Pittwater Online News

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Champions and Olympians

New generation of sailors: (front row from left) Charlotte, Alex and Sam, (back row from left) Rachel, Juliana, Sophie, Dieter, Jeremy, Rachel, Niall, Josh and Molly.

Left to right: Sam Duchatel, John Goldsmith, Michael Warren

John and Michael McCormick

David Renouf with daughters Rachel (l) and Sophie.

Hon. Bronwyn Bishop with Dick Clarke (in tie) and Upu Kila (past PBSC Commodore)

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Palm Beach Sailing Club's 50th Anniversary

Abovel: (l to r) Commodore Anthony Duchatel, Mayor Harvey Rose, Hon. Bronwyn Bishop and Hon. Rob Stokes.

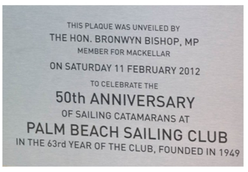
PBSC had its 50th Anniversary of sailing catamarans on Pittwater on Saturday the 11th of February and as well as inviting the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, Hon. Rob Stokes and Pittwater's Mayor, Harvey Rose to join them, they also celebrated by sailing catamarans. This family orientated club, which is one of the strongest Catamaran clubs in Australia and has world class Champions and Olympians as members, has an emphasis on inclusiveness and enjoying the great sport of flying across Pittwater's Estuary as fast or faster then the wind.

The morning began with current Commodore Anthony Duchatel welcoming all to the clubhouse. Cmdr. Duchatel shared some of the illustrious achievements of members alike Olympians John Forbes and Mitch Booth who competed and won medals in both the Barcelona and Sydney games. The Booths have three generations as members of the PBSC. The Waterhouse family with Champions Rod, Kerry, Bridget and son Jason represent firsts on a National and World level of competition.
David Renouf, whose father Phil was also a founding member, was present with daughters' Rachel and Sophie, also represent three generations as club members. John McCormick and son Michael, another World Champion are a few examples of how family enjoying this sport and the outdoors together is what Palm Beach Sailing Club, ultimately, is all about.

Commodore Duchatel then welcomed Mayor Harvey Rose who spoke with his usual eloquence of how PBSC is connected directly with the earliest origins of water craft on the estuary by continuing a legacy of being on and enjoying the water, by continuing this tradition. CR. Rose congratulated PBSC on their 50th Anniversary and their long involvement in and contribution to Pittwater's community.

Hon. Rob Stokes shared a historical insight of how William Dampier whilst travelling in southern seas, noted the word "kattu maram" to mean 'logs tied together' and from there these craft becoming part of our own culture began. Hon. Stokes' closing cheer of "One hull good, two hulls better!" brought loud 'Hear, hear' assent from guests and members and resounding applause.

Hon. Bronwyn Bishop's words celebrated the Club's achievements, the tradition of sailing continuing in seeing generations of the same families as members of the club, and their focus on enjoying the environment of Pittwater's beautiful waterways. After Hon. Bronwyn Bishop unveiled the plaque to honour this day a brunch BBQ fuelled all attending for the activities scheduled.



Down at the beach many youngsters took the opportunity to try sailing a cat and enjoyed themselves immensely. While they sailed even smaller ones played in the water's edge while watchful mum's grabbed the chance to catch up and relax. The atmosphere was peaceful, like Pittwater…

Unfortunately a lightning storm spoiled what had been a glorious day until then and made organisers cancel all races and call in all catamarans for safety reasons. The F18's race had been completed with Brett White as victor.

Palm Beach Sailing Club is a not-for-profit organisation who welcomes those who wish to learn how to sail catamarans or become members. Details in their Summer 2012 Profile.

More of Michael Mannington's photographs of PBSC 50th Anniversary HERE

Tweet Like it +1

Palm Beach Sailing Club colour by AJG

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This Weeks Articles

Palm Beach Sailing Club's 50th Anniversary

A Time To Celebrate by Robyn McWilliam

A Strange Irony by Pam Bayfield

Profile: In February 2012 we focus on Organisations, Clubs and Environment; Dragonfly Environmental is restoring and regenerating our Wetlands and offering Eco Tours for all

Previous Profiles:

Barton Lynch Shane Withington Commodore Sloper Herminie Swainston Teresa Cutter Joanne Brigden-Jones Tamara Sloper Harding Katie Spithill Chris Salisbury Doug Crane Henry MacPhillamy Ben Baillie Aim for the Stars Foundation Broken Bay Marine Rescue Pittwater Environmental Foundation Rotary Club of Pittwater Sophie Haythornthwaite Joan Fisher Mark Ferguson Veteran Carolyn McKay Christine Hopton Ian White Jack Elsegood Robert Grace Colin Casey Bob Waterer The Surfers Group The Palm Beach Yacht Club Pittwater Natural Heritage Association Pittwater Friends of Soibada Pam Bayfield Denise Casey Lynda Hill Belinda Grundy Paul Christie Neil Evers Andrew Holder Ian Curlewis Lange Theory Phil Colman-Peter Mitchell and Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast Geoff Clarke Palm Beach Sailing Club The Populaters Pittwater Camera Club

History: February 2012, Pittwater Landmarks; landmarks may be buildings, landscape features or achievements. This week: **Governor Phillip's Exploration of Broken Bay, 2 – 9 March 1788 By Shelagh and George Champion**

Previous History Pages:

Marie Byles Lucy Gullett Kookoomgiligai Frank Hurley Archpriest JJ Therry Sir Patrick Gordon Taylor Bowen Bungaree W. Bradley 1788 Journal Midholme Loggan Rock Cabin La Corniche La Corniche II Lion Island Bungan Beach Botham Beach Scarred Trees Castles in the Sand Dame Nellie Melba lunches at Bilgola Spring, 1914 First to Fly in Australia at North Narrabeen Mona Vale Golf Club's Annual Balls Governor Phillip camps on Resolute Beach Ruth Bedford Jean Curlewis Mollie Horseman Charlotte Boutin May Moore Neville W Cayley Leon Houreux Frederick Wymark Sir Adrian Curlewis Bilgola Heron Cove Mullet Creek Shark Point Woodley's Cottage A Tent at The Basin Collin's Retreat-Bay View House-Scott's Hotel Bilgola Cottage and House The First Pittwater Regatta Women Cricketers Picnic Filmed In Pittwater Governor Phillip's Barrenjoey Cairn Waradiel Season The Church at Church Point

Park Bench Philosopher: Borders Child from Dravida Atoms- Burrough

Books: February Inspirations; time to grab some great stories and guides to infuse your year with positivity !

Old Books: **February;** Australasian Wireless Review magazine February **1923** AND: Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine, February, **1864,** Volume LXVIII, (Volume 68); stories, crafts and fashions

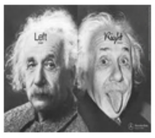
Events: Ceramics and Poetry Comps. from PCA, Probus Talk Notice, AvPals February Courses, Manly Surf-Fest, Community Club Notices, Book Fair, Plant Trees, Susan Duncan, Populaters, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Activities, State Library Talks, Canning Track Art, Ocean Swim, History Comp., Council Events and more.

News From our Inbox:Sitka Deers, Jocularity, Romance for Valentines Day 2012, New HarperCollins Comp. the Bridport Prize; Voiceless $15,000 Short Story Comp. Weather Photo Comp.

Tweet Like +1

Community News: Trees Fest, Australia Day Volunteers needed, Aim For the Stars Grants 2012, Protect Yourself, Francis Firebrace, PB Mermaids Paella and Raffle with fantastic prizes, Ray of Sunshine, Susan Duncan Open House, Gone Fishing Gallery, Ceramics Awards, Council's Notices.

Environment; Summer Creature Features **(Nocturnal I)**, **Koala Appeal**, **Cooee Newsletter for Feb**., Warming in the Tasman Sea a global warming hot spot and Construction of new marine research vessel underway from CSIRO Media Centre, saving Spoon-billed Sandpiper, links and Profiles on local Environment groups and organisations and more.



Lynda Hill: **Update 6.2.12**: Untethered, Unmoored Or Cast Adrift? February's Leo Full Moon

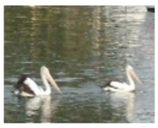
Pictures: **Stunning photographs from DFE Works**

Youth: Australian Poets, **PCA Ceramics & Poetry Comps. and Drama at the Library,** Young Blood Music Competition and Northern Beaches Music Festival, National Year of Reading 2012: Links for local websites for, about and by Youth.

Seniors; **Seniors Week 2012, Jokes for Seniors by Seniors, Two Tunes for Valentines Day**, link to Seniors Online Newspaper and Information regarding local Support organisations and Education Activities.

Community Clubs: Updates on Activities and links to sites.

Artist of the Month: February 2012: Adrian Boddy's stunning photos of Pittwater



Reflections by George Repin. **This week; *The Seagull* at the Melbourne Festival in 1991**

DIY Hints: Privacy Screens II by Bruce Crutcher

Collector's Corner: The name 'Akubra' began in **1912**, these hats have been protecting Australians for 130 years.

Food: **Pears**: late Summer Seasonal, related to the Nuptial Fruit and forming the core of our Valentines Day Menu + some history, health benefits and great old Illustrations

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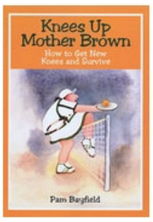

Knees Up Mother Brown
How to Get New Knees and Survive

Pam's book about her twelve months rehabilitation has been reprinted for the third time and provides great insights for those who have had or are about to have this operation. Pam kept a diary of her first twelve months of progress and this great work is the result. This book also has letters from other bilateral patients. There's nothing like hearing from those who have trod the road before you to gain insights on *'how to get new knees and survive'* !

Avaliable **HERE**

A STRANGE IRONY

By Pam Bayfield

"I'm sorry Mum but we're going to have to put you in a nursing home," Bob told his very sick mother. Mary had been in hospital for three weeks after breaking bones in her back in a fall at her own home. After putting up with the pain for a couple of weeks and being told by her own doctor that nothing was wrong she finally rang for an ambulance herself. X-rays gave Bob the information that she had several cracks in her back. No wonder the poor woman was suffering. She lived on her own on the other side of the city.

Bob went over to the hospital to visit and each time Mary looked worse than the time before and was hardly recognising anyone. The doctors' thought she'd had a slight stroke. As it turned out it was an urinary tract infection which can turn older patients loopy. Relations were rung to tell the dire news that Bob's dear mother might not be around much longer. Looking like death and hardly able to speak, everyone thought this was the end. Her doctor asked if we wanted her resuscitated if she stopped breathing.

"What does that mean?" Bob asked.

"We may have to puncture some ribs to get her breathing again and then she would be in excruciating pain."

Bob made the decision not to do that. However, she rallied. The hospital then began harassing Bob to find a nursing home for her. The dismal task began. Bob took his wife Jill to try to find a suitable one nearer to the family. The very first one they saw had a vacancy. They couldn't believe it but even so Bob wanted to see more.

It was so depressing going from nursing home to nursing home, seeing elderly people sitting around with such sad faces and no light shining in their eyes! How could Bob put his mother in a place like this! Mary still had all her facilities but he knew she couldn't go back home. It was amazing that this lady of 96 had managed to last for this long in her own home. For the last three years Bob and Jill knew she should be in an assisted living village but anyone who mentioned the subject was given a short shift. She had had many falls in the garden but somehow managed to overcome all setbacks. This time however was different. The decision was out of her hands.

"Yes, Mother, did you hear me? We have to put you in a nursing home. We have found one near to us."

The eyes filled with tears and she turned her face away. She couldn't say much with Jill standing there. Jill knew she had to be there; otherwise she would have given Bob an earful.

"It will be fine, Mother. You will have someone to take care of you. We'll get your clothes and you will be close to us. We'll be able to visit you more regularly."

As we walked out of the hospital that day Jill could see her darling husband was devastated at having to put his mother in a home. "It will be for the best Bob," Jill tried to console him.

He didn't want to speak all the way home. This was his mother and she needed him to be strong. They took the first one with the vacancy and an ambulance took Mary there the next day. No messing around! No time to ponder the decision! The hospital needed the bed. A very unhappy face greeted Bob and Jill when they went to see how she was settling in. Her body language displayed misery, utter misery that day. How long would she survive? By the look of her, not long.

WRONG! The bitter irony of the situation is that lady now rules the roost at her nursing home. Her cheeks are rosy, her body is filling out with three delicious meals a day and she looks a picture of health. Can this be the same woman they brought in only a few weeks ago? What has happened? Does she like having company? Having her meals cooked for her? Her hair done once a week? A mate to talk to, although a bit senile? Obviously something is pleasing her or the family would have been hearing the whinges by now. Not once did she say she wanted to go back home. The miracle of it all! She gives the staff plenty of cheek and now doesn't have to bother the family with all her complaints. She can complain to the nursing staff and she has someone to run after her and administer her many medicines.

This woman was the world's greatest hypochondriac with a cupboard full of unused medicines. If one didn't work instantly it wasn't taken again. She had been the greatest pain. Now Bob's life has revolutionised. He doesn't have to listen to her bellyaches anymore. She obviously had too much time to think about herself. Living on her own for all those years must make a person a little self centred.

Bob does not worry about his mother any more. She is being wonderfully looked after and the family is grateful. Who would have ever thought it would end up this way? Certainly not Jill! Will she make it to 100? You bet your bottom dollar!

As it turned out she made it to 99 and a half before having a severe stroke and died a few days later. She didn't quite make the telegram from the Queen.

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Pam Bayfield's Profile and Website and Books

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A Time to Celebrate

By Robyn McWilliam

Flutes of champers and orange juice were passed around to members. Cappuccinos were available at the bistro. Staff circled with laden platters: Aussie sausage rolls, corn vol-au- vents, crumbed fish and scrambled egg rolls. A cacophony of chatter resounded around the covered courtyard at the Royal Motor Yacht Club.

Our celebratory brunch began at 9.30 am long after many Australia Day Breakfasts had dismal starts this year with grey skies and spattering rain. Karen Baldwin, General Manager for the last four years, led the formalities. Behind her hung a huge club burgee alongside the Australian flag. Enjoyment in her position is obvious in her ever-present smile.

Firstly, twenty two long serving members were honoured. Some had been part of the club for over fifty years. Anecdotes, they provided on why they joined and what they loved most about the club, featured. While involvement in activities of fishing, cruising or sailing rated highly, the overwhelming sentiment expressed was the joy of friendship.

Karen praised the great team of people who look after the club's operation, from bar and catering staff to the marina team. Doug Taylor, Assistant Marina Manager, took out Employee of the Year. The club's efforts to provide the best of facilities on Pittwater were rewarded with Marina of the Year 2011 in the club category.

Bronwyn Bishop MP finished with her usual thoughtful speech, a reminder to celebrate our life in Australia and its values. People then headed to a variety of vessels for the boat parade on Pittwater. The rain had stopped. Our sailing crowd were happy to be on a cruiser as we motored to assemble off Stokes Point. In a last shower enormous rain drops pockmarked the khaki coloured water.

Boats, decked out with flags, provided a vibrant display. Triangles of crimson, yellow and navy swept up forestays to the mast top then down the backstay. A prize for the best-dressed crew encouraged creativity. On one yacht amidst the Aussie flags, I saw witches and ghouls. Perhaps the most innovative this year was a cruiser labelled RMYC SLSC. The whole crew was dressed in the recognisable red and yellow surf lifesaving apparel with the kids on the bow displaying the rescue reel. Tied to each side of the stern were grey blow-up sharks.

The fleet motored back towards RMYC passing around the official vessel, MV Theresa, for judging. The yacht Leeuwin with its cricket theme took out the prize.
For most after the parade it was back to the club to be entertained by a band. For some sailors it was back out on the water for the inaugural Australia Day Regatta, a teams' race with a 2 pm start.

The rain cleared to a steamy afternoon. In a light nor-easterly breeze, chasing every puff of wind coming over the hills, it took our yacht, Red Red Wine just under an hour and a half to complete the course. The winning team was Outlandish and Benny, a combination of the fastest and slowest boat in the fleet.

What an Australia Day! Spending most of it on boats. I always say, "Someone has to do it." And surely there's no better place than Pittwater.

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MV *Theresa* with judges, including Karen, on board.

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Community Clubs | Community Noticeboard | Community Forum

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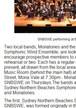
Mona Vale Community Bands


SHEKHINE performing at the Opera House

Two local bands, Woodoos and the Combined Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble, are looking for more players and encourage prospective members to come along and sit in for a rehearsal or two. Each has a regular core of about 30 players of all ages and abilities. The Woodoos, a 12 piece funk/soul band, rehearse at the Mona Vale Memorial Hall on Monday nights. Mona Vale Wind, Mona Vale at 7.30pm. Monatones on Wednesdays, Newport Community Centre, 7.30pm. Combined Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble (CNBSWE) rehearses Mondays (Mona Vale) and Monatones.

The Combined Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble, of CNBSWE, was formed originally in the 1970's when it was known as the Mona Vale Wind Band. It was then known as the Mona Vale Symphonic Band. It has had a number of name changes since then but has always had a core group of players from the Northern Beaches and was available to students who graduated from the school. During the 1990's it was affiliated with Mona Vale Public School. The band expanded under the direction of Dr Martin Buzacott and became the Northern Beaches Symphonic Band. Under the direction of Sydney's Northern Sinfonia in the mid 1990s the band moved further up the peninsula to rehearse at Newport Arts Centre. It was then that the band became the Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble. When Mona Vale Wind was 'born' from 2001 to 2006, the band reformed, still under the direction of Dr Martin Buzacott, as Monatones.

CNBSWE is a community band. Most members are amateur musicians who have graduated from high school to experience playing in a community band.

The second, Monatones, was formed in 1993 by Melissa Smith, Director of Music at Mona Vale Public School, as a band for her students. Over the years, Monatones has had a number of names being used by students, but they had to play an instrument which they had never played. This is probably the only band that is in the same level to no one was disadvantaged. The band now includes students from Mona Vale Public School and Pittwater High School and is conducted by Melissa Smith. Monatones is followed by Dr Martin Hardy, then Matthew Browne, currently Monatones' conductor.

The underlying philosophy of both bands is that music is for everyone, that it is a lifelong activity and that participation in music ensembles provides a wonderful opportunity for people to meet as enjoyment of great music.

CNBSWE and Monatones are free to join. Members pay a small fee to cover the cost of music and Monatones charge a nominal amount each term to cover costs. Both bands are non profit.

AWARD WINNING SYMPHONIC BAND IN CONCERT

Monatones and CNBSWE

An exciting award winning USA band is coming to Sydney's Northern Beaches to perform in concert. The Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, is a 50 piece symphonic wind ensemble originating in Southern Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble (CNBSWE) and Monatones. Conducted by Dr Martin Buzacott, CNBSWE was formed originally in the 1970's when it was known as the Mona Vale Wind Band. It was then known as the Mona Vale Symphonic Band. It has had a number of name changes since then but has always had a core group of players from the Northern Beaches and was available to students who graduated from the school. During the 1990's it was affiliated with Mona Vale Public School. The band expanded under the direction of Dr Martin Buzacott and became the Northern Beaches Symphonic Band. Under the direction of Sydney's Northern Sinfonia in the mid 1990s the band moved further up the peninsula to rehearse at Newport Arts Centre. It was then that the band became the Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble. When Mona Vale Wind was 'born' from 2001 to 2006, the band reformed, still under the direction of Dr Martin Buzacott, as Monatones.

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Articles This Week:

Palm Beach Sailing Club Regatta

A Time To Celebrate by Robin McWilliam.

A Strange Injury by Pam Rigden

Reflections by George Regan. *The Seagull* at The Melbourne Festival in 1951

Profile of the Week: Dragonfly Environmental continues our focus on Pittwater Wetlands and their insights into the great world.

History: Summer Pittwater Landmarks: Governor Phillip's Exploration of Broken Bay - by Dr Peter Stanbury and Dr Kate George Champion

Celebrity's Corner: The Matilda Test name has been in 1912 but three iconic Summer seers are taken from that.

The Arab Spring
Tuesday, February 14th, 2012 at 10am
Anthony Billingsley
(PhD (Macquarie), MA (Cantab), M Int. Law (ANU), FNSI (Macquarie Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Australian National University of New South Wales)

Anthony's main work focus is on the Middle East and on international law. His specialist interests include the political succession in the Arab world, the role of constitutions and law in the Arab Spring and the impact of the Arab Spring on Israel. He is interested in international law and how it can be used to promote humanitarian intervention and in the impact of US foreign policy, especially on the Middle East.

Anthony is currently engaged in research relating to Arab constitutionalism, the role of Islam in Arab and international law and the Arab Spring.

The Pittwater Mens Probus meets at the Mona Vale Golf Club on the second Tuesday of every month commencing at 10.00 for 10.30 start. For more information call Dil Marshall 9918 0004 or Michael Stephenson 9997 3744.

PITTWATER COUNCIL

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON SAND POINT BOAT RAMP

Residents and users are invited to attend a workshop to discuss the future of the Sand Point boat ramp at Palm Beach. The boat ramp, which is located in Sandy Bay, is in poor condition and suffers from structural issues and is subject to regular wave damage.

A community workshop will be held on **Wednesday 22 February from 6.30pm at Avalon Recreation Centre** to discuss concept designs for a new boat ramp. Pittwater Council Engineer Mark Hydrakis's Laboratories to undertake the study of the boat ramp and investigate options for its replacement. Mark will present the findings of the study and discuss the concept designs.

Three concept designs for an improved boat ramp have been developed and the workshop will discuss the pros and cons of each option.

"Our intention is to provide a ramp that will offer better access for boats launching and retrieving, and that is more sympathetic to the natural environment of the area," said Reserves & Recreation Manager Les Munn.

Mr Munn said larger vessels would continue to be prohibited at Sand Point and that the new ramp would be designed to accommodate the existing 7 vessels currently using the ramp. Please contact Wendy Wong on 9970 1324 or email Janet_Keegan@bigpond.com.au

OLD CHURCH BELL RESTORED

The old fixed timber public wharf at Church Point has been closed to Pittwater Council and has reduce its public access to the Reserves & Recreation Manager Les Munn said the old wharf was no longer in a condition suitable for public use.

To view of the safety concerns, we have now closed off access and the old wharf will be demolished. The old timber piles will be left in place. This closure does not affect the operation of the ferry service or what at Thomas Stephens Reserve which is used by the ferry and commuters", he said.

TREES AND HEDGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Pittwater residents are being encouraged to protect their trees and shrubs - thanks to a new program aimed at increasing awareness of the Tree Preservation Order and providing free workshops for advice to the public on suitable native species to plant and where, as well as those to avoid.

Manly Hydraulics

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Borders Child

From Dravida Atoms-Burrough

We have made bid for a brook that has muted itself, refuses to warble, as meant to be. Poesis; a word derived from the sound of water; spring oracles and such, is what we seek to return to the world. We have made bid for a fire that burns, warms everyone who comes near it, a fire the creation would be icy without.

There are many here with too much ice water in their blood for deepness, or true flight. They dress themselves in shabby no-goodness rather then run naked to be clothed brave and bright. They never let the glass smile slide from their hard eye. Whereas the brook-like one is home, and love, deep love, and sets to fire the blood that sings and hums through my own veins. I am clothed invisible, which is braver then brave, even inside this burnie of armour. And my eye, sugar pie, brims deep as the lily pond in the core of this world and greets even cold eyes with joy.

The route to this brook, as with all wendings of questings, has borders that are not marked on maps. This reminds me of a borders child who had to make the longest way, around sharp street corners and through shadowed stretches and across open barren ground to reach a flowered beach a few stones throw from where he lived. He walks this ten miles, through three countries, because, even though a child, he has a skin coloured and an eye shaped so he cannot walk through valid checkpoints, on direct route to sacred ground. Soldiers will kill him with bullets as on these few feet his life is worthless, even if it is sacred mere inches away, on the flowered beach.

So the route he takes becomes holy, and where his feet have trod glows gold, like a thin trail of fallen stars in his wake. The alleys of shadow between buildings he must scurry through, the soldiers he must flit almost invisibly by, so he remains an undefined threat at the corner of their eyes, all dissolve to become as they once were, a wondrous garden on the edges of the way to the flowered beach.

Well, that is how we would dream it, this is how it somewhere is. And he has travelled only a hundred metres, as the crow flies, and walked ten miles in actual distance. Can't you hear the mountains mocking these borders as they become fields and these fields become valleys.

Extract from *Questing*. Ch.2. Seeing Things. Copyright A J Guesdon. 2008-2012

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Park Bench Philosophers

We welcome contributions from all Pittwater residents in the form of anecdotes, memories, stories, poems or even matters you'd like to see addressed or changed in our area.

If you have something you'd like to share, something you'd like to start a discussion about, or even just a poem or story from yesterday or today we want to hear from you.

Contact us at: pittwateronlinenews@live.com.au

Please note that Pittwater Online News does not endorse any of the content of works contributed. Articles which contain swearing or may offend others will not be accepted. Please note that all works are posted unedited; you are the author, this is your page. Word Limit: 1500.

PittwaterOnline News

Pittwater Online News is a free monthly community newsletter published by the Pittwater Online Marketing Group. Our aim is to provide a forum for sustainability in Pittwater and the Northern Beaches. We welcome your contributions and feedback. Please email us at pittwateronline@gmail.com

Be part of our ongoing focus on Pittwater life, help us celebrate our wonderful environment and the people who live here and help us keep our community informed.

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Dragonfly Environmental

Dragonfly Environmental is a specialist consulting company providing a wide range of environmental services to the private and public sectors.

Dragonfly Environmental Services

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
Ecological Impact Assessment
Flora and Fauna Surveys
Bushfire Hazard Assessment
Vegetation Management Plans
Threatened Species Assessments of Significance
Species Impact Statements (SIS) and Koala Plans of Management (KPoM)
Aquatic Ecology Assessments
Wetland Assessments
Riparian Corridor Assessments
Water Cycle Management Studies
Water Sensitive Urban Design
Stormwater Management Plans
Flood Impact Assessments
Estuarine Management Plans
Coastal Zone Management Plans
Estuary Processes Studies
Estuary Management Studies
Estuary Management Plans
Coastal Hazard Assessments
Coastal Risk Management Plans
Coastal Processes Studies
Coastal Management Programs
Coastal Vulnerability Assessments
Sea Level Rise Impact Assessments
Contaminated Land Assessments
Remediation Action Plans
Environmental Auditing
Environmental Management Systems
Environmental Management Plans
Construction Environmental Management Plans
Operational Environmental Management Plans
Waste Management Plans
Acid Sulfate Soil Assessments
Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plans
Geotechnical Investigations
Geotechnical Reports
Groundwater Investigations
Groundwater Reports
Groundwater Monitoring
Groundwater Auditing
Hydrogeological Investigations
Hydrogeological Reports
Hydrogeological Modelling
Hydrogeological Auditing
Hydrological Investigations
Hydrological Reports
Hydrological Modelling
Hydrological Auditing
Water Quality Investigations
Water Quality Reports
Water Quality Monitoring
Water Quality Auditing
Water Quality Modelling
Water Quality Improvement Plans
Water Balance Assessments
Water Balance Modelling
Water Balance Auditing
Water Cycle Management Studies
Water Cycle Management Plans

Pittwater Online News

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Above: Pearl Beach. Photograph by George Champion.

Above: The Rip. Photograph by George Champion.

Above: Picture No: a3461013 Opp. p. 90. 'View in Broken Bay New South Wales. March 1788' (Lion Island in distance). Courtesy State Library of NSW.

Above: The Bar at the entrance to the North Arm. Photograph by George Champion.

Above: Bradley's Beach on Dangar (Mullet) Island. Photograph by George Champion.

Historians George Champion OAM and Shelagh Champion OAM have written numerous works on many aspects of our local history and the areas which adjoin Pittwater. Their research is meticulous and sourced from original documents. They are members of the Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society.

Their Works in Manly Local Studies Collection.
Books Catalogue at National Library of Australia.

Governor Phillip's Exploration of Broken Bay, 2 – 9 March 1788

By Shelagh and George Champion

Pittwater Online News has three historical articles of this exploration on file. The most accurate account is taken from William Bradley's Journal, published in facsimile in 1969 by the Public Library of New South Wales (now the State Library). However, readers may not be aware that, in writing his Journal, Lieutenant Bradley was using naval time, which began at 12 noon each day, when navigators observed the position of the sun, and calculated their latitude.

In the following account, based on Bradley's Journal, naval time has been adjusted.

At daylight on Sunday 2 March 1788, Governor Phillip, Lieutenant Bradley, James Keltie the Master of the *Sirius*, a party of marines and the boats' crews, set out in the Governor's cutter and two longboats to examine Broken Bay, with the intention of trying to find suitable arable land. One of the longboats was found to be too heavy and unsuitable for the journey. When the party reached Spring Cove, just inside the North Head of Port Jackson, the longboat was sent back and they proceeded in the cutter and one longboat, leaving Port Jackson at 8.00am.

As the party proceeded northward, Bradley noted the position of Shelly Beach next to the North Head of Port Jackson, and Collaroy Basin, next to Long Reef. He also noted that both these places offered shelter for a boat, and that there was no other shelter for boats before Broken Bay.

Some difficulty was encountered by the boats when entering Broken Bay because of the tide. The Governor's cutter proceeded towards the north shore of Broken Bay, and for a while contact was lost with the longboat, which found it hard to get round the south head. When contact was resumed everybody spent the first night on board the boats in a cove near present Pearl Beach.

On Monday 3 March the party proceeded up the north branch, past the Rip, and found several islands, on one of which they landed and spent the night.

On Tuesday 4 March they proceeded into Brisbane Water, but finding the water very shallow they returned and went up Cowan Creek.

They continued up Cowan Creek on Wednesday 5 March without going into Coal and Candle Creek or Smith's Creek. They then returned and rounded West Head during squally weather, spending that night in a Cove, believed to be Resolute Beach, inside the entrance to the south arm of Broken Bay

They spent Thursday 6 March exploring Pittwater, and it was apparently on this day that Bradley illustrated the scene, looking northwards towards Lion Island. They spent that night in the upper part of the south arm, which Phillip later named Pitt Water after William Pitt the Younger.

The next morning, Friday 7 March, they proceeded up the north-west arm of Broken Bay, reaching Dangar Island, which they named Mullet Island. Here they slept the night.

On Saturday 8 March they found Mullet Creek and Mooney Mooney Creek to be shallow. This concluded their superficial examination of Broken Bay, which had been greatly hampered by continual rain. They returned to the cove in Pittwater where they had camped on 5 March.

Phillip had intended to return to Port Jackson by land, but the bad weather prevented this. The party returned to Port Jackson on Sunday 9 March, after an absence of eight days, reaching Spring Cove about 11.00am, and Sydney Cove about 6.00pm.

There had been many meetings with Aborigines during the exploration, the details of which were reported at length by Bradley and Phillip. (Phillip had been expressly asked to report to his superiors in England regarding the indigenous people.)

One article in *Pittwater Online News* has as its title "*Governor Phillip camps on Resolute Beach*". Phillip and Bradley agree that on 5-6 March a friendship was established between the British explorers and an old Aboriginal man, and that this friendship continued when they returned to Resolute Beach on 8 March. Bradley said that many things were given to the natives, "but that did not keep them from stealing. After dark the Old Man took an iron spade & was going off with it, he was seen from the Longboat, pursued & brought back with it by one of the people on shore. The Governor chastised him for it, which so enraged him that he run off & very soon returned with his party all with their spears ready to throw when a musquet was fired which made them stop & a second musquet drove them away for the night."

The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay was put together and published in London by John Stockdale in 1789. It was intended for readers in England, and does not mention the stealing incident at all.

A better primary source is the *Official account through Governor Phillip's letters to Lord Sydney*, edited by G.R. Tipping in 1988. In his first dispatch to Lord Sydney, dated 15 May 1788, Phillip portrayed the same incident with a slight twist in the tail. He wrote, "When it was dark, [the Old Man] stole a Spade, and was caught in the fact. I thought it necessary to shew him that I was displeased with him, & therefore when he came to me, pushed him away and gave him two or three slight slaps on the Shoulder with the open hand, at the same time pointing to the Spade. This destroyed our friendship in a moment, and seizing a spear, he came close up to me, poised it, and appeared determined to strike, but whether from seeing that his threats were not regarded, for I chose rather to risk the spear than fire on him, or from any thing the other natives said who surrounded him, after a few moments he dropt the Spear and left us. This circumstance is mentioned to shew that they do not want personal Courage, for several Officers and Men were then near me." Phillip certainly did not want Lord Sydney to know that muskets had been fired!

Governor Phillip's Barrenjoey Cairn was erected in 1929, some forty years before Bradley's Journal was available to the public. Compared with Bradley, Phillip's account did not provide the same completeness or detail, nor did he necessarily write in chronological order. It is no surprise, therefore, that the cairn, which was supposed to reliably inform the public, in fact gave wrong information. Names such as Sydney Cove, Manly Cove and Pitt Water all appear in writing in Phillip's first dispatch to Lord Sydney dated 15 May 1788.

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Australian Poets

During February we'd like to share some inspirational words from great Australian poets. Pittwater Council is launching the National Year of Reading this week on Valentine's Day, February 14th, and one of the themes for this is 'I Love Libraries'. Our own local libraries at Mona Vale and Avalon have some works not found elsewhere and well worth a visit. Pittwater Community Arts is also seeking local poets (details opposite). For all of you developing your own love of words;

Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson OBE (17 February 1864 – 5 February 1941) was an Australian bush poet, journalist and author. He wrote many ballads and poems about Australian life, focusing particularly on the rural and outback areas, including the district around Binalong, New South Wales where he spent much of his childhood. Paterson's more notable poems include "Waltzing Matilda", "The Man from Snowy River" and "Clancy of the Overflow". The name 'Banjo' is an alias this gent submitted poems under, named for a favourite horse. The 'Overflow' was the name of a sheep station. More HERE. Photo: AB Paterson, circa 1890. Courtesy National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an22199070

CLANCY OF THE OVERFLOW
A.B. "Banjo" Paterson

I had written him a letter which I had, for want of better
Knowledge, sent to where I met him down the Lachlan, years ago,
He was shearing when I knew him, so I sent the letter to him,
Just "on spec", addressed as follows: "Clancy, of The Overflow".

And an answer came directed in a writing unexpected,
(And I think the same was written in a thumbnail dipped in tar)
'Twas his shearing mate who wrote it, and verbatim I will quote it:
"Clancy's gone to Queensland droving, and we don't know where he is are."

In my wild erratic fancy visions come to me of Clancy
Gone a-droving "down the Cooper" where the western drovers go;
As the stock are slowly stringing, Clancy rides behind them singing,
For the drover's life has pleasures that the townsfolk never know.

And the bush hath friends to meet him, and their kindly voices greet him
In the murmur of the breezes and the river on its bars,
And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended,
And at night the wondrous glory of the everlasting stars.

I am sitting in my dingy little office, where a stingy
Ray of sunlight struggles feebly down between the houses tall,
And the foetid air and gritty of the dusty, dirty city
Through the open window floating, spreads its foulness over all.

And in place of lowing cattle, I can hear the fiendish rattle
Of the tramways and the buses making hurry down the street,
And the language unrelating of the gutter children fighting,
Comes fitfully and faintly through the ceaseless tramp of feet.

And the lovable people daunt me, and their pallid faces haunt me
As they shoulder one another in their rush and nervous haste,
With their eager eyes and greedy, and their stunted forms and weedy,
For townsfolk have no time to grow, they have no time to waste.

And I somehow fancy that I'd like to change with Clancy,
Like to take a turn at droving where the seasons come and go,
While he faced the round eternal of the cashbook and the journal -
But I doubt he'd suit the office, Clancy, of "The Overflow".

The Bulletin, 21 December 1889.

National Year of Reading 2012:

For teens, we (Federal Government) will be running the National Year of Reading Creative Reading Prize. It's an expansion of something that already happens through the Centre for Youth Literature (http://www.insideadog.com.au/blog/inkys-creative-reading-prize-2011)
Young people will be asked to nominate the one book they think their peers must read in 2012 and then to provide a convincing argument in the form of a creative response to the story. This will be a book review, but it could be in the form of words, pictures, film, song, or something even more avant garde. We'll be partnering with insideadog.com.au, spineout.com.au and Madman Entertainment to create a fantastic competition with some really great prizes. More at: http://www.love2read.org.au/

As part of this: **Bedtime Stories: Downloadable Tales for Children** Available right now AT:
http://www.australianwomenonline.com/bedtime-stories-downloadable-tales-for-children/

PITTWATER COUNCIL

PCYC CONCEPT PLANS ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Pittwater Council has agreed to place on public exhibition concept plans for a proposed Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) to be located at North Narrabeen. The plans have been developed as part of a submission to the state government and PCYC NSW for funding for the project. Council submitted a comprehensive expression of interest late last month seeking a grant of $2.5 million towards the establishment of a new club. This follows the NSW Government recently calling for expressions of interest for the establishment of eight new Police and Community Youth Clubs, with funding to be announced in early 2012. The overall funds required to build the new centre are estimated to be $8.5 million and would come from a variety of sources.

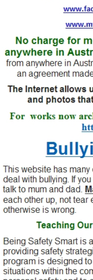
The proposal would see a multi-purpose community centre built at the southern end of Pittwater Rugby Park North Narrabeen, encompassing the current function centre at the ground which would be replaced in the overall development. Management of the centre would be through PCYC NSW, a not-for-profit organisation closely linked to the NSW Police. PCYC NSW currently operates 57 community centres throughout New South Wales and offers a management model whereby a local PCYC is supported by an allocation of two additional police officers.

Community Services Manager Lindsay Godfrey said if Pittwater is successful in gaining funding the centre would have a focus on youth activities, with space for computers, a music rehearsal room and a commercial kitchen capable of hosting hospitality training. "The centre would also have a café, meeting rooms and office space for youth services and be able to host performances and sport-related activities, " said Mr Godfrey.

The design concepts will be on exhibition until Friday 2 March 2012 and can be viewed at
www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/exhibition The documents will also be available at Council's customer service centres at 1 Park Street, Mona Vale and 59A Old Barrenjoey Road, Avalon.

Australian Stories Online

Project Gutenberg Australia, has a great list of old legends and books, filled with stories, that you may not be able to access anymore as some of them are a few hundred years old and either out of print or in museums where it can be even more difficult to read these words. You can access them online though. Project Gutenberg Australia is at: http://gutenberg.net.au/



New Website for Northern Beaches Youth

Manly Council has launched a website for young people that is run by young people on the Northern Beaches. Any young people with web design skills who want to get involved in the project are very welcome. Manly Council also posts activities and events on their Facebook and MySpace Youth sites. If you Friend them you'll get the most up to date info. Links for all are posted below:

www.northernbeachesyouthinfo.net.au

www.facebook.com/manlyyouthcentre

www.myspace.com/manlyyouthcentre

No charge for mobile phone calls to Lifeline from anywhere in Australia; Mobile phone calls to **Lifeline** made from anywhere in Australia will be free of charge from **1 July** under an agreement made between the three major phone carriers.

The Internet allows us to store and access Old Books, Films and photos that may not be accessible elsewhere.

For works now archived and available to all, please visit: http://www.archive.org/

Bullying; NO WAY !!!

This website has many different items and guidelines on how to deal with bullying. If you can't find it there, ask someone in school or talk to mum and dad: **Make sure you are heard**. We are here to lift each other up, not tear each other down. Anyone who tries to tell you otherwise is wrong.

Teaching Our Children to be Safety Conscious

Being Safety Smart is a free to use online educational game providing safety strategies for children aged from 6 to 8. The program is designed to increase the awareness of children to situations within the community which might impact upon their personal safety and to empower them with the ability to act appropriately and with confidence.

Being Safety Smart is a Queensland Police Service initiative, developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast in partnership with the Queensland Police Service, Education Queensland, and the Crime and Misconduct Commission, and supported by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.
The Website is at: http://www.beingsafetysmart.com.au/BSS/

Send In Your Stuff

Pittwater Online News is not only For and About you, it is also **BY** you. We cannot publish swearing or the maligning of others (this is the opposite of what we stand for). If you have a poem, story or something you want to see addressed, let us know or send to: pittwateronlinenews@live.com.au

All are Welcome, All Belong !

PITTWATER COUNCIL

A BOOK OF PITTWATER POETRY

The Pittwater Community Arts organisation is inviting contributions for a book of poetry dedicated to Pittwater to be published later this year. According to Lorrie Morgan from Pittwater Community Arts, 'the book will contain poems set in Pittwater or which encapsulate the poet's personal experiences of the area'.

The book's publication is timed to coincide with Pittwater's 20th birthday, which the Council will celebrate during the birthday month of May. The Pittwater Council area was officially proclaimed in May 1992, the first uniquely formed local government area in NSW for 100 years.

Ms Morgan said the book could include newly created pieces as well as past works. "Poets of all ages, whether amateurs or professionals, are invited to submit poems," she said. "We also want to encourage young poets to be involved and there are competitions for both primary and high school students. Prizes will be awarded for the top three entries from both high schools and primary schools."

Cash prizes will be awarded to schools and in addition the winning students from each category will be given a trophy and the winning poems published in the book. The schools competitions will close at 5pm on Wednesday 4 April with winners announced in May. Ms Morgan said an independent panel would be engaged to judge the competition and assess the adult entries for inclusion in the book.

Mayor Harvey Rose said the Council was very supportive of the poetry book. "To produce a book on the poetry of Pittwater is a marvellous initiative by Pittwater Community Arts," he said. "Pittwater has a very substantial and natural environment. Poetry is perhaps the most fitting form of expression to capture this for posterity."

Poems must be no longer than two A4 pages. The competition for Primary School and High School closes on Wednesday 4th April.

Schools can post entries to:
Pittwater Community Arts
PO Box 663
Mona Vale 2103. NSW or contact Lorrie Morgan 9997 8079
lorriemav@bigpond.com for arranging a collection time.

The general public section closes on 31st May.
Please post entries to:
Pittwater Community Arts
PO Box 663
Mona Vale 2103. NSW
More at Pittwater Community Arts: http://www.pittwaterarts.com.au

Pittwater Ceramics Awards Open

Pittwater Council is helping to promote a new arts award being coordinated by the Pittwater Community Arts organisation and Pittwater High. The Pittwater Ceramics Awards are open for entries until the end of February with five categories; primary school students, secondary school students, tertiary students, teachers' award and a ceramicists' award.

Organiser Chrissy Holland said the intention of the awards was to reawaken interest in one of the less well known forms of art. "In comparison to the rest of the arts, we're a bit of a rare fish in the sea," she said.

Ms Holland said the main aims of the awards were to encourage the reintroduction of ceramics as an arts subject into schools and a career option for school-leavers.

Submissions to the awards can be decorative tiles, wheel-thrown pots, hand-coiled work or small sculptures. Each entry should be submitted **by 29 February**, with items to be delivered to Pittwater High School at Mona Vale. The school is hosting an exhibition of the award entries between 9 and 11 March, with winners announced at the opening night of the exhibition on 9 March.

Pittwater Mayor Harvey Rose said the awards were 'a great community-driven initiative'. "Ceramics are flourishing in Pittwater, thanks to organisations such as the school, Pittwater Community Arts and the sponsors who've come on board to support the event."

Full Details at: http://www.pittwaterceramics.info/

CHILDREN'S THEATRE NO DRAMA AT LIBRARY!

Budding dramatists aged between 10 and 12 will soon be able to act up at Mona Vale Library. A 'reader's theatre' will be hosted by drama teacher Helen Rosenkranz free of charge once a fortnight at the library, starting on Wednesday 15 February.

As librarian Sharelle Ravenscroft explains, the reader's theatre gives children the chance to read aloud and perform plays under the direction of an experienced drama teacher. "They'll learn how to project their voice, the importance of using expression to add emotion and tips on speaking clearly and more slowly to get their audience's attention," she said. "Overall the reader's theatre classes are designed improve children's confidence in public speaking."

The reader's theatre will be held at Mona Vale Library every Wednesday fortnight between 4pm and 5pm, starting on Wednesday 15 February. Classes are free-of-charge but bookings are essential; to book phone the library on 9970 1600.

The reader's theatre is just one of several events planned to celebrate 2012 as the National Year of Reading. Other events, including two reading competitions, will be announced at the library by Mayor Harvey Rose on 14 February.

Mona Vale Library is located at 1 Park Street Mona Vale. For more information visit **www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/library**

Mona Vale library is located at 1 Park Street, Mona Vale

Northern Beaches Music Festival
17th -19th of February 2012
Berry Reserve North Narrabeen

Lots of bands plus a 'Young Bloods' competition in February Featuring The Pigs, Kevin Bennett & The Flood, Sal Imber & the Rolling Wheel, Mic Conway & Robbie Long, Fred Smith, Luke Escombe, the Wheeze & Suck Band plus lots more! Also featuring a Young Bloods competition for up and coming bands.
17th of February: 7.00pm-11.00pm
18th: 11.00am-11.00pm
19th: 11.00am-7.00pm
More info and to enter Young Bloods Comp.:
www.northernbeachesmusicfestival.org

Young Bloods Competition
From BN 13 - FEB 10 2012

The Northern Beaches Music Festival is proud to announce the creation of the 'Young Bloods" Competition with preliminary heats to be staged at multiple venues across the peninsular between 13 January and 10 February 2012. The finals of the competition will be held at the Northern Beaches Music Festival (17 – 19 February 2012). Our aim is to nurture and support young up and coming musical talent on the Northern Beaches. We wish to acknowledge and thank the great venues who have joined with us in this venture who all have a tradition of supporting young talent on the Peninsular.

Venues
The venues staging the preliminary heats are:
•Avalon RSL
•Mona Vale Hotel
•Terry Hills Tavern
•Surgar Lounge (Manly)

The preliminary heats will be run in each venue over a 4 – 5 week period culminating in three winners from each venue (first, second and most popular) making 12 venue winners to be announced on 10 February. These 12 winners will compete at the Festival on the Free Stage on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 9.00am and 11.00am where our festival judges will select the Ultimate "Young Blood" winner and the Most Popular "Young Blood" winner. Their victory will be announced on Sunday on the Free Stage at 12.00 noon.

Prizes
The festival and sponsors have been able to put together a selection of prizes. These prizes are:
1. Both the First and Most Popular "Young Blood" winners will provide a "victory" performance on the main stage in the Marquee at 1.00pm Sunday. Each will be given 15 minutes to showcase their extraordinary talent to our largest audience amongst some of the festival's high profile main acts. 2. Each will receive a multi-camera vision mixed and multi-channel audio DVD recording of their victory performance sponsored by Fwoin Multi Media Productions. 3. Each will receive a recording session sponsored by Billy Hyde Mona Vale at MVM studios. 4. There will also be a prize package of sponsored audio and musical equipment as yet to be determined. We wish to thank the producers of each venue for their cooperation and involvement. All applicants should apply to these producers for spots in the competition. All contestants may compete at all venues until that contestant has won a heat at a particular venue. Once this has occurred they may not compete at any other venue.

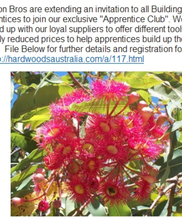
Contact details for the venues are as follows:
Avalon RSL – Russell Neal, ph: 0411 827 571, email:
nearu01@gmail.com or songsonstage@hotmail.com
Terry Hills Tavern – Russell Neal, ph: 0411 827 571, email:
nearu01@gmail.com
Mona Vale Hotel – Jaimie Keys, ph: 0421 064 314, email:
jaimie.keys@hotmail.com
Sugar Lounge in Manly – Oscar Letelier, ph: 0428 238 619, email:
oleteleir@gmail.com
The Northern Beaches Music Festival is looking to acknowledge, support and present the very best of our community's up and coming young musicians and performing artists. We look forward to seeing you there and good luck.

From: http://www.northernbeachesmusicfestival.org/youngbloods/

JOHNSON BROS
MITRE 10
ABN: 12 000 000 000

APPRENTICE CLUB

Johnson Bros are extending an invitation to all Building Trade Apprentices to join our exclusive "Apprentice Club". We have teamed up with our loyal suppliers to offer different tools each month at vastly reduced prices to help apprentices build up their tool boxes. File Below for further details and registration form.
At: http://hardwoodsaustralia.com/a/117.html



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Seniors Week 2012

Sunday 18 March – Sunday 25 March 2012
More at; http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/home

Pittwater Council will have a Booklet available on their website from the end of February on all Pittwater activities for Seniors Week; HERE.

Community Connect Northern Beaches
At; http://www.northsideconnect.com.au/

During Senior's Week we are holding a seminar in conjunction with Pittwater Council and Centrelink on the aged pension bonus scheme. The date is 22 March at the Mona Vale library from 2 to 4pm. I believe this will benefit a lot of seniors who have found their superannuation won't cover their retirement needs. If a person defers going on the aged pension for up to five years there are cash bonuses available for single and partnered couples. Centrelink will provide all the details on the day.

Pittwater Online News is running a Profile on Community Connect Northern Beaches in Issue 46

Avalon Computer Pals New short courses

Feeling a little insecure when using your personal computer?
The volunteer trainers from AVPALS are offering a short course (two hours a session over two days on consecutive weeks). This course will appeal to all seniors who want to learn the basics of sending emails, searching the Internet and general computer navigation!

Course notes provided. To be held in the beautiful Newport Community Centre. Avpals thanks Pittwater Council for the provision of these facilities.

Date: 21st and 28th February 2012
Time: 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Cost: $20 in total plus $25 once only joining fee for Avpals. If you are a current student, this fee is waived.

Catch up with your family! Enrol today, strictly limited places. Ring 02 9999 1348 or 02 8064 3574 to enrol or for more information.

Valentine's Day Music

We did a quick ask around to see what two tunes, one for the girls and one for the boys, you'd like on your page this week to celebrate the Day of Love and this is what came up. Both quite different. Guess which was chosen by each boy or girl-land? Seems Aussie Men Seniors still have a strong romantic bone in them while the Girls are still ready for a dance ! Great Stuff !

Above: Uploaded by bryanferry,Feb 26, 2010; Let's Stick Together is a 1976 album by Bryan Ferry. His third solo release, it was his first following the disbandment of Roxy Music earlier in the year.
Below: "The Very Thought of You" is from Nat "King" Cole's 1958 Capitol LP of the same name arranged and conducted by Gordon Jenkins. The album is available on CD on the Capitol and Collectors Choice labels.

Independent Website for Elders:
http://www.agedcarecrisis.com/about
About us: We are an independent group of Australian citizens, who are deeply concerned at the provision of aged care in Australia, specifically the delivery of quality care for our elderly and frail citizens, including those who are residents of aged care facilities. We do not receive any funding. We are not affiliated with any government body. We are not affiliated with any religious body . We are completely independent
www.agedcarecrisis.com provides a voice for elderly and frail citizens in Australia

Contact Community Care Northern Beaches by clicking their logo:

Heartmoves is a low-moderate intensity exercise program. Regular participation in Heartmoves will help to:

- Better manage weight, blood sugars, blood pressure and cholesterol
- Improve fitness, balance, co-ordination and flexibility
- Enhance your quality of life and meet other people

Ingrid Davey is a qualified Older Adult Instructor and accredited Heartmoves Leader who will guide you through an exercise program that is fun, safe and modified to suit you. Tuesday 9.30am and Thursday 10.30am at Nelson Heather Centre, 4 Jackson Road Warriewood. New people welcome every week. $8.00 casual Phone Ingrid to secure your spot on 0405 457 063.
www.heartfoundation.org.au

Senior Movers

Senior Movers is a wonderful resource for the Pittwater senior community who are thinking about downsizing from their property. Senior Movers want you to stop worrying about downsizing from the family home and let us take care of you. Senior movers gives you peace of mind during stressful times of downsizing and moving to a smaller home. No retirement living plan is too large or too small. We are glad to help whether it is a move to a loved one's home, assisted living or to a seniors apartment.

If you are overwhelmed about the thought of a downsize, or worried about trusting anyone in your home and helping you sort your treasured mementoes. Perhaps your family are time poor, not around to help or they and you just need someone on site for you to help coordinate and take the burden? We have a team of specialists working with us ranging from auctioneers, removalists, packers, eBay traders, all different trades and services to give you the whole project solution. We want you to we help you gracefully downsize with our experience and care. Click on logo to visit website.

SENIOR MOVERS
Gracefully downsize with our experience and care...

www.seniormovers.com.au

Also see Belinda Grundy's Profile other great Business;
www.bgpropertystyling.com.au

Great Short Story:

A Strange Irony **by Pam Bayfield** HERE

Jokes for Seniors by Seniors

C/- W.A.G.

The Importance of Walking

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £5,000 per month.

My grandad started walking 5 miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 quid, haven't lost a pound.
Apparently you have to go there.

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say,
'Well, doesn't she/he look good !!!

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years, just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.
That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

AND

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

Shown below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86 year old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the *New York Times*.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account $30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, - when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an OFFENSE under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further...

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALING, PRESS THE STAR (*) BUTTON FOR ENGLISH

#1. To make an appointment to see me

#2. To query a missing payment.

#3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

#4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.

#5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.

#6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.

#7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required.

Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.

#8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 10

#9. To make a general complaint or inquiry.

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.

#10. This is a second reminder to press* for English.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client

And remember: Don't make old people mad.

Avalon Computer Pals for Seniors

AVPALS is a volunteer organisation dedicated to helping seniors improve their computer skills. Started in 2000 it now has 20+ trainers and many hundreds of students. At a really low cost (about $30 a school term) they can provide one to one training on most matters connected with computing. From the smallest problem (how to hold the mouse!) to much more serious matters, there is a trainer who can help.

The training rooms are under the Catholic Church in Avalon and training is conducted Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. For more information visit AVPALS web site www.avpals.com or ring the co-ordinator Jenny McLaughlin on 02 9999 1348

Article on their Seminar

The Senior Newspaper Online

Click on logo:

Australian Senior Publications

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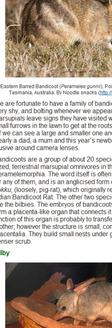
February 12 - 18, 2012: Issue 45

Summer Creature Features: (Nocturnal I) Bandicoot and Bilby

Bandicoot

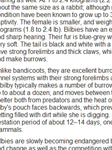


Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Perameles gunnii), Poimena Reserve, Austin's Ferry, Tasmania, Australia. By Rosser1954 (http://www.rosser1954.com/)

We are fortunate to have a family of bandicoots living in our yard. Very shy, and bothering whenever we appear after dark, these cute marsupials leave signs they have visited when not seen by digging small furrows in the lawn to get at the roots. If we stand with the light off we can see a large and smaller one and sometimes a small one (2), clearly a dad, a mum and this year's newborns but have proved elusive around camera lenses.

Bandicoots are a group of about 20 species of small to medium-sized, terrestrial marsupial omnivores in the order Peramelemorphia. The word itself is often used as a common name for any of them, and is an anglicised form of the Telugu word *pandi-kokku*, (*kokku*, pig-rat), which was corrupted to the unrelated Indian Bandicoot Rat. The other two species of peramelemorphs are the bilbies. The extinct pig-footed bandicoots, unlike other marsupials, form a placenta-like organ that connects it to the uterine wall. The function of this organ is probably to transfer nutrients from the mother, however the structure is small, compared to those of the Placentalia. They build small nests under grassland shelfs or in dense scrub.

Bilby



A bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), with a smaller animal - either a baby bilby or a mouse - at Sydney Wildlife World, a zoo in Sydney. By Doceboe

The bilby, (*Macrotis lagotis*), is an Australian species of nocturnal omnivorous animal in the Peramelemorphia order. The common name "bilby" usually refers to this species, but can also be distinguished as the greater rabbit-eared bilby (the lesser bilby) from the Yuwaalaraay Aboriginal language of northern New South Wales, meaning long-nosed rat. It is known as dalgite in Western Australia, and the nickname pinkie is sometimes used in South Australia. The Wiradjuri of New South Wales also call it bilby.

Bilbies have the characteristics of long bandicoot muzzle and very long ears. They are about 29–55 centimetres (11–22 in) in length. Compared to bandicoots, they have a longer tail, bigger ears, and softer, silky fur. The size of their ears allows them to have better hearing as well. At 1 to 2.4 kilograms (2.2 to 5.3 lb), the male is about the same size as a rabbit, although male animals in good condition have been known to grow up to 3.7 kilograms (8.2 lb) in captivity. The female is smaller, and weights around 0.8 to 1.1 kilograms (1.8 to 2.4 lb). Bilbies have an excellent sense of smell and sharp hearing. Their fur is blue-grey with patches of tan and is very soft. The tail is black and white with a distinct crest. Bilbies have strong forelimbs and thick claws, which they use to dig for food and make burrows.

Unlike bandicoots, they are excellent burrowers and build extensive tunnel systems with their strong forelimbs and well-developed claws. A bilby typically makes a number of burrows within its home range, up to about a dozen; and moves between them, using them for shelter both from predators and the heat of the day. The female bilby's pouch faces backwards, preventing the pouch from getting filled with dirt while she is digging. Bilbies have a very short gestation period of about 12–14 days, one of the shortest among mammals.

Bilbies are slowly becoming endangered because of habitat loss and change as well as the competition with other animals. Feral cats pose a major threat to the bilby's survival, and there is some competition between Bilbies and Rabbits for food. There is a national recovery plan being developed for saving these animals: this program includes breeding in captivity, monitoring populations, and reestablishing bilbies where they once lived. There have been reasonably successful moves to popularize the bilby as a native alternative to the Easter Bunny by selling chocolate Easter Bilbies (sometimes with a picture of the profits going to bilby protection and research). Reintroduction efforts have also begun, with a successful reintroduction into the Arid Recovery Reserve in South Australia in 2000. A National Bilby Day is held in Australia on the second Sunday in September to raise funds for conservation projects.

Bandicoot. (2012, February 9). In Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bandicoot&oldid=475855995

Bilby. (2012, February 9). In Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bilby&oldid=475840147

Warming in the Tasman Sea a global warming hot spot From CSIRO Media Centre

Oceanographers have identified a series of ocean hotspots around the world generated by strengthening wind systems that have driven oceanic currents, including the East Australian Current, pulverised beyond their known boundaries. The hotspots have formed alongside ocean currents that wash the east coast of the major continents and

their warming processes at a rate far exceeding the average rate of ocean surface warming, according to an international science team whose work is published in the journal Nature Climate Change today.

Paper co-author, CSIRO's Dr Wenju Cai, said that while the finding has local ecological implications in the region surrounding the hotspots, the major influence is upon the ocean's ability to take up heat and carbon from the atmosphere.

Made in Australian models, scientists report intensifying eastward winds at high latitudes (45°-55°S) pushing southward and speeding up the great swirl of currents circulating in the South Pacific, extending from Australia-America to the Australian coast. The resulting changes in ocean circulation patterns have pushed the East Australian Current around 350 kilometres further south, with temperatures off Tasmania as much as two degrees warmer than they were 60 years ago.

"We would expect natural change in these ocean currents over decades, but the change with such elevated sea surface temperatures in a growing number of locations and in a synchronised manner was definitely unexpected," said CSIRO's Dr Wenju Cai.

"Detecting these changes has been hindered by limited observations but with a combination of multi-national ocean watch systems and computer simulations we can now show that the East Australian Current has been warming over the past decade by 2.3 times faster than the global average ocean warming rate," says Dr Cai, a climate scientist at CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans Research Flagship.

The changes are characterised by a combination of currents pushing nearer to the polar regions and therefore the asymmetric changes of wind over both hemispheres, attributed to increasing greenhouse gases. Dr Cai said the increase of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has been the major driver of the surface warming of the Earth over the 20th century. This is projected to continue.

He said the research pointed to the need for a long-term monitoring network of the western boundary currents. In March next year, Australian scientists plan to deploy a series of moored ocean sensors across the East Australian Current to observe change season-to-season and year-to-year.

Lead author of the paper was Dr Lixin Wu, of the Ocean University of China, with contributing authors from five countries, many of whom are members of the Pacific Ocean Panel recently set up under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation.

The research was partly funded by a grant from the Australian Climate Change Science Program supported by the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Construction of new marine research vessel underway

Construction of a new $100 million Marine National Facility research vessel, investigator, began in Singapore today, heralding a new era in marine and atmospheric research. Australia's ocean territory is the third largest in the world and includes unique biodiversity and valuable resources and marine science is critical for the sustainable management of our oceans.

The contract to design, build and commission the vessel was awarded to Taskay Holdings Australia, which partnered with the Sembawang Shipyard in Singapore to construct it. Australian and international experts reviewed designs and innovation.

"The equipment on board our new world-class vessel will for the first time allow Australian scientists to carry out advanced atmospheric research on board the Marine National Facility," Senator Carr said. "It will be capable of mapping the seafloor six kilometres below the surface, conducting deep water coring to 24 metres and it will have the latest satellite communications technology.

Investigator will be operated by CSIRO and will be available to all Australian marine scientists. It replaces the existing Marine National Facility ship, Southern Surveyor, which is 40 years old.

In 2009 the Australian Government committed AU$120 million to the purchase of a new research vessel for the Marine National Facility. The project is an initiative of the Australian Government being conducted as part of the Super Science Initiative and financed from the Education Investment. MORE

Bushcare at Warriewood

The Warriewood bushcare group managed by Pittwater Council needs more volunteers on 4th Wednesday morning of the month – Can you help? Please contact Mary Johnsen at 9999 2020.

Think before you print ; A kilo of recycled paper creates around 1 kilograms of carbon emissions, without taking into account the emissions produced from transporting the paper. So, before you send a document, think about how many kilograms of carbon emissions you could save by reading it on screen.

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Carbon Footprints Document

florabank

Florabank recognises and shares the best available knowledge from research and practice in native species seed management. More at http://www.florabank.org.au/default.aspx?_DOC_ID=1 Click on logo above for Index to the most extensive list of facts sheets on every Australian plant.

Tweet | Like | +1

CLIMATE ACTION PITTWATER

For tips on how to be more energy efficient, visit Climate Action Pittwater at: http://www.climateactionpittwater.org.au/

PITTWATER COUNCIL

ONLINE BIODIVERSITY CALENDAR A FIRST

Pittwater Council has launched a online calendar designed to educate the community about the coastal environment, based on traditional Aboriginal knowledge. The calendar is a web-based, online program through hundreds of coastal and native birds, animals and plants. Many of the images were provided by local residents and collated by staff from the Council's Coastal Environment Centre at North Narrabeen.

The calendar has been coordinated by Pittwater Council on behalf of the Pittwater, Hornsby and Gosford communities and was funded by a $50,000 grant from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, through the federal government's Caring for Country grant program.

Representatives from 3 Aboriginal people have provided their knowledge for descriptions of some of the images and the Guringai, Darkinjung and Darug people are also providing input into the calendar. Other information in the calendar includes details of environmental events and community groups, weather patterns and hazards to the environment, such as weed species.

Pittwater Council's Natural Environment and Education Manager Mark Behamel said the calendar was a work in progress and was designed to be interactive. "We hope that the public will contribute images and other information to the calendar." "It's a living atlas that will help us measure changes to the coastal environment and increase awareness of native birds, animals and plants throughout the seasons," he said.

The calendar can be viewed at www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/biocalendar To submit photos for the biodiversity calendar email ceo@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Tweet | Like | +1

Careel Creek Community Day

When: Sunday 12 February, 8.30am to 12pm
Where: Careel Creek Reserve, Barrenjoey and Carrols Roads

As part of a current grant with the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority enhancing and restoring the Careel Creek catchment, Pittwater Natural Heritage Association and Pittwater Council staff would like to invite residents and their families to a fun morning of planting. Morning tea provided along with free native bare-root for local residents.

PITTWATER NATURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC.

Koala: To Be or Not to Be in February ?

NEW 'OLD' ONE FOUND:

A Naturalist's Notebook, By M. S. R. Shortland

In the possums, in the different names, are to be widely distributed that they may in all truth be said to be the commonest of our wild animals. Both day and night, and "living in the open" as they do, they are constantly in view of the public, on roads and fences and backyards, though being nocturnal their wanderings are by themselves upon our native. Scattered throughout the State are districts which might well be termed strong-holds of wild life, where native animals are still plentiful. These places are not necessarily remote from towns or cities, not quite often close to them, and one I have in mind, and of the most interesting of one kind, is the area of well-wooded hills overlooking Pittwater and the sea, behind Avalon Beach. A friend moved me there for the week-end, and I was delighted with the richness of the bird life around the flat, but for all kinds of "ringers" and birds of similar build, and rarely have I seen the bush so crisp and ornamented as on the night of which I speak.

What a lot of beauty we miss at night in living in cities. And what a lot of fascinating life moves beyond our ken under cover of darkness, the presence of which we suspect and only rarely see. Creatures whose ways and movements are shrouded beneath the shadows of night rave a peculiar attraction, probably because human beings, not having "night eyes", can never really understand them and something that we can't quite master is always attractive.

On the night of which I speak, the front room of the cottage yielded the sight of "flying squirrels" moving actively up and down the wooden posts and scrambling from one tree to another as fancy took them. Ringtails also tenanted the trees. But the larger brush-tailed varieties came boldly over the ground and climbed a stump where their human friends had placed some food. I did not have the good fortune to see a native bear, but the koala is a native bear, and, in fact, can claim to be the cottage the night after I had left. **Avalon is one of the few remaining places where the koala can be seen in the wild state.** It moves about unconcernedly, and, as it usually has a option on destroyers kept away with flaming sword. The residents and regular week-end visitors have learned to love the richness of the bird life around them, and thus are the best kind of "rangers."

Mr. A. J. Small, of Martin Place, recently told me two curious stories about possums, each of which had also to do with the koala. A friend had left a possum doing battle with a cat, through the larger kinds are pugnacious enough. At any rate, Mr. Small told me that his cat (a powerful animal) had a fight with a possum and apparently came off worst, as the side of its face was badly torn by the possum's claws. The wound healed, and subsequently the possum was shot. In the case the cat probably attacked the possum, which retaliated to good effect.

The other story concerned a possum at Mr. Small's home at Wolstonscraft. He went out the back door one night and heard a possum in the tree. Presently a possum with a cat shaking a spike of bones on the door mat. Neither animal showed any resentment of the other's presence. Mr. Small thought this was a possible example of a mongrel fox, which this wolf is not.

From: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) : 1842 - 1954), Saturday 15 March **1941**, page 10

"KOALA AN ASSET."

Plea for Preservation.

Small fire koalas trapped in bush fires at Newport on Saturday have died from exhaustion. The three bears which remain are being treated at Koala Park.

The secretary of the Koala Club of Australia, Mr. Ivan Dyer, said yesterday that, during 1937 and 1938, the club had participated in the rescue of nine maimed bears from the Pittwater district.

"At this rate," he added, "the animals will vanish from that district in three or four years if there are not 200 of them left in the bush. Koalas are the only animals which do not burrow their own shelters, and are dependent for their existence on living trees.

"KOALA AN ASSET." (**1938, January 17**). The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) : 1842 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved from http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/27870029

THE OFFICIAL STATUS OF THE KOALA

Koalas are in serious decline suffering from the effects of habitat destruction, domestic dog attacks, bushfires and road accidents. The Australian Koala Foundation estimates that there are less than 80,000 koalas left in the wild, possibly as few as 43,000.

There is arguably no legislation that effectively and/or consistently protects koala habitat anywhere within Australia, not necessarily because the legislation does not exist, but because there is rarely the political will to adequately resource, implement, police and enforce such legislation.

There are four states where koalas occur in the wild - Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia - and each state has its own legislation (see below).

The Federal Government passes responsibility for protection of koala habitat to the states. The states often pass principal responsibility to local government. Local government is where most day to day decisions are made about what happens to koala habitat but where there is often the least amount of resources and expertise in wildlife management or habitat assessment.

From the Australian Koala Foundation:

https://www.savethekoala.com/koala-endangered.html

What you can do: write a letter or email:

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke has announced that he has deferred a decision on whether to list the koala as a nationally threatened species until February 2013. Write to The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

PO Box 6022

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

or email tony.burke.mp@environment.gov.au

Save the Koala Month (all of September each year) and Day (last Friday of September): September 28th, 2012 will get involved!

https://www.savethekoala.com/fundraiseforkoalas.html

Between pp. 48-49 *A monkey or bear of N.S.Wales* Image No. No. a2424015 from William Gowlit notes and sketches taken during a surveying Expedition in N. South Wales and Blue Mountains Route by William Gowlit on staff of Major Mitchell, Surveyor General of New South Wales, courtesy State Library of NSW. William Romaine Gowlit was surveying Pittwater in January-February 1828

Marine and Freshwater Research Volume 63 Number 2 2012

Includes papers on: Variations in nutrient concentrations at different time scales in two shallow tidally dominated estuaries, Trophic ecology of temperate fish species (Pisces: Teraponidae): the role of morphology and ontogeny, and more

PITTWATER NATURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC.

Coastal Environment Centre

The Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) is a multi-award winning regional community environmental learning centre, and Pittwater Council's environmental flagship. CEC is celebrating its 20th year this December

More at: http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/cec

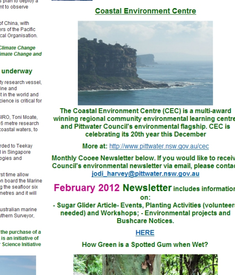
Monthly Cooee Newsletter below. If you would like to receive Council's environmental newsletter via email, please contact jodi_harvey@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

February 2012 Newsletter includes information on:

- Sugar Glider Article- Events- Planting Activities (volunteers needed) and Workshops - Environmental projects and Bushcare Notices.

HERE

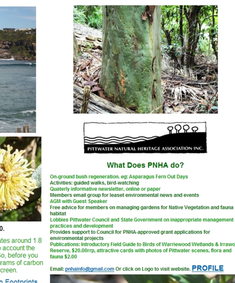
How Green is a Spotted Gum when Wet?



What Does PNHA do?

On-ground bush regeneration, eg: Asparagus Fern Out Days
Activities: guided walks, bird watching
Quarterly informative newsletter, online or paper
Members email group for latest environmental news and events
AGM with Guest Speaker
Free advice for members on managing gardens for Native Vegetation and fauna habitat
Lobbies Pittwater Council and State Government on inappropriate management practices and development
Grant writing: successful for PNHA-approved grant applications for environmental projects
Publications: Introductory Field Guide to Birds of Warriewood Wetlands & Ironwong Reserve, $20.00inc, attractive cards with photos of Pittwater scenes, flora and fauna $2.00

Email: pnhainfo@gmail.com or click on Logo to visit website. **PROFILE**



"I bind myself today to the power of Heaven, the light of the sun, the brightness of the moon, the splendour of fire, the flashing of lightning, the swiftness of wind, the depth of the sea, the stability of the earth, the compactness of rocks."

from the Prayer of Saint Patrick

Pittwater's Environmental Foundation

Pittwater Environmental Foundation was established in 2005 to conserve and enhance the natural environment of the Pittwater local government area through the application of tax deductible donations, gifts and bequests. The Directors were appointed by Pittwater Council. Our **PROFILE**

About 33% (about 1600 ha excluding National Parks) of the original pre-European bushland in Pittwater remains in a reasonably natural or undisturbed condition. Of this, only about 400ha remains in public ownership. All remaining natural bushland is subject to encroachment, illegal clearing, weed invasion, feral animals, altered drainage, bushfire hazard reduction requirements and other edge effects.

Within Pittwater 39 species of plants or animals are listed as endangered or threatened under the Threatened Species Act. There are two endangered populations (Acacia and Squirrel Glider) and eight endangered ecological communities or types of bushland. To visit their site please click on logo above.

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February 12 - 18, 2012: Issue 45

Summer Fruits: Pear

The new season's crop of Summer pears has appeared in shops this week and ranging from 79c a kilo to $1.79 a kilo in Packham (or Packham's Triumph) and William Bartlett varieties. The Packham Pear was cultivated by Charles Packham, orchardist and pear 'breeder' of Toongabbie in 1896. This Australian variety is a cross between the Williams and Bell pear. The Williams Bartlett stems from 1765 and England.

Quinces, related to the pear, is the Cydonian 'apple' and also the original nuptial fruit. The other plant most associated with love is the Myrtle to which our own eucalyptus is related. Pears offer, as this week's seasonal best, a perfect core ingredient for any Valentines Day celebrations you're considering whether this is lavishing a feast to make your partner glow or simply filling the stomachs of your much loved family members with the good stuff of late summer. Eating them out under the gum trees is going to optimise or really get you into the *love spirit*. This week we offer an entrée, main and dessert which incorporates this ancient and cancer preventing fruit and a few facts and notes of interest opposite.

Roasted Red Bell Pepper and Pear Soup

Ingredients (Serves 4)
3 large red bell peppers, roasted, deseeded and sliced
1/2 jalapeno pepper, deseeded and minced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tablespoon oil
2 spring onions, white part only and chopped
2 cups vegetable stock
1 pear, peeled, cored and chopped

Method
Heat the oil in a soup pot and add the chopped spring onion and garlic and roasted bell peppers and and cook until the onions soften. Do not overcook or garlic shall become bitter. Add the vegetable stock and bring to the simmer. Add the chopped pear and cook until the pear is soft. Puree the soup and season to taste. Garnish with chives or extra sliced spring onions and serve with hot crusty bread.

Fish with a Pear Salad

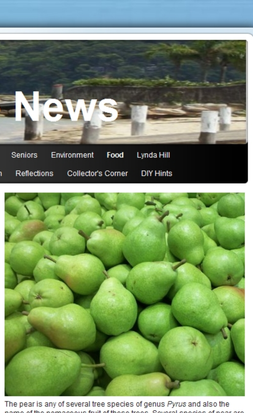
Ingredients:
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 tbsp fresh tarragon finely chopped
2x 200g white fish fillets
100g rocket or mixed salad leaves
1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted
1/4 cup parmesan, grated
2 pears, cored, thinly sliced

Method
Whisk together oil, lemon juice and tarragon. Place fish in a shallow dish and pour over half the tarragon mixture. Turn to coat and allow to marinate for few minutes. Toss together remaining ingredients and remaining tarragon dressing, ensure all leaves are coated. Set aside. Grill or pan-fry fish for a few minutes until cooked. Serve with pear salad.

Chocolate Pears

Ingredients (serves 4)
4 pears
1 litre (4 cups) water
1 cup (220g) caster sugar
1 vanilla bean, split lengthways
1 lemon
For the sauce:
100ml single cream
2 tsp butter
1 tbsp soft brown sugar
50g Milk or Dark Chocolate, finely chopped

Method
Remove the core from 4 pears, leaving stem intact, then peel and rub with lemon. Place 1 litre (4 cups) water, 1 cup (220g) caster sugar and 1 vanilla bean, split lengthways in a saucepan. Stir over low heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to boil. Add pears in a layer and reduce to medium-low. Simmer, turning occasionally for 15-20 minutes until fruit is tender. To make the sauce, place the cream, butter and sugar in a small pan and heat gently, stirring, until hot but not boiling. Remove from the heat, add the chocolate and stir until smooth. Serve poured over pears with ice cream.



The pear is any of several tree species of genus *Pyrus* and also the name of the pomaceous fruit of these trees. Several species of pear are valued by humans for their edible fruit, but the fruit of other species is small, hard, and astringent. The genus Pyrus is classified in subtribe Pyrinae within tribe Pyreae. The apple (Malus domestica), which it resembles in floral structure, is also a member of this subcategory.
The English word 'pear' is probably from Common West Germanic *pera*, probably a loanword of Vulgar Latin *pira*, the plural of pirum, akin to Greek ἄπιος apios (from Mycenaean ápisos), which is likely of Semitic origin. The place name Perry and Pharaoh can also indicate the historical presence of pear trees. The term "pyriform" is sometimes used to describe something which is "pear-shaped".
Origin
The cultivated European pear (*P. communis subsp. communis*) is thought to be descended from two subspecies of wild pear, categorized as *P. communis* subsp. *pyraster* (syn. *P. pyraster*) and *P. communis* subsp. *caucasica* (syn. *P. caucasica*), which are interfertile with domesticated pears. Archeological evidence shows that pears "were collected from the wild long before their introduction into cultivation," according to Zohary and Hopf. Although they point to finds of pears in sites in Neolithic and Bronze Age European sites, "reliable information on pear cultivation first appears in the works of the Greek and the Roman writers." Theophrastus, Cato the Elder, and Pliny the Elder all present information about the cultivation and grafting of pears.
History
The cultivation of the pear in cool temperate climates extends to the remotest antiquity, and there is evidence of its use as a food since prehistoric times. Many traces of it have been found in Swiss lake-dwellings. The word "pear", or its equivalent, occurs in all the Celtic languages, while in Slavonic and other dialects differs in applications, but still referring to the same thing, are found—a diversity and multiplicity of nomenclature which led Alphonse de Candolle to infer a very ancient cultivation of the tree from the shores of the Caspian to those of the Atlantic.
Pears grow in the sublime orchard of Alcinous, in Odyssey vii: *"Therein grow trees, tall and luxuriant, pears and pomegranates and apple-trees with their bright fruit, and sweet figs, and luxuriant olives. Of these the fruit perishes not nor fails in winter or in summer, but lasts throughout the year."*
The pear was also cultivated by the Romans, who did not eat them raw: Pliny's Natural History recommended stewing them with honey and noted three dozen varieties. The Roman cookbook attributed to Apicius, De re coquinaria, has a recipe for a spiced, stewed-pear patina, or soufflé.
A certain race of pears, with white down on the under surface of their leaves, is supposed to have originated from *P. nivalis*, and their fruit is chiefly used in France in the manufacture of perry (see also cider). Other small-fruited pears, distinguished by their wild habit and apple-like fruit, may be referred to *P. cordata*, a species found wild in western France, and in Devon and Cornwall. **Pears have been cultivated in China for approximately 3000 years.**
The genus is thought to have originated in present-day western China in the foothills of the Tian Shan, a mountain range of Central Asia, and to have spread to the north and south along mountain chains, evolving into a diverse group of over 20 widely recognized primary species. Pear trees are typically in production for an average of 50 to 75 years, although some trees still produce fruit after 100 years.

The **Williams' bon chrétien pear**, commonly called the Williams pear, or Bartlett pear in the U.S. and Canada, is the most commonly grown variety of pear in most countries outside Asia. It is a cultivar (cultivated variety) of the species *Pyrus communis*, commonly known as the European pear. The fruit has a bell shape, considered the traditional pear shape in the west, and its green skin turns yellow upon later ripening, although small-skinned derivative varieties exist. It is considered a summer pear, not as tolerant of cold as some varieties. It is often eaten raw, but holds its shape well when baked, and is a common choice for canned or other processed pear uses.
Williams Pear History
The Williams pear is thought to date from 1765 to 1770 from the yard of an Aldermaston, England, schoolmaster named Mr. Stair or Mr. Wheeler, giving rise to the now-obscure synonyms Aldermaston pear and Stairs pear. A nurseryman named Williams later acquired the variety, and after introducing it the rest of England, the pear became known as the Williams Pear. However, the pear's full name is 'Williams' Bon Chretien, or "Williams' good Christian."
In 1799 James Carter imported several Williams trees into the United States, and they were planted on the grounds of Thomas Brewer in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The Massachusetts estate was later acquired by Enoch Bartlett of Dorchester, Massachusetts. Unaware of their origin, Bartlett named the pears after himself and introduced the variety into the United States. It was not realized that Bartlett and Williams Pears were the same until 1828, when new trees arrived from Europe. By that time the Bartlett variety had become vastly popular in the United States, and they are still generally known as Bartlett pears in the U.S. and Canada, although there are about 150 other synonyms worldwide.
Health benefits
Pears are a good source of dietary fiber and a good source of vitamin C. Most of the vitamin C, as well as the dietary fiber, is contained within the skin of the fruit. According to the FDA's final rule dated July 25, 2006 "Food Labeling: Guidelines for Voluntary Nutrition Labeling of Raw Fruits, Vegetables, and Fish," the nutritional content of a medium-sized fresh pear weighing 165g/5.9oz is as follows: Calories, 100; Sodium: 0 mg/0%, Potassium: 190 mg/5%, Total carbohydrate: 25 mg/9%, Dietary Fiber: 6g/24%, Sugars: 16g; Protein: 1g; Vitamin C: 10%; Calcium: 2%. They also contain Thiamine (vit. B1), Riboflavin (vit. B2), Niacin (vit. B3), Pantothenic acid (B5), Vitamin B6, Folate , Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus and Zinc.
Pears are less allergenic than many other fruits, and pear juice is therefore sometimes used as the first juice introduced to infants. However, caution is recommended for all fruit juice consumption by infants, as studies have suggested a link between excessive fruit juice consumption and reduced nutrient intake, as well as a tendency towards obesity. Pears are low in salicylates and benzoates, so are recommended in exclusion diets for allergy sufferers. Along with lamb and rice, pears may form part of the strictest exclusion diet for allergy sufferers. Most of the fiber is insoluble, making pears a good laxative. The gritty fiber content may reduce the number of cancerous colon polyps.
Herbalism In ancient Greece, pears were used to treat nausea.
Quince
The quince or *Cydonia oblonga*, is the sole member of the genus Cydonia and native to warm-temperate southwest Asia in the Caucasus region. It is a small, deciduous tree, growing 5–8 m tall and 4–6 m wide, related to apples and pears, and like them has a pome fruit, which is bright golden yellow when mature, pear-shaped, 7–12 cm long and 6–9 cm broad. The fruit was known to the Akkadians, who called it supurgillu. Cultivation of quince may have preceded apple culture, and many references translated to "apple", such as the fruit in Song of Solomon, may have been a quince. Among the ancient Greeks, the quince was a ritual offering at weddings, for it had come from the Levant with Aphrodite and remained sacred to her. Plutarch reported that a Greek bride would nibble a quince to perfume her kiss before entering the bridal chamber, "in order that the first greeting may not be disagreeable nor unpleasant" (Roman Questions 3.65).
Myrtle
Myrtus (myrtle) is a genus of one or two species of flowering plants in the family Myrtaceae, native to southern Europe and north Africa. The common myrtle *Myrtus communis*, also called true myrtle, is widespread in the Mediterranean region and is commonly cultivated. The other species, Saharan myrtle M. nivellei, is restricted to the Tassili n'Ajjer mountains in southern Algeria and the Tibesti Mountains in Chad, where it occurs in small areas of sparse relict woodland near the centre of the Sahara Desert; it is listed as an endangered species.
Medicinal uses
Myrtle occupies a prominent place in the writings of Hippocrates, Pliny, Dioscorides, Galen, and the Arabian writers. In numerous Mediterranean countries, the extract of the myrtle herb is used to make the hair grow longer in a short period of time. The fresh, clear aroma of this oil is excellent at clearing the airways and as is considered safe for young and old alike. In addition, a recent systematic review of herbal medicines has proven a positive effect for myrtle compounds in the treatment of rhinosinusitis Sinusitis. In several countries (particularly in Europe and China) there have been a tradition for prescribing myrtle substance for sinus infections. The active substance is known as Myrtol standardized, although it is unclear what this chemical is exactly. An ointment containing the essential oil myrtle was effective against herpes simplexvirus (HSV-1) infection. An extract of the berries of Myrtus communis had significant ulcer-protective effects when administered to rats.
Uses in myth and ritual
In Greek mythology and ritual the myrtle was sacred to the goddesses Aphrodite and also Demeter: Artemidorus asserts that in interpreting dreams 'a myrtle garland signifies the same as an olive garland, except that it is especially auspicious for farmers because of Demeter and for women because of Aphrodite. For the plant is sacred to both goddesses.' Pausanias explains that one of the Graces in the sanctuary at Elis holds a myrtle branch because "the rose and the myrtle are sacred to Aphrodite and connected with the story of Adonis, while the Graces are of all deities the nearest related to Aphrodite."
Myrtle is the garland of Iacchus, according to Aristophanes, and of the victors at the Theban Iolaea, held in honour of the Theban hero Iolaus. In Rome, Virgil explains that "the poplar is most dear to Alcides, the vine to Bacchus, the myrtle to lovely Venus, and his own laurel to Phoebus." At the Veneralia, women bathed wearing crowns woven of myrtle branches, and myrtle was used in wedding rituals. In the Mediterranean, myrtle was symbolic of love and immortality. In their culture the plant was used extensively and was considered an essential plant.
In Jewish liturgy, it is one of the four sacred plants of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles representing the different types of personality making up the community - the myrtle having fragrance but not pleasant taste, represents those who have good deeds to their credit despite not having knowledge from Torah study. Three branches are held by the worshippers along with a citron, a palm leaf, and two willow branches. In Jewish mysticism, the myrtle represents the phallic, masculine force at work in the universe. For this reason myrtle branches were sometimes given the bridegroom as he entered the nuptial chamber after a wedding (Tos. Sotah 15:8; Ketubot 17a). Myrtles are both the symbol and scent of Eden (Bmli II: 52; Sefer ha-Heyzonot 17). The Hechalot text Merkavah Rabbah requires one to suck on a myrtle leaves as an element of a theurgic ritual. Kabbalists link myrtle to the sefirah of Tiferet and use sprigs in their Shabbat (especially Havdalah) rites to draw down its harmonizing power as the week is initiated (Shab. 33a; Zohar Chadash, SoS, 64d; Sha'ar ha-Kawanot, 2, pp. 73–76).
In neo-pagan and wicca rituals, myrtle, though not indigenous beyond the Mediterranean Basin, is now commonly associated with and sacred to Beltane (May Day). Myrtle in a wedding bouquet is a general European custom. Crowns of myrtle are used in the Ukrainian wedding ceremony.
A sprig of myrtle from Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet was planted as a slip, and sprigs from it have continually been included in royal wedding bouquets.

Further:

Charles Henry Packham Biography:
http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/packham-charles-henry-13142

MYRTACEOUS from Latin myrtus 'myrtle', from Greek murtos. Of the Myrtacae, a family of sub-tropical and tropical shrubs and trees which have oil glands in the leaves. Includes: eucalyptus, clove, guava and myrtle.
MYRTLE 'Love, Everlasting Love'. Hebrew emblem of Marriage; Remembrance. From Medieval Latin myrtilla, from Latin myrtus, from Greek murtos. Any evergreen shrub or tree of myrtaceous genus Myrtus, especially Myrtaceous communis, a South European shrub with pink or white flowers and blue-black berries. Hebrew name of Esther equates with Myrtle. Symbol of love and fidelity, worn, until recently, or carried by brides. Wives would then try to grow the plant from cuttings in their bouquet or wreath.
NUBERE to marry from Latin
NUBILE from Latin nubilis, from nubere 'to marry'. Ready or suitable for marriage by virtue of age or maturity (physical attributes).
NUPTIAL from Latin nuptialis, from nuptiae 'marriage', from nubere 'to marry'. Conjugal. Relating to marriage.
All from *Village Green Glossary*. A J Guesdon. 1985-2012.

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Quince. (2012, February 7). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Quince&oldid=475641477

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Williams' Bon Chrétien (commonly Williams or Bartlett) pear, 1822 printing from the Horticultural Society of London

A colour plate from The Pears of New York (1921) depicting the Bartlett pear cultivar by Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick

Name:*Myrtus communis* ;Family: Myrtaceae Original book source: Prof. Dr. Otto Wilhelm Thomé *"Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz"* 1885; Gera, Germany Permission granted to use under GFDL by Kurt Stueber

February 12 - 18, 2012: Issue 45

Dragonfly Environmental at: http://www.dfe.net.au/

What do Clients Say about DFE work?

Rockdale City Council: Coolibah Reserve Bardwell Valley

DFE produced a clear Concept design Report for the restoration of a degraded wetland in Coolibah Reserve. This included an explanation of the design aims, a schematic diagram showing key features, concept design sketch through the wetland, and advice on the species to be planted in the different zones. This included advice on water levels, scour protection, headwall widening and spillway construction. DFE were subsequently engaged to undertake all planting works following civil works by another contractor and the result has been a great success. They have established a diverse range of 30 local native species of wetland and associated creek embankment works (also planted by DFE).

Ted Pirola, Senior Landscape Architect, Rockdale City Council

Port Botany, Ecological Maintenance

We found DFE to be a fantastic contractor. The quality of the work is always of a very high standard with direct supervision from management/owners. DFE were always very conscientious about the work including schedules and cost.

We found DFE to always be willing to work longer hours and with little extra remuneration at all times. DFE worked closely with the tenant/owners and all interested parties to manage all limitations to ensure the work was completed in a timely manner.

DFE are one of the most professional organizations I have worked with on large infrastructure projects. They were always well mannered, polite and hard working. Their efficiency and professionalism was consistent at all times throughout the project which lasted three years. The uniforms add a nice touch.

Quentin Pitts, Environmental Manager Bauhinterlore Pty Ltd (NSW) Port Botany, Ecological Maintenance

I have witnessed "before and after" snap shots of vegetation areas that DFE have been involved with and the work that they have been carried are very noticeable, plants are healthy looking and vegetation areas look vibrant and well maintained. The bush regenerating team spend time in ensuring that the work is done to a high standard. No detail overlooked or task too small. Highly recommended.

Ian Henderson, Landscape and Ecological Maintenance Manager Sydney Ports Corporation

Shell Cove Wetland

Before

After

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Related Works–Restoration

Port Botany Expansion Penrhyn Estuary Saltmarsh Enhancement and Recreation for Sydney Ports Corporation and Bauhinterlore Hornsbrook, (2007-2014): Dragonfly Environmental was engaged by the contract to project manage environmental restoration works in Penrhyn Estuary, and is employed as the Saltmarsh Ecologist for the site. Works include GIS mapping of existing Saltmarsh, technical information relating to the Saltmarsh community and restoration works, translocation of 10000m2 Saltmarsh, collecting seed and propagating 220,000 Saltmarsh plants, and ongoing monitoring (Dragonfly have also completed areas 13 Year monitoring programmes), planting and maintenance of existing and newly created areas. Over four Hectares of Bitou Bush was eradicated from the Penrhyn Estuary foreshore dunes as part of DFE's bush regeneration works. Subsequently over 300,000 native foredune dunal plants have been installed post regeneration works by DFE.

Bush Regeneration for Warringah Council Manly and Curl Curl Lagoon, (2010-2011): Involves the suppression of noxious and environmental weeds at 12 sites comprising of estuarine lagoons, creek-line corridors, riparian and terrestrial areas. Works involve 1000 of bush regeneration hours for the contract and plant supply and installation of 2500 plants.

Noxious Weed Control South Creek Warringah Council, (2010-2010): Involves the control of *Ludwigia peruviana*, Water Primrose, at South Creek, Cromer, along a 2 Km length of South Creek. Works involve 288 hours for works within creek-line and riparian area.

Bush Regeneration and Wetland Maintenance for Hornsby and Shire Council, (2006-2011): Involves the suppression of noxious and environmental weeds at 15 sites comprising of creek-line corridors, sedimentation basins, water quality control ponds, and wetlands, and terrestrial areas working in Blue gum High Top forest. Works involve 1500 hours per year.

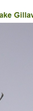
Cooks Park Dune Restoration Kyeemagh for Sydney Water and Water Delivery Alliance (2009-2010): Involved the control of Bitou Bush at the dune restoration site and erosion control materials are being bush regenerated and maintained by DFE for six months.

Coolibah Reserve Riparian Rehabilitation for Rockdale City Council, (2010 - 2011): DFE were involved in the creek bank restoration and were responsible for all the riparian planting and 2 years of maintenance The wetland and creek-line works have been recognised by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authorities and others as exceptional.

Coolibah Reserve Wetland Design, planting and maintenance, (2010 - 2001): DFE designed a wetland for Coolibah Reserve transforming a weedy puddle into a wetland dominated by native species and surrounded by terrestrial native species.

Scarborough Park Wetland and Rehabilitation Works (2010 – 2011): restoration of wetland and surrounds including Endangered Ecological Communities; Sydney Finish Water Wetlands and Sydney Coastal Estuarine Swamp Forest Complex. Involves over 1800 bush regeneration hours are required to complete the regeneration project.

Fern Creek and Narrabeen Creek Detention Basin (2004-2008) for Pittwater Council: included works over 48 000m2 of riparian zone restoration and landscaping in the Warriewood Valley. Soil amelioration, mulching and planting of 50,000 plants, 30m2 of Reed Beds, 10,000 tube stock, 5m2 of Rush pots, 5m2 of Sedge pots, 300x250, 250x 150, and installation of 7x3m Cabbage Tree Palms. DFE currently manages noxious and environmental weeds in a section of Fern Creek.



Cronulla Industrial Estate for Australand (2006-2007): Bitou bush and other noxious and environmental weeds were eradicated from the works site. Works included planting of 1,000 native trees, revegetation of creek and on dune areas. Works was completed within two months.

Doonside Reserve and Breakfast Creek for Mirvac Homes and Blacktown City Council, (2004-2007): Bush Regeneration and hand works were conducted to restore and maintain the largest remaining stand of the Endangered Cumberland Plain Ecological Community in the Blacktown City Council LGA. DFE undertook maintenance of Breakfast Creek, Riparian Zone and Terrestrial Areas and translocation of the endangered Cumberland Plain Land Snail. Installation of 40,000 plants, 800 metres of fencing, 900 metres of pathways through reserve, installation of 1km of bollards, and bush regeneration of remnant areas. Over 1000 hours of Weed Management Report were completed for the site that outlines targets and monitoring requirements to be carried out by Dragonfly Environmental.

DRAGONFLY ENVIRONMENTAL

Wetlands Projects: Lake Gillawarra Beauty

Turquoise parrot eating Salt Marsh seed at Gough Whitlam Park

Pittwater Online News

February 12 - 18, 2012: Issue 45

Pittwater Online News receives a lot of information from various sources each week. For Your Interest and Bemusement:

The Best Day Of Fishing Ever!

c/- Irene Anderson.
Originally in Sitka Gazette

I've heard of salmon jumping into boats, but never anything quite like this...
Tom Satre told the Sitka Gazette that he was out with a charter group on his 62-foot fishing vessel when four juvenile black-tailed deer swam directly toward his boat.

"Once the deer reached the boat, the four began to circle the boat, looking directly at us. We could tell right away that the young bucks were distressed. I opened up my back gate and we helped the typically skittish and absolutely wild animals onto the boat. In all my years fishing, I've never seen anything like it!

Once onboard, they collapsed with exhaustion, shivering. This is a picture I took of the rescued bucks on the back of my boat, the Alaska Quest.

We headed for Taku Harbour . Once we reached the dock, the first buck that we had been harbour from the water hopped onto the dock, looked back as if to say 'thank you' and disappeared into the forest.

After a bit of prodding and assistance, two more followed, but the smallest deer needed a little more help.

This is me carrying the little guy. My daughter, Anna, and son, Tim, helped the last buck to its feet. We didn't know how long they had been in the icy waters or if there had been others who did not survive. My daughter later told me that the experience was something that she would never forget, and I suspect the deer felt the same way as well!"

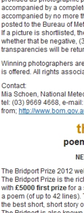
Sitka, Alaska

The town of Sitka, located on the west coast of Baranof Island, overlooks the calm waters of Sitka Sound and the sloping Mt. Edgecumbe, a 3,102-foot inactive volcano.

Internet Updates from Linked In:

8 SEO Tips That Take 15 Minutes or Less
searchenginewatch.com - Implementing a full SEO campaign from scratch can be a large commitment for any company. However, there are a number of website tweaks that can be accomplished in 15 minutes or less that could increase your traffic immediately.

P&G To Lay Off 1,600 After Discovering It's Free To Advertise On Facebook And Google
businessinsider.com - Reality appears to have finally arrived at Procter & Gamble, the world's largest marketer, whose $10 billion annual ad budget has hurt the company's margins. P&G said it would lay off 1,600 staffers, including marketers, as...



New Harper Collins Competition

Anna Campell is Australia's favourite romance author and we've got one complete set of her novels, all signed by Anna herself, to give away!
For your chance to win it, email us at promotions@harpercollins.com.au by **29/2/12** and tell us about your most romantic Valentine's day!
(Sorry, Australian residents only)

eBooks

CSIRO PUBLISHING now offer most of our new releases as eBooks, as well as a large number of important backlist titles. If you are new to eBooks, or would like more information about CSIRO PUBLISHING´s eBook products

Photo competition

The photographic competition for **the 2013 Australian Weather Calendar began on 1 July 2011 and will close on 31 March 2012**. Please visit the contest page before entering.

The Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society invites entries for the Australian Weather Calendar photographic competition. **The contest for the 2013 calendar opened on 1 July 2011 and will close on 31 March 2012.**

Entries must be of a meteorological theme, such as clouds, lightning, rainbows, thunderstorms or tornadoes. If the picture is from a digital camera, it must be a minimum size of 1700 x 1150 pixels. A 2-megapixel camera is the minimum requirement.

Entries must then be:
provided as photographic prints (minimum size 15 x 10 centimetres), accompanied by a completed entry form, including details of all digital alterations, accompanied by no more than 10 other entries per person, and posted to the Bureau of Meteorology at the address below.
If a picture is shortlisted, the entrant must provide the image in its original format, whether that be negative, (35mm) transparency, or digital. Negatives and transparencies will be returned by registered post.

Winning photographers are awarded three complimentary calendars. No prizemoney is offered. All rights associated with the images are retained by the photographer.

Contact:
Mia Schoen, National Meteorological Library (Fridays only)
tel: (03) 9669 4668, e-mail: library@bom.gov.au
from: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/index.shtml

the Bridport Prize

poems-short stories-flash fiction

NEW CLOSING DATE: 31st May 2012

The Bridport Prize 2012 website is now open for entries
The Bridport Prize is the richest open writing competition in the English language - with **£5000 first prize** for a short story (of up to 5000 words); and **£5000 first prize** for a poem (of up to 42 lines). The category of Flash Fiction attracts £1,000 to be won for the best short, short story of under 250 words.
The Bridport is also known as a tremendous literary stepping-stone - the first step in the careers of writers such as: Kate Atkinson, Tobias Hill, Carol Ann Duffy and Helen Dunmore.
Anyone can enter - so long as the work is previously unpublished. It costs £8 per story, £7 per poem or £6 per flash fiction and the NEW closing date is 31st May 2012
Each year the prize is judged by well known writers - this year we are delighted to announce that Gwyneth Lewis will be judging the poetry, and Patrick Gale, the short stories and flash fiction
The 2011 anthology of winning entries is available for just £12 or £15 overseas (including postage and packing). The 2010 and 2009 anthologies are available in limited numbers for £7 and £5 (£10 and £8 overseas)

Enter online at: www.bridportprize.org.uk
Or download an entry form: www.bridportprize.org.uk/entryform.pdf
Or email for a pdf entry form: frances@bridportprize.org.uk
Or send an SAE for an entry form to be posted to you

The Bridport Prize
PO Box 6910
Dorset
DT6 9BQ
UK

The Voiceless Writing Prize sponsored by Australian Ethical investment invites writers of fiction and nonfiction to reflect on the ethical relationship between humans and animals. Submissions should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words and should focus on animals produced for food or found in the Australian landscape.

The Judging Panel is chaired by Nobel Laureate J. M. Coetzee, and includes Voiceless co-founder and managing director Ondine Sherman, Literary Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald Susan Wyndham, and Dr Wendy Were, former director of the Sydney Writers Festival.
The best pieces will be released as a collection by Publishing Partner Allen & Unwin, and The Sydney Morning Herald is supporting the Prize as Media Partner.
There is over $20,000 in prizes to be won, including $15,000 for the winner chosen by the Judging Panel (sponsored by Australian Ethical Investment), $5,000 for the People's Choice winner sponsored by Deborah and Peter Debnam and $500 for each writer chosen for publication.
Hurry, entries close 16 March! For further details visit Voiceless and **to enter visit Allen & Unwin.**

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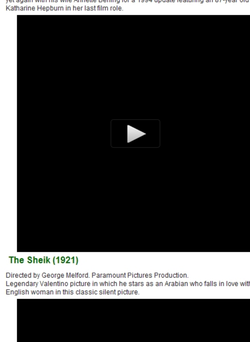
Valentines Day

This week we share some Love Inspirations...

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly shortened to Valentine's Day, is a holiday observed on February 14 honoring one or more early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine. It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). The day first became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In Parlement of Foules (1382) by Geoffrey Chaucer. Chaucer wrote:
For this was on seynt Volantynys day
Whan every bryd comyth there to chese his make.
["For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."]
Valentine's Day. (2012, February 6). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Valentine%27s_Day&oldid=475448414

Love Affair (1939)

Directed by Leo McCarey, this 1939 romantic classic is the first and best version of the old warhorse of a fateful shipboard romance between an aimless playboy and a nightclub singer, both engaged but appearing to be destined to reunite on the top floor of the Empire State Building.
The elaborate, shot-for-shot 1957 remake again directed by McCarey with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr is much better known, and Warren Beatty even saw fit to remake it yet again with his wife Annette Bening for a 1994 update featuring an 87-year old Katharine Hepburn in her last film role.



The Sheik (1921)

Directed by George Melford. Paramount Pictures Production.
Legendary Valentino picture in which he stars as an Arabian who falls in love with an English woman in this classic silent picture.

Charlie Chaplin's "Tillies Punctured Romance" (1914)

Charlie Chaplin's 33rd Film Released Nov. 14 1914.
Tillie's Punctured Romance was the first feature-length comedy film from Keystone Film Company and the Christie Film Company, produced in 1914. A silent film directed by Mack Sennett, the film stars Marie Dressler, Mabel Normand, and Charlie Chaplin, as well as the Keystone Kops.

Jocularity

from W.A.G & Irene Anderson

HOW TO STOP PEOPLE FROM BUGGING YOU ABOUT GETTING MARRIED

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next."
They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

Sharp new CEO

If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!

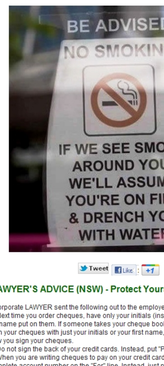
Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make $400 a week. Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here. " He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy $1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's".



Tweet Like +1

LAWYER'S ADVICE (NSW) - Protect Yourself from Fraud

A corporate LAWYER sent the following out to the employees in his company:
1. Next time you order cheques, have only your initials (instead of your first name) and surname put on them. If someone takes your cheque book, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Place your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Centrelink Number printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
5. Run the contents of your wallet through a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place (not your wallet). I also carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

Critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your Tax File Number your passport number and drivers licence number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit.

Now, here are some numbers which you might need to contact if your wallet etc has been stolen:

1. Visa Card Australia - 1800 621 199
2. Visa Card International - 1800 450 346
3. Lost Travellers' Cheques - 1800 127 477
4. MasterCard Australia - (02) 9466 3700
5. MasterCard International - 1800 120 113
6. Bankcard Australia - (02) 9281 6633
7. Medicare - 132 011
8. Centrelink Fraud - 137 230
9. Seniors Card - 1300 364 758
10. Passport - 131 232
11. ANZ FREECALL - 1800 033 844
12. Bank West - 131 718
13. Citibank - 132 484
14. Tamworth Coles/Myer Source -2340 1300 306 397
15. Commonwealth - 132 221
16. CUSCAL- MyCard 1300 135 538
17. GE Capital - 1300 369 904
18. Members Equity - 1300 654 998
19. National - 132 265
20. St George - 1800 028 208
21. SydneyVirgin - 2000 1800 080 000
22. Westpac - 1800 230 144
23. Woolworths Ezy Banking - 137 288

Links for cloud enthusiasts

Cloud Appreciation Society
http://cloudappreciationsociety.org/
Contact: Gavin Pretor-Pinney, e-mail
gavin@cloudappreciationsociety.org

Pittwater Online News

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Careel Creek Community Day

As part of a current grant with the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust, Careel Creek Community Day will be held on Saturday 25th March 2012 at Careel Creek Reserve. Activities for all ages will be held and it would be great if you would like to make residents and their families to a fun morning of planting.

When: Sunday 12 February, 8.30am to 12pm
Where: Careel Creek Reserve, Careel Bay Avalon Beach
Bring along any possible spades, trowels or rakes but we will have some available.

The first Lifeline Northern Beaches Book Fair for 2012 will be held on the weekend of **24-26 February** at Ted Blackwood Hall, Cnr

Jacksons and Boondah Roads, Warriewood.

Dates/Times: Fri 24 Feb 2pm – 9pm
Sat 25 Feb 9am – 5pm
Sun 26 Feb 9am – 3pm

Credit Card and EFTPOS facilities available. Pre-to gold coin donation very much appreciated.

Over the weekend we aim over 18,000 quality books sorted into over 50 fiction and non-fiction categories and all at bargain prices.

FREE KIDS DISCO
5.30pm - 9.30pm in the Hall.
Ages 5 - 12 years.
With a 1 - 2 years.

DISCOVERY DAYS
Northern Beaches Council

PITTWATER COUNCIL

Mona Vale Twilight Fair
23rd & 24th February, Mona Vale
Village Park, Mona Vale

Twilight Fair at Mona Vale is back with a new, great line-up of events, music by 2 Hula Classic Rock Band, jumping castle fun for the children and a bumper prize draw. Entertainment starts at 5pm each night and finishes at 9pm. For more information contact Mona Vale Business Chamber on 9979 4144 or visit www.monavalebusiness.com.au/Mona_Vale_Twilight_Fair.htm

Pittwater Ceramics Awards Open

Pittwater Council is hosting to promote a new arts award being coordinated by the Pittwater Ceramics Group. The Pittwater Ceramics Awards will be held in conjunction with the Pittwater Ceramics Group's annual exhibition, which will be held at the Mona Vale Art Gallery from 5 to 15 April 2012. The exhibition will showcase the ceramicists' awards.

Organiser Christine Lovell said the intention of the awards was to reawaken interest in the art and to raise the level of art. To competitors to the call the arts, set a list of rules for the awards.

"It's not just the work that we want to see, it's the ceramic artists themselves. The ceramicists as an art valued into schools and a career option for school leavers. Ceramics is a wonderful medium to work in, it's very therapeutic and very creative," she said.

Each entry should be submitted by 29 February, with items to be delivered to Pittwater Council's Mona Vale Customer Service Centre between 9am and 5pm on Wednesday, between 9 and 10 March, when a panel of judges will select the winning entries for exhibition on 5 March.

Ms Lovell said the judges would be looking for three awards: a grand ceramics-driven creative/sculptural award, a functional award and a ceramic surface design award. Prizes will be awarded for each of the three awards.

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Mona Vale Place and The Centre for the Arts Pittwater are the venues for the awards. Mona Vale Place is at the north of Pittwater in a beautiful bush setting at Mona Vale. The Centre for the Arts Pittwater is a hall which showcases art in Mona Vale.

Poems must be no longer than two A4 pages. The competition for Primary School and High School is restricted to Pittwater LGA only.

Schools can post entries to:
Mona Vale Library
PO Box 277
Mona Vale 2103
Entries must come through NSW Writers' Centre and be received by 5pm on Wednesday 14 March 2012.

The general public section closes on 31st May.
Mona Vale Library
PO Box 277
Mona Vale 2103
Entry Fee $5

More at Pittwater Community Arts: http://www.pittwaterarts.com.au

National Year of Reading Launch
10th February, 10.30am
Mona Vale Library 4 Park Street Mona Vale

Launch of the National Year of Reading with storytelling, activities and a visit from Australia's Children's Laureate Alison Lester. Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea on the lawn.

Alison Lester is an author and illustrator of Alexandra House Paper Book to letting us all about about that boys and girls can be anything they want to be and do anything they want to be and love doesn't.

Alison Lester is an author and illustrator of Alexandra House Paper Book to letting us all about that boys and girls can be anything they want to be and do anything they want to be and love doesn't.

Protect South Bilgola Headland
Sunday 19th February, 10am - 2pm

Help protect and restore the unique bushland on the headland above the Tunnels, grassroots on South Bilgola headland.

Join Bilgola Bushcare Group and Pittwater Council's environmental officers and experienced community and supporting volunteers from Bushcare Groups. **Everyone is welcome and are being undertaken as part of a grant with the** Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided. For more information contact Tim Carter on Pittwater Council Senior on 9970 1111.

Palm Beach Market
19th July 2012, 9am - 3pm
Governor Phillip Park

Come and browse the numerous stalls of Palm Beach Australia. You will find families, jewellery, shoes, food, furniture, hats and lots more.

Palm Beach Market is held on the third Sunday of each month. Sun, May, September, October and the Governor Phillip Park, Palm Beach.

For more information contact Sandra on 0408 488 888.
What's being: Suitable between our Bungo or once). Water bottle, appropriate clothing and footwear, sunscreen, hat and insect repellent.
Bookings essential. Phone www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/community_events
Meeting Point: Meet at the Tunnels, Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach
By Phone: 1300 581 022 (Pittwater Option 1)

Bilgola Creek Community Planting Day

Come and Care Careel Creek with a fun morning planting day where you can help re-established areas of South Bilgola Headland and helping clean up rubbish and debris from the creek. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided.

When: Saturday 17 March, 8am to 12pm
Where: Careel Creek Reserve, Careel Bay Avalon
Bring along any possible spades, trowels or rakes but we will have some available.

Family Fun Day

Part of Creek to Coast – Catchment Management Trust Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust
Whenwarriewong Bay, Mona Vale

Looking for something fun and free to do with the family to be part of? Join us on our Bushcare activities, catchment awareness day, and learn all about what fishes keep our local waterways healthy and clean.

Join the hunt of bush regeneration and planting activities, and learn about the importance of our local waterways. Bring the family and enjoy a free sausage sizzle, live entertainment, workshops with affective and sun-tanned bodies should go the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided. Additionally, to the revolutionary shortbreads. Along the way, sizzling sausages, delicious treats and fun for the whole family. Bring the family and enjoy a free sausage sizzle, live entertainment, workshops with affective and sun-tanned bodies should go the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided. Additionally, to the revolutionary shortbreads. Along the way, sizzling sausages, delicious treats and fun for the whole family.

Surf clip film festival

Surfrider Foundation – Australia
Sydney Chapter – Australia
Northern Beaches – Australia
Manly – Australia
Pittwater – Australia
Warringah – Australia
Avalon – Australia
Newport – Australia
Bilgola – Australia
Palm Beach – Australia
Whale Beach – Australia
Collaroy – Australia
Narrabeen – Australia
Dee Why – Australia
Long Reef – Australia
Curl Curl – Australia
Freshwater – Australia
Queenscliff – Australia
Manly – Australia
Shelly Beach – Australia
Cabarita – Australia
Tweed Heads – Australia
Surfboat Australia

2012 Australian Open of Surfing
Manly Beach. 11-19 February FREE

Seven Surf Life Saving Clubs from Sydney's Northern Beaches will compete against two ACT clubs and one from Victoria in the world's largest open water lifesaving competition. The Australian Open of Surfing is the first of the 2012 Ironman Series. Thanks to our friends at Dominion NSW Ironman Series, the surf lifesaving competition will be held at Manly Beach. The Australian Open of Surfing is the first of the 2012 Ironman Series. Thanks to our friends at Dominion NSW Ironman Series, the surf lifesaving competition will be held at Manly Beach.

Open Studios
Artists' Studio Warringah Freshwater Creative Arts Society - Established 1924

One of the most successful Artists' Societies in Australia. Society has had the only continuous record of member exhibitions and meetings since its establishment. Membership: all Ages

Where: 1 Lawrence Street, Freshwater
Hours: Wednesday 10 March, 9am to 5pm
Corner Harbord Road and Lawrence Street, Sydney

The Surfing Life Saving Association of NSW was founded in the 1920s, this year 75s and shows how a surfs beach kinds as surfboards, surf lifesaving reels, surf skis, and inflatable rescue boats. Surf lifesaving clubs are also associated with affective and sun-tanned bodies should go the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided. Additionally, to the revolutionary shortbreads. Along the way, sizzling sausages, delicious treats and fun for the whole family. Bring the family and enjoy a free sausage sizzle, live entertainment, workshops with affective and sun-tanned bodies should go the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Trust. Bring gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, drinking water and morning tea. Tools will be provided. Additionally, to the revolutionary shortbreads. Along the way, sizzling sausages, delicious treats and fun for the whole family.

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Queenscliff – Australia
Manly – Australia
Shelly Beach – Australia
Cabarita – Australia
Tweed Heads – Australia
Surfboat Australia

Scintillation Historian
Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society

Compiled by Tony Dawson, Editor.

THE NORTH SIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1973 TO1977 PROJECT
The Society's aim was to collect and preserve the history of the North Shore in order to encourage historical research and to foster a sense of community. The Society was and was professional history enthusiasts who have a story to tell, from Pittwater to Mosman, from Manly to Hornsby and beyond. The Society's aim was to collect and preserve the history of the North Shore in order to encourage historical research and to foster a sense of community. The Society was and was professional history enthusiasts who have a story to tell, from Pittwater to Mosman, from Manly to Hornsby and beyond.
The emphasis of entries is expected to be on the history of North Sydney or the North Shore, but articles on the history of Manly, Warringah, Pittwater, Mosman, Lane Cove, Willoughby, Ryde/Hunters Hill, Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai will be welcomed. Any geographical areas is not precluded if there exist strong historical connections with the North Shore and North Sydney.
Articles, which may be up to 5,000 words long and could possibly be published in a series, cover subjects such as people, communities, events, organisations or buildings. Articles should be submitted in electronic form (preferably as a Microsoft Word file) in accordance with the Society's Style Guide. Articles should be submitted to the Editor by 31 December 2012 for publication in the Society's Journal, which is expected to be published in 12 May 2013.
Any enquiries about the scope and content of the Competition, as well as the Society's Style Guide, should be addressed to the Editor, Tony Dawson, by telephone on 9451 2324 or by tonydawson@yahoo.com.au or NSW's History Prize, PO Box 386, North Sydney, NSW 2059, 2059).

Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society Inc.
Established 1924

Patron: The Honorable Dr Dominic Wooton LLD
President: Jan Bayne
Phone: 9949 1045

Secretary (Membership) Mary Devine
Phone: 9982 1242

IT'S FUN, IT'S WILD, IT'S UNFORGETTABLE!
Willow Weaving | Bilbies Down Under
Bilbies Down Under | Bilbies Down Under

Bilbies Down Under is a fun, interactive, hands-on workshop for children aged 5 to 12 years. Bilbies Down Under is a fun, interactive, hands-on workshop for children aged 5 to 12 years.

You can do it! You'll love it and you'll never forget it!

Open Mondays 5-6 May 2012

Slate Library at N30!

Slate Library at N30! Slate Library at N30! Slate Library at N30!

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These are images of the two sides of the plaque marking the 90th Anniversary of the Moscow Art Theatre - the face with the two heads in bas relief and the obverse with the facade of the theatre. Photographs by George Repin. All Rights Reserved

Anton Chekhov: A.P. Chekhov (Yalta, 1904, one of the last photos)

Vladimir Putin beside Yefremov's bier.

Grafoman; from Polish.
1. *N.* a prolific bad writer. 2 *pejorative.* A talentless hack. 3. *Amer.Perj.* a literary wannabe. Polish/Russian word.; a writer., a scribbler.

Tweet Like +1

The Seagull at the Melbourne Festival in 1991

By George Repin

In the years immediately after World War ll when J C Williamsons, the large theatrical entrepreneurs, were presenting local productions of popular American musicals, such as *Annie Get Your Gun*. Lovers of plays in Sydney looked to small amateur theatrical companies such as Bryant's Playhouse, the Metropolitan Theatre, Doris Fitton's Independent Theatre and the New Theatre League to satisfy their interest in live drama.

When outstanding overseas organisations brought their companies to Australia theatre-lovers, having the opportunity to see the excellent performances given by casts of well recognised professional actors, flocked to their shows. In 1948 the Old Vic Theatre Company, sponsored by The British Council, toured Australia and New Zealand with Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. They staged three plays including Shakespeare's *Richard III* in which Olivier's acting was intense, powerful and memorable. The other two plays were *The School for Scandal* and *The Skin of our Teeth*.

Sir Ralph Richardson, Dame Sybil Thorndike, Meriel Forbes and Sir Lewis Casson in July 1955 opened the new Elizabethan Theatre in Newtown with two plays by Terence Rattigan – The *Sleeping Prince* and *Separate Tables*.

Over time, as local professional theatres developed, such visits became less frequent, usually with only one or two 'stars' as draw cards, supplemented by local actors. Occasionally, however, there was an outstanding event sometimes associated with an artistic festival. One such event was the appearance of the Moscow Art Theatre at the Melbourne International Festival in 1991 when Chekhov's play *The Seagull* was presented in Russian with simultaneous translation, to rave reviews.

The Moscow Art Theatre (sometimes called the Chekhov Theatre) was established in 1898 by Stanislavsky (renowned for his new approach to acting technique based on the principle of "psychological realism") and Nemirovich Danchenko. *The Seagull*, as the theatre's first successful production in 1898 has a close sentimental association with the theatre whose emblem includes a representation of a seagull. To celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 1988 a commemorative plaque was struck showing on the face Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko in bas relief with the theatre's seagull logo, and on the obverse the façade of the theatre.

The Melbourne production of *The Seagull* was by Oleg Yefremov, the Chief Director of the theatre since 1970, in his second version that premiered in June 1980. Yefremov was born in 1927 and at the time of the Melbourne production was President of the International Stanislavsky Centre, a People's Deputy of the Soviet Union (representing actors`), artistic director of the theatre and himself a renowned actor having appeared in more than 100 roles on stage and screen. He won the Melbourne International Festival's Golden Pegasus Award for his production. The following extracts from the SMH (18/09/91) give some indication of how the play was received:
"… a profound testament to Stanislvasky and his theatrical principles, and to Chekhov's delicate integration of art and life on stage";
"… Through scrims of transparent, dreamlike curtains, which lift and fall like ripples across a lake – Nina's lake, the seagull's lake – Chekhov's vital, sad, lost people go about their lives, their faces dappled by the light and shade of the natural world around them";
"… The acting from this ensemble is hardly noticeable, so superbly performed, so seamlessly integrated is it into the life of the play. Here is a production which reveals that the dichotomy between art and life is unnecessary, that each informs the other and is vital to it, whose ultimate revelation is the human spirit".

Oleg Yefremov in Grafoman movie, still photo from film, 1983

Yefremov died in 2000. Vladimir Putin, at that time President of the Russian Federation, paid his respects at Yefremov's bier. He is buried in a cemetery attached to the Novodevichy Convent in Moscow the last resting place of many distinguished Russians. Within a few metres of his grave are those of Chekhov, Stanislavsky and Nemirovich–Danchenko. Among the many other graves in the cemetery are those of Nikita Kruschev (buried here and not in the Kremlin walls because he was not in office when he died), the aircraft designer Ilyushin and the composers, Shostakovich and Prokofiev.

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Akubra Hats

We may not have needed these as much this summer as in summers past, but an iconic Australian hat, the Akubra, a name said to be from an aboriginal word meaning 'head covering' is essential equipment when outdoors and has become, through its 130 year legacy, incorporated into our culture to the point where some designs hold a proud place in many a collector's corner.

The original hat-making factory, was not called Akubra and founded in the early 1870s by Benjamin Dunkerley. A recent immigrant to Australia, Dunkerley set up shop in Tasmania after inventing a machine that removed the hair tip from rabbit fur, leaving the softer under-fur for use in the making of felt hats.

Dunkerley and his family later relocated to Sydney in the early 1900's and set up a small factory in Crown Street Darlinghurst. IN 1904 where he hired a young man named Stephen Keir. While working for Dunkerley Hat Mills, Keir married Ada Dunkerley, Benjamin's daughter. After Benjamin Dunkerley's death in 1925, Stephen Keir took over the reins of the company, moving to a larger premises and adopting Akubra as a brand name. The trade name "Akubra" came into use in 1912 which makes the Akubra brand name one hundred years young this year.
Akubra is famous for providing many of the Slouch hats used by Australian forces in both World War One and Two with 80% of their production during WWII being for the famous slouch hat. In the 1950s, the Akubra Company expanded its range when it won the licence to produce Stetson hats in Australia. They also supplied hats to all athletes at the 1956 Games held in Melbourne and were part of the uniform for the Australian team at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic games and were worn at the Opening Ceremony of the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul, Korea, part of uniform at 1992 Games in Spain and 2000 Games in Sydney.

By the 1970s, the business relocated from Sydney to larger premises in Kempsey, on the north coast of New South Wales. In 1991 they became one of the first major sponsors of Women's Surfing in Australia by signing an agreement with then No 1., Australian Pam Burridge. Worn by bushmen as recognizable as Slim Dusty, and even younger bush balladeers alike Lee Kernaghan, who had his own signature brand of the Akubra 'the OutbackClub' launched in 1996, this hat is still being made and the Akubra Hat makers, are still a family run company whose current owners are the great, great-grandchildren of Benjamin Dunkerley.

Over 100 different styles, various colours and brim widths are produced in the Akubra hat range. The ones shown here, a standard and one from The Heritage Collection, this one dubbed 'Banjo Paterson' and named for the Bush Poet of The Man from Snow River, is one of four in this collection, the others being Lawson, Flinders, Burke and Wills who were all explorers and in different colours. These were release in 2008.

Also of interest, to hat collectors, is this 'bucket hat' (?) brought home to Oz from Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada, over 30 years ago. In 1962, Jay Sarno, a cabana motel owner, used US$35 million that had been lent to him by the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund to begin plans for a hotel on land owned by Kirk Kerkorian. Sarno would later act as designer of the hotel he planned to construct. Building of the 14-story Caesars Palace hotel began in 1962. That first tower would have 680 rooms on the 34 acre (138,000 m2) site. On December 31, 1967, Evel Knievel unsuccessfully tried to jump 141 feet (43 m) over the hotel's water fountain with his motorcycle. In 1989, Robbie Knievel successfully completed what his father could not do years before by completing the fountain jump. In 1969, a Federal Organized Crime Task Force accused the casino's financial manager, Jerome Zarowitz, of having ties with organized-crime figures in New York and New England. Although Zarowitz was never tried, the task force pressured Jay Sarno and his other investors to sell the casino. In 1969, Stuart and Clifford S. Perlman, founders of the Lum's chain of restaurants, purchased the hotel for $60 million. On July 15 of that year, executives lay ground on an expansion area of the hotel, and they buried a time capsule in the area, but the time capsule was stolen days later.

In 1973, the Del Webb corporation was contracted to build a 16-story building adjacent to the Palace. The project was finished in 1975. Many top performers, such as Pilita Corrales, Rod Stewart, Celine Dion, Cher, Bette Midler, Liberace, Elton John, George Burns, Pat Cooper, Diana Ross, Paul Anka and Odia Coates, Julio Iglesias, Judy Garland, David Copperfield, Stevie Nicks, Gloria Estefan, Phyllis Diller, Luis Miguel, Frank Sinatra, Jerry Seinfeld, Eric Tsang and Mariah Carey have performed at the hotel.

People collect these hats and caps from Caesar's Palace, some associated simply with the luxury hotel itself and others that have been made for special Events run by the Hotel such as tennis and golf events.

Further:

Akubra website: http://www.akubra.com.au/