

The Island News

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

'The Central Coast's Island In the Sun'

PO BOX 247, ETTALONG BEACH 2257

ST HUBERTS

DECEMBER 2003

Message From The President - Christmas 2003

I wish all residents, their families and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2003 has again been a busy year, your committee has worked tirelessly for the island and I commend them all for the effort they have put in.

The major project of the year has been the survey of island residents in respect to the proposed entry statement and other future projects. The comments made by residents have been documented and will be the basis for the direction of this and future committees. All residents are congratulated on the effort put into the answers.

It is unfortunate to report that Gosford City Council haven't progressed at all during the year in so far as boating in the waterways of the island or the maintenance of the canals. It seems that at each turn council staff put up another obstacle, this was again the case when I recently met with The Mayor but we keep on trying to get the matter resolved, hopefully soon.

Hoping to meet with a good gathering of residents socially at the meeting.

Ron Spratt OAM

Christmas General Meeting

Our popular Christmas meeting will be held on Thursday, 11th December at 7.30pm in Peridon Village Hall. Around 9pm there will be a small supper and a glass of cheer to celebrate the Christmas Season. If you would like a lift to the meeting please contact Bob on 4342 1061



Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Open Air Concert and Sausage Sizzle at Attunga Park

Saturday 13 December, 2003

(See insert inside newsletter)

Professionals

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23 Blackwall Road Woy Woy Ph: 4344 1511

305 West Street Umina Ph: 4341 2211

Island resident and sponsor of the St Hubert's Day Family Barbecue

Boating Safety

During the year to 31st October the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Central Coast Division provided assistance to 148 vessels which represents an increase of 27% on last year. Several of these vessels were owned by Island residents.

Of the 148 requests for assistance the vast majority were attributable to battery failure, fuel problems or mechanical failure, and this does not include those vessels that had to be retrieved due to damaged and or broken moorings.

As an active member of the Coastal Patrol I can only ask that with the boating season getting into full swing and the December holiday period ahead it is now an ideal time to give your boat a full check to ensure your fuel is not stale or contaminated, the battery is fully charged and all mechanical fittings, including wiring are in good order.

When putting to sea do not forget to let someone, e.g., the Coastal Patrol know where you are going and what time you expect to get back. In so doing if you do not return by the time nominated, action can then quickly be put in place to find you.

As regards broken or damaged moorings those who went to the Island Barbecue day would no doubt appreciate how quickly the weather can turn nasty. Obviously this same weather at sea is a nightmare, but for vessels moored it can test even the best of lines. So once again it would be a good idea to include a full check of your lines and the mooring regardless of whether the boat is being used or not.

Otherwise lets continue to enjoy this beautiful waterway on which we are all fortunate enough to have at our "doorstep".

Life jackets must now be worn

Crossing the surf bar between Broken Bay and Brisbane Water without a lifejacket could result in fines of up to **\$200**, according to NSW Minister for Transport Services, Mr. Michael Costa.

He recently announced new on the spot fines for persons failing to wear life jackets when crossing coastal surf bars.

Surf bars are areas where estuaries, streams and rivers run into the sea.

The new fine of **\$200** came into effect on **October 1**, under previous regulations, recreational boaters only needed to hold life jackets on their boats when crossing surf bars.

Island Dine Out

58 Islanders enjoyed dinner at the Ocean Beachfront Restaurant, Umina, on Wednesday 29th October.

New arrivals met longtime residents, made new friends and all shared a very happy occasion, the restaurant looked after us very well indeed.

Lets do it again in 2004

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St. Huberts Day Family BBQ, 2nd November 2003

Another great day was held by about 70 Island residents, family and friends at the Governor Phillip Memorial Reserve in Long Arm Pde to celebrate St Huberts Day.

Thanks to our sponsors, the Professionals Real Estate, the Bendigo Bank Ettalong, the Island Committee and volunteers for making the day a success.

Winner of the large Christmas hamper was Bill Scully while Katherine Levis (8 years old) and Karina Swan (7 years old) put us all to shame by winning the St Huberts Island quiz and thus custody of the coveted St Huberts Island plaque for a year.

The bbq finished prematurely with St Hubert throwing rain and hail at us mid afternoon.

Hopefully the weather will be a bit better next year.

Stop Press !!!!!

Gosford City Council in their usual style have sent out a letter dated 24 November 2003 which gives a total wrong message to the community. I must say emphatically that the brochure entitled "Protecting the Waterways and Foreshores of Brisbane Water" was not done with the cooperation of the community representatives of St Huberts Island. Your community representatives were opposed to the brochure from its inception because of its negativity and giving no direction to residents problems. There was no community input into the brochure which was developed by the various departments listed therein. The community representatives views were forwarded in writing to council and elected representatives. As usual the comments of the community representatives fell on deaf ears and now we are accused of cooperating in the brochure preparation.

Ron Spratt - President



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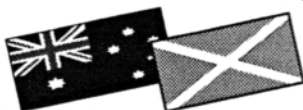
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