

# Avalon Preservation Association



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

Issue # 102



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Dec 2020/Jan 2021

Dear APA Members and Friends

Well, here we are, finally reaching the end of a difficult 2020 & beginning a hopefully brighter 2021. COVID-19 has thrown new challenges at our beautiful community, but think we can be proud of the way our Avalon village & surrounding suburbs rose to those challenges & supported each other. APA will continue to represent our members & support our community over the coming year and beyond.

## **AVALON PLACE PLAN**

Beyond COVID, one of the most important issues that will arise for Avalon residents in the next few months, is the opportunity to Have Your Say re the Avalon Place Plan, recently put forward by NBC. The APA has had access the Draft Place Plan over the past several months and has spent significant time dissecting it and providing input to NBC regarding pros and cons and suggestions for improvements, along with CABPRA and PBWBA. There are some really positive ideas in the plan but also some particularly concerning elements; especially the plan to construct a separate bike path directly through the 4-way intersection in central Avalon village. APA has put forward an alternative plan (fully supported by CABPRA & WBPBA) that utilises the laneways through Avalon. We feel this option is much safer and makes better use of the village as a whole. We have presented these plans to the Council and the Av Place Plan CRG and it has been agreed with NBC that it will be included in the Place Plan options outline to residents – But please note it does not open for comment UNTIL 15 February 2021 for a 3-month period, through the NBC website (although NBC has changed these dates several times, so keep a lookout in case there are further changes).

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/have-your-say/community-engagement-projects>

**It is VERY important for Avalon that all community members engage with this project and Have Your Say when the opportunity arises from 15/02/2021 on the NBC website.**



Photo: Craig Fallshaw

**PRESS RELEASE from APA**

Now that the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan has been approved by Council for exhibition, APA has the following comments to offer:

Avalon Preservation Association has been involved throughout NBC's Community Reference Group process in the development of this Plan and previously. While we have been disappointed at the level of stakeholder participation, we are pleased to see the draft plan will now go on public exhibition from mid-March to mid-May (further Covid delays notwithstanding).

We are also pleased that this will include an alternate cycle plan for the Avalon area which was prepared by APA and supported by the Palm Beach/Whale Beach and Clareville /Bilgola Plateau resident groups.

We have pressed for major works, including new paving and street lighting, to be given priority and urge everyone to consider their preferences for what should be done and when.

We do not support the terracing of the South Avalon headland behind the bus stop and believe this should remain a natural grassy slope, also excluding a concrete path as part of the Coastal Walkway.

As part of the trial of a pedestrian friendly area in Old Barrenjoey Rd near the Recreation Centre, we are pressing for the entry to the carpark to be moved to alongside the present exit to improve traffic flow and the safety of pedestrians.

The draft Place Plan can be viewed by logging on to the NBC website. Go to Agenda for the Council Meeting held on 16 December. At a later date, further details will be distributed by Council with opportunities for feedback.

We encourage everyone to get involved, as it is a unique opportunity to create, and to keep, the type of village area we want.

Regards  
Peter Mayman  
APA

### **COASTAL WALKWAY**

The present status of the proposed pathway from Newport to Avalon is as follows:

Newport to South end of The Serpentine:

- Shared pathway to go ahead on east side of Barrenjoey Rd despite many questions about its viability, as walkers will continue to use the excellent existing bush pathway, serious cyclists will stay on Barrenjoey Road leaving only a doubtful number of mums, dads and children on the new pathway. This group will then be faced with using The Serpentine roadway to get down to Bilgola Beach or further north. The wide concrete path is very similar to the Bondi to Coogee Coast Walk that brings thousands of tourists to those southern beaches. Will that benefit our community?

The Serpentine, full length to north end at Barrenjoey Rd

- To avoid a pathway behind houses overlooking the north end of the beach and a wide concrete path and steel fence north from the Lookout, Council proposed a 10kph shared zone for the full length of the Serpentine. However, this has been withdrawn following opposition from local residents and is now in limbo.

North end The Serpentine to Surfside walkway (beside Barrenjoey Rd)

- A wide shared pathway was proposed in front of these dwellings with considerable disruption to visual appearance, access and parking. APA is supporting these residents' proposal for a narrower walkway only.

Surfside Walkway to Yellow Brick Road

- A concrete pathway across the South Avalon grassy headland was proposed but is now on hold pending resolution as part of the Avalon Beach Place Plan (as above). We have opposed this concrete pathway across the grassy slope.



Photo: Roger Sayers

### **APA AGM - MARCH 2021 - DATE TO BE ADVISED**

We all look forward to our end of year AGM, usually featuring a fabulous guest speaker. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we have had to postpone this year's AGM until March 2021 when we can hopefully have a proper AGM gathering with a guest speaker. We will keep you apprised of the date.

We have recently sent out Membership renewal emails and would appreciate everyone's payments by bank transfer or cheque. We cannot underestimate the worth of having a local residents' association as APA is. There is strength in numbers and the more pro-Avalon folk we can gather to join our group, the greater collective lobbying power we have to influence Council. Please ask your family, friends & neighbours to join (only \$10/year or \$25/3 years).

These days (since amalgamation) there's a strong Council push for "harmonisation" of all the NBC suburbs - whether it be in greater housing density, changes to environmental zoning, 'place planning' or loss of tree canopy. We feel that our Pittwater area is unique and we have no need or desire to be "harmonised". It's important that we all stand up and tell NBC. The best way to do that is by emailing Council at:

[council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

or go to the Northern Beaches Council website:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/have-your-say/community-engagement-projects>

in the Have Your Say section & scroll down, so you can comment on relevant issues that pertain to Avalon specifically.

It is also handy to use the Planning & Development section of the NBC website to look at DAs that may have been submitted near you (& submit comments if you think necessary)

<https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Public/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx>

### **ROS MARSH, APA TREASURER, STEPS DOWN**

APA has been very fortunate to have had Ros as Treasurer and all-round amazing Committee Member & contributor for the last few years. Ros is the most incredible advocate for Avalon. Her enthusiasm is infectious and her attention to detail and ability to search out pertinent information required when doing submissions to Council, is outstanding. We will miss her agile brain (and her fabulous arvo teas) but are pleased that she is just a phone call away and will still be involved in APA activities. Thank you, Ros!

### **NEW FOOTPATH AVALON PARADE**

NBC has just completed construction of a concrete footpath on the southern side of Avalon Parade, that extends a few hundred metres west from the Backpackers to join the existing path that runs to the Ruskin Rowe turnoff. Avalon Parade is a busy pedestrian thoroughfare, so it's great that Av folk can walk on both sides of the road now. APA are generally not fans of white concrete, but the path was deemed necessary for safety, and thankfully trees have been maintained.

### **APPRECIATION TO NBC**

- Just loving the beautiful artwork in Bungan Lane, Mona Vale - with native birds and flora - something similar (plus some tree planting) would look fab on the Telstra Exchange building in Av, that's been looking pretty ordinary for many years.
- Thank you also to NBC for supporting the community in trying to save the Freshwater fleet of Manly ferries. Currently, it has been agreed to run one of the big Freshwater's on weekends only - hoping for more in the future though.
- Thank you to NBC and federal grant money for the new netball/basketball courts and associated tree plantings in Avalon. Getting great use and is a benefit to the community. Shame about the severe pruning of the NI Hibiscus on the eastern side of Careel Creek

though. APA made an emergency call to NBC to stop the prune in mid-December, as the trees are currently full of nesting birds, and it's summer, so every bit of shade is precious. NBC agreed to postpone further pruning until netball training starts up again next year. Thank you NBC.

### **DID YOU KNOW THE NBC HAS A NORFOLK ISLAND PINE CONSERVATION PLAN?**

Well, neither did the APA until recently! Promising to hear that this exists. We are requesting a copy for our records. Apparently, the Conservation Plan keeps records of significant Norfolk Island Pines on public land, between Manly and Palm Beach. Even though these trees are not native to our area, they are important canopy trees that are incredibly hardy, grow strong & tall, and survive our harsh, windswept coastal environment. They provide shade & protection to thousands of birds, animals and insects (yes, we know they drop a few needles and sap, but that is a minor inconvenience compared to their beauty and habitat provision). Just look at the iconic rows of pines, that line Avalon Beach foreshore (almost 100 years old), or the beautiful rows that line Allen Avenue & The Serpentine at the northern end of Bilgola Beach. They are virtually the only canopy trees left standing in that section of The Serpentine, so are critical to the local fauna in that area. These pines also grace Marine Parade and the houses along the east/west strip to the north of Avalon Beach. We are so pleased that these trees have been recognised as significant to our area. We need to protect them. Please let Council know if there is a sickening/illegal pruning/felling of a NI Pine - or any canopy tree near you.



Photos: C Baker, Bilgola dying NI Pines & 25 x pines on The Serpentine – only canopy trees thriving. Protection needed.

### **MEETING WITH NBC TREE TEAM**

APA recently requested a meeting with NBC to discuss the concerning loss of our Pittwater tree canopy and what can be done to stop the destruction, and how we can encourage NBC & residents to retain the trees we have and/or plant more large trees. It is a topic that we are constantly fielding questions and concerns from tree loving residents about. There are some terrifically knowledgeable folk that work with trees at NBC and they are very helpful and patient and we are mindful that they are limited somewhat by State laws that are already in place, and issues such as Ausgrid, Sydney Water, 10:50 Laws, & State Planning Laws governing granny flats and required housing - We encourage people to question and argue against these laws by writing to your local member. We are particularly concerned about issues such as the decrease in 60:40 site coverage ratios for DAs (ie on any developed block of land, approved ratios should

be 60% green space and 40% built or hard surface) - but lately there are many sites where this is obviously not the case and we are trying to find out why; it seems there are “trade-offs” that are available, so that hard surface can be increased. Another interesting fact: if an approved DA recognises that a tree should be retained, then this generally completely overrides the 10:50 Laws. These are quite complex, somewhat grey areas and we have requested some written clarification from NBC, so we are able to better inform our members and the general public.

### **REQUEST STREET TREES PLEASE**

We are encouraging our members and all Avalon residents, to call the Council if you would like a street tree planted outside your home. NBC are very keen to provide residents with street trees. From experience they know that if the tree is specifically requested by the home-owner, then it will be cared for and valued - so has a much higher chance of reaching healthy maturity. Please make friends and neighbours aware of this too. Having tree-lined streets is a great way to keep our suburb cool and also encourage native wildlife. APA has also submitted a long list of suggested locations for tree plantings and are working through our list with NBC.



Photo C Baker. Netball court beside Yellow Brick Road. Severely pruned NI Hibiscus trees

### **NBC’s ‘DESTINATION NORTHERN BEACHES’ - PUSH FOR MORE TOURISM IN PITTWATER**

Below is our APA submission commenting on the NBC’s upcoming promotion to attract more visitors to our area. This submission was prepared before the recent Covid event affected Avalon businesses; & bearing in mind that APA is foremost a residents’ group. APA is mindful and most sympathetic to the hardships Covid has dealt our local businesses & we understand that many are vulnerable and in desperate need of assistance currently. It is a delicate balancing act, to maintain a healthy business district, for residents and tourists, while maintaining the unique character of our desired low key, pedestrian-focused village. The reality is, we live on a narrow, ecologically sensitive peninsula with little infrastructure ie. roads, parking, buses etc, to cope with excessive numbers of tourists. The Have Your Say site (below) is open until 7/2/21, so PLEASE let your thoughts be known. Tell friends and family too, as to date very few residents have made comments:

Submission to NBC:

Avalon Beach is immediately to the north of a single lane entrance road known as the Bilgola Bends. It is the only major access route to the area from Avalon Beach to Palm Beach, at the end of the Barrenjoey Peninsula.

Avalon Beach is first and foremost a residential area with a population similar to that of Grafton. Tourism exists but is incidental to the main reason d'etre... a residential area for families.

APA wishes to make the following comments on this draft strategy:

Under Marketing and Promotion the strategy clearly and correctly states on page 74:

"It seems almost quaint to think that, not too long ago, the job of tourism boards and destination marketers could be described so simply: Get more people to visit your destination. In an age where local residents from Barcelona and Venice to Boracay Island are protesting tourism itself, measuring success by swelling visitor numbers no longer feels relevant. The holy grail of a sustainable yet lucrative tourism industry has, by definition, come to mean tourism that local residents and stakeholders feel good about too. "

The draft strategy then totally ignores that fact.

Nowhere in the proposed measures, is there any proposal to ask/consult with residents in areas of NBC such as north of the Bilgola Bends about how they feel about the notion of Council promoting their area to attract more visitors.

We have seen visitors increase in our area already, courtesy of: the unregulated growth of granny flats for airbnb accommodation; more active promotion of the Palm Beach peninsula area by the producers of Home and Away (whereas in the early years production of that TV show and on-screen scenes of the area were more low key and respectful of the impact on residents); and the effects of COVID 19.

Day traffic of visitors on summer weekends is already in excess of road capacity, with no scope for road improvement for geographic and environmental reasons in this world class environmentally sensitive peninsula, and no point as there is nowhere for visitors to park on arrival.

On such days, in the morning, Barrenjoey Rd is a slow-moving parking lot from Newport to Palm Beach. The reverse applies in the afternoon. Both AM and PM visitor traffic severely detracts from the amenity of residents, who at times can't get out of their streets to go to the local shops.

All these increased visitors' spending in the area north of the Bends ranges from nil, to pocket money, to a few nice meals or a few nights' accommodation for a few beneficiaries, often non-residents, and minor levels of additional employment.

Visitors have always been welcome, but they are welcome in manageable numbers. The area is already well known domestically and internationally.

The area is not suitable for, and does not need more visitors, or even targeted ones.

Residents and ratepayers would not appreciate NBC actively promoting tourism for the area north of the Bends, as the necessary infrastructure does not exist and is not sought by those who know the area.

Additional tourism benefits are a mirage, as additional tourists would only add to existing pressures and additional costs on residents' amenity.

Sincerely  
Avalon Preservation Association



Photos: C Baker. Avalon Pre-Covid creative parking on Old B/joey Rd & over Christmas lockdown

### **AVALON BEACH HISTORIC KIOSK REMAINS - PROGRESS UPDATE**

This project originally OK'd by Pittwater Council in 2014 as an Avalon Beach Historical Society initiative, was derailed with the appointment of the Administrator and then amalgamation.

It is now back on track following an approach to council by APA on behalf of ABHS. The sign design has been approved, a suitable stone has been selected for installation near the kiosk remains on the path from the bus stop to the beach. This will be finalised early in the New Year, according to council.

We are liaising with council on an ongoing basis, and hopefully we will have an additional local history plaque similar to the two near the surf club, to inform residents and visitors, installed during Avalon Beach's 100th anniversary year of naming.

### **BUSHCARE INFORMATION**



The useless grass area along the southern fence of Barrenjoey High is being revegetated. Volunteers have spread mulch and planted tube stock Tea trees, Banksias and other coastal shrubs. The Avalon Community Gardens folk have welcomed this work for the protection it will eventually provide from salty southerly winds. Early photos show that once Avalon Dunes reached almost to Coonanga Road, before the high school was built.



Photos: Marita Macrae Planting along BHS southern fence



C Baker – newly refurbished Taylors Point Pool

Join a local group, work for up to three hours, learn about plants with good company, and make a difference. Easing COVID restrictions now allow us to share morning tea, a great time for a chat and friendship.

**AVALON DUNES** bushcare group meets on the first Sunday morning of each month. Although Council employs contractors on the dunes, we are disappointed with the standard of the work they do, as we come across serious weeds that have been growing for years. One of these is a type of Asparagus called Bridal Creeper <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/BridalCreeper>. This is one of Australia's worst weeds. It grows from tubers below ground level. If you find it in your garden, dig it up, or ask Council for advice on what to do. Its berries are spread by birds. We need all the help we can get here, as though the dunes are green, quite a bit of the green is weeds.

**BANGALLEY HEAD** Bushcare meets on the second Sunday of the month, at the track entrance on Whale Beach Rd. An awful weed there is Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*, formerly called Wandering Jew), native to South America. The CSIRO has cultivated a South American fungal leaf smut disease of Trad, carefully researched and known through testing only to affect this weed. In October some members of Pittwater Natural Heritage Association planted some infected stems near where the bushcare group works. The hope is that the infection will spread to healthy Trad, causing foliage to yellow and die off. Using a biocontrol - one organism to control another - is safer for the environment than using herbicides. PNHA also planted smut infected stems near Irrawong Waterfall and in McCarrs Creek reserve. More infected Trad will be planted elsewhere in the New Year. Contact Marita for more info 0420 817 574

**CATALPA RESERVE** now has a bushcare group, meeting on the fourth Sunday morning of each month. Our next meeting will be January 24. As well as magnificent trees, Native Rosella, *Hibiscus heterophyllus*, grows here. Contact Robyn on 0403 927 588 for more info.

**TOONGARI RESERVE BUSHCARE** meets on the third Saturday morning of each month. This shady reserve has been transformed back to bushland in recent years. Have a look - enter from

the pathway beside Avalon Kindergarten on Avalon Pde, or walk west from Avalon Bowling club. Contact Robyn on 0403 927 588 for more info.

**PLATEAU PARK BUSHCARE** meets on the first Friday morning of each month. There are few reserves where you can work shoulder to shoulder with Waratahs. Contact Ken Hughes on 9918 9170 for more info.

**AVALON GOLF COURSE BUSHCARE** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Golf Course carpark – Geoff Searl oversees this group & emails to advise, so please call to be added to the email list 0439 292 566. Our last work day was Wed. 9 December but we need new members for 2021 and anyone is welcome to join us, tools and advice freely provided.

**ANGOPHORA RESERVE** meets 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. New members always welcome.

### **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. 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** as reference with your EFT payment.

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** - March 2021 - Date to be advised

### **CONTACT APA**

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