

The Island News

“The Central Coast’s Island in the Sun”

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

June 2026

Website: sthubertsisland.nsw.au
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*Save
the
Date*

Friday, 26 June 2026 – Island ladies’ social group outing – see Page 6 for more information

Saturday, 25 July 2026 6pm – Christmas in July Dinner at Ettalong Diggers – see flyer for more information

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT – Kevin Hill OAM

As we continue working together to support and strengthen our St Huberts Island community, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank Margaret Doughman for her untiring efforts and continued hard work over the past three years in her role as Secretary of the St Huberts Island Residents Association (SHIRA).



Margaret has truly been the backbone of the committee, dedicating countless hours behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of meetings, correspondence, community events, and the many day-to-day responsibilities that often go unnoticed. Her reliability, organisation, and commitment to the residents of St Huberts Island have been invaluable, and her contribution has helped the committee continue to function effectively through many important community matters.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful response from Island residents regarding the request for residents to lodge their concerns and objections about the current Central Coast Council canal maintenance budget, which many believe is highly inadequate for the needs of our island. The level of community participation and support has been exceptional and clearly demonstrates how strongly residents feel about protecting and maintaining our canals and waterways. We are hopeful that Council will take this valuable feedback seriously and increase the budget allocation for St Huberts Island in the upcoming budget discussions.

Community involvement continues to be one of the greatest strengths of our island, and it is encouraging to see so many residents actively engaged in issues that affect us all.

FROM THE SECRETARY – Sue Ralston

After three years of dedicated service, Margaret Doughman stepped down from the committee in March 2026. Throughout her time in the role, Margaret has contributed consistently, handled her responsibilities with care and her reliability and attention to detail have played a vital role in keeping everything running smoothly playing an important part in keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. Thank you, Margaret, for your valuable contribution over the past three years. We wish you all the very best in your retirement.

As I take over the Secretary role, I appreciate the strong foundation Margaret has left behind and will do my best to continue the work she managed so effectively.

On another note, St Huberts Island residents once again showed the strength of our community through the overwhelming response to Council regarding the lack of funding allocated to our area. Your willingness to take the time to submit feedback and voice your concerns demonstrated just how passionate our residents are about the future of the Island.

As Jared Wright mentions in his article, approximately one-third of all submissions made to Council came from St Huberts Island residents alone — a remarkable effort that highlights the strong community spirit we share.

SHIRA sincerely thanks everyone who participated and helped ensure our voices were heard. We will continue to keep the community informed and abreast of developments as they unfold, while continuing to advocate for the needs of the Island. Your support and involvement are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to remind residents to please take extra care when driving around the Island. Sadly, there has recently been an increase in native ducks being injured and killed on our roads. These beautiful birds are also part of our Island community, and we ask all drivers to slow down, remain alert and help protect our local wildlife by driving with care and consideration.

AROUND THE CANALS – Ron Stapleton – Vice President

Residents update from the Committee regarding the ongoing Canal Drainage & Maintenance

At the last AGM held on 28 April 2026, a motion was passed for the Committee to submit a formal complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the ongoing canal drainage and maintenance concerns affecting the Island.

Following continued difficulties in obtaining cooperation and responses from Central Coast Council, the formal complaint was prepared and forwarded to the Ombudsman outlining the Committee's concerns.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge the exceptional response from the Island residents regarding the restricted funds proposal. The level of interest, feedback, and community support shown has demonstrated just how important this issue is to residents and the future of the Island. We are hopeful that Council will take this strong community feedback into consideration and increase the currently inadequate budget allocation from the restricted fund for canal maintenance.

At this stage, decisions relating to the matter are expected to be considered by Council during the June budget meeting. The Committee is monitoring developments closely and will keep residents informed as further information becomes available.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to submit a formal request to increase the budget for maintenance of the sea walls to council and supporting the ongoing efforts being made on behalf of the committee and our community.

PARKS AND TREES – A Note from Council

Council is pleased to advise that new trees have recently been planted across several areas in the Island.

Melaleuca species have been planted at the Pumping Station and Waterfront Park, Callistemon and Brush Box along Long Arm and Beachfront Parade, and Callistemon with dwarf Eucalyptus species at Attunga Reserve.

While these plantings will enhance our local environment, newly planted trees require regular watering to establish.

Council does not have the resources to provide ongoing watering, and this responsibility generally falls to adjoining residents or the community group that requested the planting. Council crews will water the trees during scheduled mowing visits, however, with the winter program, this will only occur approximately every five weeks.

Additional watering by residents of the Island during dry periods would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY – EVERYONE WELCOME!

Dust off your Christmas jumpers, Santa hats & reindeer antler headbands and join us for a fun and festive Christmas in July dinner on the 25th of July at Ettalong Diggers. It will be a wonderful evening of good food, laughter, raffles, and great company as residents come together to enjoy the community spirit that makes our area so special.

We would especially love to see more younger residents attend this year.

Events like these are a great opportunity to meet neighbours, make new connections, and bring different generations of our community together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, everyone is encouraged to come along and enjoy the night.

See flyer along with this newsletter for further details on bookings and event times – we hope to see you there!

FROM COUNCILLOR JARED WRIGHT

Firstly, congratulations to Kevin, Ron, Sue and the entire committee for their election to the executive of the St Huberts Island Residents Association. As a Councillor working with many community associations across the region, I can safely say that SHIRA is one of the most active and engaged, being at the forefront of championing policies and ideas to improve the Island for everyone.



With that, I want to thank everyone who has submitted their feedback as part of Council's draft budget for the upcoming financial year. To my knowledge, about one third of all submissions have come from residents of St Huberts Island who are passionate about having more money allocated to improving the canal system, utilising money that has previously been set aside and collected over many years.

My job now is to take that feedback and showcase it to my fellow councillors to demonstrate that there is a clear need for more money to be spent on improving the canals including dredging works and stormwater maintenance. I will continue to keep you updated as this process continues.

Looking more broadly across the Central Coast, we are continuing to work through our budget process for the upcoming financial year and councillors have been providing direct feedback on priority projects. These have centred around improving our roads, footpaths, critical infrastructure and maintenance of roadside verges and green spaces. We understand these are priorities for the community and are committed to delivering on the ongoing feedback.

In my capacity as Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee, I have been working with staff to understand and respond to the ongoing impacts that the conflict in the Middle East is having on the Council. As an organisation, we spend around \$5 million on fuel each year for our plant and fleet including tractors, trucks and lawn mowers. When the price of diesel doubles in a matter of weeks, this creates a real impact on our bottom line and it's important we look at ways to mitigate these issues and manage our financials accordingly.

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

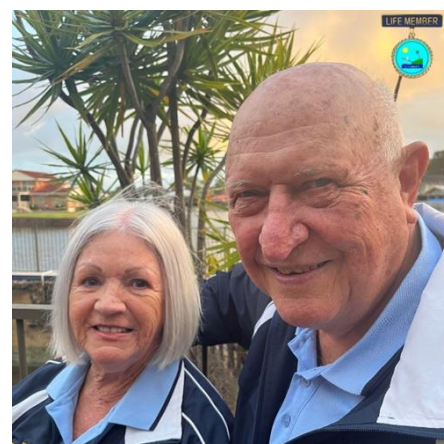
I also post regular updates on my Facebook page, Councillor Jared Wright.

MEET YOUR ASSOCIATION'S LIFE MEMBERS – Neville & Marilyn Smith

SHIRA has three life members. In continuing our series recognising these dedicated individuals, we are proud to highlight another couple who have played an important role in making SHIRA what it is today.

Neville and Marilyn Smith have been a much-loved part of the Island community since moving to the Island in 1979. Not long after settling in, they joined SHIRA and dedicated many years of service while also raising their three children on the Island.

Neville, a printer by trade, generously offered his skills to assist with the community newsletter. Before long, both Neville and Marilyn became deeply involved in organising and hosting community events. For many years they welcomed residents to SHIRA gatherings held on their own front lawn, supporting important causes such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council Australia. As the events grew in popularity, celebrations moved to the park at Long Arm, where Neville and Marilyn continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes. From loading tables, tents and the large BBQ onto their trailer, to setting everything up for the community to enjoy, their contribution was enormous. Many memorable events including St Patrick's Day celebrations, Rocktober and St Huberts Day were made possible through their dedication and hard work.



Neville and Marilyn's years of commitment, generosity and community spirit have left a lasting impact on the Island, and in 2014 they were made truly deserving Lifetime Members of your committee.

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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.

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SPACE AVAILABLE

FISHOS CORNER – Ken Lumis

The water remains around the 22 degree mark outside and inside and the Mullet are running. Mulloway are taking advantage of the schools of Mullet and Mulloway are being caught near rocky outcrops as well as on the beaches and wharves in the Brisbane Water area.

Inside Davistown and Empire Bay wharves are hotspots for Mulloway, as well as the Broadwater area near Gosford, the holes around the Rip Bridge area. Best time to catch Mulloway is during low light periods (April to August). Key bite windows include 4 days leading up to a full moon and 1 to 2 hours either side of high tide. Live baits such as Tailor and Mullet are excellent bait as well as fresh squid. The beaches are now starting to produce Australian Salmon, the odd Flathead, Trevally, Tailor and Mulloway.

Today's photo is of a couple of nice Mulloway, recently caught off one of the wharves at Davistown.



If you have caught a nice fish lately and want to share a photo, please send it to the Editor Island news with details of when/where you caught it. Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club and Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club are always looking for active fisherman to join their clubs. Please contact Ken, Richard or Neville via the St Huberts Island website for further details if interested.

ISLAND LADIES' SOCIAL GROUP OUTING – Friday 26 June 2026

Following the success of the inaugural Ladies Day trip to Brooklyn in April, another enjoyable outing is now being planned for Friday, 26 June 2026.



The weather was perfect for a relaxing day by the water, with the group enjoying a delicious lunch, great company and the chance to catch up with both old and new acquaintances while watching the ferries come and go along the waterfront. There was plenty of laughter throughout the day, creating a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere where everyone felt welcome and comfortable. New friendships were formed with ease, highlighting just how important these outings are for bringing people together and making new friends in the community.

With such a wonderful response from everyone who attended, the ladies are already looking forward to the next outing to the Newcastle waterfront. As the weather starts to turn a little colder, everyone is reminded to rug up and stay warm while enjoying the day out together.

Meet at Woy Woy Train Station at 9:15am for the 9:30am limited stops train to Newcastle Interchange, followed by the light rail.

Please place a note in the letterbox at **48 Helmsman Blvd** if you would like to attend or send a message via WhatsApp if you are coming along.

ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB – Carolynne Mucharsky



This quarter, our Book Club explored three works of historical fiction. To read reviews of the remaining two titles, please visit our website <https://sthubertsisland.nsw.au/book-club/>

Where The Crowdads Sing by Delia Owens – Our rating: 9/10

I had previously read this book and seen the movie, so I was surprised at how much I enjoyed rereading this book. It's a sad, sad story! A six-year-old left to fend for herself in the marshlands of North Carolina. Her lonely days involved scavenging for food and teaching herself to cook just to survive. But she also lived the wonder of nature. Friends were few but Tait taught her to read and she was an excellent student. After Tait betrayed her, Kaya eventually began a relationship with Chase Andrews who used and abused her. Then Chase was found dead at the bottom of the fire tower, and she was the only suspect. She was charged with murder and incarcerated for two months before her trial started. Remarkably she had a good alibi and was acquitted. Kaya was a smart woman and a successful writer by now. However, although Kaya returned to Tait, she never married, nor had her own children and died in her early sixties, ALONE!

St Huberts Island Community



Why Join the St Huberts Island Residents Association (SHIRA)?



Membership Benefits:

For just a small annual fee, SHIRA membership helps keep our island community informed, connected, and represented.

Members receive regular updates on local issues affecting the island, including council projects, foreshore and canal matters, tree planting, and infrastructure works.

Get Involved:

- SHIRA represents residents in discussions with Council and other authorities.
- Enjoy subsidised social gatherings & meet your neighbours
- Attend meetings and AGMs, raise concerns directly, and stay involved in decisions that shape our local environment.

shirasthuberts@outlook.com

SHIRA plays an important role in representing residents in discussions with Council and other authorities—ensuring the island's voice is heard on matters that affect us all.

Join SHIRA today and help keep our island community strong and connected!

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