

# Avalon Preservation Association



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



Avalon Beach looking north over Avalon Golf Course – Now an oasis of biodiversity, with a few thousand canopy trees & areas of deep understory bush and a billabong. Crucial habitat for a myriad of birds and animals - yellow tailed black cockies, whip birds, powerful owls, lace monitors, lizards, marsupials, etc. Bush Care currently need volunteers. Photo:Stock

Issue # 103

May 2021

## Dear APA Members and Friends

It's been an incredibly busy, productive – and frustrating few months for the APA since our last Newsletter, with the Avalon Place Plan in the last stages of community comment; the Draft Local Housing Strategy causing much consternation in the community; and still awaiting news on the Coast Walk and Bike Path plans, among many other ongoing Avalon issues.

## AVALON PLACE PLAN

Ros Marsh, along with the APA, CABPRA, PBWBA & Avalon residents, held an information session chaired by Councillor Alex McTaggart, at the Avalon Bowlo on 2 May, with about 200 folk attending, and hopefully helped residents gather information on the Plan. Most importantly, we hope it encouraged people to submit comments to Council on actions they would like to see – and not see - in the Avalon Place Plan. NBC held one “Pop Up” information session last week, but due to Covid is unsure whether any further Pop Ups will eventuate before submissions are due.

We are very much hoping that the potentially unsafe NBC suggested bike path plan through the centre of Avalon village is abandoned, and encourage our members to support us in trying to have this plan withdrawn. It is unnecessary & unwanted. It takes away parking spaces, trees and narrows road widths to potentially dangerous proportions.

We are also most concerned & disappointed by the newly released NBC budget for the Avalon Place Plan - a very miserly \$3.8M over 4 years! If you add up all the proposed NBC "Actions" on the final pages of the Place Plan, the totals range from about approx. \$66M to \$120M – So \$3.8M is well short of funding anything – not even new paving. This budget is most disappointing, but we are hopeful that with the combined resident groups and community support, we can lobby NBC for the funds we need to accomplish the most necessary of the improvements, ie. new paving, lighting and more trees in Avalon. There is still time to submit your comments on the Avalon Place Plan before Sunday 16 May, 21, and we urge you to do so!! We have also included below a list of the actions/issues that APA support and do NOT support

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

Please be aware that on 2/5/21 at the Bowlo meeting, some people filled out photocopied Submission Forms – but did NOT fill in their name or address. These cannot be included as a submission. If you think you may have omitted your details, please print out the attached form below & rewrite your comments and post to Council at PO Box 82, MANLY NSW 1655 before 16/5/21. DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS!



Avalon Place Plan Information Afternoon at the Av Bowlo on 2/5/21. Great speakers – Well known architects, Richard Lepplatrier & Peter Stutchbury, were inspiring, as were the local resident group reps and local business people and long-time residents

# Submission form Avalon Beach Place Plan

Do you support the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan? Required Refer Action Plan Pages 82-89

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

Do you support the proposed shared zone on Old Barrenjoey Road? Do You support proposed One Way Trial Old Barrenjoey Rd North? Required Refer to pages 38-41

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

Do you support the proposed bike path/cycleway designs? Required Refer to pages 47-49

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Prefer not to say

Do you have any comments on the Avalon Beach Pedestrian Bike Path - Alternative Connections design. The alternative design was prepared by Avalon Preservation Association and endorsed by Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Resident Association and Palm Beach Whale Beach Association. (Refer to page 43 of the place plan).

**Provide any further feedback on Avalon Place Plan below**

Name:

Address:

## AVALON PLACE PLAN - ISSUES TO CONSIDER

### WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?



### PROPOSALS SUPPORTED BY APA (a selection):

- APA Alternative Bike Path Plan that uses existing laneways to reduce both tree and parking loss, as a high priority
- New paving in Av Village - high priority
- Better lighting in Av Village (ambient lighting suggested)
- More endemic trees & vegetation plantings
- Paved community "patio" off NW end of Community Centre (ensure existing trees are retained & shade cover included)
- Avalon Golf Course and Av Bowlo being retained in their entirety & current form for the community
- More public seating around village
- Trial a pedestrian-friendly, one-way zone (south) between Chill Bar & Eco Downunder on Old Barrenjoey Rd

### APA DOES NOT SUPPORT:

- ANY increase in building heights to Avalon village
- NBC proposed west-facing concrete/stone terracing across south Av Beach reserve (behind main bus stop). Expensive & unnecessary
- NBC proposed 2 way 2.5m bike path through centre of village
- NBC proposed erection of a performance stage at east end of Dunbar Park. Better option: NW end of park near Annexe, facing SE
- AND/OR look at NBC Avalon Place Plan Action Lists on pages 83-89 for many more possible projects that you may prefer to prioritise, object to, or submit your own ideas:

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

\*Note above: the most recent info we have indicates the proposed NBC 2 way separated Bike Path would take up at least 2.7m (not 2.5m) of the existing road surface on Old Barrenjoey Rd and Av Pde

## HOUSING STRATEGY

Following the end of the community consultation period Council has now sent the proposed NBC Local Housing Strategy to the State Government for approval. This is a massive and difficult document but attracted over 600 community submissions and some worthwhile amendments were made. It is important that it is approved rather than the Government imposing its own requirements.

Following our discussions with the Mayor & senior staff, we do not expect any substantial changes for Avalon as:

- We will be classified as a Village Centre, not a Strategic or Growth Centre
- Population growth targets are small
- There will be no changes to zoning
- Building heights will not be increased.

Council has agreed to issue a summary document, which should help its understanding and we will make sure it is available to our members. The ramifications of this strategy, as they relate to each village & town, are difficult to accurately predict. We await the final written details & to hear whether the state govt accepts the NBC proposed strategy. In addition, NBC are in the process of revising the LEPs (Local Environment Plan) & DCP's (Development Control Plan) across the council area, so it is difficult at this point to evaluate the final outcomes. This is definitely an issue that requires the community's constant monitoring & input. We should not be complacent.



## PATH THROUGH CATALPA RESERVE

Catalpa Reserve path is now complete and meanders its way from Appian Way stairs through the park to Central Road. The Catalpa Bushcare group are remediating the area with native plants.



New Catalpa Reserve path Photo:CBaker



Coast Banksia. Photo:MMacrae: What looks like one flower is actually hundreds on a spike. Only a few will be pollinated. Every year about Christmas, the seed pods split open and two seeds drop out of each. Most other Banksias shed their seeds only after a bushfire or the death of the branch

## 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 2020? Council’s answer below:

*NBC response from August 2020: 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.*

*NBC response from March 2021: Following the localised COVID-19 cluster that was detected in Avalon and surrounding areas in December 2020 Council staff maintained constant contact with NSW Health as the situation evolved rapidly. There was a decision by NSW Health to establish immediate COVID-19 testing clinics and the Avalon Recreation Centre was utilised for this purpose. All operations at the centre including the Community Centre and Community Library were closed until 16 January 2021.*

*Since that time Council and NSW Department of Health have coordinated the ongoing provision of COVID-19 testing clinics in Avalon and at this point NSW Health are utilising the Avalon Customer Service centre to support the established testing facilities in Avalon. As such the Avalon Customer Service Centre remains closed.*

APA have repeatedly asked if the Centre will be reopened at some point in the future, but have not had any definitive answer to date.

## VANDALISM IN AVALON

Sadly, Avalon has had a recent spate of vandalism including destruction of toilets at ABSLSC, offensive pink graffiti across the Skate Park and across Avalon, the burning of a wooden garbage bin outside the PO, smashing of the public phone near Chelsea Tea House, and of sandstone blocks along the Yellow Brick Road and car hoons doing donuts on the newly marked out netball & playing fields across the road from Avalon Public School. Police and NBC were advised. Please call Police on 9971 3399 if you witness any suspicious behaviour or vandalism in the area. NBC have asked vandalism be reported as soon as possible to these sites: <https://help.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/s/> or specifically re graffiti, report to: [http://www.ausgr.com.au/nbeaches/ngraf\\_form.php](http://www.ausgr.com.au/nbeaches/ngraf_form.php)



Recent vandalism in Avalon – skatepark fire and sandstone block destruction Photo:CBaker

## TREE NEWS

The daily chainsaw noise just became too much! - so a new group called Canopy Keepers has recently been formed to protect our trees in the Pittwater area. The group includes local residents and members of other affiliated tree and environmental groups. They have joined forces to protect our canopy trees by lobbying council and government to create better tree preservation policies and help inform the community of the value of retaining our canopy trees. For more information:

<https://www.canopykeepers.org.au> or

<https://www.facebook.com/canopykeepersAU>

In April, APA and Canopy Keepers combined for a very productive meeting with NBC's Fenton Beatty (Manager Tree Services) and Andrew Thor (Tree Management Officer). We discussed current tree issues and appreciated learning about these from NBC's perspective. They were very generous with their time and we are hoping to meet with them regularly for updates on NBC policies and procedures re trees and DAs. APA has also been working for several years with NBC on a long list of suggested new tree planting locations on public land in the Pittwater area. We are really pleased to see there are quite a few new plantings completed recently by NBC from the APA list. Thanks NBC! More to come we hope!

## SHORE BRACE LETTERBOX & ENCROACHMENT SAGA – GOOD NEWS

Re: Sandstone clad wall containing letterbox – encroachment into the road reserve – adjacent to stairs leading to public reserve – gate installed. Judgement handed down - Good news, both appeals dismissed. A link to the published judgment is below:

Midvena Pty Ltd v Northern Beaches Council [2021] NSWLEC 1217

<https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/1791ae2fc11e162f33962700>

## COUNCIL DA DECISIONS – MORE GOOD NEWS

NBC, in its Agenda for the 27/4/21 meeting, has said that the Director of Transport & Assets has recommended the request for a 20 year lease on public bushland on the foreshore at the southern end of Hudson Parade be rejected – but unfortunately a final decision on the matter was pushed back to a future meeting. This has been a long, complicated saga, with the owner having leased the land for several years. Almost all the understory native bush has been cleared. Weed species of agave & agapanthus have been planted on the public land. The owner then sought to renew the lease for a further 20 years. We await the final outcome at the next NBC meeting.

The Bilambee Avenue (Bilgola Plateau shops) shop top development has also been rejected by NBC in its current form. Remains to be seen whether the developers will now take it to the Land and Environment Court.

Another concerning DA that locals and APA have been keeping a close eye on, is the 27-29 North Avalon Road, Seniors' Living, medium density, 10 x town house proposal. This DA went to the Land & Environment Court and there was a pleasing turn out of about 120 local residents, who lined the road to protest the DA & greet Commissioner Tim Horton when he arrived to begin proceedings on site on 29/4/21. It was a very respectful group who wanted to show the local community's opposition to this development. Many had placards, but all were courteous & listened to the Commissioner's information about the proceedings and an outline of how the case would be run. The matter was not finalised within the allotted dates of 29 & 30/4/21, so has now been scheduled to resume further hearing on 19/7/21 at the Land & Environment Court of NSW. We eagerly await the outcome of this case, and very much hope it will be rejected, as it will set a precedent for DAs to follow.



South end Hudson Pde, 20year lease request



27-29 North Av Road – residents in opposition to DA

## REDESIGN OF PARADISE POOL

Council is progressing a design for the renewal of the jetty and tidal pool at Paradise Beach. A heritage consultant has been engaged to examine heritage requirements on the jetty, pool and rocky groyne. The height of the jetty and pool is also being examined so it doesn't go underwater at higher tides and to account for some sea level rise due to climate change. Draft designs for the pool are on track to be completed before October 2021. Works are planned for winter 2022 subject to funding.

## CAREEL CREEK WORKS AND REMOVAL OF MANGROVES

You've probably noticed the earthworks along Careel Creek behind Avalon sand dunes this week. Contractors have begun to remove sediment, vegetation and snags from a section of Careel Creek parallel to Elaine Avenue to improve natural flow. The sediment will be removed from approximately 70 metres of the earthen channel that follows from the concrete channel parallel to Elaine Ave. All necessary environmental studies and approvals were undertaken, including gaining NSW DPI - Fisheries approval for the pruning and removal of mangroves causing blockages. Council will also clear the concrete channel upstream. Will take up to 3 weeks to complete.





Careel Creek works Photo C Baker



Clareville view Photo C Baker

### **LIGHTING IN AVALON VILLAGE**

Continuing saga of non-functioning street lights in Avalon village over the past 12 months. Problems have been reported to Ausgrid and NBC on several occasions. How will we ever get new lighting in Avalon village, per the Avalon Place Plan, if we can't even get the overhead street lights to work? It is currently dangerous. The paving in the village is very uneven and it's difficult to see the trip hazards when the lights are out. NBC staff have again contacted Ausgrid, who advise that the following locations are complex repairs to underground cables and will take some time to fix:

- 13 Avalon Parade – Pole number PB02348
- 68 Old Barrenjoey Road – Pole number PB02331
- 36-38 Old Barrenjoey Road – Pole number PB02437

You can monitor and report issues with streetlights here - <https://www.ausgrid.com.au/In-your-community/Our-services/Streetlights#!/map>



Lighting outages in Avalon village Photo C Baker



Careel Bay looking SE Photo C Baker



## A LETTER FROM PROTECT PITTWATER FOR INFORMATION:

As an organisation APA doesn't have a view on the council amalgamation.  
We are sharing this letter from Protect Pittwater as info only.

Dear Pittwater Resident:

May 12 was the fifth anniversary of the amalgamation of Pittwater Council into the Northern Beaches Local Government Area. This was carried out against the wishes of 89 per cent of residents, as was shown in a council survey shortly before the merger.

**Protect Pittwater held a rally at Narrabeen lagoon on 12 May at the Northern end of the Narrabeen bridge, to launch our new petition calling for the de-amalgamation of Pittwater from Northern Beaches Council.**

Many of us in Pittwater were appalled by the 2016 amalgamation, in which our local council of nine was replaced by a Northern Beaches-wide body of 15. Our three Pittwater councillors on this new mega council can be outvoted on any issue affecting the Peninsula.

As a result, community members set up Protect Pittwater in 2017 with the aim of securing a demerger either through legal action or by creating a Proposal – or petition - under the Local Government Act. Legal advice indicated that the proclamation of the new council made it unlikely court action would succeed and a first petition submitted to the state government in 2018 was knocked back on the grounds that it did not have enough signatures.

However, we believe increasing numbers of residents are becoming disillusioned with the NBC and **we are determined to continue the fight** - even though it means we have to start a new petition. The government now says that we will need 10 per cent of the electors from across the Northern Beaches to sign – meaning close to 18,500 signatures.

If you support the call to demerge and re-establish our own local government in Pittwater, please sign our petition. **Copies will be available at the rally and you'll be able to find it to print out from May 12 on Facebook – in the Protect Pittwater group or on the Splittwater page.** We will let everyone know at the launch and on facebook where to return petitions – and where else they can sign them.

### Why demerge Pittwater?

- Undemocratic dismissal of Pittwater Council against the wishes of 89 per cent of Pittwater residents
  - as shown in a survey by the former council
- Amalgamation and creation of Northern Beaches Council without a vote by the community
  - and separation of Pittwater residents into different wards
- Lack of self-determination for Pittwater residents
  - only three out of 15 councillors come from Pittwater, and they can be outvoted on any decision affecting our ward
- NBC in top 10 worst performing councils
  - LSI Consulting, October 2020, states NBC's accumulated losses were more than \$103m since the merger. An analysis by Save Our Councils Coalition found a shortfall of \$7.4m on the government's proposed Operating Results before capital grants for 2018-19. This was even before Covid
- Pittwater business rate rises expected of around 24 per cent
- Partial responsibility for Manly car park debt and building Collaroy seawall
- Pittwater budget approach different to NBC's
  - we borrowed money under low interest rates to invest in community facilities to be paid off over time
- Unnecessary spending
  - eg council logo, garbage bins, too much cement
- Lack of spending on essential maintenance
  - eg potholes in roads, uneven footpaths

- Loss of environmental focus at local level which was at the core of Pittwater Council:
  - eg concrete being laid in parks and sensitive environmental zones; loss of trees; weed infestation in suburban streets, parks and bushland reserves
- Lack of planning for sea level rise
- Council-wide planning for Local Strategic Planning Statement and Local Environment Plan rather than ward by ward to highlight special features of each area
  - as Pittwater MP and Planning Minister Rob Stokes had indicated would be possible
- Council area and population too large
  - councillors making decisions about sites and issues in wards they aren't familiar with; too big to represent discrete communities with vast differences in needs for housing, transport, environment, community facilities and culture from end to end
- Dysfunctional council
  - 2021 extraordinary meeting walkout; disrespectful behaviour in meetings and on social media
- Lack of transparency
  - too many decisions made behind closed doors and infrequent meetings; staff making decisions and publishing them before council voting occurs
- Enormous agendas for council meetings
  - often totalling 2,000 pages including appendices – impossible for most councillors, especially those with fulltime jobs, to read in allotted timeframe
- Long meetings, late at night, voting by exception and in political blocks likely to contribute to poor decision making
- Distance to council meetings at Dee Why
- Parking fiasco
  - merger promise of one parking sticker, but Manly and Palm Beach have new restrictions anyway
- Lack of support from NBC on state issues relevant to Pittwater
  - eg retaining Mona Vale Hospital; push back on state government housing targets; transport
- COVID lockdown revealed community cohesion and cooperation in Pittwater - not the "Northern Northern Beaches"!

For more information contact: [miranda@wildwords.com.au](mailto:miranda@wildwords.com.au)



Trad weed, new smut fungus causing yellowing leaves  
Photos M Macrae



The extraordinary rocks near Avalon pool. It's Narrabeen shale rocks with minerals seeping down through the sedimentary rock layers. A work of art?

## **BUSHCARE GROUPS**

**TRAD** - *Tradescantia fluminensis*, formerly called Wandering Jew, is a terrible weed in bush and gardens. The CSIRO found a leaf smut - a type of fungus- infesting Trad in its native Brazil. Extensive testing proved it will only live on Trad. Since October 2020 Pittwater Natural Heritage Association has received several boxes of infected stems to plant amongst dense Trad in the expectation that the leaf smut will spread into healthy Trad and kill it. The latest plantings included areas of Toongari Reserve, Palmgrove Park and Plateau Park. Red and white tape has been put up to mark the locations so we can check for success. You can see dense Trad now succumbing to the smut if you walk along the boardwalk to the Irrawong waterfall in Warriewood. Look on the right side of the track. This is very exciting news, as we were warned it could take up to 12 months for the smut to become established. The photos show the yellowing leaves, after release here in October 2020.

**AVALON GOLF COURSE** bush care needs you. We're so short of helpers we've had to cancel for the time being. Meanwhile the weeds will go gangbusters. We used to meet on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month. Could you come if we worked on another day or time? Say a morning, or on a weekend day? Contact Geoff Searl on 0439 292 566 if you'd like to help. He'd love to hear from you. We have fun using the Tree Popper, with our supervisor from Dragonfly Environmental. We can lever out quite big Ochnas, aka Mickey Mouse plant from Africa. We want to bring back the bush, not let the weeds win!

## **AVALON DUNES**

The dunes look great, but a lot of that green is weeds. If you care about our remarkable dunes, contact NBC to complain about the disgraceful state of the weeds – Morning Glory is now covering the slope and native plants above the northern end of the Yellow Brick Rd. The volunteers feel like giving up.

**BANGALLEY HEAD** Bushcare meets on the second Sunday of the month, at the track entrance on Whale Beach Rd. Contact Marita for more info 0420 817 574

**CATALPA RESERVE** now has a bush care group, meeting on the fourth Sunday morning of each month. 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 the pathway runs beside K2 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.

**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 bush carers of the venue to be worked. New members always welcome.



Near Clareville – group of cormorants



**APA AGM** – October 2021 - Date to be advised

**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**

**CONTACT APA**

Avalon Preservation Association Inc.  
Tel. 9918 2941 or 0420 817 574

Email: [avalonpreservationa@gmail.com](mailto:avalonpreservationa@gmail.com) Web: <http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au>

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation>

**DO YOU KNOW WHO OWNS THIS TRAILER PARKED ON THE CRESCENT IN AVALON?**

NBC are just starting roadworks on The Crescent - where it runs up the hill beside Av Golf Course. This trailer is in the way of the work that is planned to commence. Please contact Trish Chaney, NBC Community Liaison Coordinator on 8495 6181

