

The Island News

"The Central Coast's Island in the Sun"

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC
PO BOX 247, ETTALONG BEACH 2257

Website: sthubertsisland.nsw.au
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March 2024

Save
the
Date

- 2 March 2024 **Sunset Sips** from 5pm at Long Arm Park
- 7 March 2024 **AGM** at 7pm at Cove Hall – Be there...We need you!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Christmas events were a great success with many island residents joining the flotilla following Rod Wenzel's boat - Doctors Orders - around all the waterways of St Huberts Island with the Brisbane Waters Brass band belting out Christmas carols which were heard across the Island. It was great to see so many residents along the shoreline cheering on the band, with Santa Clause resplendent on the front of the boat wishing a Merry Christmas to all. Thanks Rod and Virginia for your constant support.

AGM: I cannot believe an entire year has gone since our last AGM. It has been an incredibly busy year, and I cannot thank the executive enough. After being elected last year, we itemised the jobs needed to be done and formed small committees to handle them. Brian Ireland, Rod Blake, and Helene Cornwell handled some highly successful events like Sunset Sips and Christmas in July, with this year's plans already underway. Michael Goss has revamped the web site with more exciting features to come. Wendy Mason, our Treasurer, has kept the finances on the rails and supported our raffles at events. David Creais' legal mind has been a tower of strength negotiating the organisation's government commitments and constitution, as well as being our Public Officer. He is always available for great advice. Susan Russell has been a great support to Margaret and the committee. Lindsey Edgar has been overseeing the Island Chit Chat, and Vishitha Dsouza has been setting out the island news ready for me to print. Vice president Ron Stapleton has been tirelessly pushing forward with Council on trials in our waterways. Secretary Margaret Doughman has been kept extremely busy with meeting agendas and supporting every committee's effort. I am grateful that all of the executive members have nominated for the next year at the AGM on the 7th of March.

Bridge works: As you are all aware, the bridge fencing is underway. From discussions with Council, I can outline the construction process and timeline. Due to Maritime service regulations, there will be four stages fencing half each side of the bridge at a time. During stages 1 and 2 pedestrian access will be by the existing pathway with few restrictions. During stages 3 and 4 on the southern side of the bridge, there will be no pedestrian access during construction working hours as the workers have harnesses attached to the median barriers for safety. Outside of working hours a temporary fence will be erected adjacent to the centre barriers allowing pedestrian access. Construction is scheduled to take around 16 weeks and, to date, it is on time. Should you have any concerns or queries during the construction stage regarding the barrier fence installation activities you can contact Adam Brown of XINC Engineering on 0499 704 641.

I have had a conversation with the Council about timing on the traffic signals and they should have been reduced in length by the time you read this newsletter.

Boaters should be careful to follow the signage and not pass under the construction area.

Kevin Hill OAM



Artist's impression of the completed fence

FROM THE SECRETARY

By now everyone will be aware of the illegal activities which took place on our Island on Monday 12 February. All felons were teenagers, and have since been apprehended. This is a timely reminder that although idyllic, St Huberts Island is not immune to crime.

There is much we as residents can do to prevent the loss of our valuables. As most modern cars cannot be started without having a key present, it is wise to always keep the keys in a separate place than in the garage with the car. It was noted by one committee member that keys should also not be left neatly hung on a key hook near a door as this is the first place a thief will look. Unfortunately, we must all be vigilant and keep doors and windows locked at night; and, if necessary, install some form of security lighting around the perimeter of the property if it is exposed. Care for your neighbours is also a deterrent and the vigilance of one resident was the reason the Police attended the base of the bridge so early in the commission of these crimes.

As a Committee, we will be making representations to Council for a security camera to be placed at the base of the bridge to capture number plates. This would be useful for Police to quickly locate those responsible for any future thefts of motor vehicles or the like. Also, in these representations, the Committee is going to include a request for a speed awareness indicator to be installed within the first block on Helmsman Boulevard as a reminder to drivers of the 50 kph speed limit.

Another subject which is timely to re-address is the responsible ownership of dogs. During committee discussions as to where to hold the next Sunset Sips, the use of Sunset Park had to be ruled out as dog owners allow their pets to use the mulched areas as toilets. Please, when walking your dog, take along plastic bags to collect droppings so that everyone can enjoy the use of the parks and walkways.

AUSTRALIA DAY ON THE ISLAND

Some very lucky Islanders braved the heat and headed to Marina Cove from where our resident Musician – Lance – provided a free concert from his deck. Although the start time was advertised in Chit Chat, it had to be delayed due to the extreme weather. Nonetheless, a St Huberts Island style completion to our National Day.

Margaret Doughman



AROUND THE CANALS

Trial work on the canal maintenance has been slow and disappointing - the western corner of Shelter Cove, at the corner of Cuttlefish and Mainsail, was the first trial to remove the polluted siltation from the two storm water outlets.

The machinery used was adapted to remove siltation and pump into a big sock for disposal. As this didn't work effectively, a small excavator was used in conjunction to satisfactorily complete the job. Thereafter and prior to Christmas, another two drains were cleared: one at the northern end of Shelter Cove; and the other at the eastern end of Sandy Cove.

We are currently waiting for a meeting with Senior Council Staff along with the relative department heads for approval to expedite the maintenance work. A more detailed presentation will be given at the AGM on the 7th of March. If you want to have your say, then come to the AGM.

Ron Stapleton



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Committee member **David Creais**, is a practising solicitor who is able to witness official documents, such as statutory declarations, and to certify copies of original documents.

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AGM NOTICE

THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 AT 7PM SHARP COVE HALL, EMPIRE BAY DRIVE, DALEYS POINT

The Cove Hall is just 100 meters away from the top of the St Huberts Island Bridge. Parking is available opposite in the shops' carpark. Refreshments will be provided after the meeting.

Come along to hear reports on the Canal Maintenance and the Bridge fencing. Your Committee is continuing in its efforts to effect good outcomes for all residents.



FISHOS CORNER

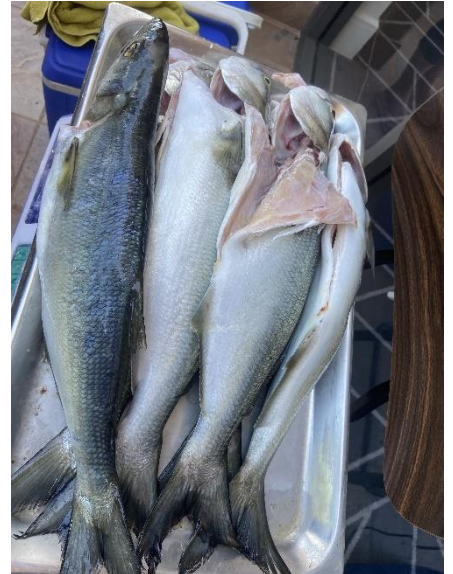
Outside the water has warmed with Flathead and Snapper still plentiful. Beaches are producing quality Whiting, Salmon, Taylor and those pesky darts. Inside is a bit hit and miss. The Rip Bridge as normal is producing reliable results with school Mulloway, Bream and Taylor being taken.

The photo was supplied by an Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club Member who weighed in a nice haul of quality Taylor.

Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club and Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club are always looking for active Fishos to join their clubs. For further details contact Ken, Nev or Richard via the St Huberts Island website.

If you have caught a fish or two lately and want to share with our readers, simply email your pics as well as details; where, when caught etc to secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au

Tight Lines – Ken



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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy to receive articles, ideas or suggestions for Island News. Information, articles or advertising copy can be sent to the Editor at secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au

The Island News is produced 3 monthly - March, June, September & December, and is delivered to all Island residents by letterbox in the first or second week of these months. Article deadline will be the start of the last full week of the preceding month and advertising one week before the article deadline.

DISCLAIMER: While the Editor and the Association accepts advertisements in good faith in this newsletter, we cannot provide any form of guarantee for the goods or services provided. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee.

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ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB

On The Island Book Club is now one year old. We have enjoyed some good books, had interesting discussions and have made new friendships over the past year. Our first meeting for 2024 was held in February. We chose to review two books at this meeting. Both books were well received and enjoyed by our members.



The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society written by Mary Ann Shaffer. The book has an unusual writing style in the form of letters from one character to another. Some readers took a while to adjust to this style of writing. It tells the story, post "Blitz", of a London based author, Miss Juliet Ashton, her good friend and publisher, Mr. Sidney Stark and a Mr. Dawsey Adams and his friends who are residents on the island of Guernsey which is situated in the English Channel. Guernsey was occupied by the Germans during World War II. Through a series of letters Juliet learns about the German occupation of Guernsey and the harsh rules, food requisitioning and subsequent food shortages inflicted on the island residents by the German authorities. These food shortages led to "a roasted pig dinner" and consumption of homemade gin. In an attempt to outwit the German's harsh rules, the "Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" is formed one dark night. As an author Juliet is intrigued and feels she would like to tell their story so she eventually goes to the island and "her life is turned upside down". A very moving story.! 10/10 from me.

The Dry written by Jane Harper, is an Australian crime fiction set in a small Victorian town "which has big secrets". The area is in severe drought. The reader can feel the heat and devastation as the story unfolds. A suspected murder/suicide occurs. The suspect is a childhood friend of Detective Aaron Falk from the Police Forensic Accounting Team who returns to his hometown to attend the funeral. Before leaving Melbourne Aaron receives a cryptic note saying "you lied! be at the funeral". He has no idea who it is from as the story unfolds we discover old grudges, old friendships, lost loves, issues of alcoholism and domestic violence which all add to the twists and turns of this suspenseful enjoyable story! 9/10 from me.

We now have a manageable number of members in the group. If anyone wants to read along with us the books we will be reading in the next three months are: *The Last Kingdom* by Bernard Cornwell; *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden; *The Chase* by Candice Fox.

Contact person is Carolynne Mucharsky 0404 238 884

Happy Reading!

Cheers Sandra Hall.

