

Q. Paul Axom

What are the resources for monitoring?

A. Warren Brown

Sediment Monitoring and acid sulphate soils which have now been found to be clear and beaches.

Q. Susan Russell

Updated time for the DCP plan and the results. We need a time as we have documents from 1999. We need a timeline, 2017 document spoken of and, more recently, the motion from December 2025.

A. Warren Brown

He did not know and would get back to us. Council wants to fix all controls on all catchments.

Q. Michael Goss

If residents can beautify their nature strips, why can they not beautify and maintain their beachfronts.

A. Warren Brown

Level of detail must be looked at. Presently waterfronts are treated differently.

As there were no more questions from the floor, Kevin thanked Warren Brown for his presentation and for everything he is trying to do for residents.

4. **Kevin introduced Councillor Jared Wright**

Ron advised that Adam Crouch was also invited to attend tonight but it is a sitting session for Parliament. Adam Crouch has put forward a motion regarding e-bikes which has been uploaded to the website.

Jared Wright gave an overview of his duties in Council and especially as Chair of Governance and Finance Committee.

Jared commended the Kevin and Ron – the President and Vice-President - team. He has had eight regular meetings, sometimes there is criticism and often succinct. As your Representative in Council, it is my job to take away what is discussed and prosecute the case for feedback.

To touch on the budget. Tuesday night session set a draft budget for a six-to-eight-week trial, what we can and cannot get into budget. This is the second budget of the elected council. Costings landed on what is sustainable. Signage is important to residents as well as pride in the suburbs and what is the investment. Playgrounds, sporting areas must be mown in summer, and one million dollars are expended in two-month cycles. For roads, three million dollars will be spent on potholes and more into roads capital works. Roads on the Island are good. One billion dollars will be spent on works and services for the three hundred and fifty thousand residents in the LGA. Council is moving in the right direction.

The last three weeks followed a hard four-to-six weeks of consultation to look at what the budget does. This will be posted on the Central Coast Council website so check your area and give feedback. The previous council had a ninety-four-million-dollar deficit. We, as the first council following administration, have posted a surplus of eleven point two million dollars. Council runs water and sewerage operations. Operations had a surplus and it was a conscious decision to raise that surplus as sound financial management is required in times of crisis. Five million dollars are spent on diesel each year so when fuel prices increase this is a massive hit.

Kevin called for questions

Q. Paul Axom

Emergency funds?

A. Jared Wright

Emergency funds were kept longer as there were no interest rate rises through Covid which was basically money for free. Loans taken when Council came out of administration were at 4.2% interest, so it was decided to pay off debt from two hundred and fifty million dollars of cash invested.

Q. Ron Stapleton

When talking about investment funds, are our restricted funds in invested funds?

A. Jared Wright

Yes, everything is in invested funds.

Q. Susan Russell

Is that why we are restricted to \$35,000 per year as we cannot get any more?

A. Jared Wright

The St Huberts fund is accessible in the Conservation Fund, and all interest therefrom goes back into the Conservation Fund. Any fees from pontoons or jetties as in Long Jetty, go into general funds.

Q. Ron Stapleton

Long Jetty is not a Council owned canal waterway.

A. Jared Wright

We need to look at how to activate these funds. You have documents dating back to 1999 and we have the money. It is the same as Davistown where residents sought to renew wetlands.

It was decided last year to have a plan of works for St Huberts Island which is currently in process. What is in the budget was \$35,000 per year. I took it to my Councillors that \$35,000 was not going to make any difference and that \$100,000 was needed to include a boat ramp with a contractor to do the work. They came back with \$50,000. What is needed is a clear show of public support in June for the Council to reconsider updating the amount. It cannot be achieved alone, and we need everyone on the island to say increasing funding is a priority. Go online and I will pass on the information that this goes back to 1999.

Q. Margaret Doughman

Pointed out that the Council website is difficult to navigate and that in the Island quarterly newsletters, web addresses are included for ease of use.

A. Jared Wright

I will provide the link for submissions and page references which relate to SHI. If we need to build a ten-year plan, then \$35,000 cannot do too much.

Q. Why does not Council return the interest on our money to the restricted funds.

A. Jared Wright

The Local Government Act has moved away from restricted funds. Council believes that if you pay money it should go to the broader LGA.

Q. Special levies?

A. Jared Wright

Special levies paid do not always go back into that community. However, if you are paying for it, it should go back into that community.

Q. Paul Axom

Restricted Funds?

A. Jared Wright

I have sought to have a ten-year plan of works to use the restricted funds. I could not get the funds to be unrestricted and kept for a rainy day, so that process is underway.

An example is Davistown; public wetlands were sold to a private entity many years ago with the provision they go back to the community. As the residents could not re-acquire the wetland, the Association there submitted a one-hundred-page document to Council requesting maintenance of the wetlands. Council has responded with transparency where changes to plans can be made as needed. On St Huberts, a four-to-ten-year plan is required so residents can see exactly what is being done. More money needs to be allocated.

Q. Ron Stapleton

St Huberts Island was developed in the 1970's and is unique in that sea walls were approved with sand to be in front and landfill behind to keep the structure stable. From 1999 documents I have provided to you, Council is responsible for waterways, so Council is responsible for sand to sea walls. Council has come back that residents are responsible for their sea walls; however, from a Gosford City Council document, it is stated that all sand movements must be monitored by a qualified consultant and dredged to restore design and to a minimum depth for boating in such drainage reserves, including sand nourishment and erosion.

(I will have this document uploaded to the website)

It continues that funds collected from properties and interest therefrom are to be used exclusively for maintenance and supplementary fees collected by Council to be used as allocated by the Council.

It goes on - Responsibility of Council – so it is clear and simple.

When the budget comes out in June, the Contractor needs to upgrade and improve his machinery to be cost effective. The allocated \$35,000 will not give confidence to the contractor to upgrade.

The Association has had fifteen years of promises from Council. Rik Hart (Administrator) made improvements, but there is a need for an additional \$65,000 – to make \$100,000 per annum for two years.

I refer to a meeting held at my place with the three directors and Warren Brown, and they said the same thing. So, we are not going to be waiting until June to make another submission. \$100,000 per year will cover a lot of work and we will prioritise to maximise the benefits.

What we want is that Council goes back and in June allocates another \$65,000 or we will go to the Ombudsman. I will put that up as a motion to the meeting later. It costs nothing to go through the Ombudsman and Councils do not like the Ombudsman.

A. Jared Wright

If that motion passes, it gives me an opportunity for me to go to my Councillors and state this is what the residents want. It must come through the Councillors, not Council. I can take a loose agreement to the Councillors, but I cannot guarantee.

Q. Ron Stapleton

We need an undertaking that in the June budget this increase will be passed.

A. Jared Wright

I am agreeable to that.

Q. Ron Stapleton

Ron Stapleton after discussion from the floor, moved the following motion seconded by Susan Russell. The Chairman called for a show of hands and the motion was passed unanimously.

“It is vital to the environment of the canals system on St Huberts Island that reclamation of the storm water outlets and replenishment of the sand that has subsided into the channels back to the seawalls be undertaken urgently in order to maintain the integrity of the seawalls, the design of which was approved by the Council in the original development consent for the island that required sand on the canal side and land fill on the lot side to support them.”

Motions

- 1. That Council be requested to allocate from the restricted funds that are reserved solely for the maintenance of the St Huberts Island canals (as clearly stipulated in Council Report dated 19th January 1999 Ref DE.015 840.07.12 - Management of St Huberts Island Drainage Reserves Program: Environment) \$65,000 each year for the next two years to conduct restoration and maintenance works to the St Huberts Island canal system in addition to the \$35,000 allocated each year (as recommended by the Director of Environmental Management).*
- 2. That if this fair and reasonable request is not met by 25th April 2026 St Huberts Island Residents Association is to initiate a complaint to the NSW Ombudsman.”*

Q. Susan Russell

In April 2024, all administration fees went into general funds. Prior to that, administration fees stayed in the restricted funds.

A. Jared Wright

They are now in the Conservation Fund

Q. Susan Russell

At that time there was \$740,000 in restricted funds, so anything thereafter is in the Conservation Fund and when can we expect the four-to-ten-year plan?

A. Jared Wright

By end of June as far as I am aware.

With the bridge fence, Council has effected a temporary fix. In the cooler months, proper repairs will be commenced after the Easter school holidays.

Kevin raised the subject of security cameras on the bridge. Jared had no view either way as some people liked them, but others did not. If a community really wanted security cameras it is not an issue for me.

Q. Richard Carlyle

If there are cameras on the bridge, who keeps the footage? They would be recorded not live.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AGM 2026

I cannot believe another year has gone, and what a busy year it has been with the enormous amount of time and effort that has gone into the canal maintenance program. Also, the preparation for the quarterly newsletter is an ongoing task to provide up-to-date information to all residents and wonderfully edited by Vishitha D'Souza. It is also available on the website which is constantly updated by Michael Goss who has done a wonderful job in making the website usable and attractive for both computer and phone users.

EVENTS

All our events continue to be well supported.

Our tenth anniversary of Rod Wenzel's Doctors' Orders Christmas Carols Cruise around the island waterways, was again a huge success and was well appreciated by the many island residents who cheered from their waterfronts and public parks as the Brisbane Waters Brass Band played Christmas Carols with Santa (Richard Carlyle) waving up front. Once again, a flotilla of boats followed in convoy. Thanks to Rod and Virginia Wenzel whose support of the island residents is legendary.

The Christmas cruises started a few years prior when a cruiser navigated the canals playing Christmas carols, which I believe was a one-off event. However, it had Rod and Richard discussing the idea and they decided to se Rod's boat and invite a brass band on board. This was history in the making as the event has been held yearly ever since.

Mark your calendars now for the 23rd of December 2026 from 5 p.m. for this year's event.

Sunset Sips continues to be well supported thanks to Brian Ireland and Ron Stapleton on the barbecue, Wendy for raffles and Naomi with help from Susan Russell at the welcome desk. Particular thanks go to our Sponsor Raine and Horne.

Christmas in July moves from strength to strength with great food, a bar and prizes and camaraderie enjoyed by all. This is a very successful event and is always fully booked. Thanks to the organising of Brian, Wendy Mason and Margaret Doughman.

This year's event will be 25th July and plans are well underway.

Another great event was St Huberts Day in November as we all enjoyed great weather and friendly banter with friends, new and old, as we listened and danced to the music of our favourite island band "Faded Genes". Thanks to Lance and Steve for their performance. This was another successful day with many new families welcomed.

CANALS

After many committee meetings regarding the canal maintenance and just as much, often unanswered, correspondence to Council, in October 2025 I arranged a meeting with Ron and Jared Wright where we discussed the preparation of a Notice of Motion covering all the problems the Association had been addressing –

- Sand to sea walls
- Drains well maintained
- Licence fees to be returned to the Restricted Funds
- Restricted funds to be used for the purposes they were intended.

A Notice of Motion was prepared by Susan Russell with input from Ron Stapleton and formatted by David Creais. This was sent to Councillor Jared Wright, and an amended Notice of Motion has now been passed.

After a recent meeting with senior council officers, I, Ron and David decided that we need to clarify the use of restricted funds, as well as residents' rights to maintain sand to their sea walls. Ron will be addressing this issue in his Canal Report.

Pontoons are again causing some difficulties with intrusion into the canals. Recently, Development Application was rejected, and the applicant has taken Council to the Land and Environment Court. The Court arranged a mediation between Council, local residents and the applicant. The Association make a submission supporting Council's denial of approval. The Court's decision is still ongoing. Thanks to David for his (pro bono) assistance in the preparation of the required documentation.

Laptop

It was decided that the Association should purchase a laptop for use by various committee members so that all files would be available to everyone.

Susan Russell undertook this task and set up the new email address for use by the committee members, as well as fine tuning the filing systems into best practice.

The new system is working well.

Mobile Speed Cameras

These continue to be parked on Helmsman Boulevard, and the number of speeding complaints have decreased considerably.

Vandalism of Trees in Long Arm Park and Sunset Park

It is very disappointing that some residents take it upon themselves to remove or poison newly planted trees. These trees are supplied and planted by Council and any destruction does not place either the Island or the Association in very good light. It also could cause Council to reconsider any further requests for beautification of our island.

Vandalism on the Bridge

Although this continues to be an ongoing problem, the incidents are becoming less frequent. With residents taking pride in the maintenance of island infrastructure by reporting the dangerous and destructive behaviours, usually as it is happening, straight to the Police. This year there was one attempt, hardly damaging it and only one break and it was to the temporary repair in the bridge rail netting.

Committee

I thank all members of the Committee for their support and untiring efforts on behalf of our Island community. Each is assigned special tasks as follows:

- Ron Stapleton, Vice President, tireless commitment to canal maintenance
- David Creais, Public Officer and Legal Advisor
- Michael Goss, our Webmaster
- Brian Ireland, Events Subcommittee Chair
- Wendy Mason, Treasurer and Events

- Vishitha D'Souza, Editor, Social Media, and Tech Support
- Susan Russell, Special Projects
- Naomi Warren, Membership
- Margaret Doughman, Secretary

All committee members have renominated for the next year except for Margaret who will be retiring.

Thank Margaret and present gift.

Our thanks and gratitude to Sue Ralston who has nominated for Secretary. Sue comes with great experience and enthusiasm for the role.

Special thanks go to Helene Cornwall who, although retired from the committee, is continuing to represent the Island's trees and parks with the Council.

Next year will be our 50th anniversary and we will be celebrating.

St Huberts Island Residents Association

Mar 2025 to Feb 2026 Financial Report

The Association remains in a financially sound position with total assets of \$32888.69. This is comprised of Cash in Bank \$8940.85, Term Deposit \$22947.84, Shares \$400.0, Petty Cash \$100.00 and Stock \$500.00 est. We also have a new laptop which was bought at a cost of \$1356.80 and is not included in the above values.

ASSET	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	CHANGE
BANK ACCOUNT	10682.89	8940.85	-1742.04
TERM DEPOSIT	21899.07	22947.84	+1048.77
PETTY CASH	100.00	100.00	
SHARES	6800.00	400.00	-6400.00
STOCK	600.00	500.00	-100.00
TOTALS	40081.96	32888.69	-7193.27

The major changes/events during the year are detailed below, excluding the change in share valuation as we are now valuing them based on their current value on the market, in the past we only entered the cost value of the shares.

Major Expenditure

- Change in valuation of shares \$6400.00
- Insurance \$1534.71
- Functions (Sunset Sips, Xmas in July, St Huberts Day etc) \$1588.83
- Purchase Laptop \$1356.80
- Donations \$800.00 (Band St Huberts day, Band Xmas on the water)
- Newsletter \$919.08

- Dredging expenses \$685.00

Major Income

- Advertising in the Newsletter \$4160.00
- Membership \$1220.00

I would like to thank the sponsors for their continued support as well as the Island residents who continue to support the committee.

Wendy Mason

Treasurer SHIRA Inc

Overview:

- The Committee is hoping that the website will continue to provide useful information to the St Huberts Island resident community and provide a contact point for members of the community for feedback.
- It is a large site with many useful contributions over the years.
- One of my main goals has been to compact the site so that it is more easily navigated and more useable on smaller formats like mobile phones. Technically the website ‘backend’ is a little limiting, but adequate for our needs at present. In particular, it provides a comfortable space to edit and reconfigure the pages. Some ‘more current’ implementations are difficult to apply, but this is not a limiting issue for now.

Site statistics:

- Last year there were 21,125 visits, 14,193 unique visitors, 52,179 pages viewed and 367,259 hits, with around 30,000 hits per month. These figures are mildly increased on the previous year.
- The most common pages visited on the site seem to be contact form, maps, history, island news, community feedback and business directory pages.
- The most common downloads seem to be the Brisbane Waters Boating Map, the Island News, the document regarding suitable trees to plant on the Peninsula, documents regarding AIRBNB, the Association constitution and event reports.

The Island News:

- We continue to provide the Island News as a link on the Website. This provides a coloured version of course, and there are useful links that can be accessed from the online document.
- There is an archive available on the site where you should be able to view all the past Island News editions.

Community News and Updates:

- We have continued to use this page to post useful items of interest. We normally add the flyers for upcoming events to these posts. These posts provide more information for each item, which typically will be listed in the Events list on the website side panel (this panel is at the bottom of the page on a phone).
- There are about 20 posts on this page at present. You can look back to past posts to review previous items of interest.
- There is an option to click on a ‘ContactUs’ link that will take you to the feedback page if anyone wishes to provide the committee with feedback on any of these items.
- We will continue to use this page to provide useful information for the community.

Contact Us:

- Just a reminder that the ContactUs page can be accessed from the site main menu. This takes you to a simple form that posts directly to our Secretary. This is the best way to contact the Committee.

Business Directory:

- The business directory is operating well on the webpage. This was a complex addition to the web page but seems to be running well.
- The page provides a list of the current Island News advertisers. If you click on any of the entries you can view their Business Card that provides useful live links to items such as their website, social media pages and so on.
- If you are viewing on a phone, or other suitable device, the phone number is active and clicking on it will open the phone app so the business may be called directly.
- We will continue to review the feature with a view to improve its functionality as required.

Events and Reports:

- I have changed the format of this page slightly to speed up adding new items. Clicking on the items listed will take you to a pdf (page) with text and images.

Book Club:

- We have provided a page on the website for the book club. In addition to entries in the Island News the Book Club can provide more in depth comment on the book that is being presented. We look forward to this page developing as time goes by.

Social Media:

- The Facebook St Huberts Island Chit Chat site is not a SHIRA site. We do not own or have access to any content or moderation of the site. There is a St Huberts Island Residents Association Facebook page. We are currently taking steps to bring this site back under the control of the current Committee.
- I would like to say that unmoderated content on social media sites is rarely useful. Generally, it is toxic and socially irresponsible. Users grandstanding on these sites about their pet issue or their opinion on some topic is not helpful. People need to consider the impact that statements will have on readers and the implications that subsequent actions may have. Many of these posts are made simply to stir up feelings and produce reaction. However managing this aspect of social media sites is a difficult task. We will try to bring a more balanced approach on the SHIRA site once we have access.

Wrap up:

- Overall, the website seems to be functioning well and appears to be a useful asset for the Island Community.

DRAFT MOTIONS FOR THE SHIRA AGM

REQUEST TO CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

It is vital to the environment of the canals system on St Huberts Island that reclamation of the storm water outlets and replenishment of the sand that has subsided into the channels back to the seawalls be undertaken urgently in order to maintain the integrity of the seawalls, the design of which was approved by the Council in the original development consent for the island that required sand on the canal side and land fill on the lot side to support them.

Motions

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2. That if this fair and reasonable request is not met by 25th April, 2026 St Huberts Island Residents Association is to initiate a complaint to the NSW Ombudsman.

Election of Officers for the 2026/27 Year

The President invited **David Mason** to be the Retuning Officer and conduct the voting of the new Committee.

The Returning Officer advised there have been ten properly completed Nomination Forms received in accordance with the rules of the Association.

One position is vacant.

Re-Election for position of President

Kevin Hill

Re-Election for position of Vice President

Ron Stapleton

Re-Election for position of Treasurer

Wendy Mason

Election for position of Secretary

Nomination for Sue Ralston by Kevin Hill. Seconded Wendy Mason
Sue Ralston elected.

Re-Election for position of ordinary Committee Members

(6 positions available)

Fully completed Nomination Forms (with nominator and seconder completed) were submitted for the following persons:

- Brian Ireland
- Susan Russell
- David Creais
- Michael Goss
- Vishitha D'Silva
- Naomi Warren

These six members were re-elected.