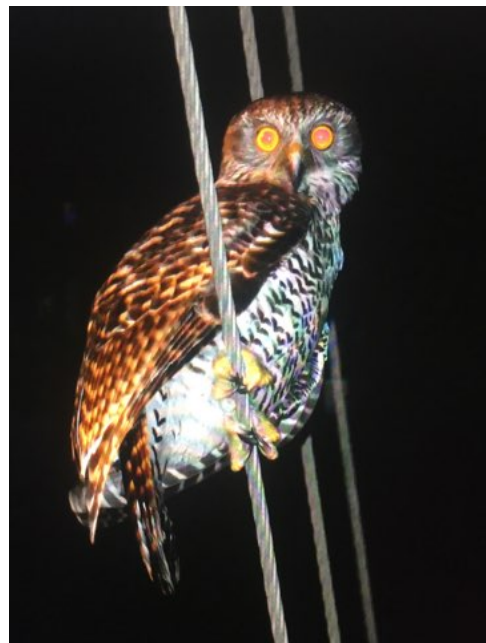


Avalon Preservation Trust

incorporated as
Avalon Preservation Association



Bulletin No 98 October 2019

Dear APA Community

Apologies, it's been a little while between newsletters - lots of positive news to report - and only a few concerning items.....

1. DRAFT LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT (LSPS) FOR NB COUNCIL

As discussed in the previous newsletter, Council has now released for exhibition a document called Towards 2040, a draft NBC Local Strategic Plan-

ning Statement (LSPS), which is a mandatory initiative by the NSW government. Each council must prepare an LSPS, which “sets out the 20-year vision for land use in the local area, the special character and values that are to be preserved and how change will be managed into the future.” It is an overview document, not meant to replace the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), but it will inform the LEP. It is a long document, but we encourage you to have a read - Below are some points of interest/concern made by Craig Boaden of the APA (who is also Chairman of the Pittwater Community Alliance).

To examine the draft, click on this link:

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/towards-2040>

We encourage members to make their submissions in writing, online or to NBC at PO Box 82, Manly 1655 marked 'Towards 2040'; these are due in to NBC by 10 November.

On 30 September NBC held a briefing session on the LSPS led by Andrew Pigott & Director of Planning Louise Kerr, which several APA members attended. Several points were raised in 2 hours of discussion:

Spot rezoning (p.34) - these are allowed under current NSW government regulations. NBC agreed to insert a note that Council opposes these in principle. We all agreed that a comprehensive LEP wouldn't need spot rezonings.

Transport & B-line (Priority 9) - on p.135 NBC refers to the B-line as going from Newport to Sydney in the future. Newport Residents Assoc (NRA) & Pittwater Community Alliance (PCA) policy opposes B-line buses terminating at Newport. Palm Beach Whale Beach Residents Assoc (PBWBA) would like them to terminate at Palm Beach, and other members are not opposed to this. NBC also predicts that bus rapid transit (BRT) will replace the B-line. BRT assumes a permanent bus-only lane, which NRA in particular opposes as it will remove all main street parking along the BRT route. BRT would be impossible to implement north of Newport without road widening which PCA opposes.

Open Space & Recreation (Priority 4) - Action 4.4 on p.61 refers to preventing the application of inappropriate NSW regulations on Metro Rural Land in the LGA. Andrew expressed the hope that the state government would be accommodating. The group were not so sure. On p.69 NBC refers to the possibility of converting golf courses into multi-function recreation spaces. Members may have a view on this.

Housing (Priorities 15 & 16) - there was concern that detailed housing projections are not provided in the draft. NBC says these will be contained in the Local Housing Strategy now being completed. This will not be exhibited until after the exhibition period for the LSPS. See p.113 for some figures.

Housing mix is also an issue eg affordable & social housing and medium density housing (eg town houses etc) proposed.

Waterways (Priority 1) - we were concerned that Action 1.8 (p.44) forecasts affecting W2 Recreational Waterways by expanding marinas. Andrew explained that this would be by way of a negotiated swap of open water moorings for additional marina space, for no net loss of navigable waterway space. There was no detail as to how this would be achieved or regulated.

Tourism (Priority 29) - Council's approach appears to be "jobs'n'growth" oriented rather than emphasising the potential social & environmental costs, except in passing (Principle 1 on p.181).

These are only some points about some of the 30 Priorities. In particular I also draw your attention to Priorities 2 (biodiversity), 5 (Tree canopy) and 17 (local character). Note that the draft LSPS is 200 pages and the supporting Technical Studies & Community Engagement Report another 600 pages.



Link to the document:

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/towards-2040>

This is an important plan for the future of developments in Avalon, in Pittwater and the rest of the LGA.

The next document NBC will be completing after the LSPS is the integration of the current 4 Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) into one, in 2020. With that, NBC will draft a Local Character Statement for each locality, including Avalon. This will be a very important document as it relates to Avalon particularly, and the characteristics we feel are unique and special about Ava-

lon and what we value above all else and want to preserve into the future. We assume there will be a call for residents to submit what they feel is important about our suburb, so we ask that you have your say, when the time comes, some time in 2020. We will keep you informed.

2. CANOPY TREES

In late August, members of the APA committee met with Fenton Beatty, Manager of Tree Services for NBC, to discuss the Avalon tree canopy - and it's sad, slow decline due to felling for developments/granny flats/view improvement/10:50 Laws, and also due to aging & disease. He outlined NBCs plan to plant 5000 trees in the LGA over the next 12 months and asked for suggestions of where and what type of trees we'd like to see planted in the Avalon area. We are looking forward to many new plantings over the coming months with large banksias already being planted on the western slope of the Avalon Surf Club green space - but many more to come.



We also look forward to hearing about canopy trees at the APA AGM in November - see next item.

3. APA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on MON 25/11/19 7.00 pm AT AVALON BOWLING CLUB - ALL WELCOME - REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!

We are very fortunate to have Assoc Prof Peter Davies as guest speaker at our AGM this year. A/Prof Davies is an urban tree expert & will speak about the importance of canopy trees in our suburbs, community participation and engagement re trees, council planning & decision making relating to trees, plus other topics related to development. He has led and contributed to many multi-disciplinary research projects in the areas of environmental planning and sustainability, has recently featured on ABC Radio and was a speaker at the Rethinking the Urban Forest Conference earlier this year in Sydney. He is currently Interim Head of Earth & Planetary Sciences, at the Dept of Environmental Sciences, Macquarie Uni and is with



the MQ Centre for Smart Green Cities. The APA AGM is on Monday 25 November, 2019 at the Avalon Bowling Club at 7.00pm. All welcome. Light refreshments will be provided, and drinks can be purchased from the bar.

4. EXPECTED \$10,000 GRANT FOR AVALON GOLF COURSE BUSH REGENERATION

In more good news, and particularly thanks to Marita Macrae of the APA, Jason Falinski has recommended a grant of \$10,000 for contract bush regeneration. This would be a wonderful boost for the remnant bushland on Avalon Golf Course. This money comes from the Community Environment Grants program through Federal Electorates. If approved by the department of Environment and Energy in December, the money will go towards professional eradication of problem weeds on the golf course.



AVALON GOLF COURSE circa 1938 . Image No.: a2802001h, courtesy State Library of NSW



Avalon Golf Course Bushcare (from Geoff Searle)

Some years ago Marita Macrae instigated and led a keen band of volunteer bush carers to look after areas of the Avalon Golf Links, known colloquially as Royal Av.

After initial work around the south and south-eastern area, especially below the roundabout, the group disbanded.

In 2012 Marita and myself examined early photos, both aerial and on-ground, showing the area before (as well as since) the golf course was established. They realised that there is a real remnant of that pre-golf course, original coastal heath on clay soil, which still survives. We call it the 'centre triangle' but for any golfers it's the area bounded by the 4th, 5th and 7th holes.

On investigation we could see that the area was incredibly infested with Ground Asparagus fern along with other weeds such as lantana, Ochna (the mickey mouse plant) and others. The African Olive has also invaded the perimeter of the course. This all reduces the likelihood and the ability of the natives to survive by preventing natural regeneration to occur.

With help from Marita we reformed the bushcare group and are now in our 7th year of endeavour. We have made huge inroads into the Ground Asparagus Fern and hopefully after a few more work days there will be little left. The *Ochna serrulata* is more stubborn and difficult to eradicate. Its long and stepped taproot is difficult to access so the stem is scraped on one side to expose the growing layer and immediately a glyphosate-based herbicide is applied to the scrape.

Marita has applied for a grant through Pittwater Natural Heritage Association to assist the work of the volunteers under the Communities Environment Program funded by the Australian Government. The grant is partnered by the Avalon Preservation Association.

Marita has already noted 140 native plant species, including some locally rare in the Northern Beaches area. The dense golf course bushland is good habitat for smaller birds and other fauna.

The volunteer group meets on the second Wednesday of each month usually in the car park of the golf club at 2.30pm. New members are very welcome, instruction, tools and afternoon tea are all provided. Inquiries call Geoff Searl on 0439 292 566

We were also delighted by the announcement that the State Govt and NBC have partnered to buy the land adjoining Hillside Road, Newport adjacent to Attunga Reserve. It is fabulous news for our local community and was due to the hard work of many people including Marita Macrae of the APA and PNHA and Newport Residents Assoc and many individuals contacting Council. The public support for this project was overwhelming and shows how community can effect positive changes in our area.

5. UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE ISSUES AROUND AVALON

Following discussions with Ray Brownlee CEO & staff of NB Council we are pleased to report progress and positive information on items raised with him by APA on behalf of residents:

- Reinstatement of the pedestrian bridge over Careel Creek canal - work was expedited and the bridge reopened slightly ahead of schedule.
- North Avalon shower drainage has been improved.

- Sand erosion on western pathway to the beach at North Avalon has been rectified.
- Some broken kerb and guttering and potholes nominated by APA to council have been repaired. We are still following up repairs for Simmonds Lane; Garbage bins blocking Patterson Lane; and issues with the laneway between Woolies and the Shell Garage.
- Replacement Banksia trees west of the surf club have been planted.
- A directional sign to Avalon Beach Historical Society office has been erected on the Bowling Green Lane signpost.
- Soap holders have been installed in public showers in the surf club building. Council is also investigating soap dispensers at APA's request.
- Work requested by APA on a number of items in the park area south of the surf club has been undertaken, or is being expedited:



- Grass has been replanted. We have been advised that the couch grass is currently dormant but watering needs are being monitored;
- Two plaques informing of the development of the IRB for surf rescues (Nov 1969, 50th anniversary this year), and the introduction of Malibu surfing in Australia at Avalon Beach (Nov 1956) are in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the IRB on 2 November 2019. Both are long sought community projects, which are progressing this time around as a result of the CEO's support and at the initiative of the surf club, APA, ABHS and in the case of the Malibu plaque also with the support of NASA and individual local boardriders.

All are invited to attend celebrations in the Av Surf club park on Sat 2 Nov

2-3:30pm Demonstration of IRB Rescues

4:30pm official unveiling of the 2 plaques

5.00pm club Bangalley Bar open, all invited

- Historical Display open for viewing in the Function Room upstairs in the club.

- A commemorative whale stone sculptured by Richard Stutchbury and donated by Justine Anderson in memory of Trudi Adams, is to be installed near the pool shower;

- At council's initiative and with surf club support, the bollards beach paintings were repainted with community participation on 22 September; other proposals under consideration are - a mural on the west and south side of the surf club to be in keeping with the two plaques' subjects are low key in nature given the location; work on the remains of the historic beach kiosk; new bike racks to be installed, and bins moved to the southern side of the path from the carpark toward the pool, and other possible public art near the entrance road.

- Re-paving the badly pocked surface around the pool is to be undertaken as requested by APA. We have been advised that the contractor is currently waiting for suitable low tides with no swell, as the area needs to be completely dry for the work to be effective. This has again been raised with Council.

- Banksias are to be planted for shade at intervals beside the Yellow Brick Road at North Avalon and around the periphery of the southern side and replanted along the school fence line. APA has provided council with a list of other potential tree plantings - including eg an entrance clump of Cabbage Tree Palms near the corner of Barrenjoey Road the the surf club carpark entrance.

- Council is currently considering other matters raised by APA including the size and proliferation of the newly installed Parking Area signs at North Avalon and South Avalon, and the state of various lanes in the town centre.

- Of course we are monitoring progress with all items

- We are pleased to report progress on these matters. While individually they may be relatively minor, together they improve the liveability of our place.

We appreciate the responsiveness and willingness of Council's CEO to engage with APA, your residents association, on an ongoing basis.



6. APA ASSISTED BY RAY BROWNLEE'S OFFICE

The APA would also like to mention and thank, the wonderful (& patient!) Trish Chaney from Ray Brownlee's office (CEO of NBC), who has been attending our regular APA Committee meetings this year.

Trish is the Community Liaison Co-ordinator for Mr Brownlee, and reports directly to him. She has been most helpful in updating us on the progress of our current list of Avalon community issues relating to Council and we are able to relay directly to her any urgent problems and more detailed explanations of complex or nuanced issues that we feel Mr Brownlee or Council in general, should be aware of.

This is helping to make communications between the APA and Council more effective and we thank Mr Brownlee and Trish for providing this service to us.

7. MOUNTAIN BIKES AND DESTRUCTION OF RESERVES

This is an ongoing issue, but over the past couple of months, there has been a significant & frightening escalation of bush destruction by teenagers on

mountain bikes. It is of great concern currently in Stapleton Reserve & Palmgrove Park. The teenagers are destroying remnant cabbage tree palm groves, spotted gum saplings, burning areas of bush near homes, and stealing tools from homes & the Avalon Community Gardens. The jumps and tracks that are constructed often contain dangerous materials and it is only a matter of time before there is a serious injury, or a fire is lit that will destroy homes (fires have been lit recently, that have threatened homes). Council, Police and the Fire Dept have been informed and we hope all are focussed on finding a place for the teenagers to ride safely in a location that is not environmentally sensitive, but to date, both Council and Police have been quite ineffective & the damage continues at an alarming rate. There needs to be significant time and resources invested by Council into a solution to this problem as it is completely out of hand at present and only seems to be escalating in damage to bushland and numbers of kids involved. Please contact Council and the APA if you are experiencing damage to a reserve in your area.



Palmgrove Park, 1927

8. NBC DECISION RE: NETBALL COURTS IN AVALON

Council will soon commence construction of new hard surface netball courts (with lighting) on the western side of Avalon Beach Reserve (behind Avalon sand dunes, adjacent to Careel Creek). The APA did much research into this issue - particularly regarding community preferences and how many existing

hard surface courts are currently locked up in public schools, that could be shared by the community. This is a large and historically significant parcel of Avalon park land, that will be changed forever once these courts are constructed. We provided a detailed submission to Council regarding the proposal. The APA felt we had a win on behalf of our community, as the general view of Avalon residents was that 4.5 hard surface courts were in excess of needs. APA requested a compromise be reached and after much lobbying and discussion, the decision was made by NBC to construct only two multi-use hard surface courts on the western side of Careel Creek, a basketball half-court (on eastern side, next to the Skate Park) and a grass netball court (next to the half-court on eastern side). The APA felt strongly that the eastern side of Careel Creek (directly beside the Yellow Brick Road) should remain untouched for family recreational use, picnics, etc, as is its current use. Sadly there will be a court on the eastern side, but we are pleased it will be grass, not a hard surface court, so can still be used as green space for family recreation. We are most disappointed that no mature trees will be planted on the eastern side, once the weed species - but very attractive, mature, shade bearing hibiscus trees, are removed. NBC have advised they will plant some native shrubs, but once the grass netball court is constructed, NBC say that there will be no space for any large shade trees. APA feels this will make the Yellow Brick Road even hotter to walk along in Summer and we will continue to lobby Council for shade trees along this route. Hopefully the Council will also be looking at drainage along the dirt road and beside the skate park as this is also an ongoing problem that has not been addressed. Please write to Council if you have similar concerns.



9. NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Stating the obvious.....

Having been overseas for several weeks, it was a joy to come home to Avalon! Sounds parochial, I know. I loved our trip and I appreciated, and was in awe of almost everything we saw and did - with some exceptions. We've travelled a lot over the years, but on this trip, sadly, development & mass tourism was out of control, & had all but ruined many of the iconic places I'd expected to be pristine and preserved. They had obviously NOT been protected by their government or Councils. It was a delight to come home to simple things, like clean, clear air & sunlight, quiet beautiful sandy beaches, pristine waterways & gum forests, where there are houses amongst the trees - not vice versa (APA's catchcry); where people are mindful of rubbish & recycling (shoutout to mainland Greece!?!); road rules respected (hello Sicily!?!); and it's possible to sit and breathe lungfuls of fresh air - not laden with pollution or cigarette smoke! (cough, cough Croatia!?!). I often think how lucky I was to be born & live in Australia - let alone our Pittwater paradise! I know it's not perfect, but I feel even more protective of it now, having seen how things are changing so rapidly for the worse in other parts of the world - and in Sydney as well! We need to think very carefully about the Council/State Govt push for more tourism & development in our area. Even with no changes to our current development planning laws (very unlikely), every time a new granny flat goes up or a house is bulldozed for another McMansion in Avalon, several canopy trees invariably come down in the process. This is a continual net loss to our canopy tree cover. Great poster I saw last week: "We need a definition of progress that moves away from growth at any cost". What we have here in Avalon & our Pittwater area, is worth protecting. If we don't protect it, who will?



10. MONA VALE HOSPITAL

The Government has begun demolition of our beloved Mona Vale Hospital, with the Chapel coming down in the next few weeks and the main building to follow. It will be a very sad day. The State Govt Inquiry into the debacle over the new NB Hospital was quite sobering and brought many issues re inadequate staffing & medical equipment, as well as the confusion over the Public/Private partnership and who (Public v Private patients) is entitled to particular services in the new hospital. Let's hope there will be some improvement and clarity brought to bear after this Inquiry. Our community feels it's vital to retain a proper Emergency Department on the Mona Vale Hospital site. We need to maintain community pressure on the State Government re this issue. Please write to Rob Stokes and Brad Hazzard with your concerns.

11. BUSHCARE OPPORTUNITIES

Avalon Golf Course Bushcare group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm to 5pm at the Golf Course parking lot. Serene location, loads of birdlife Contact Geoff Searl 0439 292 566

Avalon Dunes Bushcare group meets on the first Sunday of each month, starting near the Montessori School. The dunes look green, but so are weeds, so we need all the help we can get. It's a place you can hear and perhaps see very small birds such as blue wrens and thornbills because the bush is dense and the bullying Noisy Miners don't like this sort of vegetation. Find us on Facebook. Contact Marita on 0439 409 202 for more information.

The Angophora Reserve bushcare group meet on the third Sunday of the month at one of the four entrances to the reserve. Geoff posts emails to members of the group with details of the next work day 1 week ahead. It is a large group who 'talk hard' and work hard as well - nothing like being serenaded by a golden whistler or one of the many avian occupants of the reserve whilst you work! We meet at 8.30am and morning tea usually happens around 11. Any queries please call Geoff on 0439 292 566.

Plateau Park Bilgola Bushcarers have been delighted with the Waratahs flowering recently in the reserve. One was picked unfortunately, but there are others and we will be watching for developing seed pods . NB Council has had seed propagated from here in the past and given the seedlings to local properties with suitable gardens. We work on the first Friday of each month, starting at 8.30am, meeting near the swings in the park on Plateau Road. Contact Ken Hughes on 0417 287 320

Bangalley Head Bushcare group works on the second Sunday morning each month, 8.30-11.30am, meeting on Whale Beach Rd where the track goes up.

Toongari Reserve Bushcare is on the second Saturday morning of each month, 8.30-11.30. Go in next to the Avalon Kindergarten on Avalon Pde. Contact Robyn Hughes 0403 927 588. Go and see how the July 28 National Tree Day planting is coming along.

Careel Creek Bushcare group meets on the fourth Saturday morning 8.30-11.30am. After the removal of dangerous Coral Trees, we have been concentrating on revegetating the road verge and corner of Barrenjoey Rd and Etival St for the last couple of years, with great success. This a freshwater wetland area, though not part of Careel Creek. Contact Karin Nippard, NBCouncil Bushland Management Officer, on 0417040945 for more information.



12. COUNCIL'S AVALON PLACE PLAN & AVALON NORTH CREATIVE SPACE

Representatives from APA are still in discussions with Council regarding these two important Avalon issues. It is a long process and requires much patience and time for all involved!

Regarding the Avalon Golf Course Creative Space, we are still pursuing more communal space in relation to the proposed current plan by NBC and a more usable configuration of the internal space for artists.

The Avalon Place Plan is also a work in progress and there will be updates in the near future, when the draft plan is released to the Community Reference Group (on which APA has reps).

13. CONTACTING COUNCIL - NEW PHONE APP - ‘SNAP SEND SOLVE’

We ask you to consider making a comment once you have read the Towards 2040 document per Item 1 in this Newsletter, but if you feel strongly about any issue relating to Council in Avalon or the immediate area, please email NBC on council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au , we encourage you to also participate in the “Have Your Say” section of the Council website AND there is also a new app that is available to download, that Northern Beaches Council is registered with, called “SNAP, SEND, SOLVE” - It’s an “easy and efficient way to notify Councils of issues that need addressing in your community.” The app works by the resident taking a photo of a problem/issue and sending it off via the app to NB Council for solving. You can also write to Council at: PO Box 82 MANLY NSW 1655. Please be respectful in any correspondence & outline the issue and ask what can be done to remedy the situation. Talk to your neighbours and friends about what they love about Avalon & what needs fixing. It’s cathartic! Also write to our local Member re community issues, currently Rob Stokes (email: pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

14. DAs, MANLY DAILY, APA WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

We note that NB Council has recently deleted the existing requirements for the need to exhibit, advertise or notify the general public of Development Applications (DAs) in the Manly Daily. APA feels this is a disservice to our community and we should be entitled to know, in an easily accessible format like a paper, what DAs are being considered in our neighbourhood on a weekly basis (preferably BEFORE they are approved, not after) & be able to comment. Please write to Council if you would like this service reinstated. This important topic is covered by the NBC Community Participation Plan draft, which is still on exhibition. Deadline is 27 October.
<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/draft-community-participation-plan> Residents lament that they used to get their news about our local area from the Manly Daily. The reduction to just two editions per week has limited the dissemination of information. Visits to both the [Avalon Preservation Association website](#) and the [APA Facebook](#) will ensure that you are kept up to date on what is happening [Pittwater Online News](#) is also a valuable source of information about the local community, but it seems,

unless many people protest, we will no longer have easy access to the DA approval list other than through the NBC website.

15. APA MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL

Membership is \$10 p.a. per person, or \$25 for three years. Membership is due on 30 June. Many of you have paid for a number of years in advance. Details of your subscription, including expiry date, are emailed to you. 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 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 to PO Box 1 Avalon NSW 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 person per year (or \$25 for 3 years) renewable on 30 June at Westpac Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732-095 Account 07-0127 or to PO Box 1 Avalon Beach.

I (name):.....Phone:.....

Address:.....

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

Email:.....

The APA Bulletin will be emailed unless specifically requested

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.