



The Island News

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC
'The Central Coast's Island in the Sun'

PO BOX 247, ETTALONG BEACH 2257

MARCH 2005

New Committee to be Elected

Now is the time to stand for election or nominate someone who you think would be interested - nomination form is in this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

All residents are invited to attend the AGM in Peridon Village Hall, Empire Bay Drive, Empire Bay on Thursday March 10 2005 at 7.30pm. This is an open forum where all matters of interest to island residents can be discussed. The new committee will also be elected on the night.

A small plate of food would be appreciated to contribute to the supper, about 9pm after the meeting. If you would require a lift to the meeting please call Bob 4342 1061

THIS IS A NOTICE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO RESIDENTS OF ST HUBERTS ISLAND

"Maritime broadside sinks island moorings"

(Central Coast Express Advocate - December 17 2004)

Whilst the issues of pontoons and existing ramps have been satisfactorily resolved an impasse has been reached on the question of moorings. (Report inside Page 3)

**ATTEND THE AGM MEETING ON MARCH 10 TO HEAR
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON MOORINGS
AND VOICE YOUR OPINION**

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Moorings Banned - Residents should read carefully the attached report.

It has again been an honor to serve as President of the St Huberts Island Residents Association..

The committee this year has been larger than it has been in past years they have been a hard working band of dedicated residents with the betterment of the environment of St Huberts Island uppermost in their hearts.

Planning for the Entry Statement is moving along nicely and the committee is hopeful of some more tangible progress during the 2005/2006 year.

I Would have hoped that there would have been some positive progress on the matter of boating in the canals of the island but Gosford City Council true to form has provided more obstacles in that they are now planning on banning of moorings in the canals following the entry into the argument of Maritime NSW (previously Waterways Authority).

"St Huberts Day" island barbecue was again well attended and special thanks must go to all of the helpers and The Professionals Ettalong Beach and The Bendigo Bank for their support.

Clean Up Australia Day is scheduled for March 6 and I am sure there will be the dedicated few to do their bit for the island.

Several informal dinners organized by Bob and Heather Fahey were well attended with all members having a most enjoyable meal on every occasion.

The book "St Huberts Island 1788-2000 an Historical Account" is proving more and more to be a valuable reference document and copies are still available for those who have not already obtained their copy or for those requiring additional copies.

Our newsletter is a vital communication link with the residents of the island. The Honorary Editor Neville Smith is doing a magnificent job and residents will see a very professional publication. This newsletter could not exist with out the financial support of the local businesses who continue to advertise in the newsletter. The major events of the year also need financial support.

My thanks and the thanks of the committee go to all who support the newsletter and the special events of the year, the committee would find it difficult to operate without this very valuable support both in kind and financially.

Ron Spratt OAM
President
February 17, 2005

NOMINATION FOR THE ELECTION OF - PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT,
SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND FOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

✂

Person(s) Proposed.....
Position(s) Proposed.....
Signature of Nominee.....
Signature of Nominator.....
Signature of Seconder.....

NB All nominees and nominators must be paid-up members of the Association

INDIAN MYNA BIRDS

The committee has again been contacted by concerned residents as to the danger of the Indian Myna Bird nuisance on the island. Any resident with similar concerns and a willingness to join the action group to rid the island of the problem should contact either the President or the Secretary to record your interest.

DAMAGED KERB & GUTTERING

Your Committee is preparing a schedule of damaged kerb and guttering on the island particularly where the damage has been caused by the street trees. Any resident with such a problem should contact a committee member to ensure their damaged kerb and gutter is listed on the schedule.

Some kerb and guttering has had trees planted too close to it resulting in the root system growing to such an extent it has started lifting up the kerb and guttering and in some cases is starting to crack and break up the tar sealed road as well.

It would be a tragedy if someone tripped on some of these broken and dangerous gutters, falling and hurting themselves.

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The very popular wine glasses
and our History books are available
from our secretary, Bob Fahey .



A small number of books are available at just \$10.00 each. The book provides some fascinating photos and anecdotes and can be purchased from any of the Committee members of the Association or at the General Meeting on 10th March 2005.

CLEAN UP OF ISLAND BEACHES

With clean up Australia Day fast approaching I must congratulate all residents who do the clean up job of the island beaches at any time and not wait for the designated day each year. Beach clean up of St Huberts Island is an ongoing activity and I must reiterate the great work done by Rick Hodges of Gosford City Council Woy Woy Depot in the removing of bagged seaweed collected from the beaches of the Island. Residents who have bagged rubbish including sea weed should be able to give Rick Hodges a call to remove the material when he is next on the island. Many thanks Rick for this sterling effort.



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“Maritime bro... side sinks island moorings”

Gosord City Council at it's meeting December 14 2004 resolved to amend Development Control Plan (DCP0 145 (Mooring Facilities on St Huberts Island) and to seek public comment.

The main amendments to the DCP are:-

- * Removal of all reference to mooring:
- * Provide for a Positive Covenant in lieu of a Caveat where consent is issued for the installation of a pontoon:

The amendment to the plan where there is the removal of all reference to moorings is unacceptable in that it prohibits the installation of moorings in the canals an activity which the island residents have enjoyed for the thirty years of existence of St Huberts Island and this prohibition I believe will seriously devalue properties.

It is overdue for the Mayor and councillors to take serious action in this matter, and I call upon all residents of St Huberts Island particularly all residents of waterfront and canal front properties to thoroughly research this matter to unite and fight Gosford City Council to preserve the usage of the canals for boating purposely by the making of submissions to Gosford City Council on the proposed amendments to the DCP 145 prior to the closing date of 18th March 2005.

Owners of canal front properties have a right to use the waterway which adjoins their property as you have done since the island was developed. If you don't act now it will be too late and the benefit of the provision of a mooring will be lost for ever. Even if you are not a boatie person think of the value of your investment, the banning of moorings will seriously devalue your property.

From the residents surveyed in 1996 on the question “In your opinion, if moorings were not permitted, would your property value Dramatically decrease? Decrease? Not change? Increase? Dramatically increase? the most popular answer by far was that property values would either Dramatically Decrease or Decrease.

Canal front owners contribute 32% more in residential rates 2004/2005 to Gosford City Council.

Gosford City Council's Environmental Department have initiated this action to amend the plan after the closing time for submissions and it appears without public knowledge called for submission from NSW Maritime. From the history of the public debate on the boating facilities of the canals of St Huberts Island Waterways have not shown any interest in the matter over the past decade. One can only surmise how they came to be involved in the process well after the public debate was closed. But the activity has caused considerable heartache to your committee who have pursued the matter with the greatest of vigor over the past decade only to be taken out at the final hurdle from a player never seen before in the debate.

The submission now sought from NSW Maritime seems to be a deliberate obstruction to the wishes of the residents of the island and the finalisation of the approval of boating facilities on the waterways of St Huberts Island.



Clean - up Australia Day 2004

Some of our helpers from last year

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Clean up Australia Day will be held on the Island on Sunday 6th March 2005 between 9.00am and 12.00noon.

Muster point will be the bottom of the St Huberts Island bridge from 9.00am.

Come along and help clean up our lovely island.

Volunteers should wear sturdy footware, a hat, sunscreen and gloves.

TSUNAMI APPEAL

Pat DeCarie thanks the Islanders who supported the afternoon tea fundraiser and Bali jewellery sale.

Approximately \$900 was raised and donated to the Gosford Red Cross. Your generosity towards those who suffered this disaster is very much appreciated.

We also extend to Pat, the family and friends our sincere condolences on the unexpected death of a loved one.

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THEFT FROM BOATS

There have been several reports of theft from boats on boat ramps or in back yards. One motor was stolen, fishing rods, also petrol tanks. It is believed the thieves come in from the water at night. Take care of your property. Report incidents to our neighbourhood watch representative, Martin Wellington 4344 7250

RED CROSS

This year Red Cross Calling Appeal will be conducted during March as usual. All donations collected will be used in the local area. Extra "Door Knockers" would be appreciated. Please ring Doug Swinburn on 4341 5454.



MYNA BIRDS

These are pests. Please don't feed them. They carry infectious bacteria that may cause ear nose and throat problems as well as infectious bird lice.

This matter will be a topic at the general meeting on the 10th March.

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