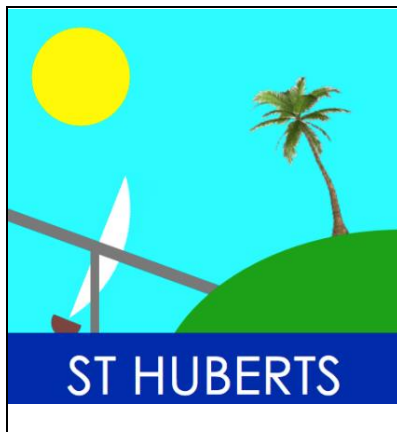




The Island News

"The Central Coast's Island in the Sun"

ST HUBERTS ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC

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**September
2026**

*Save
the
Date*

Sunday, 18 October 2026 – Celebrating 50 years of St Huberts Island at Long Arm Park – see Page 3 for more information

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT – Kevin Hill OAM

Over the past few months, your committee has continued to work hard on behalf of everyone living on St Huberts Island, and I would like to update you on some of the progress we have made together.



Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank our residents for the outstanding support shown in opposing the inadequate maintenance budget allocated to St Huberts Island by Central Coast Council. The strong response from our community demonstrated just how passionate we all are about protecting and maintaining the unique environment we are fortunate to call home.

Ron Stapleton and I have attended numerous meetings with Central Coast Council representatives to present the concerns of our residents and advocate for a fairer allocation of funding. While there is still a long way to go, I am pleased to report that our collective efforts have resulted in the maintenance budget for St Huberts Island being doubled.

This is a positive step forward and shows what can be achieved when a community stands together. However, we recognise that this funding is still well short of what is required to properly maintain the Island's waterways, drainage systems, foreshores and other essential infrastructure. Please be assured that your committee will continue to work tirelessly, attend meetings, and advocate strongly to ensure St Huberts Island receives the attention and funding it deserves.

For a more detailed look at this important issue, be sure to read the [full article in the Coast Community News](#).

On a much lighter note, our Christmas in July celebration at Ettalong Diggers was an outstanding success. It was wonderful to see so many residents and friends come together to enjoy an evening filled with laughter, great food, exciting raffles, fantastic prizes and, most importantly, genuine community spirit. The atmosphere throughout the evening was warm and welcoming, and it was a reminder of what makes the Island such a special place to live.

Events like these are only possible because of the support of our volunteers, committee members, sponsors and everyone who attended. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the evening such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

As always, the Residents Association remains committed to representing the interests of our community. Together, we can continue to make a positive difference for St Huberts Island. Thank you for your ongoing support.

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY – SUE RALSTON

As we move through another busy few months, I'd like to thank everyone who continues to support the St Huberts Island Residents Association. It's wonderful to see so many residents taking an active interest in our community and participating in our events.

The Committee has also continued working behind the scenes on matters affecting our island. We remain committed to representing residents' interests by maintaining regular communication with Central Coast Council and other relevant organisations on issues important to our community.

Our newsletter continues to grow thanks to the contributions of our members. If you have an interesting story, historical photograph, local news item or community event that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you secretary@sthubertsisland.nsw.au

A strong community is built on neighbours looking out for one another. Whether it's attending an event, lending a helping hand, or simply stopping for a chat with a neighbour, every small contribution helps make St Huberts Island the special place we all enjoy. Thank you once again for your ongoing support of the Association. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

AROUND THE CANALS – Ron Stapleton – Vice President

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

Canal maintenance remains one of the highest priorities for the St Huberts Island Residents Association (Association). Our canals are a defining feature of the Island and are vital to protecting our homes, the environment and the lifestyle we all enjoy.

Over recent months, the committee has continued to work closely with Central Coast Council to ensure the concerns of residents remain a priority. Through ongoing meetings and discussions, we have continued to advocate for increased funding and a long-term maintenance program that addresses the condition of our canals, drainage systems and foreshores.

I am pleased to advise that inspections of the Island's canals have already been undertaken with a Central Coast Council representative and myself. These inspections have identified the areas most in need of attention, and Council has advised that maintenance works will commence on the worst-affected sections first. This is an encouraging step forward and will ensure that the areas requiring the most urgent attention are addressed as a priority.

While we welcome the recent increase in Council's maintenance budget for St Huberts Island, we know there is still much more work to be done. The additional funding is a positive outcome and reflects the persistence of the Association and the strong support shown by our residents. However, it is still not sufficient to undertake all of the maintenance required across the Island.

The Association will continue to work with Council to monitor the progress of these works and advocate for additional funding and ongoing maintenance. Our aim is to see a planned, consistent maintenance program rather than relying on reactive works after problems have become significant.

I would also like to thank the many residents who have reported issues, shared their concerns and supported the Association's efforts. Your input provides valuable information that helps us identify problem areas and strengthens our discussions with Council.

Please be assured that your committee remains committed to ensuring St Huberts Island receives the level of maintenance it deserves. We will continue to keep residents informed as works progress and as further updates become available.

CANAL MAINTENANCE WORKS – YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT

SHIRA has been working with Central Coast Council to secure funding and develop a long-term plan for the maintenance of our St Huberts Island canals. Council has now agreed to release \$70,000 per year for the next four years, with works expected to commence in October 2026. To help ensure the available funds are directed to the areas of greatest need, **waterfront residents** are encouraged to complete the attached flyer and identify any maintenance works required at their property. Please return your completed form to **40 Helmsman Boulevard** by **21 September 2026**. An **Information Session** will also be held on **Sunday 27 September** at **10am**, on the **easement next to 40 Helmsman Boulevard**, where the proposed options and next steps will be discussed. Your input is important in helping us prioritise the work across the Island.

FROM COUNCILLOR JARED WRIGHT

Council is continuing to work with the St Huberts Island Residents Association in forming a four-year plan of maintenance for the Island that's commencing this financial year.

At the end of last financial year, we were able to double the funding for the island maintenance, and I want to thank everyone on the Island for their advocacy on this important issue.

This was a community led campaign and it showcases the importance of having your voice heard within the decision-making process.

We have also recently had Kevin Hill OAM and Ron Stapleton meet with the Council CEO and a range of senior staff to put forward the vision of Island residents for the canal maintenance program. I will continue to work with Kevin, Ron and the Residents Association to prioritise key maintenance items on the canal network.

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.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ST HUBERTS ISLAND

St Huberts Island and the First Fleet Era

Did you know that while St Huberts Island itself was not discovered by the First Fleet, our beautiful corner of the Central Coast has a fascinating connection to Australia's earliest European history?



When the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove in 1788, exploration of the surrounding coastline soon followed as the new colony searched for resources and suitable land. Over the following years, European explorers and settlers gradually became familiar with the Brisbane Water region, recognising its sheltered waterways, abundant fish and magnificent bushland.

At that time, St Huberts Island was a low-lying area of mangroves, mudflats and saltmarshes, accessible only by boat. It would remain largely untouched for well over a century before being transformed into the canal estate we know today.

Long before European exploration, however, the Brisbane Water estuary had been home to the Darkinjung people for thousands of years. Their deep connection to the waterways and rich knowledge of the land, form an important part of the area's history and heritage.

Today, as we enjoy life on St Huberts Island, we are reminded that our community is part of a much longer story—one that stretches from the First Fleet era and European settlement back through countless generations of Aboriginal custodianship.

A Wonderful Christmas in July Celebration

What a fantastic night at our Christmas in July Dinner at Ettalong Diggers! A huge thank you to Richard Carlyle for organising a very special visit from Santa. 🎅



It was wonderful to see so many St Huberts Island residents come together for an evening of laughter, friendship, Christmas cheer and community spirit.

The raffles were a big hit, with plenty of lucky winners taking home fantastic prizes. Congratulations to all our winners, and a huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes and purchased tickets — your support makes these events possible.

Thank you to everyone who attended, to our wonderful volunteers, and to Ettalong Diggers for helping make the evening such a success.

Photos are available on our website for you to download.

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FISHOS CORNER – Ken Lumis

Hopefully winter is behind us and the water will warm up, which should attract a few more fish than what's around at the moment. At the beaches Australian Salmon are having a late run while the odd Flathead, Tailor and Mulloway are being taken. Inside there are reports of Kingfish hanging around the moorings at Booker Bay and as usual the Rip Bridge area is firing, producing big Tailor, Bream and Mulloway.



There are a few Blue Swimmers around however the numbers should increase as the water warms up. The odd Mulloway and Flathead are being taken at Davistown and Empire Bay area as well as Pattys Channel. Outside there are reports that anglers are bagging out on Blue Spot Flathead and Teraglin appear plentiful.

Today's photo is a nice 5kg Kingfish caught near the moored boats at Booker Bay by one of the members of the Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club. Ettalong Hotel Fishing Club and Ettalong Diggers Fishing Club are always on the lookout for active fishos to join their clubs. For more information please contact Ken, Richard or Nev via the St Huberts Island website.

The Walkie Talkies – Roslyn Greener

We are a Women's Walking Group who are under the umbrella of the Peninsula Women's Health Centre, Woy Woy. We are called The Walkie Talkies and as you can imagine a lot of that goes on! We walk approx 2.5 to 4.5 hours on Fridays. This includes travel and coffee. Walkers must be of good fitness as we do a lot of bush and National Parks walks as well as pavement. Every month or so we travel to Sydney, Newcastle or Parramatta to rediscover the history of these areas. Women of any age are welcome. Our average ages are 60 to 70 years. We do have a strong following of Walkie Talkies living on the Island!

If you are interested, please email me at roslyngreener@bigpond.com to ask any questions or/and I will email you our current list of walks.

ST HUBERTS ISLAND BOOK CLUB – Carolynne Mucharsky

This quarter, our Book Club read three interesting and very different books this quarter. To read reviews of the remaining two titles, please visit our website <https://sthubertsisland.nsw.au/book-club/>



The Midnight Library by Matt Haig – Our rating: 6.5/10

Unlike any other book I've ever read.

It has a very powerful message, complex yet simple. It celebrates the power of books to change lives. Nora Seed is miserable and after losing her low paid sales job and finding her cat dead she decides to end her life. Whilst in the transition stage between life and death, Nora visits the Midnight Library to view her Book of Regrets. Somehow, either magically or because of parallel universes or quantum physics, etc, she gets to live different versions of her life by changing past decisions and undoing regrets. Ultimately, she decides to live the life she had because she learns so much about herself and comes to realise her potential and the positive side of the life she has built. Themes of hope, love, relationships, second chances and making the best of what you have. Great lessons in life!



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.

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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!