a farm. They grew ground crops such as beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, corn and pumpkins. Fruit included citrus, passionfruit and strawberries. They raised chickens, pigs and Shetland ponies for sale and home use. Malcolm remembers picking beans as a young child. Their property and home had frontage to Wards Hill Road.

The immediate family of Mr and Mrs Walters were Jack, Clyde, Les, Kate (Jones), Alice (or Ally Settree), Olive (or Olly McCoy) and Ron (not necessarily in the right order of age). I read in one account of ‘Bouddi Stories’ that there were eight children in the Walters family, but I only know of seven. Jack Walters and his wife and sons, John, Kevin & Eric travelled to work on the Walter's farm each day from Davistown by truck, while Les, also from Davistown, travelled daily on his India motorbike. Son Clive (or Clyde) & wife Don (probably Donna) and their son Robert, lived on their farm with access from the Scenic Road. Kate married Mr Jones and they lived at Avoca Beach.

Eric & Ally (nee Walters) Settree farmed their property, which was on the corner of The Scenic Road and Maitland Bay Drive. Geoff & Olly (nee Walters) McCoy farmed their property, which was later to be owned by Mr and Mrs Russell Drysdale.’

Ron Walters trained as a Plumber & Drainer in Sydney, after which he conducted a successful P & D business in the local and Gosford areas. Ron Walters also carried out Plumbing & Drainage contracts in many NSW country towns.

Other ‘Triangle’ landholders in that era were Mr and Mrs Percy Squires of Maitland Bay Drive and their son, who farmed the adjoining property. Mr and Mrs Merritt lived on the corner of Wards Hill Road and Maitland Drive. Ted and May (nee Myer and sister of Bert Myer) Tisdell lived on the property adjoining Clive Walter's farm, also with access from the Scenic Road. In 1945, my parents John and Dulcie Wall and the four youngest of their nine children moved onto their property and in time my father built the residence and later added the Maitland Bay Store. My father, John, used to walk many miles to his building jobs in the district, before he purchased a 1948 Chevrolet that had been converted into a utility.

A small creek which started in Eric and Ally Settree's property made its way down through the middle of the ‘Triangle’, under a bridge in Wards Hill Road and then over the hill to Bert Myers farm via the waterfall. This creek was a source of lovely fresh water; probably not so good these days! Actually my brother Don and I used to carry buckets (square kerosene drums with the tops cut out and wire handles) of water from springs in this creek on a pole between us on our shoulders for household use.’

It would seem that the land now cleared on The Triangle is substantially the same land that was cleared by the Walters about 75 years ago. Very little vegetation has been cleared since and passionfruit plants still appear on the land, but alas bear no fruit. Further subdivision has been carried out. Residential blocks have been created, running down The Scenic Road. The rest has been released as rural land, some in 7C2 zoning (1ha) and the majority 7C3 zoning.

Following, are stories of some of the families who came later and contemporary families now living on 'The Triangle'. This study aims to show how they use the land, what kinds of homes they have built and the kind of relationship they have with the natural environment.

The McCall family as told by Malcolm

Ian and Pat McCall had their first contact with the Central Coast while holidaying at Booker Bay. Ian met Ken Johnson who owned the marina at Hardys Bay. They soon rented a house in Killcare Road through estate agent, Mrs Wright. Malcolm came with them aged 6 months, along with the rest of the family. Ian then bought No. 20 Araluen Drive in 1958 as a weekender. The family moved here permanently in 1966/7.

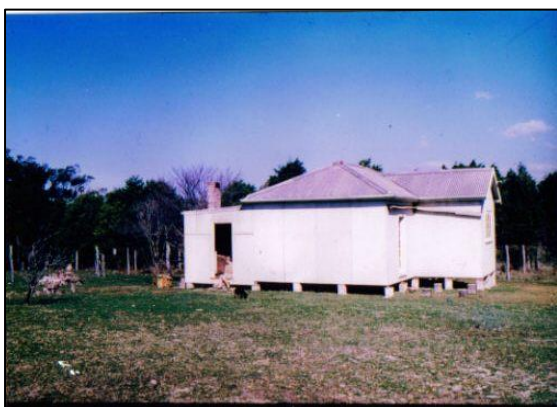
The children went to Pretty Beach School and later to Erina High, leaving their bikes in the Settree shed (on the corner of Maitland Bay Drive and The Scenic Road). They caught the bus from there to Erina. Malcolm used to hitch hike to school and frequently got lifts with Russell Drysdale and other locals and once with the local dunny truck.

Ian established a plant nursery on the property, still owned by the family on the corner of Maitland Bay Drive and Wards Hill Road. He also grew orchids, which thrive in the sandy soil and temperate climate.

By now, the Walters land had been subdivided into rural and urban blocks of varying sizes. These remain today, essentially the same size, as Gosford City Council and the State Government do not allow further subdivision. (See records of subdivision and aerial maps). Due to the low prices of the Depression years, Ian was able to purchase local land at advantageous prices. Later Malcolm became a local estate agent, and his knowledge of the real estate enabled the family to continue to purchase and sell land advantageously after the oil shock of 1975.

Ian and Pat raised 5 children and now have 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren who visit regularly and now assist in taking care of Ian who is frail and needing someone to live with him at all times.

Ian McCall passed away in 2008.



McCall's old house built in 1960s.



Bushfire on top of Wards Hill Road

BOUDDI NURSERY

Sheila Wilmott and her son Chris found the land, destined to be Bouddi Nursery, at Killcare Heights in 1978, after travelling from the north shore of Sydney to the Queensland border to find land suitable for a nursery. The Wilmotts had operated a nursery at St Ives so had the necessary experience. The land comprised of six acres, with another five acres next door. The zoning was 7c3, appropriate for a nursery. The soil was laterite, which proved to be excellent for their purpose. It was part of the property which belonged to the Setttee family who dry farmed tomatoes and passionfruit.

They went to work. A native nursery was planned, with a few of Sheila's favourite exotics. The soil suited native plants with its ph level and was well-drained. Water was the major problem. A bore was sunk but was of little help and the dam had to be lined in order to retain water. However, Chris being very good at propagation, was able to increase their stock.

Life was difficult but fun, according to Sheila's daughter, Kath. She helped her mother, grandmother and brother begin the nursery. For a year, while the house was being built, they lived 'like gypsies' in a double garage without electricity.

The waratahs disappeared but banksias and other natives thrived, making a haven for native bird-life. Landscaping in the area also kept Chris busy. Gradually a successful small business was established, which was very much appreciated by the house-holders of the locality. The business remained operational for twenty five years and folded in the early 2000s.

David McLoskey and Judith

In 1991 David and his partner, Judith, bought the former Education Department land. This was held for some years as a possible site for a primary school. The McCloskey's subdivided the land into 5 x 1 ha blocks. These blocks were bought by the Colemans, the Barnards, the Bowes and the Daleys. David and Judith retained one for themselves. They chose this area because most of the native vegetation had been untouched, except where the Walters family had cleared for farming.

Their block was a tangle of lantana, which they cleared by hand, revealing a wealth of indigenous vegetation, including waratahs, which thrive in the sandy lateritic soil.

As the photos reveal the bush practically invades their house. They do not fear bushfire because they have installed enormous underground concrete tanks in pits under the house.

David built the house himself partly out of recycled timber and sandstone. David Bowe assisted with preparation of the plans for council approval.

Judith is a keen rescuer of wildlife, such as possums and birds, which she nurses back to health before releasing them into the wild. She tells a story about how they rescued a possum, which was being strangled by a huge diamond python. It is not unusual to be greeted by the raucous call of a white cockatoo in their family room.

Their two children are growing up there and go to Pretty Beach Primary School.

Judith is a keen amateur musician.



House in native bush setting with Angophoras



Jarraah admires the garden.

The Colemans

Janelle and Geoff bought their 1 ha block of rural land from David McLosky in 1996 at about the same time as the Bowes and the Barnards. Along with the other land holders in this cul-de-sac, they were attracted by the naturalness of the area.

All four owners wished to preserve the environment by agreeing to underground electricity and telephone. Janelle came from a rural area in Mudgee so brought her horse with her. Both she and Geoff wanted a corrugated iron roof, and added features such as a swimming pool.

Geoff, a master electrician is also a keen surfer. They have two children, Danika and Bryce, who surfs as well. Danika is currently working in England.

Their aim, when building, was to clear as little of the block as possible. The horse paddock was already cleared, during the tenure of the Walters family. Chooks add homeliness.





Owner builders create a country style house in the bush.





House and swimming pool nearing completion

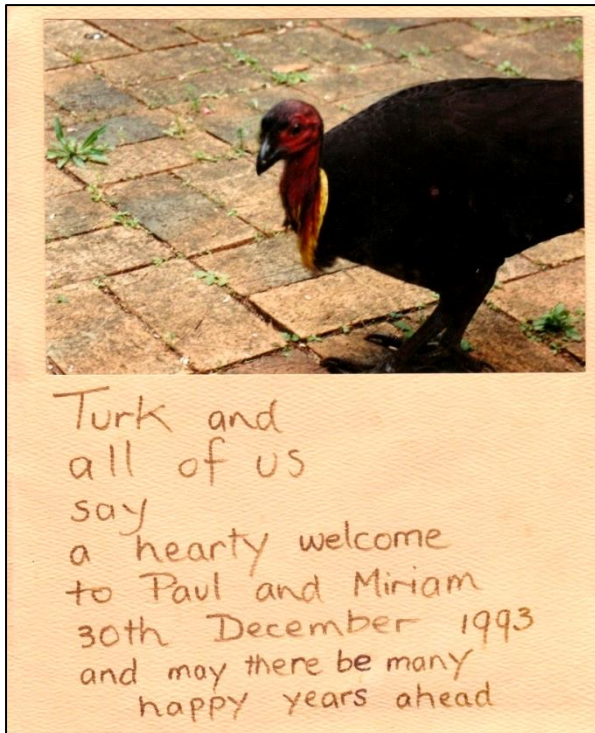
The Edgars (See also Bio of Paul and Miriam Edgar)



Paul and Miriam owned one of the residential properties on the Scenic Road facing the ocean, with magnificent views right through to Sydney. You could even watch New Year fireworks in Sydney from their front terrace. Spectacular sunsets are also a delight to those who live in these Triangle houses looking out to river and ocean.

Following a common pattern on the Peninsula they originally came to a cottage at MacMasters Beach at weekends. Paul worked as an optician and Miriam was doing a degree in Social Work in Sydney. By chance they met David Dufty at a Gosford performance of *The Messiah* and were subsequently invited to the Killcare music nights with a group of locals. Thus began friendships, which still continue to this day.





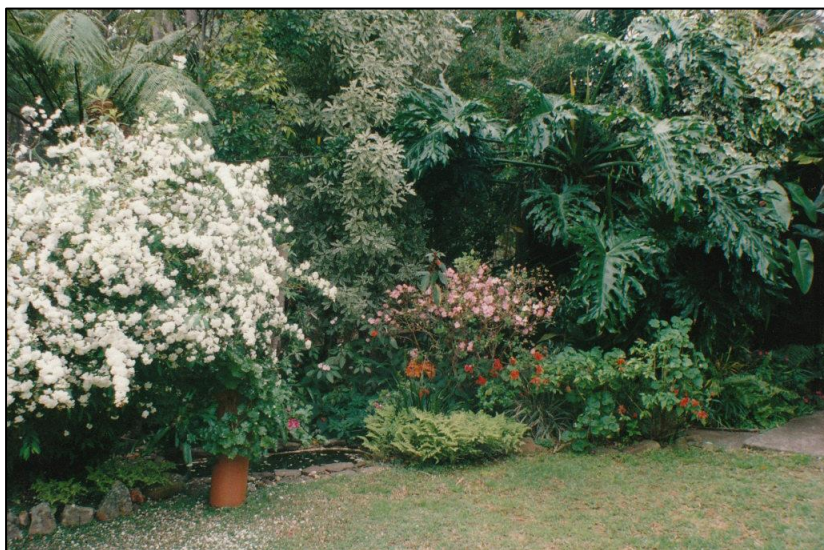
Initially Paul, a talented musician, came over three times a week to help Noel Melvin, a well-known bass baritone, to recover his voice after heart surgery. Paul saw the house here and in 1993 they decided to purchase it, as the second owners. They admired the wonderful ocean view and were already enjoying exploring the Bouddi National Park, especially the walk to Maitland Bay.

They made significant changes to the house, such as replacing the small windows with large picture windows on the side facing the sea. They added a small bedroom downstairs and a toilet. Upstairs they built a screened sunroom on the north and a balcony.

Their backyard had no fence so that they had easy access to all the, as yet undeveloped,

land on the north. Miriam describes the previously farmed open land as ‘a lovely big meadow’. When the Bowes built, there was no barrier to friendly informal visits. This friendliness extended to all the neighbours and Miriam would organise welcomes for newcomers. They even planted a cedar on the Bowes’ land, cleaned up and chain-sawed fallen dead timber, which they had permission to use, in their wood heater. The adjoining strip was mowed by Paul, as the Edgars preferred tidiness and protection from bushfire to the tangle of bush next door. The Hills Hoist was removed too.

The garden already had advanced Camellias, Azaleas, Christmas Bush and Waratahs. As lovers of the English cottage garden Miriam planted low growing exotics, such as Geraniums, Pansies and May-Bush.



Scenes in the Edgar's garden



With some regret Paul and Miriam decided to move to a retirement village and sold in 2008. They felt that transport from The Triangle could, in future, become a problem. They miss the ocean, the privacy and the birds. However, they keep in touch with all their old friends and visit them often.



The Edgars proved to be a great asset to the local neighbourhood and hosted many gatherings in their room with a view.

They also miss their beautiful garden established by the previous owner and enhanced by them, as shown in the following photographs.



The Barnards

Lynn and Mike came to Australia in 1989. Lyn was originally from the Falkland Is and Mike from London. They each have a long lasting second marriage. They wanted a home near the sea with a rural aspect, also room and safety for their dogs and cat.

Eventually they found a large block in The Triangle, opposite the Bowes and settled in a caravan on their land while their house was being built. They wanted a house with large and comfortable rooms on one level, light and bright with future wheelchair access because Lynn had already been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. They wanted somewhere close to the shops. Lynn no longer drives but neighbours and friends help out when Mike is not available.

Mike designed the house with energy efficient features, such as Hebel construction blocks, an enviro-cycle watering system, a rainwater tank and solar heated swimming pool. The house also has wide eaves for sun control.

The bush on part of the land had already been cleared by the Walters Family. The garden near the house is planted mainly with bright exotic flowers and native shrubs, such as Lilli Pilli and Westringia. The mowing is done by a goat and a sheep and the small fenced area by a hand mower. Trees, such as Eucalypts, Angophoras and Casuarinas provide a backdrop. Everything is kept very neat and tidy.

Lyn is an inveterate shopper, always on the lookout for bargains at Erina Fair. She still sews beautifully for the grandchildren, in spite of her disability.

Neighbours enjoy their company, especially Jarrah, who talks to her friend Lynn and the dogs on her way home from school. It is to be regretted that the cat is a hunter and probable danger to the native animals, such as birds, baby possums and lizards.

The Bowes and the Anstices

Two more significant houses in the Triangle, recorded under the heading *People and Their Houses* (see chapter with this title), belong to Ann and David Bowe and Hildegard and John Anstice. How the Bowes came to buy land and build a house, which they say is their final retirement home, is a fully documented story along with *The Mudbrick House* belonging to the Anstices.

The Bells on the Coast

About ten years ago, Ian Bell and his wife sold their successful bed and breakfast operation at MacMasters Beach and bought acres of mostly cleared land on The Triangle. There they established their dream resort, in the manner of a southern Highlands rural property and mansion.

The mansion was to be a venue for visiting tourists, in which a restaurant was to service both locals and tourists. The cleared land was developed as a magnificent garden of mostly suitable exotic plants. The perimeter bushland was left undisturbed, as it is today.

Unfortunately the venture was not successful economically and proved too physically exhausting for the hard working couple, who eventually separated because of the unrelenting work which was too taxing for only two people. Hence the property was put on the market and sold to John Singleton.

Since then, Singleton's considerable resources and business acumen have enabled him to create a thriving business venture. His competent staff includes Brian Barry and his wife, Karina, who lease and manage the property, talented chef Stefano Manfredi and many local people who work as waiters, gardeners, cleaners and so on. Manfredi has been encouraged to refurbish the dining room with modern tableware and lighting. The outer terrace is used for dining for lunch and evening entertainment in suitable weather, which is nearly always. A stiff breeze keeps mosquitoes at bay and the nor'easters cool the air in summer. A log fire, using local timber, welcomes guests in winter.

Manfredi inspires delicious meals and grows much of the produce used in his menus. He hopes to breed rabbits and already has chooks.

Visitors stay at one of the cottages, which are built in the spacious gardens. They are situated so as not to impose either on other visitors or on the environment generally.

So, what was once feared and opposed, a 'caravan park', is now welcomed as an asset to the whole area. *Bells on the Coast* does not impose environmentally and provides a service to tourists and locals alike.



"The Bells" Resort at Killcare Heights



Interior of cabin



The dining room

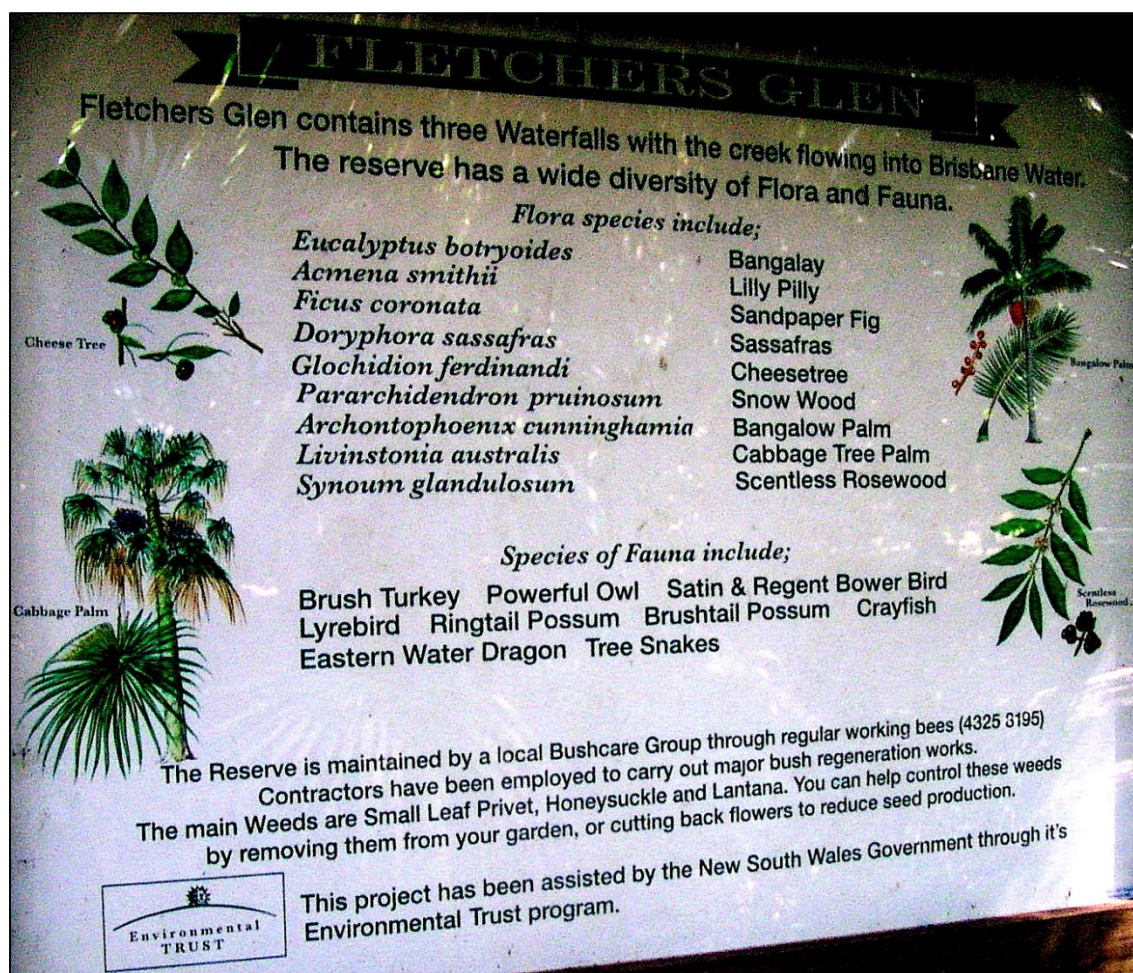
In conclusion, it can be seen that what is left of the natural environment of The Triangle today is essentially the same as it was following the advent of the early European settlers. Land that is now cleared is used for a multitude of uses. Apart from the larger blocks, which are a mixture of bush and cleared land, there are quite a number of houses on small blocks, some having been here for many years, like Mrs Settree's old house on the corner of Maitland Bay Drive and the Scenic Road. Some of these have tried hard to allow native bush to flourish in their gardens, so the general effect is that there is lots of bush around those of us who live here. It is anticipated that this beautiful and unique ecosystem will remain virtually the same for generations to come.



FLETCHERS GLEN

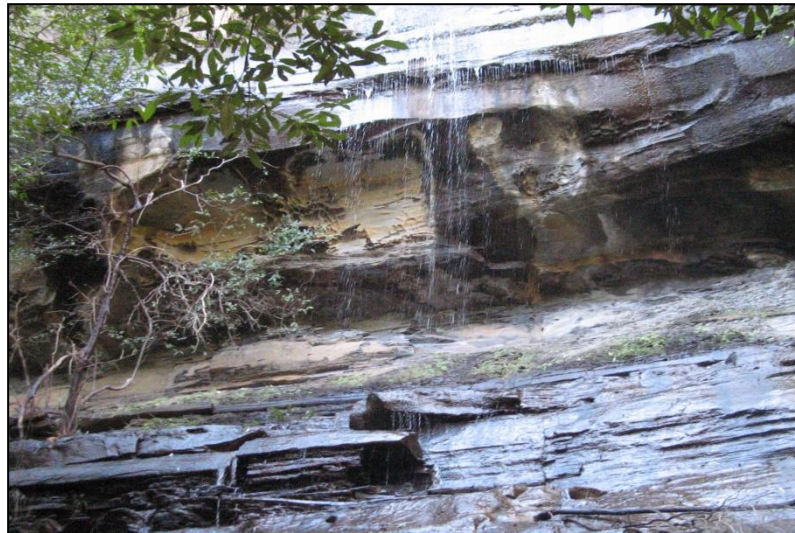
by Deb Holloman

National Parks and Wildlife Service officer, Deb Holloman, lives beside the creek that flows through Fletcher's Glen and has been a leader in the regeneration of this precious rainforest area within a few hundred yards of Killcare Store and Wharf.



Fletcher's Glen is located between Fraser Road and Wards Hill Road, Killcare. It was added to Bouddi National Park in 2004. The area is named after a council worker who talked council out of making the site a night soil depot. Locals recall the lower area being open and used for cattle grazing and a popular picnic area. Picnic tables were present with a tall open gateway. The area was known as Fordy's Gully after the original landowners who were dairy farmers. No palms were present; instead, there was an open grassland. The creek constantly flowed and was quite deep in parts with three waterfalls. Scout groups frequently used the area.

The Glen's geology is a mixture of soft sandstone layers at the top with shale layers starting half way down the middle waterfall. Vegetation changes dramatically with the change in rock type. The top sandstone section supports Blackbutt, Angophora, Grey Gum and Banksias; the lower section supports rainforest plants such as Coachwood, Lilly Pilly, Sandpaper Fig, Sassafras and ferns.



Middle Waterfalls showing layers of sandstone and shale.

Once the cattle were removed, weeds invaded the lower section: Privet, Lantana, Asparagus Fern and Honeysuckle. A local Landcare group was formed in 1996, which met regularly on the site to reduce weed invasion. A successful grant application employed professional contractors to undertake concerted weed removal. The site showed strong natural resilience and now has minimal weed infestation. A closed forest dominated by Bangalay Palms with Sandpaper Fig and Lilly Pilly understorey now exists, where cattle grazed mid-20th century.

Significant flora in the reserve include *Parachidendron pruniosum* (Snowwood), the only known place where they grow on the central coast, and *Syzigium paniculatum*

(Magenta Lilly Pilly), a threatened species.



Palms in Fletchers Glen

Fletcher's Glen is habitat for a wide range of fauna including Powerful Owl, Barking Owl, Lyrebird, Green Tree Snake, Golden Whistler, yabbies, possums and gliders.

The Mud Flat Creek originates from a spring on a property on the Scenic Road. Legend has it that this underground aquifer originates in the Blue Mountains. Development on the upper reaches of the creek and drought has seen the creek dry up in recent years. Heavy rains have seen large amounts of silt flowing down through Fletchers Glen and out into the bay at the Noble Road Bridge. Once the creek leaves the glen it flows through properties where weed invasion has added to flooding problems.



Water flows from the plateau above to the waterfalls below.

BOUDDI NATIONAL PARK

By David Dufty

Bouddi National Park is referred to in many sections of the e-books. For example, refer to The Maitland Bay Information Centre, Bitou and Bush Regeneration, Rileys Bay, Maitland Bay, Lobster Beach and above all refer to the biography of Marie Byles. The photos used below were taken by Beryl Strom and the last by me. David Dufty Ed.

History of the Park

For the early history refer to the biography of Marie Byles. For subsequent history refer to the following website.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHeritage.aspx?id=N0005>

This site includes the following information to which we have added some illustrations. This material is reproduced here for community educational purposes and copyright remains with the State of New South Wales and the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Bouddi National Park came about through the work of a few individuals over many years.

The first reservation of land for public purposes was made in 1876 when all vacant Crown Land on the seaboard between Port Stephens and Jervis Bay was reserved from sale 'on account of coal'. Most of the 1876 Coal Reserve in this area is now in Bouddi National Park.

In 1922 a Sydney solicitor, Marie Byles, visited the area with some friends and recognised the natural values of Bouddi Peninsula and its potential for parkland. She later persuaded the newly formed federation of bushwalking clubs to recommend to the NSW Department of Lands that the narrow reserve for coal along the coast, from Putty Beach to MacMasters Beach, be reserved for public recreation. Eventually in July 1935, 650 acres (263 hectares) were reserved and six trustees were appointed.

The trustees set about securing additions to the park, to make it more viable. Early additions included vacant Crown Land above Caves Creek and around Mount Bullimah. A particular effort was made by the Trust to secure the entire catchment of Maitland Bay and most of this land, both Crown and freehold, was ultimately acquired.

In 1959, 44 hectares were added to the park on the northern side of the Scenic Road and all existing reserves comprising Bouddi Natural Park, as it was then known, were revoked and re-reserved for 'public recreation and the promotion of the study and preservation of native flora and fauna'.

A major problem facing the early trustees was the lack of financial assistance. No staff could be engaged and all work on tracks, water supply, campsites etc. was done by volunteers until 1960.

The first government grant of any significance was received that year, enabling the trustees to employ a full-time ranger.

In the 1960s heavy mineral sand mining took place on Putty Beach near Killcare and on Tallow Beach before it became part of the park.

Subsequent dune restoration altered the natural sand dune contours and vegetation succession, and introduced bitou bush into the park. At Little Beach a large area (about 50 ha) on the eastern side of the Scenic Road west of Bombi Moor was twice mined for sand in the 1960s, first for silica sand for the manufacture of optical glass, and then for fill for St Huberts Island. The area was finally sold to the NPWS in 1978.

In 1967 the park (by then totalling 530 hectares) was dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and re-named Bouddi State Park. In 1974 it became Bouddi National Park.

Today, Bouddi National Park continues to grow. Bushlands acquired by Gosford City Council on Daleys Point Ridge and MacMasters Ridge are currently being transferred to the NPWS as additions to the park.

Cultural sites

Dingeldei Memorial Shelter

The Dingeldei Memorial Shelter at Mount Bouddi was erected in 1962 to the memory of AW (Bill) Dingeldei, a trustee of the park who had died suddenly. As a member of The Caloola Club, Bill Dingeldei did a considerable amount of work in the park, especially on the tracks system. The memorial shelter was built entirely by subscription and voluntary labour.



Opening of Dingeldei Memorial Shelter in 1962.

Maitland Bay Shelter

The Maitland Bay Shelter was originally built in May 1940 at a working bee organised by the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. A number of walking tracks and other facilities were established in the same manner. The main purpose of the shelter was to provide good drinking water for visitors to Maitland Bay.



The shelter in gradual decay. (The shed has now collapsed and the tank rusted. Native vines and bushes now cover the site, after the removal of bitou and lantana. Ed.)

Maitland Store

The Maitland Store has been a focal point for visitors to Bouddi National Park since its construction between 1945 and 1950 by the Wall family. Many visitors used to call at the house for directions and drinks of water, so the owners at the time, John and Dulcie Wall, decided to add a small shop at the front, which became known as the Maitland Store. It was also used as a meeting place for the Park Trust.

From 1968 to 1973 the Maitland Store was used as the office and residence of the park's first superintendent. The property was bought by the NPWS in about 1970. However, the Service had no immediate use for the building. The park's advisory committee believed the Maitland Store had good potential for an information centre, and in 1990 it became the Maitland Bay Information Centre.



Opening of the refurbished Centre in 1990.

Mount Bouddi Military Emplacements

Military emplacements were constructed during World War II near Mount Bouddi, built as part of Sydney's system of defences. Remains of these still exist.



This photo was taken some years ago and further erosion has continued to take its toll.

Paddle Steamer *Maitland* Wreckage

The PS Maitland foundered off Bouddi Point in 1898 and its remains still lie on the rock platform at the northern end of Maitland Bay. Twenty six lives were lost in the shipwreck and nine of the victims were buried locally at Booker Bay. The ship's bell was recovered in 1959 and a few years later was mounted on a sandstone podium outside the Maitland Store by the Brisbane Water Historical Society.



Little remains since this photo was taken of the Maitland wreck.

The Strom Centre

The Bouddi News reported the following event as follows:

The Strom Centre on The Scenic Road Killcare Heights in the Bouddi National Park was formally dedicated by Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, on Saturday October 6, 2007, before more than 100 invited guests.

The Centre was formerly the home of inspirational environmentalists, Allen and Beryl Strom, and their family. The Stroms bequeathed the land and buildings to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on condition that the 'property be developed and used as a centre for the administration and management of Bouddi National Park and for housing educational resources, including the deceased's collection of papers, photographs and other material relating to Bouddi National Park and its surrounds'.



Tom Bagnat and Alan Henderson, local NPWS director at the opening of the Strom Centre.

NPWS and the National Parks Association (NPA) combined to establish the Centre in accordance with the Stroms' wishes.

The NPWS funded the infrastructure and renovation of the cottage and garage, while the NPA, with the support of the NPWS, the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust and the MacMasters Beach Progress Association was successful in obtaining a grant from the Environmental Trust of NSW to fund the cataloguing and archiving of the resources. The NPWS is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, while it is also the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the NPA, with Allen Strom as its Foundation Secretary. In formally dedicating the Centre, Tony Fleming said the Stroms' legacy would greatly assist in educating and influencing future generations. He said Allen's work in conservation over more than forty years had been truly inspirational.

The Centre contains a selection of photographs, maps, records, journals, archived documents and correspondence, which provide a valuable research asset for environmental and educational studies. The Centre will not be open to the public but will be available to individuals and groups on application to provide resources to facilitate research, environmental education and field work, which supports the management of the Bouddi National Park.

Temporary accommodation for such individuals and groups may be available at the adjacent residence.

Allen Strom purchased the property on The Scenic Road in the early 1960s and he and Beryl were tireless workers for the conservation of the Bouddi National Park and its surrounds.

In 1977 Allen was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to conservation education and in 1991 Beryl received an OAM for service to the community and Central Coast history. Allen died in 1997 and Beryl in 2002. They willed the property to NPWS. Their former home was gazetted as part of the Boudi National Park in January 2006.

The public right of way between the Flannel flower track and the Lobster Beach track at Wagstaffe

At the Australia Day celebrations at Wagstaffe it was formally announced that public access has been legally granted to the fire trail that connects the Lobster beach track with the Flannel flower track that climbs up through the National park to Hawke Head Dr. It is the culmination of over five years of sustained effort, principally by Graeme Anderson with the co-operation of the other owners of the land that the trail crosses.

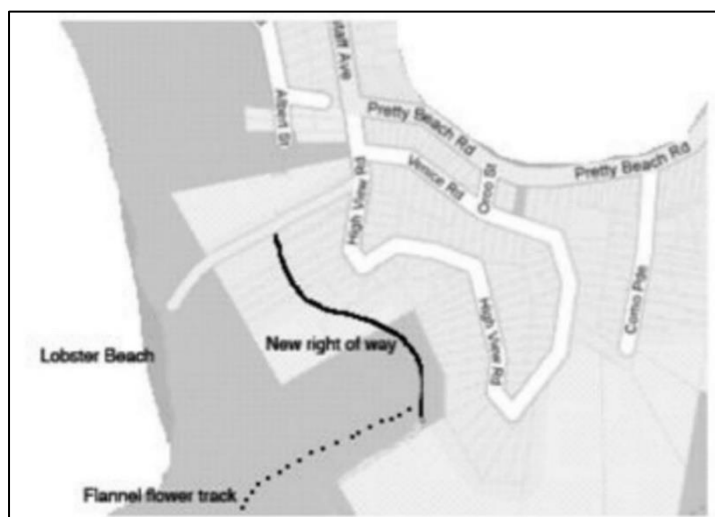
The Problem

The fire trail was originally bulldozed in 1962 and became part of a network of informal walking trails on the peninsula. It was included in early walking maps of the area. The trail crosses or borders seven private properties. As these properties became developed over the succeeding decades, the public tended to continue to use the walking track and the owners of the properties became concerned about their responsibilities and liabilities should someone be injured. One irate and careless walker threatened to sue one of the owners for not maintaining the track.

The Solution

Rather than attempt to close the track to the public, the owners came together and decided to investigate the possibility of transferring responsibility to National Parks and granting public access. The first letter was written in 2003 and, although NPWS was receptive, the process has proved anything but straightforward.

For the right of way to be granted, a legal easement had to be created through the properties and a legal agreement had to be made with the NPWS. Legal costs were likely to be significant, so the local community groups were approached for help with these.



The Killcare Wagstaffe Trust, The Bouddi Society and the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association all agreed to donate \$1000. In addition, members of the Community Association put up a fund-raising barometer outside the Wagstaffe store and raised a further \$1000 in donations from the public in just a few days. This strong local support encouraged the owners to persist. NPWS also contributed considerably to the legal costs.

Five years and seven lawyers later, the legal easement has been created and the NPWS is formally responsible for the maintenance of the track and the liability for those that use it. In the meantime, three of the properties were sold and in two of those cases, the agreement with the process of creating the right of way was a condition of the sale.

The Future

The trail was upgraded, particularly the section that runs behind the properties near the Lobster Beach track. The surface is an asphalt/pebble open mix which is hardy and blends in well.

Chicanes have been installed, to create a gateway that pedestrians (and cyclists) must negotiate on each side of the driveways that come up the hill. They are an effective safety measure making people stop and look to see if a car is coming. Signage has been added.

The walking maps have been altered to include the new access. Bike riding on the right of way is forbidden

The land is still private property but the public right of way exists in perpetuity and will be unaffected by future sales of the affected properties. The arrangement can be cancelled by the NPWS or agreement by any four of the seven owners.

Thanks is due to Graeme Anderson, the other owners and members of the community groups who supported the process. It has been a good example of the persistence required to bring into effect what, on the surface, looked like a simple proposal.

LOBSTER BEACH: ITS RECENT HISTORY (ESPECIALLY C.1900-2008)

Helen Monks

Lobster Beach is an unusual west-facing estuary beach on bushy Bouddi Peninsula, which also provides pedestrian access to good fishing and one of the best (if infrequent) surf breaks on the Central Coast (Figure 1). It is tightly enclosed by oyster-laden rocky headlands with a steep slope and cliffs to the north, east and south behind the sand. The main entry channel to Brisbane Water lies immediately off the sea-grass bed which forms the shallow floor of the bay. The waters are strongly tidal, and even affected occasionally by the arrival of debris from the Hawkesbury River on an incoming tide. Despite this, and variable water quality in Brisbane Water, the water usually offers good visibility for wildlife and swimmers.

The geology is Hawkesbury sandstone, Narrabeen Group (the Watagan colluvial soil landscape). The physiographic region is Erina Hills (Chapman & Murphy 1989). Unlike some other parts of the Bouddi Peninsula, shale is not evident in the Lobster Beach area, although the soils have a high clay content, which supports a specific vegetation community.

Different jurisdictions and government portfolios designate the triangle between Little Box Head, Half Tide Rocks and Umina (including Lobster Beach) in different ways, which may lead to management difficulties. Lobster Beach is downstream (south-east) from Half Tide Rocks, which is the designated entry point to Brisbane Water. The beach is considered to be one of the Broken Bay beaches for Council's administration, although (being under NPWS control) Council rarely appears to consider the beach or its immediate environment in its decision-making e.g. in relation to proposals at Ettalong, Umina, Pretty Beach or Hardys Bay. Council's ***Broken Bay Beaches Coastal Management Plan*** (1999) does not appear to mention Lobster Beach at all, nor does it include any management objectives or activities on or offshore from the beach. A Navy chart shows a line between Barrenjoey and Box Head which is labelled: 'East Limit of Naval Waters' (not West Limit). The NSW Department of Lands is responsible for the sea floor, with NSW Maritime having responsibilities for channel markers and regulation of boat users.

The 1929 Parish map, the earliest available on-line (Lands Department website 2008), shows a Quarry Licence for the channel north of Lobster Beach, but Wagstaffe Point and a triangle of land behind Lobster Beach and to its south-east have been allocated for access and other public purposes, dated 20 April 1887. The 10-foot-wide strip of land on which the current Lobster Beach path runs from High View Road up and over the ridge is shown on the 1929 map. Box Head was shown as being allocated for public purposes on 1 December 1876 but 'L.B. 33-1730' and other hand-marked text overwrites the map.

TABLE

LAND OWNERSHIP AND PURPOSES

YEAR OF KINCUMBER PARISH MAP	AREA	DATE	PURPOSE	LAND SIZE
1934	Box Head	1 April 1938	Lease only for military purposes, marked in handwriting: World War II was on the way	area of about 275 acres
1943	Box Head and area north towards Lobster Beach	1.4.36	R67465 to J.W.Harper	400 acres
1943	same triangle of land behind Lobster Beach as shown on 1929 map	generally notified on 9.3.34	64432	
1929, 1943 and 1959	immediately east of Lobster Beach triangle: ridge behind Lobster Beach and down to the eastern foot-slopes (High View Road, Venice Road, southern Wagstaffe Avenue and western Pretty Beach Road areas)		James Brown ownership, but with subdivision starting during this period	51 acres
1929, 1943 and 1959	large rectangular portion south-east of James Brown: (Pretty Beach, Turo Creek and upstream), called 'Somerset Place'		William Spears ownership, but with subdivision starting during this period; note also camping here by Bill Dodd's family	60 acres
1943 and 1959	Box Head		Public recreation, but Harper's name is still in place	
1970	Box Head	9 th March 1934, 22 nd January 1965, revoked in the Gazette of 16.7.71	Public recreation: referral in handwriting is also made to the Gazette of 30.4.65 and Council of the Shire of Gosford Trustees. A State Park was on its way (NPWS map 1973), later reclassified as a National Park.	

According to a 1973 NPWS map in Helen Monks' possession, Box Head had been under lease 67465 'Gen^{ly} Notified 1.4.36'. A strip (which is a very wide extension of Hawke Head Drive to the west-south-west extending to the coast south of Lobster Beach's southern point and encompassing the ridge-top and secondary campers' creek) is shown as 'R44575 for Access Notified 3.11.1909.' The status of Lobster Beach cannot be distinguished. Wagstaffe and Kourung Gourung Point are reserved for public recreation, and this confirms the subdivision sale map 'Wagstaffe's Point Mount Pleasant' of 1904 where the word 'reserve' lies west of this early subdivision of suburban Wagstaffe. However, a large area which includes the whole area south of Killcare, Box Head and Lobster Beach is encompassed by symbols which indicate the Park boundary.

Since its gazettal in 1972, the peninsula encompassing Hawke Head Drive (south), Box Head, Lobster Beach and Wagstaffe Point (generally the east, south and west sides of the ridges) has been under the care and control of National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS). The remains of a fence south of Hawke Head Drive (near the intersection of 4 current tracks) remained into the 1980s. Bill Murphy and historical photographs confirm that areas south from Pretty Beach had been grazed. Helen Monks' memory was that the NSW Government acquired the area from the Broken Bay Pastoral Company (perhaps by revocation of a lease), but this has not been verified. Was that J.W. Harper's company? Indeed, the history of land ownership and use in this small area merits further research.

Several notable, local additions have been made to Bouddi National Park (of which this forms the southern portion), including a large, heathland, ridge-top block with panoramic 360° views on Hawke Head Drive, which had been refused building permission in the mid-1990s. Acquisitions occurred in 1975, 1979, 1981, 1988 and 1992 (the last for the walking track).

Determinations during the 1980s by the Geographical Names Board of NSW simplified the multiple versions of spelling Kilcare to Killcare and Wagstaff Point to Wagstaffe. Apostrophes also disappeared (e.g. it is now Hardys Bay). Older maps and plans may show variations to any of these.

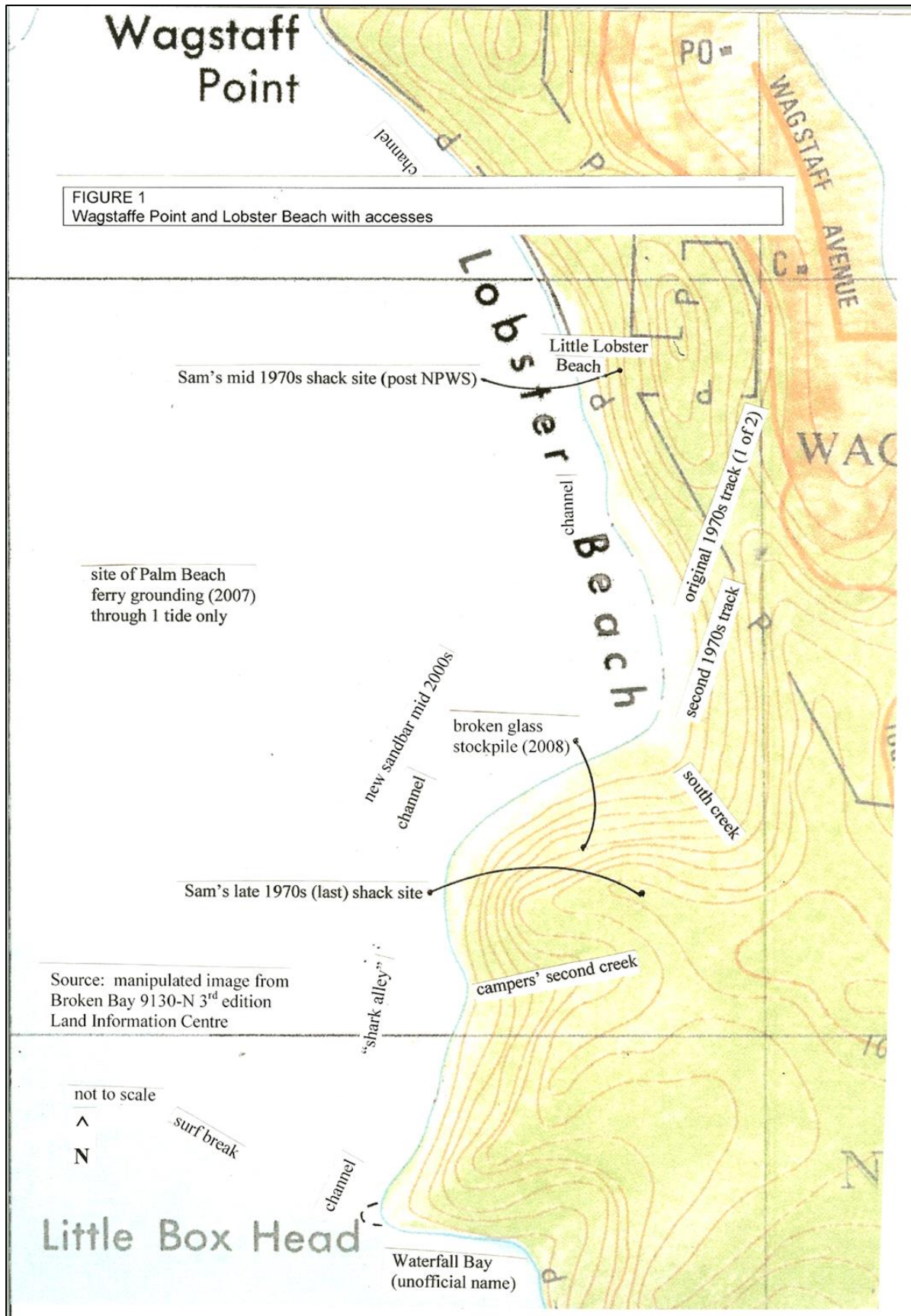




PLATE 1: Lobster Beach looking south, 30 April 2007, at a time of low sand levels in the northern third. Photo: Helen Monks

Evidence of Aboriginal Occupation

The south-east corner of the Central Coast region was apparently a cross-over area between the Darkinjung people (who lived northwards and also inland) and the Guringai people (who lived around West Head and the northern beaches, Sydney). Another language group mentioned in early European colonists' texts, which may have frequented the Lobster Beach area, is the Wunnungine (NPWS 2008).

The following excerpts from the Bouddi National Park *Draft Plan of Management* indicate some aspects of Aboriginal life in this area.

In the Central Coast, relationships between the coastal and the inland groups were good, and reciprocal visits were made each year and trade items were exchanged (Vinnicombe 1980).

Aboriginal sites provide a valuable insight into Aboriginal people's traditional lifestyles, and interactions with the environment. The Aboriginal heritage within the park is important to present day Aboriginal people.

Such sites are a non-renewable resource and are subject to deterioration from natural and human induced processes. Therefore, some Aboriginal sites within the park may require active management to prolong their existence.

Over 70 Aboriginal sites containing over 200 features have been recorded in the park and nearby areas. It is possible that many more sites are likely to exist. Aboriginal occupation is evident in the form of open middens and camp sites, rock engravings, grinding grooves, rock shelters with art (charcoal and pigment drawings, stencils and paintings), scarred trees and other archaeological deposits. Human remains have been found in coastal dune middens and in rock shelters. (Putty Beach was destroyed by sand mining.) Figures commonly depicted include human figures, marine representations, and macropods (e.g., kangaroos and wallabies) (NPWS 2008a).

In March 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip and a party of about 40 men set out in a long boat and cutter to explore Broken Bay and Brisbane Water with a view to settlement. Aboriginal people and their small bark huts were encountered in many of the bays now known as Pretty Beach, Hardys Bay and Rileys Bay (Bradley 1786-92).

By the time Europeans took up land in the Brisbane Water area in 1823, the Aboriginal population had apparently been heavily decimated by smallpox and other infectious diseases. The first population census, taken in 1827, gives an estimation of no more than 65 Aboriginal men, women and children in the whole of the Brisbane Water area (NPWS 2008b).

By 1874, local journals (e.g. Town & Country Journal 1875) suggest none of the original Aboriginal inhabitants lived in the area. However, there are people today who have traced their ancestry back to Bungaree, who came from the Brisbane Waters area (NPWS 2008b).

An Aboriginal engraving of two fish on a rock near sea level was visible during the 1990s at the northern headland of Lobster Beach. It is now indistinct. Middens are not evident at Lobster Beach itself, but two can be found above Albert Street, Wagstaffe and along the foreshore at the western end of Araluen Drive, Hardys Bay in the road reserve.

The demise of Aboriginal people in the Hawkesbury River valley is recorded as follows by the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council (website access, 2008):

1794

By August, 70 colonists are farming along the Hawkesbury, dispossessing local Aborigines of their land.

1795

Open warfare breaks out along the Hawkesbury River between Aborigines and Government troops.

1815 Remnants of the Broken Bay Aboriginal people are established on a reserve at George's Head [Mosman].

Fauna

The bay contains a variety of marine life, including many species of fish, dolphins, eels, octopus, stingrays, sea urchins (seasonally), occasional jelly fish and turtles, phosphorescence and seahorses. Lobsters are still found in this locality, although many move offshore during summer.

No kangaroos or other large animals are found now in this part of Bouddi National Park, although during the winter of 2008 a Swamp Wallaby was heard at night on three separate occasions by two people on the ridge above Lobster Beach. Wallabies were known to be at Bensville for many years and one has also been seen on Killcare Heights this winter (2008). [2022 note: Swamp Wallabies are now well established on this peninsula.] There is also abundant bird and reptile life, with more than half a dozen species of snakes and Eastern Blue-tongued Lizards among the larger reptiles.

Possums are common. Echidnas are occasionally seen, along with infrequent and unwelcome feral Foxes.

Microbats and Gliders are also resident. Although the occasional Pelican will be found paddling or flying off the beach (along with frequent sightings of White-breasted Sea Eagles which nest here), the miscellaneous ducks which are now proliferating from suburban Wagstaffe to Hardys Bay have not yet settled at Lobster Beach.

Wood Ducks nest occasionally along the Wagstaffe ridge. A number of owl species frequent this end of the Bouddi National Park. Some birds from further afield (e.g. Channel-billed Cuckoos, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos) move in seasonally when seeds or flowers are available.

Lobster Beach does not attract the migratory waders that frequent the shallower Pretty Beach and other estuary beaches of Brisbane Water. Among the local threatened fauna species is the Red-crowned Toadlet.

Brush Turkeys have adapted well to fringe urban life (to the disgust of some gardeners but to the delight of visitors and others); they increase in numbers when fox numbers are reduced. Their leaf-litter mounds (built by the male), where the eggs are laid by the female and then watched over until hatching by the male bird, are easily seen in a number of locations along the ridge above the beach (generally on the eastern side).

At the Hawkesbury, the bird is at the southern limit of its distribution south from Cape York. However, in the last decade they are increasing in Pittwater, the North Shore and elsewhere in Sydney. It has become an emblem for at least one local group in the Bouddi area, to much amusement.

Visitors and local residents are prohibited from allowing either dogs or cats to enter Bouddi National Park, including Lobster Beach and its accesses.

Vegetation

The vegetation community is Wagstaffe Point Spotted Gum/Ironbark Forest [2022 note: declared a NSW Endangered Ecological Community in 2013]. The dominant species on the Lobster Beach side of the ridge are *Angophora costata*, *Eucalyptus paniculata* ssp *paniculata*, *Macrozamia communis*, *Dodonaea triquetra*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Glochidion ferdinandi*, with emerging *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. In this locality, Coastal Rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*) which is common along the cliffs north of Bullimah Beach in the northern part of the Park, at Tallow Beach and widely planted in local gardens, is only found at Little Box Head/ Waterfall Bay (the entry to Brisbane Water). A number of threatened flora species are found in various locations within the Park. South of the Hawkesbury, the equivalent Pittwater Spotted Gum/Ironbark Forest has recently been declared a threatened ecological community, as it has virtually disappeared now within the Sydney Basin. Recent botanical work therefore values the Wagstaffe Point ecological community highly.

NPWS burns the bush in patches for management purposes, with a typical cycle for any particular patch being at least 7 years. Since 1974, at least 4 bushfires have passed behind Lobster Beach, with at least two being lit by humans [2022 note: another 2 have been lit in the last 10 years]. One of these was started in a backyard at Wagstaffe and, once out of control, was pushed into the National Park where it roared eastwards right to Killcare Beach, threatening many more houses and hot burning many areas of bushland.

Sand Levels

With climate change likely to affect Lobster Beach along with multitudes of other beaches, the following personal observations and analyses are offered as a contribution to the future. Formal long-term monitoring is required.

A tourist guide 1907 (p. 54) stated: ‘Opposite to Pitt Water is Brisbane Water. The entrance is over a bar on which there are, at times, not more than [sic] 7 or 8 feet of water. After rounding along the reef known as the ‘Half-tide Rocks’, the stream deepens, and the broad basin of Brisbane Water is quickly reached’.

Lobster Beach differs from ocean beaches in that it has neither a sand dune system behind the beach, nor sand banks immediately below low water mark (Plates 1-4). That is, the beach’s immediate sand supply is very small. The sea-grass bed is principally silt, particularly in the southern two-thirds of the bay. Sand levels fluctuate noticeably on the beach, with a possible further impact in the last couple of decades, arising from the significant increase in motorized boat traffic and the resultant damage (particularly at the northern end of the beach) from wash and underwater pressure waves from large craft. The beach receives some south-easterly ocean swell (with 0.5m being large here) after it has wrapped around Box Head and Little Box.

Offshore in the bay, the southern area is much shallower than the northern end, where the northern point does not extend out very far, with the result that the channel is within a few metres of low tide mark (Plate 2). In the 1920s and 1930s, sand extended right along the south point to Bream Rock, according to Bill Dodd and Shirley Rider, or, more recently, about halfway, according to Bill Murphy (compare Plate 3, showing conditions in 2007).



PLATE 2 Northern third of Lobster Beach April 30, 2007 Photo: Helen Monks



PLATE 3

Southern corner looking west, 30 April 2007

Photo: Helen Monks

The cliff base of soil at the northern end has visibly eroded in the last decade (Plate 4), coupled with a drop of up to 2m vertical in the level of sand on the beach itself in the last 10 years, particularly in its northern half. Historical aerial photos held by NPWS suggest that the current level of erosion is within a continuing cycle. Nevertheless, in the early 2000s, Marram Grass was planted by NPWS near the access steps to help retain sand behind the centre of the beach.

The main channel into Brisbane Water appears from aerial photographs (e.g. Figure 2), and consistent with hydrology world-wide, to always hug the more vertical, rocky shore from Half Tide Rocks through to deep water south of Little Box Head, along the eastern shore. Any other channels shift constantly and usually have either their upstream or downstream end blocked by sand to ocean swell, floodwaters (and lack thereof) from Brisbane Water and tidal flows (Figure 2, Plate 5).



PLATE 4: Foot of main slope inside the northern point, 30 April 2007. Photo: Helen Monks

In the last five years, a large new sandbar has become established immediately west of the main channel opposite Lobster Beach. The channel off the northern point also becomes shallower and narrower from time to time (Figure 2). Navigation has always been difficult (Plate 6), with (among others) the Lady Kendall, at least one fishing trawler, a large passenger catamaran from Tahiti heading for a refit at Kincumber and the Palm Beach ferry (Plate 5) all going aground near Lobster Beach for varying periods during the last century.

A current issue (2008) is potential dredging in the triangle between Half Tide Rocks, Little Box and Umina/Ettalong. The primary push for dredging seems to be coming from the company operating the Palm Beach/Wagstaffe/Ettalong ferry and to a lesser extent from yacht owners who have increasing difficulty in using the only channel with safety.

In the last 10 years (effectively since the ferry service started), there have been a couple of major changes to sand and silt deposits from Hardys Bay downstream to Little Box. The ferry rarely uses the channel northwards between Lobster Beach and Half Tide Rocks. It also pushes an invisible underwater pressure wave ahead of it, which is separate to and more powerful than the relatively shallow but visible wake. Recent dumping of sand onto Ettalong Beach may also have added to the slow silting-up of the estuary.

One result of siltation south of Half Tide Rocks appears to be that, where historically there have been a relatively deep (and wide enough) channel and a number of shallower or incomplete channels (Figure 2), now there are two channels of moderate depth (with holes and banks elsewhere), which increasingly suit neither the shallow-draught ferry nor the deeper-draught yachts. The mid 2000s drought and resultant lack of flooding stormwater may also have contributed to the changes of the last decade.

Letting Brisbane Water's tidal and storm-water outflows naturally restore the original, eastern, deep channel may require a slower ferry service between Little Box and Half Tide Rocks if it uses only the main channel, but it will leave a viable and safe passage for both the ferry and local and visiting yachts, and also leave the outer sandbank for surfers, ocean kayakers, kite-boarders and jet-skiers.

A study by consultants commissioned by Council is currently (August 2008) under way. The long-term impacts of increased boat usage on the sand levels of Lobster Beach are yet to be assessed, as are the impacts of predicted rising sea levels.



PLATE 5 Palm Beach ferry aground north-west of the new sandbar (west of the channel) off Lobster Beach, early morning, late March 2007, southbound – after about 3 or 4 hours, it lifted off with the next incoming tide, but had damaged drive-shafts and/or propellers; passengers were taken off by a smaller ferry before it was refloated. Photo: Helen Monks

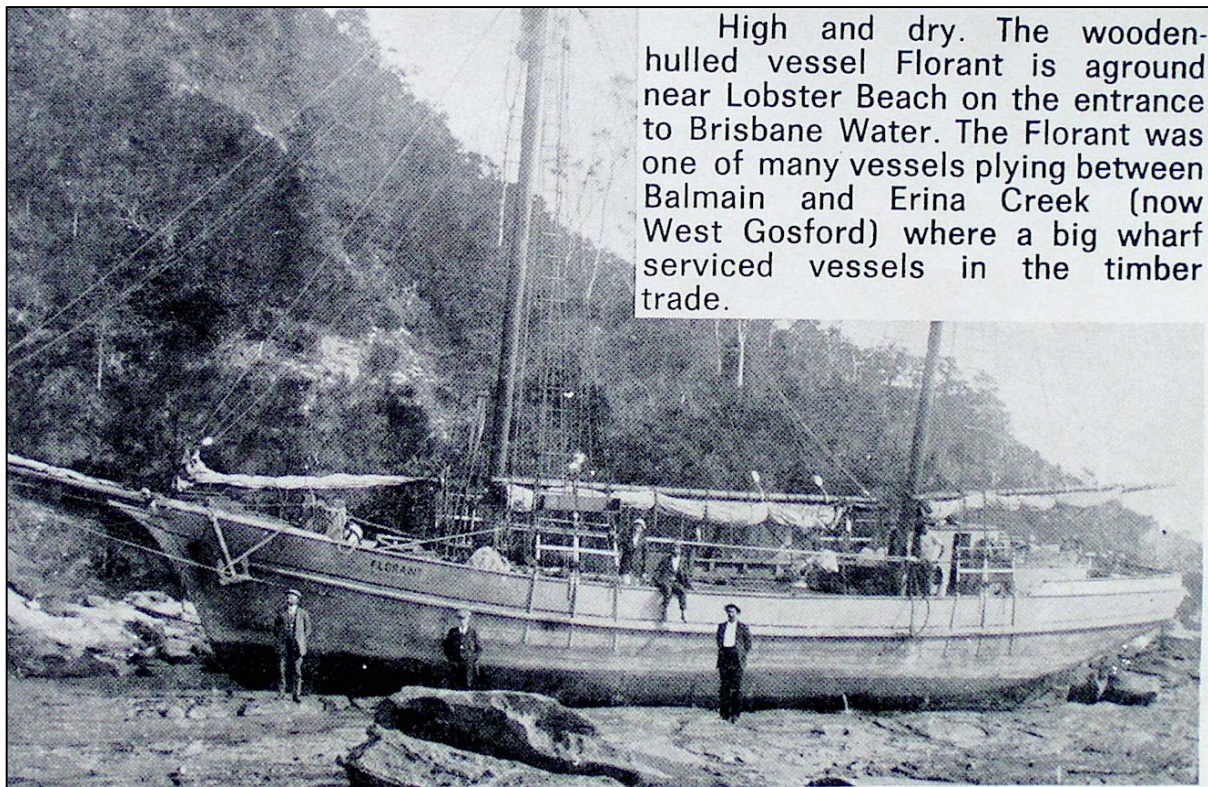


PLATE 6 *Florant* aground on the south point of Lobster Beach (or possibly just north of Half Tide Rocks), looking south

Source: Unidentified press cutting in Bouddi Society collection.

Access

Lobster Beach is only accessible on foot or by watercraft. In warm weather, it is popular for boating, swimming and picnicking. In the past, the foot-slopes hosted campers, who would usually walk in from Pretty Beach and Wagstaffe. There were tracks from Albert Street (south end) and two from High View Road (the western end of Venice Road, further east up a side ridge). The tracks all met on the saddle where the house on 25a High View Road was built, then proceeded gently with a main track to the southern end of the beach (near Lou Ewan's camp) and a steeper track down towards the middle of the beach.

The NPWS entry path is now between 11 and 17 High View Road on a steep alignment of 10' width, with earlier tracks over the saddle having been progressively intercepted as private property on the ridge was developed. In the late 1970s/early 1980s, that public 10' strip was proposed for sale, which was strongly opposed by local residents. At that time two different neighbours of the current path tried to affect access to Lobster Beach. In one case it was attempted by unsuccessfully trading one route for another gentler and existing route. In the other, the attempt was made by threatening to cut off the path by fencing along the private property boundary, as legally entitled.

Some opposition to both private plans resulted locally, so NPWS then built the existing path on the steep 10' alignment which had been created before 1929. NPWS also bought a large suburban block between the end of Albert Street and High View Road, to serve as a future carpark for Lobster Beach.

In order to connect a pedestrian route from the national park at the southern end of Hawke Head Drive and Box Head through to High View Road and Lobster Beach, NPWS was alerted by the owner of 25a High View Road to the need for a strategic solution during the 1980s public consultation on the ***Draft Management Plan*** for the Park. More recently, an agreement has been concluded between half a dozen landowners and NPWS for a pedestrian right of access. This will guarantee that a popular, existing but ungazetted path, bulldozed by Council without permission or compensation over private property in 1964 or 1965, will remain open for pedestrians in perpetuity.

The 'firetrail' was pushed through, along with many others, after Council appointed its first Bushfire Control Officer, Leo Brown. Bill Sanders, who still lives and works locally [2022 note: deceased February 2022], was in his mid-20s, employed by Council to drive a D7. Following a pedestrian pad and tags in trees left by Leo Brown, Bill spent about a week working his way from Hawke Head Drive, along the northern of the two current trails [Old Wagstaffe Trail], where land for public access has existed since at least 1929. He continued northwards through private property (originally belonging to the Spears (***Somerset Place***), more recently called ***Pretty Beach House***) and eventually across 7 private holdings which now have multiple owners), parallel to High View Road to join the southern, and now gated, end of Albert Street. Rosie Haynes at No. 27 High View Road was not impressed at this severing of her land!

Orchestrated by the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Progress Association (led by Graeme Anderson and Fay Gunther), the Wagstaffe/Pretty Beach/Killcare community has contributed to the costs of reaching and implementing the recent agreement for pedestrian access, for public benefit. Another rough pedestrian access leaves Albert Street south of Mulhall Street and passes to the west of the ridge before connecting with the current NPWS 10' track from High View Road.

Alternative walking access is available around the foreshore from Wagstaffe Point, where low tide permits a reasonably easy clamber, but high tide or high seas force access along old fishing tracks slightly uphill (Plate 16). A fishing track that in the 1970s used to run from Lobster Beach around the two bays to the south and up to Box Head grew over during the 1980s, with blockages caused mostly by thickets of Bitou Bush.

Boat ramps are found nearby at Pretty Beach, Ettalong and a number of locations upstream. A regular ferry currently services Palm Beach, Wagstaffe and Ettalong.

Camp and Shack Sites



PLATE 7 Lobster Beach with solo swimmer, looking south to slopes with a relatively clear under-storey. Photo: Shirley Rider

The beach's interior was used for holiday and subsistence living camping for most of the 20th century, possibly earlier but certainly to the early 1970s. Several people have mentioned that some sort of ownership system applied to the shack and possibly tent sites.

Perhaps there was a sublease from Broken Bay Pastoral Company, although no anecdotes have surfaced about any equivalent arrangement at Tallow Beach, on the ocean side of Box Head, which may have been under the same lease. Equally, the era of surf beaches being popular had not yet arrived.

Until the 1950s at least, campers would walk or row to the beach. They had kerosene lights. Ice would be brought back by rowboats from Ettalong, covered with a hessian bag so it would not melt. Meat was available twice a week at Wagstaffe Store, but otherwise everyone just ate their fish catch. People did not swim out very far, because they knew that sharks were common in the waters of the channel and Broken Bay. The fishers called the channel south of Lobster Beach 'shark alley.'

Shirley Rider (now of Point Clare) has written her story in the *Cooranbean Courier*. Her mother, Dorothy Nickels (later Young), camped at Lobster Beach from 1919 to 1921. Here is Shirley's Lobster Beach story.

My mother's parents, Ada and Alf Nickels and her sister Flo, accompanied by the girls' fiancés, Os and Les (how names have changed) came up from Sydney by train to Woy Woy. Then by ferry to Wagstaffe. Some of their camping gear preceded them by train a few days

before them, as well as boxes of fruit my grandfather sent from the family home in Dulwich Hill. These all found their way, somehow, to Woy Woy ferry wharf.

They then went to Wagstaffe wharf by Murphy's ferry, and nothing ever went missing. (The Wagstaffe storekeeper would look after all the gear until the owners arrived.) Then it was all carried along the track and over the hill to Lobster Beach. The family started camping there because my mother's cousin, Rose, and her husband Fred, lived near the wharf at Wagstaffe.

They were a couple of rough and ready but very kind characters. Their timber Federation cottage was called *Margaret* and is still there (about halfway up Mulhall Street on the right).

The family's tents were simple A-line canvas structures supported by saplings the family cut down when they arrived, and decorum was maintained by having one tent for the men and one for the women. Stretchers were made from hessian bags, threaded through also with cut down saplings, and supported by bits of rock. Rocks also made the fireplace and pillows were made from clean flour sacks, stuffed with dry seaweed. The Nickels family camped as close as they could to the water's edge, close enough to run in for a swim, and also so they could hear the gentle waves lapping the beach at night. They had a bit of a shock on one occasion. A large wave washed through their little camp and wrecked it.

The family's food was simple but good. Apart from the fruit my Grandpa Nickels sent up by train, meat was available twice a week from Wagstaffe store. Someone probably walked over the hill to the store every day to get the milk and vegetables, and whatever other provisions needed that day. Fish were plentiful and, as my grandfather was a keen fisherman; lovely fresh fish would have been on the menu often.



PLATE 8 Nickels' family at their holiday camp (about 1920): from left: Alfred Nickels (grandfather of Shirley Rider), Dorothy Nickels (Shirley's mother), Oswald Young (Shirley's father), Les Johnston (Flo's fiancé), Florence (Flo) Nickels (Dorothy's younger sister), Ada Nickels (Shirley's grandmother).
Photo: Shirley Rider

My mother used to speak of a tragedy they experienced at Lobster Beach in the summer of 1921. There was a young local fisherman there, who led a somewhat hermitic existence in his shack at Lobster Beach. He was a local identity whose name was Alwin Koletzke, but by 1920 he was known as 'the lobster man', as he had traps to catch lobsters which he sold to help support himself.



PLATE 9:

Alwin Koletzke, the 'lobster man', about 1920, with a large catch; the photo also shows a fairly clear under-storey up the hill behind
Photo: Shirley Rider

Mr Koletzke had a hut behind the beach with a few fowls. Supplies came from Wagstaffe store. He and Charles Hesketh regularly caught lobsters and sold them, in a post-World War I subsistence lifestyle. Towards the southern end of the beach, on the west-facing slope, a marble plaque can be found embedded in a rock, which reads as follows.

<p>This tablet commemorates the heroic action of ALWIN KOLETZKE in rescuing one man from drowning, and returning to attempt the rescue of another. Within a few days he was himself drowned, together with his friend CHARLES HESKETH on 28th Dec. 1921. Erected by his friends.</p>	<p>One day in December, Mr Hesketh was reluctantly joined by Mr Koletzke, as he headed out to inspect their lobster pots during heavy seas, but their boat capsized and the outgoing tide took them past the breaking waves and Little Box Head to their death.</p> <p>On the day members of the Nickel's family noticed lots of people hurrying around to the rocks near Box Head and were told that there were two men drowning, in the rather rough seas.</p> <p>The lobster man and his friend had gone out to inspect his lobster traps and the boat had capsized in the rough water.</p> <p>They both drowned and there is a plaque on the rocks at the end of Lobster Beach dedicated to Koletzke, 'the lobster man'.</p> <p>Koletzke himself had saved a man from drowning only 18 days previously.</p> <p>Our family still has photos of the Nickels family's camp at Lobster Beach and Koletzke 'the lobster man.'</p>
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The bush provided the toilet facilities; the ocean provided the bathing and some of the food. Life must have been idyllic, so quiet and peaceful with only two or three other camps; just swimming, fishing, walking, chatting, playing cards, and of course eating.

The Nickels family camped on Lobster Beach for only two or three years as they started renting [and later purchased] a little fisherman's shack at Booker Bay... The Nickels stayed for about two weeks at Christmas, during their 3 years of camping at Lobster Beach from 1919 to 1921. (2006)

Apart from the use of the water for boating, swimming and fishing, some visitors or residents had a more permanent association with the beach and waterway. The story is told above by Shirley Rider. However, Gwen Dundon's *History Spot* in a local newspaper (August 23 1985) added some details, provided by Shirley's mother, Dorothy Young (née Nickels), who had only been married to Oswald for a month, when they came from Dulwich Hill to camp for her third Christmas holiday at Lobster Beach.

Ninety-one-year-old Bill Dodd (formerly of Sans Souci; now living permanently in his 1952 weekender in High View Road, near its southern corner, high side) has visited Lobster Beach to fish since he was 6. His parents (William John Dodd and Mary Ellen Dodd) owned and camped on their large area of land in southern High View Road, called *Somerset Place* in pre-World War II parish maps, where *Headlands* (now *Pretty Beach House*) and nearby houses are found. Mr Dodd senior was in a publishing business at 42 Bridge Street, Sydney, which meant formal dress and manners every working day of the year.



PLATE 10
Bill Dodd (right) and a relative's husband, (the late) Michael Simpson, with a big Jewfish caught at Lobster Beach. Maureen Sullivan is Bill's niece, and she married Michael Simpson.
Photo: Bill Dodd, Helen Wake and Colleen Scott

He saw their holidays at Pretty Beach as being totally relaxing, giving a complete escape, while doing something physical for a change, apart from his abundant vegetable garden at home in Sans Souci.

Bill Dodd remembered the journey to Pretty Beach. His daughter, Helen Wake, can recall her grandmother, Mary Ellen's, story as well.

His parents would load all their camping gear onto a boat called *Erina* at Kogarah Bay and pay for everything to be brought up the coast for their holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Dodd (senior) and family would come up by road in their DA Dodge car.

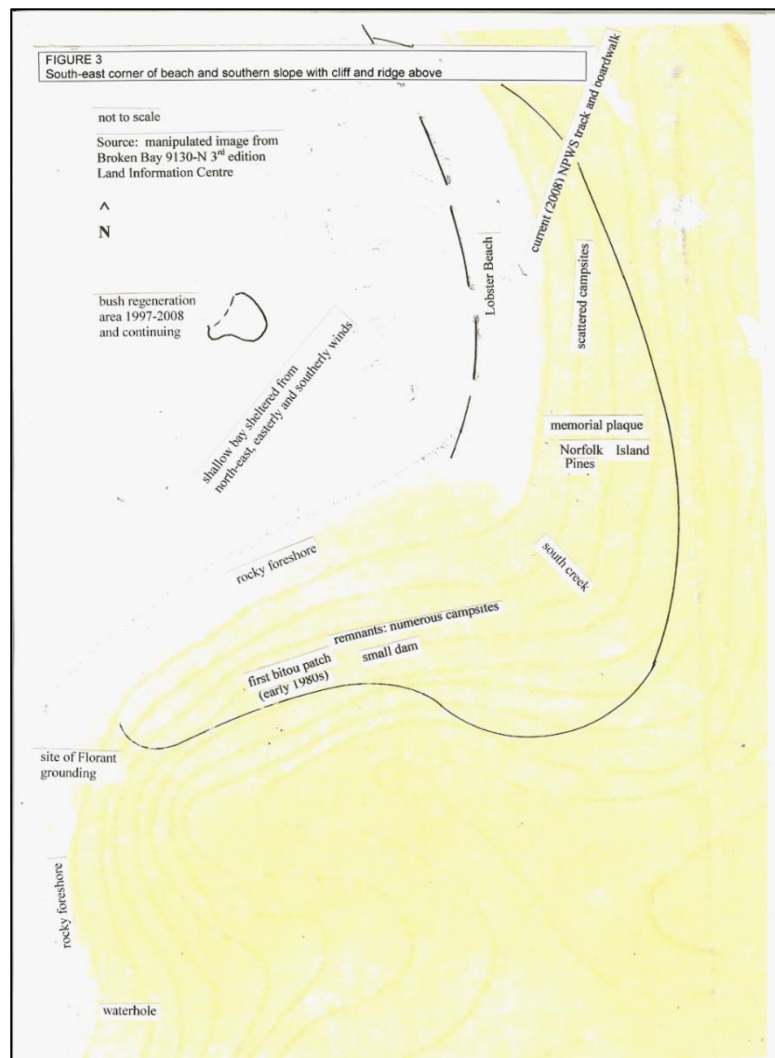
Mr Holwell Senior (Fred's father) had the Pretty Beach Bakery and would meet the *Erina* with a horse and cart to take the family's camping gear to their property. The family would camp for three weeks over Christmas, as well as each school holidays. (S.S.*Erina* was built on Erina Creek in 1903.)

Over at Lobster Beach, the regulars would always be there over Christmas, while their camps would sometimes be shut up during the other holidays.

Bill has always loved the channel off Lobster Beach for its fishing; one of his fishing companions was Zachariah Johnson from Haberfield. Zac, who was a bit of a character, was not related to Curly Johnson. Zac's original holiday house was in High View Road, along a little and diagonally opposite Bill's current house.

The original weekender was sold in about 1970 and his daughter, Jan Morgan and her husband Steve, and their children, Leonard and Glenda, from Ashfield had a new house built opposite Bill's current house. The Morgan family still owns the house.

'Bream Rock' (Figure 4), beside the channel on the southern point, is where Bill Dodd met his future wife, Beryl, while he was fishing from the rocks. Her family, the Beatties, had often holidayed at Pretty Beach. Beryl and Bill married in 1948 with a honeymoon at Pretty Beach. Beryl died in 2004.



Bill has always fished at Lobster from his various boats over the years as well and still fishes from his loved *Sinbad* whenever the fish visit along this estuary. Bill and his family have rescued many people in boating trouble near the bombora and at Half Tide Rocks.

Bill recalls the very early days coming to Lobster, when the sand went right around to 'Bream Rock' from the main beach in the 1920s-1930s. Two ladies would come across from Ettalong in their boat to fish for flathead along the sandy estuary. On the back of the boat was the first outboard motor Bill had ever seen – a Sea Gull brand. According to Bill, they were nice people and always caught some good fish (according to Helen Wake).

Old Reuben (Reub) Rogers was one of a couple of generations of regular visitors from his family who came to fish; they were from Tempe and Reub would bury his tent in the sand between visits. His camp was one of the first at the beach, according to Bill Dodd. He and two sons, Young Rube and Morrie, stayed there together regularly.

They were very good fishermen, especially from the rocks at night. (Young) Reuben Rogers passed away at Easter 2010. The Death Notice in the Sydney Morning Herald says his name was Reuben Ronald (Bok) Rogers. He lived at Kogarah, Sylvania and Pheasants Nest. He was aged 95. Added to the notice was 'Gone Fishing'.

Edna Knight and some friends were also regular campers. Edna would often visit Lobster Beach from Allawah with her sisters, Jessie and Lena. According to the Dodds, Jessie would sometimes camp with them in High View Road. Mavis Dodd and Jessie were friends.

Lou Ewan's camp can still be distinguished behind the Norfolk Island Pines and the plaque to Alwin Koletzke at the southern end of the beach, on the west-facing slope. It has a large, flattened area well above the sand just north of the creek. He and his family must have planted the many exotics which the new (in 1997) bush regeneration group came across and subsequently removed: Wisteria, Oleander, Briar Rose, Gardenia and so on.

The location of Reub's camp was between the current boardwalk and Lou Ewan's camp on an excavated and flattened area well above the sand. It is still visible, with masonry remaining among the regenerating bush plants. After a period of camping under canvas, a few building materials made it a bit more permanent. Edna Knight was a nice, friendly person who married Young Reub Rogers. Their children became regular campers as well.

Another regular camper in the 1940s and 1950s was Harry Moran who would be joined by two male friends and a lot of dogs. Occasionally he would just sleep in the cave above the midden in Albert Street. He was taken in as a boarder at one of the three houses in Mulhall Street, which, still (in 2008), can be found immediately uphill from Wagstaffe Store. Harry would often sit outside the main Pretty Beach shop, passing the time, yarning with other locals. He had various camp sites around Lobster Beach over the years, including one near the waterhole creek, south of the southern point.

Harry wore an old overcoat, no matter what the temperature may have been (Plate 11). He would also go out to sea on some of the local fishing boats as an outing and for the company, although he was not one of the regular fishers.



PLATE 11: Harry Moran, wearing his famous overcoat, with Bill Foster at Pretty Beach. Photo: Bill Foster

Bill Dodd also remembers 'Big Cyril', who was one of the regular fishers. His camp was just south of a little bridge over the southern creek, where the main upper track crossed to the other sites on the north-facing slope above the southern point. He had a bit of a shack, built with some corrugated iron, according to Helen Wake, Bill's daughter. People would go to Cyril's to share a cup of tea after fishing. People would also play cards, but while friendly and open, as campers usually are, the campers and shack occupants would generally keep to themselves to a large extent.

Alan Mullins (from East Gosford in the mid-1990s, then aged in his 40s) remembered that his father (from Granville) and other men caught the train to Brooklyn and then one or more ferries to Pretty Beach, so they could relieve pressure on their families during the poverty of the 1930s Depression.

The men would live off the land (and sea) for several weeks, before returning to Sydney. Bill Murphy (whose father ran the Woy Woy/ Ettalong/ Wagstaffe/ Pretty Beach ferry service) suggests that as no ferries operated between Brooklyn and Brisbane Water in the 1930s, it is more likely that these men travelled by train to Woy Woy, then by ferry to Pretty Beach for the walk into Lobster Beach.

From 1951, Rosie Haynes (late owner of No. 27 High View Road) used to travel by train from the inner western suburbs to Woy Woy carrying a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo on the handle of her basket. Then they would either catch a bus to Ettalong and a ferry to Pretty Beach or catch the 7.30 ferry from Woy Woy. Rosie's daughter, Beryl Gillard, now lives at No. 27 High View Road. She remembers going to Woy Woy by ferry to attend the cinema.

Rosie remembered that, as a change from fishing, people would walk over the hill from Lobster Beach to Pretty Beach to see who alighted from the ferry, or to get supplies from the Pretty Beach bakery or one of the stores nearby.

A 1994 Council employee, Judith, who camped at the beach as a child in the 1950s, mentioned Johnsons' camp, which was well-established and visited over a long period. June (née Foster) and Bill Murphy remember that Johnsons' camp was directly above the waterhole south of the point, behind a big rock which is now covered by Bitou Bush. Bill Dodd remembers 'Curly' Johnson as a big man who kept to himself. He was sometimes seen fishing from the rocks at night.

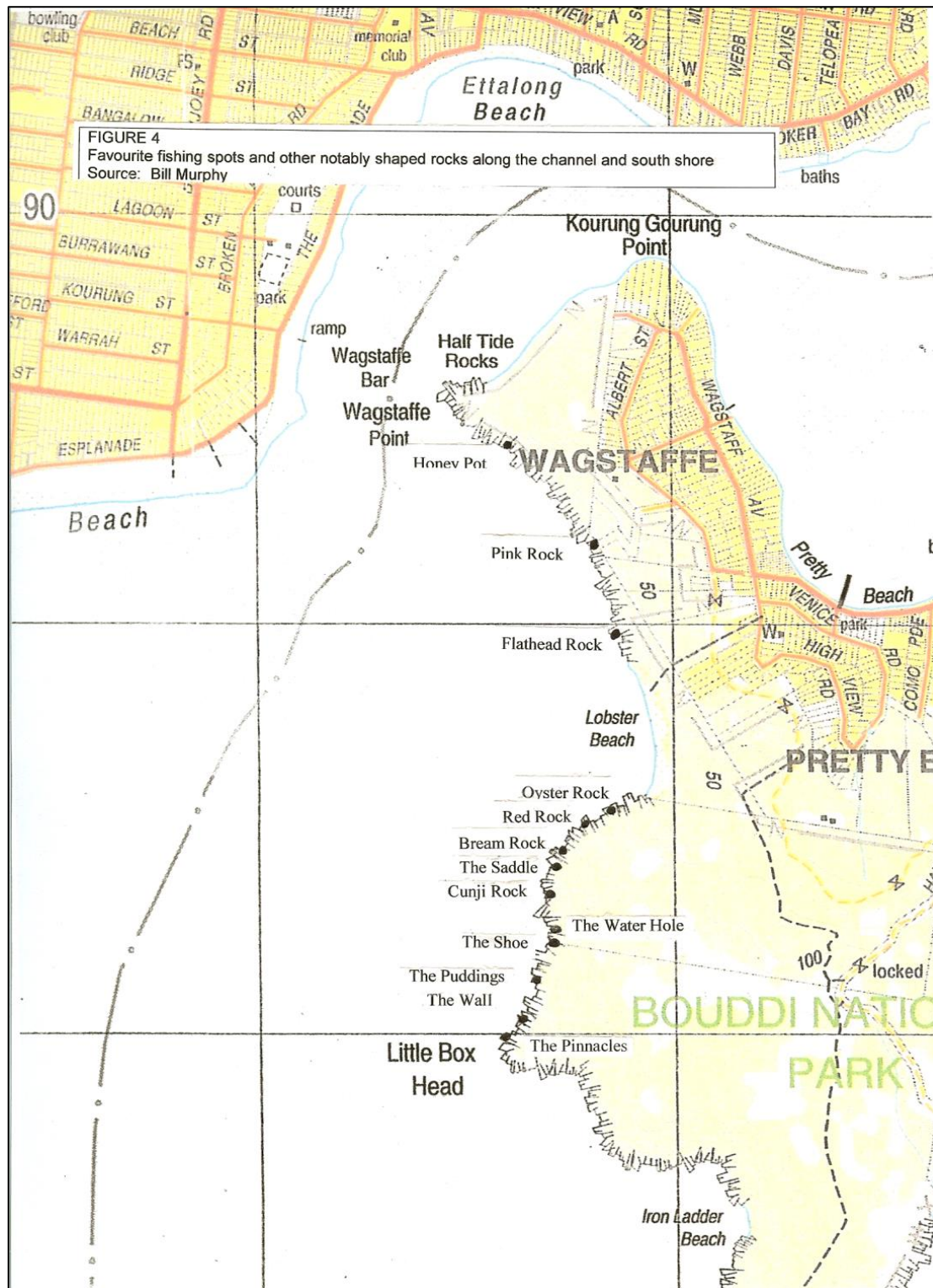
Stories vary about how many sites there used to be, but it appears that the maximum total number of shacks and semi-permanent tent sites would not have exceeded about 10. The slope south of the beach and above the rocks has a large fairly level area, which hosts the remains of a large number of apparently semi-permanent camp sites and shack sites. Bricks and concrete indicate that rough, permanent foundations (at least) were built over time.

Due to the steeper slope, fewer and generally smaller sites also existed from the current location of the boardwalk and toilet south towards the creek, with at least two large sites (Rogers' and Ewans') still visible because they had been excavated at a height of about 5m above the sand. Plate 16 shows a modest cottage built above the southern point.

Each person who remembers these campers and shack owners has stressed that the regulars were all good people, if private, as well as keen and successful fishers. The channel north and south of Lobster Beach and Iron Ladder Cove (just inside Box Head) provided good fishing, although by accounts given, Waterfall Bay (a recent unofficial name for the bay north of Iron Ladder Cove) seems less productive for fish.

Jane Hawks of Merrylands was another regular camper at that time.

The ladders were installed to help fishers access the rocks, as that bay shelters fish for bait as well as eating. [2022 note: current investigations suggest that the cove may also have been used to unload goods from boats when the sandbar was too dangerous to attempt a crossing.] The ladders have rusted away, but at various points along the channel between Box Head and Half Tide Rocks, rusty metal, cement remnants and holes cut in the rocks are evidence of the seriousness of fishers, who used the area regularly.



Along the rocky coast between Little Box Head and Half Tide Rocks were a number of named rocks. People would know where others had been or were going if the rock's name was mentioned. The name was usually taken from the fish or other species caught there or the shape of the rock e.g. Honey Pot, Cunjy (for Cunjevoi, which is used for bait) (Figure 4).

Little Lobster Beach is a recent unofficial name for the patch of sand about 200m north of the Lobster Beach headland, where there are large rocks at sea level, including Pink Rock, and now a channel marker.

Water Sources

Over time, campers and visitors had a number of water sources. Originally the creek which usually flows into the south-east corner of the beach provided a supply. However well before the 1950s, an additional source was the creek which flows down through the rocks south of the southern headland of Lobster Beach, into the channel. A trough had been built in the second creek to create a big waterhole, just upstream of the coastal rock shelf. Its base was cut fairly squarely into rock, then stones and cement had been neatly built as the upper parts of the walls and there was a wooden lid. To the disappointment of fishers, boat people and others, when NPWS took over the area, they smashed this trough and completely removed it.

The second creek has a reported spring and was not as affected by as many adjacent camp sites, as it was separated from the beach and main camp sites by a cliff-line, high ridge and steep terrain. Some campers as well as people from boats and other visitors would stock up on water from that creek and trough. Helen Wake and Bill Dodd remember a camp above that waterhole, where Harry Moran used to live on and off. Sammy (Helen's name for 'Sam', see below) also camped there after the Johnsons abandoned it. Although at least three people or families are mentioned, Bill Dodd remembers two camps in that steep area, possibly with a sequence of occupants over the decades.

The campers were generally careful to avoid polluting the southern creek at the beach, even though they only had the bush as a toilet. Nor did they over-draw from the supply, treating it with respect. They became very self-sufficient with their household and drinking water. Bill Dodd remembers that campers would rig up systems where rainwater falling onto the tents or iron roofs would be caught and stored in drums. Later, some had small tanks. Thirsty visiting children were taught to only take a drink from the free-running part of a stream.

Although the first creek usually runs, during the drought of the early/mid 2000s, it did not run reliably for several years, and a mature *Banksia integrifolia*, which grew from where the sand met the soil of the uphill slope, died (probably from salinity as much as lack of creek water). During that drought, the second creek still had a trickle.

Above the southern slope's camp sites, a small, apparently hand-dug dam, is now visible at the base of the major slope which leads uphill to prominent sandstone cliffs.

Other less aesthetic remnants of the European era of occupation to the mid-1970s are burnt, broken or otherwise derelict remains of camping equipment, china shards and more broken glass than imaginable. Even in the water and on the beach, old and new broken glass and whole glass bottles remain, presenting a serious hazard to barefoot beach users.

Although visitors are said to have removed their rubbish, it appears that the build-up of real rubbish started in the 1970s with the increase in power boat traffic (because people can more easily bring in food and drink than if walking in).

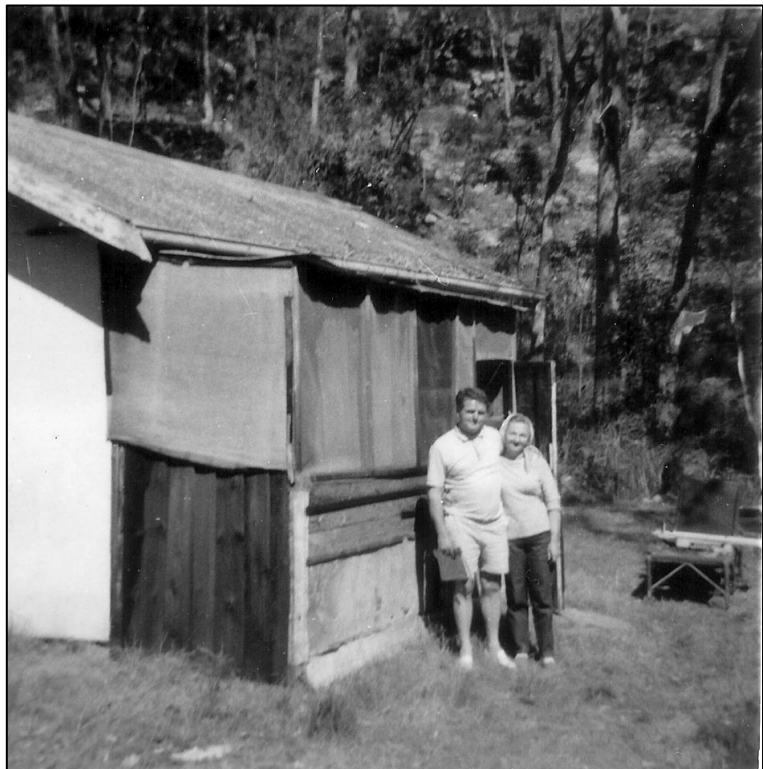
NPWS did install bins as a way of trying to focus rubbish in a couple of areas, removing it variously in bags on their backs to vehicles in High View Road, by barge and by helicopter. The problem remains, with visitors in the current era lazy about the National Park standard of ‘take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints’.

Gail Phillips and Bonnie Smith (née Frost) have recounted two other campers’ memories to Robyn Warburton.

Gail Phillips, daughter of Harry and Fay Phillips remembers holidays spent at their holiday house (shack) above Lobster Beach in the 1960s. (See also Plate 16). In March 2010, Gail’s mother, Fay, was interviewed and added detail to Gail’s account.

Harry met a fellow in the pub, the Dew Drop Inn, at Petersham and shared some fishing stories and good fishing spots with him. Broken Bay and Brisbane Water came into the conversation. Without much ado, Harry’s new mate offered to sell Harry his shack at Lobster Beach for £50.

PLATE 12: Harry and Fay Phillips outside their shack, showing the hessian-covered enclosed verandah, the bedroom for Fay’s mother, Emily, near the southern creek.
Photo: Fay Phillips



The Phillips family became the owner of a one-roomed, concrete-floored fibro house (actually a demountable garage) with a beautiful view.

There was a stone fireplace with a chain hanging above it holding a large kettle, a Silent Knight kerosene fridge, tanks to collect water and lamplight. The toilet was a pan out the back; the contents to be buried in the bush nearby.

PLATE 13: Overflow accommodation at Phillips, with metal beds under the tent and an outdoor toilet beyond. Photo: Fay Phillips



The verandah out the front made it very worthwhile. Fay said that the verandah was later enclosed with wood and hessian as a tiny bedroom for her mother, Mrs Emily O'Brien. Inside, Fay rigged a curtain on a clothesline to provide separation of 'bedrooms'. Unlike the earlier campers, they enjoyed visiting in winter because their fire was so effective in keeping the shack warm. They would make soup and toast on the fire.

The O'Brien family (Gail's grandparents) drove to Wagstaffe via Gosford in a 1927 Chevrolet and it took all day.



PLATE 14: Simple pleasures: girl on a rope swing above the beach at Phillips' shack with Tom and Essie Pearson's shack to the left and another to the right. Photo; Fay Phillips

Gail remembers leaving the car at Peg Whiting's place in Wagstaffe Avenue (three houses from the corner of Pretty Beach Road). Then they would hike over the hill and take the upper track to their shack at the southern end of Lobster Beach. Once they had bought a boat, they

could leave it at Whittings, launching it when they arrived from Sydney and heading to Lobster Beach by water.

Gail remembers that there were a lot of fish at that time. You could catch 50 fish in a day which the family barbecued. They fished for bream at night and flathead in the early morning. Lobster Beach was covered in shells.

“Porpoises” were often seen and one day number of sharks, somewhere between twelve and seventeen, (depending on who was telling the story) were seen in the bay.

Gail remembers the excitement when they arrived one day to find a big green tree snake had made the shack its home.

Their holidays were spent at Lobster Beach from the early to mid-60s to the mid-70s when they were forced to leave (by NPWS).

Fay Phillips’ photos (Plates 14 and 15) show three additional shacks/houses which no-one interviewed had referred to before although evidence of them, the flat foundation areas and in some cases, remnant terracotta and concrete pipes have been exposed during bush regeneration work.

In a variation on Alan Mullins’ family’s practice, Bonnie Smith recounted: Quite a few rough houses were built along the strip above the water at Lobster Beach during the Depression. While the husband was away seeking work and money, the family lived a simple hand-to-mouth existence in a little paradise. They fished and grew vegetables and visited the shops over the hill. One of these shops was owned by Josie Frost and Josie’s daughter, Bonnie, recalls that groceries were put ‘on tick’ until Dad came back, hopefully with a few pounds in his pocket.



PLATE15: Children at Phillips’ shack with a house and tank below to the right (north of the creek) and a shack (southwest across the creek). Photo: Fay Phillips



PLATE 16: Lobster Beach with 'shack' just visible on the southern slope
Source: Helen Wake (née Dodd)

In the 1930s, there were at least two stores at Pretty Beach – the main store was where Turo Park's tennis court is now located; the other store was where the '*The Sign of Crooked Billet*' is now located. It is now wood-turner Terry Baker's private home with a sometime gallery in the shop-front. The Frost family owned the second store in the early 1940s. Their house can still be found in Venice Road near Turo Park. Mr Frost would sell fresh milk from the cow which he tethered outside the store.

Holwell's Bakery operated until the mid-1970s, on the corner of Oroo Street, between the two stores. The main store ceased operations well before 1974, as there was no building there by that time, while the second store continued as a small general store which was operated until the late 1970s by Mrs Gobbos and Mr Gobbos (an electrician and keen fisher). Another small store was on the bend of Venice Street, on the uphill side. It was the Whiting's shop. Mr and Mrs Stewart were the last to run that store before it closed in the late 1960s.

Overnight holidaymaking at Lobster Beach seems to have declined through the 1960s, so that by the mid-1970s there were no shacks (except Sam's) and semi-permanent camping had all but ceased. The change may have come because more people owned cars and so had a wider choice of holiday venue. In the first half of the 20th century, very few people had a car, so public transport and low-cost holidays were popular. No doubt the social and economic conditions of two World Wars and an intervening Depression had a major impact on Sydney-siders' and country people's choices of recreation. Without car access, some people happily chose a holiday at Lobster Beach, camping or in shack accommodation.



PLATE 17: 1963: Holiday friends on Dog Face Rock overlooking Lobster Beach: Julie and Bill Dodd (left) (from Sydney and High View Road) with two of the Hughes children (right) (from Venice Road) (Mrs. Wootten's grandchildren). Mrs. Wootten was a long-time Pretty Beach resident. At least three shacks/houses are visible low on the slope beyond Lobster Beach. Photo: Helen Wake

Camping has been prohibited at Lobster Beach for most of the period since the area became a State then National Park. The shacks were quickly removed by NPWS, principally because of the associated management issues (particularly toileting).

In the 1970s, NPWS was also quick, aggressive even, in removing all signs of recent occupation in national parks generally.

Last Subsistence Resident – 1970s

Robert Moore (known as 'Sam' and unrelated to David Moore's family) was the last of the subsistence residents who lived at the beach. In the decades before the 1970s, he would catch lobsters, and then sell them at Ettalong, Pretty Beach and Pearl Beach. The Murphys suggest that he only trapped lobsters, as he could not swim. Along with many other regular fishers at Lobster Beach, he lived as a reclusive single man (although he may have had his own family elsewhere). His brother lived at Umina.

Over time (and apparently after his occasional occupation of the Moran/Johnson site(s) south of the point), Sam gathered corrugated iron and other building materials from various sites for his own shack behind the beach, where he lived with a number of cats.

By the 1960s, he had become very unpopular with other campers and nearby homeowners because they were certain he robbed them. He was a meths drinker and/or alcoholic, with supplies coming from Wagstaffe Store, which in the mid-1970s had the local bottle shop licence (now at Killcare). He did a bit of casual work for people in Pretty Beach, especially on small fishing boats.

When NPWS took over, staff tried to persuade him to move to an inebriates' home in Gosford, but he refused. NPWS forcibly pulled down his then-current shack, after the police had hand-cuffed him to a tree.

Using his and other derelict shack materials (particularly rusted corrugated iron) he rebuilt a shack just above Little Lobster Beach which NPWS also demolished. The Murphys have a photo of another shack of Sam's with corrugated iron walls and roof, set among boulders, which was also uphill on the southern point past Lobster. Sam also built a smaller shack on the ridge between Lobster Beach and the creek catchment to the south, his last. He had a metal framed bed, a little vegetable garden with tomatoes, and inevitably an increasing number of unsprayed cats.

Sam would often hang around Wagstaffe Store and Bottle Shop late into the evening with other locals, and then walk home through the bush without any light. On one occasion, while he still had a shack on the southern ridge (Figure 1), he fell down a cliff to the bottom of the ridge; he had to be evacuated by helicopter to hospital with a broken leg (according to Helen Wake) or a broken back (according to Bill and June Murphy).

After leaving hospital, he started living in a house called *Ryedale*, two houses west of Gobbos's shop, in Pretty Beach Road. Within a few months he drowned when a southerly came through while, still carrying his injury, he was out in a dinghy near the oyster leases at the entrance to Hardys Bay. The Murphys remember that his dinghy at the time was a 'mongrel', hard to manage. Their memory was that Sam had to wear a brace on his torso due to his recent injury, so when the dinghy capsized and he found himself in the water, he had no chance of survival. As his cats always wandered, a woman in Como Parade, Pretty Beach would care for them to keep them out of the Park.

Day Visitors In the 1800s, boats which pulled up for water supplies would anchor in the channel or bay. They would also cut She-oaks (Casuarinas) near the second creek and load them as fuel for their boilers.

During the 20th century, visitors came for the fishing, the beauty and the isolation of a beach in the bush. By the 1940s, people were not only walking in, but also rowing across from Ettalong. Keen fishers, who now live in Venice Road, Pretty Beach are the Foster family (Bill (Kid), Bobby, Jim, June, Tommy (died as a child) and Jackie), originally from Bondi. The boys would often fish at Lobster Beach at night from the 1950s to the early 1970s. June married Bill Murphy, son of the ferrymaster of Murphys' Ferries.

Fishing from the rocks at night required great skill, so it tended to attract the relatively young, agile and fit. Bill Dodd remembers walking home in the early hours of the morning over the saddle to High View Road. He remarked on the beautiful aroma of bread baking at Holwell's Bakery. As the keen fishers aged, they stopped night fishing, while some also moved away. Cork hand lines were common for rock fishing. Once the cliff-top track between Lobster
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Ettalong. Keen fishers, who now live in Venice Road, Pretty Beach are the Foster family (Bill (Kid), Bobby, Jim, June, Tommy (died as a child) and Jackie), originally from Bondi.



PLATE 18: Morning view from above Lobster Beach, mid-June 2007 during heavy seas, looking west across the channel (lower foreground) to Umina (right) and Pearl Beach (far left).
Photo: Helen Monks

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Fishing from the rocks at night required great skill, so it tended to attract the relatively young, agile and fit. Bill Dodd remembers walking home in the early hours of the morning over the saddle to High View Road. He remarked on the beautiful aroma of bread baking at Holwell's Bakery. As the keen fishers aged, they stopped night fishing, while some also moved away. Cork hand lines were common for rock fishing. Once the cliff-top track between Lobster Beach and Box Head grew over in the 1980s, the number of serious rock fishers dropped dramatically.

By the 1960s, power boats were common. However, anchors in the shallow bay drag across the seagrass bed and can damage fauna, which live among the grasses. As the area off Lobster Beach is sheltered from summer's north-easterly wind, water-skiing became popular there during summer holidays. However, it was considered inconsistent with the objectives of a national park, so, during the late 1970s or early 1980s, NPWS banned waterskiing from the bay.

During the 2000s, they have been replaced by jet skiers who enjoy the offshore sandbars, by kayakers during low surf conditions, windsurfers and kite boarders.

Power and sailing boats still anchor in the bay or haul up on the beach all year round. Larger fishing boats shelter in Waterfall Bay or Iron Ladder Bay between spells at sea, or before returning to Brisbane Water.

The significant increase in the number and speed of watercraft is now causing problems for unwary, unskilled or inexperienced water-users during peak holiday season in summer. Clashes now occur between jet skiers and surfers, which are compounded when these craft cross the channel, dodging power boats, yachts and the ferry. The size of the ferry has increased with the increase in patronage, but both types of catamaran in current use have very limited manoeuvrability in the narrow waterway. At least 50 boats from either side of the Hawkesbury River may be drawn up at the beach or anchored in the bay on public holidays in summer, in addition to those which cruise or anchor in the channel.

Few visitors fish, compared to 60 years ago, but people are more confident about swimming out further from the beach. Old-timers talk about the number of sharks that would be caught or seen, but fewer are seen now. Lobster Beach was known to be excellent for surface fish such as garfish, as well as whiting and flathead. Fewer surface fish are caught there now, possibly due to the increase in boat traffic, according to Bill Murphy.



PLATE 19: Helen Dodd on top of Dog Face Rock, north of Lobster Beach, with Lion Island to the south behind her, on a fairly calm day in 1963 Photo: Helen Wake (née

Bush Regeneration: 1997 and continuing

The deterioration of native vegetation behind the beach, on and between the various camp sites was of concern, so in 1997 Helen Monks established a small group of local people (mostly weekenders, plus a couple of permanent residents) to weed behind the beach.

Formally known as Lobster Beach Bushcare, the group operates under the auspices of NPWS. For any particular working bee, the numbers range from 1 to 6, but Deb Holloman's efforts through NPWS have made a major impact since the early 2000s, through the employment of contractors (based on intermittent grant funding) and a World Environment Day working bee (June, annually) which attracts up to 20 people. [2022 note: with Deb's NPWS redundancy about 5 years ago, the group has collapsed, with weeds returning.] The worst areas for weeds are typically the most disturbed – those around the shack and camp sites.

Bitou Bush is a very invasive weed. After the sand miners who introduced it ceased working at Tallow Beach in the 1960s, Bitou Bush spread south around Box Head during the late 1970s, close to sea level. Its spread has continued for the last 30 years so that it has now reached around to the north of Kourung Gourung Point. The ridges of the peninsula remain relatively free of Bitou, although fauna spread the seed in their droppings.

After ten years, the long-established and proliferating Large-leaved Privets and Coral Trees have all but been eradicated at Lobster Beach. Coral Trees provided winter food for Cockatoos and Corellas, some species of which appeared to move into the peninsula during the 1979-82 drought and have now become well established. A second flourish of weeds has usually followed work in any particular location, with typical additional species at this beach now being Asparagus Fern, Black-eyed Susan (a creeper), Paddys Lucerne, *Bidens pilosa* (Farmers friends/ Cobblers pegs), *Ochna serrulata*, *Lantana camara*, Blackberry, Cotton Bush and Bitou Bush.

Mature (and reproducing) Bush Lemon trees grow just west of the south-east creek. Their fruit (particularly the thick rind) provides winter food for cockatoos. However, lemons are indicative of the long history of Lobster Beach as a fishing spot, with their flavour being a valued addition to on-site consumption of the catch. As historical markers, as well as productive trees, therefore, the trees will be left unless they become invasive of the bush.

In the late 1960s or early 1970s, a few black pigs were released at the beach, according to Bill Murphy. They disturbed a lot of soil around the camp and shack sites on the southern slope, enjoying Sweet Potatoes that had become established there. Another patch of Sweet Potatoes grew near the waterhole, so they would hang around the waterhole too. Along with the goats at Box Head, NPWS got rid of the pigs once it started to manage the Park.

One healthy and one badly damaged Norfolk Island Pine tree, in the beach's south-east corner, continue to grow, with origins unknown, but this species was a commonly planted tree in the first half of the 20th century in coastal locations (e.g. Avoca, Terrigal, Copacabana, Manly and elsewhere on Sydney's northern beaches). They too have been left as historical markers.

Some mature Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), south of its typical distribution range, were growing when the volunteers started to bush regenerate in 1997. They grew just north of the south-east corner's creek, with smaller specimens starting to spread uphill. After assessment with NPWS, all were removed to avoid them becoming a weed.

At least on one occasion, the beach has seen a formal Clean Up Australia Day activity, with another proposed for 1 March 2009 (and possibly subsequent years) to remove broken glass from the southern slope around the camp and shack sites, which is a hazard for bush regenerators as well as bushwalkers and other visitors. Regular or casual volunteers are welcome at the bush regeneration activities or Clean Up Australia Day.

[2022 note: over 60 bags of broken glass have been collected for NPWS disposal via boat in the last 10 years through CUAD work organised by Helen Monks. Others also pick up and remove broken glass from the beach and floor of the bay, so little is found now.]

It was the group's bush regeneration activities that have led to this document being drafted. As bottles and other domestic materials were uncovered during weeding, the historical significance of the site was recognized as being part of the European footprint in this locality.

The Houses on the Ridge above Lobster Beach

Five houses have been built since 1952 in the saddle above Lobster Beach on land that has been in long-term private ownership, as shown in the Table above. In 1951, two women together bought what are now Nos 25a and 27 High View Road; then subdivided it so each could have a holiday home. In 1952, Rosie Haynes built a fibro house at No. 27 (subsequently replaced by her) and on the ridge above Lobster Beach with only walk-in access, Rosie's niece, Lucy Hansell, built a 4 square fibro and iron cottage with electricity for lighting, a firewood stove, four windows, one door, water tank and at some stage an outdoor toilet (but no bathroom). All building materials, including a further two tanks, were carried up by hand from High View Road. In 1999, after two sales, Lucy's house (by then a sagging structure) was replaced (Plate 22).

The second house on the ridge evolved from architectural photographer David Moore's wish for a 'lean-to with luxury', according to his daughter Lisa. Built in 1971 and 1972 and quickly nicknamed 'the Opera House', it is a notable collaboration between David Moore and architect Ian McKay, set lightly among rocks and Angophoras. The other three houses were built in the 1980s. The group is now surrounded on three sides by National Park and on the fourth by suburban Pretty Beach. Only one other house has been built on this bushyridgeline; it is above Little Lobster Beach, towards Wagstaffe Point. During the 1980s, town water and sewer were both connected to this part of Pretty Beach.

PLATES 20, 21 and 22: 1997 Below:

TOP: Rock climbers Will (left) and Peter (right) Monks on top of Dog Face Rock, north of Lobster Beach, looking south to Barrenjoey (centre rear) and Pittwater

MIDDLE: Lobster Beach from the southern ridge, looking north to Dog Face Rock and the channel, with Blackwall Mountain behind. Note the sand which extends to the northern point of Lobster Beach

BOTTOM: Original 1952 house of Lucy Hansell (just prior to demolition), 25a High View Road

Photos: Helen Monks



With thanks to:

Bill Dodd (fisher and local resident), David Dufty (local resident), Beryl Gillard (local resident), Dave Kelly (NPWS, former Bouddi NP ranger), Lisa Moore (local owner and holidaymaker), Bill and June Murphy (fishers and local residents), Geoff Potter (Local Studies Librarian, Gosford City Council), Shirley Rider and her sister Thelma (née Nickels) (descendants of a camping family), Helen Wake (holidaymaker), Fay Phillips, (local resident and former shack-owner at Lobster Beach), Robyn Warburton (local resident).

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RILEYS BAY

David Dufty

Rileys Bay is a distinctive and little known and visited part of the Bouddi Peninsula. There is a track through the mangroves at low tide but until recently the main area was impenetrable due to walls of entangled Bitou Bush and Lantana. The NPWS volunteers, Green Corp and contracted workers have now again changed the ecology of the area. The workers are something of archaeologists as they find varied evidence of previous land use in the area. However, we are particularly grateful to Quentin Riley for photos and stories. David Dufty (E

Aboriginal Occupation

Rileys Bay was clearly a site of Aboriginal occupation as evidenced by the middens still showing along the shoreline. Above the Bay are the wonderful Daleys Point rock engravings and cave with rock paintings. (See Aboriginal section.)



A midden at Rileys Bay. Photo: D. Dufty

Rileys Bay had quite extensive level land, a spring, tall timber and a sheltered aspect and might well have become a site for more intensive settlement.

Land grants were made in the area. (See chapter on Land Division.) **Early Settlers**

The grazing of cattle was carried out in the area. John Murray's house, now a heritage site, dates back to 1836.

The Riley family house, *Mount Earl*, shown below dates back to 1920. It was close to an earlier Riley home.

Sid Jenkins of Killcare Extension showed us the post of the fence on his property, which kept the cattle from roaming too far in the 1930s.

The Rileys also had oyster leases in the bay in front of the house and the Riley family has played a prominent part in Central Coast life.

The shallow bay was not suited to shipping but it contained large quantities of shell grit in addition to the middens mentioned above. These middens plus deposits of shells in the Bay became the source of raw material for the lime burners.

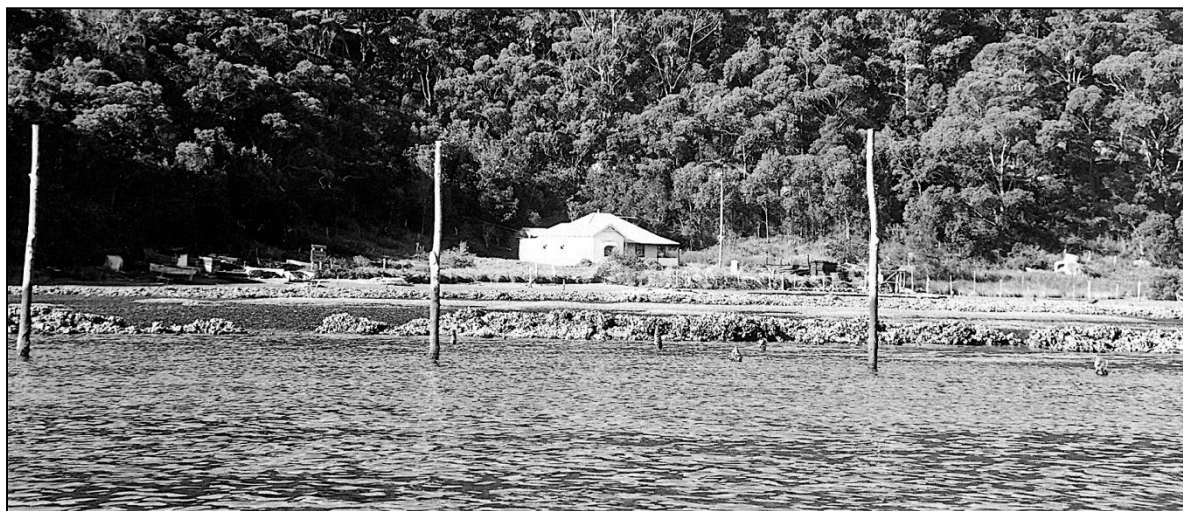
Refer to Gwen Dundon (*The Shipbuilders of Brisbane Waters NSW*, pp.18-22) for details of the lime burning process.

Timber-getting was important in the area and there was a sawmill at the end of Hardys Bay Parade, as recalled by Sid Jenkins from his time spent there in the 1930s.

Peter Schenk had a shell crushing plant. Shells were brought by barge to the plant, crushed, then sent to Sydney by coastal steamer for use in the building industry

Rileys Bay could well have been developed as a housing area, but road access was not easy and fortunately the area to the east of the Riley property is now National Park.

There was a subdivision on the point east of Rileys Bay and access was along Maitland Bay Road Extension out to the Aboriginal carvings at Daleys Point and then down a steep rough road to the houses. This area has recently been linked by road to the Rip Bridge so is no longer a part of our Bouddi Peninsula area.



Mount Earl cottage, Rileys Bay. Photo: from the Gwen Dundon Collection, 1981.

Weed Infestation

In cattle grazing days there would have been open forest in much of the area with the cattle feeding on the grasses and other edible plants. When cattle grazing finished, native plants may have flourished again but in more recent years, Lantana, Bitou Bush, Privet, Asparagus Fern and other perennial weeds took over the flat area of the bay. This was good for concealing Marihuana growers' crops but no good for native plants.

In the last two years a major effort has been made by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to remove weeds from the area. Volunteer 'Bitou Bashers' have played a major role, plus Green Corps and funded bush care professionals.

A remarkable change has come to the area as native plants, long dormant, are now free to grow again. For example, in the photos you can see how formidable the task is, but you can also see the remarkable growth of plants like the 'Bleeding Heart' tree (*Omalanthus nutans*) seen in the photo on the next page. Many vines and groundcover plants have also flourished.



Green Corps trainees tackle a wall of Lantana, Bitou and Privet (in bloom).
Photo: R. McClure



The amazing transformation of the area after Lantana and Bitou have been removed, as natives, long dormant, are again free to flourish. Native vines and groundcover flourish and most surprising is the forest of young Bleeding Heart trees (*Omalanthus nutans*). If their growth continues, we may have an ecology here never before experienced in this area. Note the pile of dead Lantana (middle left) gradually decaying. Secondary work was needed in this area to get rid of Bitou and Lantana seedlings.
Photo: R. McClure

The area has other fine natural vegetation, including the endangered Swamp Mahogany. Bellbirds, Whip Birds and other native birds abound, as can be seen by the remains of a Bower Bird's bower. Mangroves have multiplied and there is a clear succession of plants from water up to the hills behind.

It will be sometime before the area is generally accessible to the public, with years of weed clearing still ahead and proper trails to be made.

STOP PRESS

Thanks to Mary Daviel we have obtained some wonderful memories of his family by Quentin Riley.

My father, Clarrie Riley, was born at *Mount Earl*, Rileys Bay in 1900.

My great grandfather, John Riley, arrived in the colony of Sydney as a reluctant immigrant in 1827, aboard the *Phoenix*. He was 17 years old. He worked in the Brisbane Waters district and was given his ticket-of-leave, followed by a conditional pardon in 1843.

He purchased Rileys Island for 140 pounds, 17 shillings and 6 pence in 1855.

His son, William, who was a sea captain, settled in Rileys Bay in the 1870s. William had two large families from two wives. Clarrie was one of the youngest children of the second wife, Isabella. This house was built for Isabella and she lived there until her death in 1953, without electricity or running water.



William Riley's ship, the 'Maggie Riley', which he sailed regularly to Sydney
and also to the Pacific Islands.

If you walk south from the house for about 100 metres, then look adjacent to a couple of red gums, you will see the remains of a stone well on the sand. It is made of roughly quarried sandstone and mortar.

Dad's brother, Rupert, built it to retain water from a spring that came out of the foreshore bank. Over the years, the bank has eroded and the walls of the well became isolated from the bank. The walls have been broken up into smaller sections.



Foundations of John Murray's house, Rileys Bay, at this time, covered in Bitou and Lantana.
Photo: The Beryl Strom Collection



Oysters in Rileys Bay growing on stones from the Murray House.
Photo: The Riley Collection.

Rupert ran a dairy herd. The herd ate all the mangrove trees in the bay. Cows love the salt in the mangroves. It is difficult to imagine the bay without mangrove trees but I can remember when there was not a tree in the bay. Rupert had trouble with the wild cattle. A herd of wild cattle roamed the ridges above the bay and they were constantly attempting to encourage Rupert's cattle to join them. Rupert, and later his brother, John, lost cattle, when they joined the wild herd. Dad told me of an attempt to catch the entire wild herd. A mate of his built a corral at Bensville for this purpose. Dad took me to see the corral. Apparently all went well as the herd was enticed into the corral without problems. I asked what happened then. Dad said, "They didn't stay long. They just kept going straight through the back of the corral and no one had another go at catching them."

Dad farmed the flat in the middle of the bay with his friend, Harry Evans, in the nineteen twenties. They walked to Wagstaffe and borrowed a draught horse to plough the paddock. They grew tomatoes and potatoes. There is a good supply of fresh water in a natural pond in the creek at the northern side of the bay, adjacent to the paddock.

These days the whole paddock is covered in Blackberries, Bitou Bush and Lantana. (Ed.)

The cows were in this paddock right up to the nineteen seventies, as John Riley always had a couple to keep the grass down. The whole paddock was very easy to walk around then. In the middle of the paddock, at the back close to the hill, are the remains of a two room stone house. You can see a large fig tree that is located at the northern side of the house; this is the home of the Murrays, the original inhabitants of the Bay. I could not have been older than five, as Granny died in 1953 and I was born in 1948, when I remember arriving at the Hardys Bay wharf by car from our home at Avoca with my mother and father. My uncle, John Riley, would be waiting with his 18ft clinker launch at the end of the wharf to take us over to Rileys Bay to see my grandmother.

John was living at *Mount Earl* with his mum at this stage. His launch was always immaculate.

He kept it in a boathouse in Rileys Bay slightly to the right of the homestead. During the infamous 1974 storm the boat was destroyed when it was hammered against the roof of the boathouse. The storm also destroyed the boathouse.

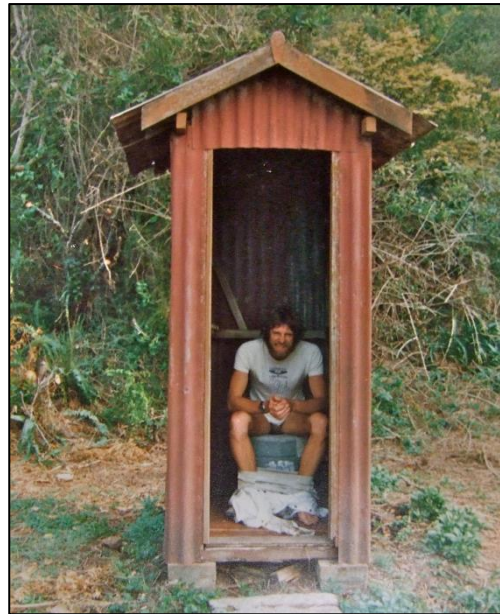
After my grandmother's death, John married his sweetheart, Vera, and moved into her home straight across the rip from Rileys Bay. He still came over to the oyster leases to work each day. I can remember, as I got older, regularly arriving at John and Vera's home with my father and having a cup of tea before we set off in the launch for *Mount Earl*.

John always had the magneto from his two-stroke boat motor sitting on the fuel stove. The heat from the stove would preheat the magneto to ensure a strong and reliable electrical current for the spark plug of his launch motor.

As we said goodbye to Vera, he would wrap the 'maggy' in a sugar bag and carry it along the wharf and install it in the engine prior to starting.

Starting was accomplished by pulling a wide leather strap, wrapped around the large, heavy exposed flywheel. After starting, a protective timber box was placed over the flywheel.

In 1980 my father and our family began restoration of the home. We repainted the house white with green trim. It was originally a dull red. We also replaced the fuel stove. I attended TAFE at night and learnt the skills required to construct a replacement flue and witch's hat for the fuel stove. Then we replaced the verandah rail, ran electricity down the hill to the home, replaced the water tank, installed a pressure pump, hot water service and shower and repaired the roof. All major bits and pieces were brought over from Booker Bay in my cousin, Winston Riley's, oyster punt or my brother's boat.



Quentin Riley makes good use of the outside dunny.
Photo: Riley Collection

We did not alter the exterior and interior and it remained almost original. We completed our makeover in 1991 and the finishing touch was a new *Mount Earl* sign made in the original style.



The interior of the house showed the changes in the kitchen over the years with a fuel stove, then a gas stove and when electricity came, a microwave. Photo taken from a film by Quentin Riley, showing the interior of the house.

Stories and photos of the Rileys, courtesy of Quentin Riley, (unless otherwise acknowledged).



Mt. Earl in more recent years with remains of the Boathouse in the foreground. The house has since been sold by the Riley family.

Photo: D.Dufty

MAITLAND BAY

David Dufty

Maitland Bay is one of Australia's most beautiful bays, comparable with Wine Glass Bay in Tasmania. It has been a delight to thousands of bushwalkers. It has been our front garden for 25 years and I never cease to delight in it from early morning to moonlit night, on sunny days or days when the track becomes a continuous waterfall. It has been a joy to take most of the following photos over the years. See also the Life Story of Marie Byles for stories and images of the early days. See also The Bouddi National Park, Draft Plan of Management, which is available at the following website.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/pomdraftbouddi.pdf> D.Dufty Ed.

Early Days

Maitland Bay would have been part of the life of the first people as there are many evidences of Aboriginal occupation in the area. Fishing would have been excellent and there are fine rock shelves for gathering molluscs.

It was known first by white people as 'Boat Harbour' as it was a sheltered spot, except of course during storms such as that of 1898 when the *Maitland* broke in half on the rock shelf. It then became known as Maitland Bay.

Access was difficult as the rescuers of the *Maitland* survivors discovered. Years later, Marie Byles and her team worked to improve the track down the slope to the bay.

Fishermen found it a great place to fish and some built shacks on the limited flat area and evidence still exists of these shacks. Mullet fishermen netted the Bay when the mullet were running.

The Marine Extension

The Draft Management Plan reports as follows:

Bouddi National Park includes a marine extension of 287.3 hectares offshore between Gerrin Point and Third Point. The marine extension includes both the seabed and the waters beneath which it is submerged.

The marine extension to Bouddi National Park is important as part of the broader marine and shoreline ecosystem where several oceanic seabirds including Albatrosses, Shearwaters and Little Terns occur.

Migrating Southern Right Whales and Humpback whales as well as Dolphins have been observed in the Marine Extension. The park may, therefore, be an important factor in the survival of these species.

With the exception of marine mammals, the powers of the National Parks and Wildlife Act do not relate to the control of marine plants and animals.

The management of fishing in these waters is the responsibility of the Minister administering the Fisheries Management Act, 1994, while recreational boating is the responsibility of the Waterways Authority of NSW. The marine extension, therefore, is a co-operative management arrangement between the NSW Fisheries, the Waterways Authority of NSW and National Parks & Wildlife Service to provide protection of this area. The Service, with the concurrence of the Minister administering the Fisheries Management act, 1994, has, as its aim, in accordance with section 80 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, the conservation of marine communities in the marine extension. To help achieve that aim, there is a prohibition under section 8 of the Fisheries Management act, 1994, which prohibits the taking of fish including worms, nippers, shellfish, and crustaceans of every description by all methods in the area of the marine park.

Research at Newcastle University has shown that the Marine Extension has resulted in greater numbers and diversity of marine life in the area. However, recreational fishermen still cast lines in the area, some probably knowingly realising that there are more fish in this area than in other adjacent area.

Images of Maitland Bay

What we can do is provide a few images from our collection, some a little different, of a place that has attracted so many visitors, has changed in some ways but is as yet preserved for resident flora and fauna and light stepping hikers. (Photos: D.Dufty and R.McClure)



On the way down, meet the residents: recumbent Angophoras on sandstone shelves, colourful spring flowers, grass trees that were a boon to the first people and a Brush Turkey busy at work.



Secret places:

Bouddi Deep and below a cave in the rock located by Bitou Bashers after the Bitou had been cleared.

(Photos R. McClure and D Dufty)





Change: The historic shelter shed established in 1940 by a working bee organised by the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. Here in the 1990s covered with Bitou Bush and surrounded by old dead Banksias. vines and young Banksias.



A breathtaking viewing place for countless visitors over the years; two of whom are from a distant and very different UK.



Colourful twisted rock faces to recall the aeons of geological history, to stir the imagination and to frustrate the Bitou Bashers who can't reach this spot.



A beautiful Diamond Python, like the one the Biitou Bashers disturbed, in springtime wintering under a Bitou Bush. Photo R.McClure.



Moon rising. A view for the privileged whose houses overlook the Bay.

The Wreck of the SS Maitland

This dramatic event occurred on May 5th, 1898. This event has been well documented.

To see an excellent illustrated story go to this Gosford City Council website.

http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/library/local_history/Suburbs/documents/a-scene-to-make-the-angels-weep

For an inexpensive booklet visit the Maitland Bay Information Centre at the corner of Scenic Drive and Maitland Bay Road, Killcare, at the weekend, and see the display on the Maitland and purchase: Coffill, Jamie, *The Sinking of the Maitland*, The Bouddi Society, 2002.

Why not walk to Maitland Bay and picture for yourself the events that happened on that stormy day.

Remembering the Sinking of the Maitland

In 1998 a commemoration ceremony was held remembering the sinking of the Maitland and a Community Forum was held bringing together relatives of those who died in the Maitland and experts in shipwrecks along the coast. We include the words of a reflective session below and the bibliography of books on The Maitland and other shipwrecks.

A Memorial Ceremony

We remember

- The millions of years in the making of this beautiful place,
- Primeval forests that created the coal deep beneath our feet,
- Huge lakes that laid down the shales and sandstones,
- Water, wind and weather shaping the hills and valleys around us.

We remember

- The abundance of life in the ocean before us,
- Small fish that shoal in the waving seaweed,
- Great whales that play in the bay on their journey north,
- The ebbing and flow of the ever-changing tides.

We remember

- The timeless Burrawangs and fire-scarred Xanthorrhea,
- Hardy Angophoras leaning on windswept ledges,
- Profusions of Flannel Flowers in a favourable spring,
- Orchids blooming brightly on steep rocky ridges

We remember

- The Wallabies that nosed through the stunted scrubland,
- Wombats that burrowed in the sandy gullies,
- Snakes and lizards basking in the spring sunshine,
- Wild cats and foxes silently stalking.

We remember

- The peerless repertoire of the courting lyre bird,
- Melodious gatherings of Currawong clans,
- The startling sounds of well-hidden Whip Birds,
- Tireless scratchings of mating turkeys,
- Skittering wings of shy Brown Pigeons.
- Haunting night calls of Koel and Boobook,

We remember

- The Aboriginal people who first made their home here,
- Their plentiful food found in forest and sea,
- Their rituals and carvings on wide sandstone platforms,
- The lethal diseases brought into their lands.

We remember

- The wave of newcomers who claimed the land as their own,
- Those who cut down the tall trees to shape up their ships,
- Those who grew crops and those who grazed cattle,
- Those who fished and found shelter in peaceful Boat Harbour.

We remember

- Tracks through the bush and small bustling ferries,
- Holiday homes and white painted wharves,
- The laughter of children at play on the beaches,
- The general store with its bread, bait and papers.

We remember

- The Bitou invading the dunes and the headlands,
- Lantana spreading through forested deeps,
- Beer cans and plastic tossed in the wildflowers,
- Vandals who fish in the sanctuary of the bay.

We remember

- A wild windy night and a small coastal steamer,
- Crashing of waves and cries of despair,
- The courage of those who lived through this trial,
- The tragedy of those who lay dead on the shore.

We remember

- Russell battling the surge bringing hope to the lost,
- The baby who lived and returned to the Bay,
- Rusting remains on a wave swept point,
- Nameless graves in a Booker Bay backyard,

We remember

- The many who have helped to conserve our heritage,
- The vision of Marie Byles: the lifelong labours of Allen and Beryl Strom,
- The constant concern of National Parks and Wildlife staff,
- Voluntary workers in local associations,
- Politicians who care for nature and people,
- Descendants who treasure their ties with old times,
- All of us here: as we consider the future as well as the past.

'Making and Valuing History and Heritage'

Community Forum, 5.5.98

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Governor Macquarie Tower, Cnr Phillip and Bent Sts, Sydney, 2000.

Maitland Bay

You're a magical place.

There's an arc of golden sand at the end of the rainbow.

There are bream and morwong and small fish galore
And still stingrays near the sandy shore.

Sea eagles silently soar in azure skies.

Seagulls and crows have more raucous cries.

There are bits of boiler still left to remember
The ship that foundered, the lives dismembered.

There are rainforest valleys in the Bouddi Deep
And snakes and pythons in wintry sleep.

Lantana and Bitou Bush try to ascend.

Volunteers seek to bring their reign to an end.



There are children playing in the scalloped waves
And sequestered lovers in the sand hills and caves.

Yachts and cruisers bob in the bay
While whales pass by on their resolute way.

Misty mornings promise a cloud-free day.
All is at peace in this bountiful bay.

David Dufty

MAITLAND BAY INFORMATION CENTRE

By David Dufty

The Maitland Bay Information Centre of the NPWS is a wonderful focus for community activities and visitor service at the northern end of the Bouddi Peninsula. The first part of this story was mainly written by Beryl Strom in 1997 with quotations added from a recent letter by Barry Wall to Colleen Smith. Additional information has been added by Helen Warliker, David Dufty and others and photos have been included from the Bouddi Society Photo Collection. Following an extensive report, noted below, Gosford Council approved the building as a heritage site.

The Story to 1997

The building now known as the Maitland Bay Information Centre was built in two parts. The original section, downstairs, was built in the mid forties as the home of Mr and Mrs Wall, who had previously lived in the Sydney suburb of Eastwood. The upstairs section was added in 1950.

John and Dulcie Wall frequently came to the area with their young family in the early 1940s and camped at Maitland Bay. They then decided to build a house and live permanently in the area. Here is an edited version of what their son, Barry Wall, wrote in a letter to Colleen Smith in 2007.

‘I was a baby, when I first went there in 1928 and since then about four generations of the Wall family have visited that area. My father and mother purchased the property from Mr. Davis in 1945. Along with Dad and Mum the four youngest children, Donald, Joan, myself (Barry) and Roger, moved on to the property in early 1946, living in tents.

My father built a temporary dwelling constructed of round bush poles covered with malthoid on this bush block of five to six acres, while waiting for the arrival of building materials, which were difficult to get just after the war.

I was 12 years old and did my best to help with the building. Building materials became slowly available from Sterland Bros and W.R. (Bill) White’s hardware and timber yards in Mann St. Gosford. These materials were delivered by Lance and Roy Frost on their Ford truck.

My sister Joan and I travelled with other children from Wagstaffe, Pretty Beach, MacMasters Beach, etc. on the old green and cream bus to Gosford High School.



John and Dulcie Wall 1955. Note the signs.

Eric and Alice (nee Walters) Settree lived on the farming property across the road and Geoff and Ally McCoy (nee Walters) also had a farm property on the other side of the road.

My father and mother were very involved with the retrieving of the bell of *The Maitland*. Turo and my uncle 'Nix' Myer (Bert Myers's father) had shown my Dad the track down to Maitland Bay in approximately 1918.

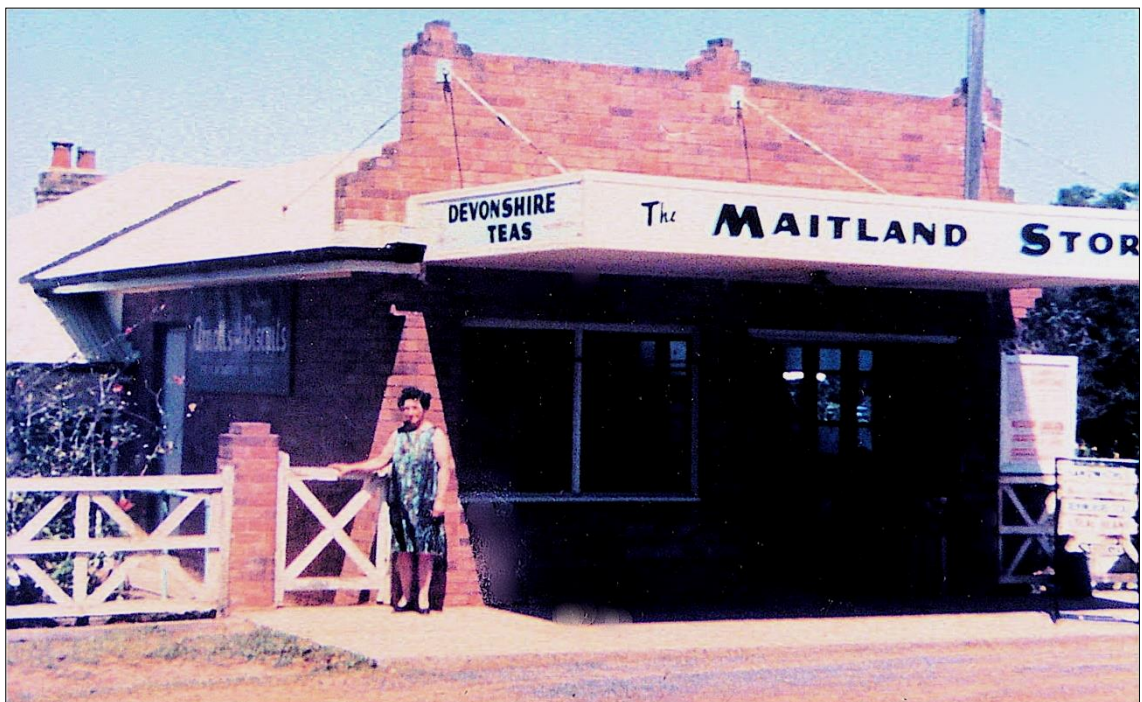
John Wall was contacted by the divers who found the bell of *The Maitland* and the bell was brought up to the store for safekeeping with Dad's help. A lot of blood, sweat and tears were spilt doing it.

With hammer and chisel Dad chipped a sign into a rock GOOD WATERS IN FERNS. Today that sign should still be there, and the water is very sweet!!' (Not so sweet today but the sign is still there. Editor.)

Many visitors to Bouddi Natural Park, as it was called at that time, used to call at the house for directions and drinks of water, so the Walls decided to add a small shop at the front, which they did in 1950. It became known as The Maitland Store. Because of the slope of the land the new addition was about three feet above the floor level and required a short flight of stairs.

In the late 1950s, John Wall was employed part-time by the trustees of Bouddi Natural Park to do some work on the tracks, camping areas etc. The trustees held their quarterly meetings at The Maitland Store. (See also section on Commerce and Industry)

In 1959, the Walls sold their property to Ron and Thelma Hall, an English couple who had been living in the Maitland area. Mr and Mrs Wall remained in the district, building a new home (Lilac Cottage) opposite the Killcare Heights lookout, now named the Marie Byles Lookout.



Mrs. Thelma Hall outside the Maitland Store in 1963

The new owners of The Maitland Store built up the shop business and Mrs Hall became quite renowned for her Devonshire Teas. In the 1960s there was a good 'sandwich trade' from the men who worked for the rutile companies that were mining some of the local beaches, including Putty and Tallow. The nearby residents bought their provisions from the store as did the people with holiday homes on Killcare Heights. There were few permanent homes on Killcare Heights until The Rip Bridge was opened in 1974.

In the 1960s Ron Hall became the first full-time ranger to be employed in Bouddi Natural Park, employed by trustees of the Park. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) was not established until 1967.

After many delays, due to Council delays and the slow establishment of the National Park, the bell of *The Maitland* was installed by the Brisbane Water Historical Society in 1961, in a sandstone base next to the Store. It was unveiled by Dulcie Wall. The stone came from Gosford Quarries at a price of 25 shillings per ton; four tons were estimated to be needed, total cost fifty pounds. The current bell is a copy and the original is held in the Society's museum at West Gosford. The area was newly paved in 2007.



Bell from S.S. Maitland

The shop business declined under a succession of new owners and within a few years was closed.

The property was bought by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in about 1970 and became the residence and office of the Superintendent of Bouddi State Park, as it was then called.

In 1974, the Superintendent of Bouddi moved to Kosciusko National Park, following the opening of a District Office in Gosford, and The Maitland Store became a disused building.

A few years later, the NPWS allocated \$500 to demolish the building. This was strongly resisted by the District Advisory Committee, who believed it was ideally located for an information centre and that it should be refurbished. The NPWS did some re-thinking and used the \$500 (plus some) to restore the building, which had fallen into disrepair as indicated in the photo below.



Maitland Bay Store undergoing repair and refurbishment.

It was officially opened as the Maitland Bay Information Centre in March 1990. The property is listed as a Heritage Item of Gosford City. It still retains the original façade and shop window.'

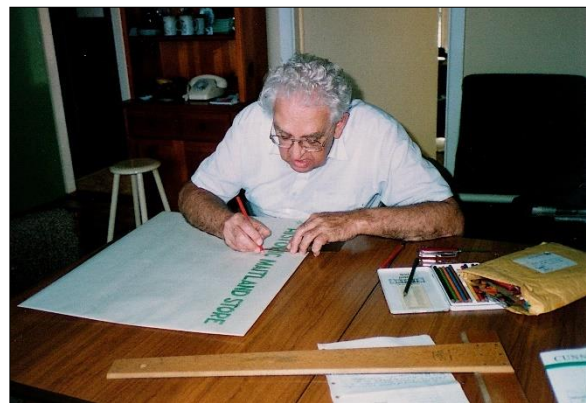
Exhibitions and other events at the Maitland Bay Information Centre have been held there.

The Centre has developed into much more than an information centre. It is used regularly for meetings of NPWS officers and other groups have found it valuable as a meeting place for committees and also as a conference centre. This was greatly facilitated by further renovations by the NPWS, which included repainting, display boards and spotlights for exhibitions and comfortable seating. Killcare Wagstaffe Trust meets there four times a year.

The opening of the Centre was a big event and included the first exhibition. Beryl Strom can be seen at work helping to restore the Centre building and Alan Strom can be seen preparing one of the posters for the exhibition.



Beryl Strom at work



Alan Strom preparing poster

The next big event was in 1998, the centenary year of the loss of the steamer, *The Maitland*. That year The Centre became the focus for an exhibition, re-enactment and a conference. The photo shows Gosford actor, 'Mouse' McGuire, doing a dramatic monologue on the sinking of the Maitland on a suitably wet day. Inside the Centre was a soundscape exhibit, designed by Steve Copeland of MacMasters Beach, that recreated the sounds of that day.

'Mouse' McGuire performs



The Community Centre Conference which followed brought together a remarkable mix of descendants of those involved and experts on topics like shipwrecks along the coast and heritage issues.

The NPWS later commissioned a permanent display featuring the sinking of the Maitland, which has proved a great attraction. This was put together by Jamie Coffill and the Bouddi Society produced the same material as a booklet available from the Centre.

In the year 2000 the centre became one of the focuses of the *Bouddi 2000* celebration. First came the *Down to Earth* geology exhibitions in April 2000.

This was led by Judy Adderley for the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust. Others involved included Pat McConchie, Dawn Biddlecombe, Mark Attwooll, and Jeanette and Ian Thiering. Christine Cave and her team presented a dramatic dance sequence at the Opening Ceremony. There were some 1000 visitors, including six school visits with 52 volunteers rostered. There were some fine exhibits, including four large fossils from this area lent by the Australian Museum.



The *Down to Earth* exhibition at the Maitland Bay Centre

Spirit and Place was a community art exhibition held on June 10th to 12th, 2000. All art works were inspired by the beauty of the environment and people on the Bouddi Peninsula. It comprised painting, photography, sculpture, music and dance. Christine Cave co-ordinated the exhibition and Erik Gunzel was curator. The opening speech was presented by Tim Braham, Curator for the Central Coast Regional Art Gallery. The opening was extremely well attended, and the small venue was packed with interested people and the following days attracted some 600 interested and appreciative art followers from the area and further afield.



The exhibition was clearly a great success and indicated the value of such an exhibition as an outlet for creative people in the area and the value to the community of the excellent and intimate venue of the Maitland Centre which made use of the lighting originally installed for the Maitland Centenary exhibition as seen in the photo below.





'Spirit of
Place'
(above)

'Wattle and
Weeds' (at
left)

'Down to
Earth'
'Igneous
and
Sedimentary
(below)



This event was followed in September 2000 by the *Wattle and Weeds* exhibition put together by Judy Adderley, Ann Bowe and Anne and Jim Shires. It was opened by Di Hattersley, a NPWS ranger, with Christine Cave's group of children performing a wattle and weeds dance, shown above. There were colourful displays of wattles, photographs by Elaine Norling and a display of Judy Adderley's meticulous collection of dried specimens of wattle varieties.

In September 2003, MacMasters Beach Progress Association held a photographic exhibition entitled *Bouddi Close Up*. All photos related to Bouddi National Park and proceeds went to the Bouddi Wildlife Fund.

This was followed in October with the exhibition, *Wetlands of Brisbane Water Estuary*. It took three years of planning with Judy Adderley as the main driving force, assisted by her son, Peter, who provided great photographic images. Anne and David Bowe, Jeanette Thiering and many others assisted. Some 1000 people attended, including a number of school groups under the supervision of Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre.

The Sand to Sea exhibition in 2005 was another fine presentation and this program also included outdoor activities and a forum on surf matters at the Killcare Surf Club.



One great feature of the Centre has been the window displays. Patricia Evans and Helen Warliker provided some fine displays of native flora of the area, all identified with their popular and botanical names.

Hildegard Anstice has made pottery figures of local birds and animals and fish and created most informative and artistic displays on topics of relevance to the Centre.

(See photo in Artists of Bouddi featuring Hildegard.)

Staffing the Information Centre:

The manning of the centre has been organised over the years by the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust with the Centre open at weekends and on public holidays. Helen Warliker and Graham Morgan, are two Trust members who have played a fine role in drawing up rosters for the staffing of the Information Centre whilst Gordon Adkins has also played a major role, particularly in regard to handling money matters.

Future Developments

The NPWS has recently repaired and repainted the Centre and there are plans for developing it into a more informative place with new equipment and more permanent displays for visitors.

Reference

Heritage Assessment and Guidelines. Maitland Bay Information Centre, an Assessment Report by Suters Architects on behalf of the NSW NPWS and the Department of Environment and Conservation, 2006. (Available at Maitland Bay Centre)

BITOU AND BUSH REGENERATION

David Dufty et al

This story draws on varied sources including the Web, NPWS brochures, research and writing by Helen Warliker, Ann Bowe, Robert McClure, David Dufty and others. It also draws on the practical experience by many people who have laboured long to try and free Bouddi National Park and its surroundings from Bitou Bush, Lantana and other noxious weeds. Photos are by members of the bush care team. David Dufty (Ed.)

The NSW Department of the Environment and Climate Change has this to say in the Pamphlet on Bitou Bush:



Port Macquarie foreshore blanketed by Bitou

*South African Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) was first recorded in Australia at Stockton near Newcastle in 1908. Between 1946 and 1968, it was widely planted to stabilise mined sand dunes. However in 1999, 'invasion of native plant communities by Bitou Bush and Boneseed' was listed as a key threatening process by the NSW Scientific Committee and Bitou was declared a Weed of National Significance by the Australian Government in 2000.*

Bitou Bush has now infested about 80 per cent (or more than 900km) of the NSW coastline, extending 10km inland in some areas. It has become the dominant species along about 36 per cent of the state's coastline. There is also a small infestation in far western NSW around Menindee Lakes.

Bitou Bush is a highly competitive weed that smothers native plant communities and destroys natural habitat and food sources for native animals. It threatens a variety of native plant species, including shrubs, small trees, herbs, orchids and ferns populations and ecological communities, such as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Kurnell Dune Forest.

Initial Work at Putty Beach

In 1981 it was realised by members of the recently formed Killcare Wagstaffe Trust that the natural environment of the Bouddi Peninsula was being seriously threatened by an invasion of weeds, particularly Bitou Bush. Consequently Alan Strom and his wife Beryl joined by Beryl's son Gary and Mary, his wife, began to work on removal of weeds, mainly from the area along and behind Putty Beach.

This activity was known as “Bitou Bashing” as it was hard work and involved trying to get rid of huge Bitou plants. The first group included Don and Pat McConchie, Rick Moore and Helen Warliker.

Others took on the task in the late 80s and in the 90s. The group was led later by Laurie Ware and included Silver Ware, Cliff Emerson, Meg Fromel, Helen Warliker, Dahlas Cleland, Win Fenson, Jeanette Blomfield, Allan Cameron, Meg Fromel, Bryan Wilson and others. They were all members of the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust and most were in the Birdwalk Group. Unfortunately, because of the demanding nature of this task, the need for constant follow up work and the ageing of some members, the groups finally ceased work and the Bitou and Lantana returned so that there was soon no evidence, in the original area, of their valiant efforts to beat the weeds.

Second Helping at Maitland Bay

In October 2001, David Dufty, Robert McClure and Ian Thiering, decided to tackle the weed infestations in Maitland Bay, the natural beauty of which was being smothered by Bitou and Lantana. The difference between this and earlier work was that it was wholly in the Bouddi National Park and fully supported by the NPWS. Tools and gloves were supplied and NPWS officers joined the group to advise and demonstrate. The Killcare Wagstaffe Trust continued to play a role by raising a government grant of \$11,000 to assist in hiring professional help.



The photo above shows what the area to the left of the bottom of track from the Scenic Rd. looked like before the Bitou Bashers began their work. You can still see the remains of the old shelter shed which has links with the days when Marie Byles and the early bushwalkers first established a picnic spot there. There was no Bitou in those days. When the photo was taken in the 1990s Bitou dominated the sand dunes and the hills behind. The natural vegetation, such as the young banksias needed to replace the dead ones, had no chance of growing. There was still a rubbish can there but it soon overflowed with picnic castoffs.

The initial clearing along the first part of the beach and into the hills behind was contracted by NPWS in the 1980s. However, there was no follow up of secondary work to get rid of the thousands of young Bitou plants that grew up when the big plants were destroyed. This work fell to the new group of Bitou Bashers who have worked now every Wednesday for two hours for the last eight years: first at Maitland Bay and then at various other sites in the Bouddi National Park, including Little Beach, Putty Beach and the tracks between them. Currently the group has some dozen regular members including: Malcolm and Lyn Colless, John Laing, Gunter Ebert, Lennart Oskarrson, Neil Desailley, Chris Casey, John Moran, Tony Powell, Naomi Estelle, Peter Baxter, David Dufty and Mike Chitty.

Tools and gloves were provided by the Service, along with advice on methods of control to be used. The volunteers began along the beach near the track, moved beyond the creek, attacking untouched growth of weeds, in the fishermen's camp area and into the three rainforest areas of the Bouddi Deep. They then moved north along the beach to the extensive area beyond the waterfall which was a daunting task. Finally they moved on to the saddle above the beach on the track to Bouddi Mountain. This area was severely infested with Bitou and proved the most challenging of all.

Fortunately, there was help from other sources: National Park Rangers, the Green Corps and contracted groups employed as a result of grants chased up by NPWS officers such as Deb Holloman. Deb, who has qualified in Bush Regeneration at Ryde TAFE, and who is employed by the Service, runs classes and supervises bush regeneration in the Gosford district. NPWS officers, Rangers, Dave Kelly and Vicki Elliott, have also been of great assistance.

Deb stresses the need for follow up or secondary work after the initial clearing so that the young Bitou plants are nipped in the bud. She is an enthusiastic proponent of *The Bradley Method*, which espouses 3 work principles:

1. *Work outwards from good bush areas towards area of weed.*
2. *Make minimal disturbance to the environment*
3. *Do not over-clear.*

Of course, Deb has realised that the Bradley sisters had died over 30 years ago and that new experience since then had shown that some modification in the principles would be needed. (*Bringing Back the Bush*, Joan Bradley, Lansdowne Press, 1988)



At Maitland Bay, young Banksias, native grasses, vines and succulents now densely cover the area once covered only by the monoculture of Bitou Bush. See photo on Page 2. All this achieved by natural regeneration, not by re-planting.



Bullimah Beach

The second area tackled by the Bouddi Bitou Bashers was Bullimah Beach which once again had been completely taken over by Bitou and Lantana. A board walk was put through by the NPWS but the Bitou was either side of it and all along the beach and into the waterfall area. The group set to clearing this limited area which included huge plants as tall as trees

and with thick trunks which needed sawing. A contracted group helped them to complete the initial clearing. However, it has been necessary to return again and again to do secondary work. The precipitous cliffs still have Bitou due to the difficulty of clearing them but otherwise the area is currently under control. Its future will depend on a new generation of Bitou Bashers following on the work of the past and present generations.



Before and after primary
and secondary clearing
in the beach and
waterfall area.



Benefits and By-products of Bitou Bashing by a team of keen volunteers



Working with a dedicated and compatible team of bushcarers, with full support from the NPWS, is a great experience and most fulfilling, since we can see each week the results of our caring and action. Each place we work on has its own challenges and satisfactions and its own beauty.

Currently, we are working at Rileys Bay which is our most demanding site to date.

Acres of intertwined Lantana and Bitou cover the area. But we have made progress and are now doing secondary work on an area initially covered by the huge bushes. Bellbirds, Whip Birds and Cicadas in season are all around us as we work and we made sure we left a bower bird's bower intact.



David takes a break. Great views, great conversation, great satisfaction



Discovering spring flowers, secret gardens and caves, (once the homes of the first people) no longer hidden by the Bitou.
Below: Robert McClure admires the growth.



The following poem has become something of an anthem, or a war cry, of the present Bitou Bashers and has been recited solo or in chorus on various occasions.

Bitou Bush

We have joined the push
To purge you from the Australian bush.
Sure, you've got a pretty yellow flower
But this gives you the frightful power
To multiply a thousand fold
To grow and grow in heat and cold

And smother all the native plants.
You're as bad as a tribe of fire ants.
We'll battle you on the hills and on the beaches,
Never mind mosquitoes, ticks and leaches,
We'll break off those aggressive shoots
And drag out your tenacious roots.
We'll use any means within the law
Yes! Including poison in this all out war.
We know you'll stage a mighty fight
But clearly we have every right
To let the local vines and succulents
Grow back again and trump your truculence.

David Dufty

Management by NPWS

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), now part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, is the host agency for coordination of the National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Strategic Plan as part of the Weeds of National Significance Program.

A draft Threat Abatement Plan for Invasion by Bitou Bush was released in 2004 which identifies 153 native plant species, two plant populations and 24 ecological communities at risk from Bitou Bush invasion in NSW. The draft plan also nominates 60 priority sites where active control programs will be undertaken to benefit 11 threatened plant species, two endangered plant populations and four endangered ecological communities.

NPWS works on these and other Bitou control programs in cooperation with more than 650 volunteer groups, all NSW coastal councils and other agencies.

Control techniques

A combination of herbicides, physical removal, fire and biological control may be used. Biological control has been used since 1986. Three insects have been established in the field as biological control agents for Bitou in NSW: the Bitou tip moth, Bitou seed fly and Bitou leaf-rolling moth. Re-vegetation is often used to prevent weeds from reestablishing. Aerial spraying targets small infestations of the weed Bitou Bush in selected sections of Bouddi National Park. Spot-spraying by helicopter uses a 50m long-line with a single spray head which enables staff to undertake a "surgical strike" on individual Bitou Bush plants in sensitive areas.



The Bouddi Volunteer Bush Care group still smiling, despite the huge challenges before and all around them at Rileys Bay. Some 15,000 square metres have been cleared of large Bitou and Lantana plants but Privet and Asparagus Fern remain a problem.
Photo: Deb Holloman

SAND MINING

David Dufty

The study of Sandmining at Putty Beach is an ongoing interest of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as it is still seeking to rehabilitate areas of the Bouddi National Park at the camping ground end of Putty Beach and at Tallow Beach. Both beaches were mined. Dave Kelly, Ann Bowe and David Dufty have contributed to the following short account but further study would reveal more facts. Various perspectives are relevant as each interprets what happened in the past in different ways. For example, Colleen Smith points out the industry made a contribution to the local economy during the period it was active in Killcare. See section on Commerce and Industry. D.Dufty Ed.

In the 1960s and 1970s mining of heavy minerals, such as rutile, zircon and ilmenite, became sought after by mining companies, particularly along the east coast of NSW. These valuable minerals are used worldwide for optics, the aircraft industry, glassware and so on. Australia is a world leader in production of mineral sands. The east coast is a particularly rich source of these minerals because they have been washed down from the mountains of the Great Divide over eons, into the sea and then back again into the ever changing coast line, where the sea washes these minerals back onto the dunes.

The sands of Putty Beach and also of Tallow Beach were rich in these minerals and so mining companies obtained the necessary authority to mine the sand hills and also the well vegetated dunes along Putty Beach.

The Minerals Council of Australia website describes the process as follows:

A dredge floating on an artificial pond lifts the ore from the bottom of the pond through a large suction pipe. Attached to the back of the dredge is a barge-mounted primary concentrator that separates the heavy minerals from the sand tailings (waste). As the dredge mines slowly forward the tailings are pumped from the concentrator to the back of the pond, progressively filling the mined area.

Careful environmental rehabilitation of mined areas is carried out progressively as the dredge moves forward. Backfill tailings are shaped to approximate the original landform; then the original topsoil and any overburden is replaced and the area is re-vegetated, either with local flora or pasture grasses. Environmental monitoring continues as the vegetation matures and the area is eventually rehabilitated, as near as possible, to its previous land use, usually natural bushland or farmland.

The mined, heavy mineral concentrates are sent to 'dry' mills and the minerals are separated, using their different magnetic and electrical properties at various elevated temperatures. Separation equipment includes high-tension (electrical), high intensity magnetic and electrostatic plate separators.

Processing was done at Kincumber. The site is still contaminated.

Grahame Lindsay of Department of Primary Industry supplied the following information and photos in a letter to Dave Kelly of NPWS.

The area mined is in the Parish of Kincumber, County of Northumberland. The original company was Crescent Rutile which also, I assume, built the processing plant at Kincumber.

Kilcare Beach was mined between 1957 and 1961 (by Crescent Rutile). I'm now not sure where Northern Rivers Rutile fit in, but they must have taken over after this date as they owned the Kincumber plant in 1967, according to a report which we hold.

Northern Rivers Rutile was taken over by Mineral Deposits in the 1990s.

You can see a history of Mines Department inspections in the reports, which also appears to have details of the title numbers.

The reports come from our digital online service called DIGS which the public can access.

Grahame Lindsay suggests other sources of information to assist future researchers such as the Departmental Library of the Department of Primary Industry.

In the 70s a conservation movement arose which claimed that the destruction caused by mining was environmentally untenable. The dunes were totally destroyed by the dredges and native vegetation was removed, leaving the whole area open to weed infestation. Worst of all, the miners were encouraged by the state mining authorities to plant the South African plant Bitou Bush in order to stabilise the dunes.

An example of the pressure exerted by The Australian Conservation foundation was in the Myall Lakes area of NSW. The high dunes there were spectacular for their grandeur and the fact that they supported flourishing forests of Angophoras and Eucalypts in what appeared to be pure sand. In fact, layers of humus have been deposited over time, thus providing a water source and nutrients for these huge trees. State of the art methods of regeneration have been applied at the site; so that a visit to the area now shows no apparent sign that the high dunes have been disturbed.

The Australian Conservation Foundation points out on their website that: *The mineral sands mining industry has never ceased to lobby the NSW Government to regain entry into north coast national parks following the State Government's 1977 decision to phase the mining out of the National Parks, and proposed new parks and extensions in 1982. A 19-page paper produced in October, 1980 by the Mineral Sand Producers' Association starkly exposes the industry's determination.*

As for Killcare Beach, many of those interviewed for the project talk of the high dunes at the west end of Putty Beach, the thick vegetation behind the dunes and the cricket pitch in the shelter of the dunes. The scene now is a flattened landscape with many native bushes returned but also thick Bitou Bush infestation, which dedicated weeders have attempted to remove over the years. See the revealing photos below.



Above: The surf club end of Putty Beach before sand mining began, showing high dunes and the cricket pitch behind the dunes. Photo: Bouddi Society collection
 Below: Photo shows a similar view after mining. Photo: Adderley collection.





Above: National Park end of Putty Beach. Note the pipeline to the mining areas; the planted Spinifex with succulents beginning to return. Note also the tower used by the Mullet fishermen. Photo: The Bouddi Society collection

Below: Sandmining works depot. Photo: Bill Foster





Above: View looking along Putty Beach from where the boardwalk steps are at the National Park camping area end of Putty Beach. The area shown is now part of the Bouddi National Park. Note the pipeline, and the Spinifex grass has been planted to rehabilitate the dunes Below: Photo shows a similar view in 2008. Note regrowth of natural vegetation on the foreshore. The beach itself is constantly changing. Bitou Bush has recently been removed from the bush by NPWS workers and volunteers. Photos: courtesy of NSW DPI Image Library and D. Duffy



BUSH FIRES AND THE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

THE FIRE BRIGADE

Warwick Teasdale et al

This report was compiled by Warwick Teasdale, former Captain of Killcare Wagstaffe Bush Fire Brigade, based upon surviving letters and notes from the Brigade's records. Ian Tisdell's reminiscences included memories of the early days with the brigade and photos of the two original trucks. Ann Bowe and Alan Henderson also contributed.

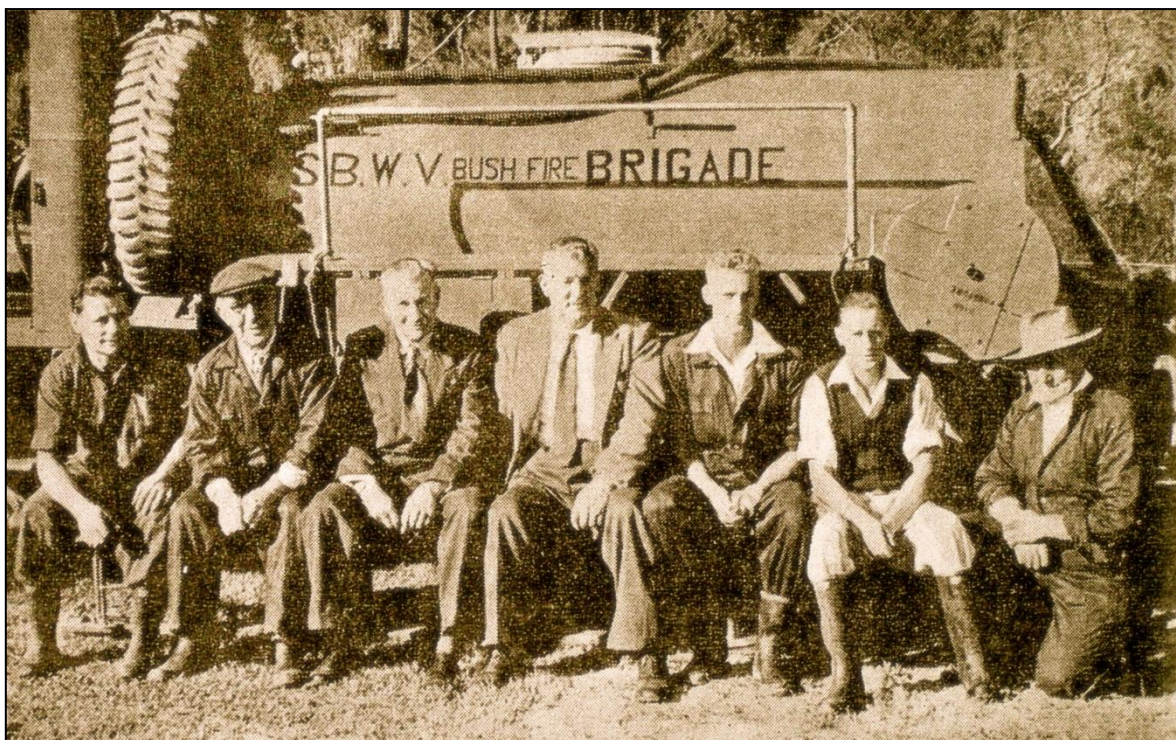


A fire in Beach Drive in 1946. Photo: Surf Club Collection

Killcare Wagstaff Bush Fire Brigade Early Days

Like many small communities prior to the 1950s, the residents of the Killcare peninsula knew that they had to be self-reliant. When it came to protecting life and property from fire, they had only themselves and helpful neighbours.

An older resident told how he was competing in a carnival at Killcare Surf Club when the alarm was raised. There was a fire at the northern end of the beach. Spectators and competitors rushed up the beach no doubt wearing their fire-fighting thongs. Having extinguished the fire they returned to continue the carnival.



Members of the South Brisbane Water Volunteer Bush Brigade pictured in front of the Brigade's Fire Tender. *Bushfire Bulletin*, 1958.

Around 1950, two groups were formed to raise funds to purchase a fire fighting vehicle. They were the 'South Brisbane Water Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade Association' and the 'South Brisbane Water Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade', which was established by Gosford Shire Council in 1951.

Although the two groups had not raised sufficient funds, in 1954 they took delivery of an ex-RAAF fire-fighting truck. The truck, a Blitz wagon, had a 600 gallon water tank and a Wisconsin A3/3Y4 inch pump. There wasn't much else! It had a heavy duty filler hose and about 20 feet of 1Y2 inch canvas hose. Both groups had been able to raise about one hundred pounds but the Shire Council assisted by loaning enough to pay the three hundred pounds required.

The truck was officially handed over to the Fire Brigade on Saturday, September 11, 1954. It was originally kept in a waterfront garage, which regularly flooded!

By mid-1955 the Gosford Shire Council had officially appointed the members of the Fire Brigade. The Captain was Mr John Stewart, storekeeper from Pretty Beach, while the Deputy Captain was Mr Arthur Cains, the schoolmaster at Pretty Beach School. The senior driver was Mr Tom Hansen, retired.

The list of Fire Patrol Officers at that date showed the members coming from a variety of occupations. Although quite a few were retired there was also a storeman, a baker, a fisherman, a taxi driver and the post master.

Unfortunately, there was also disagreement over these appointments. In November, 1955, J. Parks, solicitor, wrote to the Brigade saying that some of the people who were listed as Patrol Officers had no knowledge of being appointed or endorsed... 'and in fact are not willing to act in the respective capacities. If the notice of appointment was not withdrawn immediately 'the appropriate action would be taken''.

It appears there was also an argument over who actually owned the truck. There was a complaint from the Fire Brigade that the Association kept removing the truck from the shed. The Association had also written to the Brigade's senior driver, saying that he was not to drive the truck and if he did he risked serious consequences!

On Friday, November 4, 1955, the Fire Captain was called out to a fire in Hardys Bay. He found that two locks had been placed on the truck, one on the petrol tank and the other on the tool box which contained the hose nozzle. The locks had been placed there by the Association. The secretary of the Association turned up with the keys but when it was found the tanker was not required for the fire, he left the locks in place and went home with the keys. The fire then reignited and the Fire Captain got permission from the Shire Clerk and the Fire Control Officer to saw off the locks so they could attend the outbreak.

The problems between the two groups were not quickly settled. By March 1956 the Association and the Brigade had agreed to a request from the Chief Licensing Officer of the Chief Secretary's Department for the two bodies to meet and 'iron out the differences of opinion'. Following the meeting in the RSL Memorial Hall on March 25, the Association agreed to give a working fund to the Brigade and the Brigade would submit its books to the Association. The Fire Brigade would also 'give the Association its fullest support'. At a General Meeting on December 7, 1956, it was agreed that 'the Mobile Unit be turned over to the Fire Captain as Custodian for the people'. The two organizations then went on to unite as one, (membership was two shillings and sixpence).

Ian Tisdell recounts his experience with Killcare Wastaffe Fire Brigade in the mid-1960s.

The cost for subs at that time was 25 cents (the same except dollars and cents had replaced shillings and pence), which later was raised to 50 cents in the early 1970s. (Ian still has the receipts). After gaining his car licence at seventeen years and because he was an apprentice motor mechanic and the brigade needed more drivers and a mechanic, the brigade voted to make him in charge of maintenance on the truck.

At one meeting a motion was put forward that the brigade write to the Commissioner for Transport asking that Ian be granted a special licence to drive fire fighting vehicles (at the time you had to be twenty one years old).

Harry Kinson was the secretary at the time and he wrote to the commissioner. The reply was: if Ian could pass a truck driver's test, permission would be granted.

Ian tells the story.

I was apprenticed to Col Poulton at Green Point. Col asked a customer, Mr Les Sharp from Davistown, who owned a truck, if he would allow me to do my driving test in his truck. His reply was yes and we agreed to meet at the police station at the required time.

Test time came and I climbed into the truck and drove off with the policeman sitting in the passenger seat. I had to do a hill start in a truck I had not even driven before. After the hill start the policeman turned to me and said how long have you been driving this truck? I replied this was the first time. After that he said to me just go back to the station. He then endorsed my licence to drive fire fighting vehicles. When I turned eighteen my licence allowed me to drive any truck, not just fire fighting vehicles. We would fight many fires on our own in those days. There was not much help from outside your area unless it was of a major concern.

Ian can recall driving the Blitz up the hill to a fire on the heights; it was very slow.

When we got the New Bedford, it had to be run in and was even slower than the Blitz, until they took off the governors on the engine and even then, it was still so slow. One could just about walk as fast as the truck going up-hill. Thanks to modern thinking, things are much better these days.

Ian can now recall the meetings at the Fire Brigade shed. Some of the discussion he did not understand at the time but he can make sense of most of it now. A lot went on and a lot was said. Some people did not get along together, and punch-ups occurred, but when a fire was on, all was forgotten, and everyone would work together to get the job done.



The old Ford Blitz tanker. Photo: Ian Tisdell



The new Bedford tanker. Photo: Ian Tisdell

Ian recalls persons from the brigade. Sadly some have passed on:

Bill Sanders, Jim Saunders, Harry Kinson, George Burns, Bob Isbell, Peter Dale, Sandy Low, Glen Ford, Oliver Holland, Bill Archer, John Stewart, Robert Gold, Alan Smith, Greg Bush, Grahame Tisdell, Norm Holloway, Roley Ford, Ted White, Arthur Beasley, Les McGarrity, Neville Hazzard, Keith McDougal, Len Wardrop, Russ Akers, Noel Stalling, Garry Lees, Leon Walther, Allan Duell, to name but a few. Leo Brown was the area F. C. O. Jim Saunders would later take over from him.

(After leaving the coast, Ian would continue as a volunteer Bush Fire Fighter with Killabakh (*Yes! KILLABAKH*), a volunteer bush fire brigade. Ian says: 'This is another story.'

Archival letters and notices also report:

- List of 'members' names addresses and occupations, Dec 1955.
- Cost of maintaining the Mobile Unit; August 1954 to July 1955 P52-1-4
July 1955 to July 1956 P37-14-8
- Some successful firefighting in the area
- Rules of the South Brisbane Water Voluntary Bushfire Brigade
- Purchase of additional equipment including sirens
- A move to the current site following the donation of the block by Joseph Childs, although there were problems getting access across the drain, (put on Council's program for 1957).
- An apology for damage to a block of land during hazard reduction on an adjoining block
- Official opening of the fire shed, August 23, 1958
- A change of name about 1960 having dropped 'Association' in 1956?
Problems with insuring the tanker. Registration of the vehicle was one pound.
- Fund raising with a picture show night at Wagstaffe
- Report of the AGM held July 1956
- Catalogue of fire-fighting equipment
- Request for supply of equipment including hose and fittings, knapsack sprays, axes, rakes and shovels. Received 12 Knapsack sprays, 6 axes and 2 rakes in August 1956.
- Receiving 180 ft of 1 inch rubber hose December 1956.

A letter found in the archives of the Pretty Beach Wagstaffe Citizens' Association, dated July 11, 1961 was addressed to the Shire Clerk, Gosford Shire Council and it described a fire, recently experienced at Wagstaffe:

‘Recently there was a fire at Wagstaffe and the Fire Brigade had to be summoned to help. Unfortunately, the road to the fire, namely, Albert Street, is so narrow that in trying to negotiate same, the fire tender went off the road and became immobilised at a very dangerous angle. The outcome was not as serious as it could have been but nevertheless, a tow-truck had to be brought from Gosford to retrieve the tender’.

The letter went on to request the widening of Albert Street and to... ‘also connect this road with Mulhall Street. This area is a great fire danger and without proper access there could be loss of property and even life’.

Aboriginal Fire Management

It is probable that there is no reliable evidence of the nature of fire management before the coming of Europeans to the Bouddi Peninsula but there is considerable evidence that coastal Aborigines regularly burnt the bush to assist in the process of hunting, as kangaroos and other animals grazed on the open areas.

Firefighting from home

After the Victorian bushfires in 2008 there has been much debate about whether to stay in your house and fight the fires or get out of the fire zone and leave it to the fire-fighting brigades.

Ann Bowe has made a further contribution on bush fires.

Ann Bowe interviewed Ursula Old in about 2001.



Her house is perched above Maitland Bay and vulnerable to bushfires. She told me that she experienced a number of fires, which she fought with what are now regarded as primitive tools. These are pictured. Ursula is now deceased, but the house still stands.

A nearby house has a system of sprinklers on the roof which has provided some assurance during nearby fires.

Aboriginal Fire Management

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The Bush Fire Brigade Today

These methods are a far cry from methods used today, as is explained by 'firie', Warwick Teasdale. Like the majority of fire fighters in the area, Warwick is a volunteer. Since 1975 he has fought a number of local fires, which he says have been relatively easily controlled for a number of reasons.



A fire fought in October 2012 from Lobster Beach up to Pretty Beach.
Photo: The Bouddi Collection

- Hazard reduction burns
- Existence of numerous fire trails and bush tracks
- Training and equipment, such as water tankers
- Cooperation with National Parks and Wildlife Service

Since his time the following fires have impacted the peninsula:

1974 - from Daleys Point towards Killcare.

1975 - from Wagstaffe to back of the surf club; Tallow Beach to Box Head; from Putty Beach camp and picnic fires and from Bombi Road and Maitland Bay. A few are believed to have been deliberately lit but no houses were lost.

An additional valuable aid to bushfire fighting is the use of aircraft which carry a large bag underneath, used to scoop up water from local dams or the sea. This is for large fires, which are thought too dangerous to fight on the ground.

Warwick says he joined the Rural Fire Service initially because he realised that his home was in a vulnerable area but now, he donates his time because he also enjoys the comradeship and the sense of doing something useful for the community.

In August, 2005 the brigade celebrated 50 years of service to the community and the 50th anniversary of the official appointment by Gosford Shire Council, with an Open Day at the fire station in Stanley Street, Killcare.

Warwick has submitted these photographs to illustrate some of the activities and personnel of the Killcare Rural Fire Service



Training activities for new recruits





Open Day (above) and regular monthly cake stall at Killcare (below)

It is not only which bring out the fire brigade. The long weekend in June, 2007 will be remembered for the huge storm which arrived on the Friday and blew all day Saturday. Here is the story of the brigade's contribution, told by Killcare Rural Fire Service firemen, Steve Biddulph and Steve Farrell, for the July 2007 edition of Talking Turkey.

Training and helping at Pretty Beach School fireworks night was all that was planned for the June long weekend. Unfortunately, that started to change first thing Friday morning with many residents on the peninsula finding themselves without power by 4am. By mid-afternoon any plans for the weekend had gone out the window. At 6.00am our first 000 call was to power lines down on Jacqueline Avenue at Killcare Heights, the most exposed part of the peninsula to winds from the south. Most of the brigade members had gone to work as usual on Friday morning but headed home by early afternoon, as the calls started to come in across the Central Coast. Many brigades were called out to help during the day.

Killcare had two crews out working in the local area during the evening, dealing with some of the more urgent damage. With the conditions as bad as they were and with more jobs coming in all the time, the task at this time was to simply get roads open enough to let people through to Pretty Beach and Wagstaffe and then getting some sleep to cope with Saturday. Killcare Brigade responded to many calls over the weekend including those to outer areas such as Bensville, Empire Bay and Copacabana.

Saturday meant getting out in the strong wind and heavy rain to start assessing and prioritising needs. The SES had by this time started to collate tasks, passing them on to us. Trees had landed on houses, sheds, fences, across roads and across driveways.

To give some perspective – the brigade averages about 4 to 5 call-outs per month to various types of incidents. In just three days the brigade received six 000 calls (automatic fire alarms, house fires and a car fire) in addition to the innumerable number of calls re storm damage. The main jobs to deal with were the big ones: large tree across power lines in Albert Street, a large tree across power lines in Heath Road, and a large tree that came down over power lines on a car in Otella Street. A task force from Wollondilly, south-west of Sydney, also came into the area to provide assistance.

One blessing found on Saturday, was local resident and Energy Australia worker, Stephen Connolly. We established a working relationship that assisted in prioritizing jobs in order to restore power as soon as possible. Getting the cherry-picker to work with Energy Australia and keeping the heavy lift crane to work with the brigade, helped us to get the power back on to residents in the shortest time possible.

An assessment of the Otella tree showed that the crane we had was inadequate. A specialised all terrain crane was needed on Monday. It was a very impressive sight from the bottom of Otella Street to see the crane, raised at the front by 2.5 metres above ground, lifting large sections of tree off the newly modified car and power lines brought down by the tree.

Back at the station on Monday afternoon, the lights came back on, and, ironically, the last job for Energy Australia, before power could be restored along the northern half of the bay, was the removal of a branch that had fallen on power lines at the station.

Despite the days without power, the carnage from tree falls, winds of around 120 km per hour and over 400mm of rain in little over two days, we were lucky that no injuries were sustained and property damage was minimal.

After a day off from storm damage, a crew went north into the Wyong area. The extensive flooding in the area provided a whole new set of challenges for the brigade.

Many acts of kindness were received over the weekend, including hot coffees and soup from residents, together with morning tea and lunch provided by the Wagstaffe Store. Fantastic community spirit.

National Parks Strategy

Alan Henderson of the National Parks and Wildlife Service has contributed the following extracts from the Bouddi Fire Management Strategy.

It concentrates on strategies aimed at managing fire by carefully applying scientifically monitored strategies in order to protect life and property whilst preserving the ecological values of the area- no mean feat!

Some of the significant flora, to be preserved include:

- Acacias
- Banksias
- Eucalyptus robusta
- Eucalyptus capitellata
- Melaleuca
- Lepidosperma
- Persoonia

Fauna include

- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot
- Echidna
- Possums

Cultural Heritage includes aboriginal features, such as middens and scarred trees. European relics include Maitland Bay Store, the Maitland Shipwreck and the Strom House.

As a tribute to the management plan and its implementation, no lives have been lost nor property destroyed.

Since the catastrophic bushfires in Victoria in the summer of 2009, Bouddi people have become aware that they need to take additional precautions to safeguard their own properties particularly in summer.

- Carry out hazard reduction on their own properties under supervision of the RFS
- Keep roofs and gutters clear of debris and leaves
- Keep flammable material well clear of all buildings
- Install rainwater tanks and firefighting petrol driven pumps, using tank water
- Ideally irrigate roofs from the tank
- Consult neighbours so that a contingency plan is ready for an emergency

In this way householders are able to protect themselves instead of relying on the fire brigade in times of severe danger. “The Lord helps those who help themselves”.

Photos are from the Fire Brigade collection, unless otherwise acknowledged.

PRETTY BEACH/WAGSTAFFE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Robyn Warburton

Originally a Progress Association, for many years it was known as Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Citizens Association, before reverting to Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe & District Progress Association. Since 2007 the title has been Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association Inc. A history of the Association based on the Minutes and Correspondence from 1947 to 2010 can be found in People, Place and Progress by Robyn Warburton published in 2013. The contribution to the history told here will tell two chapters of the same story: Wagstaffe Hall. Beginning in 1947, with the planning of Wagstaffe Hall, information has been sorted and sifted, to tell the story of the building of the hall and the 'picture shows' that followed. The next chapter will tell the story of the refurbishment of Wagstaffe Hall.

CHAPTER 1 – The Building of Wagstaffe Hall

The history related here begins in 1947 with the nomination of the trustees and the committee, important local men, who began to plan the building of Wagstaffe Hall.

The 'Progress' Association became a 'Citizens' Association. The earliest archival material found states: 'The first foundations (of the hall) were laid in July 1951, 15 months after Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens Association was formed...' so we know the 'Progress Association' became the 'Citizens' Association' in April 1950.

The archival material turned up a very interesting document, a book containing the Minutes of the first meetings, dating from the time the Wagstaffe Hall Committee formed on November 15, 1947 and made the decision to build the hall. At the time, the names, Hanscombe, Radford, Heron and Smith (both Digby and Frank) are significant in the story of the Progress/Citizens Association and Wagstaffe Hall and feature largely in the records held by the Community Association. The men recognised a problem existed and were prepared to address it.

The need for a communal meeting place was the nub of the problem. People's homes were used for entertainment. Laurie and Sylvia Heron were very hospitable, and they and Rod and Pat Radford taught ballroom dancing at the Herons' house (No.68 Wagstaffe Avenue) but a bigger venue was needed.

Mr Hanscombe operated the dairy at Wagstaffe and was known as the 'Mayor of Wagstaff' or according to *The Gosford Times* (see Page 7) 'The Uncrowned King of Wagstaff'.

The Radford family lived at Wagstaffe Point. The original house on the site was called *San Toy*. When the Radfords bought the property, they named it *San Toy Resort* and later, *San Toy Estate*, famous for the land which was reclaimed following huge storms that washed away the foreshore. Many cottages were built there, homes for permanent residents and holiday-homes.



Mrs Isobel Radford (known to the children as 'Granny Radford') was a 'mover and shaker' during the 1930s, 40s and 50s and she was still attending meetings in the 1970s. As well as her important role in the Wagstaff and Pretty Beach Citizens Association, Granny Radford helped many people and was well-loved by the community including the younger fry.

Her son, Rod Radford, was the pharmacist at Ettalong. She is seen here with her granddaughter, Margaret, setting up tables for a stall in Wagstaffe Square. There have been many stalls in Wagstaffe Square, arranged to raise money for many and varied causes throughout the history of the Progress Association.

Rod Radford's father, Ernest Radford, was prominent too. He was on the committee formed to build the hall and continued to be a trustee for several years

Mr Digby Smith was the President of the Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens Association at the time Wagstaffe Hall was planned.

The Minutes read: 'Mr Hanscombe called a meeting. Idea to form a committee to discuss various means of collecting monies to build the proposed hall. Meeting commenced at 8.15 pm, 29 members of the Progress, 3 visitors'.

Charles (Chas.) Hanscombe J.P. was the President and F.A. Adams was the Secretary of the committee formed to oversee the building of a hall. The committee consisted of Ern Radford, H. Tindall, Wm Murphy, Ralph Winter, Jas Baldwin, F. Digby Smith and Rex Smith. The appointed Trustees were Rod Radford, Sid Ransley and Chas Hanscombe J.P. Money was needed and it had to come from the community. It was decided, amongst other things, to hold outdoor picture shows, to raise money.

Rod Radford recalled nostalgically the excitement engendered by the decision to build a community hall. The site chosen at Wagstaffe was originally the home of the early settler, George Wagstaffe and his family, and was also the location of the guesthouse, Manly House, from the early 1900s until it burned to the ground in 1939. The decision to build the hall had been taken and the fund-raising began.

Heather Milne recalls the young women of the area being seconded to encourage people to 'buy a brick.' She remembers going from door to door and convincing people to donate money to a good cause.

This was just one of the ways the money was raised. No doubt there were street stalls and raffles. Mrs Isobel Radford was the driving force responsible for many street-stalls in the square. Jean Myer remembered that 'housie nights helped.' She also said that Mrs Radford loaned money for the building of the hall. Some people took debentures. And then there were the picture shows held outdoors until the hall was built.

It was decided to hold outdoor picture shows to raise money. The Caton's paddock, now No.75 Wagstaffe Avenue, next to where there has always been a tennis court (owned by Brad and Margaret Berry in 2010), was the site used for the open-air cinema. The screen was adjacent to the water. To begin with, they had an 8mm projector. The films came by train from Sydney and were collected by Bob and his taxi-truck. Bob would deliver them to Rod Radford's pharmacy at Ettalong and Rod would bring them to Wagstaffe. A Saturday night in holiday time would see 150 or so people turn up for the pictures. Rod Radford remembers Rita Hayworth and 'shoot me up cowboy things' were popular. Inclement weather? They used the Heron's verandah.



Laurie and Sylvia Heron photographed at Peakhurst in 1978 were important players in the story of 'progress'. The photo was supplied by their son, John Heron.

Eventually, the association had the land and after a time they had the money. Laurie Heron designed the building. The original plans, hand-drawn by Mr Heron, are in the archives. Included are the plans for the kitchen and the projection room which were additions to the main structure. (Laurie Heron also designed Rod Radford's chemist shop at Ettalong.)

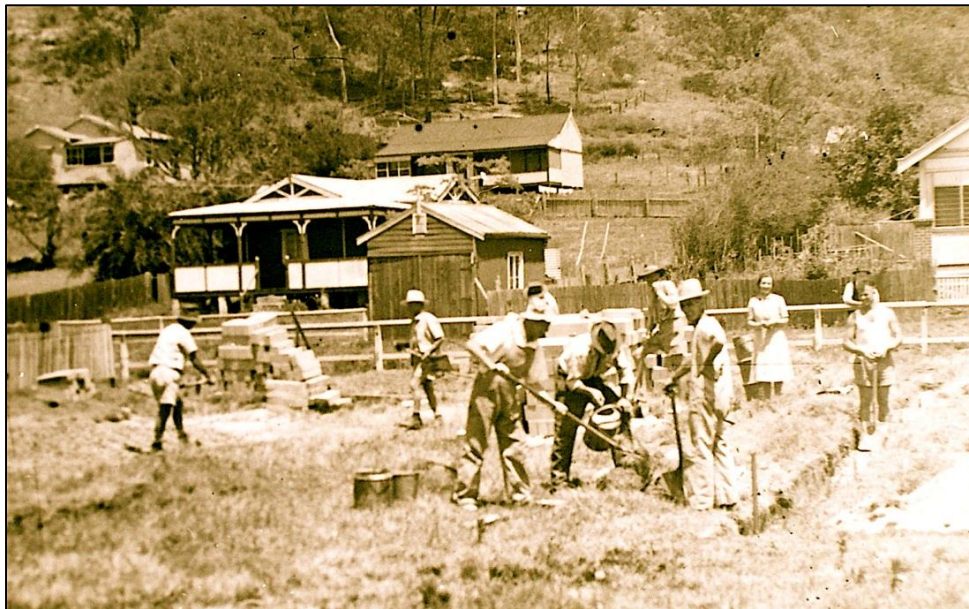
Labour was the next requirement and they found that too. Laurie Heron organised the workers and oversaw the construction. His son, John Heron, visited the site in March 2010 and followed up with a written version of his memories of living at Wagstaffe as a small child and his father's role in the establishment of the community hall at Wagstaffe.

John Heron, with exceptional regard for detail, recalled the stories told by his father about the building of the hall. Tom Hedges of Beach Drive made the bricks which were of the large 'Besser' type. The first bricklayer employed was not a bricklayer at all. He was really a carpenter.

As told by John Heron, the story goes like this: *The 'bricklayer' started at the door (the original entrance was close to Wagstaffe Avenue) and laid a row of bricks around the perimeter of the building; the problem was that by the time he reached his starting point, the bricks were level with what was to be the second row. My father gave him '...the sack on the spot'.*

John went on to say that, at that point, the members decided to do the work themselves. This meant they turned up when they could at the weekends, so the men and women in the neighbourhood worked voluntarily to build the hall. In the photo below, the volunteers can be seen digging the trenches for the foundations of Wagstaffe Hall.

It is the men of course, who can be seen in the photos, doing the hard labour but the women weren't far away. The ladies would have provided the cups of tea, scones and encouragement. Is the lady, seen in the photograph below, holding a tray with glasses or merely supervising?



Each section of the hall was allocated to a different man with the width of the mortar calculated to result in a uniform height when the walls reached the top.

A supervisor and a labourer (a young fellow from Mulhall Street) were appointed.

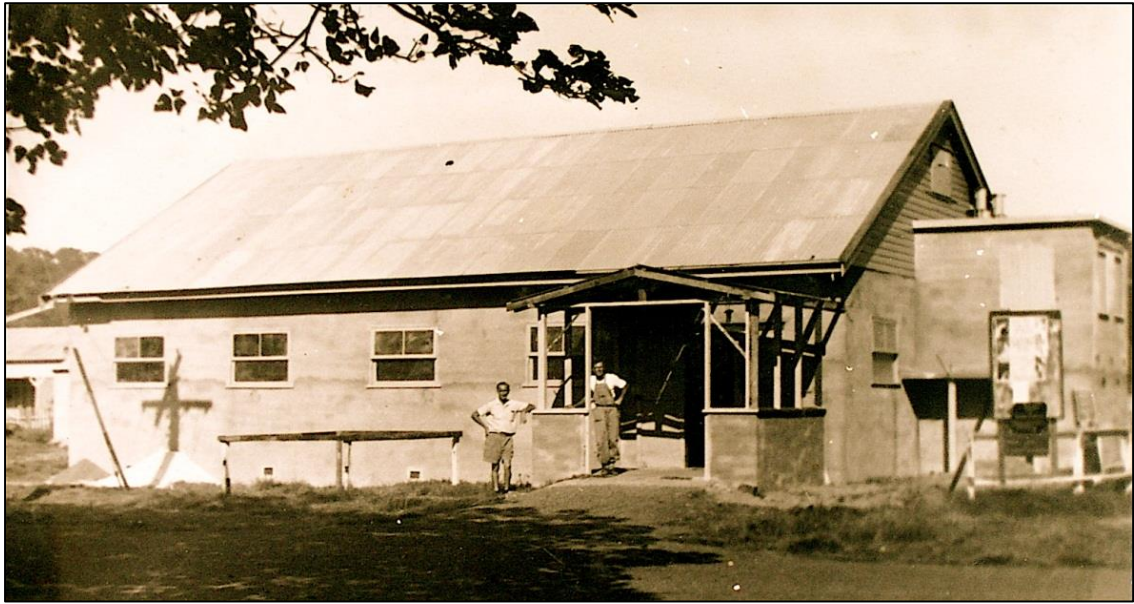
John Heron also told the story of his father's life when he lived at Wagstaffe: *Laurie Heron was a draughtsman who worked at STC (Standard Telephone Cables).*

He got up at 3 or 4 a.m. and drove his flatbed truck (the one with no doors and roll up blinds) to Gosford and then to Woy Woy, to pick up ice from Woy Woy Ice-works and then he became 'the ice-man' as he delivered ice around Woy Woy and Ettalong.

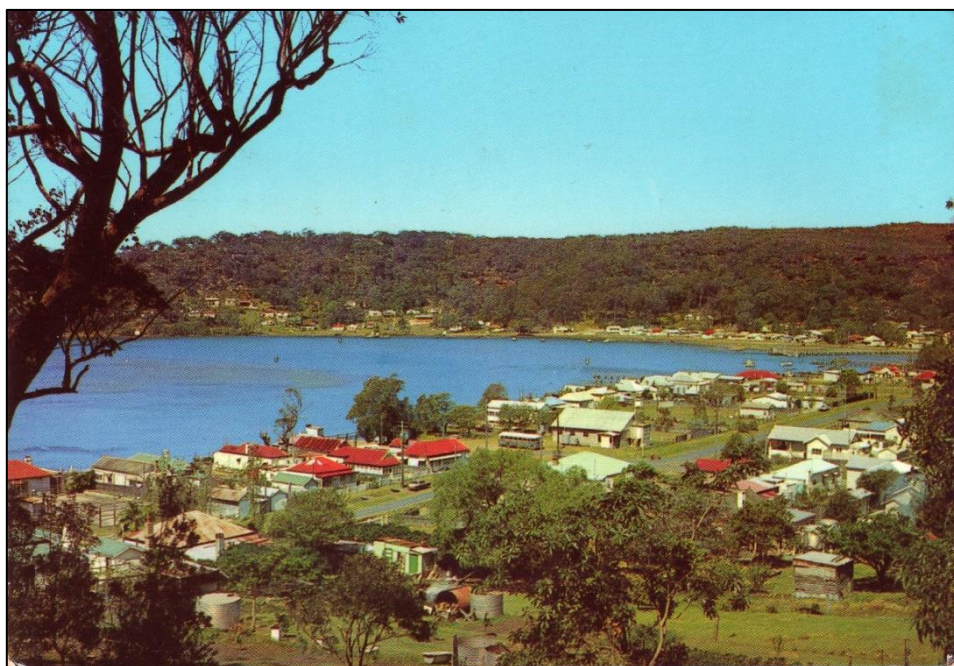
He then left his truck at Woy Woy station and caught the train to Sydney to work at Alexandria, where he designed STC radios.

After work he would come home every night but on Thursday night he would stay back to do his overtime (for being late arriving in the mornings). He would stay at his mother's place at Hurstville.

*After coming home on Friday night and having a quick tea, he was off down to the hall to put the pictures on – he was then not an iceman, not a draughtsman, not a designer but a projectionist. - He was now **THE** projectionist – **THE PICTURE SHOW MAN** in living black and white. John Heron showed great pride in his father's achievements.*



Good 'progress' has been made on the building; the hall is nearly finished in the photograph above. Eventually after months of voluntary work, weekend after weekend, the building of Wagstaffe Hall was complete.



Looking down on Wagstaffe in the photograph above, the hall can be seen in the middle of the photo. It has always provided a central location for many interesting and varied activities as well as becoming the headquarters of the Association that met there and continued to meet there. At the time of writing, it is sixty years since Wagstaffe Hall was built. Probably the percentage of people in the community willing to take an active and voluntary role in the running of the hall is about the same as it was in those days.

The excerpt below was found in an exercise book of 'Minutes' from the early days of the Hall Committee's planning. It starts at Page 4. The first three pages have been torn out and lost and unfortunately, they did not turn up in subsequent searches through the archival material inherited by the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association. The final part talks about the 'next article' as though it is the draft for a newsletter.

The 'article' tells the story, giving us the chronological history of the planning and building of the hall and the 'inside story warts and all', from the perspective of the unidentified writer, in the days following its construction and includes an invitation to the opening which took place in April 1954. The date of writing can be approximated as being March, 1954.

...Mission Hall and they taught the children to dance. The children then became interested in having a larger hall, so they also set to work to help raise funds for the building.

They saved their pocket money, bought sweets, rearranged them, held competitions and thereby disposed of the sweets at a great profit. They held back yard concerts; they helped at functions given by members. They also sold 'Shilling a Brick' tickets, and with this and funds from other functions very soon there was 150 pounds.

A member of the Association, Mr Turner, then suggested we hold an open-air Picture Night. Mr & Mrs Caton lent their paddock and supplied the electricity. 27 pounds was raised at this function. Expenses were high because the projector, films and projectionist were all hired.

For seats at the show, we had the cement bricks with pieces of the building material laid across them; this material was later used in construction of the hall. In spite of the high expenses, the Association members were inspired by the success of the evening to buy a projector of their own. At a hastily formed, completely impromptu meeting more or less on the spot, within two minutes, a sum of 90 pounds was loaned by the few present. We purchased a second hand 16mm projector and joined the Kodak Film Library. Two members of the Association, Mr Turner and Mr Heron, operated the projector and took full responsibility for its care and maintenance.

Until the projector was bought, the Association had been struggling along in deep but moderately calm waters, but now the storm broke over the few regular members. They were accused of using 'hole and corner' methods to obtain the machine, the Committee was 'unconstitutional', so on and so forth. These howls were from people who did not belong to the Association, and many who 'howled the loudest... did the leastest' in every way. There was so much division of feeling that a Special Meeting of the Citizens Association was called on January 26th 1951, 8 months after the Pretty Beach, Wagstaff Citizens Association was

formed. A full quorum attended; 33 were present. The results of voting on endorsing the Committee's action, in purchasing the projector were 31 For, 1 Against; this from a member who joined the Assoc. that morning, and who has not been to a meeting since.

The few active members kept going, the pictures were shown, in the open when fine, in private homes when cold or wet, the funds growing all the time. Soon the Assoc. was able to move to its own ground...the Village Green, where Manly House once stood. Here Mr Williamson supplied the electricity. Our grave misdemeanour was reported to the Council. However, instead of being discouraged, the Association increased its efforts and resulted in the Association getting its own electricity supply which was a great boon and made the showing of the pictures so much easier. Mr Williamson was thanked for his generosity during the time he allowed the Association the use of his electricity.

At a meeting on June 9th 1951, the council requested that Trustees be appointed for the hall. They were appointed at this meeting; a lease of the ground was granted for 25 years at 1 pound per annum with right to renewal at the same rate. Given the money from the Open Air Pictures and other money-raising efforts by members and helpers and headaches over finances and building material were resolved, it was possible to make a start on building the hall.

The foundations were laid by voluntary labour in July 1951, 15 months after the Citizens Association was formed. The setbacks and worries had been terrific, but the same few active members kept going.

Mr Heron, a member, designed the hall and drew up the plans which were passed by Council. The working bees by members at weekends contributed most of the labour, although at different times paid labour was employed. The expenses were mounting as the building grew.

Members helped to put the steel principals in place to hold the roof and finally the roof was put on; it was financed by a member and completed by mostly voluntary workers of the Assoc. The floor was laid voluntarily by members and helpers. There we wish to thank sincerely everyone who helped to do this, and also thanks to the ladies who supplied the morning and afternoon teas etc. for the workers.

The hall was ready to use on Xmas Eve 1953, 2 years and 8 months from the time the Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens Association was formed. A picture show was held that night; the takings were £25 for our first entertainment in the new Community Hall. At this picture show, the projector was mounted on a medium sized kitchen table at one end of the hall and Mr Heron stood on the table beside the machine to operate it. I can assure all readers that there was still plenty of opposition.

This decided the Assoc. to hold two picture shows a week, now there was a hall to show them in. At this time Mr Heron, who had helped so much, left the district, but still remained a member. Another member, Mr Naylor, took over the operation of the machine.

After a period of this uncomfortable makeshift operation from the old kitchen table, the need of having twin Projectors was obvious, so the pictures could be shown without a break in the continuity of the picture. At the June 1953 Meeting of the Citizens Assoc. a member of the Association put forward an unconditional loan, the sum of approx. 450 pounds, the amount needed to purchase the twin projectors. For the time being the twin projectors were mounted on the red kitchen table and the shows went on. Mr Naylor was now joined by another member, Mr Bashford, to help operate the two machines.

The need of a projection room was urgent now, to house the twin projectors in a regulation fire-proof, built to standard measurements, properly equipped room. Meanwhile, the other money raising efforts were still going on in the hall and privately: a Boys Club on Tuesday evenings, Pictures on Wednesday and Saturday, Euchre for locals and visitors on Thursday evening, a dance for the young people and others on Friday evening. Then the cement projection room was built, and the machines set up properly there, Mr Naylor and Mr Bashford still taking complete charge and responsibility of machines.

To both these members we all owe our sincere thanks and gratitude, for the amount of effort in this and other ways, whereby they have helped tremendously to raise funds. We also again thank every member and helper who has had any part in furthering the plans for the Association.

The hall is also for letting for Social Functions and morning or afternoons as well. It is particularly suitable for Wedding Receptions, Smokos, and Dances etc. In view of the improvements the Association wish to make, it must be realised that money is needed. The Fete, with Dance to follow on 17th April is to help boost funds.

We are indeed privileged to have the Shire President, Councillor Brown, to make the Official Opening for us, and we invite everyone to be present at the Opening.

A further article on the activities of the Wagstaff people and our Associates, the people from Pretty Beach, will be written soon; also, a resume of the improvements to the District gained by the continued representation to the Council, to the Post Master General and others – by the Pretty Beach-Wagstaff Citizens Association. Did I mention our population in the Pretty Beach-Wagstaff Area from the School at Pretty Beach to Wagstaff? It is 400 permanent residents.

Next article is to deal with the Charitable and other Organisations we support also, and amounts collected in our small area for same.

Unfortunately, further ‘articles’ were not found in the archives. A pity! The writer’s detailed record of events is very informative.

In the photograph below, Charles Hanscombe (at right) shakes hands with the Shire President, Cr Brown, who did ‘the honours’ and opened Wagstaffe Hall on April 17, 1954.



Wagstaffe Hall welcomes a crowd for its grand opening. In the following photograph, Laurie Heron is the man on the right, with his hands in his pockets. The two photographs described here are framed and hanging in Wagstaffe Hall.



This
is

SOUTH BRISBANE

... Featuring personalities and local-interest stories from an isolated but active corner of Gosford Shire—embracing Wagstaff, Pretty Beach, Hardys Bay and Killcare.

Citizens' Assn. leads progress

A great deal of the progress made and improvement to facilities gained in the Wagstaff - Pretty Beach area over the past few years is due to the efforts of the local Citizens' Association.

This active body, which now has 80 members, has its headquarters at Wagstaff Hall now the centre of community life.

The hall was opened in April 1954 by Gosford Shire president Cr Brown.

Voluntary work by association members raised the funds for the building and members' voluntary labour eliminated much expenditure on construction costs.

Association president when the hall was being planned was Mr Digby Smith of Pretty Beach, one of the district's best-known figures.

The hall, which has a steel-trussed roof, was valued at more than £3000 when built. It would be worth considerably more than that figure now, without any of the fittings.

The hall's authorised capacity is 400, but seating accommodation for 250 to 300 has been considered a sufficient provision.

Films are shown twice weekly in the hall and the association last year installed two new projectors of a modern type. A wide screen also has been provided.

The association also organises a euchre evening each Thursday, and the hall is available for dances and other social functions on other nights.

At present, the association is planning improvements to the hall's tea-room facilities.

The Citizens' Association officers now are: president—Mr Frank Smith; vice-presidents—Messrs Bert Williamson, Arthur Caine, Jack Stewart and Tom Hanson; secretary—Mr Bill Steadman; treasurer—Mr Ted Bashford; publicity officer—Mr Bill Adams.

The association now is concentrating on a campaign for a bridge to be built between Wagstaff Point and Ettalong Wharf to give the area a convenient link with Woy Woy and, at the same time, provide a necessary step towards a shorter highway linking Sydney the Central Coast and Newcastle.

Meeting on bridge question

Wagstaffe - Pretty Beach Citizens' Association has called an important meeting at Wagstaff Hall next Tuesday at 8-9pm.

The meeting will discuss proposals for a bridge linking Wagstaff Point and Ettalong Wharf.

The Citizens' Association expects members of the State Highways Committee and the Woy Woy and Newcastle chambers of commerce to attend Tuesday's meeting.

Original member as new president

Mr Frank Smith, who replaced Mr Charlie Hanscombe, as Wagstaff-Pretty Beach Citizens' Association president this year, came to live permanently at Wagstaff less than two years ago.

However, he is one of the original members of the association and is one of the district's best-known identities.

While working in Sydney as a carpenter, Mr Smith came to Wagstaff almost every weekend.

His skill proved invaluable during the construction of the Wagstaff hall and he was to be seen at work with other "volunteer labourers" each weekend while the hall was under construction.

Mr Smith retired two years ago and came to live perman-

THE 'UNCROWNED KING' OF WAGSTAFF

Probably the best-known identity in the Wagstaff district is Mr Charlie Hanscombe—sometimes called "Uncrowned King of Wagstaff."

For nearly 25 years, since he came to the district from Bega, Mr Hanscombe has been closely connected with the local Citizens' Association.

He has been president of the association for 12 terms and relinquished the position at the last annual meeting.



when Mr Frank Smith took over the presidency.

Mr Hanscombe has seen the area grow considerably during his stay and now declares that further expansion is largely dependent on the provision of a bridge linking Wagstaff with Ettalong.

He came to the district originally for health reasons and liked the place so much that he decided to stay.

Mr Hanscombe had a dairy farm before his retirement eight years ago and supplied milk for most of the district after installing the district's first cool-room.

While in Bega, Mr Hanscombe was president of the Bega Agricultural Society and last year received a special invitation to attend the society's big centennial show.

As an active leader in Citizens' Association affairs, Mr Hanscombe has seen the extension of electricity into the area, the forming and tarring of roads and the providing of the Wagstaff Hall facilities.

Now, he considers the important needs of the area are a water supply and the Wag-

The request may where Down South the Singing Valley teenagers, was the most enthusiastic Wagstaff Hall on.

New dialogue, made it most interesting who thought it was to see for the second.

Mammy (played Radford) sang and trying to keep every farm in spite of "Pa," Mr. Smith.

Mr. Bones (G. S. Tambo (T. Longmore) and wise-cracking won special applause worthy effort. Small R. Woodley, M. Mays and M. Dale way through the square dance.

Ratus (D. Bannister) in regard to his way through the his girl friend keep the peace on the gave him.

Three dancing girls L. Heck and J. Bob a bright touch to the gay tambourines and Boys played a clog corner while someone stick nearby.

Ever popular song "Lucky Old Sun River" and "Blue T. among the many and through the program Congratulations to Mrs. L. Kelly one of the young people standard reached.

Mrs. Kelly was a orchestra by Mr. B. Link, Mr. F. Ford, Mr. Bush (spoon) manager was Mr. Assistants to the Mrs. F. Ford and M. L. Kelly.

The cast and included G. Bush, Robinson, J. Wood L. Snowball, A. Swales, R. Snowball, Ford, Mr. F. Smith, Mr. R. Radford, M.

10-12-

GOSFORD MOTORS

Used Vehicles GUARANTEED

1955 PEUGEOT SEDAN

Immaculate
Deposit £250

1955 HOLDEN SPECIAL

As-new condition.
Deposit £295

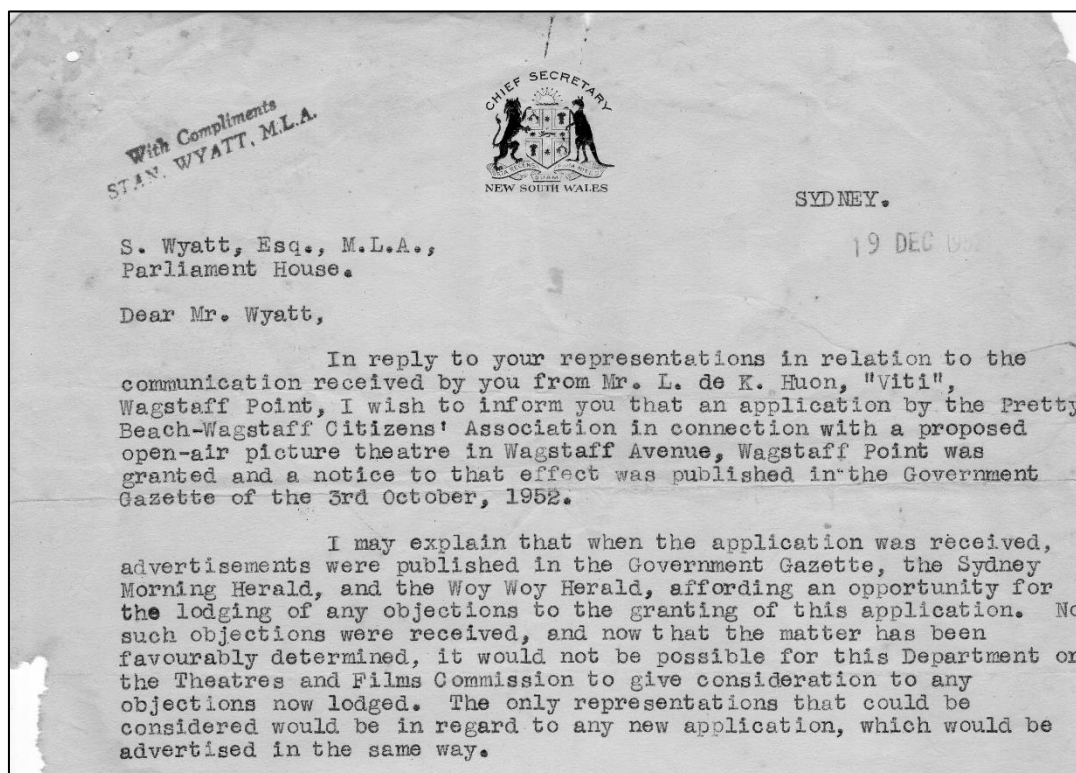
1954 HOLDEN

Scrapbooks (loaned by Kaye Francis) were put together by Frank Smith and have provided valuable information. Kaye, following in her grandfather's footsteps, is now a keen member of the Association as is her husband, Robert.

In the extract above from *The Gosford Times* dated May 17, 1954 we are told that Mr Frank Smith (bottom picture), had taken over the Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens Association Presidency from Mr Charles Hanscombe (pictured at right in the article). Mr Smith was a carpenter and his 'skill proved invaluable during the construction of the Wagstaffe Hall'. He worked during the many weekends he spent visiting his house in Albert Street, Wagstaffe. He had built his house too and when he retired, he lived there permanently.

The main article in the cutting states: 'A great deal of the progress made and improvement to facilities gained in the area is due to the efforts of the local Citizens Association'. The story is related about the raising of the money and the work involved in the building of the hall. Other articles in Mr Smith's scrapbook provide information about the activities and events held at Wagstaffe Hall. One such item advertises a meeting whereby residents would address the proposals for a bridge linking Wagstaffe Point and Ettalong Wharf.

Permission had to be sought to hold the outdoor pictures. A letter was sent '...re: open air theatre at Wagstaffe' to the Chief Secretary, Parliament House, Sydney. Advertisements were placed in the *Gov't Gazette*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Woy Woy Herald* 'affording the lodging of any objections'. None eventuated. The application was approved (see extract of letter below) and a notice to that effect was published in the *Gov't Gazette* on October 3, 1952. So they were open for business.





Stamp Duties Office, New South Wales.

TELEPHONE B050.

EXT. DW3466

166 168 Phillip Street,

F.22

Sydney, 16 OCT 1953

*The Secretary
Wagstaff Citizens Assoc.
Wagstaff*

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE NO. _____

Dear Sir,

re Film Contracts:

Stamp duty is payable by the Exhibitor on each contract for the hire of a motion picture film as follows:-

Original:- 1/- for each £25 or part thereof of the hire payable under each contract.

Duplicate:- 6d. (which amount is paid by the Exchange and charged to the Exhibitor's account.

With regard to "percentage" contracts the following procedure should be observed:-

Where a contract provides for a guaranteed amount plus percentage, duty should be tendered on the amount of guarantee payable, the percentage payment advised immediately following screening of the feature and additional duty (if any) paid thereon.

Where a contract provides for a percentage payment only, same should be submitted to this Office immediately following screening of the feature together with a statement showing the amount of percentage paid thereon and a remittance to cover duty calculated at the rate shown above.

Contracts in the hands of Exhibitors should be submitted to this office within one calendar month of acceptance thereof by Exchanges, otherwise fines accrue thereon in accordance with Section 25 of the Stamp Duties Act, which may be not less than £1 for each contract. In the case of percentage contracts the fine will not be imposed provided payment is made within one calendar month of completion of screenings.

It is noted that stamp duty amounting to ~~£~~ 14/- is outstanding in respect of 3 contracts executed by you during the period ending 29-5-53 - a schedule setting out details of the contracts is attached.

You are requested, therefore, to forward your remittance together with the subject contracts within fourteen days from the date hereof, otherwise the fines for late payment may be imposed.

Yours faithfully,

E. T. Woods
Commissioner of Stamp Duties.

Once the hall was built, they applied for a licence. However, it was not easy. There was a lot of red tape involved. Letters, such as the ones above and below demonstrate the 'red tape' which the Association had to negotiate for permission to operate the picture show at Wagstaffe Hall.

The Secretary of the Association, Mr Louis de Kerilleau Huon (Lou Huon of *Viti* at San Toy Resort), applied for the hall to be licensed, but first had to submit working plans. It seems Mr Huon had to make personal representation to expedite the matter. Correspondence flowed. Finally, the original plans had to be ‘...duplicated, endorsed and returned’. The Chief Secretary was then awaiting the £5 for the licensing fee. It meant that with the licensing (under the Theatre and Public Halls Act) of a permanent public hall at Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe, the Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens Association’s proposal to show films either in the open-air or in the enclosed theatre, could go ahead officially. Hooray! The licence (costing £5.0.0) was paid on March 6, 1953.

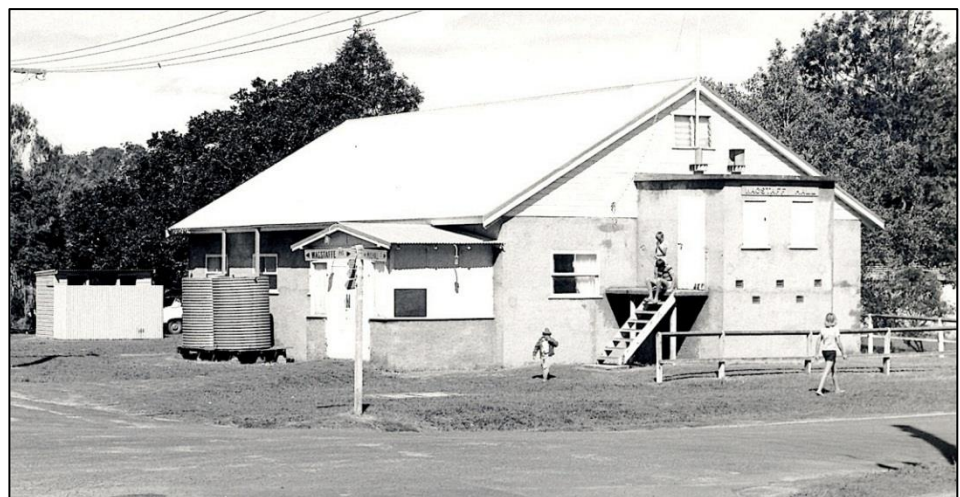
Commissioner of Stamp Duties, E.T. Woods, sent letters saying ‘...stamp duty was payable for the hire of motion pictures: 1/- for each £25 or part thereof of the hire payable under each contract. Also, 6d which amount is paid by the Exchange and charged to the Exhibitor’s account. Contracts in the hands of exhibitors should be submitted to this office within one calendar month of delivery, otherwise fines accrue’.

The correspondence goes on to reveal the following debt: ‘It is noted that stamp duty, amounting to 14/- is outstanding in respect to three contracts for the period ending 29.5.53’. Remuneration was demanded within 14 days of receiving contracts. Otherwise, there would be fines for late payments. What a nightmare.

Picture Nights at Wagstaffe Hall became famous. One account tells us the hall actually only needed three walls for the pictures to commence inside.

The projection box was part of the original design, as can be seen in the photograph and plan below. The full title on the plan reads: ‘PROPOSED PROJECTION BOX AT WAGSTAFF HALL, WAGSTAFF FOR PRETTY BEACH-WAGSTAFF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION’

The projection box was a fundamental part of the building, so that it is rather ironic that in 1997, its weight was weakening (in fact pulling down) the front wall of the hall. The situation influenced the need to renovate the hall and the projection box was removed.



The photograph here shows the projection box has been added to Wagstaffe Hall.

Operation of the equipment, a 16mm projector to begin with, was all voluntary.

John Heron recalls his father being the sole operator in the early days when the films were shown outdoors and when the hall was first used for the picture show. When Mr Heron left the area, Mr Naylor and Mr Bashford took over and continued to operate the projector for the next decade.

Many people have spoken about going to the pictures at the hall and the excitement and pleasure which they experienced. Ken Roebuck recalls going to the pictures: 'Everyone took a cushion and a rug and walked to the pictures. Their torches could be seen along the track from my grandparents' home'. Charges were 1/3 for adults and 9d for children, dearer than Ken paid at home in Abbotsford (*Reflections*).

The admission prices on the sign at right, are obviously from a later era.

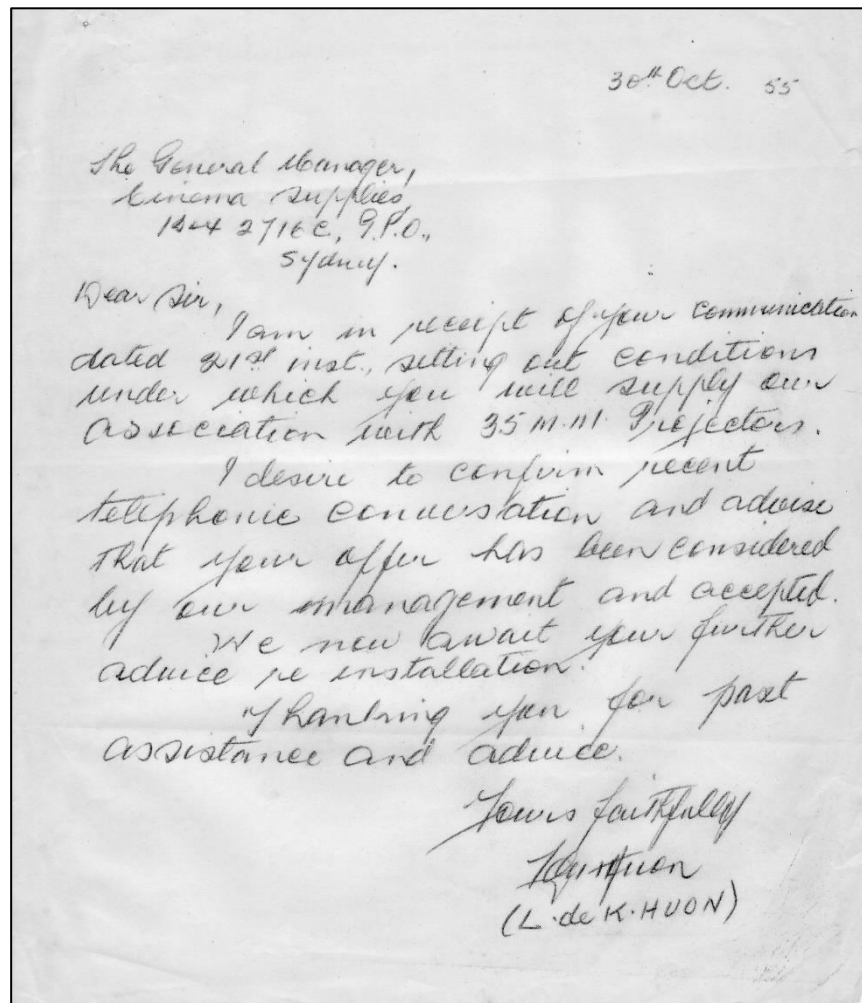
However, it wasn't long before the operators saw the need to upgrade their equipment and film projector.



Louis de Kerilleau Huon (Lou Huon) was the Hon. Secretary at the time and there are many examples of his very formal letters written in stylish copperplate handwriting.

In October 1955 a letter (see Page 15) was sent by 'L. de K. Huon' to Cinema Supplies, in reply to the letter below, regarding purchase of two 35mm projectors.

Mr Huon negotiated with Cinema Supplies and after the trade in of their old equipment, there would be a balance of £445/-/-. Terms were arranged.



<p>The Original</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">CINEMA SUPPLIES</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">and Exchange (Established 1928)</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Cinema Machinery and Electrical Division of Williamson Gerard (A/sia) Pty. Ltd.</p>															
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Trust Building 155 King Street, Sydney. G.P.O. Box 2716C Telephone: M 6831.</p> <p>Telegrams & Cables: "Snidean"</p> <p>SHOWROOM, STORE AND FACTORY:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">549 Gardeners Road, Rosebery. MU 3612, MU 2731</p> <p>Telegrams & Cables: "Valvine"</p> <p>STOCKING:</p> <p>Complete Sound and Projection Equipment</p> <p>Projectors</p> <p>Transarcs</p> <p>Transrectors</p> <p>Arc Lamps</p> <p>Amplifiers</p> <p>Carbons</p> <p>Lamps</p> <p>Rewinders</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21st October, 1955.</p> <p>The Secretary, Wagstaffe Progress Association, WAGSTAFFE POINT. N.S.W.</p> <p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>We wish to submit to you and your Committee the following proposal relative to screening 35 m/m films.</p> <p>To supplying and installation of the following:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td>2 Complete Projectors and Sound Heads with all necessary drives and cables, etc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2 A.C. Automatic Arc Lamps and houses</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2 new Projection Lenses</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2 Arc Supply Units</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 20-watt Amplifier & Speakers</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12 - 2,000 ft. Spools</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1 - 12 Spool film trunk.</td> </tr> </table> <p>The total cost of the above equipment would be £695/-/-d. and is covered by our usual 90 day warranty on this type of equipment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>projectors.</i></p>		2 Complete Projectors and Sound Heads with all necessary drives and cables, etc.		2 A.C. Automatic Arc Lamps and houses		2 new Projection Lenses		2 Arc Supply Units		1 20-watt Amplifier & Speakers		12 - 2,000 ft. Spools		1 - 12 Spool film trunk.
	2 Complete Projectors and Sound Heads with all necessary drives and cables, etc.														
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	2 Arc Supply Units														
	1 20-watt Amplifier & Speakers														
	12 - 2,000 ft. Spools														
	1 - 12 Spool film trunk.														

The subsequent correspondence reveals that two 35mm projectors were installed which made life easier for the projectionist by not having to change reels mid-stream. Keith Peaker recalls that waiting for the projectionists to change reels mid-movie was very annoying. He also recalls being at the pictures on the night that the new projectors were first used. He remembers it was 'a big deal'.

It seems there are conflicting stories regarding how the Association obtained the reels of film.

John Heron's version is an interesting one. He remembers or remembers being told that the films were shared with a picture show at Kincumber and that someone jumped on a motor bike at interval and raced to Kincumber and back with the second feature. Another version maintains the films were delivered to Rod Radford's pharmacy at Ettalong and he ferried them home to Wagstaffe. The local bus delivered them too. Maybe all of the above means of delivery happened at different times during the history of the picture show at Wagstaffe.

Rowles and then Roberts Bus Service delivered the films to Wagstaffe – at a cost. One invoice was for '£13.6.3 to 30.5.56'; the starting date of the period is not included. An invoice, dated June 1956, tells us that there was a change in ownership of the bus company. (The letter at right below has the Rowles letterhead but is signed by Jack Roberts.)

A letter dated August 1956, confirms the Association's need to receive the films twice weekly: 'I shall appreciate it if you will arrange for the films to be delivered on the day before the screening i.e. Tuesdays and Fridays.

This will allow the operator time to prepare his programs the night before the show'.

The secretary replied: 'It will be quite convenient to pay freight on the films by cheque each month and we can send you our receipt'.

ROWLES BUS SERVICE	
1 HILL ST., GOSFORD	PHONE GOS. 722
	6 th April, 1956.
The Hon. Secretary,	
Gosford	Pretty Beach- Wagstaffe Assn..
Erina	
Terrigal	Dear Sir,
Saratoga	In reference to your letter of the 27th March.,
Davistown	It will be quite convenient to pay freight on your films
Kincumber	by cheque each month and we can send you our receipt.
Empire Bay	I am quite concerned about the picture trip on
Avoca Beach	Wednesday nights. I have spoken to Mr. Rod Radford on
McMaster's Beach	This matter and he knows all of the problems that are
Killcare Beach	involved. I realise how much it would help your town to
Pretty Beach	have this service, and if I lived close by I would gladly
Wagstaffe Point	give my services and my bus free to help you if I could.
★	However the same type of requests are coming in
Scenic	from other areas that the buses serve and I have to view
Tours	them in the light of existing awards and conditions there
Arranged	fore it would require £2.10. 0 per. night for a bus.
★	Hopeing this will help you,
	I am,
	Yours Faithfully,
	Jack Roberts.

25th June 56

J Roberts Esq.,
 Roberts Bus Service,
 Hill St., Gosford.

Dear Sir, I have been instructed to
 write and cancel bus service
 after next Wednesday 27th inst.
 Due to lack of patronage
 we have decided to stop down
 our Wednesday night pictures
 during the winter months.
 We thank you for
 making the bus available and
 hope when we resume our
 screenings we will be able to
 make further amicable arrangements.

Yours faithfully
 Kingston
 Hon. Secretary

Wagstaffe Assn.
 Chairman
 9-7-56

The letter also includes reference to an attempt to hold picture nights through the winter of 1956. In order to make the business worthwhile, the bus service started at Killcare, whereby it was hoped enough willing picture-goers would board the bus with Wagstaffe Hall the destination. A trial period was arranged but the people did not want to go out in the cold.

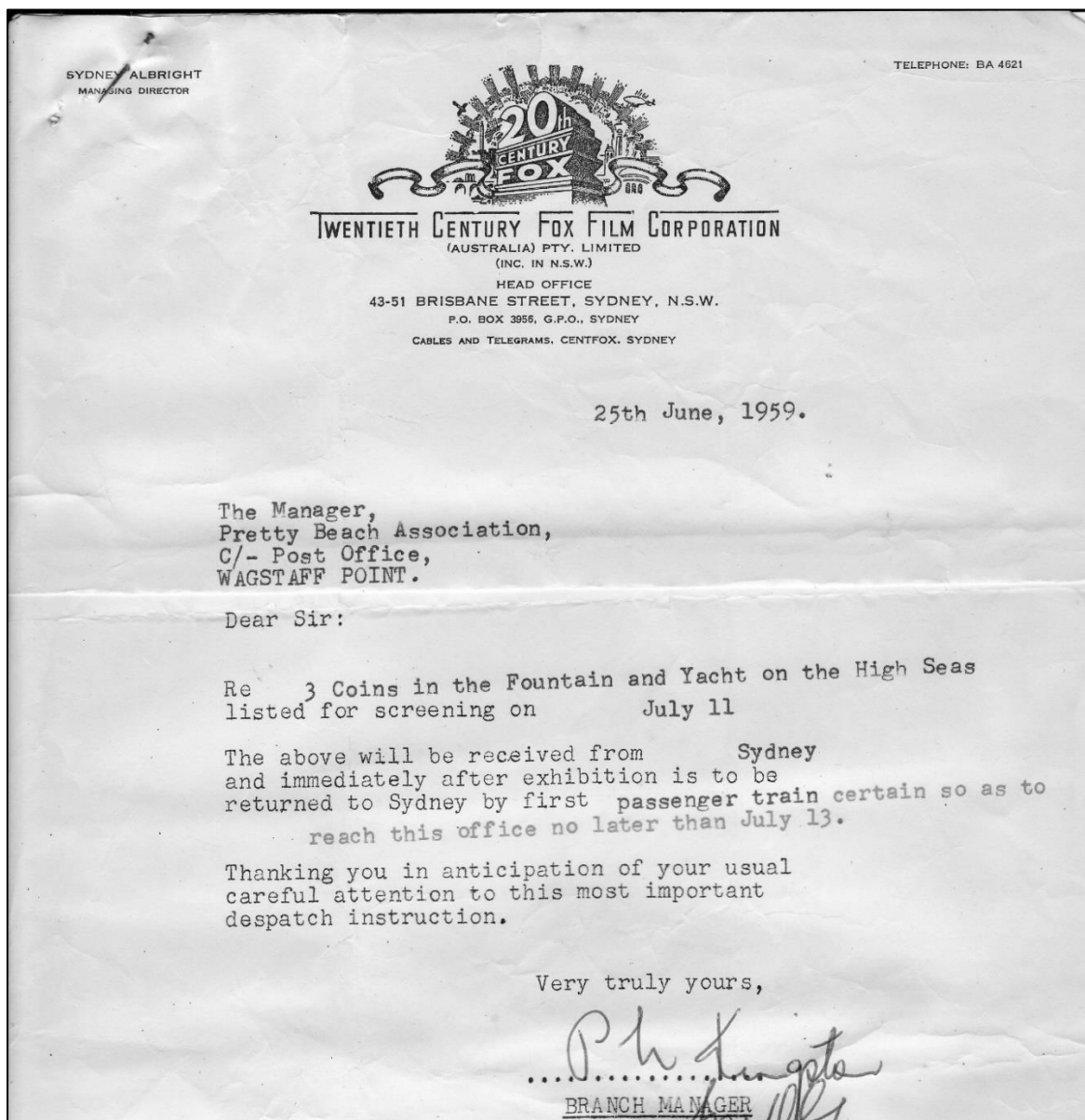
The service was cancelled on 25th June due to lack of patronage. It would resume with the arrival of the warmer weather.

Attending the pictures in winter at Wagstaffe would have been a cold experience.

There is no indication that there was any sort of heating so bringing a blanket was the way to go.

Throughout the 1950s there was much correspondence with the film distribution companies.

The letter below, from Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation concerns the films, *Three Coins in the Fountain* and *High Seas*: 'The above will be received from Sydney and immediately after exhibition are to be returned to Sydney by first passenger train, certain so as to reach this office no later than July 13'. Films came from Warner Bros, The Rank Organisation (London), Columbia Pictures, Metro Goldwyn Mayer, Paramount Pictures and RKO Radio Pictures.

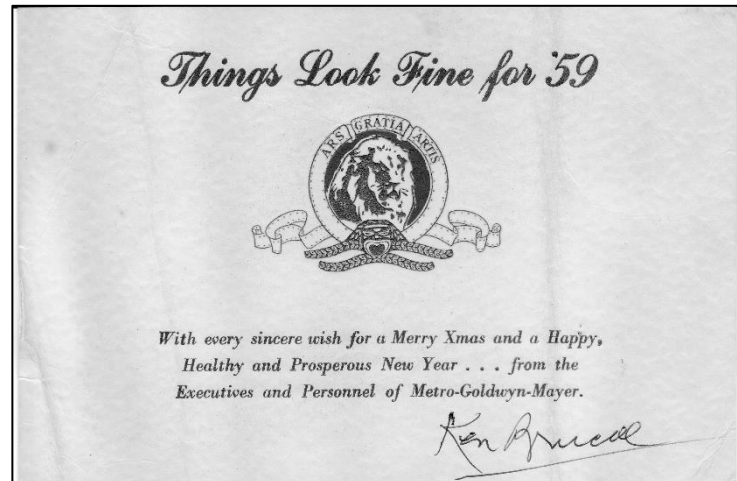


In the archives there are many lists of films, showing what was on offer. Memorable ones are: *The Cruel Sea*, *Doctor in the House* and other 'Doctor' films, *Doctor at Sea* and *Doctor at Large* (all with Dirk Bogarde), *A Town Like Alice* and Cecil B. De Mille's *The Ten Commandments*.

Other programs included *Genevieve*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Card* with Alec Guinness and Glynnis Johns and classics such as *Great Expectations* and *Hamlet* with Laurence Olivier and Jean Simmons. Some boasted colour such as *Battle Cry*, *Calamity Jane*, *Dial M for Murder*, *A Star is Born* and *Helen of Troy*.

The cost of hiring the films was high. In 1958 prices ranged between £3.0.0 and £7.5.0. *Run for Cover* cost £3.15.0. Most films, such as *Artists and Models* and *Strategic Air Command*, cost £4.15.0 but *To Catch a Thief* cost £7.5.0.

The Stamp Duties Office continued to expect a percentage of takings. There were several letters of reminder to the Association for monies owing.



20

~! Roster for Picture Duties!~

Sat. 17th May	Mrs. Hingerty Mr. Hendell
Sat. 24th May	Mrs. Banks Mr. Hill
Sat. 31st May	Mr. S. Stewart Mr. Kelly
Sat. 7th June	Mr. Hanscombe Mr. Hansen
Sat. 14th June	Mrs. Hepburn Mr. Smith
Sat. 21st June	Mr. Clarke Mr. Ford MR HANSEN

Mr. Bashford standby!

local Patrons, any more volunteers?

One letter from the Secretary suggested if there was a way to avoid the 'middleman', i.e. the agent for distribution such as Film Renters of Australia Ltd, the Association would be happy and willing to co-operate.

The card (above), sent by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, promised a good year and the picture shows were still being held in 1959, although Rod Radford said that the arrival of television soon saw numbers attending the picture shows decline dramatically.

The projectionists continued to be volunteers. The Roster for Picture Duties below was posted in 1958.

The praise was always lavish for films as can be seen with the *Cinesound Review*.

CINESOUND REVIEW

WYDASCOPE

CONTENTS SHEET

REVIEW: 1419 RELEASE DATE: 8/1/59

5,000 AT WEDDING
ASHLEY COOPER AND HELEN WOOD MARRIED.

Former Miss Australia, Helen Wood, and Davis Cup star Ashley Cooper are married in Brisbane. More than 5,000 people -- Brisbane's biggest wedding crowd -- attend St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, breaking a police cordon to mob the couple as they leave the church after the ceremony.

Length: 100'

IT'S LIKE HOLLYWOOD!
BIG STARS ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA.

Hollywood comes to Australia as film stars Fred Astaire, Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner arrive to play in films being made in this country. Crowds at the airport give them a real fans' welcome.

Length: 100'

ENGLAND COLLAPSES.
AUSTRALIA WINS DRAMATIC 2nd TEST.

In one of the most sensational Test matches ever, Australia beats England by eight wickets at Melbourne. May scores a fighting century for England in the first innings, but Davidson, with three wickets in one over, routs the other batsmen. Harvey, McDonald and O'Neill put Australia ahead, and then, in their second innings, England collapses sensationally for only 87 on a perfect wicket. Meckiff -- some critics say he throws -- takes six wickets. Burke hits the winning runs for Australia.

Photography: Gordon Lloyd. Length: 380'
Main and End Titles : 36'

TOTAL: 616'

Kenneth More

THE GREATEST SEA-DRAMA IN LIVING MEMORY

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN BRITISH FILM-MAKING

This is how the Wagstaffe Hall looked for most of the fifty or so years before its restoration.



CHAPTER 2 - THE RESTORATION OF WAGSTAFFE HALL

The first mention of the restoration came with the advertising of the first Trash and Treasure (Jumble Sale), the fund-raising event held on Easter Saturday 1998.



An offer of huge importance turned up - the chance to apply for a grant of money to improve the premises. Fay Gunther and Gwen Perrie saw the opportunity and prepared submissions.

Two submissions for GCC Grants were lodged with Council on April 7, 1998:

1. Cultural Donation – relocation of stage – building of wings – refurbishing of dressing room and provision of sound, lighting and curtains – minor capital works of a non-recurring nature - \$8, 950.00.
2. Community Development Grant – community beautification of Wagstaffe Hall grounds involving landscaping/planting – seating – watering system and improved access to beach - \$5,400.00 approx'. (Copies of the grant submissions are in the archives.)

Fay Gunther's contribution was already being felt. A rescue package was needed and an outstanding one was delivered. A recipe of imagination, innovation and hard work was called for and who better to produce it than the two forces that emerged on the Progress scene at that timely time - Fay Gunther and Gwen Perrie. Gwen had been a member of the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Progress Association since 1989 and Fay for a shorter time. Their commitment resulted in the total renovation of Wagstaffe Hall.

The Community Development Grant and the Cultural Grants were unsuccessful but there were others based on the submissions described above. A grant for \$20,180.00 was sought from the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Trust for the beach-front improvements which would become Stage 5 of the restoration if successful.

So, what happened at Wagstaffe Hall during 1999? To begin with, surveyor Jonathan Burke surveyed the site and architect Karen Burke drew up detailed plans for the renovation and modernisation of the hall. The work began with the demolition of the old toilet block.



It's hard to believe now that an ugly block of toilets was situated between the hall and the bay.
Is Jerry Abbott the gentleman in the photo?

The 'Work for the Dole Scheme' was first mentioned in May. 'Work on the new toilet block may soon begin under this scheme'. The November meeting was told that Work for the Dole would begin shortly. The quality of the work under the Work for the Dole scheme was questioned but all in all it was appreciated because the business got underway quickly. Stage 1 was completed. The Progress Association was told the Work for the Dole would wind up with a function on March 4, 1998. The Association presented certificates to the young workers.

The work on the subsequent stages was then undertaken. The work on the hall by local builder, John McLean, was appreciated. Bob Yuile was thanked for supplying electrical equipment free of charge. Other local tradesmen offered their services and were happy to contribute their skills.

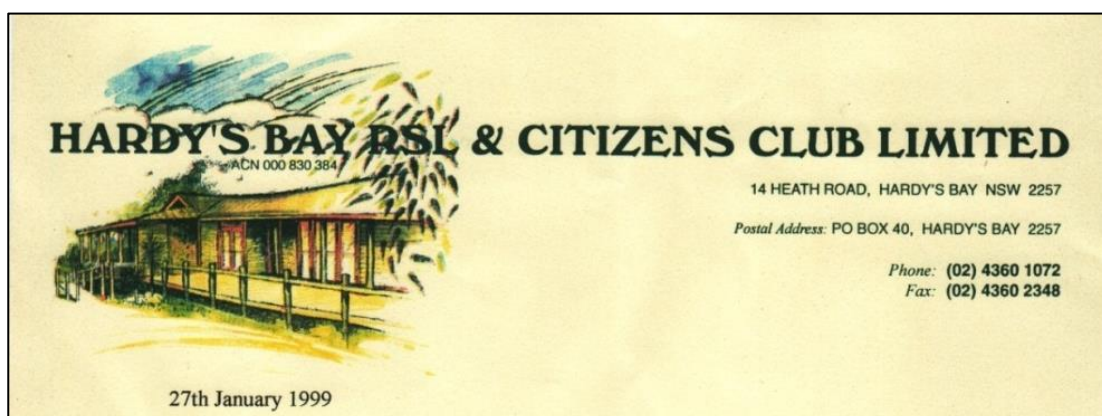


Removal of the projection box which had been pulling at the front wall, was a major achievement.

The Centenary of Federation Grant was officially approved in July. Fay's letter of thanks written on behalf of the Association, expressed the appreciation the members felt.

A mid-year meeting was told: 'The hall upgrading program is progressing with a grant to be requested for the full rewiring of the hall and all lighting and the Centenary of Federation Grant would encompass Work for the Dole'. The members agreed with '...the decision taken not to complain about Council delays yet because it may impact adversely on Hall Projects'. The August meeting was told of progress made at the hall: 'Front and rear walls and verandah almost completed'. Cr Robert Bell was acknowledged for his valuable assistance with acquiring the Construction Certificate and funding for the toilet block.

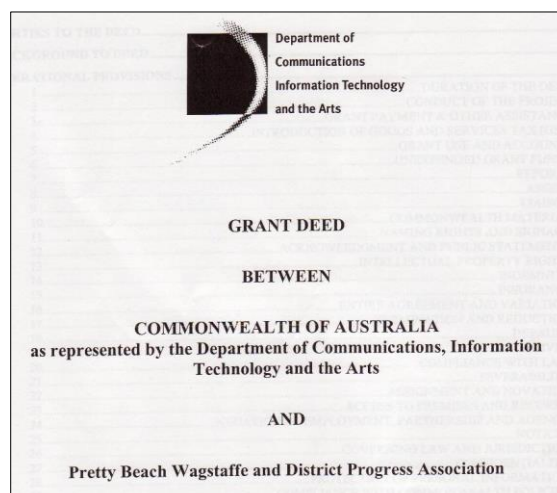
Sponsorship invitations were sent to *Headlands* amongst others. The RSL was asked to cover costs for the erection of a flagpole. Hardys Bay RSL & Citizens Club responded with a donation of \$250.00, for a new flagpole. Their very attractive letterhead can be seen here.



So where did the money come from? ‘The proceeds of Trash and Treasure... plus balance of Hall Account and cost price items would be contributed towards electrical work costing \$6,000’. As for the Centenary of Federation Grant – Council assured the Association the promised \$30,000 would be forthcoming. The Budget for the Hall Restoration was presented to the members. The finance for the restoration of Wagstaffe Hall came from various sources. (See the summary of sources below.)

<u>RESTORATION OF HISTORIC WAGSTAFFE HALL AND ENVIRONMENT</u>				
Stage 1	Progress Assoc (Community) (completed Feb - Mar 1998)	2.700	Kitchen renovation (Community)	
Stage 2	Gosford City Council (Local) January - March 1999	30.000	New Toilet Block (Work for Dole)	
Stage 3	Council Grant & Progress Funds January - March 1999	19.494	Structural Rectification (Work for Dole)	
Stage 4	Centenary Grant (Federal) January - March 1999	30.000	Extension & Renovation (Work for Dole)	
	Hall Upgrading Grant (Electrical)	6.118	If successful (Contractor)	
Stage 5	Environmental Grant (State) February - June 1999	20.180	Environmental restoration If successful (Contractor and Community)	
Stage 6	Community Donations, (i.e flagpole,B.B.Q, bubbler seating , notice board)			
		<hr/>		
		\$108.492		
		<hr/>		


The Grant Deed duly arrived and can be seen below.



The refurbishment took several months, a short time really well-spent. The community happily observed the work on Wagstaffe Hall as it progressed and was very happy with the outcome.

The design with its classic lines, sympathetic materials and colour-scheme was appreciated by all. The wide verandah opening onto the lawn with the view of the water was a huge improvement. The ambience of the hall changed completely. Residents and visitors look back with amazement when they think of the old hall and how people of that era disregarded views that today add thousands of dollars to real estate properties. Visitors to the area are drawn to Wagstaffe Hall and ask often if they may 'have a look'. Often this initial visit has led to a booking.

Planning for the grand opening of newly refurbished Wagstaffe Hall began in August. The newsletter below informed the community of the exciting events about to occur. This was in the days before *Talking Turkey* became the Association's newsletter.



Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Progress Association is pleased to announce that the renovations to Wagstaffe Hall are nearing completion and that the Hall will be available for letting from mid September. We wish to thank all our regular hirers for their patience but we are sure you will find it was well worth the wait.

Everyone is invited to the **OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY** - SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER AT 2.30.P.M. FREE AFTERNOON TEA AND BARBECUE - BAND RECITAL.

We wish to gratefully acknowledge all the help we have received in particular from Gosford City Council and the Federal Government - Centenary of Federation Grant.

As is always the case there is never enough money so we are seeking **CHAIR SPONSORSHIP** from individuals, families, businesses and groups to purchase 100 new chairs for The Hall. Donations in multiples of \$35. (per chair) will be gratefully received. Please send your donations to - P.O.Box 4069 Hardys Bay.

We are also hosting a :- **COMMEMORATIVE COMMUNITY DANCE** - SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER AT 7 P.M. - MIX OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN. DANCES TAUGHT - ALL AGES WELCOME. TICKETS \$ 5. ADULTS - \$2 CHILDREN - FREE TEA, COFFEE, CORDIAL - BYO DRINKS AND SUPPER.

Book a table and purchase tickets in advance by phoning - 43601612 or just join in on the night.

If you are not already a member please join your Progress Association and help build a stronger community. Our next **monthly meeting** will be on MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30 at Wagstaffe Hall. Meetings are on the second Monday evening each month. There is a joining fee of \$2 and an annual fee of \$5 or \$2 concession.

Next year in June this peninsula will be celebrating the millennium with the **Bouddi 2000 Cultural Festival** which has received funding from Gosford City Council. If you would like to become involved in this exciting project phone David Duffy 43 60 1650.

Don't throw anything away. Save it for our TRASH AND TREASURE Market in February.

Bookings for Wagstaffe Hall, either casual or regular can be made by phoning 43601843. The Hall is equipped with cutlery, crockery and glassware, and seating for special functions such as weddings not exceeding 100 guests.

A huge "THANK YOUR" to all of the members of our community who have helped in so many ways with the Hall restoration. If you would like to contribute please **Donate a Chair.**

The official opening of Wagstaffe Hall took place on October 16, 1999. The Hall Opening was generally agreed to have been a resounding success. Letters of thanks were sent to the participants, Noel Melvin (baritone) and Paul Edgar (pianist), Narelle Jones and the Pretty Beach School Choir and John Lee (sign-writer). Gwen Perrie and Fay Gunther were very appreciative: 'Thanks to ALL the willing workers and for the unexpected presentation of the beautiful clock and plaque'.

A letter, an expression of appreciation, was received from the Mayor, Cr Chris Holstein, following the opening of Wagstaffe Hall. He was full of admiration for the efforts of the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Progress Association led by Fay Gunther and Gwen Perrie. (The letter can be seen below.)

**COUNCILLOR CHRIS HOLSTEIN
MAYOR OF GOSFORD CITY**

PO Box 21 GOSFORD NSW 2250

Phone: (02) 4325 8296

Mobile: 0418 432 731

DX7211 GOSFORD

Fax: (02) 4323 6268



15 December 1999

Mrs Fay Gunther
President
Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe & District Progress Association
PO Box 69
HARDYS BAY NSW 2257

Dear Mrs Gunther

At the recent opening of the newly renovated and restored Wagstaffe hall I expressed my congratulations to all concerned on behalf of the Council.

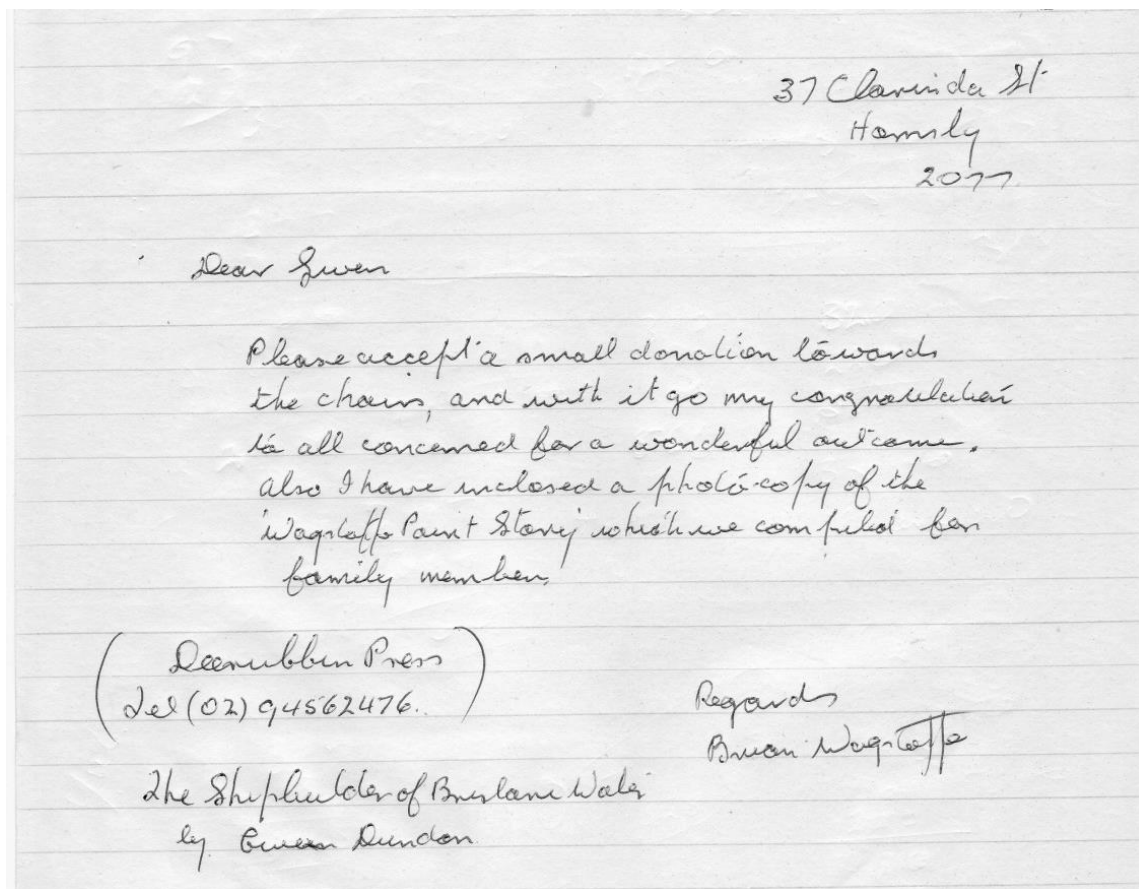
In my opening address, I referred to the various participants in upgrading the hall to its present excellent condition and I would like to formally place on your records my thanks to you and the Progress Association for being the catalyst in ensuring that the Wagstaffe hall has been brought up to the quality it now enjoys. There is no doubt that without your continued dedication and involvement in the project it would not have come to fruition.

Once again, on behalf of Council, may I convey my appreciation to you and the Progress Association for promoting this excellent facility.

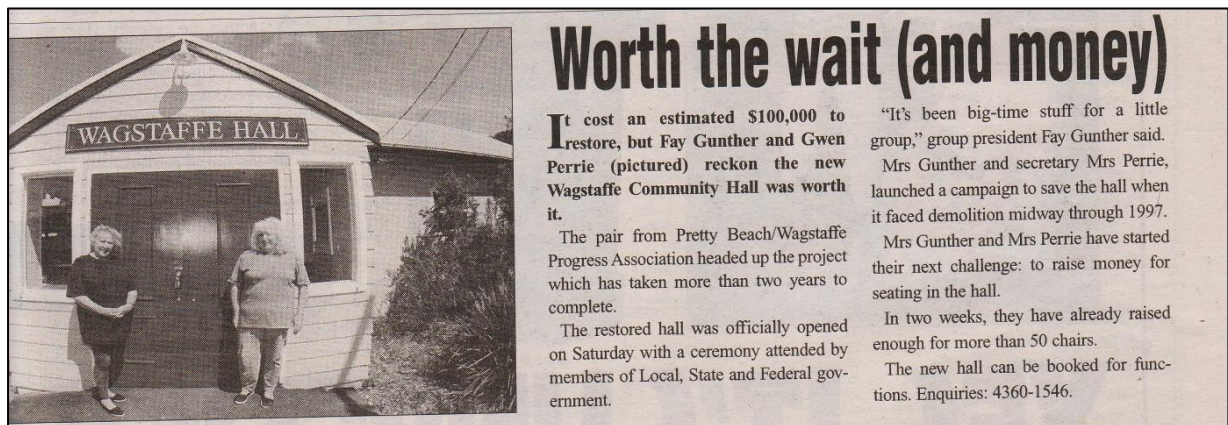
Yours sincerely

CHRIS HOLSTEIN
MAYOR OF GOSFORD CITY

Brian Wagstaffe, a descendant of Wagstaffe's first family, praised 'a wonderful outcome'.



The Express Advocate acknowledged the effort involved to save the hall.



Meanwhile, the community had been called upon to 'buy a chair'. A vote of thanks was given to Ann and Chris Dillon 'for co-ordinating the chair sponsorship project and achieving our target of \$3,500.00'. As people responded, the 'temperature' indicated by 'the mercury' on a thermometer painted by Chris and erected at the hall, 'rose' so that the residents could follow the progress of the appeal. One hundred and fifty shiny new cream chairs, for which the community felt ownership, were bought for the hall.



In partnership as President and Secretary of the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Progress Association, respectively, Fay Gunther and Gwen Perrie had set to work to renovate and recreate a building that is not only a very practical and convenient meeting place but a beautiful venue, where people come together to enjoy very special events or celebrations. Wagstaffe Hall has given new life to the community because of the number and variety of activities that happen there.



'The Bookends' Gwen Perrie and Fay Gunther –
proud of their achievement

An unexpected presentation of a pair of polished timber bookends was made by the Mayor, Cr Chris Holstein. He called Fay and Gwen 'The Bookends' because 'they put the squeeze on me', referring to their tenacity in acquiring what they needed for the renovation. He was full of admiration for what had been achieved at Wagstaffe and for the role Fay and Gwen played.



However, it was their prescience that was remarkable. Fay and Gwen had the foresight to see what the hall could look like and how it could be used as a venue for public and private functions.

Conditions and the fee structure for the letting of the renovated hall were discussed. Ann Dillon offered to prepare a Booking Form. Weddings and corporate functions were to be targeted. A Plan of Management for Wagstaffe Hall was drawn up.

The renovation resulted in increased usage by many community groups. Tai Chi has been very successful for many years and people have enjoyed Bridge and Mah-Jong and benefited from Pilates, Clinical Pilates, Zumba and Ju Jitsu. It has been the venue for many successful Bouddi Society events too. Weddings and birthdays are often celebrated at the hall as well.

The decision to open the back of the hall onto a spacious verandah, adjacent to the lawn and the water, was inspired. It has put Wagstaffe on the map

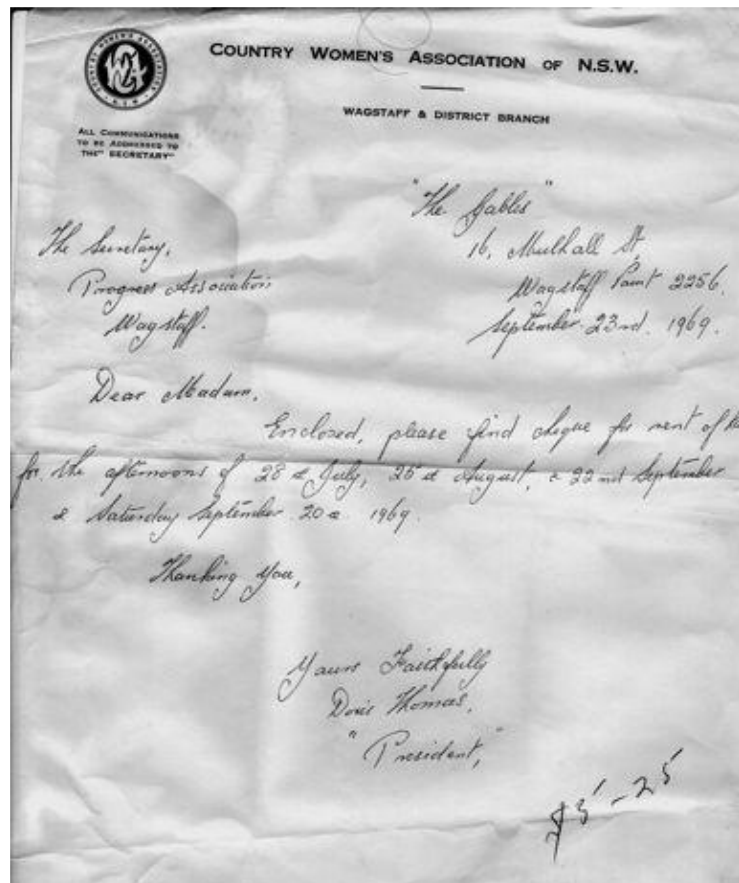
THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Robyn Warburton

This story has been taken from the community newsletter, Talking Turkey. Merle Bowie spoke about the CWA at the time of its closure in December 2004. For thirty-six busy, enjoyable years the local branch of the Country Women's Association went about their business at Wagstaffe Hall. The local branch, within the Northumberland District was a tiny part of the CWA, which is a huge organisation, responsible for many good works over many years of endeavour.

In 1968, enquiries were made as to the hire of Wagstaffe Hall for the CWA's meetings, to be held on the fourth Monday of each month. They needed to know what period of payment was acceptable. As the letter indicates, they agreed to pay on a quarterly basis.

The Country Women's Association booked Wagstaffe Hall for their meetings; a letter dated September 23, 1969 accompanied their cheque for \$5.25, rental for the hall for three months in advance. And that was the beginning! The CWA stayed for thirty-five years



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.			
WAGSTAFF & DISTRICTS BRANCH			
PRESIDENT		SECRETARY	TREASURER
D. THOMAS	1968-71	M. ANDREWS	1968-72
M. BONFIELD	72-77	D. FRY	73-75
T. ROSS	78-79	L. PATTERSON	76-79
F. HEAP	80-81	E. COUGHLIN	80-81
S. EDDY	82	M. TEAGUE	82
M. TEAGUE	83-85	T. ROSS	83-89
M. WILLIAMS	86-87	F. HEAP	90-97
M. TEAGUE	88-90	A. FOLEY	80-81
J. BUCHAN	91-93	C. LESTER	82
D. VINCENT	94-97	M. GREEN	83-99
J. FERGUSON	98-01	M. BOWIE	99
B. WARDELL	2001-		

In 1978 the CWA requested that an Honour Board be erected in the hall. The cost was possibly \$700.00.

In March 1979 the noticeboard arrived. The board is a record from 1968 to 1998 of the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of the Wagstaff & Districts Branch under the banner of the Country Womens Association of NSW. It is still there.

Held in Sydney or elsewhere, a five-day conference is held every year, which gives members the opportunity to come together socially, to share achievements and to decide on goals. A concert with members starring and a presentation to competition winners are two of the activities included. The Wagstaffe Branch joined in by always entering the Craft Competition and several prizes were won during its time.

International Day is an annual event. A special international lunch was held annually by the women at Wagstaffe often with a concert.

This concert celebrated Christmas and must have been one of the best. Here, we see Merle Bowie playing the role of Shirley Temple much to the amusement of all at a special command performance. It had a stellar cast! Not only did Merle Bowie make a sweet little Shirley Temple, Colleen Smith played Al Jolson singing *Mammie*, Beryl Wardell enjoyed her role as Harpo Marx and Clark Gable's famous lines: "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn," were delivered by a handsome Silver Ware. But we're not finished. Wearing Beryl's husband Keith's mother's genuine mink stole was Marj Teague having a lovely time in the shoes of Mae West.



Colleen Smith is Al Jolson, much to the amusement of Judith McDonald and Josie Frost. Photo: Colleen Smith

The Country Womens Association had quite interesting ideas. Invitations were extended to the members of the Progress Association and no doubt the other organisations on the peninsula and were reciprocated. One of the CWA's invitations invited the lady members to a shoe sale.



At another venue. The Show Goes on the Road. *Whistle for Me* - the 'gentlemen' are Mavis Broadhead, May Green, Doreen Vincent, Beryl Wardell, Dorothy Smiley and Thelma Ross with Marj Teague on piano. Photo: Beryl Wardell

The CWA raised money to send to head office to be used for many causes, often to help victims of fire or flood.

Many charities are supported by the CWA and excellent ideas are conceived. Something that may come as a surprise is the fact that the CWA is responsible for introducing the idea of light beer and for suggesting the continuous white line along the edge of main roads.

It is a very environmentally aware organisation and in country areas, work is done to improve agricultural issues.

The local branch did its bit. There was a close affiliation with Pretty Beach Public School. Each year the CWA studies a particular country and Year 6 children were asked to research and present projects on the country and to attend a lunch where the food and dress of the people of the chosen country feature.

Some people will remember Christmas in Turo, the party put on by the Pretty Beach Wagstaffe Progress Association for the children and older people in the area. The CWA always had a stall and organised the donation the lollies (and bagged them), a lolly bag for Santa to give to each child. It was held for some of the years in the 1990s.

Local hospitals benefitted too. Members made emergency bags for people who had to go to hospital quickly. Beanies were made for preemie babies and cancer sufferers. Doctors were given calico dolls for children to identify with so that they could be shown the children where the surgery was to be. Scones and pikelets accompanied all of this activity. And what about slices?

The CWA provided a memorable supper at the showing of Jeremy Linton Mann's film, *Community Spirit*. The CWA also provided the food for Ashley Thornhill's wake. Ashley, a pupil at Pretty Beach School suffered from cancer.

A stall was held to raise money for Safari, the little African boy who was horribly burnt and disfigured in a fire in his village. This event was initiated by loyal member, Colleen Smith, who was friends with Safari's foster family.



Safari is sitting with Colleen Smith at the stall arranged for him outside Wagstaffe Store.
Photo: Colleen Smith

The monthly meeting was held on the fourth Monday of each month. The Handicraft group met on the first and third Monday each month. People were invited to bring along a dollar and their craft and enjoy working together and a cup of tea.

The archives of the Pretty Beach Progress Association reveal a lot about the C.W.A.'s work. They constantly issued invitations to attend their meeting and special events. Here is an example. In March 1975, the teaching of fancy work stitches and shadow embroidery was offered. The date for the annual Birthday, Cultural and International Day had been approaching. Belgium was the country chosen for the year. The Association was invited to attend.



The women enjoyed the occasional lunch at a local restaurant
 Above from left: Beryl Wardell, Silver Ware, Thelma Fraser and Joy
 Ferguson.
 Below: Merle Bowie, unknown, Betty Flynn, Beryl Wardell
 at NW6 Killcare. Photos: Beryl Wardell



Ready for the Parade: Beryl Wardell, Dorothy Smiley, Merle Bowie and Joy
 Ferguson Photo: Beryl Wardell

The ladies were very happy to participate in the Bouddi 2000 parade from Turo Park to Wagstaffe Hall as part Of the Where the World Turns Around: A Celebration of Time and Place. The members were always generous with time, effort and money. Money raised was given to the Pretty Beach School, the Fire Brigade and the Surf Club.

That is a small part of the achievements of these local women. Unfortunately, the local branch closed in December, 2004. Finding people to take office became too difficult. May Green was remembered fondly, having served as Secretary for seventeen years. Beryl Wardell, Merle Bowie, Margaret Wilkinson and Mary Dent were the stalwarts of the latter years. Ten of the members transferred to Woy Woy CWA to carry on the work there.

CWA Australia continues to be a very viable organisation. Its membership and sphere of interest are expanding. Many young women are joining the organisation, bringing new and innovative ideas with them.

ON THE SPOT with ROSS Irby

End of an era for women's group

AFTER 36 years, a small remnant of a bygone era has disappeared with the closure of the Country Women's Association's Wagstaffe branch.

Valued by older women for its social contact, the branch closed on November 22 because no one was willing to assume the responsibilities of office.

CWA branch secretary Merle Bowie said there were 20 members although only 12 came to meetings regularly.

Mrs Bowie said most members attended the Woy Woy branch because of their age or health.

Some members would meet at her home to maintain their friendships.

Mrs Bowie said they had younger members, who were too busy with work and family commitments to become fully involved.

As part of the CWA's Northumberland group between Hornsby and Toukley/The Entrance,

All about the association

NORTHUMBERLAND CWA group spans an area from Hornsby to Morisset with 18 branches.

CWA is the largest women's organisation in Australia.

It aims to improve conditions for country women and children and tries to make life better for them and their families.

Lessons are given in all

crafts. Members' participation is encouraged in drama, art and music, public speaking, cooking and floral art.

Workshops are held to educate older members in the use of computers, automatic teller machines and electronic banking. The CWA also makes submissions to all levels of governments on a wide variety of social issues.

Wagstaffe members helped out by making handicrafts for various groups.

This included calico dolls used by doctors to explain operations to ill children - the children drawing their own faces - beanies for people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, tiny booties and beanies for premi-babies and, along with Red Cross members,

knitting trauma teddies for ill or injured children.

Former Wagstaffe CWA treasurer Mary Dent said it was sad to see the branch close because the members had been a close group.

She said members also belonged to the South Bouddi Peninsula Community Association which met regularly.

Article and photo below are from the Express Advocate, December, 2004.



Stalwarts of the Country Women's Association at Wagstaffe:

Merle Bowie, Mary Dent and Margaret Wilkinson

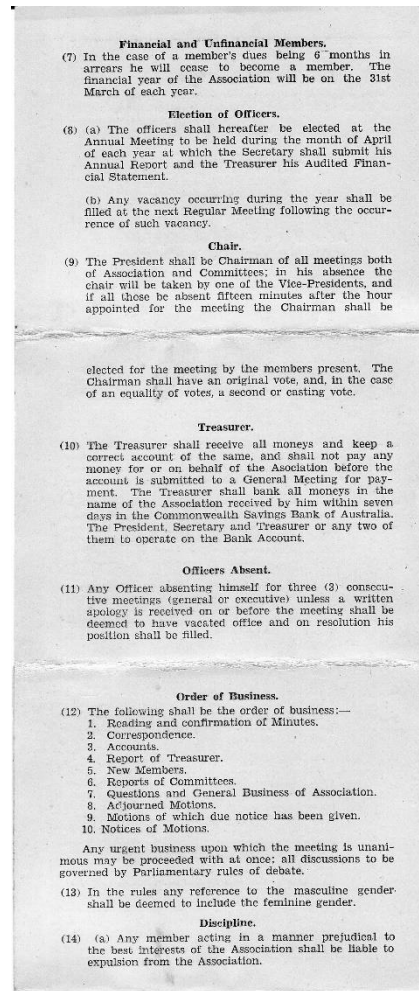
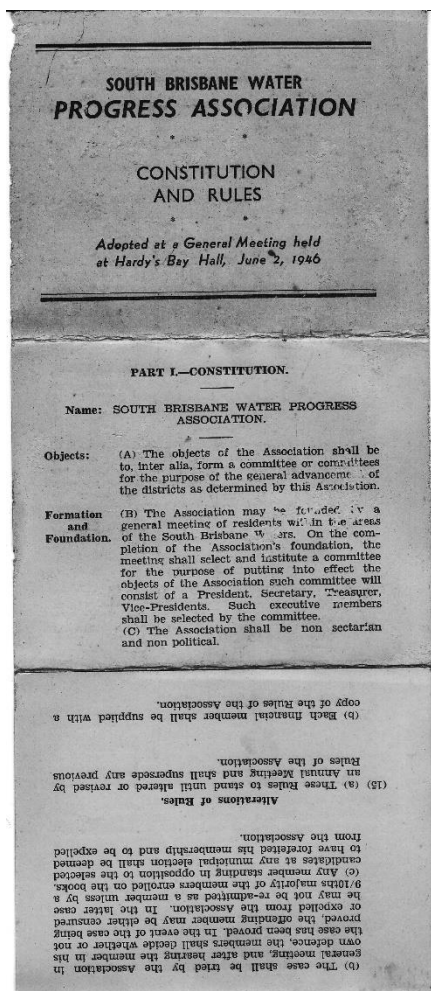
Central Coast Express Advocate

HARDYS BAY/KILLCARE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION and the BOUDDI SOCIETY

David Dufty et al

The Hardys Bay Killcare Progress Association had a long and active history representing, as it did, many of the concerns of citizens living in the area from Hardys Bay to Killcare Heights. It was active during the 1980s and 90s, continuing until 2002 when it became the Bouddi Society. Helen Warliker and others recall its earlier days. David Dufty takes up the story of the Bouddi Society. The minutes of the former association have been deposited in the Gosford Library as have reports and publications of the Bouddi Society. D.Dufty (ed.)

Early Days



History reveals there were earlier associations formed by residents of the area, who obviously cared about the amenity (or lack thereof) and wanted to lobby local and state government in order to improve the situation.

The next evidence of an earlier association, lies with the discovery of a small cardboard folder, entitled, *South Brisbane Water PROGRESS ASSOCIATION.*

(See document at left.)

The first mention recorded, of the existence of a Progress Association at Hardys Bay is in the history of Pretty Beach Public School. Correspondence between the Associations on the peninsula and the Education Department, in regard to the need for a public school, began in 1921. In 1925, the situation grew grim and Hardys Bay Progress Association, along with the one at Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe wrote letters demanding that a school be built. The plea was heeded and Pretty Beach Public School opened in 1927.

The Hardys Bay Killcare Progress Association, dating back to the 1980s, has a long and active history which is still to be researched using the documents (the Minutes) available.

Helen Warliker recalls the Association in the 1980s when Jim Fraser was the president. Her husband, Terry, sometimes referred to it as 'Dad's Army' as the members were not young. Its agenda was 'bread and butter' issues such as roads and footpaths and its scope was confined to Hardys Bay and Killcare. Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe had its own association and a bid failed when an attempt was made to amalgamate the two circa 2000.

The Association met in the Community Church building and some of its members at the time were Jim Fraser, Ern Pedersen, Win Fensom, Dennis Herbert, Tom Hunting, Margaret Forster, Neil Desailley, Terry Warliker, Jim Hunter and George Kerr.

Dr Ern Pedersen deserves a full Bio. Ern lived in Killcare from 1982 to 1993, before moving to a retirement village near Taree. He had been a medical missionary in India previously. He received The Queen's Gallantry medal for his help with the Granville train disaster when he belonged to a local volunteer emergency group. He and his wife, Evelyn, helped to establish the Community Church and were active citizens and caring neighbours.

In the early 1990s, during the tenure of Jim Hunter as president and Win Fensom as Secretary, there were two notable achievements. First, the Association was largely instrumental in stopping the move to establish two-way roads between Hardys Bay and Pretty Beach.



Opening of the Marie Byles Lookout on a misty morning in 1994.

Many residents of Pretty Beach and Wagstaffe wanted the track beside the mangroves between Araluen Drive and Pretty Beach to become a road in tandem with Heath Road, because the latter was considered dangerous.

Fortunately, Council resisted the pressure, restricted speed on Heath Road and put a locked gate on the mangrove track now known as the 'Dog Track'. This beautiful walking track could still be used in emergencies by ambulances and Fire Brigade. Heath Road was widened as much as possible, which was not much, and a school zone speed limit was placed along the road past Pretty Beach School.

The second important achievement of the H.B. Progress Association was the establishment of the Marie Byles lookout which before improvement had been a derelict picnic spot with a fireplace from which a fire could escape into the park or to the houses opposite on the Scenic Road. After much agitation, Council cleaned up the area, removed the fireplace, provided seats, a direction finder and a noticeboard and gave plants to the Garden Club (Killcare Heights Garden Club), to put at the front and behind the look-out. The Garden Club continued to care for the area for several years. Terry Warliker suggested the name 'Marie Byles' because Marie used to look across with her binoculars from her home at Palm Beach to Killcare thinking how the bush here could become a park and largely, due to her, it later became Bouddi National Park. The lookout was opened in January 1994 with great 'fanfare'.

Jim and Margaret Hunter and the Association also campaigned strongly for a walking track opposite their home along the beautiful part of The Scenic Road from Marie Byles Lookout to Manly View Road. After the successful widening of the bitumen and marking of the track, Margaret kept doing that walk even after she had lost much of her sight. The Association's efforts to have Maitland Bay Drive straightened, widened and fully bituminised were sadly unsuccessful despite Council assurances that it would be 'in the next budget'. Council found it cheaper just to use their maintenance funds to grade and roll the gravel surface. The road, although (in 2009) it is now partly sealed, remains hazardous.



Bouddi 2000

This year-long event was organised in 1999 by a representative community committee chaired by David Dufty, but the obtaining of a Gosford Council Grant and responsibility for permissions to use the road, insurance, use of funds raised, etc was in the hands of the Hardys Bay/ Killcare Progress Association led by Annette Wilson. Jim Shires was the hard working secretary. Some of the events are illustrated in the story of the Maitland Bay Environment Centre.

Members of the Society can be seen above: Helen Warliker, Margaret Hunter, Jim Hunter and Jim Shires in the garden of Gordon and Margaret Adkins.

It was a very full year as the following list of events reveals:

- Production of the **Bouddi 2000 Calendar of Events**

- A series of **multi-arts workshops** led by Christine Cave, producing banners for the parade at left see banners on display at Turo Park.



- An **ecumenical service** held at the Hardys Bay Community Church.

- **Australia Day Flag Raising**

Ceremony with Bouddi 2000 Co-ordinator David Dufty giving the address - plus a **Bush Dance** on 29th January, both events organised by Pretty Beach, Wagstaffe and District Progress Association (now Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association).

- A **Concert by the Bay** starring Noel Melvin, Paul Edgar and a wonderful Brass Ensemble of young people from the Conservatorium held at Wagstaffe Hall.
- A **Down to Earth Geology Exhibition** held at the NPWS Maitland Bay Information Centre from 15th to 30 April 2000.

- A **Canoe and Kite Carnival** held at Cockrone Lagoon and nearby MacMasters Beach on Saturday 22nd April.
- **Guided Walks** A guided walk through Fletchers Glen held on 22nd April.



- **Spirit and Place** a community art exhibition held June 10th to 12th at the NPWS Maitland Bay Information Centre. All art works were inspired by the beauty of the environment and people on the *Bouddi Peninsula*.

- **Bouddi 2000 Street Parade** on June 10 was a highlight of the celebrations and brought together some 500 people joining or watching the parade. It involved many different organisations in the area from pre-school to older age groups and representing a large variety of interests. Community stalls were held around Wagstaffe Hall at the conclusion of the parade.

- **Bouddi Peninsula: *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow***

This was an exhibition of photos, documents and research mounted to celebrate the history of the Bouddi Peninsula at Wagstaffe Hall June 10, 11 & 12 coordinated by Jamie Coffill.

- ***The Place Where the World Turns Around*** -A multi-media presentation performed on 17th June at 2.30pm and 7.30pm attended by 150 in the audience at each performance.

There were 100 performers and other helpers, including students of Pretty Beach Public School. Audio and video recordings were made of this event.

- ***Wattle and Weeds*** at the Maitland Bay Centre on 2-3 and 9-10 September arranged by the Killcare Wagstaffe Trust. This included exhibition materials and demonstrations of weed control.
- An **Art Trail** held on 30th September to 2nd October in which a number of artists held open houses to demonstrate their work and their working places. Pat McConchie and Terry Baker coordinated this event.



Pretty Beach School groups:
Frog Dance from 'The Place where the World Turns Around' (above).

'Igneous and sedimentary Rocks' perform a dance at the Down to Earth Exhibition. Choreography





Children from Pretty Beach Public School in the Bouddi 2000 Parade.

Big turnout for parade



Chris Holstein and organiser Christine Cave lead the parade

HUNDREDS of festive-minded people flocked to the Bouddi peninsula on Saturday for the Bouddi 2000 street parade.

Schools, preschools, service groups, fire brigades and residents joined in the parade, which proceeded from Turo Park to Wagstaffe hall in a blaze of colour.

Next big event on the Bouddi 2000 calendar is tomorrow night's production of *The Place Where The World Turns Around*. It will be presented at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 for students. Book on 4360 1650.

Local papers gave good support to Bouddi 2000 events *Express Advocate* June, 2000.

After the Nostalgia Days of 1995 and 1996, Jill Baxter led the Bouddi Oral History Project. Members of the older generation were interviewed by volunteers to capture their memories of times gone by. The collected stories amounted to a book, the peninsula's first book of history. In 2000 the Hardys Bay/Killcare Progress Association printed *Reflections from the Beach and the Bays* edited by Jill Baxter, which has proved to be a very popular publication.

Transformation into 'The Bouddi Society'

Following the events of 2000, the committee of the Society had grown a bit weary with well-doing; older members had retired or died; the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe & District Progress Association did similar work in the community and there was every possibility that the society would have to close down through lack of leadership. Approaches were made to combine with the latter association, but these negotiations stumbled for varied reasons although some members such as Jim Hunter, George Kerr and Helen Warliker joined and supported the Progress Association.

A solution was found in changing the main focus of the association from a 'Progress Association' to a 'Cultural Association', which would focus more on the kinds of activities exemplified by Bouddi 2000 rather than on 'roads and footpaths'.

Annette Wilson was the inspired leader of the movement and it is her foresight that needs to be acknowledged when we think of the establishment of the Bouddi Society.

Annette was the first President and then Fiona Atkinson stepped forward as leader (President) after many thanks to Annette Wilson and the 'Bouddi Society Inc' was formed and incorporated and set forth to plan more concerts, educational and other possible publications and to raise money for local charities. Above all, the aim was to encourage local people to respond to their local environment and to carry on creative place making and culture making.



MASTERPIECE

A Night Before the Mast - the tale of the sinking of the *HMAS Maitland* off Maitland Bay, Killcare, in the 1980's - will be presented at Wagstaffe Hall on Saturday, August 11, from 8pm.

The show was written by Gosford Council cultural grant recipient, Phil Stallard, and features live music, big screen visuals and sound effects.

For tickets phone 4360-1463.

Writer/composer Phil Stallard (with guitar) and cast members.

From left: Jamie Coffill, Erik Gunzel who supplied the photos, Lisa Stallard, Christine Cave, Phil Stallard... and Graeme Blundell.

One fine event was *The Night Before the Mast* in August 2001, which was written and produced by Philip Stallard. This was based on the story of *Moby Dick* and was performed by a fine cast including those shown above. Funding was assisted by a Gosford Council Cultural Grant.

A big event with Gosford-wide ramifications was the *Spikefest* of 2003 with the Society organising the *Comic and Crazy Verse Competition* which involved local school children as well as adults and culminated in a most entertaining *Cavalcade of Comic Verse and Song* presented by the winners at Wagstaffe Hall, which was attended by Spike's brother Desmond and his two daughters Laura and Jane, who all contributed to the show.



MADCAP: The Bouddi Society's David Dufty, above left, and Desmond Milligan, younger brother of Spike (right), are organising Spikefest's Comic and Crazy Verse Competition.

A TASTE OF COMIC VERSE

A chappie who came from New York,
Tried to teach a parrot to talk;
But, what a curse!
It worked in reverse;
Now, he goes around saying
"Squalk!"
— Spike Milligan

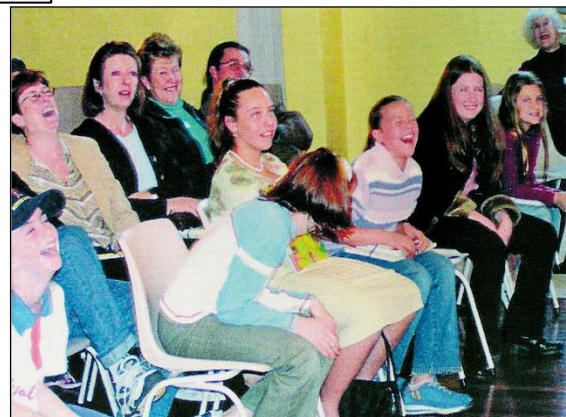
A girl from a nice convent school,
Was wicked, sadistic and cruel;
One night, just for fun,
She set fire to a nun,
Screaming: "Oh, what a silly old fuel!"
— Spike Milligan

There was a young
man named Wyatt
whose voice was
exceedingly quiet
And then one day
it faded away...
— Spike Milligan

At Terrigal there's a steep,
grassy hill called The Skillion
Where tourists and birds
tend to flock by the million.
I sped down on my scooter
And despite my loud tooter
Three tourists, two crows
and one pelican rode pillion.
— David Dufty

The Bouddi Society assisted by Gosford City Council published a book of the poems edited by David Dufty. Some copies are still available.

Audience
reaction to
bush poet
Dave Proust
winner of the
adult section
of the Crazy
and Comic
Verse



John Bell and Anna Volska presented two fine sessions of dramatic excerpts, poetry and stories from their life. The event was called ***Hello Kawai: Hello Dolly***. These events helped the Bouddi Society raise money to buy the piano for Wagstaffe Hall. The brand was Kawai. John also launched the new Kawai piano at Wagstaffe Hall. The Bouddi Society also funded a new amplification system for the Hall.

Hello Kawai: Hello Dolly

SUNDAY March 10th
5 pm to 7 pm
WAGSTAFFE HALL

We invite you to:

- An unveiling and welcome to our new Kawai Piano and its custom designed Dolly and Cover
- A thanksgiving to all who helped to make the purchase of this piano possible and that includes you
- A varied programs of short musical items to illustrate the range and uses of our new instrument and to enjoy the talents of its potential users

Local performers will include: Paul Edgar, Noel Melvin, Narelle Jones, Miriam Jones, Hildegard Anstice and

Another huge, demanding and successful activity was the ***Bouddi Reflections Multimedia Event*** in 2005. This was combined with the MacMasters Beach Progress Association and raised thousand of dollars for the Bouddi Wildlife Fund which supports the care of injured animals.

A number of concerts have been organised including ones which supported up and coming artists. For example the Society and the audiences have taken a particular interest in assisting Gosford soprano, Lucy Bailes, who is now doing very well on the international scene.

Older artists are not forgotten, and it has been great to see local violinist, Gwynneth Grant, performing again after very serious surgery. David Dufty organised a concert to celebrate his 80th birthday with artists varying from the well vintaged Kincumber Uniting Church Choir to the delightful Jones family with their youthful zest.



Pianist and accompanist Paul Edgar, violinist Gwynneth Grant and soprano Lucy Bailes.

Jazz musician Peter Kinch and his fine band have also supported the Bouddi Society.

Educational topics have been tackled by the Bouddi Society, including one organised by Ann Bowe on 'Understanding Islam', which aroused a lively reaction from some members of our local community and some useful face to face dialogue.

A major activity by the Bouddi Society has been the showing of classical films, which owes its beginnings to the enthusiasm and knowledge of distinguished Avoca documentary film producer Michael Datillo-Rubbo. These showings link with the days when the Wagstaffe Hall had its projection box and films were shown on a regular basis. They are also a reminder of the work of leading Australian documentary producers Geoff and Dahl Collings whose story has been told elsewhere in this publication. Mike is one who is well aware of the Collings and their contribution to design and film in Australia.



Mike himself comes from a distinguished Australian family in the Arts world. Dahl Collings did her early study of art at the Datillo-Rubbo Art School in Sydney, run by Mike's flamboyant grandfather, Antonio.

One classical movie was *Alvin Purple* with the star, Graeme Blundell, a local resident, there to present the movie and to introduce his new book *The Naked Truth: A Life in Parts*.

The Bouddi Society has supported local charities, including the Bushfire Brigade and the Surf Club. Their latest move is support for two woodwind scholarships for musicians to study at the Central Coast Conservatorium with the winners in 2009, Selina Foo on clarinet and Alyse Faith on flute, performing at a Sunday Afternoon by the Bay concert.

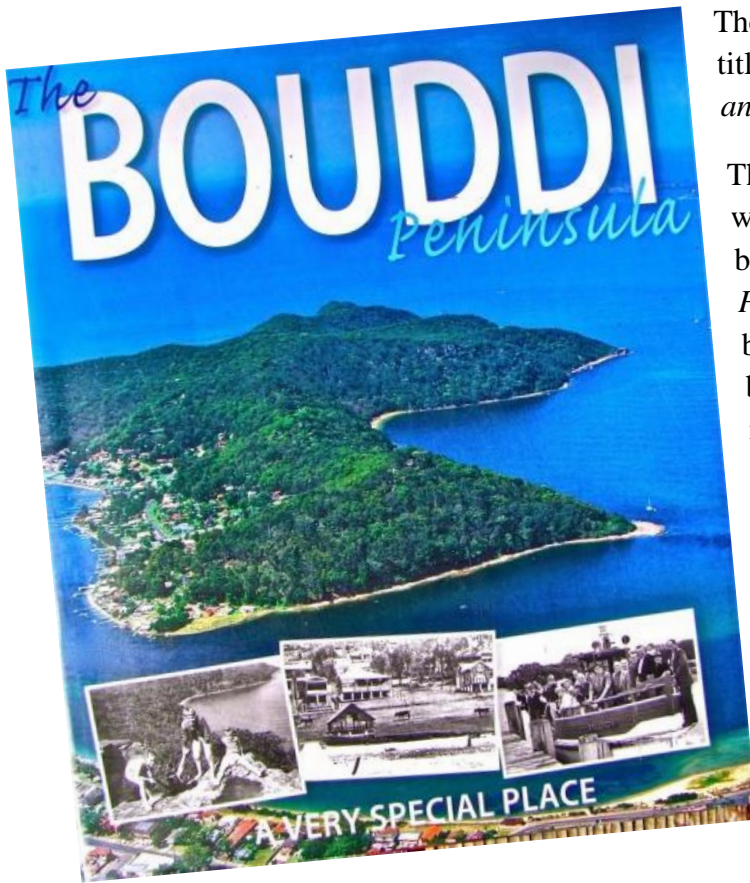
A well-produced newsletter, *Bouddi News*, has been edited by capable people like Annette Wilson and Lee Casey and Lee has been the prime mover in establishing an excellent website

at: www.bouddisociety.org.au

'Bigger than Ben Hur' is one description of the Bouddi Peninsula History Project which has involved a large number of local people and dug up great riches of local stories and photographs. David Dufty, who initiated many of the above events, also decided the peninsula's history needed to be recorded and launched the project in 2007.

Many people responded to the call for stories and photographs. The photographs became the Bouddi Collection of Photographs and can be seen on the online Flickr site: Bouddi Photos.

The stories were first compiled on a CD-Rom, *Bouddi Stories, Bouddi Bios, Bouddi Artists*. The CD was released in conjunction with a film made by David Dufty: *The Bouddi Peninsula: A Time Tour*. David filmed older residents telling their stories of earlier times.



The package (CD-Rom and DVD) was titled: *The Bouddi Peninsula: Voices and Images from a Colourful Past*.

The culmination of the History Project was the publication of a large and beautifully designed book: *The Bouddi Peninsula – A Very Special Place*. The book was edited by Lee Casey and brings together all the relevant information about the people and the place that combined tells the story of the peninsula's history.

Photos: D. Dufty

KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST Inc.

Helen Dufty



Killcare Wagstaffe Trust has a remarkable history of dedicated work for the local environment. At the height of its achievements, this was largely due to the virtually full time work and total dedication of the late Allen and Beryl Strom. However, they did not start the organisation and many others have played very active roles in the Trust. Many people have belonged to the Trust over the years, (with a peak of nearly 300 members), and have played a part in this fine example of a community organisation. Beryl Strom, Helen Warliker and Ann Bowe have written about the organisation and this unfinished account is based on their information, and also interviews with Pat McConchie, Jim Hunter and Ric Moore for the Bouddi Oral History Project. Editor: Helen Dufty.

For further details about the Trust, including details of past and present projects, consult their excellent website at: www.killcarewagstaffetrust.org.au/

According to a newsletter of Killcare Wagstaffe Trust dated June 1982, the Trust was formed 'some 18 months ago to protect the existing environmental amenity of this area and to encourage responsible development in the district'. So, its beginning was circa December 1980/January 1981.

A number of concerned residents had been motivated to form such an organization, when a development application was lodged for a caravan park at Killcare Heights, which they believed would adversely affect the area. Pat McConchie, who with artist husband Don, had moved into the area in 1978, was interviewed in 1999 and provided the following information. She had begun to attend Council meetings and found out about the proposal for the caravan park. She notified various friends and Haddon Kemp offered his home in the Scenic Road Killcare Heights as a meeting place. This group then organised a public meeting at the Wagstaffe Hall, which was well attended and from which an Interim Committee was formed of Peter and Maisie Hitchens, Alan Bradfield, Tony Coote, Chris Wheeler, Ric Moore, Martin Dale, John Nichols, Katherine Buck and Pat McConchie. Don McConchie designed the logo.

In 1981, members of the Trust's committee carried out a random survey of people in the Killcare-Wagstaffe area to get a cross-section of views on a variety of issues covering the local environment. Altogether, 187 replies were received: 58% being from permanent residents and 42% from non-permanent. The November 1981 newsletter of the Trust states that the results of the survey were clearly convincing: 'the overwhelming majority of people living on the peninsula identify closely with the environment and present character of the area and have absolutely rejected any form of high-density development'.

There were over 140 members of the Trust in November 1981, and its committee was comprised of the following: Chris Wheeler (President), Ric Moore (Vice-President), Maisie Hitchens (Secretary), Martin Dale (Treasurer), Pat McConchie, Maurice Porter and Jim Wilson.

However, in January 1982, members were advised that the Committee was putting together a detailed submission on a proposed Regional Environmental Plan for the eastern sector of Gosford City. This was the Plan, adopted by the State government in 1983, which refined tourist zonings in the coastal areas of the City, established the Erina commercial and residential land release and re-zoned the Bensville lands to 1(d) Urban Investigation.

The newsletters of 1982 further advised that the Trust was supporting Operation Coastwatch (an initiative of the Central Coast Association for Environmental Education) from which later came the *Bouddi Peninsula Study*, the removal of Bitou Bush at the northern end of Putty Beach, the addition of certain Council-owned lands to Bouddi National Park and improved management for Fletchers Glen.

The Trust indicated to Gosford City Council in 1982 that it was strongly opposed to the rezoning of any residential areas of the peninsula, which would allow for the construction of dual occupancies. It also requested Council to 'withdraw the development approval for the caravan park on Killcare Heights', but this request was refused. Eventually, the approval lapsed because of the financial constraints imposed on the developer by the conditions of consent regarding sewage disposal.

Also, in 1982, the Trust objected to the proposed development of a 150 seat restaurant on Killcare Heights. This application had been lodged by Chris Wheeler, President of the Trust, who felt he should resign from the position because of conflicting interests. The vacancy was filled by Allen Strom, who was elected Vice-President in 1983 and became President in 1986, at which time, Ric Moore, who had held that office since April 1982 was appointed Secretary.

Over the years, other office bearers included Judy Adderley, Dahlas Cleland, Laurie and Silver Ware, John Anstice, Helen Dufty, Mark Attwooll, Myra Isaac, Jim Shires, Jeannette Thiering, Geoff Tinker, Terry Jones, Eric Tucker, Ann Bowe, Robert McClure, Terri Latella and Grahame Morgan.

In 1983 The Trust was incorporated to give it a legal status.

In its early Years, the Trust made a strong contribution to the retention of the area's ambience. Following preparation of the *Bouddi Peninsula Study*, which involved many of its members, the Trust prepared a Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for the Killcare Wagstaffe area and presented it to Gosford Council in late 1985. It took until 1988 for a report on the plan to go before the aldermen and, although not entirely supported by Council, the Draft DCP for the Killcare-Wagstaffe area paved the way for some special planning considerations, not only for the peninsula but also for the entire local government area.

The Trust was regarded locally as having influence on Council and at Trust meetings it was customary for aspiring applicants to Council to speak, and from time to time mayors, local MPs and other prominent people attended. As Jim Hunter said: *Alan [sic] Strom was a dedicated man who made many friends but upset many people who did not share his concerns.... He and Beryl, his wife, attended more council meetings than all the councillors put together.... This continued right up until the time of Alan's death.... In all things Alan was the guru.... He was the kind of man who knew what he was talking about.... His influence on the place was very great and we were very lucky to have had Alan Strom here.*

Perhaps the most far-reaching decision between KWT and National Parks and Wildlife Service is the restoration of the old Maitland Bay Store which NPWS had first wanted to demolish. (See section on The Maitland Bay Store). Subsequently, it became the centre for local volunteers to man at weekends, with displays mounted in the front window, to promote the local environment and encourage visitors to the area. Hildegard Anstice is now (2009) designing and making beautiful educational displays, which reflect the local flora and fauna such as brush turkeys, bower birds and colourful fungae. The building is also used for meetings of various environment groups and lately for Trust meetings.



Killcare Wagstaffe trust members join the Bouddi 2000 Parade.

Over the years exhibitions on Geology, Wetlands and the Wreck of the paddle steamer, *Maitland*, (contributed to by Judy Adderley and Jaimie Coffill) have been held. Money collected for the sale of books and maps (notably Jeanette Blomfied's Bouddi Walks) are handled by Trust members while overseeing the Centre at weekends and holidays).

In the Strom's time there were field days and social gatherings. Morning teas are held after each quarterly meeting to encourage more social interaction and exchange of ideas. Raffles were also held with the choice of a plant or cake going to the two winners.

A review of newsletters reveals that the Trust has always been deeply involved in issues regarding both the natural and built environment, in its own geographical area of interest and in the wider context of Gosford City. In 2008, two important matters initiated by the Trust are still before Council: the Estuary Plan, including Mudflat Creek, and the Hardys Bay Foreshore Plan. Ric Moore stated in 1999 when interviewed, "It may be due to the Trust's efforts that no large development such as that at Ettalong has been proposed, as yet." Pat McConchie, one of the original founders of the Trust, claimed at the time of its formation that: *The community united in the face of a threatening large development but in fact real change comes by stealth with the accumulated effects of small decisions. The Killcare Wagstaffe Trust attempts to excise an especially fine section of the coast between two large cities, and set in a park, as a haven from suburban values.*

Ann Bowe, who was secretary for five years, (under hard working President [and then Vice President] Jeannette Thiering), makes the following comment: *It is interesting to note that the initial impetus for the Trust's formation was an application to GCC for the development of a caravan park on The Triangle. Nowadays, the 'caravan park' is flourishing as a very prestigious bed and breakfast resort, high class restaurant and convention centre. The aims of the Trust appear to be adequately fulfilled by the current owner, John Singleton.*

In 2008, it looked as though The Trust might have to fold because the long-time committee were running out of steam. Happily, however, just in the nick of time, a new committee was formed under the leadership of David Legge. A few of the former committee members remained as active members, Mark Attwooll among them. New blood has been provided by Deb Holloman, Steve Teasdell, Jeannette Bringhoff and Kay Linton-Mann. New ideas and energy are already apparent while the underlining philosophies are being maintained. Many in the community hold great hope for the future of the Trust and the Bouddi Peninsula.

Copies of the Trust Newsletters are a valuable source of information on the work of the Trust. The Gosford Library does not appear to have files of these Newsletters and does not appear to be regularly receiving them, according to local librarian, Geoff Potter. Alan Strom edited the Newsletter for many years and every one was a work of art from his skilled hands. (See below)

Jeannette Thiering also did a fine job on the Newsletter for a number of years. (See below)



THE KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST INC

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1996

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

L. A. WARE ... Telephone: [043] 60.1598
President

DAHLAS CLELAND ... Vice-President

ALLEN A. STROM ... 230 Scenic Road
KILLCARE HEIGHTS 2257
Telephone: [043] 60.1024
Secretary

MYRA ISAAC ... P.O. BOX 9 HARDYS BAY 2257
Treasurer

SILVER WARE LYELL MEDLEY JEFF TINKER

Meets on 3rd. Monday of each month.

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

COME TO THE

GENERAL MEETING

ON

JUNE 2 (Sunday)

at

WAGSTAFFE HALL

commencing

9.30 A.M.

IF THERE IS A CROSS IN THIS SQUARE →

YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL

Family: \$8 Individual: \$5

DONATIONS MOST WELCOME



REFRESHMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Following the Meeting there will be the usual opportunity to talk together over a cup of tea or coffee. We supply the tea and coffee, members are asked to bring a plate.

SOME MATTERS FOR ATTENTION at the GENERAL MEETING

Matters raised by MEMBERS

Residential Strategies for KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE
Protection and Management of Landscape

Waste Minimisation and Management Act 1995
Local Environmental Plan (LEP) N° 3141...Dual Occupancy
Coastal Planning Committee and Killcare Wagstaffe
Planning for BUSH FIRES control.

HELP NEEDED

Removal of BITOU BUSH
and weeds from
PURTY BEACH

Call Laurie Ware
[043] 60.1598

Keeping MAITLAND BAY
INFORMATION

CENTRE
open weekends and hols.
Call Dahlas Cleland
[043] 60.1894

THE CHALLENGE IN 1996 will be to defend the natural values and the village atmosphere of Killcare Wagstaffe as it now exists. This is the task of all who profess to enjoying this living place and space and who want to conserve it for tomorrow's people. The task involves control of land use and development ... a commitment that the public interest supersedes personal gain.

The Public
Interest comes
FIRST



NEWSLETTER

October 2005

CHRIS HOLSTEIN TO SPEAK AT KWT MEETING

WAGSTAFFE HALL 9:30am SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Chris Holstein, councillor from 1991 to now, mayor of Gosford from 1997-2001, and long-time supporter of the Killcare-Wagstaffe community, will address us after the general business is finished. The committee has sent Chris possible areas for discussion: weed removal by Council, e.g. bitou bush and privet, the visual effect of proposed CBD high-rise

developments on the whole of Brisbane Water (some affecting the horizon), and the survival of the Coastal Open Space Scheme.



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO CHRIS'S VIEWS, TO ASK IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND HEAR HIS REPLIES.

The business of the General Meeting will cover some significant issues. After months of work by the committee, and some other members, the Trust's aims are to be presented to the meeting and will be voted on.

The constitution will then go to the Dept of Fair Trading. (See the text of the aims below.)

Other important matters relate to planning, e.g. the marine sewerage pump-out at Hardys Bay and the resurrected Fast Ferry proposal for Ettalong.

Members, let's make a serious effort to bring a friend, family member or neighbour to listen to the speaker, to hear the discussion and to share morning tea afterwards.

KILLCARE WAGSTAFFE TRUST'S AIMS (new wording)

Killcare Wagstaffe Trust Inc. seeks to preserve the natural values of the area and its general ambience and to promote a sense of community and place. These will be achieved by:

- 1 working proactively to preserve the natural environment of Bouddi Peninsula
- 2 responding to planning and development proposals
- 3 promoting understanding, awareness and appreciation of the environment across all age groups
- 4 working on issues, activities and events independently or cooperatively with other community groups
- 5 liaising with Gosford City Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other authorities on significant issues
- 6 encouraging people to act in support of their environment
- 7 strengthening community understanding of the past, present and future of the Bouddi Peninsula.

WELL SPOTTED: Two keen walkers recently noticed greatly increased numbers of soldier crabs at several fresh water outlets around Pretty Beach at low tide, after rain.

HARDYS BAY RESIDENTS GROUP Inc.

Adrian Williams

Our local community has a fine tradition of community groups from its early days as a holiday resort. Early groups were the Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe and the Hardys Bay/Killcare Progress Associations catering for the interests of these two localities. The Killcare Wagstaffe Trust catered well for environmental concerns over the years and new leadership has recently been found. The Hardys Bay/Killcare group struggled as its members grew older and it transformed itself into The Bouddi Society with new leadership and an interest primarily in cultural matters. The Pretty Beach/Wagstaffe Association reconstituted itself as 'The Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association' and broadened its horizons. Some residents, especially those living around the foreshores of Hardys Bay, felt there were important issues, which needed to be addressed. The Hardys Bay Residents Group was formed with fresh leadership, talents and enthusiasm. It remains one of four large and active community groups, each with its own newsletter and website, and each of which continues to make distinctive contributions to the area, for the common good.

President Adrian Williams provided this story.

The Hardys Bay Residents Group was formed and incorporated in February 2006 with the mission statement 'Working for a positive lifestyle and a healthy environment in and around Hardys Bay'.

The formation came about following the successful relocation of a highly controversial proposed marine sewage pump-out system in the bay, in a campaign spearheaded by several members of the community. At the time, grave 'concerns' had been aired 'over a perceived lack of action by existing local groups on this matter and their negative attitude'. This proved to be the catalyst.

The first official meeting was held at the Killcare Surf Club in March 2006. From an initial membership of 6 or 7 people the group has grown into the largest and most influential in the district.

The group's website was established in March 2006 and is now one of the most accessed sites in the area with an estimated 10,000 plus 'hits' per month. The website provides a wide range of information for a huge audience.

The first edition of the group's highly respected newsletter *Bay News* was published in August 2006 and has subsequently been published with great distinction on a quarterly basis. *Bay News* regularly features articles on topical issues of community relevance as well as providing profiles of local identities.

Projects undertaken by the group include:

- Relocating the marine sewage pump out system.
- The introduction of dog waste bags around the bay with the dispensers serviced by members.
- Continued contact and liaison with local Police
- The ongoing campaign to have the salt marsh mosquito beds safely sprayed to reduce the health risk and nuisance biting.
- Abandoned oyster lease clean up with an eleven months campaign to remove over 400 tons of disused oyster spats from the bay, utilising a state government grant of \$15,000.



- Safer parking and foreshore maintenance.
- A major campaign to stop and modify the Killcare Marina development
- Membership representation on the Brisbane Water Estuary Study committee.
- Membership representation on the Brisbane Water User Group committee

Additionally, since its inception, the HBRG has provided ongoing support to the local Rural Fire Brigade, the Surf Club, the RSL club and other community organisations.

Web site: www.hardysbay.com

Photo drawn from the website where this and other issues and stories can be found.

KILLCARE HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

Val Wood and Anne Shires

The Killcare Heights Garden Club has been a great success story over the last 23 years and today there is still a waiting list to join this popular and well organised group. This story draws on the memories of Val Woods and Anne Shires. Photos: Garden Club Albums, Elaine Odgers Norling; photo taken in Japan: Robert McClure.

Killcare Garden Club, the eighteenth Garden Club to be opened on the Central Coast, was founded in May 1985. Its principle was to give: 'knowledge and enjoyment of nature and our surroundings ', with special reference to gardens. Twenty-six members met for the inaugural meeting with Doris Killian (Zone Coordinator) presiding. A committee was formed with the founder of the group, Mrs Val Woods, being elected President.

The first outing was a very successful visit to the Bouddi Nursery for an excellent talk by Chris Wilmott.

Regular monthly meetings have been held since that time on the second Monday of each month.

The first A.G.M. was held in February 1986, when the decision to ask for a subscription of \$5.00 per household was made. Name tags were to be provided. Regular raffles and 'bring and buy' times were held to augment the kitty. At that stage there was only 49 cents in the kitty!



In 1988, members of the Club won 1st prize for a floral display at a flower show. Here is what the President of the time, Kathleen Pile, wrote: 'We were absolutely delighted when our club came in first at the Umina Bicentennial Flower Show. It was our first attempt at staging a display. We chose the poem 'Bellbirds' by Henry Kendall as our theme. As a few of us have some natural native gardens it was not difficult to make a model of our lovely bush with a fine-looking waterfall to set it off. The verses of the poem were also displayed. In this way, we added a little to one Bicentennial event. Have you noticed the abundance of native flowers this spring? It's as though nature has put on a very special display of her own for 1988'.

Rules and regulations within the Garden Clubs started in 1993 so Jim Shires began proceedings for Incorporation. This was completed and formally passed in July of that year.

One of our projects was looking after the surroundings at the Marie Byles Lookout on The Scenic Road, which was upgraded and opened in 1993. In January 1994, Joan Graham, Anne Shires and Barbara Boot formed a subcommittee to garden regularly, maintaining the area as well as planting more local easy-care plants (see photo above). This work continued until 2003, when it was discontinued due to insufficient help and lack of support from the Council. However, the native plants still flourish in this area.

We became publishers in 2000, when a small booklet of 'Handy Hints' was put together by Anne and Jim Shires and Margaret Finney, which sold quite successfully among all Garden Clubs.



Members of the Garden Club pose with Cr Chris Holstein before the parade.

The year 2000 was also the year of 'Bouddi 2000' and the Garden Club was highly visible at the grand parade, which went from Turo Park to Wagstaffe Hall. We had hugely impressive hats and the Mayor, Chris Holstein, was raked in to raise the profile.

As we have no official meeting place, we meet at nurseries, member's gardens, or on trips. Many excellent outings have been made to parks, gardens and nurseries on the Central Coast and the Hunter Valley and off to Mt. Tomah.



There have been many happy birthday parties during the past 22 years. Members in the photograph above are from left: Gwynneth Flood, Kathleen Pile, Silver Ware, Bette Thompson, Anne and Jim Shires. And a Christmas party is organised for the December meeting of the club each year. No matter the venue, a good time is had by all who attend.



Santa and Tinkerbell attended one special Christmas party.

An outstanding event was the 2007 trip to Japan, which took advantage of Gosford City's sister city link with Edogawa and included most enjoyable home stays. See photo above.

In 2008 The Club is still a very sought-after group to join for new residents in the area. There is always a waiting list as there is a limit of 60 members. The subscription is now \$12. The Killcare Heights Garden Club is tremendous success story, thanks to Val Woods' original hard work in setting up the group.



The members of the Killcare Garden Club at Edogawa, Japan. Photo: R. McClure

THE FRIGID DIGIT STORY

Ron Malcolm

So named by the late Charlie Wilmot in early 1973 when a group of mostly surf club members & a few locals would run the beach, then dive in before enjoying breakfast at the club house every Sunday morning during winter.

I had recently moved to the coast & regularly joined in. Having been with Bondi Surf Bathes Lifesaving Club, South Maroubra Surf Lifesaving Club & South Maroubra Dolphins Winter Swimming Club for over 15 years I floated the idea in 1975 of becoming a fully affiliated winter swimming club where we would conduct weekly swimming races on a handicapped basis and enjoy inter-club meets. The season would run from May till September in outdoor unheated swimming environments. I received positive feed-back and was asked to investigate the process in joining the Australian Winter Swimming Association.

Together with Barney Reeves, I obtained the constitutions of The Dolphins & Umina Blue Swimmers, drew up one to suit our club and nominated our name as Killcare Winter Swimming Club Inc. In early 1976 we submitted our application with AWSA. We received confirmation of our acceptance at their June meeting.

We formed a three-man foundation committee to move forward viz. President - Councillor Bob Brading, Secretary - Ron Malcolm (myself) and Treasurer - Barney Reeves.

Initially, we looked at using the Bogey Hole but that was not practical, so I approached Kevin Vickery, Manager of the old Woy Woy Olympic Pool, to run races each Sunday from May till September. Kevin agreed and became a valued medal winner for the club.

Membership commenced with 49 active members with an annual subscription of \$3 pp. In late winter the temperature dropped to 13 in the pool, hence we bought rubber caps for some protection.

The club needed funds to buy shirts and hats with our logo printed on them, together with affiliation & insurance costs. Barney and I ran a chook raffle every Saturday afternoon across the road from the bottle shop. This was a steady money spinner until 1982 when the price of chooks went up which sent finances dwindling.

I approached Leo Oliver, Secretary Manager of Hardys Bay RSL Club, seeking permission to run a weekly raffle in the club. Leo said OK providing we change our name to Hardys Bay RSL Winter Swimming Club Inc. Becoming a sub sporting club we could hold functions and entertain visiting clubs. Reluctantly we agreed. However, the decision resulted in a much-needed boost to our coffers & visiting clubs were wrapped in coming to the RSL Club.

In 1980, we hosted the Australian Winter Swimming Championships attended by 30 clubs Australia wide, several from WA. It was a great success and put us on the must visit list. In the following years we have been host to six Northern Districts Championships.

The Digits have produced some remarkable swimmers in Kevin Vickery, Fred Elsom, Bob Chochrane, Bryce Cameron & many others. Our latest Frigid Digit champions are our golden girls, Sue Purcell and JoAnn Edwards.

Over the years the club has enjoyed many trips away & have represented in almost every Australian and Northern Districts Championships.

In 1985 The Australian Championships were held in Perth. Ten intrepid keen members wanted to attend but only on a budget. Flights & train were expensive. I contacted VIP Coach Lines. We negotiated a suitable return fare. Three days nonstop, stopping only for fuel and 20-minute stops for meals. The coach was full with little leg room. We wearily arrived at the depot and made our way to the Imperial Hotel overlooking the railway shunting yards. The room doors had no locks, and we were at the wrong end of town. Although we didn't win any medals everyone enjoyed the adventure to the West.

1985 was a big year for the club. In November, we celebrate our Presentation Day. This year was different in that we hired a Hawkesbury Ferry leaving from Patonga. Two double decker buses were hired to transport everyone from the RSL & return. Cost per member for ferry, lunch & drinks was \$12.50 and \$1 return for the bus.

In 1990 it was resolved to vacate the Woy Woy Pool as cost of weekly chlorination and pool entry had risen. The alternative was to swim in the ocean at Fisherman's End at Putty Beach and this has been our venue since. Plans were drawn up with the view to have 30 and 50 metre handicap races parallel with the beach. This required ropes, floats and anchors which I obtained and readied for the 1991 season.

We meet each Sunday morning at 8.30am from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in August. After our swim, hot soup & bacon & egg sandwiches are available ably cooked by our associate ladies.

At present our membership stands at over 60 consisting of Life Members, Active Members, kids & associates.

In 2016 it was decided to return to our original name of Killcare Frigid Digits WSC Inc.. New members are most welcome so come on down & join in. It's a little bit of fitness and a lot of fun.

See you on the beach.

Ron Malcolm

Past President/Life Member

OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON THE PENINSULA

Robyn Warburton et al

Commitment to helping others has always bonded people, who have lived on the peninsula, the area stretching from Killcare Heights to Wagstaffe Point. Since early times and for a variety of reasons, groups of residents have recognised a cause, come together and established a branch of an established organisation (in most cases) to meet the expectations of those involved and act for the greater good. Important work was and is being done with pleasing results. Social interaction and friendship are important by-products of voluntary participation and feature largely in all of the stories to follow.

RED CROSS

Participation in Red Cross in the local area dates to the end of World War 1. It was the first charitable and social organisation in the area. At the commencement of World War 11, the members took up domestic arms and went to work. Bandages were rolled, socks and balaclavas knitted, parachutes sewn, and fruit cakes made and sent to ‘our boys’ through the Red Cross Comforts Fund.



World War 2 soldiers board the ferry at Wagstaffe Wharf. Photo: Bill Murphy

Pam Langsford (nee Murphy) recalled the times when parties of recuperating soldiers were bussed up from Sydney and taken for scenic ferry rides around Brisbane Water aboard one of Murphy’s ferries. The outings were arranged by the Wagstaffe Branch of Red Cross.



The Soldiers pose for the camera with local Red Cross volunteers.
Photo: Bill Murphy

There was a Junior Red Cross established at Pretty Beach Public School. The girls wore the Red Cross uniform of the day which consisted of a white dress, white veil and a red jacket or cape. For many, this was their introduction to the Red Cross movement. Those girls would have grown up in Red Cross, their membership continuing through adulthood. From the mid-1950s, meetings were held every Wednesday at Wagstaffe Hall.



A member of the Junior Red Cross lays a wreath on the newly dedicated War memorial at the original RSL site. Photo: Dorothy Jenkins

Every year on Anzac Day, members would represent the Wagstaffe Branch at the wreath laying ceremony at the memorial at Hardys Bay RSL. After the closure of the branch, this tradition has continued and every year the wreath is retrieved from Jack and Shirley Battishall's spare room and laid at the Hardys Bay RSL memorial. Jack is the uncle of Ray Martin, who died on the Burma railway, and is remembered with a plaque at the memorial.

Red Cross always played an important role in the community. As the community grew so did the membership of Red Cross and the movement was strong throughout the 60s and 70s. For quite a period of time the weekly meetings were held at Hardys Bay RSL, where the members stayed on to play cards for a small sum. Morning teas were a fund-raiser too and anyone at the club could enjoy a nice 'cuppa' and a homemade 'something' for 50c.

When the RSL built a barbecue, people paid for a barbecue dinner on Saturday night, more money raised for Red Cross. Women remembered for their work in those days include Phyll Woods, who was often the Branch President. Other Presidents were Marj Brown, and Rose Moore. Shirley Battishall recalled having a role, probably as Secretary. Phyll Drummond was Treasurer for many years.

In the 80s numbers dwindled somewhat and although the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the RSL, the members gathered at Phyll Woods's house for cards. Special appeals were launched as the need arose. Collections were taken for natural disasters and war-torn countries. Fund-raising street stalls were held regularly. Cake stalls were regularly held at the bus stop near Killcare Wharf. Money was raised and sent overseas.



Frankie Oates, revered Red Cross volunteer. Photo: Kim Oates

In the beginning, Frankie Oates needed some encouragement to join Red Cross. She said she was too busy. However, her friend, June Hansen, who was Patron at the time, convinced her that Red Cross needed her. Frankie, who joined in 1985, became an important member, a driving force in the local branch. Many people believe she was inspirational. She worked tirelessly for her causes and Red Cross mattered. She was never President of the branch but took on the role of Honorary Secretary from the mid-eighties, holding that position until the branch closed in 2000.



Frankie Oates (front right) with members of Wagstaffe Red Cross: Phyll Drummond, Thelma Fraser, Joan Metcalf, Gwyneth Flood, Paddy Bailey and Shirley Battishall. Turo Park, June 2000.
Photo: Frankie Oates

Frankie Oates was one of the original coordinators of *Red Cross Calling* for the Bouddi Peninsula. Ted and Pat May were stalwarts in those days and Shirley Battishall remembered helping with the local collection.

Telecross was another important service initiated by Red Cross. Frankie helped man the phones for twenty years and received recognition, an OAM, for her effort.

Trauma Teddies, the soft little dollies, knitted by members have been distributed all over Sydney and the Central Coast. They are to be found in ambulances, hospitals, fire trucks, and schools, to comfort children in distress.



Trauma Teddies knitted by Red Cross volunteers. Photo: Frankie Oates

The sale of Red Cross merchandise, particularly at Christmas time, is another important part of Red Cross. Members also served as Cosmetic Carers and hospital visitors. The branch was highly respected for its service to the wider community. In her description of the branch,

Frankie said: “As the community grew, so did the membership but times change. Members, aged, moved away or died but despite many ups and downs, Red Cross always played a vital role in this community.” Shirley Battishall knew that she had a box of records in her keeping for several years after the closure but was disappointed not to be able to find it, to help tell the story of the Wagstaffe Branch of Red Cross.

To boost the numbers, Beryl Wardell joined in the last year or so of the branch’s operation. They were down to about six members. Cards were the main means of raising money in those latter days.

When the Wagstaffe Branch closed in 2000, Frankie and some other members, including Kathy Pile, transferred to The Umina Branch of Australian Red Cross and continued the good work there.



Phyll Drummond, Kathy Pile, Thelma Fraser, Margaret Keogh and Frankie Oates at Hardys Bay RSL, Anzac Day 2004.
Photo: Shirley Battishall

THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Phyllis Martin was the first Secretary of The Hardys Bay/Killcare Hospital Auxiliary when it formed in 1946. Twenty years later, Phyllis Woods was President, when Gosford Hospital's extensions, costing \$1,200,000, were opened on 7th May, 1966. The auxiliary was still going strong, and Phyllis had been an office-bearer and tireless worker throughout its time.

'Donation of monies and equipment presented to Gosford District Hospital was approximately \$6000 since the formation of the auxiliary' (Central Coast Express, Hospital Supplement 1966). The Hospital Auxiliary met weekly on Tuesdays and following business matters, played bingo. The members also played cards, contributing an entry fee and a percentage of their winnings to the treasury. Raffles were also held with prizes donated by the members. Beryl Wardell recalled a 'teddy bear' she had made and donated.



Back row: Emmy Board, Mrs Hatman, Pauline Battishall, Daphne Hulme (Jim's second wife), Noeline Jackson
Middler Middle row: Mae McRitchie, Phyll Woods, Ann Annand, Lucy Hulme
Front: Front row: Mrs Cass, Mrs Tait, Mrs Green Photo: **Central Coast Express, May 1966**



The Hospital Auxiliary met at Wagstaffe Hall. The signs to be seen on the side of the entrance, advertised the times the groups met at the hall.



Phyllis Woods (centre) presiding at the auxiliary's last meeting with Treasurer, Shirley Battishall (left) and Secretary, Beryl Wardell (right). Photo: Shirley Battishall



Group photo taken at closure of the Hospital Auxiliary.
 Back row: Beryl Wardell, Shirley Battishall, Jack Battishall, Clive Dent, Mary Dent,
 Bonnie Smith Middle row: Rose Moore, Phyll Annand, Frankie Oates
 Centre: Phyllis Woods
 Photo: Shirley Battishall

The Auxiliary continued its good work for many years and it wasn't until the late 1990s that the decision was taken to 'call it a day'. Phil Woods and the members were thanked for their dedication by representatives of Gosford Hospital and the ladies were presented with flowers.

R.S.L. LADIES AUXILIARY



The building in Araluen Drive which has lived and lived again – Public Hall. R.S.L. and community church.

Photo: Pam Mainsbridge

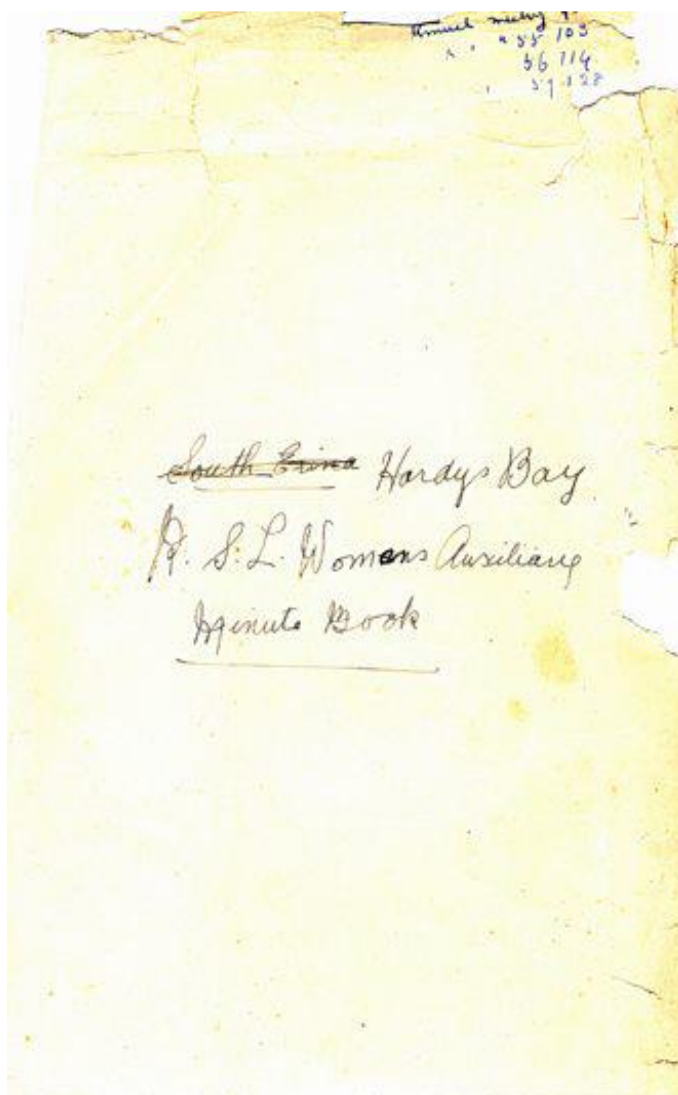
Hardys Bay Hall was the venue of many community meetings. The shed attached to the side of the building can be seen in this early photograph of the hall at Hardys Bay. This is where the ex-servicemen gathered to have a drink and where the R.S.L. started its days. Meetings were held post-war, with the purpose of establishing an organisation, which would benefit the returned servicemen.



Well-dressed patrons of a ball at Hardys Bay Community Hall organised by The R.S.L. Ladies Auxiliary. From left: Irish Hughes, Leo Hughes (Postmaster), Babs Murphy, John Murphy, Lena Brading, Stan Woods, Phyll Woods, Brickie and Cavel Barnes (corner store, southern side at Killcare), Photo: Dorothy Jenkins



The building in Araluen Drive in this photo is more familiar. The RSL became the Community Church.
Photo: Pam Mainsbridge



The Minutes Book of the Hardys Bay RSL Women's Auxiliary is a record of the meetings of the auxiliary which met for the first time on 13th December, 1949.

The records reflect the names of the families which feature prominently in the history of the area such as Hulme, Murphy, Cameron and Fraser. The minutes for the first meeting show 'a roster was drawn up for the five dances to be held during the Xmas holidays by the R.S.L. League.' The dances were held on Dec 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st and Jan 1st. In 1950/1 there were seven dances at Christmas time!

The cover of ***The Minutes Book of the RSL Women's Auxiliary***. Source: Dorothy Jenkins

At monthly meetings, events were planned and included social evenings, housie, balls, juvenile balls and dances. Donations were made to causes such as The Iron Lung Fund and the Northcott Appeal. The Hardys Bay Sub-Branch benefited also.

The Hulme family, consisting of Jim Hulme and his sisters, Lucy and Lottie Hulme, had a large role to play during the years that the RSL Auxiliary operated in support of the RSL. The R.S.L. Auxiliary met on Mondays at the RSL when it was in Araluen Drive and continued to have the A.G.M. there, while for a period of time, they met at Phyll Wood's place.

If you look carefully, you can see that 'South Erina' has been crossed out. This is because, originally, the Hardys Bay RSL was not a sub-branch in its own right. It was under the umbrella of the South Erina Sub-branch. This situation did not last for long and soon the RSL was operating independently. Originally designated South Erina, the name changed to Hardys Bay in August 1950.

The women raised money to make the newly formed club, successful. Money was needed to improve the premises, Renovations were carried out, which gave the building a face-lift; a bar was installed and tables and chairs were purchased for the comfort of the patrons.

73		
Regular Monthly Meeting September 8 th 1952		
Regular Monthly Meeting of the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary was held on September 8 th 1952. Meeting opened by President Mr ^{rs} Murphy at 3.10 P.M. with 2 minutes silence to our departed comrades Assist. Secretary read minutes of previous meeting moved by Mr ^{rs} Edwards seconded Mr ^{rs} Hanson minutes be received Moved by Mr ^{rs} Patterson seconded Mr ^{rs} Meyer the A.G.M. be adopted Carried.		
Correspondence, from Northcott Appeal Re Mr ^{rs} Australia also suggestions on how to raise funds for the Appeal. Moved by Mr ^{rs} Brady correspondence be received seconded by Mr ^{rs} Sandford Carried.		
Treasurer's Report. Moved by Mr ^{rs} Patterson seconded Mr ^{rs} Fraser report be received Carried. Moved by Mr ^{rs} Patterson seconded Mr ^{rs} Fraser Secretary ask all members to send donations of food for stall on October 14 th .		
Received £4-14-0 for duckess set. from badges received £11-16-- with badges still out. Competition was won by Mr ^{rs} J. E. Hanson Meeting was closed at 3.55 by President on peace & harmony.		
Afternoon Tea Sp. 1		
Income	Expenses	Balance
Hours		
August 16 th		£2 - 9
£2 - 9		£1 - 19-6
17 th 1 - 19-6		£3 - 14-
20 th 3 - 14-		£4 - 1-3
21 st 4 - 1-3		£11 - 15-6
£11 - 15-6		
J. E. Murphy 2		

A page from **The Minutes Book of the RSL Women's Auxiliary**
Source: Dorothy Iankine



THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

The Hardys Bay Branch

The Hardys Bay Branch of the Australian Labor Party is said to be one of the oldest branches of the party on the Central Coast. It was founded by the late Clarrie Peaker and members of his extended family in the 1950s. Clarrie was known 'to write a good letter' which is an important credential for secretaries everywhere. For many years, Clarrie served as branch secretary and presided over meetings with help from his wife Dawn, who was a legendary provider of tea and cake after meetings which, no doubt, added to the fellowship of the occasions. The December meetings were always memorable, as Dawn would turn the occasion into a Christmas party.

Jim Wilson Fraser retired to Killcare in 1946. He was very active in the area and worked for the community. He was one of those instrumental in having the seawall built along Hardys Bay waterfront. Fraser Road was named for him posthumously. Jim, too, has been credited with being one of the pioneers of the local branch of the Australian Labor Party (A.L.P.). From his earliest days, when he lived in working-class Balmain and joined the Seafarers' Union, he was very interested in workers' rights. He was black banned by his steamship employer for his unionism. The unions led to the establishment of the Labor League, the forerunner of the Labor Party. The Balmain, New South Wales branch of the League (along with a branch in Queensland) claims to be the oldest in Australia (Wikipedia). Jim was living there, in Balmain, at that time so it is no wonder that he brought Labor ideals with him to Killcare.

Many well-known local identities were members of the branch at one time or another: Dawn Peaker's sisters, Colleen Smith and Beryl Hughes, Noel Stalling, Merle Gerke, Bob Groves, Dahlas Cleland, Ruth Hawkshaw, Jim Board and others.

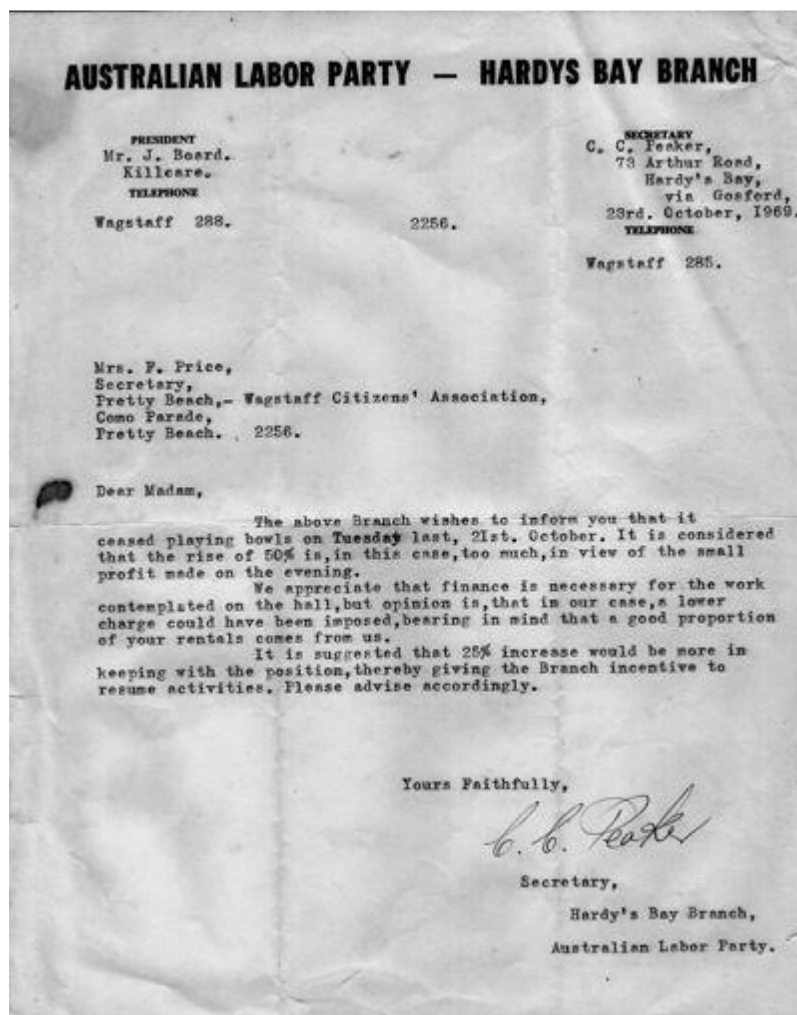
J. Board was the President of the branch in 1969 and probably for quite a few years before that. The letter below was found in the archival material of the then Pretty Beach Wagstaff Citizens' Association.

At the February 1977 meeting of the association, (by then the Pretty Beach Wagstaffe Progress Association), Mr Wilmot spoke highly of Mr J. Board, President of Hardys Bay Progress Association, who had died recently. So, Jim Board would seem to have been a commendable community member.

Clarrie and Dawn Peaker lived at 73 Arthur Road (now Heath Road), Hardys Bay via Gosford. The Post Code at that time was 2256. The telephone number was 288.

The letter tells us the members of the branch enjoyed playing bowls at Wagstaffe Hall on Tuesday nights but would discontinue (temporarily) because the hall rate of hire had increased 50%.

An earlier letter to the Association requested the hire of the hall during the first three months of 1969, on the second Sunday in January, February and March at 1 P.M. 'Should these bookings be available, it will be appreciated if they could be granted with the right of extension'.



The meetings were always held at Wagstaffe Hall until it closed for renovation in 1998. When the hall was being renovated, meetings moved to the Hardy's Bay Bush Fire Brigade Headquarters and continued for a few years until it was decided to move the meetings to their present location at the Empire Bay Progress Hall as the membership changed to being predominately from the Empire Bay area. During its history the branch has continued to be a forum for party members to discuss their political views, make representation to many different groups and organizations, and assist the party in its many election campaigns and host visits from many important party figures. Barry Cohen was a frequent visitor to the branch during his long ministerial career. The local branch is still active and meets at Empire Bay. The branch has continued throughout its history to meet on the second Sunday of the month, excluding Mothers Day.

In 2009-2010 the current President of the branch is Jim MacFadyen, former Mayor of Gosford; the Secretary is Mrs Rosslyn Moore. The branch can be contacted on phone 43601316.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A Google Search revealed the following: Neighbourhood Watch is a community crime prevention scheme, with Police and community volunteers working together. Neighbourhood Crime Prevention programs have existed in the USA, Canada and the UK since the late 1960s. In Australia, the Neighbourhood Watch scheme began in Victoria in 1983 and was formally launched in New South Wales in the Sydney suburb of Campsie in December, 1984.

Police patrols are divided up into Neighbourhood Watch areas. Since Neighbourhood Watch is entirely voluntary, it is up to the local community to establish a group by holding a public meeting and electing a co-coordinator and small committee. The co-coordinator liaises with local Police, passing on information to the committee and residents by way of public meetings and newsletters.

Aims of Neighbourhood Watch

Aims include:

- 1. Minimising the incidence of preventable crime.*
- 2. Increasing the incidence of reporting crime to the Police.*
- 3. Improving the level of personal and household security.*
- 4. Encouraging people to engrave their property for ease of identification if stolen.*
- 5. Improving the relationship between local Police and the community.*

Ref: Daley, P. The Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Handbook. 1992

In the mid-1980s Neighbourhood Watch began on the peninsula. People from Killcare Heights to Wagstaffe responded to the idea of caring for the community and the immediate neighbourhood. They saw the wisdom of advertising Neighbourhood Watch, were watchful and knew what to do.

Clive Dent was President and Mary Dent was Treasurer of the local branch from its inception in the mid-80s. There were different secretaries throughout the years. Ian Thiering was Secretary from 1997 until 2002. Stan Martin and Jerry Abbott were stalwarts. Meetings were monthly at Killcare Surf Club. The organization was given strong support by the Crime Prevention Office at Gosford Police Station. Irene Jurgens was in charge for many years. V.I.P.s (Volunteers in Policing) also had an important role to play. One would attend the local meeting and liaise with the police. Representatives would attend regular meetings at Gosford Police Station gathering information regarding local police issues and safety and crime statistics for the area. Reports were given by the police officer, chairing the meeting, and the people from other areas. The local branch folded in February, 2003.

The then, Pretty Beach, Wagstaffe Progress Association was disappointed at the closure and seeing a need to keep the residents informed about local crime, attended the monthly meetings at Gosford and reported back to the community via their meetings and the newsletter, *Talking Turkey*. To begin with the Association members were Robyn Warburton and Colleen Smith who remember a valuable excursion in July 2004 to visit PAL, the Police Assistance Line, the call centre at Tuggerah.

Ted Sieper took on the role until Gosford decided to disband the Crime Prevention Office in 2007.

OTHER GROUPS BY BAY AND BY SEA

David Dufty et al

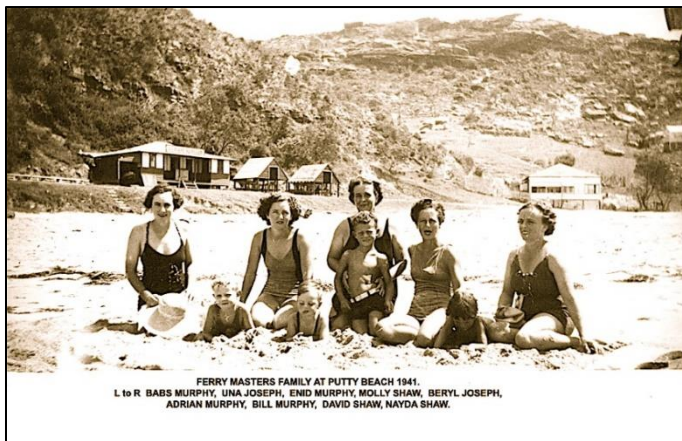
Informal gatherings, some spread by word of mouth, have been a feature of Bouddi Peninsula with its community atmosphere. Many groups meeting in homes and halls continue into long-term social groups. David Dufty, Robyn Warburton Eds

The 'Wy Wurrie' Boys and the 'Millions Club'

These groups were associated with the Surf Club and their stories can still be gleaned from Surf Club members' memoirs and memorabilia. According to one informant, the Wy Wurrie boys were a pre-war social group who mainly lived in Sydney but enjoyed the friendships of the local Club. Cyril Heyden, when interviewed by Kel Gulliver in 1997, said the young men came from the inner-city suburbs of Sydney and all worked in protected industries, so did not go to war. They spent many weekends at Killcare and supported the surf club.



The Millions Club members felt they were millionaires for being able to enjoy this beautiful place. They sometimes swam in the nude in a pool beyond the Bogey Hole and inscribed their names on the rock face. Are they still there?

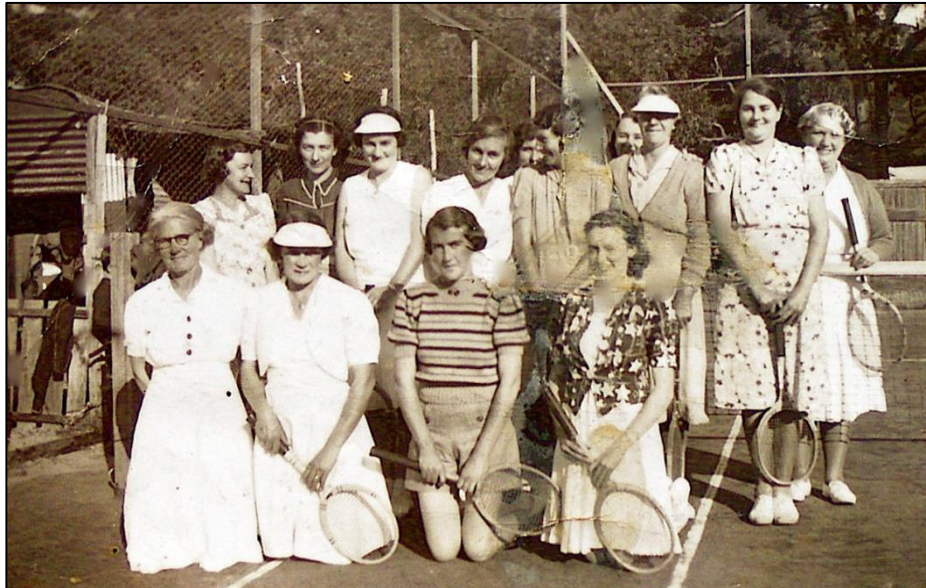


Beach Gatherings

The beach has been a wonderful place for gatherings of families and friends from the earliest visitors for holiday days to permanent residents. All generations can meet and play together as exemplified by this fine photo of the Murphy family in the days of the first Surf Club (seen in the background) from the Surf Club Photo Collection.

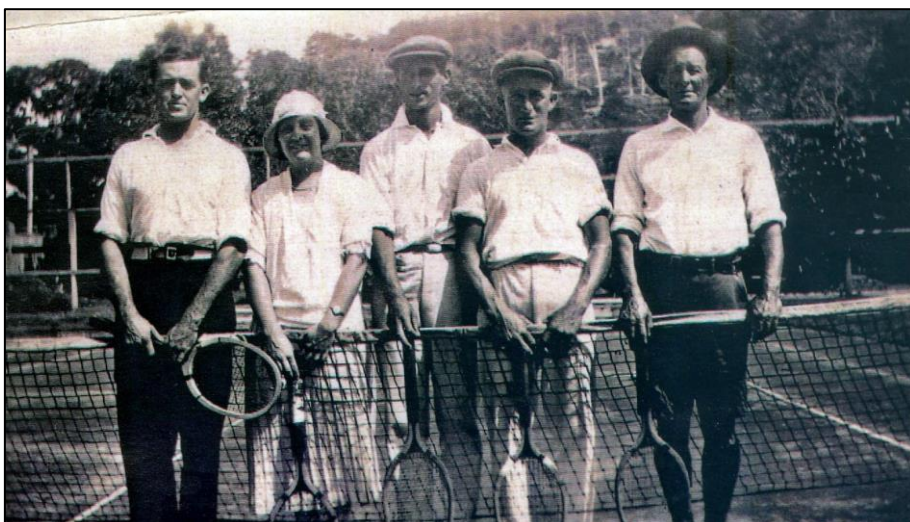
Tennis Groups

Tennis groups have existed from the thirties and still benefit from use of the private courts and the public courts at Turo Park and Empire Bay. This photo comes from the Stewart Collection.



Back row: unknown. Centre row: Meg Stewart, Phyl Annand, Babs Murphy, Vi Osborne, unknown, Tressa Willsmore, Mavis Johnson, Mrs. Rix. Kneeling: Mrs. Cameron, Phyl Woods, unknown, Sylvie Owen

There is a house at Wagstaffe that has always had a tennis court: the first was made of big slabs of concrete. The tennis court was considered a public one with all and sundry invited to play for 2/- a time. The group below could be playing at Wagstaffe. Who are the tennis players in the old and interesting photo below?



The Yum Yum Tree

The Yum Yum Tree is the traditional meeting place at Killcare, next to the wharf, for locals in the late afternoon. They gather in a shady spot on the waterfront under coral trees across the road from the local liquor/grocery store. There is an interesting history



Harry Kinson had a liquor licence and sold liquor out of part of the shop at Wagstaffe and customers would often gather together around the front of the shop where the coffee tables are now. The site and the gatherings were popularly known as 'Harry's Place'.

Harry Kinson is given the credit for starting 'the Yum Yum Tree'. The most famous and regular gathering is under the Yum Yum Tree in the late afternoon sun. According to our informant, it originated around at the Wagstaffe store when it was run by Harry Kinson.

When Harry moved from the Wagstaffe store and built the shop now known as Killcare Cellars, around 1980, he took the liquor licence with him and his customers followed to the new gathering spot under the Yum Yum trees, although there was a stage when it was commonly referred to as the 'Defaulters Club' since many of its members had been barred from the RSL club. Many local identities have participated in the conviviality of the Yum Yum group. Prominent among these in the 1980s and 90s were Brian Burrows and Jack Morrow, who would establish themselves regularly at three o'clock every afternoon to open the proceedings.

Another important caterer to those in need of a drink was Ted Tisdell who sold sly grog from a shed on his farm where Mary Daviel now lives. The shed and its precious contents were destroyed in the bushfire of 1974, and in the aftermath, parched firefighters witnessed the tragic sight of melted glass bottles and dents and holes, spectacularly evident in the remains of the shed, made by the caps of exploding bottles.



The most famous photograph of the drinkers in silhouette at the Yum Yum Tree is by local photographer, Barbara Morgan. See photograph above.

BIRDWALK

Helen Warliker

Birdwalk began in 1984 at the instigation of Allen Strom. Several of us had been meeting at the Stroms' on a monthly basis for discussions about the environment and/or going on field trips with Allen and Beryl. Allen persuaded Judy Adderley with her scientific background and knowledge of birds, to form a group. From this time on, this group met once a month on a Wednesday under Judy's leadership. When Judy's health failed, other people assumed the role. In 2009 the group still goes on a monthly outing.



Judy Adderley's Group – Judy centre, flanked by Ann Bowe and Tom Jackson with Allan Cameron far left.

Judy Adderley took her job very seriously, in the early days, mapping out an area beforehand with her husband Otto. On the day of the visit, if an expected bird didn't appear Judy would lament, "But I saw it only yesterday!" Obviously, bird-watching with a dozen or so chattering people was sometimes not so effective, in spite of Judy's efforts to discipline us. However, we always saw some birds and often other wildlife, meanwhile learning about the local flora as well, and always enjoying ourselves.



Christmas at Judy Adderley's

In December, in earlier days, we met at Judy's place for a Christmas get together, with a short local walk beforehand. Eventually, however, Judy's leadership came to an end in 2002 when age and poor health overcame her.

Birdwalk survives to this day, twenty-three years later, meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, except January.

Allan Cameron took over from Judy. He had been reared in Killcare, returning from a long absence to live here permanently. With his lifetime interest in birds, their habitats and habits, he can identify their calls and quickly spots them in the bush when most of us are still looking for them. In spite of recently handing over the baton to Erica Frank, he is still our bird expert, patiently identifying and naming them repeatedly for our forgetful brains. One member, Silva Ware, kept an exhaustive list of the birds each time.

Currently, there are twenty-six members listed. Judy always insisted that local members were welcome but now members come from further afield, such as former Killcareites, who now live in Woy Woy. Maureen Simpson and Helen Warliker are the only original members from 1984.

As we are now mostly in our seventies and eighties walks tend to be closer to home and those like Chittaway Bay, the Forest of Tranquility, Dubbo Valley and Bombi Moor are distant memories. However, such places could become popular again if younger members so desired. The Oldies could go on easier walks on those days.

We remain an informal group, still learning about the local fauna and flora from each other. A few of us saw a wallaby above Pearl Beach not long ago. Judy would have said that we chatter too much but we enjoy the social interaction, and gentle exercise, with many enduring friendships formed over the years.

October 2007

THE SOUTH BOUDDI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The South Bouddi Community Association met at the Wagstaffe Hall on the fourth Friday of each month since 1976. The meetings provided an opportunity for older residents to come together for activities and afternoon tea. They too had a special lunch at Christmas.

They arranged outings and special trips. In the photo above, members are pictured during their trip to Japan.

The members of the South Bouddi Community Association were octogenarians in 2010 but continued to meet monthly.

Clive Dent was the President for many years and his wife, Mary, was the Treasurer.

The group finally disbanded circa 2015.



Hardys Bay Sailing Club

Karen Tinker

Hardys Bay Sailing Club was formed in about 1985 by parents and citizens at Pretty Beach Public School. The principal of the school at the time was Colin Tarbox an avid sailor, and together with other people including, Rick Moore, the Turiers, Gows, Beasleys, Jacksons, Dave Bentley, Max Lidbury, and others. They agreed to set up a sailing club centred around one class of sailing dinghy. The Mirror Dinghy was agreed upon as there were several already owned and available at the time and the Mirror class of dinghy was designed as a family boat such that an adult and child were the best combination as skipper and crew. The club operated from the Hardys Bay beach and grass reserve area at the end of Araluen Drive. A club barbeque was held monthly after the race and was centred around the picnic table shelter. The sailing course was originally set out in the Hardys Bay area and then extended from Wagstaffe to Rileys Bay.





Book Reading Groups

At least one book reading group has been going most successfully for a couple of years. The first Tuesday Book Club started in 2004. The members meet in homes of the members. The host suggests a book, distributes questions, all read it and much enjoyment and enlightenment follows with the discussion. Afternoon tea follows and they are always delicious. In the photo below we see from front left: Phil Donnelly, Robyn Warburton, Alex Sharp, Bill Gregor, Jill Baxter, Bev Runcie, Ann Dillon, Fiona Atkinson and Ray Bass. The absent member is Peter Baxter who was the photographer.

Wagstaffe Hall has seen dozens of educational groups for young and old, some of which, like the present Yoga and Tai Chi groups, meet for years and become social as well as educational groups.

Tai Chi at Wagstaffe Hall



Bridge Groups



At least two bridge groups have continued for a number of years. Judy Adderley was responsible for one group (see Bio of Judy Adderley) following on from an adult education group which she established at the Kincumber Quality of Life Centre led by Helen Dufty.

Currently the Old Wags Bridge Club meets regularly at the Wagstaffe Hall.

Yoga at Wagstaffe Hall

Gai Davies has been the Yoga teacher at Wagstaffe Hall since the 1970's. February, 1979 saw Yoga begin at the hall with Gai Davies. Gai's classes have continued to thrive over many years. The Monday morning class was still very well-attended in 2014. Her classes attract many people. She has an enthusiastic group of followers. Gai's success is due to her commitment to making Yoga a very beneficial and enjoyable experience for all participants.

In 2020 Gai's Monday class is still very popular and attended by a large group of local people. As well, there are three other classes to be found at the hall each week.



DOGS and THEIR OWNERS

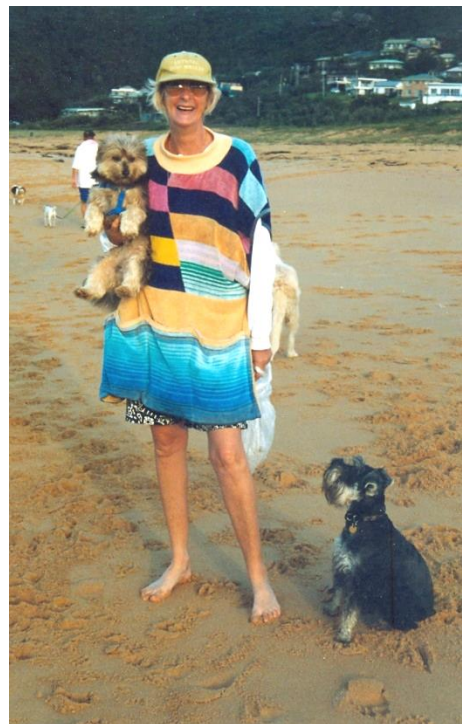
PENINSULA PETS I HAVE KNOWN AND MINDED

Dianne Lewis

Dianne Lewis moved to Killcare from Sydney in 1998 with her parents Dorothy & George Lewis, her father dying a short while later. With Dorothy's support and encouragement Dianne quickly identified a need on the Peninsula and established a business called Pooch and Property Minder, looking after homes and pets, mainly dogs, that needed walking. Dianne quickly became a well-known identity on the Peninsula, affectionately called 'The Dog Lady'. This is her story of looking after the area's canine characters.



Dorothy Lewis with Clancy



Dianne Lewis on Killcare beach
with Clancy & friend

Dogs are an integral part of our beautiful area. Many people have bought their homes here because it had a dog friendly beach. Owners and their dogs were allowed on the beach before 9am and after 5pm. This was to change, when, back in approximately 2001 Councils decided to ban dogs between Sydney and Newcastle on all beaches.

The outcry from dog owners was amazing and a group was formed to fight the Council and was named CCBARC (Central Coast Beach Access Reform Coalition). After a long hard battle, between Council, dog lovers and those who were not so keen on dogs, the decision was finally overturned to ban dogs completely and after consultation between BARCC and the Council, Killcare Beach was designated a large area 'off-lead' in the middle section of the beach.

I was delighted with this decision as I had started my dog walking and minding business, Pooch and Property Minder, having moved here from Sydney in 1998.

My girlfriend, Dianne and husband, Fred Elsom, have lived here for many years and Monty, their Heinz 57 Variety, became my practice dog. Monty would stay in his home, and I would walk him, but if Di and Fred went away for any length of time, Monty would jump the fence and find his way down from the top of Manly View Road and would be waiting outside my garage door. Fred took ages to find out how Monty was getting out.

One of my first clients was Jan and Ric Herbert with their blue heeler, Patch. I walked with Jan on the beach one day and she told me that when they moved up permanently, she would have me walk Patch. I looked after Patch until he died many years later. Patch was uncanny for remembering where he could find something to eat on the beach or road. I would realise before he did, that there was something he would want to scavenge and pull him away but the next day, if we went the same way, he would get to it first. I never managed to outsmart him.

My longest client was Chelsea, a Basenji. I was introduced to her by her owner, Bernie Sheehan, at the Killcare Store. Foolishly, I patted Chelsea on the head (something you do not do to the breed) and was rewarded with her chomping on my hand – no damage done and she became part of the Lewis family. I looked after Chelsea for eight years, until her untimely death in 2008, due to a rare disease called Fanconi, which required a huge amount of supplements and pills each day until finally her system shut down.

You either loved or hated Chelsea as she had quite a reputation for attacking other dogs.

When little Twiggy the Whippet came on the scene, her owner Fiona Atkinson and I used to scream at Chelsea if she went anywhere near Twiggy, until finally Chelsea gave up and ignored Twiggy.



Chelsea (foreground) in quieter times on the Lewis couch with friends, Clancy & Steffie.

Lauren the Shepherd and Chelsea never got on. Lauren attacked Chelsea twice over a ball – Lauren is fixated with balls. When Chelsea got the ball she didn't know what to do with it, but Lauren wanted it back.

One day, a long time after these attacks, I was walking Lauren; Bernie had Chelsea. Dusty LuLu, Quentin and Carolyn Munro's Staffy, came on the scene and tried to take Lauren's ball away. During the dustup between Dusty and Lauren, Chelsea saw a 'window of opportunity' and latched onto Lauren's back, hanging on for grim death, doing a huge amount of damage – pay back was sweet.

Twiggy, the Whippet, could outrun anything and everything. If your dog needed exercise, Twiggy was the dog to do it and boy can she run down a ball. It was great to see Fiona riding her push bike to the beach with Twiggy attached and running along beside her.

Twiggy has a sister now, Callie, a gorgeous German Shorthaired Pointer who is learning the ropes very quickly. She cannot outrun Twiggy, but she has been outsmarting her by waiting a distance away for the ball to be thrown and then she gets a head-start and beats Twiggy to it. Twiggy just walks up to her, glares and then takes the ball out of Callie's mouth. Callie just trots back alongside Twiggy – Callie has a very happy personality.



Twiggy with friends Clancy and Steffie

The first time I met John Bell and Steffie the Staffy, was on the walkway down to the beach. My girlfriend was visiting me with four of her dogs, one of which was very possessive of his little brood and pounced on Steffie. There was a bit of a scuffle and everyone apologized to each other, as we doggy people do, but all was well. Steffie was one of the favourite dogs that Mum and I cared for. She and Clancy, my little guy, were the best of mates. Anna Bell used to deliver Steffie to us, with a dilly bag full of each night's meal and Steffie would bark as she got to the front door to tell us she was there. Steffie wasn't at all perturbed when Anna left. Steffie loved the beach and would make straight for the biggest lump of wood she could find, sometimes one I could hardly lift, let alone throw, and stand and bark for you to throw it in the surf. She could do this time after time, until I decided we would have a walk. She would follow for a short while, then sit and wait for me to get to the end of the doggy area and come back for her, unless someone else walked past with a dog and then she would happily trot along beside this other person until she met up with me.

Lauren must be the luckiest rescue dog ever – having been adopted by Karen and Paul Nelson, who are doting parents. When they go away, they now leave her with 'Auntie' Pat in Beach Road and there is a phone call at least once a day to check that 'Lollie' is okay. Lauren has mellowed with age and is quite happy to wander along the beach finding sticks for you to throw and chasing those pesky seagulls that will inhabit her area.

If I get tired of throwing the stick, she just takes it up to someone else on the beach and drops it on that person's foot.

Banjo became another one of my favourites. I met Jennifer Poole, his owner, at the Wagstaffe shop one day and she asked me if I would look after him. I said I was not having any more dogs in my home but decided to have a look at him. He was curled up on the front passenger's seat and looked such a darling, so I gave in. Banjo was very possessive of me and my car and would bark at any dog that tried to come near. Jennifer has put a lot of time and effort training to Banjo not to be possessive and he has rewarded us with love and total affection.

I met Lee and Chris Casey and their two dogs, Sisi, a full Basenji and Ginger. Sisi has mellowed with age, but when I first met him, he was a handful. When I was house sitting, Lee told me that Sisi would probably come and tap on the bedroom window around 6am in the morning, but to just ignore him. The first morning he started banging on the window at 1am. I tried to ignore him, but he would just go away and come back a few minutes later. In the end I let him in, and he jumped on the bed, making himself comfortable for the rest of the night. If I got up to go to the bathroom, he would growl at me when I tried to get back into bed. He was told in no uncertain terms that this was my bed, and he was sharing it with me or he was out. We got on fine after that and he spent the next two weeks sleeping on the bed, a habit Lee had to break when he got home. Basenjis are really a very unusual breed and not for the faint hearted.

There are so many gorgeous dogs that I have walked and looked after over the 10 years I have run Pooch and Property Minder.

Nala, Wendy Best's beautiful Belgian Shepherd; Ella, the German Shorthaired Pointer owned by Robert Drewe, the writer; Bounce, Margaret Forster's god-dog, a gorgeous Border Collie, who smiles at you; Louis, Pam and Bill's Standard Poodle and Gus owned by Bill Leak the artist.

Keron from Wagstaffe shop owned Missy, a little Maltese, that I used to bath and Doormat, the Shepherd, I took for grooming – both gone to doggie heaven.

Spunky, Jo and Brian Lizotte's dear little dog, gets out occasionally and comes down to my house for me to take him back home.

Bones, a huge Great Dane, (now in doggie heaven) could have stepped over his front fence (it was so low) but waited for me to open the gate and then in one step got into the Volvo I used to drive.

I remember Tiger, Helena and Steve's gorgeous dog; Shadow and then Cleo the cattle dog; Debbie and John's Staffy and Wilson, who used to live opposite Chelsea and has now gone to live in Sydney.

The list goes on: Ruby the Doberman, Bella and Morris, two cute Schnauzers; Toby and TC, Chop Chop and Paddy, Copper and Scully, Thomas Wong, Madison, Micro, Bill, Carlton, Kelly and Archie, Jake, Bobbie, Callan, Pepper and Czar, Toby, Ebony, Wombi, Barney, Zach and Esher, Wavey and Cedar, Sebastian, Zip, Zoe, Chloe, Sally & Roxy, Milo, Lucky, Jack, Rosie, Pearl, Dozer, Sophie, Chloe & Timmy, George & Buster, Zach, Casper, Rebel, Rebel, Trek, Cara and Trigger, Dasha, Jake, EJ and Scruffy, Bess, Megs, Buffy and Jesse, Polly and Meggies, Java and Praline, Doogie, Ling Ling and Bolly, Zetti, Boz and Bonnie – forgive me if I have missed anyone.

They have ranged from small in size through to the two largest, Bones the Great Dane and Zetti the Newfoundlander – all with their own interesting personalities – all of them loveable in their own way – always a delight to be with. Their owners have employed me for two reasons: either because they worked and wanted their animals cared for or when they went away on holidays for weekends or for longer and didn't want to leave their best friends in a kennel.

There have been a number of cats in my menagerie such as Daisy and Fergus, owned by Carol and Sue in Hardys Bay. They are often at the door when I arrive, and love being groomed. Waddles has been adopted by Mary McDonald at Killcare Heights and now lives the life of Riley.

Dogs and cats are not my only charges. I was entrusted with a duck and a chook, belonging to Kate and Ross Consterdine. The two were allowed out during the day and in the afternoon, I would have a devil of a time getting them back into their pen, so the fox couldn't get them at night. After two weeks of managing to keep them safe, the owners came home to find that the chook had stuck its head through the chicken wire and the fox had bitten it off.

Many other dogs have touched my life, but the one I had for such a short time, was a doggie from heaven, my own little Clancy. He was one year old when he came to me through my girlfriend in Sydney who rescued for Monika's Doggie Rescue. He was to have been adopted by someone else who only had him for an afternoon but said he didn't get on with the cat. Mum and I fell in love with Clancy and he was to spend five of his six short years with us. Everyone adored him and he and I adored each other. Clancy got on with all my little charges, including Chelsea. When Chelsea and Clancy first met, we took the two of them for a walk and Chelsea immediately put her jaws around Clancy's neck, to the horror of her owner, Bernie. I said, 'she didn't hurt him because he didn't cry' and she said 'no, he didn't cry because he couldn't breathe!' They became the best of friends. Unfortunately, Clancy was allergic to bee stings and the second sting killed him.

After ten years of dog walking, animal minding and looking after properties, I considered selling the business, but I was lucky enough to find Moyna, a dog lover, and a person who thoroughly understands animals. She now helps me out so my Pooch and Property Minder business should flourish for a number of years to come and continue to be part of our history.



Dianne with her beloved Clancy

The following stories of local events have been put together by David Dufty who was a keen participant in each of them.

Melbourne Cup Gatherings

The events are much anticipated, and John and Hildegard Anstice have been most generous in hosting a number of these over the years, including some well hatted gatherings, such as that pictured below in 1998. The RSL Club also has lively gatherings on cup day.



Monthly Barbecues

Up to 60 people gather at the barbecue area at the National Park end of Putty Beach on the last Friday of every month. It's a great place to bring new residents and visitors from overseas. Everyone is welcome to turn up at lunch-time during the winter and in the late afternoon during daylight-saving time.



Summer Solstice

For years some people have informally gathered at the National Park end of Putty Beach for lazing and swimming on warm, sunny daylight-saving afternoons. But of special note are the summer solstice gatherings initiated by our small local European community, especially those of German origin. Carols are sung and occasionally drums played. David Dufty's harmonica assists in getting carols like 'Stille nacht, heilige nacht' off on the right note.



Music Groups

Here is the story of one of two informal music groups that have met for many years to listen to music and also on occasions to make music individually or together. The group below includes Paul Edgar, a fine accompanist and Noel Melvin, leading Australian Basso, second and third from the left. This group has over 100 programs of their music nights in their archives, which range through classical, musicals, jazz, folk, world music and some contemporary popular music. David Dufty begins the story and Anne Bowe and Jeannette Thiering continue it.



MUSIC NIGHTS

Ann Bowe and Jeannette Theiring

In 1990 a group of musical enthusiasts in the Killcare area decided to gather together once a month at one of their homes to enjoy a selection of music from their hosts. The original people were David and Helen Dufty, Jean and Noel Melvin, Paul and Miriam Edgar, Jeannette and Ian Thiering, Daphne and Peter Montague, Judy and Otto Adderley and Margaret and Peter Colville. These were soon added to by Ann and David Bowe and Gordon and Margaret Trickett. The hosts planned the menu and asked the others to contribute a dish.

Each programme varied. Some were thematic while others had unrelated music. Mostly each segment lasted about 45 minutes whilst occasionally only one item was featured, such as a Bach organ piece, chosen by Paul. The themes included African music from Margaret and Peter who had lived in Zimbabwe and intercultural music from a wide variety of countries from David and Helen, who had travelled widely in Asia and the Pacific.

Sometimes the program included live items, such as David on his many and varied instruments and Paul on the organ. Noel Melvin, with his hearty baritone, often contributed solos from his extensive repertoire. Singing and dancing of participants was also appreciated, so that budding but shaky sopranos, tenors and rappers are part of the fun.

Some of the early participants, such as Joan Greenwood and Noel Melvin, have died and some have moved away. Miriam and Paul now come from their cottage in the Alloura Waters, the retirement village at Davistown, and Noel Jordan from Sydney who along with Ann and Mike Chitty are relative newcomers.

The nights continue to be held. Often the hosts are obliged to act as schoolteachers in order to cut short the conversation and get on with the programme. Otherwise, we would be there until midnight!

Although the membership will change it is likely that music night will continue into the future in the Bouddi area.

Some examples of the programs follow.



Jean and Joan present some  **DOUBLE**  **DELIGHTS**

13th August, 2005.

Drinks and Nibbles

Introduction:	Noel Melvin
Some Enchanted Evening	Noel Melvin
Can't Help Lovin' That Man of Mine	Joan Allan
Songs My Mother Taught Me	Joan and Noel
Mine Alone	Joan and Noel
Shennandoah	Noel & Studio Chorus
Fair Though The Rose	Noel & Studio
Judges Song	Noel & Studio
Toreador Song	Noel & Studio

Soup

Bach: Concerto for 2 Violins - Largo

Leipzig Symphony

Vivaldi: Concerto for trumpet & violin

3 movements

Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Harp -

Andantino

London Symphony Orchestra



Maurice Andre trumpet

Iona Brown violin

James Galway flute

Fritz Helmis harp

Mains

Rossini: Buffo de Due Catti (Cat's Duet) Victoria de Los Angeles,

Elizabeth Schwarzkopf & Gerald Moore piano

Anne Boyd: Goldfish Through Summer

Marshall McGuire harp

Rain

Riley Lee shakuhachi

James Scott Singer: Bouglie's Plaid

Alisdair Fraser fiddle

Paul Machlis synthesizer

Mozart: Sonata for 2 Pianos

Ingrid Haebler

Allegro can Spirito

Ludwig Hoffman

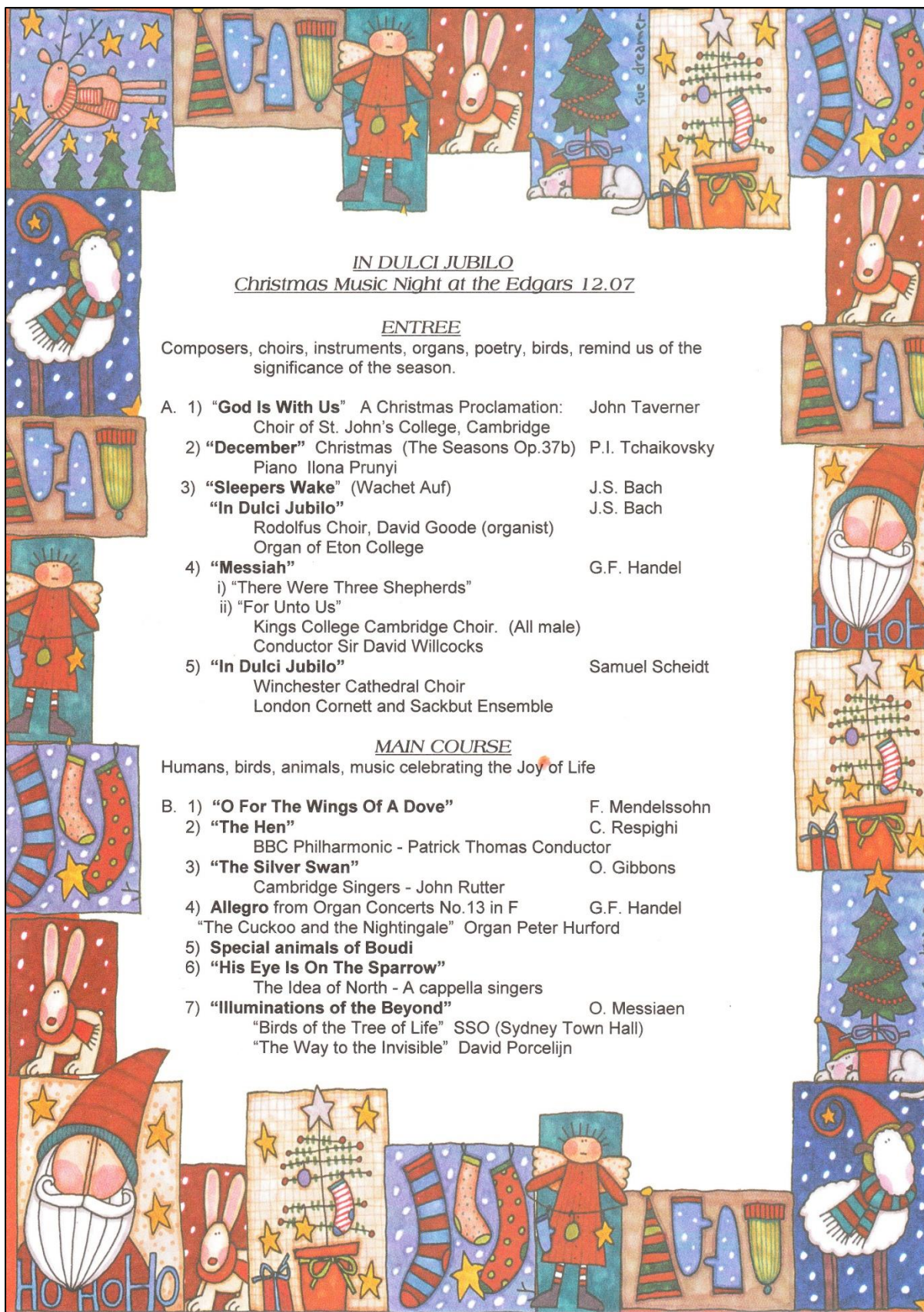


Desserts

Tea - Coffee - Chocolates

Enjoy! Enjoy!!





ENTREE

- | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------|
| A. 1) | "God Is With Us" A Christmas Proclamation:
Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge | John Taverner |
| 2) | "December" Christmas (The Seasons Op.37b)
Piano Ilona Prunyi | P.I. Tchaikovsky |
| 3) | "Sleepers Wake" (Wachet Auf)
"In Dulci Jubilo"
Rodolfus Choir, David Goode (organist)
Organ of Eton College | J.S. Bach
J.S. Bach |
| 4) | "Messiah"
i) "There Were Three Shepherds"
ii) "For Unto Us"
Kings College Cambridge Choir. (All male)
Conductor Sir David Willcocks | G.F. Handel |
| 5) | "In Dulci Jubilo"
Winchester Cathedral Choir
London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble | Samuel Scheidt |

Humans, birds, animals, music celebrating the Joy of Life



DESSERT

A Christmas potpourri

- C. 1) **"Song of Mary"** Magnificat 1st Movement J.S. Bach
Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque soloists
John Eliot-Gardiner
- 2) **"God Rest You Merry"** Tijuana Brass version
The Toreo Band
- 3) **"Shepherd's Dream"** Australian Christmas Robin Mann
- 4) **"In Dulci"** J.W. Bach
East German baroque organ built 1735
Trost organ - Altenburg
- 5) Two Spanish traditional carols
i) **"Riu, Riu, Chiu"** - The Sixteen
ii) **"El Pollo"** "The Hen"
Chorus of the Caja de San Fernando of Seville and Jerez
- 6) **"O Quam Mundum"** Anon
Choir of Helsinki Music Institut
- 7) **"Ding Dong Merrily On High"** Arr. D. Willcocks
King's College Choir, conductor D. Willcocks
- 8) **"Hark The Herald Angels"** Words C. Wesley
King's College Choir Music F. Mendelssohn
Descant Phillip Ledger
- 9) **"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"**
A Celebrity Singer



GOOD NIGHT !