

Avalon Preservation Trust

incorporated as
Avalon Preservation Association



Bulletin No 107
June 2022



Full moon over Little Av Photo Roger Sayers

Dear APA Members and friends,

For your information,

PROGRESS OF AVALON BEACH PLACE PLAN

We have made further recent submissions to Council regarding the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan which is expected to be reported to Council for approval at one of the next two meetings.

In summary we sought the removal of the following items from the Plan:

- Cycle paths through the central village area.
- Massive concrete works proposed near the rockpool.
- Terracing of the South Avalon Headland

We are concerned that Council staff continue to support this proposal despite what we believe to be negligible community support. We describe it as terracing which would spoil a pleasant grassy headland and serve no purpose except seating with 'great' views of Barrenjoey Rd traffic and the Shell Service Station.

We believe staff confuse this proposal with a desire to widen the footpath at the bus stop for safety reasons, which can be achieved without any of the proposed terracing.

The following items were however supported by APA:

- Repaving of all village footpaths, to be the first item to be undertaken. It is the most sought after project and brings substance to the whole process.
- Introduction of appropriate soft village lighting throughout for the same reasons as above.

- Undertaking the trial of the pedestrian-friendly area and one way 10 kph vehicle traffic in Old Barrenjoey Rd, including moving the car park entry to alongside the existing exit. For those with reservations we emphasise that is the reason for being a trial and note the State Government is contributing \$500,000 to its conduct.
- Urgent attention to the budgeting for these works including the priority of new paving and lighting.
- Creation of a Place Plan Newsletter to keep the community informed and to give the various works, spread over many years, a cohesive identity which will otherwise be lost.

NBC have advised the APA that the paving and lighting works have been placed as a 'short-term' project with a timeframe of 1-3 years. They anticipate the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan will be considered at the July 2022 Council Meeting.



Possums et al need tree hollows, but an old termite nest will do! Melaleucas planted in Dunbar Park. Part of Av Centenary celebrations

CRUCIAL PLANNING POLICIES – LEP/DCP

NBC is in the process of bringing together the planning controls of the previous three council areas into one new planning framework to manage future development within the Northern Beaches.

Development on Private Land is guided by the LEP (Local Environment Plan) and DCP (Development Control Plan). Along with other resident association representatives, the APA recently attended a presentation by a professional who specialises in preparing detailed reports objecting to inappropriate development applications based on the local Council's own LEP & DCPs. There is a proposal to employ an expert to assist Pittwater community groups, (including Palm Beach Whale Beach Assoc, Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Assoc, Newport Residents Assoc, Pittwater Community Alliance) to assess, comment and advise Council on the draft LEP and DCP.

As part of this new planning framework we understand there will be an opportunity for the community to make submissions prior to formal exhibition in 2023. We ask the community to get involved in this when the time comes. This framework will potentially have the power to change our local environment drastically.

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

PROPERTIES ON BILGOLA BENDS

In 2021 former Councillor Alex McTaggart moved successfully for NBC to write to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) about properties on Bilgola Bends thought to belong to it, and the possibility of transferring ownership to Council. TfNSW replied to NBC last December. An APA committee member put in a GIPA request for the TfNSW letter and just received the reply. TfNSW has confirmed that it owns 513, 515 and 519 Barrenjoey Road. It also advised NBC that "The land has been acquired for the future widening of Barrenjoey Road" and it is therefore "unable to consider classifying the land as surplus for disposal or transfer". The letter further notes that there is no date for this work to commence. Assuming TfNSW never get the go-ahead to widen the Bends (and APA will work to ensure that is the case), that leaves the 3 blocks unavailable for development. So this is a mixed result: while we may have preferred that NBC obtain control of the blocks to take them out of play, as long as the NSW government is never foolish enough to propose widening of the Bends it effectively stalls possible development of these blocks.

MORE WORK ON CAREEL CREEK

APA recently provided NBC with a letter of support for a grant application to the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund to control weeds near the tennis courts, (as bounded in red). The project aims to control the many weeds along the creek that are damaging native vegetation. The creek is an important link for wildlife and provides habitat for small birds and other fauna.

Photos below of site, (bound in red) and Anredera tubers & vine (invasive weed) along Careel Creek will be targeted for removal



PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

'UNCONSTRUCTED PATHWAY' ROAD RESERVE ADJACENT 32 WATKINS ROAD

Owner is still looking for a way to buy the adjacent public land, despite community objections. Council advise a decision will be made shortly. Over time, many public pathways have become obscured. These pathways provide shortcuts for walkers and are a valued part of Pittwater's networks of paths. APA is opposed to their sale and supports NBC maintaining them.

OCEAN ROCKPOOLS

APA had requested information from NBC re chemicals that are currently used to clean the beach pools following resident concerns. Council has advised that as part of Council's rockpool cleaning program a variety of products are used including Algae B Gone or Algae Died B. Such products are used for removal of algae from steps, walkways and walls.

Per NBC advice, products are applied as per registered label directions to ensure they are operating in accordance with relevant legislation and meeting NBC obligations in relation to the safe use of any particular product.

AVALON VILLAGE PUBLIC RUBBISH BINS

NBC has recently replaced the Avalon village public bins with stainless steel units. They have become a target for graffiti and often look dirty as rubbish accumulates on the lip & have proved difficult to keep clean. Residents were under the impression that any replacement would be part of the Avalon Place Plan and there would be some input by the community into new designs. The old bins (stainless steel and wood slats) were a design that very much suited our beachside suburb, and were also practical. APA have requested NBC consider a new design for the next round of replacements, that replicates the original wood/stainless steel type (photo at Clareville below) - but uses Mod-wood, Ekodeck or similar (from recycled plastic) which would be in keeping with community expectations to use renewables and environmentally sustainable products – and look good too.



'New' bins in Avalon village and beach reserves.



Old bins still at Clareville Beach Reserve

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

SIMMONDS LANE ARTWORKS & WEEKEND CLOSURE TO TRAFFIC

Well supported & successful initiative by local businesses and NBC to close off Simmonds Lane to weekend traffic to encourage a community/street food/festival vibe. NBC have recently installed large artworks on the Simmonds Lane walls of the old Westpac building (currently The Hunted retail shop) and they give some personality to the laneway. Sadly, the road surface, kerbing & guttering is in a state of disrepair and we are lobbying to remediate as soon as possible. NBC say they will initially be focussing on the Patterson Lane upgrade in the upcoming Avalon Place Plan.

NBC also advise that an additional and general action has been included in the Avalon Place Plan, which 'seeks to explore opportunities to improve and upgrade the design of laneways'. We assume this action could include Simmonds Lane but is classified as a 'Long-term action' in the Place Plan, and would not commence before the Patterson Lane upgrades.

NBC advise that Simmonds Lane is on their daily sweeper schedule in Avalon, and if there are any safety issues relating to kerbing, guttering or road surface, they should be reported to NBC.



New artworks in Simmonds Lane



Current poor state of roadway, kerb & gutters in Simmonds Lane

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

A map locating Development Applications is available on Council's website via a direct link on the 'Mayors Message' (This email comes out every Friday from NBC). APA have requested that this map be kept up to date so that new DAs can be easily identified. Advisable to check this site every week for DAs in your area. Here's a direct link: (Just click on any red flag for DA details)

<https://eservices.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/ePlanning/live/Public/XC.Spatial.Applications/MapApplications.aspx>

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

NORFOLK ISLAND PINES ON PUBLIC RESERVE, SOUTH AVALON HEADLAND

NBC legal team is currently investigating unauthorised pruning in this public reserve. Permanent signs have been installed by NBC at the site advising of vandalism of the trees.



ENCROACHMENT ON PUBLIC LAND

NBC has submitted an Order to the Owner of 173 Riverview Road, to remove the letterbox, landscaping, kerb and guttering, handrails and signs from adjacent public land by 9/8/22. Community will be relieved to see this issue finally resolved after years of investigation

PROGRESS OF COAST WALK

NBC staff have been waiting for revised costings on Coast Walk which are now available. A briefing for the Councillors will be arranged, to provide this information and a status update. Following this, NBC will be able to provide an updated timeline for the project to the public. APA are pursuing the need for a simple, safe, one metre wide meandering footpath beside Barrenjoey Road. This would provide a missing link in the footpath network between Surfside Walkway and The Serpentine. APA are proposing a shady path, following the existing contours and set away from busy Barrenjoey Road. Recently APA met on site with Councillors Amon and Korzy to elicit their support and advice in advocating for this footpath.

LIVING OCEAN - Careel Bay

Living Ocean recently gave a presentation on the Careel Bay Collaboration Study and are seeking volunteers to assist scientists to prepare a detailed report on the current state of the bay.

If you are interested in the following:

- micro and macro plastics;
- mangroves assessment;
- ocean-bound litter along Careel Creek;
- Posidonia-endangered sea grass;
- photography-media;
- flora and fauna; or,
- data analysis

Contact, LIVINGOCEAN.org.au to volunteer.

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

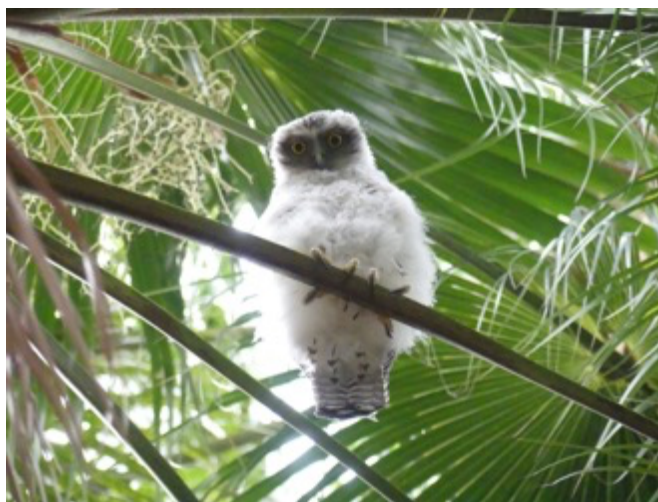
avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

ABHS PHOTO EXHIBITION

Huge thanks to Geoff Searl (also longstanding and enormously valued committee member of APA), and the Avalon Beach Historical Society, for putting together the 10th Great Historical Photographic Exhibition. It was a terrific exhibit that was held on the recent long weekend at the Avalon Rec Centre. The many categorized display panels with detailed descriptions of each photo were informative and entertaining for new & old residents. Rich content & amazing memories of our fabulous suburb. Great that Geoff also hosted over 800 children from local schools to learn about their suburb's natural and built history. Thanks Geoff & ABHS volunteers. Your hard work was much appreciated.



Pittwater looking north to Lion Island C Baker



Powerful owl chick – C Baker

BUSHCARE VOLUNTEERS

Bushcare groups meet for three hours, but any time you can spare is very much appreciated. Bring your own morning tea, tools provided.

Angophora Reserve bushcare meets 8.30am third Sunday of month at one of the 4 entrances.

Geoff sends email reminders each month to update volunteers. Geoff: 0439 292 566

Avalon Dunes bushcare meets 8.30am first Sunday of each month

Plateau Park bushcare now meets on the second Friday of each month, 9am. Meet in the playground, off Plateau Rd.

Bangalley Head bushcare meets 8.30 second Sunday of each month, at the Whale Beach Rd entrance to walking track.

Toongari Reserve bushcare: meet 8.30am third Saturday of each month. Meet next to Avalon KU Preschool on Avalon Pde.

Careel Creek bushcare meets fourth Saturday of month 8.30am. Contact Karin Nippard for meeting place each month as these vary. Karin.Nippard@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Old Wharf Reserve bushcare meets third Saturday of month - bring sunscreen, hats, gardening gloves, weeders and spades.

APA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

APA Membership Renewals for 2022 are due in the next few weeks. We will be sending out an email reminder very soon. We appreciate the support of our members and also ask that you consider contributing to our APA Fighting Fund which helps us advocate for the community and may be needed for specific projects to pay for expert advice on the community's behalf.

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107

www.avalonpreservationassociation.org.au

www.facebook.com/AvalonPreservationAssociation

avalonpreservationa@gmail.com

AVALON PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION AIMS TO:

- preserve the natural beauty of the area through promoting proper planning of all future development;
- express positively and in appropriate quarters the point of view of the residents with regards to any proposed development and to protect the residential amenity of the area; and
- work with and assist local government in any efforts to improve and beautify the locality and where appropriate instigate such improvements.



Careel Bay - Living Ocean study about to begin - looking SE from McKay Reserve. Recognise these tiles? Retro, quirky & well loved – former Grey’s Dry Cleaners site. Below photo from ABHS Photo Exhibit (from Manly Daily) re Bilgola Bends signs over the years.

