



The President Report

Welcome to our Winter addition of The Gem. Despite the nights getting colder and the smell of wood burning fires, there is still plenty happening in the village. A number of fundraising activities are organised in the hall - both during the day and at night, so there's sure to be something for everyone. Make sure you follow Lynne's monthly Newsletter to see exactly what's going on.

One event that is growing every month is the Community BBQ. This concept was introduced in December last year, with the aim to increase community engagement - a meeting place for old friends & neighbours and an opportunity for new residents to meet people. It is held on the 2nd Sunday of every month from 8am-10.30am.

The first one was free (thanks to some generous suppliers) and was well supported & since then, the BBQs have been self funding.

Initially they consisted of freshly cooked bacon & egg rolls, however the organisers decided they'd try to make the event 'more useful' to locals (particularly the elderly) by including a small market.

The local produce now includes:

- A growers market that includes fruit, veggies, honey & eggs. Jaimie & Andrew from Mountain Pride farms have a strong connection with Pearl Beach - Andrew is related to Bev L and Jaimie's mother grew up in Pearl Beach & her Great Uncle's name is on the War Memorial. They also donate fresh eggs for the BBQ each month.
- Burnt Honey Bakery (from Copacabana) supplies pastries & breads at wholesale prices. One of our dedicated volunteers drives up early on a Sunday morning before the market, to pick these up. Jo, one of the owners at Burnt Honey, has her aunt Bronwyn living in Pearl Beach and is very happy to contribute.
- Jams, chutneys and relishes are also being sold courtesy of a dedicated group meeting in the hall kitchen for a cook up and a bit of fun once a month. This is aimed at bringing in older members of the community with tried & true recipes & years of experience and others who are keen to learn (check the calendar for the cook up date each month).
- Handmade soaps made by Penryn are also included & last month flowers were added as a special touch for Mother's Day.

The market has been growing steadily since its inception and now, with 5 markets down it sells on average 120 bacon & egg rolls with approx 150 people coming through the doors - and growing every month. The back deck & courtyard are set up with tables and chairs and are now crowded on these Sunday mornings, with the place buzzing and a great atmosphere.

Thanks must go to a small dedicated group of volunteers who, month on month ensure a fun, inclusive environment & make this event happen (more volunteers are always welcome!).

It has turned into a lovely community event that keeps on growing and is being seen by residents and visitors as a fun place to meet, and an asset to the community.

Any profits made, are being invested back into buying produce and equipment, with a good coffee machine and the possibility of outdoor heating being on the wishlist.

I would also like to take this opportunity personally, & on behalf of the community to thank Margaret Westcott for her amazing efforts in producing The Gem in both its electronic and printed versions, for the last 5 years. Margaret has decided that this will be her last Gem & we thank her for her dedication over all this time.

I can remember picking up copies of The Gem from outside the shop when I was a little girl, and that seems like 100 years ago, so we need a new person to take over this very important Community project! Please contact Margaret on 0401 968 947 if you'd like more information.



News from SAG 24 Feb 2023

Pearl Beach Memorial Community Hall

Community Support Centre Project – “Neighbourhood Safer Place”

The project is mostly completed except for the approval of a Spearpoint works licence from WaterNSW who have informed us that the approval is being processed. Upon receipt of the WaterNSW approval we will then proceed with the Spearpoint installation.

The Neighbourhood Safer Place procedures training is continuing with additional training of volunteers over the next few months. If any resident is interested in volunteering for this vitally important safety operation, please contact Paul Toohey by mobile 0412 254 9797 or p.toohey48@gmail.com.

Neighbour Alert:

SAG is planning to review the Neighbour Alert / Street Contacts program over the coming months and should residents have any comments and suggestions we would be delighted to receive them by email to p.toohey48@gmail.com.

Mobile Phone Reception Issue

This is a continuing issue of serious concern for Pearl Beach residents, and we remain in communication with our local federal government MP, Dr Gordon Reid who is supportive of our plight and has approached to the Minister for Communications Michelle Rowlands MP for action inclusive of the provision of a mobile phone reception monitoring device. This is necessary as the Telcos do not believe there's a mobile phone connectivity issue in Pearl Beach !!

Beach Safety

The **Emergency Response Beacon (ERB)** was installed 28 April 2023 on the beach adjacent to the Agate Street beach entry. Council is preparing signage describing how to use / operate but other than that the EBS is fully operational; an alert can be simply activated by pressing the marked BUTTON to speak to an operator who will then access a camera view of the person and another higher camera for a wide view of the beach.

The ERB communicates between the Surf Life Saving NSW State Operations Centre (SOC) and the person, allowing the SOC operator to quickly gather important information, issue instructions or provide reassurance in an emergency. They will respond using a wide range of Support Operations assets, including jetskis, inflatable rescue boats, volunteer callout teams from both Umina and Ocean Beach surf clubs, lifeguards, or helicopter or drone services and to inform Ambulance NSW and Police as maybe appropriate.

In consultation and agreement of Council, **other Beach Safety initiatives** include:

- To include a 2nd small sign at the Amenities block alongside the Defibrillator box informing the public there is an emergency alert phone 300m north with a direction arrow, and one at the ERB location saying there's a Defibrillator/AED at the amenities block + directions.
- To relocate the Yellow Rescue Tube at the Agate Street entrance alongside the EBS. Furthermore, we plan to move the existing Yellow Rescue Tube nearer to the very northern end of the beach and to install another Yellow Rescue Tube at the Coral Street beach entry lane. These are all to be kept in new upright Cabinets which will also require new signage inclusive of a reference to the locations of the ERB and the AED.

Seeking Volunteers for the RFS Community Fire Unit

Community Fire Unit (CFU) is operated by a team of local resident volunteers support the RFS/Pearl Beach Brigade to enhance safety and resilience to bushfires.

The CFU's activities as responders to bushfires or other activities include:

- Extinguishing spot fires and managing ember attacks within Pearl Beach until the RFS fire brigade arrives.
- Extinguishing fires and ousting alight material following the passing of a bushfire front.
- Flood mitigation – such as pumping water away from trouble spots
- Managing people movements

Residents interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Toohey on 01412 254 979.

PEARL BEACH – SPEED LIMIT AND SHARED USE ZONE

No advancement as Council is still waiting on Transport NSW's updated street speed limit policy which is now expected in June.

Paul Toohey

Safety Advisory Group

Pearl Beach – Safety Advisory Group

19 May 2023

Emergency Response Beacon



Bushcare Winter 2023.

We have been offered contractor help in the New Year for Paul Landa and North Coral.

Meanwhile we have joined forces with Dunecare to plant acacias at North Coral. We will be back at Middle Creek in June and Paul Landa in July while the snakes are truly asleep. We still put on great morning teas. We have a couple of new recruits and a Council supervisor with cosumate environmental knowledge. Look forward to seeing you.

Watch out for the sign at the usual corner.

Stephen 0448 75 15 95

The Pearl Beach Environment Group (PBEG) is now a subcommittee of the Pearl Beach Progress Association. Our webpage is available here <https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/pearl-beach-environment-group/> where you will find some useful information on environment and planning matters.

PBEG is very concerned about the continuing removal of trees from private land and verges and the erection of large dwellings out of scale with the Pearl Beach bushland environment and will continue to lobby Council about this situation. PBEG has been busy putting together a detailed submission to Council on one development application which failed to address the special requirements for Pearl Beach in Section 5.10 of the Central Coast Development Control Plan.

PBEG recently supported workshop on Nestbox building held in the Arboretum on 6 May 2023. In one day, 11 volunteers constructed and put a first coat of paint on all 19 boxes (8 lorikeet sized boxes and 11 possum sized boxes)! These have now been installed in private gardens around Pearl beach. A big thank you to Penryn Maddrell, Andrew Stanger, and Bunnings Umina.

PBEG are keen to support the Pearl Beach community on all environment and planning matters, including ideas for future talks and workshops.

Mary Knaggs Convenor
Pearl Beach Environment Group
A subcommittee of the Pearl Beach Progress Association
pearlbeachenvironmentgroup@gmail.com
<https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/pearl-beach-environment-group/>



Nestbox Workshop at the Arboretum (Image by Penryn Maddrell)



The Eastern Native Quoll is endangered in NSW. Luckily we have some in parts of Brisbane Water National Park. Please keep your dogs and cats out the National Parks and the Arboretum.



Pearl Beach
ARBORETUM

Pearl Beach Arboretum - Landscape Masterplan

Our long term plans are being developed through a Landscape Masterplan. Once we are a bit further along we'll get more input from the community. However one development we are hoping to complete this year is building a new verandah on the cottage to enable us to have 30 people in a workshop and about 50 people for a talk undercover. This will give greater opportunities for school and community groups to utilise the Arboretum.

Surveys

We have developed a survey about the verandah for Arboretum members and others in the community and would ask that you have a look and give us your support. We need to show community support to be able to obtain grant funding from both government and other funding bodies.

We also have a survey seeking support for replacement of the boardwalk and viewing platform destroyed by the heavy rain in January/March 2022. We need to show the Central Coast Council that there is strong community support to replace the boardwalk to be able to get them to place it on the capital expenditure plan and for us to be able to apply for government grant funding to put towards the works.

Pearl Beach Arboretum cont

Both surveys can be accessed by going to our webpage <https://www.pearlbeacharboretum.org.au/> or our Facebook page. You may also have received a link to the surveys by email if you are a member or a friend of the Arboretum.

PBEAT 2023

Artists are invited to submit expressions of interest for pre-selection in an Ephemeral Art Trail to be staged in the Pearl Beach Arboretum. The Ephemeral Art Trail will take place over 4 weeks in 2023, opening Saturday 16 September and closing Sunday 15 October. Approximately 25 ephemeral artworks will be selected for display, responding to the theme NATURE & NURTURE.

The following prizes will be awarded:

- \$1,000 People's Choice Award (any category)
- \$3,000 First Prize (artist or group over age 16)
- \$1,000 Highly Commended (artist or group over age 16)
- \$250 Young Persons (Artist or Group under age 16) x 2
- \$250 School Entry (years 4-6)
- \$250 School Entry (years 7-10)

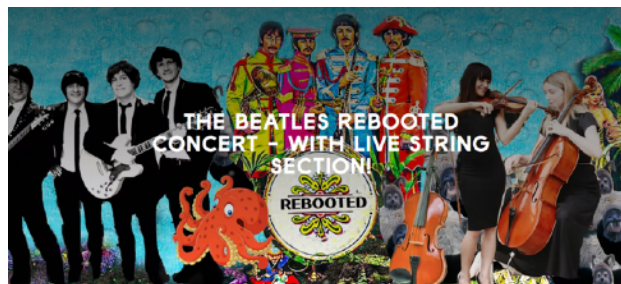
Here are some samples from 2022.



PBEAT cont.....

The call for proposals for the installations will be advertised from late May, 2023, with the Expressions of Interest (EOI) closing at midnight on Sunday June 25, 2023. There is a small fee to submit an EOI. See the EOI form [HERE](#).

BEATLES REBOOTED 7 OCTOBER IN THE ARBORETUM



In conjunction with the Progress Association we have the exciting concert The Beatles Rebooted. Tickets are now on sale just click on the link - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beatles-rebooted-at-the-arboretum-tickets-629038329577>

Working bees

PBEG and other community members led by Penryn Maddrell and Andrew Stanger ran a nest box workshop in the Arboretum which was a great success. Boxes have been placed in residents' trees and hopefully will provide homes for some of our wildlife. These supplement the ones the Arboretum has had for several years.

Every Thursday we have a few stalwart workers who come and do some planting, weeding and other essential tasks. 9:00am to about 11:00am. Come along and join us – there is a cup of tea or coffee at the end.

Our major working bee is held on the third Sunday of each month at 9:00am. The next one is **18 June**. Bring gloves, sunscreen and a hat. Wear sturdy shoes. A very scrumptious morning tea is provided at 11:00am.

Hope to see you in the Arboretum soon.

Next year's concert.....

Planning for the next years annual Pearl Beach Showcase & Scholarship concerts usually start immediately following the concerts. Last year comment was made that a '**Baby Grand Piano**' would be great to have for the 2023 concerts ! I wondered at potential cost and logistics of such a project..

Little did I realise this grand idea would eventuate. How wrong was I? however the Team at the Conservatorium assured John Irvine and me that it would be sponsored by Kawaii who are extremely generous to the Conservatorium. The piano was fabulous and enhanced the stage in the hall as well as offering our young musicians a splendid instrument to play on.

Please see photos of the piano arriving, it then had a 90 minute tuning, at the conclusion of the concerts it was dismantled in 15 minutes and carted away in man pieces looking very sad .

A big thank you to Malcolm McDonald and Paul Barclair who prepared the stage in a suitable configuration.

Lynne Lillico



Pearl Beach Plodders still plodding, since 1997, on the 3rd Tuesday each month (Except December & January). March saw us at The Basin and in April we plodded from Hawkesbury River Station around to Parsley Bay and return. Lunch was then enjoyed at Life Boat Seafoods. The May walk was from Fagan park, Point Clare, into the Nougat & Chocolate Factory and some plodders purchased products from the retain store. We also checked out the new Coles store at West Gosford and then had lunch at a local cafe before returning to our cars. Next walk, on 20th June, from Kariong to Riding for The Disabled at Somersby where we will have a tour and morning tea. July plod may be around the Wangi Circuit Track.

Anyone interested in walking/plodding with us please let me know and I will then add you to the email list.

If anyone has an interesting walk they would like to do please give me the details.

Our walks are mostly quite easy.

Next year I am planning on the Myall River area for our Long Stay Plod, possibly in August/September.

Bev Lapacek (0439623818 or email bevlapacek91@gmail.com)

Plodders at the Nougat & Chocolate Factory, West Gosford





Pearl Beach Bowlers & Ettalong Bowling Club
Charity Bowling Day
to celebrate
International Guide Dog Day

A number of the Pearl Beach Bowlers participated at a charity bowling day held on Sunday 7th May hosted by the Ettalong Bowling Club. The day was quite cold and drizzle interrupted play however members of the Central Coast Guide Dogs Volunteer Support Group joined with the bowlers and enjoyed a fun filled morning of exciting and competitive bowls.

Friends and visitors enjoyed the club facilities and generously supported the auction of a lovely Mothers Day Gift box generously donated by Umina Flowers and Gifts. Followed by the raffle with a variety of prizes generously donated by local businesses and friends which created a frenzy of ticket sales, the support group managed the Guide Dogs merchandise stall, and a total of \$2,390.00 was raised on the day.

The Pearl Beach Bowlers are looking forward to the forthcoming Tennis & Bowls Social Day on Sunday 18th June registration from 9am, prior bookings for catering are necessary through Judy McFarlane.

The bowling group, ladies and gents are looking for new members from the community and friends. There is no requirement to have bowling experience, or have your own bowls, contact Robert on 0477486065.



The Pearl Beach singers are once again preparing for the next variety concert. A medley of 70s songs and will also present local performers

Friday 25th August 2023 | 7.30pm

Saturday 26th August 2023 | 2.30pm

**Booking details to Follow: Enquiries -
 Pauline Toohey 0411 752 834**

The Easter Saturday Art trail

was a huge success as a community event. Seventeen artists decided to exhibit at the arboretum and others exhibited from homes as has been the usual practice. The arboretum exhibition proved to be a wonderful event with a carnival like atmosphere thanks to workshops and live music. The sun shone, the arboretum shone and a huge variety of art, crafts, jewellery and ceramics was a feast enjoyed by over a thousand visitors. Some visitors purchased gifts and collectables while others just enjoyed viewing the displays. The event was covered and acclaimed by NBN local news and the point.net.

So successful was the art trail that it has been decided to use the same format again on Saturday of the October long weekend 30/9/23. Food and coffee, an increase in the number of exhibitors, community collage, and more live music are all planned for what promises to be another "don't miss" Pearl Beach event.



PEARL BEACH

www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au

June

Wednesdays 7th & 21st 'Cinema Club'
2pm – 4.30pm



New members welcome
\$20 then \$5 per movie

Renewal Membership \$10

Memorial Hall
4344 231 Enquiries

Saturday 10th 'Garage Sale Market'
9am – 1pm Come see & buy!
Sausage sizzle and raffle
Memorial Hall



Enquiries: 0414 422 790

Sunday 11th 'Monthly Community Breakfast & Grower's Market'
8.30am - 10am



Memorial Hall

Monthly Sunday dates:
9th July
13th August
Enquiries: 0459 551 543

July

Saturday 15th 'Cafe' Camino' Spanish Paella
6.30pm
Bookings TBA Ticket cost \$50

Memorial Hall

Sunday 23rd 'Movie Matinee' Oyster Farmer
2pm – 5pm & meet the film Producer,

Anthony Buckley
Memorial Hall
Enjoy a conversation with
Anthony Buckley.

Refreshments included

Ticket cost TBA
Enquiries: 4344 2319



August

Saturday 12th 'Bathtub Gin Orchestra'
7.30pm – 9.30pm
Bookings TBA Ticket cost \$35

Memorial Hall

Friday 25th 7.30pm
Saturday 26th 2.30pm 'Pearl Beach Singers'
Memorial Hall 70's and Beyond
Guest performers



Ticket cost - \$25 under 15 \$10
Booking details TBA

Coming Soon *

September 10th Community BBQ Breakfast

Saturday 8th October – Pearl Beach Arboretum
'Beatles Rebooted Band & Strings'



Proudly Presented by the Pearl Beach Progress Association and
The Pearl Beach Arboretum

A world class band and string section (nine musicians) recreate live,
note for note, the music that changed the world. You won't believe
your ears. This is a once in lifetime opportunity to watch one of the
world's best Beatles shows at Pearl Beach.

2.30pm – 5.00pm
Saturday 7 October 2023

Come early and bring a picnic, rug and chair
Access to site and parking via Tourmaline Ave and Opal Close

Bookings essential Ticket cost \$45
early bird bookings \$40, deadline 1 September
Children under 15 \$25
Groups 10+ or more \$40 per ticket (all tickets have a booking fee)

To register for more information and be informed when tickets go on sale
email - contact@pearlbeacharboretum.org.au



Saturday October 28th
10am – 4.30pm

Memorial Hall



Enquiries: 4344 2319



This is my last GEM so I would like to thank all the contributors. Thank you for the assistance from PBPA in distributing the GEM and many other matters.

Thank you to Lynne Lillico for her reliable and consistent information on events and her good ideas.

Thank you to Duncan Bridel, Colin Husband and to all the photographers in Pearl Beach.

I note with satisfaction that the GEM is keenly read by the residents of Pearl Beach.

Thank you to Pauline Toohey for her proof reading.

I look forward to any person who would like to take over this role.

Please email or phone 0401968947
pbpa.gemnewsletter@gmail.com

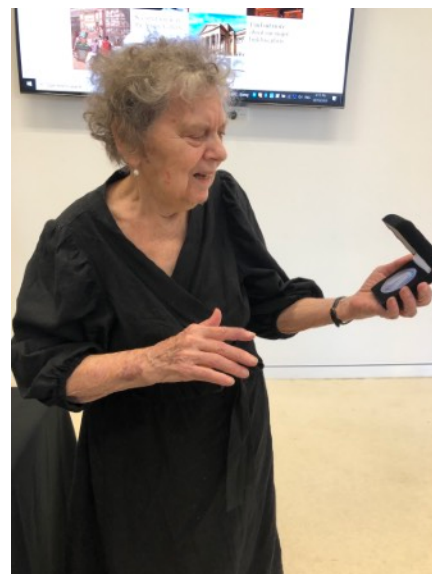
**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT ART TRAIL IN PEARL BEACH STUDIOS AND THE ARBORETUM
SEPTEMBER 30 2023.**



Dr Bev Kingston Library Patron Honoured

Bev Kingston was a member of the Library Board from 2006 to 2022. When she was forced into Zoom mode by the COVID pandemic, and then, by increasing physical challenges, she did not renominate for Board membership. She did request, however, corresponding membership. She also graciously assented to becoming a Library patron though in her usual modest, sometimes self-deprecatory way, she did not feel that she could be in the company of a former Governor-General. Board members, however, saw her as meriting very august company and enthusiastically approved her joining our other patrons.

On 28th October, another organisation with which she has had a long association awarded her its medal for long and distinguished service. The Board Chair and Secretary attended the ceremony at the State Library.



The **Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB)** held the ceremony to award Bev its medal. Professor Stephen Garton spoke warmly of her very unique contribution to social history and the art of biography. He regarded her as one of the most innovative and original histories of the last fifty years, grounding her history in lived realities. Her 31 entries to the **ADB** were masterpieces of the biographical art. Professor Garton instanced her recent entry on Russell Ward as providing a fascinating insight into the man.

Tom Griffiths, Chair of the Editorial Board of the **ADB** spoke of Bev's scholarship and editorial skills praising her for her wisdom and her generosity in mentoring emerging scholars. Her contribution represented an extraordinary record of public service.

The Library's experience with Bev has been through her quiet interventions in Board meetings where she often knitted her way through passionate arguments. She always entered these debates purposefully with a suggestion that became a solution. Her generosity with her time extended to making presentations in topic areas which were her forte.

The General Editor of the **ADB**, Professor Melanie Nolan commented on her skill, wisdom and diligence. The citation with the medal outlined her long association with the **ADB** commencing in 1970, when, as she told it, Professor Frank Crowley at the University of NSW (UNSW) handed her the task of attending one of the early meetings of the **ADB**. But, she had already written entries from the 1960's. She remained a member of its Editorial Board from August 1996 to December 2021. For a quarter of a century she was the section editor for NSW, reviewing hundreds of entries.

Bev had a distinguished academic career at UNSW where she taught for 30 years. "Her publications include one of the classic works of 1970's feminism, *My Wife, My Daughter and Poor Mary Ann: Women and Work in Australia* (1975)." She worked on a supplementary volume of the **ADB** with nearly 30 per cent of the "missing people" being women. Almost half of her own entries have been women.

The citation for the medal fittingly rates as "outstanding", her contribution to the **ADB** and to the study and teaching of history in NSW. It adds that her "longevity and the key roles she has filled with distinction for the **ADB** make her a worthy recipient of the award of the **ADB Medal**."

We congratulate Bev on this recognition of her prodigious dedication.

Jozefa Sobski AM Board Chair

Good Gathering x Heartbake Supper Club with Charlotte Ree

A Neighbourhood Dining Series

Good Gathering, is a new series of community-focused dining events that prioritise connections and storytelling over profit.

These communal dinners are being held in homes and community halls and will bring guests together with creatives and makers and local producers.

Each Good Gathering will feature a specially-curated seasonal menu laden with fresh, locally-sourced produce. And each event will invite special guests with fascinating stories to tell over a shared meal.

A portion of each ticket sale from Good Gathering will go to the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council

You may arrive as strangers but will leave as friends.



Sat 3rd Jun 2023, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Patonga Community Hall
6 Brisk St, Patonga NSW
2256,

Tickets online. \$200 + GST

<https://events.humanitix.com/good-gathering-x-heartbake-supper-club-with-charlotte-ree>

What's included.

- Welcome drink by Moore's Dry Gin
- 5 shared course meal*
- Paired wines
- Take home gift

***Only some dietary requirements can be accommodated. Please get in touch with us to discuss hello@weareneighbourgood.com**