

Avalon Preservation Trust incorporated as Avalon Preservation Association

Bulletin no 95

February 2018

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2018.

1. Avalon Preservation Association AGM 27 November 2017

In light of our commitment to having a good working relationship with our local Council, APA invited the Mayor of Northern Beaches Council, Michael Regan, and North Ward's three newly elected Councillors: Kylie Ferguson, Alex McTaggart and Ian White to attend our 50th anniversary celebration and our Annual General Meeting. Although none attended, Mayor Regan's office sent an apology and Councillor Ferguson declined regretfully, explaining that she had a prior meeting commitment.

a) Richard Stutchbury – Guest speaker

APA members and friends enjoyed a rare treat at the Annual General Meeting as Richard Stutchbury, internationally recognised local sculptor & landscape architect, spoke about his work and the inspiration for his design of gardens, landscapes and sculptures for both public and private commissions. All Richard's work is crafted by hand, exploring media such as granite, marble, sandstone, steel, bronze, earth and flowers. You may have seen the beautiful commemorative granite sculpture on Collaroy Beach entitled 'The Knitting Girl and Care Package.

You can find more information about Richard Stutchbury and his work on his website <http://reddustdesigns.com.au/>



b) President's report

In 2017, APA celebrated fifty years of looking after Avalon Beach. Peter Mayman, our president, reminded us of the many achievements in the early years of the APT, now known

as the APA, because in 2007, we had to apply for a Certificate of Incorporation and change our name of 40 years to Avalon Preservation Association.

- The Avalon Preservation Trust (APT) was founded in July 1967 as a reaction to a proposal by Warringah Council for 90 acres of flats. You may be aware that the southernmost block of flats adjoining Dunbar Park were actually built on Dunbar Park which was arbitrarily rezoned by the then Warringah Council.



This goes part of the way to explaining the attitude of many older residents to the then Warringah Council.

- In the late 1960s, the APT successfully stopped the mining of the Avalon sand dunes.
- In 1968, the APT, under the leadership of Connie Adams, formed the Angophora Reserve Management Committee. Initially, the Management Committee oversaw the planting of appropriate eucalypt food trees for the then thriving koala population.
- In 1979, the Management Committee was able to block the bulldozing of a sewer track through this precious reserve.
- In 1989, Angophora Reserve was listed on the National Estate Register as a result of a campaign led by the indefatigable Connie Adams. Note that the Angophora Reserve is still under the watchful eye of the APA with ongoing bushcare led by APA committee member, Geoff Searl.
- The APT joined with other local associations to block the proposal for an airport at Duffy's Forest and the attempt in 1971 to establish a hovercraft pad in Careel Bay.
- In 1972, the APT was successful in blocking attempts to clear and establish major development in the Careel Bay mangroves.
- In 1985, Garvon Kable, president of APT, was successful in stopping unauthorised work to widen the Bilgola bends.
- Successful negotiations between Avalon Preservation Trust and the then Warringah Council, ensured that Avalon Beach, unlike many other local beaches, does not have a storm water drain polluting the beach after excessive rain.

You can read at full account of the early history of the Avalon Preservation Trust written by Geoff Searl for the excellent online publication Pittwater Online News
<http://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/Avalon-Preservation-Association-Profile-Histroy.php>



Peter Mayman. President and Marita Macrae, Vice President, cutting the APA 50th Birthday cake

We anticipate many more challenges and so there will be an ongoing role for APA. Sadly, Pat Gleen has retired from the Management Committee. Pat, together with her husband David, has been a tireless worker and committed environmentalist for many years. She will be missed.

c) APA Management Committee for 2018:

President	Peter Mayman	Vice President	Marita Macrae
Secretary/ Treasurer	Sue Martin	Web manager	Craig Boaden
Committee members			
Conrad Grayson	Ros Marsh	Roger Sayers	Geoff Searl

2. Launch of the [Avalon Preservation Association website](http://www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au)

At our 50th anniversary AGM on 27 November 2017, the Association launched its new website. This exciting development, developed over 12 months, was managed by committee member, Craig Boaden. Web design services were provided pro bono by local photographer Michael Mannington. Many thanks, Michael! You can visit the new website at www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au To find recent Current Issues, visit the [Current Issues page](#) and click on the Recent tab on the side.

Please bookmark [Avalon Preservation Association website](http://www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au) and visit regularly. There you will find updates on important issues, information about the APA and what it stands for. You can also download the latest APA Bulletin or simply renew your membership.

Please also visit the APA Facebook Page to like and share
<https://www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation/>

3. Development Applications

In 2015 we contacted Council to express our concern about a proposed subdivision of one lot into three, with the demolition of the existing detached garage and new access road to provide access to new lots at 7 Trentwood Park. As part of our submission, APA stated that this is a very rare area with a pristine environment including a large number of mature native trees and deserves very sensitive care.

Resolution was finally reached in the Land and Environment Court with a decision acceptable to both the applicant and the Northern Beaches Council.

You can read the judgment at

<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/5a0cdbede4b058596cbac0f9>

As part of the judgment, it was stated that at least four nest boxes are to be appropriately installed in trees not affected by development.

There was also a requirement for *“Documented evidence of a qualified arborist having supervised the works in proximity to trees being retained and ensuring that all tree protection measures are adopted as specified in the approved arborist report is required. This documentation is to be provided prior to the issue of the Subdivision Certificate.”*

4. Canoe tree in Avalon

Recently, a member of APA noticed a small group of people around a tree in Hilltop Road Clareville opposite the shops. They were carrying bowls of collected bush food, long sticks and carved hard wood noise sticks.



Is either of these trees a canoe tree?

APA believes that the trees may be canoe trees, which had been made by Aborigines cutting out bark sheets to make canoes more than 200 years ago. It is also believed this ridge was a burial site. Another large tree that was removed from the corner house number 1 Riverview, had been a meeting place for local indigenous people, because it was not a local tree and stood out.

We are aware that there are many reserves and locations in the Peninsula area that have cultural significance to the local Aboriginal people. Burial grounds, middens, natural caves, rock carvings, etc. all make up another element in the heritage of the area and if we do not act to uphold the status of these and other elements in Pittwater then they will be lost for all time. If anyone has any further information about this tree, please contact the APA Management Committee via the website www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au or avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

Drought in Avalon

We are having a prolonged drought. Our average for July to December is about 479 mm. Informal rainfall measurements from North Avalon recorded just over a third of our average at about 173 mm. The ground is so dry that unless rain falls gently and steadily for a few days, water does not soak in. Dry soil becomes water resistant. Even large trees are quite stressed, as evidenced by heavy leaf drop. If you water the garden, do it gently, repeated over several days. Don't just sprinkle; deep watering encourages deep roots. The last substantial rain fell before mid-June 2017.

January 2018 has not started well. However January to June is our wettest part of the year, with an average of 734 mm. Our wettest months are March and June. It is interesting that Sydney catchment water storage dams are at about 80% of capacity, despite the drought on the coast. Hopefully, Avalon will receive some good soaking rain soon.

5. Pittwater Forever

In light of Pittwater's amalgamation into Northern Beaches Council, representatives of the member groups of Pittwater Forever met recently to consider its future role, if any. It was agreed that there will be an ongoing role for this unique alliance of community organisations but it is time to have a change of name. Proposals for an appropriate new name are now being considered.

6. Bushcare

Avalon Dunes

Avalon Dunes bushland is being abused by people, presumably teenagers who are setting up camps. These are quite elaborate, involving large tarpaulins, mattresses, couches, old chairs and other items, some from Barrenjoey High School. The amount of rubbish left behind is awful, but worst of all, a number of trees have been cut down to enlarge the camp area and for use as stakes. We understand that people like a place to get away from things, but the destruction and mess is sheer vandalism.

The Council has removed many such camps over the last few years at the request of the Avalon Dunes bushcare group, but the problem continues. If you see people carrying furniture etc up into the dunes please contact the Council rangers on 99701111



Parents and grandparents, take note of what your teenagers are up to. Some of the camp items must come from Council "cleanup" piles. Someone must be missing the heavy timber picnic table and seats?

Our bushcare group meets on the first Sunday of each month, at 8.30 near the Montessori school. We are not removing any rubbish in future, just weeds. Contact Marita for more information on 0439 409 202.

Avalon Golf Course

Bushcare will resume on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 14 February. That is Valentine's Day and so let's show the bush some love! The delightful Rachel will be taking care of and supervising us again this year. We will still be meeting in the same golf club car park and at 3pm. Anyone interested in helping out will be most welcome to join us.

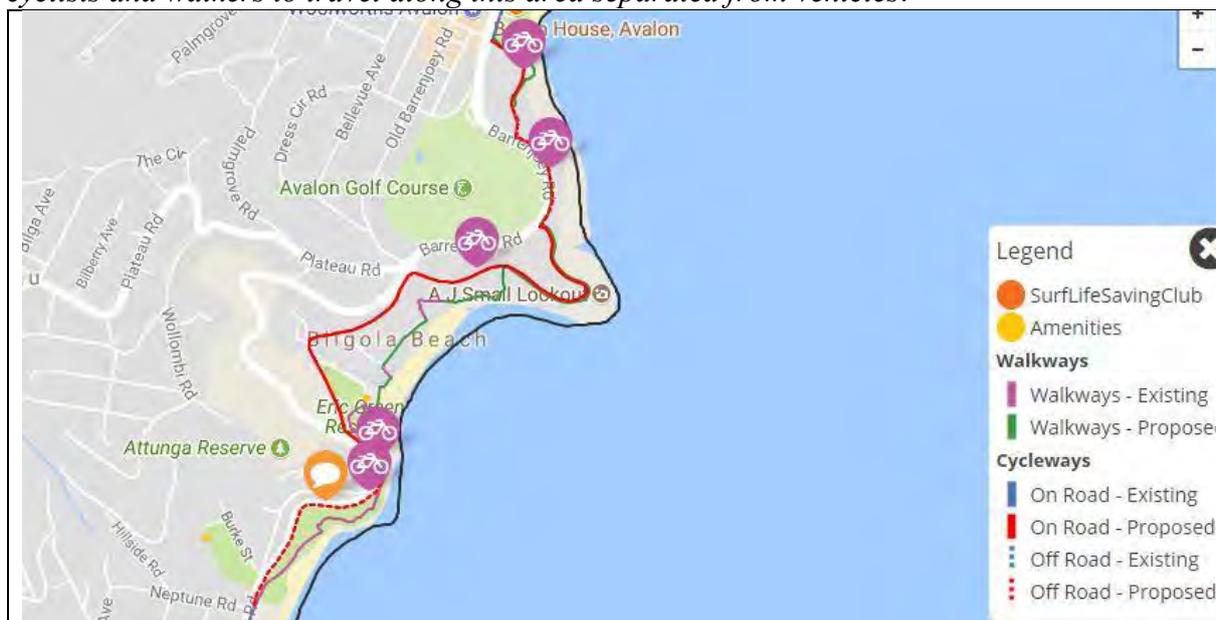
No experience is necessary. A tool belt and tools will be provided along with information and a guarantee of good fun and feeling good about caring for the golf course also. For further information contact Geoff on 0439 292 566.

Angophora bushcare

Angophora bush care will resume on the third Sunday of the month from 18 February at 8.30 at one of the entrances to the reserve. Morning tea usually happens around 11. Any queries please call Geoff on 0439 292 566.

7. Coastal Walkway

On 21 December 2017, Rob Stokes announced almost \$3 million in NSW Government funding for a shared walking and cycling pathway to better link Avalon Beach, Bilgola Beach and Newport. In his media release he says, "*The new path will include an off-road boardwalk section **along the Bilgola Bends** between Newport Beach and The Serpentine to safely allow cyclists and walkers to travel along this area separated from vehicles.*"



However, the [interactive map on the NBC website](#) shows the existing route via The Serpentine, with the proposed continuation to Newport Beach alongside Barrenjoey Road only from the very southern end of the Bilgola Bends. The exact route of this last southern section has still to be finalised. We will continue to investigate this. Visit the Northern Beaches website for further information

<https://northernbeaches.mysocialpinpoint.com/connectingnb#/>

8. Rubbish in Avalon

The APA Management Committee has become increasingly frustrated by what appears to be a failure by some commercial residents to adhere to their responsibilities re the storage and

disposal of waste and waste bins in the Avalon CBD. We now feel that, in general, the poor state of the Avalon CBD has become an embarrassment for residents and a shock for visitors. Commercial waste bins and rubbish have become a common sight in the Avalon CBD. Businesses are allowed to put out commercial bins on the afternoon before collection, but they must then be placed back in the appropriate storage area of the business. Bins must not be stored on Council/public land. Outside some premises, these bins remain as an unsightly feature of Avalon.

We have had a prompt response to our letter to NBC dated 17 January expressing our concerns. The rangers have assured us that they are working on the problem and speaking to the relevant businesses.

If you have any information or concerns, please contact us regarding this matter via *Contact Us* on our website http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au/?page_id=195 or directly to avalonpreservationa@gmail.com if you wish to attach photos. You may also like to place a comment on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation/>



Hock Lane between the Shell Garage and the Barefoot Boulevard



Outside 21-23 Old Barrenjoey Road



Patterson Lane leading from Avalon Parade to Dunbar Park

9. Have your say.

Northern Beaches Council is inviting community comment on a number of projects. Some may not be of interest or relevance but it is worth bookmarking the page and checking.

<http://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/your-say-northern-beaches>

You can also sign up for the Council’s [community engagement email list](#) to receive regular updates.

10. Russell Lansbury OA

APA is delighted to congratulate Russell Lansbury, who was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to industrial relations education. Russell and Gwenda Lansbury have been long-term members of the Avalon Preservation Association and are both assets to the local community.

11. APA membership renewal

The \$10 membership fee is due on 30 June each year. Many of you have paid for a number of years in advance. Details of your subscription, including expiry date, are emailed to you with your bulletin. Please note if you still require your bulletin to be mailed to you, you will sadly receive the cut down version without photos because of the cost of printing. The expiry date of your subscription is printed on your envelope.

Your APA membership number makes it easier for people to pay by direct deposit. Include your APA number so that the APA treasurer knows the identity of who has paid by direct deposit. **Renewals can be paid via the APA website**

<http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au/> or online to Westpac: Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732-095 Account 07-0127. **Please include your name and/or APA membership number to ensure I know who you are!** You can still renew your membership by mail (or in person) to Sue Martin, 164 Riverview Road, Avalon Beach 2107. To save additional postage, your receipt will be mailed to you with the subsequent bulletin or via email. Please encourage your local family members and friends to join APA. Please consider donating to our Fighting Fund to support campaigns. Simply select the amount you wish to donate and add to your annual member fee when renewing, or donate at any time. Please specify whether the money is for membership renewal or for the FF (Fighting Fund).

The Avalon Preservation Association thanks Avalon Beach Community Library for their support.

✂.....

APA membership

The cost is \$10.00 per family renewable on 30 June annually at **Westpac Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732-095 Account 07-0127** or to 164 Riverview Road Avalon Beach.

I/We:.....Phone:.....Address:.....
.....

hereby apply for membership in the Avalon Preservation Association. I/We agree to abide by the provisions of the APA Constitution if accepted.

Email:.....

We are happy for our bulletin to be emailed rather than mailed. Yes No

Signed:Date:

I wish to donate \$ to the APA Fighting Fund. I understand that the purpose of the Fighting Fund is to allow members and others to support specific campaigns of concern to Avalon residents.