



Avalon Preservation Association

Bulletin 120 August 2024

APA AGM 2024

Speaker: John Dengate – environmentalist, media naturalist, author and TV personality, never happier than when talking about plants and animals and the environment.

A long-term Avalon resident, John will give an illustrated talk on the fascinating wildlife of the Northern Beaches—and his chequered media career. He loves questions.

Date: 7pm, Thursday 7th November: John's presentation, followed by a short AGM.

Place: Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving club in the Bangalley Bar. Enter via stairs on beach side. Lift access also available via front entrance.

CAN YOU HELP?

APA Committee members:

We have two members retiring and so we have room for more committee members. We are a friendly committee of engaged residents. We meet six times a year, plus an AGM. The NBC sends a representative to part of our meetings to keep us informed of council projects and respond to issues we've raised with council. We engage with sister organisations, residents who contact us for help and with government (mainly local government) to represent the Avalon community's interests.

We particularly need someone to take the **Honorary Treasurer** position in time for our AGM in November. APA has a bookkeeper. Our main transaction type is member contributions which are administered together with the membership secretary. The Honorary Treasurer oversees APA finances and provides a report to the committee at our meetings. Our current Honorary Treasurer Ken Roberts will support the transition. We have a modest 'fighting fund', built from member contributions. We have very limited outgoings (printing, gifts).

Graphic Designer:

We urgently need someone for **one specific task**, to assist with **designing a new APA Flyer**. We have the content (images and text) but need someone to knock it into a suitable electronic file to be handled by a printer (A4 double fold to DL).

PLEASE REPLY TO AVALONPRESERVATIONA@GMAIL.COM IF YOU CAN HELP

In APA, we care for Avalon because we live here

What's Happening in Avalon?



2024 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday, 14 September 2024

Who will you vote for?

Meet the Candidates:

Thursday 5th September 7pm Newport Community Centre main hall, hosted by Pittwater Community Alliance, of which APA is a member.

PNHA Avalon Golf Course Bush regeneration application

PNHA - Pittwater Natural Heritage Association - is another sister organisation. PNHA has applied for a grant from NBC to regenerate a section of natural bushland on Avalon Golf Course and we've written a letter of support.

The golf course bushland lists nearly 90 native plant species and counting, including the Leafy Elbow Orchid *Arthrochilus prolixus*, rarely found in the northern beaches area. *Arthrochilus* orchids are pollinated by thinnine wasps that are attracted to the flowers by pheromone-like odours, mistaking them for female wasps. More about this means of pollination in this [Australian Geographic article](#).

Orchid flower: Gary Harris



Trees Trees Trees

Ruskin Rowe: Two Flooded gums were removed from Ruskin Rowe and two more are slated for removal in October.

APA been in touch with NBC Parks Administration team. Our position is that we value our tree canopy and believe that Council should be following its Tree Canopy Plan in preserving and enhancing it. We are aware there is a cost in maintaining trees but believe this is a Council duty and necessary expenditure in line with its aim for best natural environment management of our area. At its meeting on 6 August NBC councillors passed a motion to review its tree assessment processes, identify funding for maintaining existing trees and create a Tree Management Policy consistent with its Canopy Plan. Council will review additional arborist reports before deciding how to proceed in October.

Yellow Tree markings A resident contacted us regarding some street trees that had yellow spots on them. We contacted council and learned that a yellow spot means the trees will be assessed for maintenance. A yellow cross means the tree is destined to be felled.

Avalon Parade, Avalon Village, near intersection with Old Barrenjoey Rd, two small trees were removed (due to water damage to roots). A new watergum will be planted in spring.

Pathways Updates

A **Public Pathway** sign on the beach end of Surfside Avenue has been installed. Another **Public Pathway** sign on the Barrenjoey Rd side has been installed on the same pole as the **Access to Beach** sign.

New Pathways, near Pickleball courts and near supermarket. These two projects have recently been completed and NBC listened to us and made the pathway sand coloured instead of glaringly white.



Osprey Nest Pole in Hitchcock Park

Community feedback brought over 150 positive comments to the proposal. Concerns by small dog owners using the nearby dog park have been allayed because Ospreys are pescatarian (not carnivorous). NBC is discussing installation plans with Ausgrid.

Osprey nests can be very heavy so a purpose-built platform is much more durable than the dead tree branches sometime used for the nest base.

Several Osprey nests have been built on the horizontal beams of construction cranes in the past few years in our area, but in the case of one near Whale Beach, nearby magpies objected strongly to Ospreys so near their own nest in a Norfolk Island Pine so the Ospreys failed to produce youngsters.

Image: Neil Fifer

Careel Creek

NBC announced that \$30K from the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund has been allocated to improving to Careel Creek, which is metaphorically known by other names. The main goals will be to stabilise eroding banks but in recent years there has been a lot of volunteer activity around the creek removing hard waste, large and small, from this creek and we encouraged council to engage with volunteers who may be interested in being involved in planting or weed control.

Shared Space Trial – Avalon Village

Over 1000 submissions were received. Over half were positive, many positive with suggestions, and some negative. The team has put a motion to the council in their August meeting to maintain the installation as is and to apply for grant funding to finalise the design and make it permanent.

Paradise Beach Pool

This project is still ongoing but should be finished at the end of September with a repaired groyne and new pool and wharf.

Paradise Beach Rd, Sydney Water main repairs

The road will be dug up for four months to repair the water main. Residents have been advised to park on Riverview Rd during the day but can access properties via plates (over the trenches) by car out of construction work hours. Some concerns have been raised by elderly residents who cannot walk.

EV Charger coming to Avalon

Jolt is the company that will provide the EV charging unit. A parking space within the Avalon Surf Live Saving Club carpark will be allocated to EV charging.

An EV can park there for up to an hour, but for an EV without a NBC parking sticker, only the first 15 minutes are free.

Image from NBC Website



Pedestrian Crossing across Avalon Parade near Bellevue Avenue

The white paint denoting the crossing has almost rubbed off. It is also a poorly lit area. It has been scheduled for maintenance. Stripes are to be repainted.

Water across Barrenjoey Rd in the Bends

There have been reports of cars slipping due to water continually running across a section in the Bends. This has been caused by some clogging around tree roots in Hamilton reserve above the bends and Sydney Water staff have 'unclogged' the mud.

APA Stand at Avalon Car Boot Sale

Next Avalon Car boot sale is on 26 October. APA are planning to have a stand there. Please come and say hello, let us know of any concerns, hopes and dreams you have for the Avalon village and community.

APA Membership Renewal

Thank you very much to those APA members who have already renewed their memberships for 2024-2025 and for the many donations to our Fighting Fund.

Also a gentle reminder if you have not yet renewed, for a year (\$20) or three years (\$50) that we really appreciate and need our members' support.

If you have expertise in fields such as architecture, media, engineer, arborist, town-planner, book-keeper, graphic designer, IT skills, we'd love to hear from you if you could volunteer your skills sometimes.



Right: Old Mans Beard, *Clematis aristata*, festooning trees and shrubs now. The beard name comes from the fluffy seeds that follow the flowers.

Image: PNHA

The aims of APA are 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 residents with regards to any proposed development and to protect the residential amenity of the area
- ◆ Work with and assist local government in any efforts to improve and beautify the locality and where appropriate instigate such improvements

APA depends on your support. Donations of time, money and expertise always welcome

PO Box 1 Avalon Beach 2107 <http://avalonpreservationassociation.org.au/> and on Facebook