



Hi Everyone.

Firstly I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Progress Association. I'd also like to thank outgoing members for their hard work and dedication over many years.

I appreciate those that took time to vote in the recent election and welcome all our new members to the association. If you haven't joined, we'd love to have you on board!

The 2022/2023 Executive Committee is made up of a great mix of the experienced and new and we hope that we can represent and support the whole community. I encourage you to get involved by either volunteering to help on a sub-committee or getting involved in a 'passion project'.

Suggestions are always welcome!

We've had some fabulous achievements over the last few months. The completion of, and official opening on December 11th of the Community Support Centre is a tremendous effort by the Safety Advisory Group. This will be coupled with another of our Breakfast BBQs and a visit by the RFS - complete with the fire truck!

We've also had another highly successful Jazz in the Arboretum, Drinks on the Deck. A huge thank you to all of those volunteers who make these things happen, as well as those who work behind the scenes to maintain the Memorial Community Hall and our beautiful environment.

As the Silly Season approaches, we look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming community activities - the Community Christmas Dinner, Christmas Carols in the Arboretum or for Professional Santa Photos on the Beach (profits going to resurfacing the hall floor).

I look forward to meeting those of you I don't know, and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Karina Stafford. 0401 991454

 <p><b>Pearl Beach Safety Talks</b></p> <p>Meet your local lifesaver and council lifeguard services!</p> <p><b>Find out about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What dangers are at the beach?</li> <li>How can you stay safe?</li> <li>What can you do if you need help?</li> <li>What is a rip current?</li> </ul> <p>Join us from 9am on Tuesday 20/12, 27/12, 3/1/2023</p> <p>Proudly brought to you by:</p> 	<p>Kids, mums and dads and grandparents are all invited to meet with lifesavers from nearby Ocean Beach and a representative from Central Coast Council Lifeguard Service.</p> <p>We'd love to help you understand the dangers that are present at this beautiful beach.</p> <p>Gathering point is adjacent to the Beach Amenities area.</p>
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## Pearl Beach Safety



Stay safe this summer!

Pearl Beach over the coming Xmas/New Year January holiday period will host and welcome thousands of holiday makers and visitors to the village.

The beach is a wonderful joyous place to be over this period with plenty of sun and good clean surf. The perfect place for families and the children to enjoy.

- Be aware Pearl Beach does not have Lifeguards and is not a patrolled beach. It is to be noted that Progress Association has again requested Central Coast Council, as in previous years, to provide temporary Lifeguard services during the December/ January peak holiday period; Craig Healy of Central Coast Council has advised that unfortunately a lifeguard for Pearl Beach is not possible again this year.
- Pearl Beach can be deceptively dangerous, especially for those not familiar with it. It is very steep, and children or weak swimmers should NOT go into the water when waves are breaking on the beach. There are strong hidden rip currents, and people can find themselves suddenly swept into deep water in an instant.
- In urgency situations call 000. Both/either the Umina Surf Club and the Ocean Beach surf clubs can be called out and be at Pearl Beach within 5 minutes. Also, a public accessed defibrillator/AED is located next to the Beach Amenities block.
- Be aware that with the high 2-metre-high tides we've been experiencing, the rock platforms are very slippery. Take extra care walking around the rocks !!



Pearl Beach Progress Association's Safety Advisory Group maintains a Neighbour Alert data base of resident mobile phone numbers collected by *Street Contacts*. This data base is used to send bulk SMS messages to mobile phones of residents registered in the Neighbour Alert system during bush fires, floods and other major catastrophes.

Our *Street Contacts* are currently engaged in checking resident details to update and maintain accurate records.

For information and the name of your Street Contact, contact Paul Toohey on 0412 254 979.

## Defibrillator



The back to base mobile phone tower connectivity issues have been unable to be resolved. As a result the cabinets at the Amenities Beach Area and Tennis Court were updated on 29 November 2022.

**When accessing the AED you simply open the cabinet and follow instructions. Upon opening you will hear a loud siren which will cease when you close the cover.**

## Pearl Beach Speed Limit and Shared Zone



Village speed limit



Café and Pearl Parade Shared Zone

Pearl Beach Progress Association's letter of 28 September 2022 to Central Coast Council proposing a 40KM and 10KM shared zone speed limit remain under consideration.

Decision and implementation are now a 2023 project.

## Rockpool and Walkway over the rocks to the pool



Craig Healy of Central Coast Council has advised, subject to a low tide, the rock pool will be closed at 6am on next Tuesday morning 13<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks Craig this is great timing ahead of the Festive Season and January holiday period

There is no advancement in respect to constructing a walkway from the rock pool over the rocks onto the edge of the sand edge. The Progress Association together with the Umina Beach Blue Swimmers are keen to see this project make progress in 2023. Liesl Tesch MP is a strong supporter of this project.

Council's arborists examined the trees hanging over the rock face near the rock pool and deemed as being safe. They will however carry out inspections every 6 months (note – as these trees are on private property, the council would need to give rectification notice to the property owners).

National Parkes & Wildlife notified by Council to erect 'No Fires' sign/s in the area near Flat Rock Beach due to concerns raised and the party fires that occur in that area over the Dec/Jan period particularly.



## Pearl Beach Mobile Reception Reliability



This is a continuing issue which former MP Lucy Wicks had taken up with the then Minister for Communications. Dr. Gordon Reid MP has picked up the baton by making representations to the current Minister of Communications.

Dr Reid issued a media release dated 18 Nov which appeared in the 28<sup>th</sup> of Nov Peninsula Community News.

Following Peninsula Community News article, we emailed Dr Reid to advise:

- The mobile phone coverage in the village of Pearl Beach has always been patchy but recently this appears to have got significantly worse with increased occurrences of call dropouts, and failure to connect. This happens to have coincided with the upgrade of the Mt Ettalong telco tower to include 5G.
- The bad reception is particularly experienced in the fringe areas of the village. It is acknowledged that areas in direct line of sight of the phone tower, without hills/trees and other buildings obscuring the signal, do not have any major issue.
- Our back to base AED Cabinets, use 4G/LTE brackets for mobile connections. The AED's at the Tennis Courts and Beach Amenities area have become so unreliable we had to remove the back to base facility altogether which is most unacceptable. This change occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.
- We suspect contributing factors behind this decrease in service and reliability are
  - a) The pure amount of data carried by the mobile ph tower increasing dramatically due to the higher use of data sapping / always on apps on mobiles
  - b) The increased use of 5G, which the Telcos agree has less penetration power than earlier technologies, and can be seriously affected by trees and buildings typical of a rural area; Assuming this is correct, which could be checked by the Dept of Communications, the telcos would need to provide additional relay towers to improve the coverage and provide greater bandwidth to cater for the increased data usage.
- The situation is not helped by the mobile phone manufacturers who configure their new phones to try and use 5G by default which results in phones struggling to maintain a connection to a weak 5G signal when a stronger 4G signal is available.

## Community Service Centre - Project Status



The Pearl Beach Memorial Community Hall has been upgraded with funding from the Australian Government to improve safety and resilience to bushfires and other catastrophic events such as storms or prolonged blackouts. In a bushfire situation, our strong advice is to GO and GO EARLY – but if you're trapped as a fire approaches, we now have somewhere to shelter that offers more protection than the beach.

The new hall infrastructure:

- **Bushfire protection sprinkler system** with:
  - 20 sprinklers protecting the hall roof and another 30 for walls
  - Two rainwater tanks totalling 18,000L in the rear yard to supply water for sprinklers
  - Electric fire sprinkler pump and spearpoint pump\* for backup water to top up tanks in a fire
  - \* Spearpoint install delayed due to WaterNSW Licence issues and costs. Sprinklers still work.
- **Solar power emergency backup system** with:
  - 7.4 kW solar panels (approximately doubling the size of the existing array on the North roof)
  - 24 kWh battery storage (2 days normal supply for the hall, 10 hours supply for fire pumps)
  - 10 kVA generator for backup after batteries run low

As a result, this makes the Hall a substantially more resilient “last resort” place for residents to shelter if unable to evacuate from a major fire or other major events such as a storm or power outage.

The Central Coast Bushfire Management Committee have advised indicative approval for the Hall to be officially recognised as a bushfire **Neighbourhood Safer Place** (NSP) for Pearl Beach. The NSP operating procedures and manual are being finalised, and Safety Advisory Group together with other community volunteers will be fully trained to operate and supervise the NSP during a fire or storm. Training will include operation of the sprinklers and backup power systems, as well as assisting/directing people to the CSC in events of bushfire and/or storms and loss of power in the village.



**NSP training is to commence this month and in the New Year.**

**Extra volunteers are most welcome. We'd like at least a dozen operators, as on the day there's a fire some will be away, others will GO, so we need to ensure that of the people left and forced to shelter, know how to operate the fire sprinklers etc. It's not hard we promise, you don't have to be technical or a firefighter – we'll need help organising and caring for people too. To enquire or express interest please contact Paul Toohey at email [p.toohey48@gmail.com](mailto:p.toohey48@gmail.com) or 0412 254 979**

## Community Fire Unit



The Community Fire Unit (CFU) is part of the local RFS Brigade. The CFU trailer is back in Pearl Beach following being re-painted/refurbished.

Active CFU Members is now reduced to 4 as compared to a minimum RFS requirement of 6.

We are therefore keen to increase volunteers and if anyone is interested in joining the CFU in the New Year please contact Paul Toohey or Lindsay Boyd the RFS Pearl Beach Brigade Captain.

**Information About CFU**

- A team of local residents living in urban areas close to bushland who are supported by NSW RFS to enhance their safety and resilience to bushfires.
- As a volunteer CFU member you will learn how to prepare yourself, your family and your home ahead of the bushfire season. You will learn how to make informed decisions about whether to leave early or stay and defend your property when bushfires threaten.
- A CFU trailer is equipped with basic firefighting equipment to mop-up after a major fire front has passed and to extinguish fires emanating from embers blown onto local community properties.
- With CFU involvement, it allows the RFS Fire Truck/s to move onto other more serious fire front areas.
- All in all, the CFU and its team of volunteers is committed towards making people within the community feel safer.
- The CFU does not fight at the fire front and remains within the local community.

**Paul Toohey for and on behalf of the Safety Advisory Group**

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2022**



**Pearl Beach**  
ARBORETUM

The Crommelin Native Arboretum Inc is an award-winning, not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote and encourage nature conservation at Pearl Beach and elsewhere, particularly through maintaining the Crommelin Native Arboretum.

It is known locally as Pearl Beach Arboretum and is 5.5 hectares of natural and reclaimed bushland with tracks and open areas for picnics or to just sit and contemplate.

In 1976 local volunteers cleared the lantana and other weeds, removed car bodies and other refuse and started planning and planting for a native arboretum. The work of many dedicated volunteers continues and today it is enjoyed by many.

In 2022 we had great success with PBEAT (Pearl Beach Ephemeral Art Trail) and this will be held in September /October in 2023. See our website for this year's winners <https://www.pearlbeacharboretum.org.au/>.

The Arboretum is also a popular setting for weddings and other celebrations and also hosts art classes and guided tours from time to time.

We have been busy recently applying for a large grant to rebuild (and possibly relocate) the washed away boardwalk. We have developed a management plan and are working on a masterplan to provide guidance on major improvements for the next five to ten years.

**Want to volunteer?** Come along on the third Sunday of the month and we will make you welcome and also serve up a fantastic morning tea. There is a slight change in January as we have moved the working bee for that month only by one week to **22 January**.

Contact the Arboretum at [contact@pearlbeacharboretum.org.au](mailto:contact@pearlbeacharboretum.org.au) or call the president, Victoria Crawford, on 0407 272 495

### Community Environment Network (CEN ) BAT award goes to local PB identities

Ann and Stephen Parsons won the annual BAT (Be A Team) award for most outstanding all rounder – a person who has put in a valiant effort on behalf of the environment / sustainability. It was well deserved given all the work they have done not only for the Arboretum but throughout the Pearl Beach Community. In particular Ann's untiring work on the koala project shows incredible dedication.



### Monthly Community Breakfast

**Sunday 11th Dec from 8:30am**

Monthly Community Breakfast on the back deck of the hall. BBQ egg & bacon rolls \$5

### Official Launch – “Community Support Centre”

**Sunday 11th Dec at 10am**

Paul Toohey will officially launch the "**CSC**" short for (Community Support Centre). Stay after the breakfast or come along anyway to hear how facilities, such as backup power and sprinklers, have been added to the hall enabling it to better support the community in times of bush fires and power outages



## pearl beach environment group

The Pearl Beach Environment Group (PBEG) was formally established on 1 July 2021 as an independent incorporated body with the objective to *'protect and enhance the environment and encourage nature conservation within the village of Pearl Beach'*. PBEG adopts the definition of 'environment' in its broadest sense, which includes both the 'built' and the 'natural' environment of Pearl Beach. PBEG held its first AGM on 28 October, which was a well attended and enjoyable event. The main item for discussion was whether PBEG should remain as an independent organisation or seek to be included as a sub-committee of the Progress Association. The meeting resolved that the sub-committee option be explored by the PBEG Committee and then discussed with the membership.

The next PBEG Community meeting will be held at 4pm on Saturday 14 January in the Pearl Beach Hall, and all members and friends are invited to attend. You don't have to be a PBEG member to attend but if you would like to join there is a \$5 joining fee and a \$10 yearly fee (the application form is at <https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/wp-content/uploads/PBEG-Membership-Application-Form-Oct-2021.pdf>). Please email [pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com) if you have any questions or suggestions."

Peter Romey  
Secretary

## Pearl Beach Plodders

Founded in 1997 and still going strong with walks planned on the 3rd Tuesday each month except December and January. This year we have 'plodder' in Brisbane Waters National Park, Kincumber Reserve, Kahibah Creek Patonga, Empire Bay and a 5 night stay at Blackheath. In late February 2023 I have 28 going to Mudgee for a 6 night stay in The Mudgee Getaway Cottages and plan to do some local plodding on the Northern Beaches, Chittaway, Sydney, Wyrabballong, Wangi Wangi and Coogee.

Bev Lapacek 0439623818

## Pearl Beach Singers

After a very successful Singalong in August the singers are now rehearsing for the Christmas Carols in the Arboretum on the 23rd December. We hope to see you



there. Bring a picnic! Santa will be there too.

We need some more singers to join us for 2023. If you would like to join us we get together on a Friday at 2 pm. We would love to see you. No auditions!



Pauline. M. 0411 752 834

## Bushcare

We will end the year with a joint session with Dunecare on December 10 as Art Trail on 3 Dec occupies 4 of our members. We will recommence on Saturday 4 February. I am working on a planting session, seeking plants and some funding support. We welcome our new members More volunteers will be welcome. We hope to see you at the Dunecare site on 10 December. Remember the morning tea! Christmas Greetings to all.

Stephen Parsons 0448 75 15 95

## Buddies

The Buddies is a Pearl Beach Community Social Group, which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 12 - 2 pm in the community hall.

All community residents are welcome to participate and be involved in group activities, forums for topics of interest and the nomination of Guest Speakers to join the group.

A light lunch with coffee and tea is provided with a \$5 member contribution to cover costs.

Di Salwell 0499790279



## Art Group

Pearl Beach has a very active and diverse group of artists who hold Art Trails 2 - 3 times a year. There are meetings to discuss exhibitions and the sharing of knowledge. Some Artists meet regularly to paint 'plein air'. For more information regarding Art Trails

Cecile Ferguson 0412141721  
Margaret Westcott 0401968946

## Tennis & Bowls

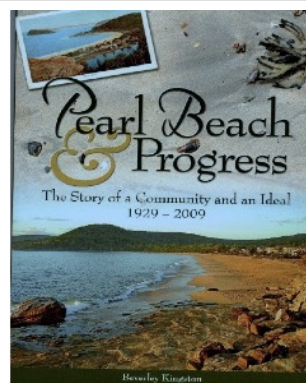


The Pearl Beach tennis courts were pegged out in September 1980, and formation of the Pearl Beach Tennis Club commenced in April 1981. Renamed in recent years as **'The Pearl Beach Tennis & Recreation Club'**.

A number of tennis groups play on a weekly basis, however new players are always welcome to come along and join us. Through the coming holidays **Tennis coaching is available – please contact Coach Mark Rawlingson 0412 327 801**

In November 1995 the bowling green was completed with monies loaned by members. Since that time we are delighted to have three groups play on a regular basis, and new players, or those who would like to learn are always welcome. .

**Court hire & bowls. \$15.00 per hour for members \$20.00 non members contact – 0418 436 225**



### Gifts

Recently produced stylish Jute Shopping Bag, a great gift to give family and friends at \$10 each. We are pleased to have stock of Beverley Kingston's *'Pearl Beach & Progress'* book at \$15 each.

To purchase contact Lynne on 4344 2319

### Pearl Beach Progress Association

**Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 5 pm.**

Memorial Hall - **Hall Bookings** - [www.vennu.com.au](http://www.vennu.com.au)  
or further information please email  
[pbpa.hallhire@gmail.co](mailto:pbpa.hallhire@gmail.co)

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**Heart and Sand**

I know a place  
 By the sea  
 So many precious memories Sunrise and  
 sunsets  
 Moon after twilight  
 Feet brush the sand  
 Zephyr touches  
 Sea breeze fills the air  
 I make my way to the pool Wander over  
 those rocks  
 Slip heavy sandshoes off  
 Low tide moss  
 Pickings for plucky fishing folk

I plunge in  
 My body light  
 Surfacing, I look above  
 At all those looming trees Daughter's  
 laughter traced through A cormorant  
 watches me  
 Wings outstretched in greeting Approval of  
 our shared territory

I walk beyond  
 Over the rocks  
 Where my dad and brother and I Said our  
 goodbyes to mum  
 Her ashes touched the sea Where mum  
 took her swim Where mum liked to paint  
 Where mum placed her soul  
 I see her float through the water The  
 shape forms a swimmer  
 Off the rocks she would go

Sometimes I wander back And see dad and  
 Fear when I will lose him  
 I wander into Mum's studio Her paintings  
 smile on me I hear her say,

"Addy, you enjoyed your swim today?" A  
 meow from behind me  
 Zoe the cat sniffs the air and senses The  
 beach on me

Outside with dad  
 A cup of tea  
 We talk, reflect  
 Zoe's distracted by kookaburra chortle It's  
 time to go

My soul is filled  
 I hug my father  
 My brother arrives  
 He loves this place  
 Misses mum, too  
 We embrace, say our goodbyes "Catch you  
 tomorrow!"  
 "Yeah, catch you!"

My car ambles down the street  
 I see the waves in the fading light Make my  
 way up the hill  
 Heart swiftly filling  
 Like the tide rolling in.

This is a poem Adam Palmer, who is the  
 librarian at Woy Woy library. It "celebrates" the  
 life of his mother, Robyne, who was an artist,  
 and of her love for Pearl Beach

John Palmer

Santa Photos on the Beach (near the amenities block) are every Saturday & Sunday  
 9am-11am until Christmas. For Bookings please call 0459551 543.



## Pearl Beach

### RECENT EVENTS

#### **'BEV'S BIRTHDAY BASH'**

Bev Lapacek celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with family & friends. The hall was packed and resounded with music, song and laughter. A fundraising event for Guide Dogs NSW/ACT an amazing **\$4,500.00** was donated.

Bev's message - ***'I marvel at our community, and I don't think any 'village' does it as well as we do. It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a community to make a village'***



#### **'SUMMER JAZZ IN THE PEARL BEACH ARBORETUM**

Emma Pask and Ian Cooper, with a 'Summer Jazz, Soul & Gypsy Swing Combo'.



A large crowd gathered and enjoyed a unique experience in beautiful native surroundings. Proceeds from the concert are used for maintenance and upkeep of the Pearl Beach Arboretum and the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.

#### **'REMEMBRANCE DAY**

***Lest we forget !***

The community were invited to a tree planting ceremony.

A grove of Rosemary Bushes, to commemorate the restored Pearl Beach War Memorial, and were offered the opportunity to buy and plant a Rosemary Bush in memory of a loved one.



### COMMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

#### **'PEARL BEACH ART TRAIL'**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10am - 4pm



Featuring 13 venues with 25 exhibitors include paintings, art, handcrafts, sculptures, jewellery, ceramics, pottery and cards. Locals and visitors are invited to come and stroll the streets and have fun shopping for Christmas.

#### **'COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER'**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 7pm, Memorial Hall.

Always a sell-out event and this year is no exception to enjoy a Christmas menu by Central Coast caterers '**Pachamama**' BYO drinks on the back deck and during dinner, plus taped music will play throughout the hall and on the back deck. Time to dance and enjoy fundraising activities.

***\* Bring an unwrapped child gift 0 - 14 years \****

Pearl Beach Community Christmas Party - Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm



\$50 per person | BYO drinks | Book your table of 8 or join a newcomer's table | PB Memorial Community Hall

Tickets on sale now  
Book early to avoid disappointment!  
To purchase tickets with cash call  
Kerry on  
0414 422790  
or credit card  
call Karina on  
0401 991454

## Events Diary

### COMMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST BBQ from 8am followed by the OFFICIAL LAUNCH of the COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE at 10am - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**Pearl Beach Memorial Hall.** A small cost of \$5 per Egg & Bacon roll so come along and enjoy!

The Support Centre funded by a \$91K grant under the Commonwealth's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program has been completed baring installation of a spearpoint by the Safety Advisory Group through strong support from community volunteers and Project Management of contractors for the installation of the solar, inverter, batteries and generator power and hall bushfire sprinkler infrastructure.

Waiting on approval as a **Neighbourhood Safer Place**, for residents and visitors who are unable to evacuate as a result of catastrophic events such as bushfires & storms.



#### **'COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS'**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Pearl Beach Arboretum

Wet weather, the Pearl Beach Memorial Hall

5.30 pm for 6.00pm, Sing along with the Pearl Beach Singers, 6.30pm - Santa arrives.



Families, friends & visitors invited to join in and & meet Santa, come early, bring a picnic, chairs & rug. **Santa's Treats** generously sponsored by Chemsave Umina. Raffle - Christmas

Hamper proceeds toward Community initiatives

**STOP PRESS ! Summer Reading Book Sale, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 9am - 1pm, Pearl Beach Memorial Hall**

#### **'FAMILY BINGO'**

Starts at 5pm - 6pm Pearl Beach Memorial Hall

Thursdays 29 December & 5, 12, 19, January 2023

\$5 - Ten Games. Bring family and friends and join in the fun - Cash Prizes

#### **'COMMUNITY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES'**

Check the Pearl Beach Website

[pearlbeachprogress.org.au](http://pearlbeachprogress.org.au) &

Social Media for updated information

January 15<sup>th</sup> Memorial Hall

8.30am - 10.30am **Breakfast BBQ** on the back deck

January 3, 10, 17, 24 Memorial Hall

5.30pm - 8pm **Family Discos** include sausage sizzle for a small cost, Memorial Hall

January 21<sup>st</sup>

5.30pm - 8pm **Family Bush Dance** includes sausage sizzle for a small cost, Memorial Hall

#### **'Kids & Family Pearl - Beach Safety'**

Starts 9am Beachfront meet local lifesavers and lifeguard services! Learn the the beach dangers ? Tuesdays 20 & 27 December + Tuesday 3 January

January 26<sup>th</sup> **'Australia Day'** 8am at the beach.

Details to be advised - refer website