

# Avalon Preservation Trust

incorporated as  
Avalon Preservation  
Association



Bulletin no 91

June 2016

## 1. Amalgamation

After an enormous struggle over three years by APA and other community groups Pittwater, after our brief 23 years life, is no more. At noon on 12 May we ceased to exist and our councillors were summarily dismissed. Northern Beaches Council is now in control, managed by Richard Persson as Administrator and Mark Ferguson as General Manager until elections to be held in September next year. As Administrator Mr Persson is in total control and as there are no councillors there are no debates. Fortunately, he is a very professional administrator. The new council will have five wards with three councillors each---the new wards of Pittwater and Narrabeen will together approximate our old boundaries so we will have six councillors representing us. We are told the time until next year's elections will be focussed on combining all the activities and systems of the former councils [and building seawalls!!]. It is not yet clear what community involvement we will have in the future as all Reference Groups have been eliminated. Rates will continue for the next four years as they would have been for our old council. Fortunately, we will be protected by our Pittwater LEP [so no 17 storey buildings here] until at least the formation of the new council and one of our tasks will be to see that this continues. Many will be looking for ways to restore Pittwater again but in the short term much will depend on the outcome of eight legal challenges still under way.

## 2. Café Ibiza

APA has seen the plans for the proposed upgrade to Café Ibiza. The D.A. indicates that the upgrade will be in keeping with heritage guidelines. The fireplace will be restored but not as an open fireplace but with a sympathetically installed gas fire. The entire area to the west of the fireplace/chimney (the rear of the original building) is being updated on a new concrete slab and will provide for a whole new bathroom/toilets area with disabled access as well. A small ramp from the south will provide wheelchair access up onto the verandah (without interfering with the adjacent trees). Some decrepit components of the original fabric will be upgraded to 'of the era'. It appears flood mitigation will be overcome with access to a 'shelter' on the new roof at the rear. All in all, it appears that the result will be a sensitive restoration and upgrade.

## 3. Proposed flood mitigation works in Catalpa and Toongari Reserves.

Avalon Preservation Association was alarmed by a Council proposal to create water detention structures in Toongari Reserve. In our submission, we stressed our concern that a detention basin 0.5-1.5 m deep over an area of approximately 9000m<sup>2</sup> would have a disastrous impact on what is left of the natural environment of the reserve and, in our view, would have marginal benefit in mitigating flooding. In light of the ever increasing push for development and resulting pressure on the natural environment, Toongari reserve is an area to be valued and preserved. Dedicated volunteer bush carers, some of them members of the APA, have worked in the reserve's Coastal Flats Swamp Mahogany Forest EEC for many years, propagating local plants for revegetation, and regenerating the bushland areas. The trees represent a

precious remnant of the original vegetation of that area. We urged the then Pittwater Council to consider some other alternative to this proposal and seek to protect rather than destroy this unique area.

#### **4. Proposed changes to NSW native vegetation laws. Submissions due by 28 June**

The Baird Government proposes significant and quite catastrophic changes to NSW Native Vegetation Laws, including repealing the Native Vegetation Act 2003 and Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. In recent years, these important native vegetation laws have led to a significant decrease in land clearing and a reduction of habitat loss. However, the changes proposed will increase land clearing and carbon pollution, will push wildlife closer to the brink of extinction and will undermine the sustainability of our farmland.

The requirement to 'maintain or improve biodiversity values' will be removed. This will lead to a decline in environmental outcomes, soil health, water quality and salinity. Land holders will be able to "self assess" and already NSW farmers have used a new "self-assessment code" to remove 21,716 paddock trees, an average of more than 50 a day, over the past eighteen months. Land clearers will also be able to take advantage of biodiversity offsets which means they can clear trees in exchange for paying money into a fund. Sadly, these proposed changes are at odds with Mr Baird's re-election promise to "enhance the State's biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations".

The National Conservation Council have made it easy for you to [make a submission](http://www.nature.org.au/get-involved/take-action/no-more-tree-clearing-have-your-say/) online before 28 June <http://www.nature.org.au/get-involved/take-action/no-more-tree-clearing-have-your-say/> or mail your submission to Biodiversity Reforms - Have Your Say, PO Box A290, Sydney South, NSW 1232

#### **5. Barrenjoey Reserve historic buildings use: concept plans**

The APA was delighted to learn that the Baird Government had shelved its plans for short stay accommodation in the light keepers' cottages. APA was implacably opposed to for a number of reasons, all of which were quite obvious to local residents. In our submission we urged NPWS to concentrate on finding uses for these buildings which can be shared by the large and rapidly growing number of walkers visiting the area. We stated that the APA and other community groups, would welcome the opportunity to assist in achieving this outcome.

#### **6. Boat trailer parking**

The parking of boat trailers on suburban streets has become a source of irritation and inconvenience for a number of local residents, especially as some of the trailers belong to out-of-area people. The former Pittwater Council, now North Ward of Northern Beaches Council nominated to participate in a trial whereby boat trailers can be impounded if they are left in the same place for more than 28 days on certain targeted streets identified by the Council as having problem boat trailers. This trial will begin on 1 July 2016. The trial is aimed at stopping the repeat boat trailer parking offenders, thereby freeing up valuable parking spaces for residents. In these targeted areas if boat owners don't have a residential parking permit for their boat trailer, they will only be able park on the same block for up to 28 days. Boat owners will be warned and then will have 15 days to move their boat trailer and avoid it being impounded. Moving a metre down the road won't comply. Under the new scheme, if an owner moves a boat trailer – it must be shifted at least a block away.

#### **7. Bushcare**

**The Angophora Reserve Bushcare Group:** Our last meeting was cancelled because of the very unfriendly weather. Our next meet will be on Sunday 17 July at the Bilwarra Road entrance to the reserve (between nos. 26 and 28). Mia will be attending with her mighty 'flame weeder' to give some of those rotten Mother of Millions a damn good sauté. We meet at 8.30am and morning tea usually happens around 11. Any queries please call Geoff on 0439.292.566

**The Avalon Golf Course Volunteer Bushcare Group** has made significant inroads into the huge infestation of Asparagus Fern in the 'remnant' triangle of original vegetation in the middle of the golf course. Our last scheduled work day was postponed 2 weeks because of possible dangers after the incredible weather of 4 and 5 June. Our next usual work day (2nd Wednesday of the month) will be 13 July. We will meet in the golf course car park at 2.30pm and then head off to our current work site. We head back around 5pm for a well-deserved afternoon tea before it gets too dark. New bush carers are very welcome and tool belts and tools will be provided along with advice where necessary.

Any queries, please call Geoff on 0439.292.566

**The Avalon Dunes Bushcare Group** meet on the first Sunday of each month at 8.30 near the Montessori School. Contact Marita for more information, 0439 409 202.

**The Bangally Head Bushcare Group** meet on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Marita for more information on 0439 409 202.

**The Plateau Park Bushcare Group** meets on the first Friday morning of each month from 8.30 – 11.30 am at the entrance between 132 and 134 Plateau Road near park playground area. Contact Helena Dewis at Pittwater Council on 0408 164 235 or helena\_dewis@ [pittwater.nsw.gov.au](http://pittwater.nsw.gov.au) if you can help. For information on all the local bush care groups go to

[http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare/bushcare\\_groups - when and where](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushcare/bushcare_groups_-_when_and_where)

**8. APA membership renewal**

**The \$10 membership fee is due on 30 June.** The expiry date of your subscription is emailed to you or is printed on your envelope if you receive your bulletin by mail. We have now allocated an APA membership number to each member to make it easier for people to pay by direct deposit. The APA number also provides the APA treasurer with sufficient identification as to who has paid by direct deposit. **Renewals can now be paid to Westpac Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732-095 Account 07-0127.**

**Please include your name and/or APA membership number to ensure I know who you are!** You can still renew your membership by mail (or in person) to Sue Martin, 164 Riverview Road, Avalon Beach 2107. To save additional postage, your receipt will be mailed to you with the subsequent bulletin or via email.

Please encourage your local family members and friends to join APA.

Please consider donating to our Fighting Fund to support campaigns. Simply select the amount you wish to donate and add to your annual member fee when renewing, or donate at any time. Please specify whether the money is for membership renewal or for the FF (Fighting Fund).

**The Avalon Preservation Association thanks Avalon Beach Community Library for their support.**

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**APA membership**

The cost is \$10.00 per family renewable on 30 June annually at **Westpac Avalon Preservation Association Incorporated BSB 732-095 Account 07-0127 or to** 164 Riverview Road Avalon Beach.

1/We: .....Phone:.....Address:.....

hereby apply for membership in the Avalon Preservation Association. 1/We agree to abide by the provisions of the APA Constitution if accepted.

Email:.....

We are happy for our bulletin to be emailed rather than mailed. Yes No

Signed: .....Date: .....

I wish to donate \$ ..... to the APA Fighting Fund. I understand that the purpose of the Fighting Fund is to allow members and others to support specific campaigns of concern to Avalon residents.