



ST HUBERTS

The Island News

"The Central Coast's Island in the Sun"

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

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December
2025



Friday, 12 December 2025 – RFS Santa Run – around 4.30pm

Tuesday, 23 December 2025 – Santa on the Water – commencing at 5pm

Sunday, 22 February 2026 – Sunset Sips at Long Arm Park – Look out for the sign at the Bridge closer to date

Thursday, 26 March 2026 – AGM at The Cove, Daley's Point – Further details in March newsletter

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over one hundred residents enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on 2 November for St Huberts Day and Sunset Sips, and it was especially encouraging to meet some new residents who also took membership of the Association. Huge congratulations must go to our Events Committee - Brian Ireland, Ron Stapleton, and Wendy Mason - for making this such a success. Thank you to our major sponsor – Raine and Horne Ettalong Beach, and to Sean Montague of Empire Bay Cellars for his ongoing support of Association functions. Not to mention our Committee Member for Membership - Naomi Warren - for manning the Welcome Table with Susan Russell and checking off/renewing memberships upon everyone's arrival. It is rewarding to see so many residents enjoying the company of their 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, as well as the wonderful barbecue cooked to perfection by Brian and Ron. A special mention must also go to our honorary committee helpers – David Mason and Grant Russell – who are ever willing to provide a hand when required. Congratulations to all those who were lucky to win in the Raffles, the Trivia Quiz, and the vouchers for new members. Please see the [website](#) for photos.

Once again Rod Wenzel's boat "Doctors Orders" carrying the Brisbane Waters Brass Band will be leading 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 around the island, playing Christmas Carols. We thank Rod and Virginia for the massive support of the island community and the Band for their great music. The date is Tuesday, 23 December 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. All are welcome.

I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Jared Wright for his ongoing support of our efforts to improve the island's waterways. He has always been available for us and agrees with our efforts to return the island waterways to their original condition.

I am sure you noticed the radar intermittently operating on Helmsmen Blvd. They are there in response to concerns expressed by many residents of the excessive speed of some drivers along the boulevard, and reports are coming in that drivers are slowing down. I am passing on the thank you from the Helmsman Blvd residents.

I was pleasantly surprised at the initiative of a driver approaching the roundabout on Maitland Bay Drive putting his left turn blinker on giving me plenty of time to enter the roundabout. I am taking up his example and doing the same to give my island friends the same consideration.

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

FROM THE SECRETARY



With many new residents on the Island, and approaching Summer, it is timely to again cover this topic:

Biting Midge

This class of minuscule flies thrive in coastal habitats and are about the size of a pin head. Biting midges are the smallest of the blood-sucking flies with an average lifespan of between a few days and several months. The midge can inflict a bite that swells, blisters, or weeps with clear discharge. A bite can also cause acute discomfort and irritation and, if scratched excessively and exposed to bacteria, may become infected. In few cases, bites may trigger an allergic reaction.

Precautions

- Midges are most active during dawn and dusk, so try to stay indoors during these times to reduce the likelihood of being bitten or wear protective clothing like long-sleeved shirts with collars, trousers, closed-toed shoes with socks if you go out during this time
- Avoid watering plants at sunset, as midges may be lurking under the cool and humid shade of plants
- Use insect repellents: Products containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can help deter midges focusing on areas such as your scalp, neck, and ankles. This will ward off midges as well as mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting bugs
- A product called Surefire Mosquito & Midge Slayer, available from [Coastal Rural Traders](#) at Ourimbah, gives protection to an area when used as directed
- 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

Effective treatment for midge bites

- Clean the area: Gently wash the bite with soap and water
- Apply a cold compress: Helps reduce swelling and itchiness
- Use anti-itch creams: Eurax cream, Mentholatum rub or calamine lotion can provide relief
- Avoid scratching: Prevents infection and further irritation
- Antihistamines may reduce itching and manage allergic reactions caused by midge bites. Follow the recommended dosage and consult a healthcare professional if needed

If you experience any symptoms that may indicate an allergic reaction, call Triple Zero (000).

Margaret Doughman

AROUND THE CANALS

We are working closely with the Council contractor to clear the drainage outlets in the canals. The drains are disintegrating from lack of maintenance over fifty years, and large chunks of drain material are falling into the drains causing blockages and difficulties for the dredge. Please see the [website](#) for photos.

Alarmingly, in one drain, a large roll of carpet was excavated. There is still around eighteen days left on the current contract that will allow for all the drains to be addressed. Thereafter, trialling pumping sand back to sea walls will commence with the use of eco socks to prevent the sand from receding back into the channels.

The Committee has also been working on a Notice of Motion, covering:

- 1 Stormwater Culverts & Drains
- 2 Returning sand to the sea walls
- 3 Jetty, Pontoons, and Walkways: Regulations
- 4 Floating Docks
- 5 Canal Depths
- 6 Boat Ramps

This has now been forwarded to Councillor Jared Wright. As you will see from his report, we are hoping to finally have a program approved to restore our canals to something like the original conception.

In the meantime, please respect the tenuous condition of the drains and ensure that no foreign matter escapes into them. The Association will also be requesting Council to reinstate the street sweeping. If successful we would request that all the boats, caravans and tradies' vehicles taking space along the verges, be removed on the scheduled day.

Ron Stapleton – Vice President

FROM COUNCILLOR JARED WRIGHT

In recent months, I have been progressing a significant body of work alongside the St Huberts Island Residents Association, to look at how we can create a holistic plan to better manage the canals and the island more broadly. At present, I am working with Council staff to put the processes in place that would allow Council to work with the St Huberts Island community to create a 10-year plan of work, that provides costings and a clear scope of work for things like sand retention and drain management. The plan would be itemised and clear for the entire community to see over the next 10 years. All going to plan, I am hoping to bring this to Council in early December.



Looking more broadly across the Central Coast, I have been working on a range of things, from improved parking measures in suburbs like Gosford, Copacabana, and Avoca Beach, through to fighting for road upgrades right across the region. In my capacity as Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee, I have been working with staff to implement an overarching investment strategy to manage all of Council's investment holdings. For every dollar we can earn through our investment portfolio, it is a dollar that we do not have to take out of the pockets of ratepayers to fund works and services.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me via email jared.wright@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

I also post regular updates on my Facebook page, Councillor Jared Wright.

SAFETY ON THE ISLAND DURING SUMMER

Another Airbnb property has emerged on the Island, totalling nine short stay accommodations managed by STAYZ. Three in Marina View Parade, and one each in Cuttlefish, Mainsail, Mercator, Salacia, and Helmsman. The Duplex in Nautilus Crescent is under Accom which has now rebranded to Holiday Co. Recently an incident of speeding and reckless driving was reported when a guest of Holiday Co in Nautilus Crescent was photographed, having made a race circuit of Marina View, Nautilus, and Helmsman Boulevarde.

As residents we want to protect the serenity and comfort of our island home, so we advise all neighbours of short stay accommodation premises to be vigilant to disruptive behaviour. In this regard we refer you to the website: <https://sthubertsisland.nsw.au/airbnb/> where information can be found regarding the laws governing short term rentals.

If you are impacted by inconsiderate behaviour from an Airbnb guest, your first call is to the Police Assistance Line 131 444 OR Woy Woy Police station (02) 4379 7399 which is open all hours.

Following that, a letter to Council with a copy to SHIRAsthubertsisland@outlook.com noting the address of the property, the infringement and the date upon which the infringement occurred.

If you see any unacceptable or destructive behaviour, please act immediately. This includes, speeding, destruction of the bridge fencing and jumping therefrom. Remember, as residents, we pay the rates to maintain our island homes.

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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.

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FISHOS CORNER

Well, spring has sprung and Brisbane Water is turning it on for us and the offshore fishing is starting to fire up!

Inside fishing this time of year can be rewarding. Big high tides will push baitfish up into the shallows to seek shelter and food. Surface lures are the biggest standout now but diving hardbodies and lightly weighed soft plastics will also work greatly. The Kingfish are still firing in the Rip Bridge area and Booker Bay, and the beaches are working well. Australian salmon are still hanging around while pesky rays are plentiful. Offshore the water is warming. Snapper are thick around the reefs and fishos are bagging out on Blue Spot Flathead.

Today's photo is of a nice Taylor caught on the Wagstaff side of Half Tide Rocks caught by a member of Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club.

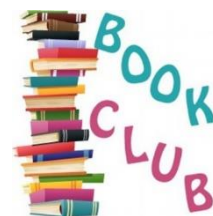


Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club and Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club are always looking for active fishos to join their clubs. For further details contact Ken, Nev or Richard via the St Huberts Island website <https://sthubertsisland.nsw.au/>

Tight Lines Ken

ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB

Our members read and enjoyed the following books which were all different writing styles, covered different themes, and generated great discussions.



WILD By Cheryl Strayed. Written in 2012 and based on a true story, it was eventually made into a movie starring Reece Witherspoon. Cheryl, whose life was a mess of self-destruction, wanted to change and had to find her pathway out. Four years after her mother's death, and inspired by a comment her mother had made, Cheryl embarked on a one-hundred-day challenge in 1995 to walk the Pacific Crest Trail extending from the Mexican border in California to just beyond the Canadian border. Read this book to discover how Cheryl eventually discovered herself as she appreciated the amazing and beautiful wilderness, endured environmental challenges and animal encounters. In the wilderness there was neither escape nor denial, and no option to numb her feelings or fears which had to be faced head on. My score - 7/10

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng. A suspenseful book about a Chinese American family in a small town in Ohio set in the 1970's. It covered topics of dysfunction and miscommunications, and how family members struggle to understand each other. Contentious issues in the 1970's of race, sexuality, and homosexuality parental expectations on the children to achieve more than they did. Also, the relationships parents have with their own parents even as adults, and the influence of their own childhood and impact on their parenting skills. Finally, we see the impact on a teenager of being isolated at school by race and bullying. My score - 8/10

The Boys from Biloxi by John Grisham. A multigenerational story (1948–1986) follows two Eastern European immigrant families on the Gulf Coast's "Poor Man's Riviera." As gambling, bootlegging, and vice take over the region, the Malco family drifts into organized crime as part of the "Dixie Mafia," while the Rudy family rises through law enforcement and public office to fight corruption. Childhood friends Hugh Malco and Keith Rudy grow apart as they follow their families' opposing paths. After Hurricane Camille, the Rudy law firm battles insurance fraud on behalf of local residents. When District Attorney Jess Rudy is allegedly murdered by Hugh, the conflict culminates in a battle over execution, clemency, and the verdict Keith must deliver to his former best friend. My score - 7/10

There are a few spaces available in our gatherings on the first Friday evening of each month. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, contact Carolynne Mucharsky on 0404238884 to find out more.

Reviews from Sandra Hall. Happy Reading!

