

# The Island News

*“The Central Coast’s Island in the Sun”*

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

Website [sthubertsisland.nsw.au](http://sthubertsisland.nsw.au)  
Email: [secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au](mailto:secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au)  
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**March 2026**

*Save  
the  
Date*

**Sunday, 22 March 2026 4pm** – Sunset Sips at Long Arm Park – Look out for the sign at the Bridge closer to date

**Thursday, 26 March 2026 7pm** – AGM at The Cove Hall, Daley’s Point – see Page 2 for more information

**Wednesday, 1 April 2026 Lunch** – Island ladies’ social group outing – see Page 6 for more information

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a great and peaceful Christmas and that you are all well and truly into 2026.

Once again in December, Rod Wenzel’s boat “Doctors Orders” with Santa Claus and the Brisbane Waters Brass Band on board, cruised around our island playing familiar Christmas Carols. This favourite annual event draws a flotilla of boats and an enthusiastic crew of families and friends. Also, many island residents line the waterfronts of their homes and local parks. Over the last eleven years, Santa on the Water has grown in participation by the island’s residents with many of them enjoying waterfront barbecues to welcome the festive week, and it is really turning into a local must-see event for both adults and children. To see photo coverage and more news, please visit the website <https://sthubertsisland.nsw.au/data/documents/Santa-Cruise.pdf>

We thank Rod and Virginia for their massive support of the island community and the Band for its great Christmas music.

I also take this opportunity to thank Councillor Jared Wright for his Notice of Motion passed in December. His support of our efforts to improve the island’s waterways and to restore them to their original condition is so appreciated by your committee.

At this year’s AGM, Councillor Jared Wright will be our invited guest speaker. There will be time for questions from the floor, so mark the date in your diary if you wish to find out more about what Council is proposing for the island and the LGA at large.

Your executive has almost completed another year, and I thank them all for their hard work and dedication. Every executive member has a role to perform, with smaller committees running events, such as Sunset Sips, Christmas in July and St Huberts day, together with canals updates and satisfying administrative obligations. I thank them for renominating for another year.

Lastly, I thank Margaret Doughman for her outstanding role as our Secretary. I believe this role is the busiest role on our board, covering minutes, correspondence and supporting all the committees. Excellent communication skills are vital. Unfortunately, circumstances have forced Margaret to retire. I will miss her as we communicate every day and she is an outstanding individual.

Fortunately, Margaret has found an excellent replacement in Sue Ralston who has nominated to fill the position at this AGM.

I hope to see you all at the AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> March 7pm at The Cove, Daley’s Point.

**Kevin Hill OAM**

## FROM THE SECRETARY – Margaret Doughman

Following a meeting between Ron Stapleton and Mr Adam Crouch MP, the Association was supplied with a Liberal Party press release regarding the safety of e-bikes. Your Association has received some complaints regarding e-bike riders on the island following unsafe practices. I have summarised the press release hereunder. However, the full information can be found on the website.

*...In December, through a press release the NSW Liberals have announced a commitment to introducing a nation-leading, low-cost licence plate scheme for certain categories of e-bike riders. This will put community safety, responsible riding, and practical enforcement at the centre of future active-transport regulation. This Australian-first initiative, follows extensive consultation with stakeholders, including police, local councils, community groups and safety experts, alongside last year's NSW Parliamentary inquiry into e-bike safety and will enable clearer and more consistent safety expectations, support better rider accountability, and give local councils, police and the community practical tools to promote safe behaviour.*

*Under the proposed scheme, a government-issued identification plate would be required for riders under the age of eighteen who use e-bikes for a commercial purpose and/or commercial shared service schemes. However, riders aged eighteen and over who use a privately-owned e-bike would be exempt from the requirement. This will prioritise the safety and quality of e-bikes and support responsible rider behaviour.*

*This election commitment also includes expanded safety education for young riders, ensuring they understand the risks associated with e-bike technology and how to use these devices responsibly in the community. New penalties for non-compliance will support consistent standards and rider accountability.*

*Member for Terrigal Adam Crouch welcomed the commitment and said the proposed scheme will make it easier for communities to embrace the benefits of e-bikes safely.*

*The NSW Liberals and Nationals will implement this licence-plate scheme once elected to Government after the March 2027 State Election.*

## AROUND THE CANALS – Ron Stapleton – Vice President

Over the summer there has been a flurry of activity between the committee and Councillor Jared Wright, Member for Terrigal, Mr Adam Crouch, and various members of the Council.

This weekend there will be a combined workshop to plan a way forward for the implementation of works as submitted in the Association's Notice of Motion which was passed by Council at its last meeting in December. I have also requested the boat ramp on the island be restored – which will be a combined project by the Council and State Government.

**It is imperative that residents attend the AGM to hear from Councillor Jared Wright and learn firsthand what the committee has achieved and how it affects everyone on the island.**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 – Thursday 26 March 7pm at The Cove Hall, Daley's Point

The Committee of the St Huberts Island Residents' Association Inc. warmly invites all residents to attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting. We are pleased to welcome guest speaker – Councillor Jared Wright - who will provide updates on important community matters:

Memberships (\$30 for four years or \$10 per annum) may be renewed on the night. Association merchandise will also be available for purchase. Please note there are no EFTPOS facilities available so cash only.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. The hall must be vacated by 9pm. Kindly note that The Cove Hall is a smoke-free venue.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## FROM COUNCILLOR JARED WRIGHT

In recent weeks, I have been continuing to work with your Association to progress works around the canals and the island more broadly, which will use the funding previously restricted for this purpose. Shortly, Council staff will be meeting with residents to discuss priority areas for dredging, stormwater maintenance and works that will approve the overall amenity of the area.



The advocacy role and influence of your Association cannot be understated, and I want to thank the committee for keeping the pressure on the Council to have these funds restricted and to deliver a long-term plan of works for the island. It is a detailed process, and I have been working closely with residents every step of the way.

Looking more broadly across the Central Coast, we have commenced our budget process for the upcoming financial year, and councillors have been providing direct feedback on priority projects. These have centred around critical infrastructure and services, including roads and better maintaining our public spaces, because we understand these are important to our community and must be prioritised.

In my capacity as Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee, I have been working with staff to look at a review of our overarching investment portfolio. Returns in the financial year to date have been lower than we would like, due largely to a range of macroeconomic factors, particularly a reduction in interest rates.

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

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

## MEET YOUR ASSOCIATION'S LIFE MEMBERS – Ken and Astrid Lumis

The Association has three life members. In this and the following two newsletters, we will cover these people who helped make your Association what it is today.

Ken and Astrid built on the Island in the late 70s, and Ken became an active member of the Island Association in the early 80s by volunteering for the position of Treasurer – a position he retained for over thirty years.

Ken and Astrid witnessed many memorable events on the Island, including the 1988 Bicentennial celebrations where on Long Arm Reserve, over a thousand residents saw the long boats from Old Sydney Town re-enacting the landing on the Island.

The Bendigo Bank Ettalong share issue was also launched at Long Arm Reserve which received front page coverage in the local paper. Today the Association currently enjoys a twenty per cent dividend in its share investment in the Bendigo Bank Ettalong.



In the 90's, Ken and Astrid were recognised for their contribution to the Association by being made life members. Ken remains an active supporter of the Association compiling the Fishos Corner for the quarterly Island Newsletter, as well as is the Island contact for Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club, Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club, and the Ettalong Probus Club.

Ken has also been a Justice of the Peace for over 54 years and can be contacted via the Island website or the JP online register.

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# Adam CROUCH MP

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Authorised by Adam Crouch MP, Shop 3 Fountain Plaza, 148-158 The Entrance Road, Erina NSW 2250. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

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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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## SUNSET SIPS – Sunday 22 March 2026 4pm

Long Arm Park



With the sun setting at 7.04pm, get to Long Arm Park at **4pm** so you have time to:

- Meet your new neighbours and renew friendships
- Enjoy a glass of free bubbles, beer, or soft drink
- Feast on a free sausage sizzle with BBQed onions

## FISHOS CORNER – Ken Lumis

Outside Snapper and Morwong are being caught on the reefs and today's photo is of a nice bag of Snapper caught by a member of the Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club. The approach to Brisbane Waters (Box Head area) has seen the return of Hairtails with members from Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club weighing them in up to 1.5 kgs.

The beaches are producing Tailor, Bonito, and the occasional Bronze Whaler Shark (where there are little ones there are big ones!). Inside, the Rip Bridge area continues to produce big Tailor, Kingfish and Mulloway. Mulloways are also being caught around Davistown and Empire Bay wharves.

If you have caught a trophy fish lately, why not send a photo to the Island News, and give details where/when/how you caught it. Fishing categories include outside/inside Brisbane waters either in a boat or land based. 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/>



## Double Hook – Up Drama 20 Kms Offshore!

During the week of 23 February, Craig Ralston (Helmsman Blvd) headed solo 20 kms offshore and struck instant excitement with a rare double hook-up on two striped Marlin. Unfortunately, the first fish threw the hook and the battle was lost. Undeterred, Craig stayed focused and took on the second Marlin in an action-packed 15 minute fight. The impressive fish, measuring approximately two metres and estimated to weigh between 60 and 80 kgs was successfully caught and released.

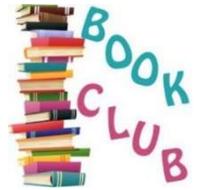
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## ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB – Carolynne Mucharsky

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/>



**The Dictionary of Lost Words** by Pip Williams – Our rating: just over 8/10

This book details the enormous task of compiling The Oxford English Dictionary including word selection, meaning, and printing. The back story is full of interesting characters, some based on real people. Esme stands out. From an early age she goes to the scriptorium (the work shed) with her father where she hides under the table. We follow Esme growing up through tumultuous times including WWI and the original suffragette movements. Her time at boarding school was also troublesome. The book is all about the power of language and how everyone has a right to be represented through words, not just white, Victorian males who are scholars. Expect all emotions to surface. Happy Reading!

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## ISLAND LADIES' SOCIAL GROUP OUTING – Wednesday 1 April 2026

A new social group has been proposed to bring together the ladies of the Island for enjoyable outings, incorporating travel by public transport. Gatherings will be organised at least once each quarter. While details will be advertised in The Island News, these outings are private arrangements and are not affiliated with SHIRA events. The group will be informal and flexible; there is no requirement to sign up or attend every activity. However, as most outings will require advance bookings, firm commitment will be appreciated when you indicate you are attending.



If you would like to be included, please place a brief note in the letterbox at **48 Helmsman Boulevard**, providing your name, email address and contact number.

**Inaugural outing:** The first gathering is planned for Wednesday 1 April 2026 for lunch at King Tide Cafe, located within the marina precinct at Hawkesbury River. You can view the lunch menu at: <https://thekingtidecafe.com/lunch>. Meet at Woy Woy Train station at 10.45 am for the 11.10 am train to Hawkesbury River.