

# Avalon Preservation Association

Our website: <http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au>



Photo: Roger Sayers

Issue # 101

August 2020

Dear Avalon Preservation Association Members and Friends,

**The APA is your local residents' association. Our volunteer Management Committee has had an extremely busy & productive few months, with many NB Council, community, regional & internal meetings (mostly by Zoom) and submissions to council being prepared.**

**It's difficult to keep up with the many Avalon Beach issues of late – even though there are still many on hold or delayed due to COVID-19.**

**We are happy to say that APA has good relations with NBC CEO Ray Brownlee and receives good service and prompt attention by Council's community liaison officers when we request information on council activities affecting our area.**

**Unfortunately, we have had some disappointing interactions with parts of Council regarding**

future plans for Avalon & tree removals, but we are working through these issues with them and are hoping for some positive outcomes.

Our greatest concern is that it is increasingly apparent that Council is just too big since amalgamation and has difficulty keeping track of issues that are important and specific to this end of the peninsula.

We were particularly dismayed and bemused to note that without any community consultation, the Council has voted to congratulate themselves on “significant savings and achievements of the newly amalgamated Council”. Nobody had asked the communities north of Mona Vale what they think about the amalgamation! NBC have now decided (after the report had been tabled) that you can Have Your Say on how you feel about performance of Council until 7/9/20. Please do!

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/merger-performance-report>



Photo: Unknown source - North Avalon Headland after a recent storm. In August 2017 a huge chunk of rock, the Indian Head's “nose” fell off, changing the headland's profile. Then last July the big seas thundering against the fallen rock rolled it into the sea.

**FYI: other interesting photos:** <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/manly-daily/hundreds-of-tonnes-of-rock-fall-from-face-of-cliff-at-north-avalon/news-story/64b487b9d15e7157f493cdb83f15f5ee>

#### **AVALON PLACE PLAN**

APA and the Avalon Place Plan CRG (Community Reference Group) were finally provided with a Draft Avalon Place Plan by NBC early June. The first meeting relating to the Place Plan was instigated back in 2013 – so this has definitely been a long time in the planning. There's still a LONG way to go in this marathon though! The APA Committee spent significant time dissecting the current draft plan and provided a detailed Submission to Council regarding pros & cons, &

suggestions for improvements, as did the PBWHA (Palm Beach Whale Beach Residents' Assoc) and other CRG members. We all want this to be a far more successful Place Plan effort than the poorly conceived Mona Vale Plan, that was eventually shelved by Council due to public backlash re their proposals to introduce 6 storey shop top developments into the MV village and take out significant trees (among other issues). The APA was pleased with many aspects of the draft Avalon plan; however we are most concerned about several key proposals by NBC. The Draft Plan is still in confidence to the CRG at this point. The CRG met online in July to discuss draft comments. Follow up meetings with PBWBRA, APA and NBC CEO have occurred. Further submissions to the draft are being prepared by APA and other CRG reps. Disappointingly, a number of CRG representatives have pulled out due to COVID and other reasons. Particularly the voice of our youth. We anticipate further review of the draft before it is presented to Councillors for approval for public exhibition.

**It is very important that all community members engage with this project and have your say when the opportunity arises.**

Meanwhile you can follow this link to see all public documents relating to the Place Plan including the Consultants Parking Study and Options for Intersection upgrade.

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/avalon>.

NBC is very busy finalising many new policy documents and we are hard pushed to keep up with all that may be relevant to Avalon.

Some earlier ones which may be of interest are:-

<https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/northern-beaches-walking-plan>

And the Avalon Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan which you can find tabled in the attached link to Council Minutes:-

<https://files.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/create-meeting/attachmentbooklet1-extraordinarycouncilmeeting-20170808.pdf>

### **Northern Beaches Bike Plan approved July 2020**

[https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/bike\\_plan](https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/bike_plan)

The NBC Bike Plan recently approved with a high level budget of \$170 million is a massive undertaking for NBC.

There are numerous bike paths proposed for Avalon including a separated bike path from Avalon Public School along Old Barrenjoey Rd to the Fire Station and a separated bike path from Hilltop Rd Intersection along Avalon Parade to the intersection of Barrenjoey Rd.

The APA are most supportive of cycling but feels this particular plan would be incredibly dangerous to mix bikes and pedestrians along this busy thoroughfare, as well as difficulties with resident and commercial driveway crossings, loss of parking and loss of a significant number of established native trees. APA is currently devising some alternative options that could be safer and more desirable for all stakeholders to submit to NBC for consideration. If you have any suggestions please email us asap.



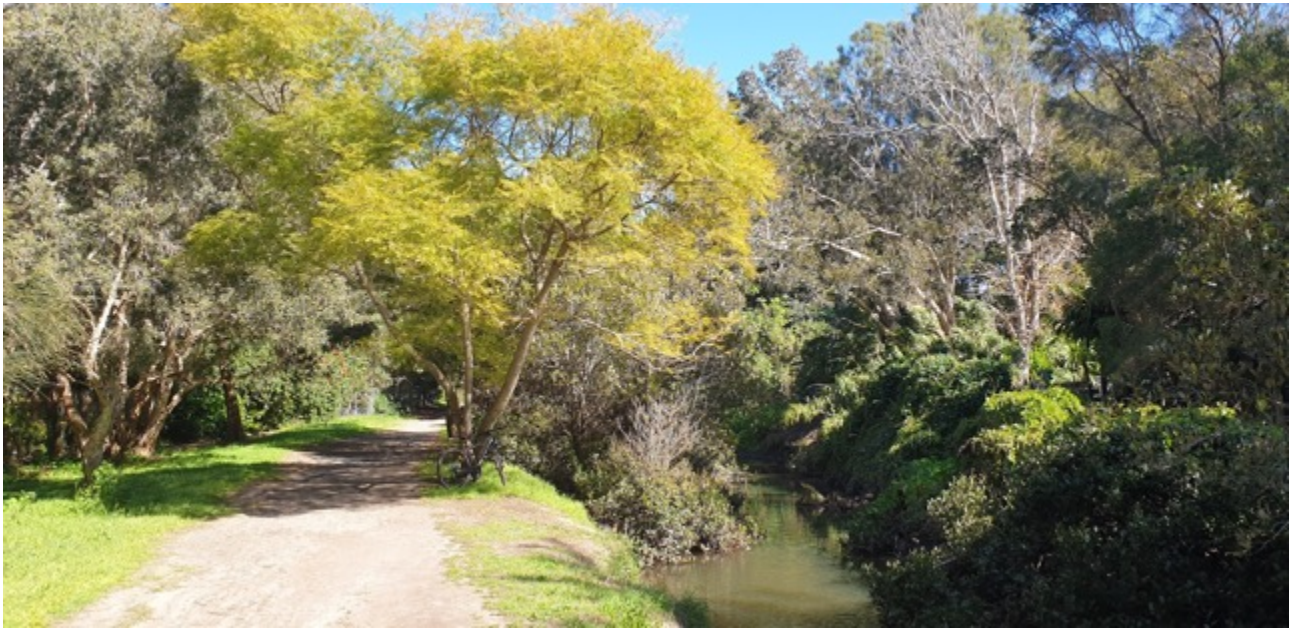


Photo: Bike/footpath beside Careel Creek, Roger Sayers

## **DA REVIEWS**

The APA Committee share the time-consuming task of reviewing local DA's submitted to NBC each month to ensure local development controls are being adhered to and unnecessary tree loss is not occurring. It is difficult to keep up with the number of tree removal requests and non-compliant DAs.

The character of Avalon Beach is changing with the many granny flats/dual occupancies being constructed and many seniors living developments proposed in low density residential areas. APA has forwarded many submissions to NBC but the whole community needs to be vigilant in voicing their concerns to NBC re these matters.

## **SHORE BRACE ENCROACHMENT – amended DA**

This long running and frustrating saga shows no sign of a speedy outcome, despite the unanimous and unambiguous Council determination of 22/10/2019. Nothing to date has been remedied on the site and the determinations have apparently been completely ignored. Now Council has received a modification for the letterbox structure. For this resident to now ask to modify the DA, but neglect to acknowledge the ruling previously made by Council to remove the structure, is ludicrous & makes a mockery of the whole system and sets a poor precedent. NBC staff have been asked to keep Avalon Preservation Assoc. informed on this issue. APA have completed a submission to Council regarding this site on behalf of members, but feel free to write to Council to let them know how you feel about this action – or lack thereof.

## 27-29 NORTH AVALON RD PROPOSED "SENIORS" DEVELOPMENT

APA and over 70 individual residents objected to this proposal on grounds that it was completely out of character for the area and did not satisfy requirements under either the State Seniors Housing SEPP or Council's Seniors plans. It is currently with the Local Planning Panel and Council staff have recommended refusal of the current proposal. The applicant has already lodged an objection with the L and E Court in advance. Stay tuned.

## FENCE CONSTRUCTION on BARRENJOEY ROAD- Federal Black Spot Program Funding

The Avalon community & APA had been dismayed by the scheme recently advertised by Council in "Have your Say" to construct approx. 365 metres of black metal fencing down sections of the centre and both sides of Barrenjoey Road, starting at the Av Beach bus stop & extending north as far as Central Road. Visibility along this road is excellent. There are long lines of sight, and there is very little evidence to support the need for any fence - let alone this monstrous construction. (see photo of planned fence below in flyer prepared by APA)

APA wrote to the Federal Member Jason Falinski (who had announced funding for this) and NBC, stating this fence was unnecessary & unwanted - and totally changes the feel of our laid-back beach village and would make us look more like Dee Why, or Parramatta Road, without any road safety justifications.

Following submissions from the APA and an inundation of negative public comments regarding the fence proposal, NBC has seen fit to withdraw the proposal from the Have Your Say discussion on their website. They advised that it has been "deferred till next year", so we may still need to gather troops again in 2021 for the next potential battle. We again question why major and controversial proposals are announced for our area with NO prior community consultation?

The below link takes you to an interactive map on crash data updated 5 years to 2018, which shows no pedestrian accidents, and a few vehicle to vehicle accidents, which a fence will not prevent.

[https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/statistics/interactivecrashstats/lga\\_stats.html?tablg\\_a=4](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/statistics/interactivecrashstats/lga_stats.html?tablg_a=4)

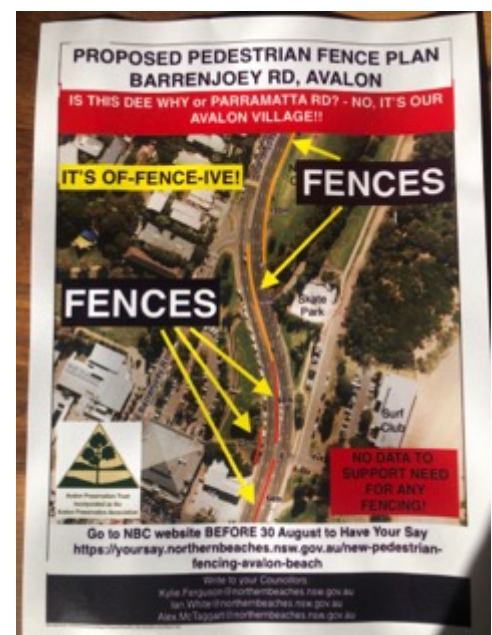


Photo Av Pool about 1968 by Gary Clist // Fence flyer by APA – not needed - for now

## **COASTAL WALK UPDATE**

NBC are still developing & revising plans for the contentious section through Newport to Avalon with their consultants, and the plans are certainly not finalised. Due to the recent disruptions with COVID-19, NBC feel their consultants require more time to work through the comments the community had provided them from our initial consultation.

At this stage NBC expect to be in a position to meet with us in late August to go through revised plans and new impressions. Following this, NBC will then undertake further community engagement in order to then finalise the plans for construction. APA is worried about a hard push by Council to make our area a tourist mecca and in so doing, change the natural low key places we love (e.g. Av Village, Bilgola Beach, The Serpentine, The Bends and its natural rainforest gully, along with all places north). Concrete seems to be the NBC weapon of choice.

## **NETBALL COURT UPDATE**

Netball courts will be finished shortly, lights are about to be installed, green plexipave surfacing completed, and the site will be fully operational in late September, weather permitting. All the disturbed areas will be re-turfed. There is a delay with the bridge construction, as NBC are trying to get the design right to avoid any increase to flooding in the area.

NBC have recently filled in some of the potholes on the access road at APA's request and given an assurance that the road will remain a natural surface rather than more "tar and cement" and there will be access for overflow parking as shown on the exhibited plans, for market day and annual surf swim events.

NBC has placed sandstone blocks to improve safety and stop vehicles accessing the grassed netball court & greenspace beside Careel Creek. In July, APA reps met with Steven Lawler (Exec Manager, Parks and Rec, NBC) to discuss the new courts, parking & the access road to the courts. We were pleased that Steven agreed, once construction is completed, to APA's request for new tree and bush plantings along the Barrenjoey Road border with the courts, to enhance the area and partially screen the courts from the road.



Photos: R Sayers. New half basketball court next to skate park



## FOOTPATHS and PATHS THROUGH CATALPA & TOONGARI RESERVE

A concept plan is being prepared for community exhibition re Catalpa Reserve. Staff are meeting onsite with APA reps in the next week to look at the proposal and also a possible path through Toongari Reserve.

APA is in favour of more sympathetic, natural materials being used for local pathways and we are preparing a proposal for NBC.

APA was surprised to see the new concrete path constructed in front of the Avalon Annexe Building in Dunbar Park. NBC had assured us that the new Playground construction would not encroach outside the existing footprint at this point, as other elements of the Place Plan are yet to be determined. We consider a more sympathetic material and direct link to the existing pathway would have been a preferable solution.



Photos: Toongari Reserve muddy path & Storm over Av Golf Course: C Baker

## STREET LIGHTING PROBLEMS IN AVALON

There have been ongoing issues with the streetlights in the village for months. Ausgrid advised of an underground cable failure and they are currently programming the replacement of this cable, aiming to have this completed before the end of the year. We have also questioned why the solar portable lights that were installed at the darkened intersections in Avalon have recently been removed? It is an ongoing safety issue. Awaiting a reply from NBC.

**LOSS of 3 x NORFOLK ISLAND PINES on Road Reserve outside 35 Marine Pde, Avalon (photo next page)** In June, the APA and local residents were concerned to see an NBC sign on three x 30 metre Norfolk Island Pines, on public land at the above location, advising they would be removed. Apparently, the resident had requested removal (they were selling the house). After many enquiries over many weeks, we were told (but not till after removal) there were problems with the overhead wires (although the trees had been happily growing around the wires for decades and had been appropriately trimmed by Ausgrid for years). These trees were located on public land, near North Av headland and are part of a long east/west grove of NI Pines that are one of the main focal points for many iconic photos and artworks of Avalon (looking north along the Avalon

Beach). They were at least 50 years old and belonged to our community. The APA did a submission to NBC outlining why we felt it important that these trees be saved. We tried to get some acknowledgement from Council that they understood why we felt these particular trees were so important to Avalon. Did they have to take all three trees? The Mayor, 2 Councillors and several staff, all separately promised in writing that the APA would be kept in the loop prior to a decision being made on the trees' fate. Sadly, we walked past the site one morning and they were gone. No advice to us that this was happening – no phone call, no email. We were bitterly disappointed both by fact the trees were removed and that the community had been shown so little respect. One of the NBC staff said Ausgrid had not been advised re the APA requests and there are so many tree removal requests that it's hard to keep track as Council is so big now. APA received an apology letter from the Mayor re the miscommunication.

There is another beautiful NI Pine on public land outside 157 Plateau Road that is also slated for removal. It is one of the last large trees standing in that area after the big storms last year. Unfortunately due to historical pruning and proximity to Ausgrid wires it cannot be saved.

In July, several community APA reps met with Fenton Beatty (Manager of Tree Services for NBC) and also Steven Lawler (NBC Parks & Rec) regarding our concerns re tree removals and requests for new plantings in the Avalon/Plateau area. The number of trees coming down in Avalon (and the peninsula) at the moment, is of huge concern. Fenton is collating our requests for new trees and we are looking forward to some new plantings in the near future – and hopefully fewer approvals for tree felling.

We are awaiting NBC advice on criteria for nominating particular trees to the newly proposed NBC Significant Tree register and will be advising members accordingly, in order to get our trees listed pronto.



Photo: 3 pines now removed - C Baker

## TREE CELEBRATION

Our Avalon Beach Norfolk Pines are heading up for 100 years old but we don't have a definitive date of their planting, although our Resident historian, Geoff Searl, has early photos around 1922-23 that show small plants.



NBC's website is slowly improving and there is a whole section on Trees under the Environment Tab as well as other useful information on habitat etc.

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees>

### **FORESHORE & SEAWALL ISSUES AROUND AVALON/CLAREVILLE AREA**

APA are most concerned about recent foreshore and rock shelf disturbances around the Clareville/Avalon area by construction & council workers. There have been foreshore landslides with inappropriate temporary remediation by Council, jackhammering of sandstone rock shelves by builders & other major disturbances of foreshore rocks, due to seawall construction, among other issues. Some of these foreshore works have approved DAs, but the APA is most concerned as to why these DAs were permitted on these ecologically sensitive foreshore areas. We are questioning NBC re this issue.



Photos: landslip area & foreshore destruction Hudson Pde

### **IAN BOWSHER, BARRENJOEY PRINCIPAL, MOVING ON**

Ian Bowsher, Principal of Barrenjoey High, has been a hugely influential and positive force for good in the Avalon community over the past 14 years, so we were sad to hear the news that in October this year, he will be leaving Barrenjoey and taking on the Principal's position at the Sydney Secondary College, Balmain. We would like to thank him for his amazing contribution to the students of Barrenjoey High & the broader Avalon community. We will miss his incredible drive and positivity. He set such a fine example to students of how hard work, collaboration and love of community can inspire us & make great things happen, such as the Performance Space, the Winter Night Markets, community mental health initiatives, improved HSC results across all areas, much improved school grounds, including significant tree plantings, plus many, many other initiatives. We wish him the all very best for the future.

## **AVALON CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE TEMPORARY COVID CLOSURE**

The APA recently asked why the NBC Avalon Customer Service Centre is still closed, when other NBC centres reopened on 1 June? Sadly, Avalon didn't make the priority list. Council's answer below:

*We have extra COVID-19 requirements through COVID tracing and social distancing at the branches so we have had to move resources to cover this concierge duty. This is only temporary during the pandemic.*

*If there are specific branch requirements from the residents like rate payments, then Avalon residents can also make payments at post offices if that helps.*

## **TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN AVALON re PARKING ON NARROW ROADS**

APA have recently submitted a list to Council of problematic roads, and streets with dangerous parking issues, such as: lower end of Park Street, Riverview/Cabarita Road, Hudson Pde (between Central & Hilltop Rds), and Kevin Ave. Traffic has become much heavier in recent years and with the increase in residents working from home during COVID, B&Bs and granny flats (both compliant and non-compliant). There are many more cars parking on narrow streets, which makes negotiating them in a vehicle more difficult. The public buses also have a very difficult time on these roads and are often held up. We are hoping for some Council solutions to make these roads safer – possibly limiting parking to one side of the road only.

## **AVALON BEACH CENTENARY 4/12/2021**

Geoff Searl advises that Avalon Beach was officially declared by A J Small's wife on 4/12/1921 so we are turning One Hundred next year! Any thoughts on how we should mark this occasion??

## **AVALON BEACH HISTORIC KIOSK REMAINS**

APA and Av Beach Historical Society (ABHS) have been working with NBC on an appropriate Plaque to inform residents and visitors about the remains near the path leading from the bus stop to the beach. A draft is currently in preparation by NBC for review by ABHS and APA.





Photos: Original kiosk (previous page) & Avalon Beach by Roger Sayers

## AVALON BUSHCARE

AVALON DUNES BUSHCARE group meets on the first Sunday morning of each month. Meet 8.30 on the little road to the Montessori School. We've been taking advantage of cooler weather to tackle Morning Glory in the open areas and making a lot of progress. We'd love a hand; Call Marita 0420 817 574 for more information.

BANGALLEY HEAD BUSHCARE meets at 8.30am on the second Sunday of each month, at the Whale Beach Rd entrance to the walking track. Bushcare is not just about weeds, but insects and birds, everything that lives in the bush.

TOONGARI BUSHCARE group meets on the third Sunday morning of each month, meeting 8.30 at the entrance next to K U Kindergarten Avalon Pde. Call Robyn for more information. 0403 927 588 The bushcare groups observe social distancing for COVID safety, and we bring our own morning teas now.

THE ANGOPHORA RESERVE BUSHCARE group recently worked from the Chisholm Road entrance to the reserve. Ten of us, including our supervisor Sylvan, made more good headway along the left bank removing most of the remains of the Wandering Jew (Trad.).

To anybody who hasn't been there before, a visit to this area of the park is a real treat, rewarded by the sight of a cluster of the most stunning *Angophora costatas* in the area. The filtered views to the west of the saddle through the Angophoras to Ku-ring-gai Chase is an added bonus.

We meet at one of the 4 entrances to the park each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Geoff emails a reminder each time notifying fellow bushcarers of the venue to be worked.

Pre COVID our supervisor provided an excellent morning tea but recently we've been taking our own and satisfying the requirements of non-sharing of cups, utensils etc.

If you would like to join us please call Geoff on 0439 292 566 and he'll happily add you to the emailing list. We meet at 8.30am and spend around 3 hours (including morning tea) at the chosen site.



Our age group at the moment covers a wide range from 18 years young to 74 years not so young, so come and join in the fun caring for the park, for as little or as long as you like. Tools and guidance will be provided.

AVALON GOLF COURSE BUSHCARE meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Golf Course carpark – Geoff also oversees this group & emails to advise, so please call to be added to the email list 0439 292 566

## **APA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Annual membership subscriptions for 1/7/2020-30/6/2021 are now due. \$10 p.a per single member or \$25 per member for 3 years. The Treasurer apologises for her tardiness in getting out reminders to you but has been otherwise occupied. See above!

Renewals can also be paid direct to Westpac Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732 095 Account 070 127. Please include your **name and/or APA membership number**.

You can also renew your membership by mail to Avalon Preservation Association PO Box 1, Avalon Beach 2107. In which case, please download the [Membership/Renewal Application](#) and post, enclosing cheque or payment information, to:

**Secretary,  
Avalon Preservation Association  
PO Box 1  
Avalon Beach 2107**

## **APA AGM November 2020**

We are currently working on a date for the APA AGM to be held in November 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are considering options for a hybrid live /zoom meeting to be COVID safe.

## **CONTACT APA**

Avalon Preservation Association Inc.

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