

The Island News

"The Central Coast's Island in the Sun"

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC
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Email: secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au
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**December
2024**



- **13th December 2024** – RFS Santa Run OR the following Friday - Check <https://www.facebook.com/EmpireBayRFS> for updates
- **15th December 2024 @ 3pm** – A Forum on canal maintenance will be held on the easement - between 40 & 42 Helmsman Blvd – See Around the Canals Report for more information
- **23rd December 2024 @ 5pm** – Santa on the Water led by Rod Wenzel's party boat around the canals – see President's Report for details.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to the many residents who enjoyed St Huberts day in Long Arm Parade. (See the special report later in this issue.) Your Executive put in many hours to ensure the event went off without a hitch and I thank all who gave up their time, expertise and worked extremely well as a great team.

I am sure you noticed the 50 Km speed trailers in Helmsman Blvd. They are there in response to concerns expressed by many people of the excessive speed of some drivers along the boulevard, and reports are coming in that some drivers are slowing down. The signs will be there for a few weeks and then moved to another speed problem area. Evaluation after they are moved will determine when they will be redeployed here again, or council will undertake other measures.

The Peninsular Men's Shed at Maitland Bay Drive Ettalong has new machinery and is looking for new members. So, ladies, if you want your men out of the house, send them along Mondays and Thursdays where they can learn new skills or sharpen old ones whilst having a great time with good company.

Rod Wenzel's boat "Doctors Orders" is out of commission and Rod has chartered a "party boat" to accommodate the Brisbane Waters Brass Band for the annual Christmas Carols Cruise around our island. All boat owners are invited to take part in the following flotilla as he sails all waterways within the island. We thank Rod and Virginia for the massive support of the island community and the Band for their great music. The date is Monday, December 23rd at 5pm. Everyone wishing to join in the fun of the flotilla should assemble adjacent to Rod's pontoon in Marina Cove prior to 5pm.

By now most will be aware of the repeated attacks of vandalism to the bridge footpath railing. The SHIRA committee is very disappointed by these attacks which are now in the hands of Central Coast Council and the Police. Phone numbers to report any acts of vandalism are

- Brisbane Water District Water Police - 4323 5599
- Police Assistance Line – 131 444
- Central Coast Council Ranger (6am to 6pm) – 4306 7900

Finally, from my family to yours, I hope everyone on the island has a wonderful Christmas and happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Kevin Hill OAM

AROUND THE CANALS

The Central Coast Council contractor is contracted for eight days to clear all the drainage outlets prior to Christmas.

We have conducted several trials to clear the drainage outlets and restore sand back to the seawalls. We now have a good working relationship with Council, relevant management staff and the Council contractor (Australian Environmental Services), and we are all working on a four-year maintenance program to restore the island canals.

I will be holding an information forum for canal residents/members to show examples of different methods of restoring sand back to their seawalls and retaining it with sand or blue metal filled eco socks that will be included in the maintenance program.

The forum will be held on the easement between 40 and 42 Helmsman Blvd at 3pm Sunday 15th December.

Ron Stapleton – Vice President

Council Liaison Officer

SOLSTICE PARK

In September, six trees were poisoned in Solstice Park.

The two Tuckeroos which were planted on the park waterfront shortly after Council removed the old rusty playground equipment, were about ten years old. The four Callistemon (Bottle Brush) were planted along the brick wall at the side of the park.

The trees were framing not obstructing the view of the water.



The Council is extremely upset about this act of vandalism and has asked for anyone with any information concerning this poisoning to contact the Natural Environments Compliance Office at replytocouncil@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Council would particularly like anyone who witnessed the poisoning to contact Chistine Carlin so that prosecution of the offender can be initiated.

Helene Cornwell

Subcommittee for Parks and Trees

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.

To get a colour copy of the Island News visit sthubertsisland.nsw.au/island-news/

If you would like to receive a digital version of the Island News instead of the printed copy, please write to secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au

BITING MIDGE

With many new residents on the Island, and approaching Summer, it is timely to cover the Biting Midge.

This class of minuscule flies, known in Australia as biting midges are about the size of a pin head, and often go unobserved. Biting midges are the smallest of the blood-sucking flies with an average lifespan of between a few days and several months. Small though a biting midge may be, it often swarms with its peers to become a formidable pest.



Biting midges thrive in coastal habitats such that which we enjoy here on St Huberts Island. It is only the females that bite as they need blood to produce the next generation. The males feed on nectar. Victims are usually unaware of the fly's presence until it has already started to feed. The midge can inflict a bite that swells, blisters, or weeps with clear discharge. A bite can cause acute discomfort and irritation and, if scratched excessively and exposed to bacteria, it may become infected. In few cases bites may trigger an allergic reaction. Biting midges are not known to transmit any disease-causing pathogens to humans in Australia.

The University of Sydney tells us there are no known efficient methods of controlling biting midges, but personal protection will help in reducing exposure to their bites. Actively avoiding midge-infested sites serves practical as well as the use of an effective DEET repellent. However, a product called Surefire Mosquito & Midge Slayer, available from Coastal Rural Traders at Ourimbah, gives protection to an area when used as directed.

Treating and preventing midge bites

If you are bitten by a biting midge, it's important to treat the bite promptly. Follow these basic first aid steps:

- Apply a cold compress, such as an ice pack or a damp cloth, to the bite area to relieve any burning sensation. You can also use a Mentholatum rub or apply Eurax cream for added relief.
- Take an antihistamine to reduce swelling and itching.
- Avoid scratching the bite to prevent further irritation.
- If you notice any signs of an allergic reaction, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Australia Wide First Aid recommends taking the following precautions:

- Avoid going outdoors at dawn or at dusk, as midge bites occur most frequently during these periods in the day.
- Don't go about watering your plants at sunset, as the midges may be lurking under the cool and humid shade of your trees.
- Don protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts with collars, trousers, and closed-toed shoes with socks when you go out in the early morning or late evening.
- Apply insect repellent formulated with 15% to 20% diethyltoluamide (DEET), focusing on sensitive areas such as your scalp, neck, and ankles. This will ward off midges as well as mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting bugs.
- Make sure you have good air circulation indoors; a competent ceiling or pedestal fan will suffice. Midges dislike the strong breeze and will stay away from it.

Margaret Doughman – Secretary

We are pleased to welcome two new advertisers who are also residents –

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2. Ocean Beach Electrical.

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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. David offers this as a free service to Island residents. Text David on **0419 169 889** to make an appointment.

Christmas gift ideas!



Caps - \$20
 Beer Cooler - \$6 / \$20 for 4
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FISHOS CORNER

Time to drop a line before the tourists arrive for Christmas!

The water has warmed to 21 degrees outside and snapper, pearlies, trags and flathead are plentiful. This time of the year it is a cracking time to catch a bit of everything inside. Blue swimmer crabs are in abundance in the Brisbane Water as well as flathead and bream. The Rip bridge area continues to be a hot spot with some big jewies being caught there. The beaches are producing bream, whiting and flatheads in the gutters with tailor, and salmon travelling through during low light periods. Big beach jewies will be on the cards from this month as well.

Today's photo is of six big mud crabs, the largest 2kg, caught by a member of Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club in the mangroves at Woy Woy.



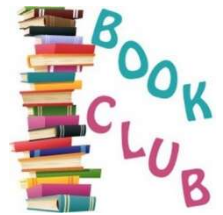
Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club and Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club are always looking for active fishos to join their clubs. For further details contact Ken, Nev or Richard via the St Huberts Island website.

If you have caught a fish or two lately and want to share it with our readers, simply email your pics as well as details; where, when caught etc to the Editor Island News.

Tight Lines Ken

ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB

Our latest book was **A Higher Call** by Adam Makos with Larry Alexander. Our Book Clubber Sandra Hall noted that "most members voiced their surprise at their reaction to a war book (WWII). Once they made headway into the book and 'met' the players most said they wanted to keep reading. A remarkable story of heroism, patriotism and overall chivalry and as stated in the book 'a higher call is a tribute to the power of resilience of the human spirit' against all odds and adversity of war. It was so heartwarming to read of Franz (a German Ace pilot) and Charlie (An American Ace pilot) and some of the surviving crew of 'Ye Old Pub' (their aeroplane bomber) meeting up with their descendants who would not have existed if not for Franz Stigler's decision to follow a 'pilots code of honour'. That is: - a pilot must honour the rules of chivalry that Knights followed - not to finish off an opponent when you could see they were all but destroyed."



We also read **The Elephant Whisperer - My Life with the Herd in the African Wild** by Lawrence Anthony and Graham Spence. A truly lovely read. If you love animals, especially elephants, you will enjoy this book. Lawrence sets up Thula Thula, a wildlife refuge and accepts a family of rogue elephants which were about to be euthanized. The story of the herd's rehabilitation, getting them to accept their new home and trust at least one human being was uplifting.

Our third book for this quarter was **Charlie Anderson's Theory of Lying** by Richard McHugh. The book could be confronting at times although most of us have met and known a person just like Charlie. He knew he was a good liar and was proud of his success at everything. Then things went wrong especially when he noticed his daughters maturing. Some of his outbursts/behaviours cost him dearly. Apart from being a liar, he was also a philanderer with the morals of an alley cat. Need I say more! I think you will just have to read this one for yourself to see how you feel about the story. Worth the read.

Merry Christmas, Cheers and Happy Reading,

Carolynne Mucharsky

ST HUBERTS DAY – 3rd November 2024

A wonderful day was enjoyed by over one hundred and fifty residents plus their family members. Huge congratulations must go to our Events Committee - Brian Ireland, Ron Stapleton, and Helene Cornwell for making this such a success. Thank you to our major sponsor – Raine and Horne Ettalong Beach, and to our Treasurer Wendy Mason for organising major donations from Ettalong Diggers, Gosford RSL, Everglades Country Club and Ettalong Pharmacy, as well as private donations for the raffles. Not to mention our Committee Member for Membership Naomi Warren for manning the Welcome Table with Helene and checking off/renewing memberships upon everyone's arrival.

This celebration was the first after the Covid hiatus as well as being the first for this Committee and it makes us glad to see so many of you enjoying the company of your neighbours, the live music of Faded Genes with our very own Lance Rice, wine and cheese tastings from Empire Bay Cellars and Empire Bay Deli, the barbecued appetisers hand made by Ron Stapleton, as well as the wonderful barbecue lunch Ron and Brian cooked to perfection and served with handmade salad.

Congratulations to all those who were lucky to win in the Raffles, as well as the Redrup team which won the Trivia and will be the first shield engraved on the new trophy. Please see website for more photos taken from the day.

Margaret Doughman – Secretary



COMMUNITY NEWS

An update from East Ward Councillor Jared Wright

The second term of the amalgamated Central Coast Council has been off to a busy start. Like many of you, I am glad to see that our region once again has elected representatives at a council level who can fight for us and champion the issues that matter both broadly and within our respective communities.

Over the past six weeks, councillors have been through around one hundred hours of inductions and training which covers everything from financial statements through to our public toilet strategy. Dredging has been a hot topic, and I can assure you that it is being investigated across multiple avenues both within Council and in partnership with other levels of government.

I have already had the pleasure of meeting with members of the St Huberts Island Association, and I look forward to keeping an open dialogue with all of you, to ensure that I can provide a voice for the area and the unique needs that you have. With that in mind, should you ever have any issues or ideas to share with me, please do not hesitate to reach out and start a conversation.



VANDALISM

The following correspondence received from Council on 1 December 2024.

Central Coast Council is disappointed that the new fence at St Hubert Island Bridge has become a target for vandalism. Council is working closely with the Police to identify the individuals responsible and to ensure appropriate action is taken against them for damaging public infrastructure.

This fencing is in place to protect community members, and Council is exploring additional measures to ensure public safety and prevent further opportunities for damage. Council will keep the residents informed through active communication with the Local Resident Association.

Council also encourages residents who witness any anti-social behaviour near the bridge to contact the local police.

SUNSET SIPS – Details in next newsletter.

The last Sunset Sips of the summer will be held in March 2025.



MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already joined/renewed, a reminder as the Association represents ALL Island residents in all major and minor issues that arise. We also bring ALL residents together with a range of social events with the objective of contributing to the well-being of the community.

Contact secretary@sthubertisland.nsw.au for more details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held once again in March at the Cove Hall. Details will be announced in the March edition of The Island News.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting, and you are reminded that Cove Hall is now a non-smoking zone.

STAY SAFE

In this busy time of Christmas and New Year, let's prioritise safety and well-being for ourselves and those around us.

- A reminder to stay safe on the roads and in our waterways
- Be cautious with decorations: Keep lights and candles away from flammable materials, and turn them off before bed or when leaving the house
- Watch out for fire hazards: If using a real tree, water it daily, and keep it away from heat sources
- Protect your home: Lock doors and windows when you're out and about, and avoid leaving valuables in plain sight.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, happy, and peaceful Christmas season!

Merry
Christmas