

SEEN...

Pittwater's 'big wet' in early March saw Narrabeen Lagoon's water level spike dramatically in just a 24-hour period, with residents on the edge of the lagoon threatened by flooding. This prompted a swift response from Northern Beaches Council who set about digging a channel through the sand to 'drain' the excess water from the lagoon back out to sea. Council reports the process is only effective when the water level in the lagoon gets above 1.3 metres above sea level. If the water level isn't high enough, the water can't flow down to the ocean fast enough to clear the sand and keep the channel open beyond the next tide. This action though seemed to do the trick.



HEARD...

Word on the street is Northern Beaches Council has its sights set on Avalon to test out its new place-planning process. But rather than basing their plans on the suggestions and recommendations of the community who live and breathe the village every day, we hear the



place plan will be formulated from the 'top down' - like so many other masterplans that appear to be getting thrust on the top end of the peninsula with little uptake of the points raised by community submissions. It was only three years ago that the local Chamber of Commerce, Surf Life Saving Club, residents and community groups painstakingly compiled and tabled their recommendations for an Avalon Place Plan, including the important issue of pedestrian access around the village. But back then Pittwater Council shifted its

attention to the Mona Vale precinct (we all know how that panned out) and Avalon was placed on the backburner. That is, until last year, when former administrator Dick Persson put it back on the hob (after fielding complaints from a small group of independent residents). But will the report tabled in 2015, full of really useful stuff, be used to help formulate the new place plan? Apparently not. Which seems a massive slap in the face to the folk who live north of the Bends. It remains to be seen what Council will make of the traffic data it gathered on the Avalon Parade / Old Barrenjoey Road intersection over summer. Watch this space.

ABSURD...

A recent survey by Serviceseeking.com.au revealed that your postcode determines how much tradies charge for their services - and the variations can be extreme. According to them, the cheapest Pittwater suburb for tradespeople's services is Mona Vale, followed by Narrabeen, then Newport. (Interestingly no other local suburbs were included in the survey.) Apparently the discrepancy between Mona Vale and Newport can be as much as an 86% increase in the hourly rate. Anyone out there call BS on that? Or have any horror stories to share?

6 THINGS THIS MONTH

Local film festival. The wait is over for Avalon's Creative Creatures Film Festival which will be held at the bowling club on Sun 8. Gates open 1pm with bands, food and fun. Films start on the big screen from 4.45pm. Embrace this year's theme and wear red shoes! It pays to be organised too with tickets (\$10) online at creativecreaturesfilmfestival.com.au or at the gates (\$15).

Take a plunge. Organisers are hoping for favourable conditions on Sun 8 for the Around The Bends - Newport to Avalon and the Avalon Beach surf swims which were originally scheduled for January but postponed due to high seas. More info avalonbeachslsc.com.au or www.oceanswims.com

Give Blood. The Mobile Blood Service is visiting Mona Vale Memorial Hall on Wed 11 from 1.30-6.30pm; Thurs 12 from 8.30am-2pm; and Fri 13 from 8.30am-1.30pm. Appointments 13 14 95 or donateblood.com.au

Eco workshop. Learn how to make eco-cleaning products such as dishwashing liquid, household cleaning spray, toilet cleaner, furniture polish and natural skin care products from an experienced team in Avalon on Sun 15 from 2-5pm. Spaces limited, bookings and info maria.i.claverol@gmail.com.

Get crafty. 'Kids' from 13 to 30 are invited to transform a comic book, favourite book or a piece of paper into a unique hat or pencil case using mod podge glue. Thurs 19 from 10.30-11.30am. Cost \$5. All materials provided or BYO comic books or other paper. Mona Vale Library; bookings essential 9970 1600.

Deep Creek walk. See and identify spectacular Sydney sandstone flora in Autumn 'blossom' by joining an organised walk of the Upper Deep Creek Catchment. Start 10am at Terrey Hills on Sat 28 and allow 3 hours. Bring a screwdriver for some voluntary weeding near the end of the track. Carpool required. Bookings essential; Conny Harris 0432 643 295.

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