



ABBOTSFORD COVE NEWS

Official newsletter of
The Abbotsford
Cove Community

Issue No. 001 July 2005

Community Association AGM

The annual general meeting of the Community Association was held on the 2nd June. The Chairman, Norm Gilmore commented that it had been another successful year with both the admin & sinking funds ending close to budget. He stated that the executive were maintaining the community property in very good order. This is highlighted by major rebuilding of the southern side sea wall, repairs to roadways & pathways and repainting of the clubhouse. The No.1 pool heater is being replaced with a larger capacity unit & the No 5. pool heater has been replaced. Extensive repainting of boundary fencing on the Walton Crescent side of the

Cove has been approved. Norm thanked the executive & delegates from each building for their assistance.

He also thanked Rosmarie Samuelson for her contribution as editor of the newsletter during 04/05.

The next ACCA meeting is on **Thursday the 28th July** at 7:00pm.

If residents of the Cove wish to have any issues about community facilities included in the agenda, these need to be raised with your own executive first & be lodged with Sean Birmingham at Strata Associates by 5:00pm on the 11th July.

The election of a new executive proved difficult & we had 4 brave hearts who volunteered their services yet again. There is still one vacancy.

Bruce Balsdon—Lawson - appointed Treasurer

Norm Gilmore—Flynn - appointed Chairman

Bess Rosen—Oxley - appointed Secretary

John Young—Flinders

The executive have prepared the attached summary of the ACCA Management Statement for your information.

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We welcome articles to be included in your newsletter, however their inclusion is not guaranteed.
All newsletters are approved by the ACCA executive prior to publication.

Club House

To book the club house for a private function, contact Sean Birmingham at Strata Associates on 8303 2000. A refundable bond of \$200 is required for all bookings.

It's a great place to entertain your friends for birthdays, anniversaries, christenings or family get-togethers.

Tennis - to book courts 1 or 2, the booking sheet is kept in the clubhouse kitchen.

New Garden Committee elected

Under the maximum allowed, 5 delegates were elected.

Cheryl Balsdon—Lawson / Dorothy Bryant—Endeavour

Dianne Jordan—Alexander / Stephen Flick—Elizabeth

Chris Dale—Mitchell

Our current gardening contractors, Starline, have been re-engaged for a further 2 year period. The cost to maintain the gardens and lawn areas at Abbotsford Cove is one of our community's largest expense items at close to 35% of our total admin & sinking fund budget. There are 2 full time gardeners engaged as well lawn mowing contractors.

But anyone who cares to walk around the Cove could only be impressed with the very pleasant atmosphere our gardens and walkways create. Visitors to the Cove always comment favourably about the extensive open space and interesting walkways between buildings.

The garden committee liaises constantly with Starline, Canada Bay Council & arborists about tree lopping or shaping permits, as well as individual stratas to ensure all areas receive an equitable share of attention.

This year some stratas propose to investigate the cost of converting to drip irrigation and the capture, storage & reticulation of storm water run off onto our gardens.



Around our gardens

Our Moreton Bay Fig although somewhat misshapen is well on it's way to recovery after losing several huge limbs in the February tornado which damaged buildings and boats at the Cove.

We saw the planting of our 2nd mature "Magnolia Grandiflora" adjacent to the water feature in front of Abbotsford House. This is an evergreen tree with glossy green leaves & a rusty underside producing large fragrant white flowers. These trees will in time provide a welcome shade canopy whilst not impeding on the grandeur of Abbotsford House.

Traffic changes



You may have noticed the installation of white speed bumps leading to & on the roundabouts in Abbotsford Cove Drive. Unfortunately it has become a shortcut for speeding motorists between Walton Crescent & Blackwall Point Rd. Despite some early teething problems, It appears to be slowing down & lessen-

ing the volume of non resident through-traffic. Our road contractors, Abi Group, have now been engaged to realign one of the kerbs at the Walton Crescent roundabout, and to replace 185 metres of damaged kerbing in lower Fig Tree avenue. Abbotsford Cove Drive speed limit is 10kmph and this can be enforced by the Police.

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Abbotsford Cove official rainfall station



Sue Prell checks our gauge at 7:30am each day

If you click on to the Bureau of Meteorology website—www.bom.gov.au/weather and to NSW rainfall you will see Abbotsford listed as an official metropolitan site. Here you can find daily, weekly & monthly recordings as well as other interesting information. Well our official site is adjacent to the No 1 tennis court. It was initiated by Sue Prell from Oxley, having connections to family grazing properties at Crookwell in Southern NSW where the Prell family have been taking readings since

1905—yes 100 years. These recordings were used in the planning of the Warragamba Dam & catchment area.

Sue approached the Bureau and they immediately supplied the necessary equipment. The recordings are taken at 7:30am each day and appear on the website from 9:00am.

Sue says that the rainfall in the 6 months to the end of June was significantly more than for the same 2004 period, despite the drought. So far this year we have recorded 432mm (17.2") falling over 56 days. During June, we had 2 days of light rain in the first 2 weeks, then heavy rain over the 8 days during the final fortnight.

Birds of the Cove—The Pelican (by Don Coulter)

The pelican has all the qualities that mankind finds likeable or lovable & they bring pleasure to every bird lover. It has a large bill & pouch which holds up to 10 litres, & mature birds stand 1 metre high with a wingspan of 2.5metres. They can soar to 3,000 metres & when flying retract their heads to reduce bulk. It can glide for up to 2 minutes. Pelicans can be found alone or in a flock of 100 or more. They are found all over Australia but mainly in coastal areas & inland swamps which are their favourite nesting places.

They are intelligent fishing birds forming circles around schools of fish forcing the fish to the centre. Two or more birds feast in the centre & move to the outside rotating with other birds. Once they have had their fill, they allow the school to go. Pelicans don't have a loud cry and simply

grunt. When breeding, they lay 2 eggs in roughly made nests scooped out of sand with little or no twigs & leaves. These big birds won't stand & defend the nest & simply fly off abandoning the chicks to predators. In the first 3 weeks the chicks grow 6 times their original size.

There are 8 different species in the world, however the species we see are unique to Australia.

There are several groups of pelicans which frequent the Abbotsford area & some are often found resting on the ferry wharf pylons beside the boatshed. When the professional fisherman trawl the Parramatta River, you will see several pelicans following the boats picking up small fish from the nets.

Information sourced from Every Australian Bird Illustrated—Rigby



The beach at Abbotsford Cove



A load of rubbish

The top picture was taken on Saturday 2nd July following the heavy rains through the previous week & highlights the debris accumulated on our own beach. This is washed down into the harbour from local stormwater drains and includes plastic bottles, plastic bags, timber, fast food containers, garden waste & cigarette butts.

The lower picture shows children playing on the clean sandy beach the very next day. What a difference a day makes & where did the rubbish go? Sometimes it is cleaned up by up by good Samaritans from the Cove but most times it is simply washed out into the harbour with the tide and winds. We have a unique environment at Abbotsford Cove and we need to work hard to protect it.

Aqua Fitness



When : Monday 8:50am to 9:50am & Wednesday 8:50am to 9:50am

Where: The lap pool corner of Harbourview Cres & Abbotsford Cove Drive. This is a heated pool.. The main top pool is currently closed for heater upgrade.

Ladies & men all welcome. Call :

Jan Coulter on 9712 3858

Yacht in distress— in the height of the severe storm last Thursday evening, a yacht broke it's mooring and drifted onto the Abbotsford Cove marina. Don Coulter had gone to the marina about 1am to check the boats & found the unwelcome visitor. With help from residents the boat was safely secured without damaging other boats on the marina.

The '**Christmas in July**' function advertised in the previous newsletters for 16th July at Casa Doro Five Dock, has been cancelled.

Note from the editor

This newsletter is available in colour in PDF format via email. If you would like it emailed, let the editor know. If you have any items of interest for future editions or know of interesting happenings or achievements please contact the editor.

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