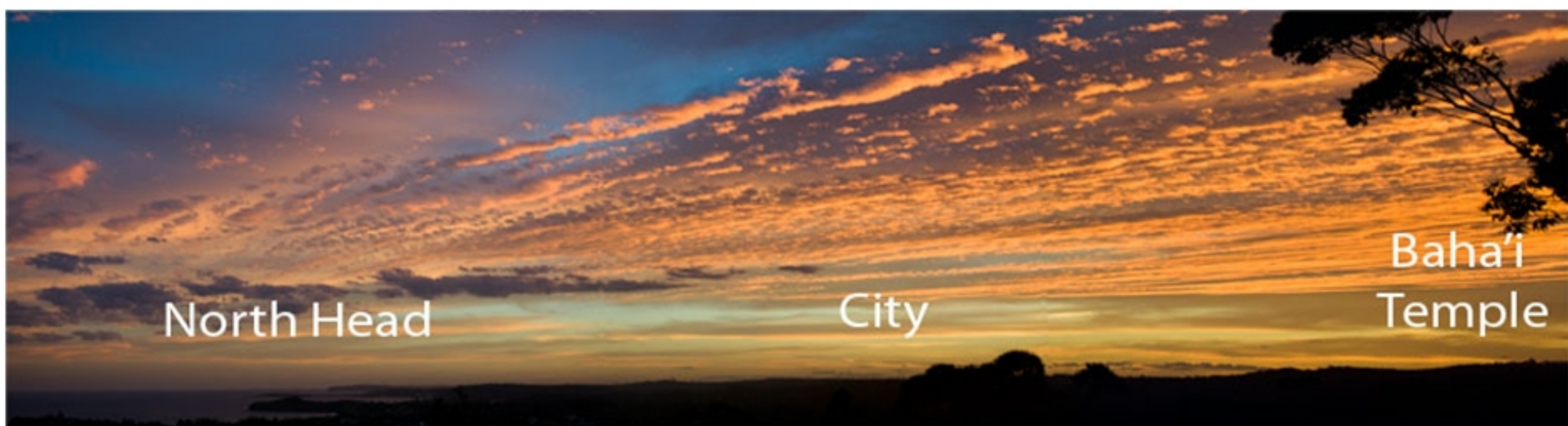


# Pittwater Online News

[Front Page](#) [Contents](#) [Park Bench Philosophers](#) [Profile of the Week](#) [History](#) [Youth](#) [Seniors](#) [Environment](#) [Food](#) [Lynda Hill](#)  
[Community News](#) [Pictures](#) [News From our Inbox](#) [Books](#) [Events](#) [Artist of the Month](#) [Reflections](#) [Collector's Corner](#) [DIY Hints](#)  
[About us](#) [Contact us](#)

**January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41**



Tuesday's (10.1.2012) sunset was glorious and had everyone outside or standing near a window saying "Wow!". Pittwater Online's own Michael Mannington took the above great panoramic photograph at 8.16pm.

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## Quotes For the Week

*"When I admire the wonder of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in worship of the Creator"*

[Mahatma Gandhi](#)

1869 -1948

*"Sunsets are so beautiful that they almost seem as if we were looking through the gates of Heaven."*

[John Lubbock](#)

English Biologist and Politician, 1834-1913

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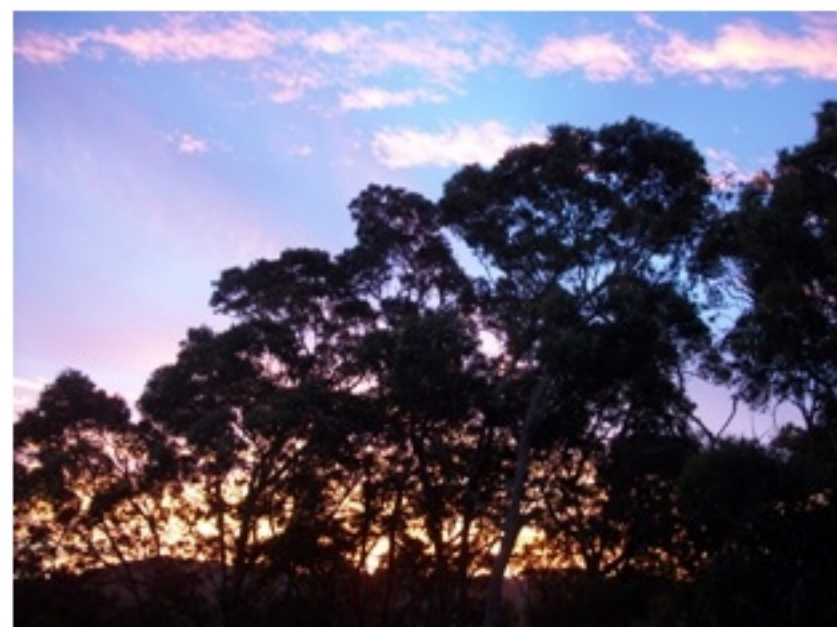
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[Past Features](#)

[Archives](#)



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# Pittwater Online News

Front Page   **Contents**   Park Bench Philosophers   Profile of the Week   History   Youth   Seniors   Environment   Food   Lynda Hill  
Community News   Pictures   News From our Inbox   Books   Events   Artist of the Month   Reflections   Collector's Corner   DIY Hints  
Past Features

**January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41**

## This Weeks Articles

[Tuesday's Glorious Sunset \(@ 20.16pm\)](#) by Michael Mannington

[Karraba or Kurraba Point: Ferry Story I](#)

[Ah Me-The Beauties Of Nature!](#) By JUDY TUDOR **January 13, 1945**

[Fledglings of Summer - January 2012](#)



**Profile:** January 2012 is a Pittwater Summer Mix; Geoff Clarke, Master Mariner and photographer of dawns in his retirement

## 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](#)



**History:** January, Summer 2012, Events; **Filmed in Pittwater.**

## Previous History Pages:

[Marie Byles](#) [Lucy Gullett](#) [Kookoomgilgai](#) [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](#)



**Park Bench Philosopher:** Watchtower Headlands; Salt draws other shards of rainbows out of coastal air. During summer...



**Food:** Mum's Irish Whiskey or Brandy Bread Pudding with Brandy Sauce: keep the southerly chills of Summer at bay. Deluxe versions use leftover Christmas panettone or brioche.



**Books:** Summer Reading; something old, something new, something borrowed, something about the blues.. sea, sky and music.

**Old Books: January;** By River and by Sea: An Australian Story (1888)  
The seashore book : Bob and Betty's summer with Captain Hawes (c1912)



**Events:** Australia Day 2012, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Activities, Owls at Gone Fishing Gallery, Eco Bird Walk for Wetland Day, Laughter from the Elanora Players, Anti-Bullying Skills for 6-12 year olds, New Beginnings Festival, Talent Workshops, Canning Track Art, Artspace 2012, Ocean Swims, Summerama, History Competition, Council Events and School Holiday Fun and more.



**Community News:** John Ogden's Author Talk at Avalon 12.1.2012, Rising Tide Ladies, Council Keeping the Park Healthy, Dr Rip, Avpals, Great Archive footage of Newport-Bilgola from the 1950's, Media Releases from Federal Govt. and more



**Environment:** Summer Creature Features (**Swamp and Grasslands**), Coastal Ambassadors 2013 applications open, **WetlandCare Australia Photo and Art Competition**, **Cocee Newsletter for Dec.**, Seed Bank with full Index of all Australian plants Facts Sheets and more.



**Lynda Hill: Update 9.1.12:** Something Old Something New Something Borrowed  
Something Blue: January's Cancer Full Moon



**Pictures: Avalon Dawns;** Profile of the Week, Geoff Clarke shares some of his great photographs



**Youth:** Hans Christian Anderson and **Summer Fun I, II and III**, National Year of Reading 2012: For teens; Creative Reading Prize, BACK TO SCHOOL AND BULLYPROOF! with Hoshin Jujutsu Australia, Pittwater Council's School Holiday fun, Links for local websites for, about and by Youth.



**Seniors:** The **NEW** Alphabet (a Smile from the Grey Army Email Files), To An Old Mate by Henry Lawson - Australian Poet, link to Seniors Online Newspaper and Information regarding local Health and Education Activities.



**Community Clubs:** Updates on Activities and links to sites.



**Artist of the Month: January 2012:** Annette 'Nettie' Lodge; Artist of brilliant Summer colours



**Reflections** by George Repin. **This week; How Far From Sydney?**



**DIY Hints: DIY Oasis**



**Collector's Corner:** New Era Rope Making Machine manufactured by A D Long 1911 and the Australian Metters version of 1928



**News From our Inbox: Summertime Exhales:** Morning Glory - kind of clouds observed in the Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Australia, And Then... Maureen O'Hara Week, the Bridport Prize; enter your short story or poem to win, Internet Updates.

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# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

## Kurraba Point Ferry Story I



Recently we were lucky to spend some hours at Kurraba Point during what may be the quietest hours on Sydney Harbour, Christmas Day's long slow afternoon lilt to sunset. The lovely old sandstone and weatherboard house we were guests in was perched above Kurraba Point Wharf. Surprisingly a lot of ferries were spotted plying their trade and showing how each bay in our harbour, and even opposite sides of just one bay, maintain a water world linked by these craft. Sydney has a true Venice aspect when viewed from these 'trails'.

Pittwater has a similar wide thread and threads to its nature. Our many offshore bays, beaches and Scotland Island are linked by Church Point and Palm Beach Ferry Services and those who are ferry masters. During the next few weeks, as part of our Summer Celebrations of everything Pittwaterian, we will bring you a few of these and even a little about the wharves they land you on.

'Karraba' or 'Kurraba' is of Aboriginal derivation and may mean 'good fishing spot or place'. In 1788, when the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove in 1788, the North Shore of Sydney was inhabited by two Aboriginal Clans, the Cammeragal and Wallumedegal. These peoples were both part of the larger Kuringgai Tribe.

*"... About the north-west part of this harbour there is a tribe which is mentioned as being very powerful, either from their numbers or the abilities of their chief. This district is called Cammerra, the head of the tribe is named Cammeragal, by which name the men of that tribe are distinguished ...  
... the opposite shore is called Wallumetta, and the tribe, Wallumedegal ..."*

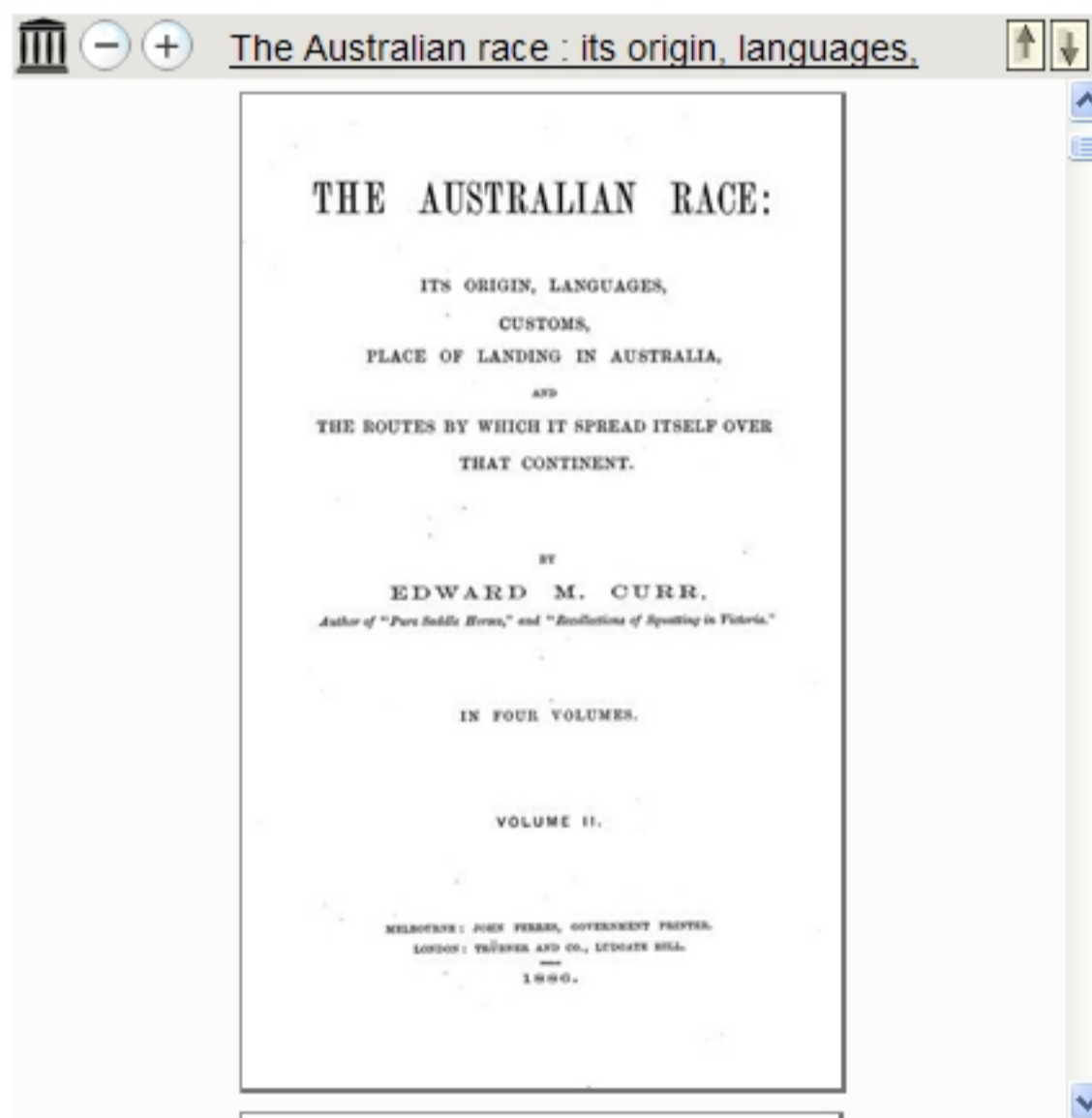
**From a 1790 dispatch of Governor Phillip's.**

Kurraba Point is on the north side of the harbour between Neutral Bay and Shell Cove. Originally 700 acres of land was given to an Alfred Thrupp by Captain John Piper in 1816 as a wedding gift. The area formed part of what was called Thrupp's Farm and the point was called 'Thrupp's Point' and also known as Ballast Point.

In 1860 an attempt to begin a ferry service failed due to the lack of people requiring it and no established wharf. By 1880 one had been established and after 1900 a wharf was built around where the private wharf of The Monastery (name of house) was. In 1909 the Hayes street Kurraba Point wharf was built. It is interesting to note that Sydney, during the 1920's, had the largest ferry fleet and service in the world.

### The Australian race : its origin, languages, customs, place of landing in Australia and the routes by which it spread itself over the continent (1886)

Author: Curr, Edward Mickelthwait, 1820-1889, Subject: Ethnology, Publisher: Melbourne : J. Ferres



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Above: Seriously fat kookaburra who lingered over our BBQ

### Further

Inner Harbour and Kurraba Point Ferries:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner\\_Harbour\\_ferry\\_services,\\_Sydney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Harbour_ferry_services,_Sydney)

Present name: Kurraba Point  
Aboriginal name: Kurrá bá, Kurrábá  
Historical name/description: Point West of Robertsons Point

Present name: Kurraba Point western side  
Aboriginal name: Wurru-birri  
Historical name/description: McLarens Store

Both from;  
<http://darugweavers.tripod.com/ourblackandwhitefamily/id37.html>

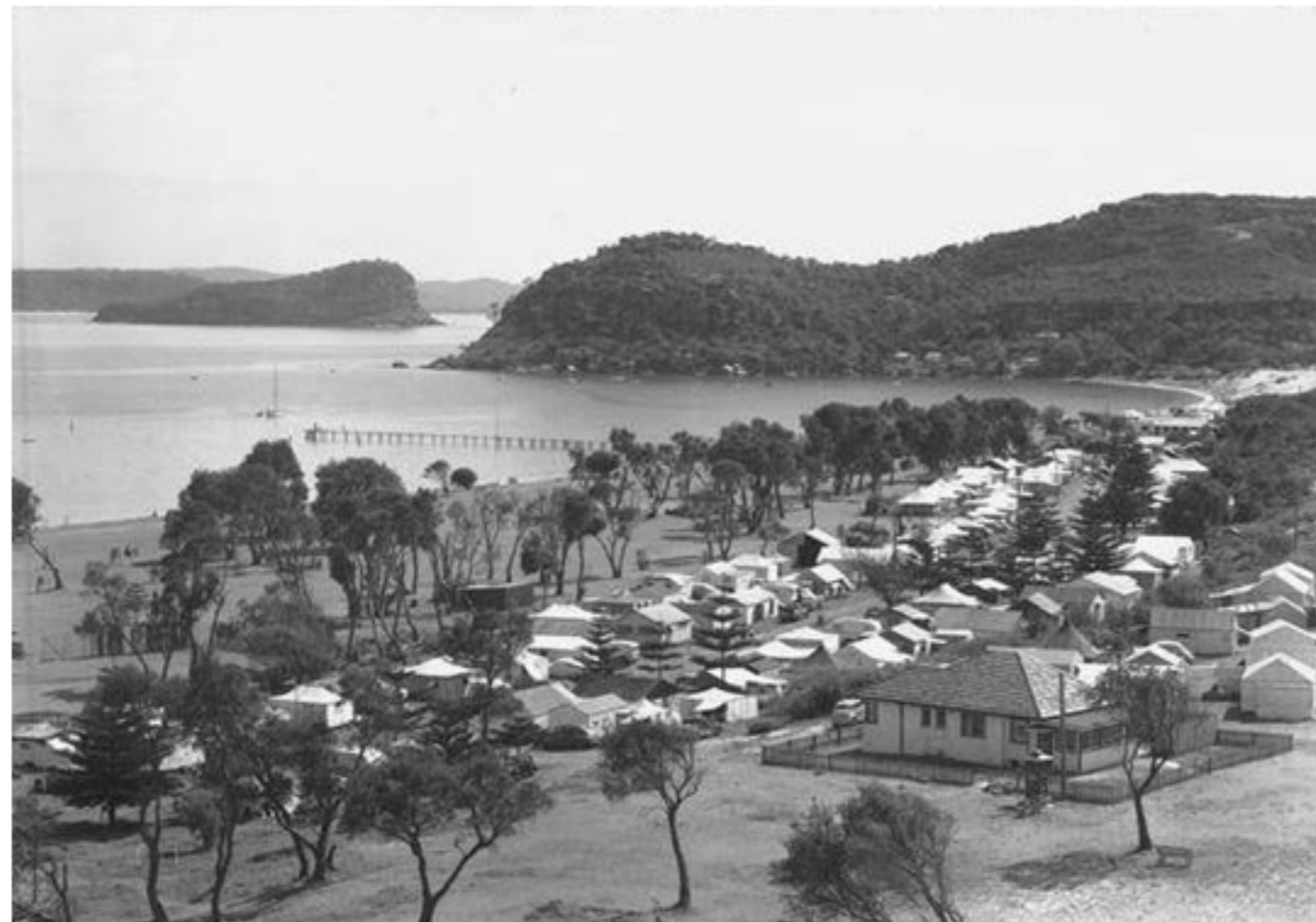
Kirribilli Point – derived from Kiarabilli Kurraba 'good fishing spot' from: <http://www.historyofaboriginalsydney.edu.au/north-coastal/glossary>



# Pittwater Online News

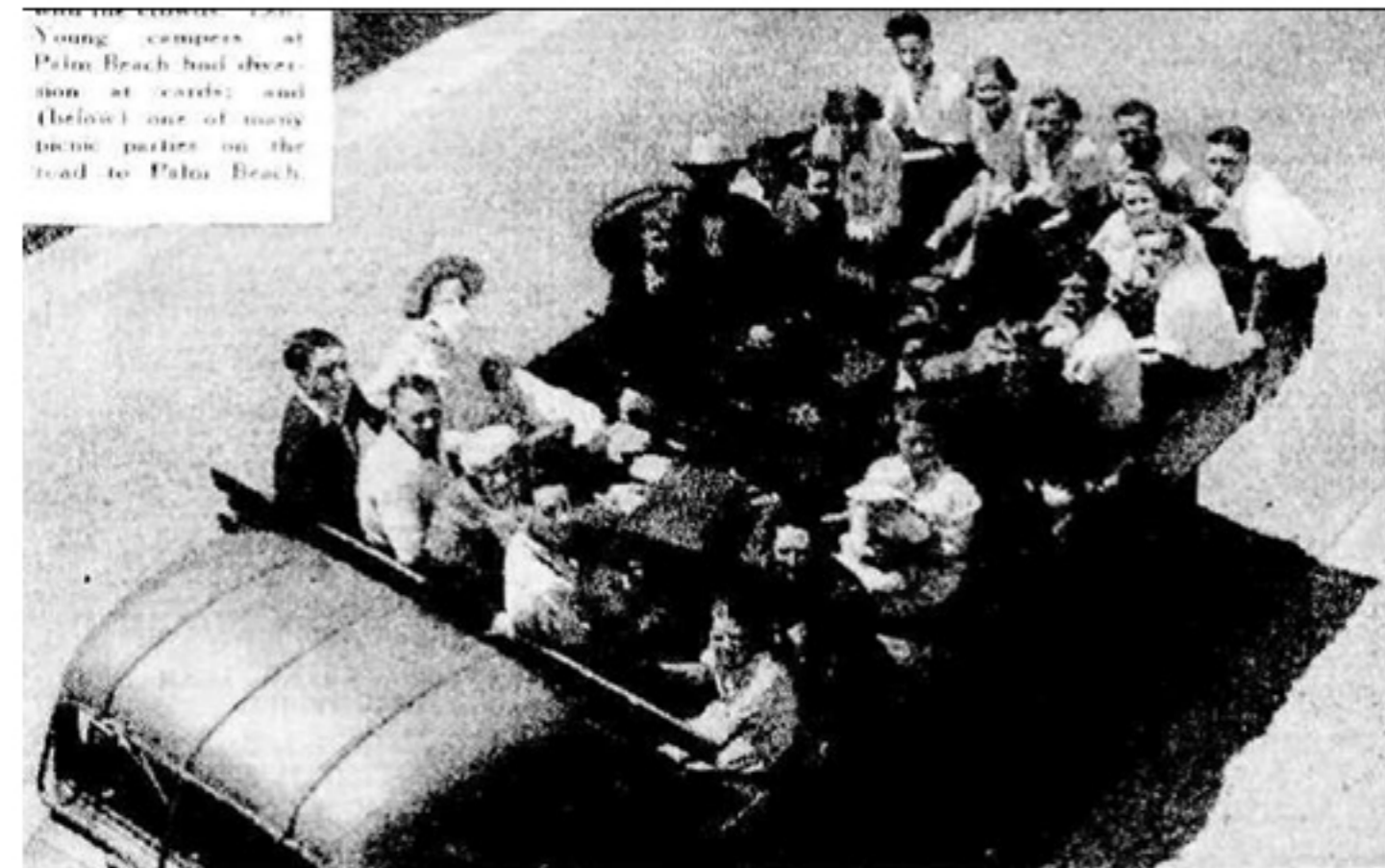
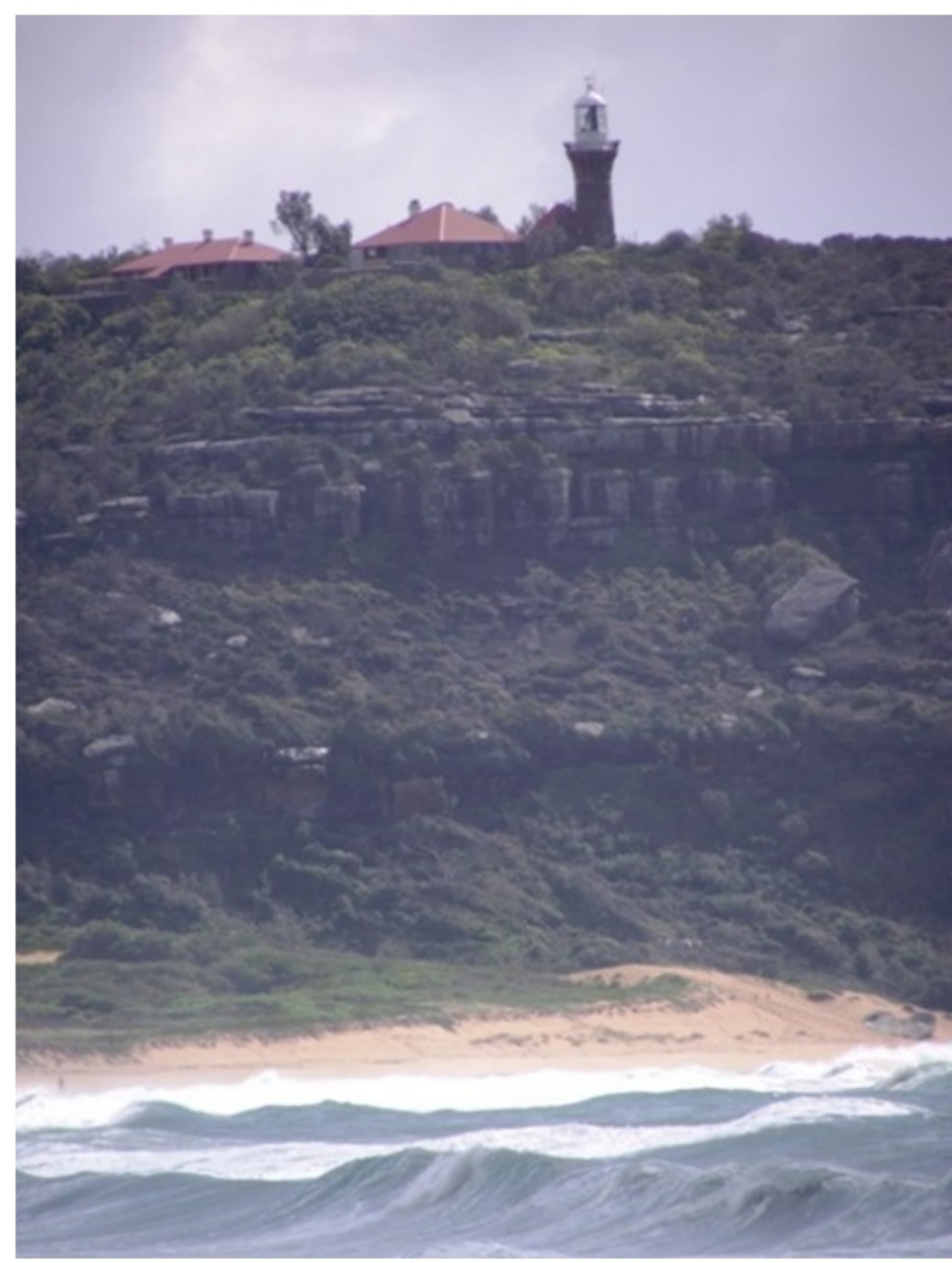
[Front Page](#)
[Contents](#)
[Park Bench Philosophers](#)
[Profile of the Week](#)
[History](#)
[Youth](#)
[Seniors](#)
[Environment](#)
[Food](#)
[Lynda Hill](#)  
[Community News](#)
[Pictures](#)
[News From our Inbox](#)
[Books](#)
[Events](#)
[Artist of the Month](#)
[Reflections](#)
[Collector's Corner](#)
[DIY Hints](#)

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41



Above: Palm Beach camping reserve [Sydney] between 1910 and 1962. nla.pic-an23125315 by Frank Hurley, 1885-1962.

Below: Close Up of Barrenjoey (Palm Beach) lighthouse 2011.



Young campers at Palm Beach had their own set of tents, and their own set of cooking pots on the road to Palm Beach.



Above: Palm Beach, Government Printing Office 1 - 36503, No. d1\_36503 Courtesy State Library of NSW, Date of Work: 12/1946

## RECORD CROWDS. BEACHES THROGGED.

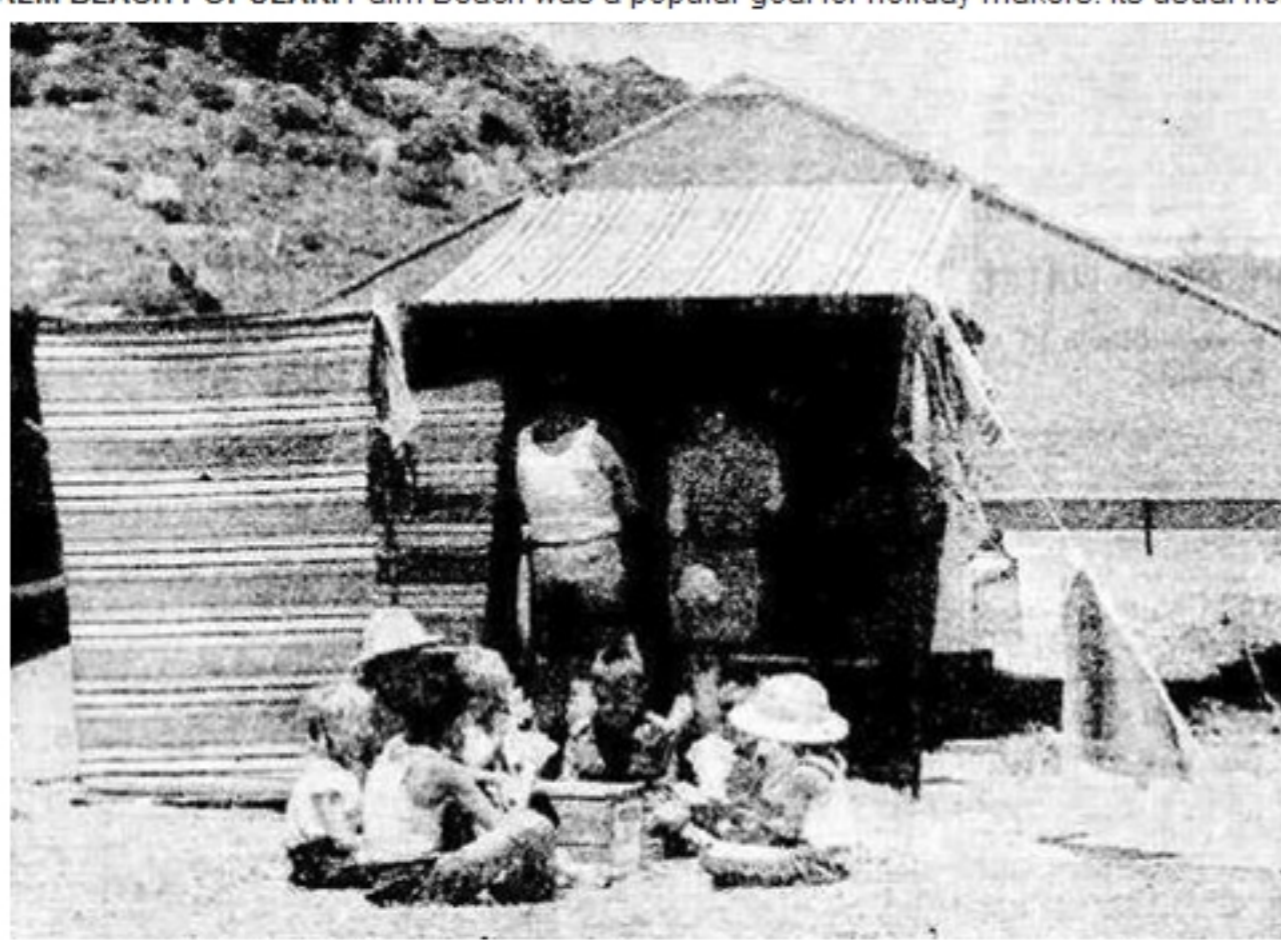
### Trunks Generally Favoured by Bathers.

More than 100,000 people visited Sydney beaches yesterday. Five out of every six men bathed in trunks, in spite of regulations, and thousands of people travelled from their homes, on buses and trams, in shorts or playsuits over bathers, and dispensed with dressing sheds. Figures for all beaches, based on turnstile figures at Coogee, Bondi, and Manly, where attendances reached record figures, were as follows: Bondi, 30,000 Manly, 27,000 Coogee, 15,300 Bronte, 9,000 Clovelly, 8,000 Nielsen Park, 12,000 Balmoral, 9,000 Maroubra, 6,000 Palm Beach, 4,000 Newport, 4,000 Dee Why, 4,000 Collaroy, 5,000. From the point of view of styles in beach wear and beach customs, the day set a new standard in modernity.

### 30 MILE SPEED LIMIT.

The 30 mile an hour speed limit did not apparently inconvenience the traffic to and from the beaches. Motorists in general seemed to be travelling at the usual pace. Clear skies and a fresh breeze early in the morning roused people from their beds, eager to get down to the beaches before the weather changed. Most of the beaches close to the city were crowded early in the morning. By 11 a.m. a steady stream of traffic was beginning to move out to the farther beaches.

**PALM BEACH POPULAR.** Palm Beach was a popular goal for holiday-makers. Its usual holiday population of house parties was amplified this Christmas by an even larger colony of trailers and camping motorists. Every site on the camping reserve was occupied. Some of the trailers and caravans were of remarkable design.



The scene, with the surrounding green country, the rich coloured sand, the gay parties of sunburnt people in bright swimming costumes under rainbow sunshades, and the background of white and blue surf, was like something out of a well-produced revue. Here, one felt, the holiday was more than a chance to lie in the sun and swim in the surf. It was a fashion parade as well, and it was Sydney's first massed gala parade in the world's most modern costumes.

### ROLLICKING SURF.

By midday a brisk breeze had worked up a rollicking surf all along the coast. Rubber floats were at a premium. All the morning at Palm Beach, Newport, Avalon, and Dee Why, a steady stream of traffic kept bringing more surfers. They arrived in every form of conveyance; there was even an odd sully here and there on the road. There were several open lorries, their rattling boards populated by families out to have a good time at any price. There were cyclists by the hundred. Motor cycles flashed through the traffic with girls in shorts bouncing on the pillions. There were cars that could hardly crawl up the hills filled to capacity with family parties and everybody's luggage strung on the back. There were sleek, high-powered cars dashing in subversive spurts of 60 miles an hour through the 30-mile speed limit areas.

**RECORD CROWDS. (1937, December 27).** The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 7, and p. 10 photographs. (Titles: Young Campers at Palm Beach had diversion at cards and Above: one of many picnic parties on the road to Palm Beach) Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17439253>

Below: same Palm Beach reserve area in grandparent to dusk.



## Ah Me-The Beauties Of Nature!

By JUDY TUDOR

BETWEEN the ropes of the tent peeked the blue Pacific, and an olden, sandy crescent of perfect beach. Giant combers broke offshore in swirls of turquoise shot-silk and lacy frills. A white yacht tipped her sails to the nor'easter; a smudge of freighter smoke roke the long line of horizon. To the left, old Barrenjoey—a solid bulk of brown-green-black, a broth of breaking sea at her feet, and the ygy figures of the rock-fishermen already at work. Across the thmus, Pittwater shone like a blue jewel in a setting of green hills. Over all, the morning sun shed a bland munificence.

he time-sometime between Christmas and New Year: the place—alm Beach camping reserve; the spot, the water queue, which in order of the day's chores came after the bread and milk queues. Just like home," said one woman.

EVERAL months ago, I, with the help of a car, a month's ration of petrol, and several friends, hauled a war-stranded caravan onto the sandy Isthmus at Palm Beach; it made a good week-ender. Down below was the regular camping area, grass grown, level, sheltered, and populous with permanent week-end campers. Like the Garbo, but for slightly different reasons, I wanted to be alone in my contemplation of nature, and took all the howling winds that blew, all the salt-sea spray of the sandy dune-strip rather than that regular camp. From the caravan windows: fore, was the, limitless Pacific, the blue Pittwater. A kindly belt of scrub screened the campers from elow, and although civilisation was just over the brow, there was sufficient of splendid Isolation to please anyone who had an unholy desire to get Pitt Street out of the lungs and fellow humans out of the air at regular intervals.

hat was in October. In November, they (meaning some authority, municipal, shire, or governmental), came with a tractor and went to work. The carefully nurtured marun grass and other sand-growing shrubs were wrenched ruthlessly from the sandhills they helped bind together; the tips of the dunes were scraped down into approximate levelness; and hundreds of brand-new numbered pegs were driven at intervals of a few feet into the now loose, shifting sand. The scene was set for them to earn ten shillings per campsite per week from Christmas campers. (Or any camper between December and Easter, 3/ at other seasons.)

Y Christmas Eve, the once deserted dune-strip, with its car-width, of solid road, was covered thicker than a rash with everything in the way of canvas, and here and there a caravan was pushed adventurously on to semi-solid pockets in the loose sand. Tent ropes interlaced; and should the baby howl, papa snore or mama cough, then six neighbours close-packed around were intimately aware of it. Family altercations were heard ten tents distance. The tap water tap was almost within the portals of one tent; a portable washstand, festooned with tooth-brushes and pieces of soap, had to be negotiated before you could draw water. In and about this mushroom canvas-town, hundreds of people, in the sacred cause of holiday, had their temporary being. The fastidious might call it qualor, but the hardy spirits apparently called it fun.

ome campers came in huge lorries and brought literally everything on incredibly ancient grandparents to ice chests, carpets to lay on the sand, electric lighting outfits, wooden bedsteads, wardrobes, radios, and the kitchen stove. Some did it the hard way, with no more equipment than could be packed into a swag, candles for illumination, and a square of canvas to crawl beneath.

he men fished, swam, tightened tent ropes, and employed themselves in male fashion; the children—well it was "nice for the ds"; but the women toiled interminably, cooking food over open fires, stifled by smoke, harried by wind. They washed babies and baby clothes; minded children, shrieked at children, stood in long patient lines for essential services, and probably spent a great deal of time wondering why in the name of Christmas they had left their suburban dwellings with gas, electricity, and fences to keep the youngsters nicely corralled, for, that wilderness of discomfort, vermuch fresh air, sand, and wind without end, which, far from embracing the beauties of nature, provided about as much privacy as camping in Martin Place; and where all the personal bodily inflections of one's, fellows are forced upon one in a manner no illage of primitive natives would suffer for a moment.

UCH a life is guaranteed to stamp from anyone with a millionth rain of individualism, all desire to lead a life communal. Strange gures loom up in doorways—your doorway. Or they stalk majestically out of the bushes, you might reasonably regard as your private property. You wait in Queues at the tap (for water), at the shop (for milk, bread, groceries), and at the showers. Australians whom I thought would never come at it have been brow-beaten by war into ueue mindedness.' So much so that they even accept a holiday on the queue plan with equanimity.

ut camping en masse sharpens your sense of humour—or else, without that God-given gift of being able to see the amusing, life is st too terribly tough. Walking into your neighbour's pile of fish scales with your bare feet is apt to send you into a fit of fury; the man ho (you feel) has deliberately blocked your means of exit with his vo-ton truck and with whom you have already exchanged some pleasant remarks, turns from being just a suburban carter in festive mood to a devil incarnate whom it would be pleasant to brain with the tomahawk. The fat woman some tents down, with the hairy legs, who insists upon wedging herself into a fiery-red sun-suit, becomes a personal affront. Worst of all you realise that the joke is n you, and that your desire to get away from it all for the Christmas reak, has landed you in the same l company you have been eeping in the Bondi bus or Manly ferry for the other 51 weeks of the ear. It is a shattering thought. There is no health in it.

it's the working man's only chance of a holiday." said the outsize philosopher to whom I remarked that life in a lonely desert might be in. "Thems that don't like it, done 'atta come."

ue, brother, true. But I still have to have more proof than that, that the Australian spirit has shrunk as small it is accommodated from noice in a ten foot square of camping area, magnanimously allowed it by any local authority. Sandwiched between the interests ho boost all habitable seaside land in Australia to ridiculous gures quite beyond the reach of the man who earns a modest living nd supports' a family; and the minority-maneuvred opinion of the o-called masses who regard any desire to be different as rank heresy, my philosopher was probably right in that the working man as little choice. But that the Australian on his day off or on his holiday can be happy, proves not so much that he is pleased with hat is available as that he has a soul that can soar above his environment.

h Me—The Beauties Of Nature! (1945, January 13). The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), p. 8. Retrieved from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27926248>

# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

## Fledglings of Summer January 2012

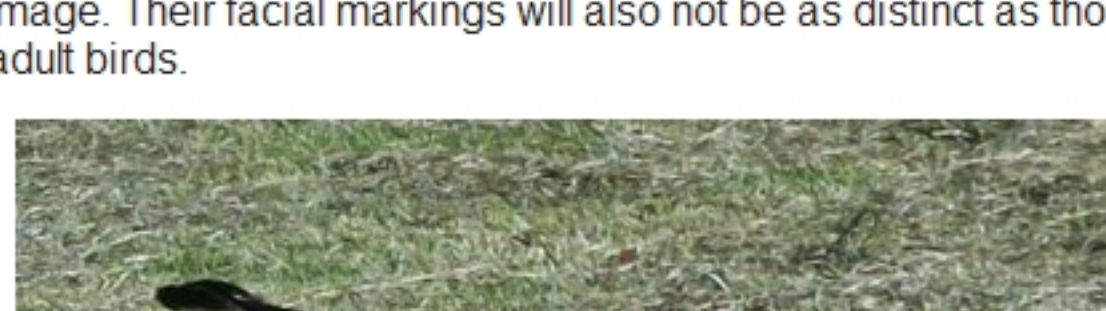
Fledgling; Fledge is the stage in a young bird's life when the feathers and wing muscles are sufficiently developed for flight. It also describes the act of a chick's parents raising it to a fully grown state. A young bird that has recently fledged but is still dependent upon parental care and feeding is called a fledgling. In ornithology, the meaning of fledgling varies, depending on species. Birds are sometimes considered fledged once they leave the nest, even if they still cannot fly. Some definitions of fledge take it to mean the independence of the chick from the adults. From: Fledge. (2011, December 11). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fledge&oldid=465262436>

During this week the full cycle of one year in the bird world has been witnessed. The Australian Blue Crane, (also called the White Faced Heron, *Egretta novaehollandiae*) who was seen in Careel Bay creek for the past two years, and lived there during much of our Winter, and then was seen with a mate, showing this favourite fishing ground in Spring, then spotted in Careel Bay with six other birds in late Spring, some of them quite obviously very young, has now brought two children to the tidal rush in Careel Creek. Again for the fishing.

The one shown here was on the opposite bank from the path's wend and more interested in spotting the fish then having its photograph taken. On Wednesday it and one of its siblings were making their way down the creek as the waters emptied after high tide. They flew up into a eucalypt on approach. On Thursday it gave a 'you again' look and went on with its fishing.

Also seen this week are fledglings of the Galah (also known as the rose breasted cockatoo; *Eolophus roseicapilla*), Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*) and Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) worlds, all shedding their 'baby feathers'. Some are still with mum and dad, squawking quite loudly for food if part of the parrot world, others follow them across the green fields of Pittwater or through our banks of trees, learning how to feed themselves, if juvenile magpies, currawongs or kookaburras.

The Cranes in Careel Creek and a lone young or first year Australian Pelican on Careel Bay itself, also fishing at high tide, seem to be the sole juvenile avian out on their own. Juvenile birds can be spotted by the colours of their feathers, usually a little more speckled, with brown tinges or appear more dirty than the pure white they may become if an Ibis, or more mottled over the back as seen in young Magpies. They may also have the smaller downy feathers that protected them in the nest poking out from their plumage. Their facial markings will also not be as distinct as those of adult birds.



Also seen; Willy Wagtails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) stalking, stirring up and rising to air in quick fits while feeding on insects in the recently mowed parts of the ovals at Careel Bay.

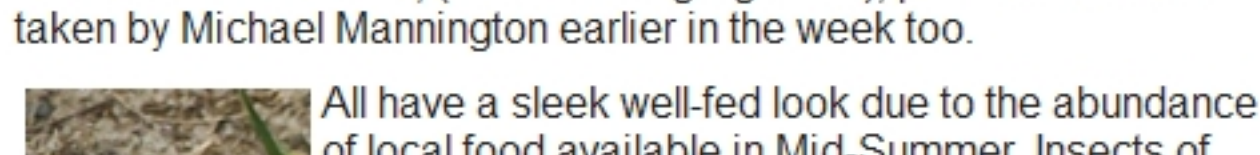


A single Spotted Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) was also seen idling in the morning sun on Friday.



This Pied Butcherbird, (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), photo to left was taken by Michael Mannington earlier in the week too.

All have a sleek well-fed look due to the abundance of local food available in Mid-Summer. Insects of every kind, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, wasps and plain old black flies are everywhere. Many of the local flowering plants have shed their petals and producing nuts and fruits.



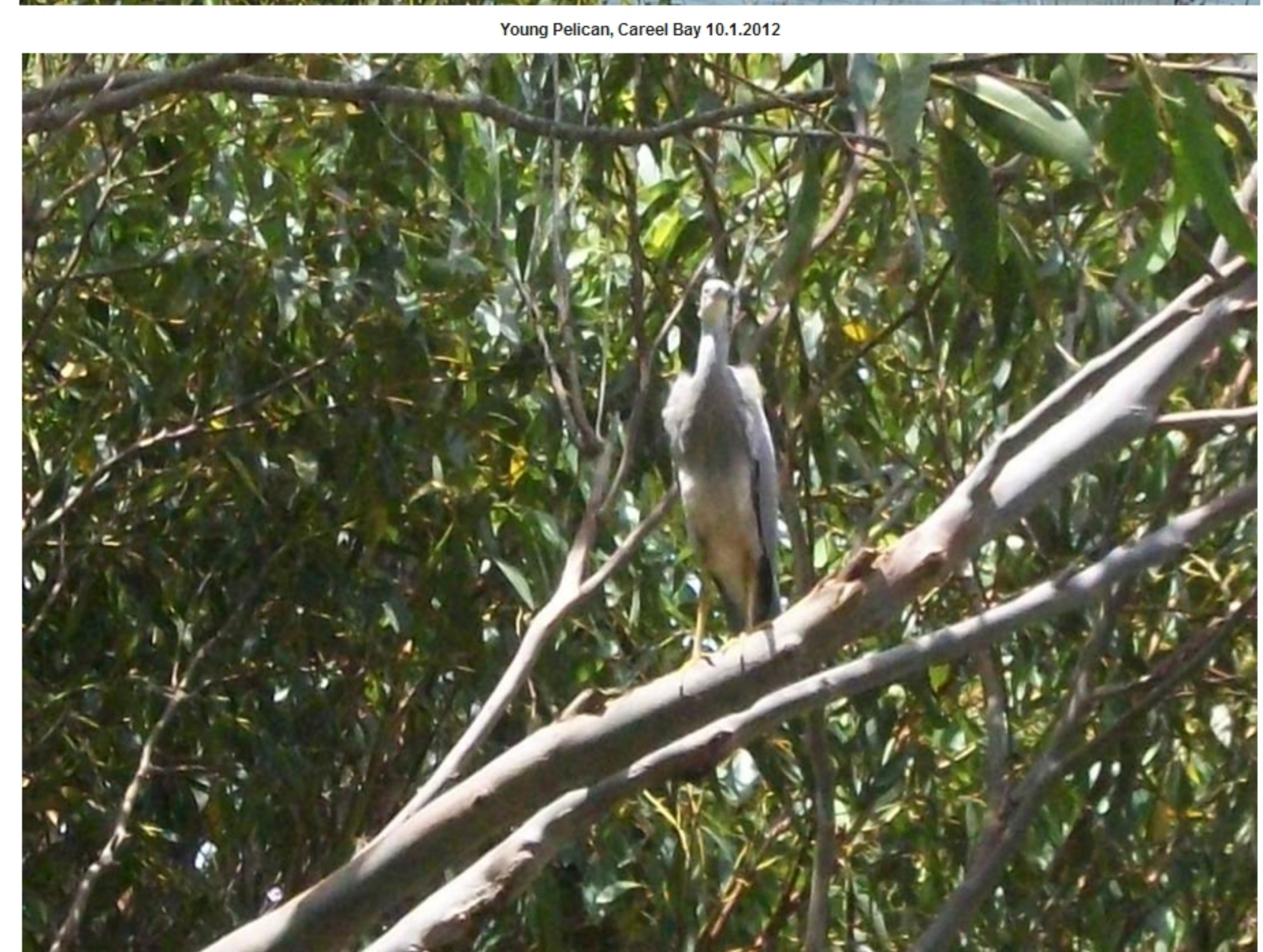
Great source website for identifying birds: <http://birdsinyard.net/>



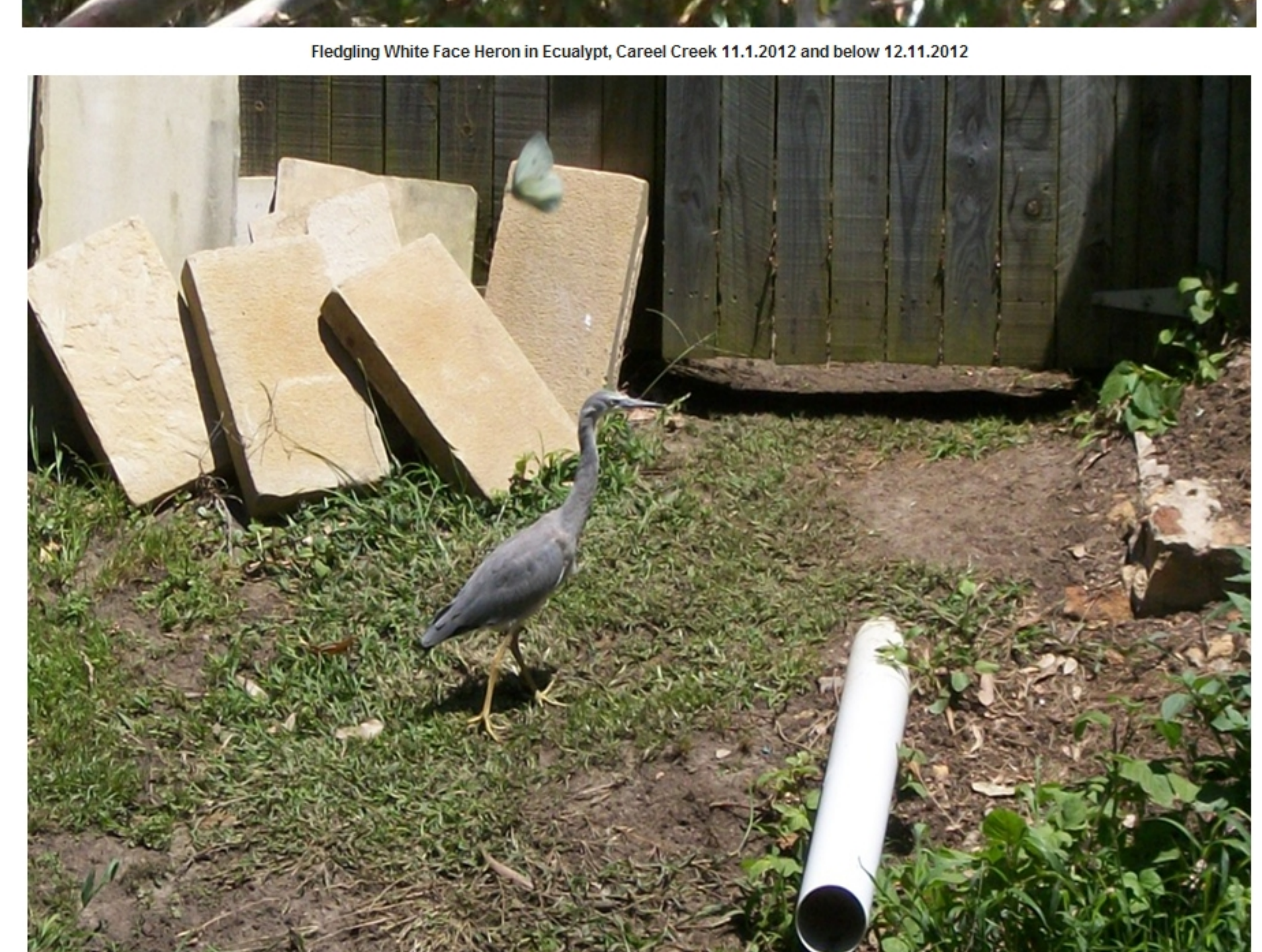
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Young Pelican, Careel Bay 10.1.2012



Fledgling White Face Heron in Eucalypt, Careel Creek 11.1.2012 and below 12.11.2012



Young Galah (right) with Parents, Avalon 11.1.2012. Below: Fledgling Magpie 14.1.2012





# Pittwater Online News

Front Page   Contents   **Park Bench Philosophers**   Profile of the Week   History   Youth   Seniors   Environment   Food   Lynda Hill  
Community News   Pictures   News From our Inbox   Books   Events   Artist of the Month   Reflections   Collector's Corner   DIY Hints

**January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41**

## **Watchtower Headlands**

Dravida tells me the eyes are the orifice created by the supernatural, traditionally, in first sought and found lore. They are the flesh crystals bestowed from divinity, as is shown in their iris's sparkle. The beamings or lines you see in them are another mirror of how all the rest of you is come together in Iridology terms. Those undulating waves wreathed between sign what you emit or release from these physical parts of you. Each iris, even in identical twins, is unique from ten months of age on. We all have individual stars in our eyes.

What state we are in colours what and how we see while what is truly there remains in its pure state, its everness, waiting to be 'found'. Mist threaded through winter trees brings a sense of beauty to one set of eyes, unveiling a lusciousness of wet trunks and earth scented air. To another these same mystic trees conjure up the shivers of ghost stories, the lone call of a bird another self languishing among fog. The beauty there is the pure state, and beauty coming to your eye from everything a truer seeing into by seeing what is in, even Inner, in Dravidic terms.

In my eyes and through my eyes I see an Ivory tower in the distance. It's been stuck in my eyes for three days now, beaming out its light, catching in my turning until I spend a moment turning to see. Even when its dark and fog has closed in I see it shining on the ridge of the hill opposite. It hovers on the horizon, a pale and royal blue-white column, hazy among the stars and landmark gleaming during the salty day. I watch it, take note of its changing hues. I think about walking there sometimes, but stand opposite looking, watching, seeing. It places white light here, where it can be touched.

Another and another appears between the treetops and line of ocean suddenly sky until there are watchtowers on all hills. Some are spires into the sky, some domed, others earth proportioned pipes of Nature humming rock into earth into tree bird breath and air into ever-song. Many have gold lit windows making them stout candle sights but all are from Nature, weaved together, unable to rise above the surface without being places of Higher substance, clearer air, purer energy. Perhaps they're metaphysical watchtowers alike temple, church, shrine places, with holy water as dew pouring from the 'connected to heaven' essence in the flowers growing from their hallowing grounds. I was only going to get to see them once I grew into this way of being, had the veil that hides them lift from my eyes. Perhaps they are other people, strong as steel when needed, tender as flowers all the rest of the time, throwing up columns of their heavenly beamings. People have been Watchtowers through the Ages, someone looked to for the Light they bring, their times their 'Keep'.

Cooler daylights show this watchtower to be two separate houses just below the hilltop, an arched doorway last night's yellow-lit old world window, the tower of light that rose above, making them one, melded from a mix of sunset, salt laden sea-haze, low white clouds and moonbeams.

Salt draws other shards of rainbows out of coastal air. During summer the humid sea haze and the small summer breezes running in small trillings or soft buffets up all the green coastal hills, overlapping sea with earth, make small clouds that grow larger appear above where cool wet ocean air meets sun warmed headland. They hover in turning twirling white arcs and elongated threads. Over higher thicker headland more stolid cumulus appear and hover without being lifted to the hotter sky where they may evaporate back into the blue. As Signs of they're signalling what draws through the larger sky, and even the larger season, on either side of each moment of each day. Then the places where watchtowers appear during other conditions, to reveal all else there, appear to be an angelic extension of the concord and exultation between sea, air and land.

Extract from Ch.7., *Melchisedek's Garden*. **Seeing Things**.  
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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](mailto: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.**

# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41



Above: Geoff and Shan.

Below: As a younger man (left) with UK friends he still converses with via email.



Above: One of Geoff's more recent Clareville Beach photos. Below: Clareville Beach 1961.



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## Geoff Clarke

Photography is a keen pursuit of recent retiree and Master Mariner Geoff Clarke. He "likes a tree, birds and clouds" as he's a "Constable man". One of Avalon's true gentlemen, he shares some of his great images of dawn at Avalon on our [Pictures page](#) this week and a few insights on how living his life to the full is keeping him healthy in body, spirit and mind. Geoff is also a great example of how no one is ever too old to learn something new.

What were you doing before you retired?

I went to sea at the age of 17 and took the various tickets for becoming a Master Mariner. I passed my Master Mariners Exams in 1956, so I was then qualified to be a Master Mariner.

How old were you when you became qualified ?

In 1958 I was 25. My father was also a Master Mariner so that's probably what spurred me on to get my qualifications and go to sea.

Then, on one of my voyages, the voyages were between the UK and New Zealand and Australia and return, I happened to meet the lady I am now married to. So romance was long range at that stage. I didn't see her again for nine months. I happened to be visiting Sydney and wrote to her and said I was coming, and we took it from there; we were married. I was born in the UK, so I had to come out here (move to Australia), which was easy for me as I'd been here before. I flew out and we were married in 1958.

So then you were based in Sydney ?

Yes, then we were living in Sydney. We lived with my wife's parents for a while and I did a short spell on the Australian Coastal Trade and then decided that being at sea, and being married and having a family, really wasn't a good idea. I came ashore and looked for a job and found a job with a Shipping Agents; the shipping agents job is to look after the interests of the owner. I had quite a long career working as a Shipping executive in two agencies.

Some rather hard times hit the shipping industry in the early 1980's, with a Global Economic Downturn, and I was made redundant and wondered what I was going to do at the age of about 53.

A friend phoned me and said "How about coming over to Vanuatu and running a business over here?" And I thought "I don't know about that..." at any rate I did. It was a Stevedoring Agency there employing about 200 local people; so it was quite a challenge and it was not doing too well so we set to and I was quite happy, we were making progress and making some profits.

We had a contract with the Vanuatu Government to do the stevedoring, which is loading and unloading ships, which had to be renewed while I was there, so we put in our Tender, and we had all the machinery and expertise, but the government awarded it to a local company.

So we didn't get that contract and I came back to Sydney still looking for something to do. Someone phoned me and said they needed an Operations Manager for a Shipping Company. This was a Korean company, starting up a new service here; so we set that up, and it was for four years.

In some of my lunch hours I met people who were running a recycling business and they said 'why don't you come and help us? Get us some new clients...' they were looking for fine paper to recycle.

So I said, alright, I'll give it a go. So we helped them build their business. Eventually I said to them, look I'm not really making a lot of money out of this, I think I'll go out on my own. Which I did and I had my eldest son living with us then and he helped me. We had a van and we went round and did a lot of collecting paper from offices for recycling. And I've been doing that on and off until about two weeks ago. So I retired about two weeks ago!

**My interest in photography** really started in earnest when a friend of mine whom I walk with on the beach said to me, 'Geoff, I've got a computer that I don't need anymore and I want to give it to you.'

I said "Paul, I don't want a computer, I've never had one!" I've never had one, even in business. So about three months later Paul said, come on, I'll come and set it up for you, so that's what started it. Then I bought a digital camera and downloaded a marvellous Program and then went for some lessons at the Tramshed (Seniors Computers at Narrabeen) on how to use this Program. And I found it very very satisfying and I've published a couple of books of early morning sunrises here and around Australia.

The computer is good because I've got friends still in the UK and I converse with those by email; I haven't got into Skype yet; people keep saying 'why don't you get the Skype?'

It's opened up a new aspect of life for me. **The Internet is a marvellous tool if used properly and of course without a computer digital photography doesn't work.**

Well, I've got four lovely children thirteen grandchildren so we're blessed in that (ages 5 to 24). And our children are 51 to 40; make me feel old.

What is your favourite place in Pittwater and why ?

Clareville Beach because when the children were very young my in-laws had a weekend at Taylor's Point and we used to spend each Summer of each year on Clareville Beach, so that place has very lasting memories for me.

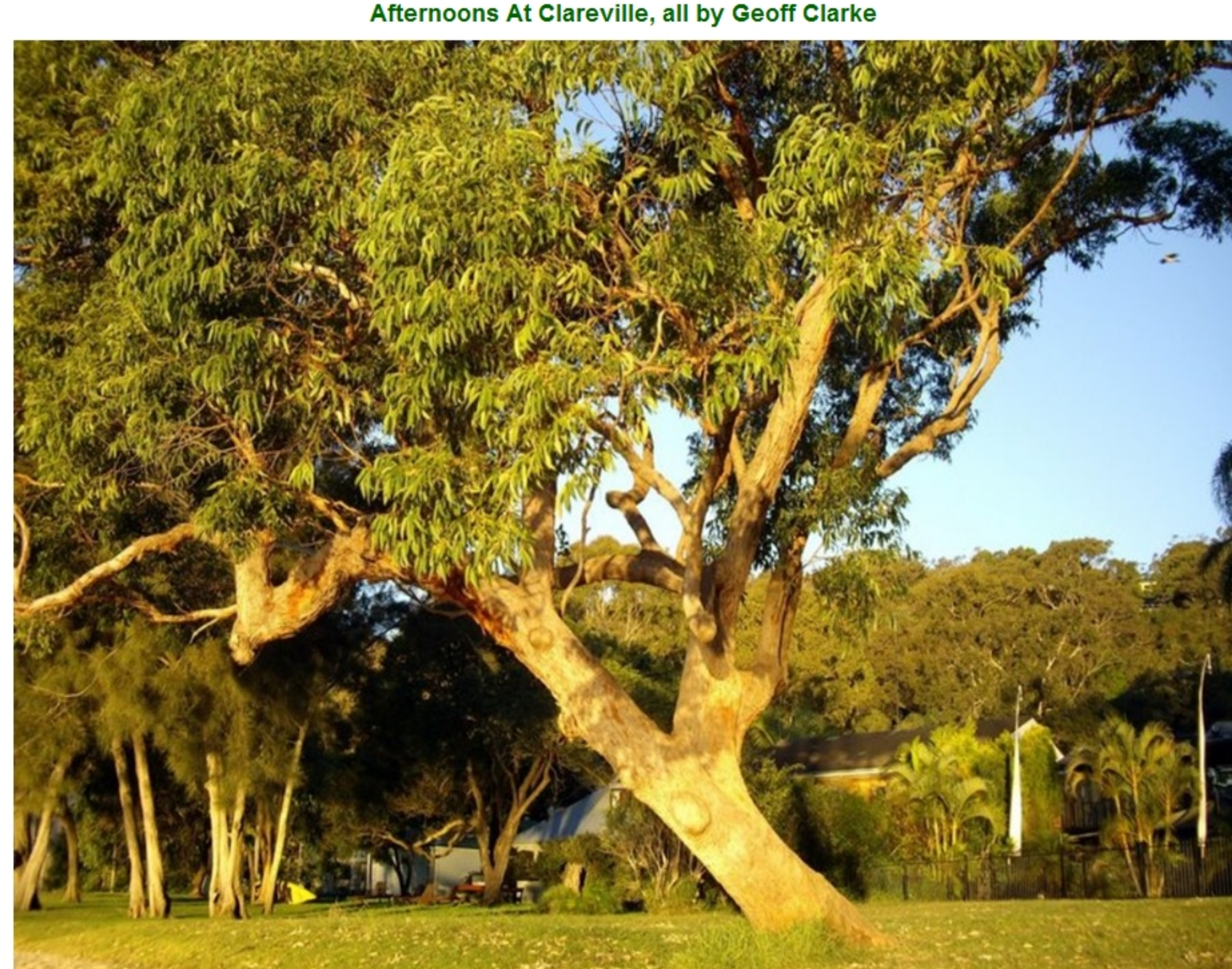
This would have been in the sixties; it hasn't changed, it's still a beautiful little beach and lovely for kids to play in the sand and swim. That sticks in my mind.

What is your motto for life or a phrase you like to live by ?

**Keep active physically**; don't sit around and vegetate. Even just walking, that's what I do, walk every day, along the beach, and of course you meet people doing that.

But I think **'keep active'**; we have a big garden, and we've been here 20 years now; we moved from Mosman because it's was getting too much, and here was peaceful, we like the peace; although now it's getting the way Mosman was.

## Afternoons At Clareville, all by Geoff Clarke







# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

Hans Christian Anderson



Danish poet and short story writer of tales for children Hans Christian Anderson was born in Odense, Denmark on April 2nd, 1805. He worked as a weaver's apprentice and later for a tailor before moving, at age 14, to Copenhagen to pursue an actor's life. He had a sweet soprano voice and worked in for the Royal Danish Theatre before his voice changed.

His first published work, in 1922, was *The Ghost at Palnatoke's Grave*. In 1835 he began publishing his fairytales for children, collating these into volumes. In June 1847 he

travelled to Britain and there met Charles Dickens. The two formed a friendship and Anderson returned in 1857, staying at Dicken's home for five weeks.

Although he was successful publishing other works during his lifetime it is for his fairy tales that people nowadays remember him. "Thumbelina", "The Snow Queen", "The Little Match Girl", "The Ugly Duckling", "The Little Mermaid", "The Emperor's New Clothes", "The Steadfast (Brave) Tin Soldier", and "The Princess and the Pea" are still widely read. Some of these titles, such as "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Ugly Duckling" have become well known expressions in the English language.

For more and a full list of his works (some of which may be read online); <http://hca.gilead.org.il/>

**Summer Fun III: Hans Christian Anderson (restoration = pillars5) THE BRAVE TIN SOLDIER**



**BACK TO SCHOOL AND BULLYPROOF! with Hoshin Jujutsu Australia**

Calling all little warriors!! Learn some great new moves these school holidays. We will play games, learn some basic self defence and learn how to use our words to deal with bullies.

Date Saturday 21 January

Time 10am - 1pm

Age Strictly 6 to 12yrs

Cost: Free tuition (\$20 insurance fee)

Bookings 0413 376 356 or [avalon@hoshin.com.au](mailto:avalon@hoshin.com.au)

Hoshin runs some of Australia's best programs around the areas of Anti-Bullying and Child Protective Behaviour, and of course Jujutsu. We also run free kids programs twice a year during the spring and summer school holidays

Our classes are fun, with a high standard of discipline and respect. We do not gain respect with fear, we laugh, play games and have fun, and learn about the important skills listed above through role playing, telling stories and of course, martial arts skills.

All of our adult instructors are police checked and hold senior first aid certificates. Further, all instructors regardless of rank have undergone over 100 volunteer hours of instruction per year under the direct instruction of Sensei Rose and you can be assured of their excellent teaching and leadership skills. If you would like to know more about what we do, the website is [www.hoshin.com.au](http://www.hoshin.com.au) and there is an absolute plethora of information available.



**National Year of Reading 2012**

Discover and rediscover the joy of reading.

**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/>

## 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/>



### CRAFTY HOLIDAY FUN AT MONA VALE LIBRARY

Children from 5 to 12 years of age are invited to free holiday craft sessions at **Mona Vale library** this January. The free drop-in craft sessions will run from 11am until 1pm on weekdays from Tuesday 3 January to Friday 27 January, with the exception of Australia Day.

Library Manager Cathy Howie said there would be a wide range of activities to suit both boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12. "Kids will have the opportunity to make paper aeroplanes, a chance to create their very own jewellery or treasure box, along with bracelet beading and paper doll craft. Making a tote bag, creating something unique with paddle pop sticks and using stenciling techniques are also on offer. Each day there'll be a different craft activity so your child will find something creative and interesting," added Mrs Howie.

To complement the craft sessions the library has a range of craft books available for loan that will keep little hands busy at home over the holidays too. A detailed list of the children's craft activities on offer will be available from Mona Vale Library early in January. All craft sessions are free and bookings are not required.

For more information call 9970 1600. Mona Vale library is located at 1 Park Street, Mona Vale.

### EXTENDED HOURS FOR KIDS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Pittwater Council's Coastal Environment Centre (CEC) has announced the release of its sensational summer holiday program for kids, with new extended hours from 9am to 4pm. **Kids on the Coast offers healthy and fun outdoor activities for 5 to 12 year olds from Monday 9 January to Friday 20 January.** The Council decided to extend the hours of the program to ensure children with working parents do not miss out.

"There are many new highlights including stand-up paddle boarding, a boardwalk birding adventure and how to become an eco-ranger," said the Council's Natural Environment & Education Manager Mark Beharrell.

For children aged eight years and over there is a chance to grab your camera and join a photographic adventure, plus the ever-popular 'Fishing Clinic' run in partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Mr Beharrell said the program encouraged children to explore beaches, rock platforms, headlands, bushland, wetlands and the Narrabeen Lagoon foreshore.

"Kids on the Coast is the ideal school holiday experience. The program gives children the chance to learn about our natural environment in a fun and interactive way," said Mr Beharrell.

Two hour sessions are held from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. The cost is \$22 per child per session, with full-day sessions available from 10am to 3pm at \$55 per child (for standard activities), which includes supervision between sessions (BYO lunch).

Working parents who require extended care for their children can also take advantage of a 9am to 10am session and/or a 3pm to 4pm session. These sessions are an additional \$10 each. The Fishing Clinic offers giveaways including a rod, reel, tackle box, hat and bag for the cost of \$40.

The CEC is located at Pelican Path, Lake Park Road, North Narrabeen, only 300m from the North Narrabeen beach entrance. Book online at [www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/ceckids](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/ceckids) or call 1300 000 CEC (232). For further inquiries please call Bianca Springford on 9970 1313 or email [bianca\\_springford@pittwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bianca_springford@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)

**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.

### Summer Fun I: Jasper and The Haunted House



### Summer Fun II: The Curious Adventures of Mr. Wonderbird (1952)

Paul and Pierre Grimault

Based on a story by Hans Christian Anderson (The Shepherdess & the chimney-sweep), Mr. Wonderbird (Sir Peter Ustinov) tells the story of two lovers who flee their two dimensional painting and are then hunted by a mean-spirited King.



### MANLY WARRINGAH BASKETBALL CAMP

Mon 23rd, Tues 24th & Wed 25th

January 2012

Session One 5-11 years

10.30am to 12.30pm

Session Two 12-18 years

1:00pm to 3:00pm

Venue: NBISC, Jackson Rd

Warriewood

Special Guest Coaches, Professional coaching, Competitions with great prizes  
Cost: \$60

This is a 3 day camp ONLY. Payments must be made prior to camp starting date. Please complete details (form below) and forward to: Post: Po Box 396, Narrabeen NSW 2101. Fax: 99133644

Email: [mwba@manlybasketball.com.au](mailto:mwba@manlybasketball.com.au) Enquiries-99133622

REFRESH YOUR SKILLS IMPROVE YOUR GAME HAVE SOME FUN



[Holiday Camp 2012.pdf](#)  
Size : 108.122 Kb  
Type : pdf

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.



ABN: 12 000 860 864

### 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>



[Apprentice club form11.pdf](#)  
Size : 494.83 Kb  
Type : pdf

### 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/>



### 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 of 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](http://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.

### 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](http://www.northernbeachesyouthinfo.net.au)

[www.facebook.com/manlyyouthcentre](http://www.facebook.com/manlyyouthcentre)

[www.myspace.com/manlyyouthcentre](http://www.myspace.com/manlyyouthcentre)



Tweet Like +1

# Pittwater Online News

Front Page   Contents   Park Bench Philosophers   Profile of the Week   History   Youth   Seniors   Environment   Food   Lynda Hill  
Community News   Pictures   News From our Inbox   Books   Events   Artist of the Month   Reflections   Collector's Corner   DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

## A Smile for the Week From W.A.G

For all of you who feel you are having to attend too many doctors appointments; from this week's Seniors Emails

The **NEW** Alphabet:

**A**'s for arthritis; **B**'s the bad back, **C**'s the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac?

**D** is for dental decay and decline, **E** is for eyesight, can't read that top line!

**F** is for fissures and fluid retention, **G** is for gas which I'd rather not mention.

**H**igh blood pressure--I'd rather it low; **I** for incisions with scars you can show.

**J** is for joints, out of socket, won't mend, **K** is for knees that crack when they bend.

**L**'s for libido, what happened to sex? **M** is for memory, I forget what comes next.

**N** is neuralgia, in nerves way down low; **O** is for osteo, bones that don't grow!

**P** for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!

**Q** is for queasy, is it fatal or flu? **R** is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

**S** is for sleepless nights, counting my fears, **T** is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!

**U** is for urinary; troubles with flow; **V** for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know..

**W** for worry, now what's going 'round? **X** is for X ray, and what might be found.

**Y** for another year I'm left here behind, **Z** is for zest I still have - in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, and I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

### 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](http://www.agedcarecrisis.com) provides a voice for elderly and frail citizens in Australia

## To an Old Mate

Henry Lawson, 1895

Old mate! In the gusty old weather,  
When our hopes and our troubles were new,  
In the years spent in wearing out leather,  
I found you unselfish and true —  
I have gathered these verses together  
For the sake of our friendship and you.

You may think for awhile, and with reason,  
Though still with a kindly regret,  
That I've left it full late in the season  
To prove I remember you yet;  
But you'll never judge me by their treason  
Who profit by friends — and forget.

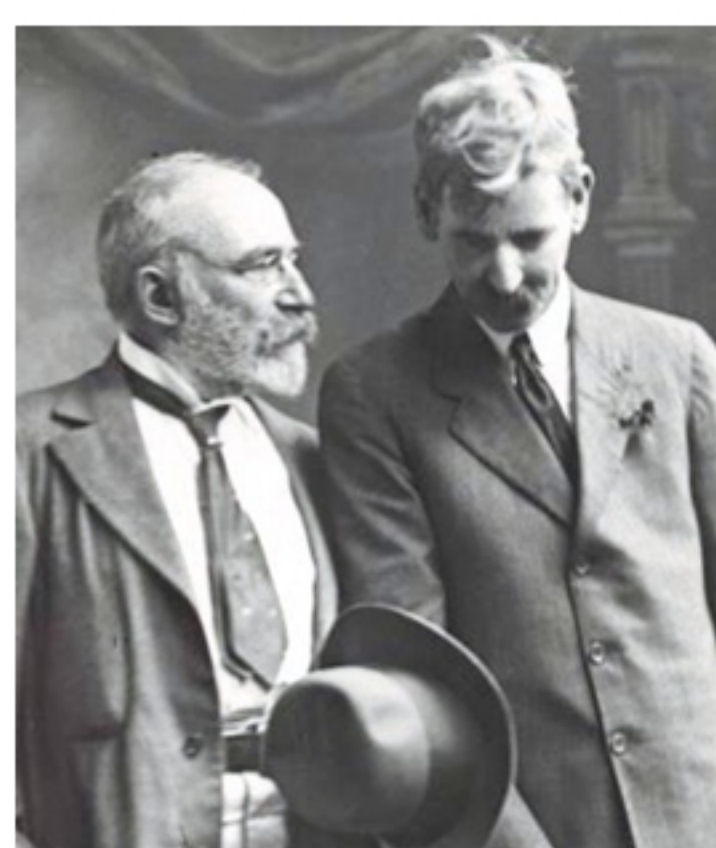
I remember, Old Man, I remember —  
The tracks that we followed are clear —  
The jovial last nights of December,  
The solemn first days of the year,  
Long tramps through the clearings and timber,  
Short partings on platform and pier.

I can still feel the spirit that bore us,  
And often the old stars will shine —  
I remember the last spree in chorus  
For the sake of that other Lang Syne,  
When the tracks lay divided before us,  
Your path through the future and mine.

Through the frost-wind that cut like whip-lashes,  
Through the ever-blind haze of the drought —  
And in fancy at times by the flashes  
Of light in the darkness of doubt —  
I have followed the tent poles and ashes  
Of camps that we moved further out.

You will find in these pages a trace of  
That side of our past which was bright,  
And recognise sometimes the face of  
A friend who has dropped out of sight —  
I send them along in the place of  
The letters I promised to write.

Henry Lawson 17th June, 1867 – 2nd of September 1922.

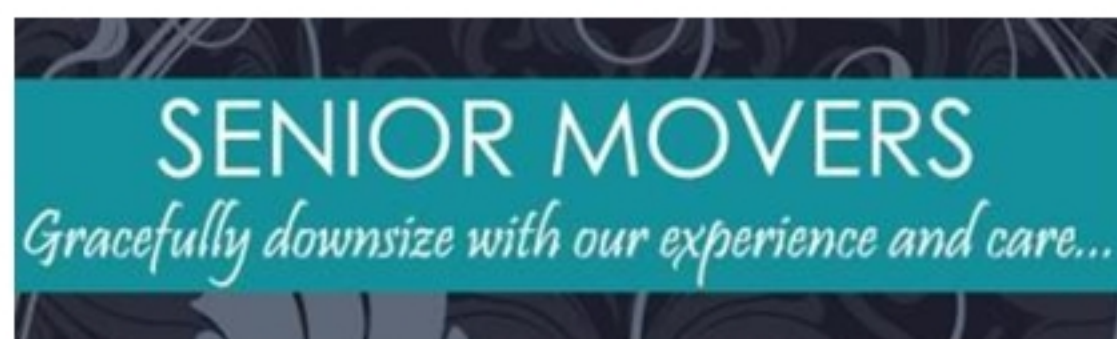


The above poem was apparently written to J. F. Archibald, co-owner and editor of The Bulletin during the days of its greatest influence in Australian politics and literary life. John Feltham Archibald, who changed his name, due to a love of French culture, to Jules Francois, was also the founder of the Archibald Prize art portraiture award and who funded the Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park. Photo to left is of J F Archibald and Henry Lawson, contributor to The Bulletin.

## 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 help you gracefully downsize with our experience and care. Click on logo to visit website.



[www.seniormovers.com.au](http://www.seniormovers.com.au)

Also see Belinda Grundy's [Profile](#) other great Business; [www.bgpropertystyling.com.au](http://www.bgpropertystyling.com.au)

### The Senior Newspaper Online

Click on logo:



## 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](http://www.avpals.com) or ring the co-ordinator Jenny McLaughlin on 02 9999 1348

[Article on their Seminar](#)

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**Enable Me**

Be PART OF AN EXCITING NEW GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE FOR PEOPLE OVER 65

- Is remaining independent important to you?
- Are you finding it difficult to do the things you would like to do? e.g. shopping, catching the bus, leisure activities or just getting around.



Community Care (Northern Beaches) is seeking participants for a short term program, which aims to assist you to be able to do things that are important to you.

The program may include advice and support with:-

- An appropriate exercise or strengthening program
- Nutrition
- Home modifications
- Assistive technology
- Social and leisure activities

For more information or to register please phone.

Call Kerrie on 9979 7677



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](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au)



# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

## Summer Creature Features: Swamps and Grasslands



The Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) is a small macropod marsupial of eastern Australia and the only living member of the genus *Wallabia* (although some sources state it should be classified *Macropus*). Also called the Black wallaby it inhabits thick undergrowth in forests and woodlands, and the lawns of Currawong and Great Mackerel Beach or visits at the Youth Hostel overlooking Morning Bay. They are also found at McCarr's creek park and hinterlands.

The species name bicolor comes from the distinct colouring variation, with the typical grey coat of the macropods varied with a dark brown to black region on the back, and light yellow to rufous orange on the chest. The tail is equal to the body length which is between 70 and 76 cm.

Pittwater was also once home to mobs of Parma Wallabies and Brush Tailed Wallabies. The landmark Barrenjoey headland is named after an indigenous word meaning "little kangaroo" and may refer to the abundance of wallabies that once inhabited that terrain.

The first non-indigenous recording of these mammals was in 1628 by survivors of the Batavia shipwreck (on her maiden voyage) on West 'Wallabi' island in Western Australia. This was of the smallest wallaby species, the Tammar Wallaby

Further;

Swamp Wallaby. (2011, December 29). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Swamp\\_Wallaby&oldid=468246868](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Swamp_Wallaby&oldid=468246868)

Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby. (2011, December 29). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brush-tailed\\_Rock-wallaby&oldid=468246450](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brush-tailed_Rock-wallaby&oldid=468246450)

Parma Wallaby. (2011, December 29). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Parma\\_Wallaby&oldid=468246114](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Parma_Wallaby&oldid=468246114)

Illustration of Tammar Wallaby (Above Right); John Gould, F.R.S., Mammals of Australia, Vol. II Plate 19, London, 1863. From: [http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/Hal\\_der2.htm](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/Hal_der2.htm)



Above: Tammar Wallaby Illustration; by John Gould, F.R.S., Mammals of Australia, Vol. II Plate 19, London, 1863. From: [http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/Hal\\_der2.htm](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/bioinformatics/mammals/images/Hal_der2.htm)

### Marine and Freshwater Research Volume 63 Number 1 2012

Includes: Riparian vegetation removal alters consumer-resource stoichiometry in an Australian lowland stream, Contrasting behavioural responses of grazing mayflies and detritivorous caddisflies to predatory fish, A systematic evaluation of the incremental protection of broad-scale habitats at Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia, Climate variability of the Great Barrier Reef in relation to the tropical Pacific and El Niño-Southern Oscillation and more.

### 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**  
**Provides support to Council for PNHA-approved grant applications for environmental projects**  
**Publications: Introductory Field Guide to Birds of Warriewood Wetlands & Irrawong Reserve, \$20.00rrp, attractive cards with photos of Pittwater scenes, flora and fauna \$2.00**

Email: [pnhainfo@gmail.com](mailto:pnhainfo@gmail.com) Or click on Logo to visit website. **PROFILE**

Think before you print ; A kilo of recycled paper creates around 1.8 kilograms of carbon emissions, without taking into account the emissions produced from transporting the paper. So, before you send a document to print, think about how many kilograms of carbon emissions you could save by reading it on screen.

### Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Carbon Footprints Document



*"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

### 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](mailto:jodi_harvey@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)

**December Newsletter** includes information on:  
- Kids on the Coast Holiday Program  
- Explore Pittwater by Kayak - Events, competitions and activities; - Environmental projects and Bushcare Notices.

[HERE](#)



### ONLINE BIODIVERSITY CALENDAR A FIRST

Pittwater Council has launched a unique online calendar designed to educate the community about the coastal environment, based on traditional Aboriginal knowledge. The calendar, which is web-based, works through hundreds of images of coastal 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.

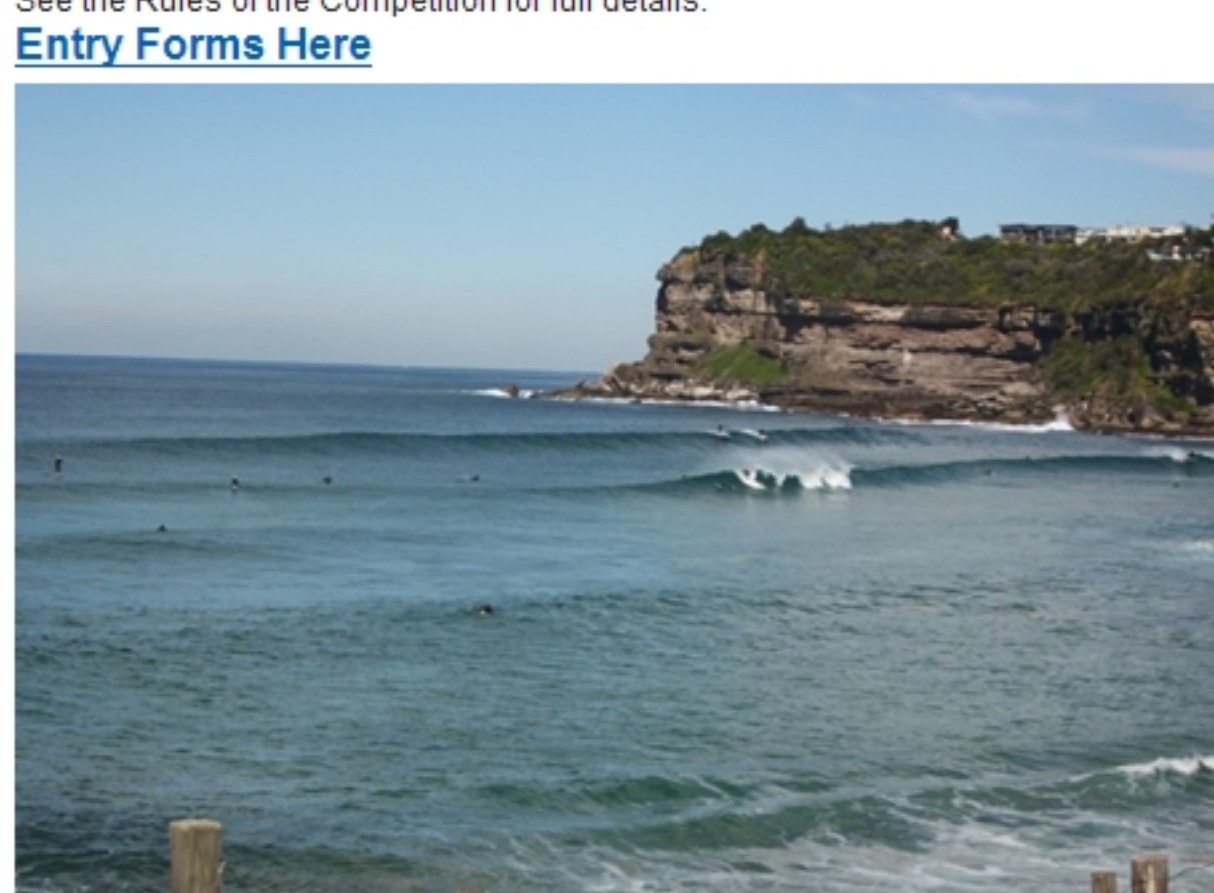
The calendar has been coordinated by Pittwater Council on behalf of the Pittwater, Hornsby and Gosford communities and was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, through the federal government's Caring for Country program.

Representatives of the D'harawal people have provided their knowledge for descriptions of some of the images and the Guringai, Darkinyung 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 Beharrel 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](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/biocalendar)  
To submit photos for the biodiversity calendar email [cec@pittwater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cec@pittwater.nsw.gov.au)



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.asp?V\\_DOC\\_ID=1](http://www.florabank.org.au/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=1) Click on logo above for Index to the most extensive list of fact sheets on every Australian plant.

[Tweet](#) [Like](#) [+](#)

### 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.



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



### Pittwater's Environmental Foundation

Pittwater Environmental Foundation was established in 2006 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 38 species of plants or animals are listed as endangered or threatened under the Threatened Species Act. There are two endangered populations (Koala 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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# Pittwater Online News

[Front Page](#) [Contents](#) [Park Bench Philosophers](#) [Profile of the Week](#) [History](#) [Youth](#) [Seniors](#) [Environment](#) [Food](#) [Lynda Hill](#)  
[Community News](#) [Pictures](#) [News From our Inbox](#) [Books](#) [Events](#) [Artist of the Month](#) [Reflections](#) [Collector's Corner](#) [DIY Hints](#)

**January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41**

## **Mum's Irish Whiskey or Brandy Bread Pudding with Brandy Sauce**

When you have chooks that produce eggs faster than you can eat them, and an accumulating store of ends of bread, it's time to utilise these ingredients and turn them into a sweet treat. Brioche and the Italian panettone also make this into a more deluxe version. You can soak these more deluxe 'breads' with a bit of Cointreau for an alternative version. The Brandy Sauce, poured over the custard, with fresh whipped cream, will send up a glow not entirely attributed to the dessert being served warm. A great counteracting measure for the cool southerlies that have been blowing through this Summer. And of course...never say *'Diet'!*

### **Ingredients**

1/4 cup whiskey, rum or brandy  
1/2 cup raisins

### **Mum's Brandy or Whiskey Sauce:**

1 cup cream  
1 cup sugar  
4 egg yolks  
125 grams of butter  
2 tablespoons of Brandy

### **Bread Pudding:**

4 cups day-old bread, brioche or panettone  
1 1/2 cups whole milk  
1/2 cups heavy cream  
2 large eggs  
3/4 cups sugar  
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter

### **Directions**

Heat brandy in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat until warm. Pour over raisins in a small bowl; let stand at least 1 hour.



To make Brandy sauce; cream together well the butter and sugar. Add well beaten egg yolks and slightly warmed cream and beat well. Place mixture in top of boiler (double saucepan or dish over hot water) and cook, stirring, until consistency of thick cream; do not overcook or will curdle. Add Brandy and serve poured over cooked custard; may be served warm or cold.

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Stir together bread, milk, and 1/2 cup cream in a large bowl. Whisk eggs, sugar and vanilla in a medium bowl; add to bread mixture. Stir in raisins and rum/brandy mix.

Melt butter in an 8-inch square baking dish in oven. Remove from oven, and swirl to coat bottom of dish. Pour in bread mixture, distributing raisins evenly. Sprinkle nutmeg over top. Bake until bread cubes are browned around edges and custard is cooked, about 35 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack or serve immediately with Brandy Sauce and whipped cream. Pure Yum !



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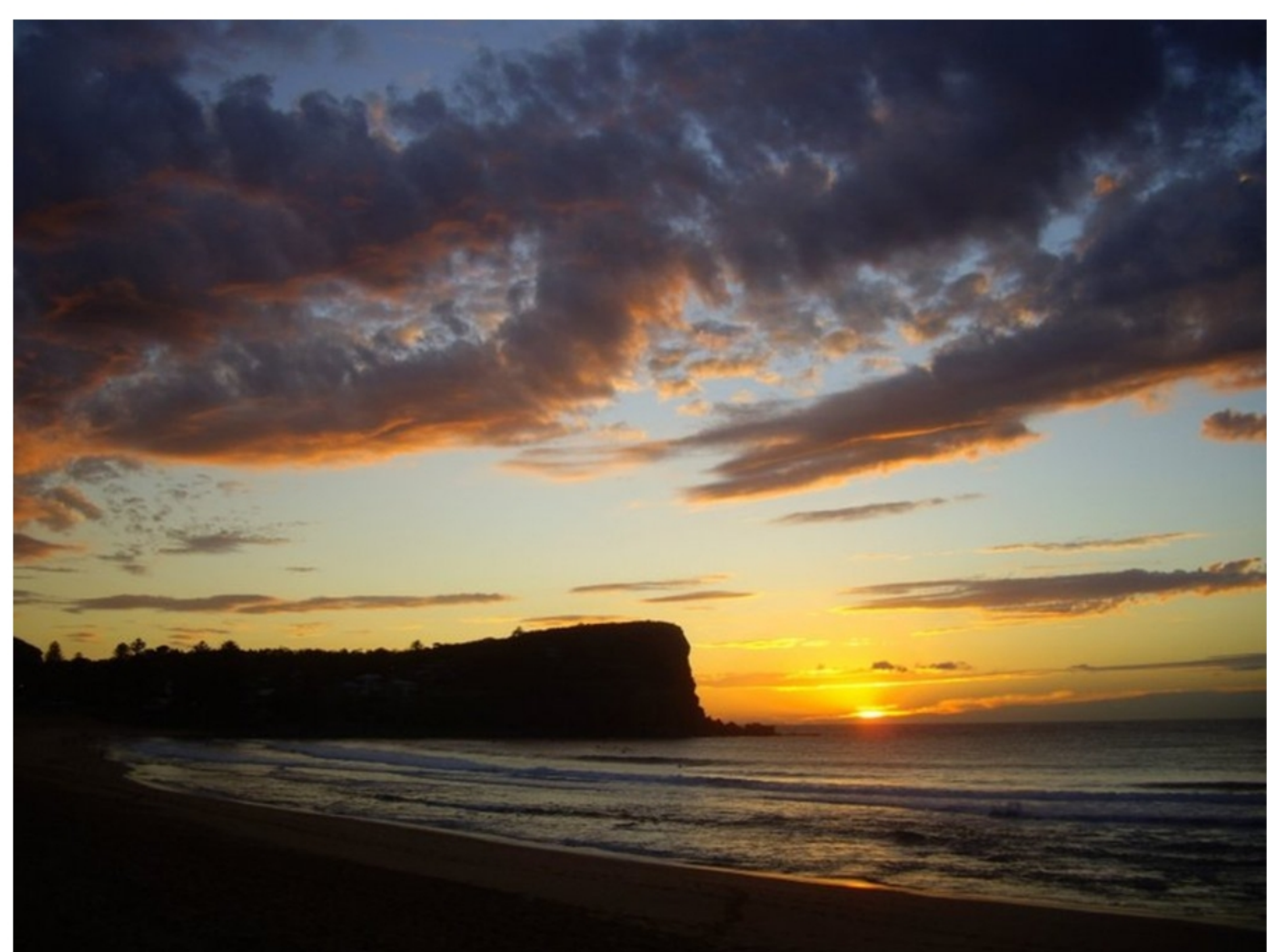
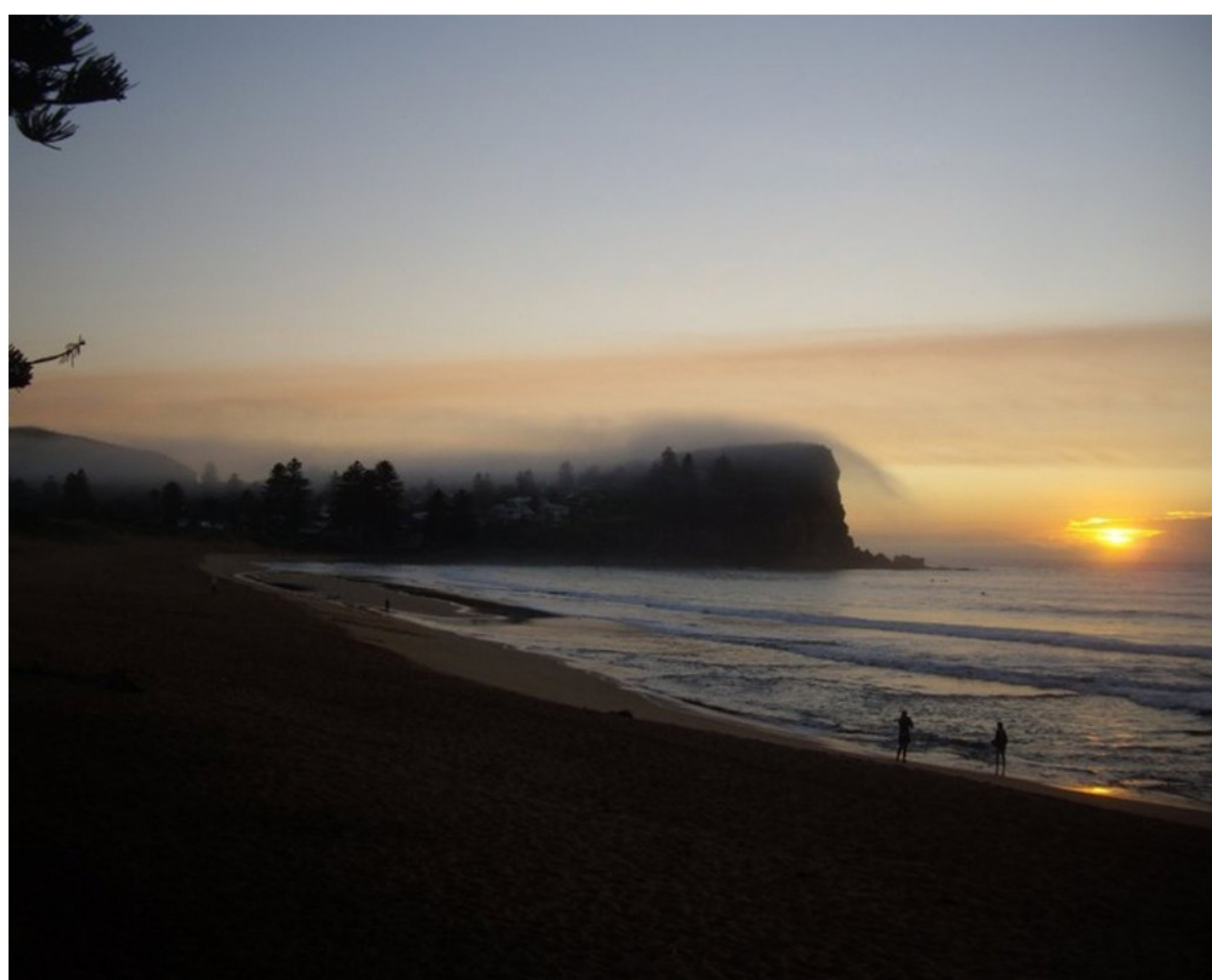
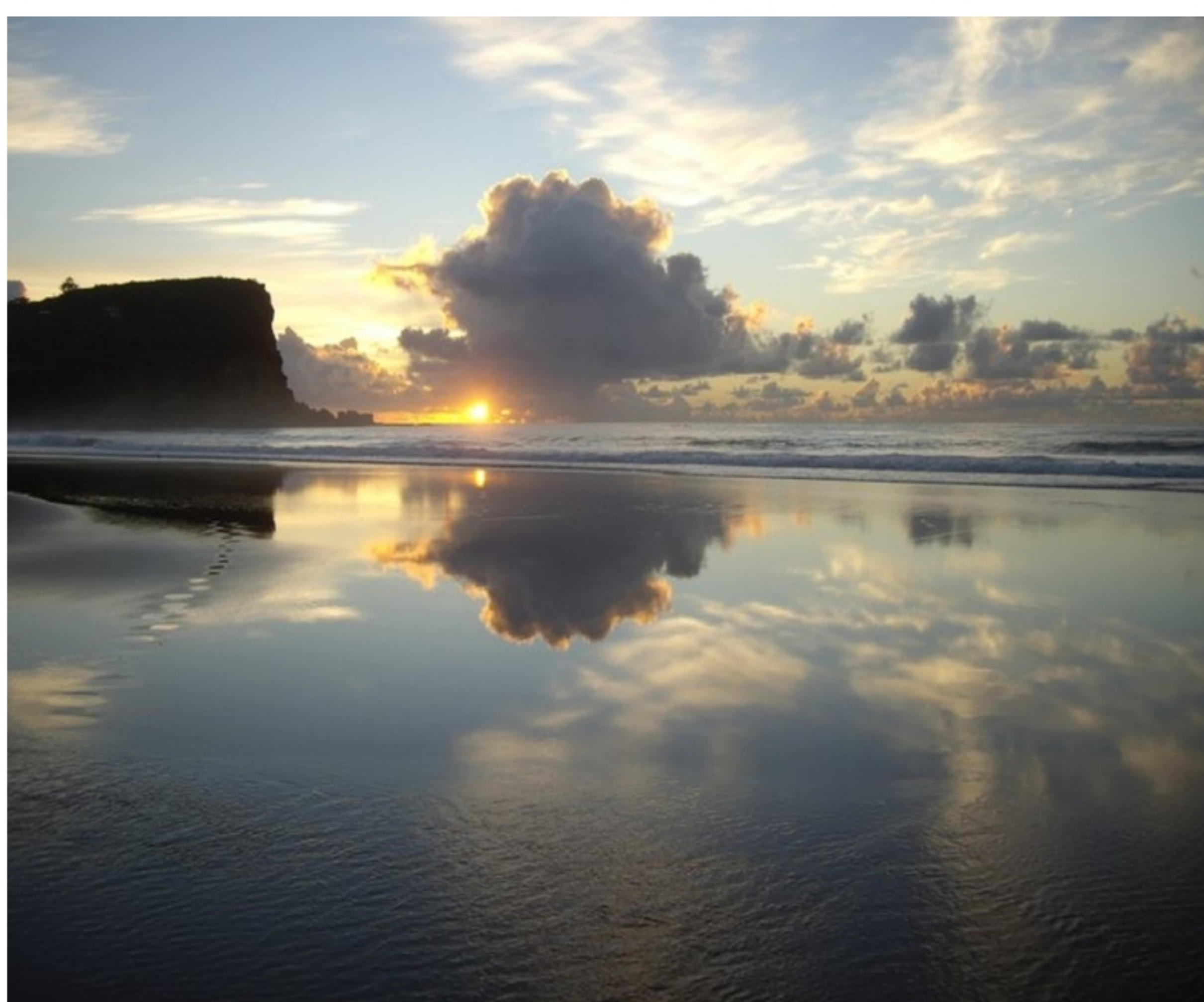


# Pittwater Online News

Front Page   Contents   Park Bench Philosophers   Profile of the Week   History   Youth   Seniors   Environment   Food   Lynda Hill  
Community News   Pictures   News From our Inbox   Books   Events   Artist of the Month   Reflections   Collector's Corner   DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

## Geoff Clarke's Avalon Dawns



# Pittwater Online News

Front Page Contents Park Bench Philosophers Profile of the Week History Youth Seniors Environment Food Lynda Hill  
Community News Pictures News From our Inbox Books Events Artist of the Month Reflections Collector's Corner DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41

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

Morning Glory - kind of clouds observed in the Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Australia



And then...



Betty Boop: The Old Man Of The Mountain (1933)

Max Fleischer

Cab Calloway's orchestra performed all of the music in the film. Cab sang three songs (possibly written for the film?), and voiced all the characters except Betty, who was voiced by Mae Questel. He also provided the live action reference for the Old Man's dance routine in the cave scene. Max Fleischer invented the first device to enable the use of live action references in animation, which he named the Rotoscope, in 1915.

Before enforcement of the Hays Code began in 1934, Betty was styled as a "Jazz Baby" flapper who looked and sang like Helen Kane and expressed the sexuality of Clara Bow. She had as a close friend and companion an anthropomorphic dog named Bimbo. Following enforcement of the Code, Betty became a domesticated single career girl, wore modest clothing, abandoned jazz and swing, and traded in Bimbo for a non-anthropomorphic dog named Pudgy. She also acquired a wholesome and fun-loving grandfather.



Internet Updates from Linked In

Google Merges Search and Google+ Into Social Media Juggernaut  
mashable.com - Starting tomorrow, Google+ members will be able to search against both the broader web and their own Google+ social graph.

This Sentence is the Best Definition of Entrepreneur Ever

inc.com - This classic 25-word definition pares entrepreneurship to its essence and explains why it's so hard. And so addictive.

This Is Generation Flux: Meet The Pioneers Of The New (And Chaotic) Frontier Of Business

fastcompany.com - The future of business is pure chaos. Here's how you can survive--and perhaps even thrive.

## 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](http://www.bridportprize.org.uk)

Or download an entry form: [www.bridportprize.org.uk/entryform.pdf](http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/entryform.pdf)

Or email for a pdf entry form: [frances@bridportprize.org.uk](mailto: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

Links for cloud enthusiasts



Cloud Appreciation Society:  
<http://cloudappreciationsociety.org/>  
Contact: Gavin Pretor-Pinney, e-mail  
[gavin@cloudappreciationsociety.org](mailto:gavin@cloudappreciationsociety.org)



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Like +1



Summertime... exhales.

Live. Life. Love.

Maureen O'Hara Week:



McIntock (1963)

Directed and Produced by Andrew McLaglen

This great comedy western stars John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Patrick Wayne, Stefanie Powers, Chill Wills, and Strother Marten. There is a hilarious mudhole fight scene at the end.



Jamaica Inn (1939)

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Set in Cornwall where the young orphan, Mary, is sent to live with Aunt Patience and Uncle Joss who are the landlords of the Jamaica Inn. Mary soon realizes that her uncle's inn is the base of a gang of pirates who lure ships to their doom on the rocky coast. The girl starts fearing for her life.

Stars: Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara and Leslie Banks

Production Company: Mayflower Pictures Corporation Ltd.

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: [librarianpic@bom.gov.au](mailto:librarianpic@bom.gov.au)

from: <http://www.bom.gov.au/calendar/contest/index.shtml>

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 licence, 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

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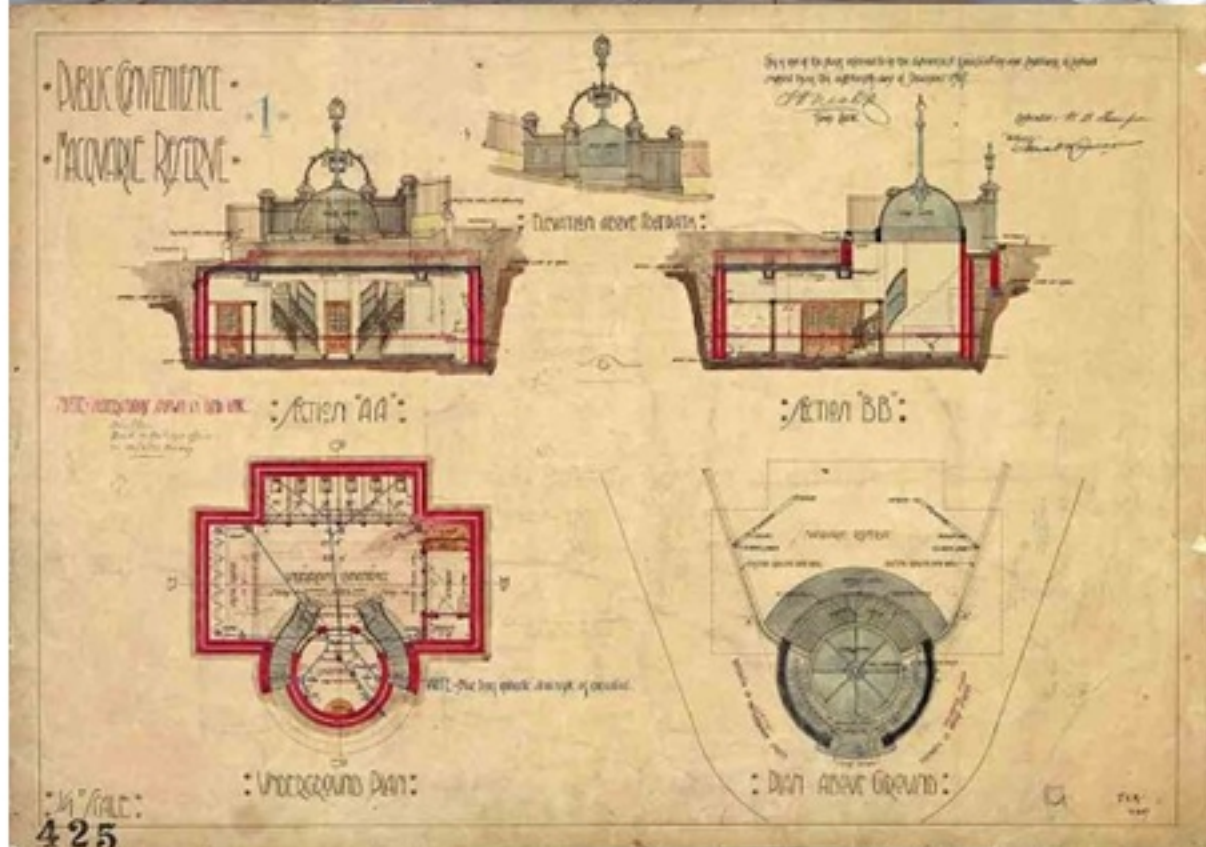




# Pittwater Online News

Front Page   Contents   Park Bench Philosophers   Profile of the Week   History   Youth   Seniors   Environment   Food   Lynda Hill  
Community News   Pictures   News From our Inbox   Books   Events   Artist of the Month   Reflections   Collector's Corner   DIY Hints

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41



## HOW FAR FROM SYDNEY?

By George Repin

When Captain Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales, set up the European settlement in Sydney Cove he pitched a portable "canvas house," brought with him on the First Fleet, near the original foreshore of what is now Circular Quay. It was on the eastern bank of an open stream, the Tank Stream, flowing to the Cove. For many months it served as his office and first Government House. The site was a triangular area responding to the natural topography of the shoreline and the Tank Stream.

Later Governor Phillip built the first permanent Government House further up the slope of what is now Bridge Street, on the corner of Phillip Street – the present location of the Museum of Sydney.

The triangular area, gazetted in 1810 as Macquarie Place, became the first and main town square of colonial Sydney and is the oldest town square in Australia. Governor Macquarie was responsible for its formal layout.

In 1818 Macquarie caused a sandstone obelisk to be erected in the centre of the park. The obelisk was designed by Francis Greenway who had been convicted for forgery and sentenced to death in England but whose sentence was commuted to transportation to New South Wales. Macquarie recognised his talents and appointed him as the first Colonial Architect. Greenway went on to provide Sydney with buildings which now are part of the city's heritage, such as the Hyde Park Barracks, St. James Church and the Conservatorium of Music (originally the stables of Government House). The stonemason was Edward Cureton using ashlar blocks of a fine grained white sandstone, not the mellow gold of yellowblock sandstone which is a feature of later significant colonial buildings. No other buildings exist where this sandstone was used.

The purpose of the obelisk was to mark the place from which all public roads were to be measured as the colony expanded into New South Wales. The places and distances inscribed on the obelisk show how small the colony was at the time – Bathurst, Windsor, Parramatta, Liverpool, South Head and the North Head of Botany Bay. It became the "zero point" in surveying, mapping and planning the expansion of the colony. Distances were recorded on milestones or other distance markers set on the sides of the roads as they were laid out. The traveller knew "how far he was from Sydney."

During the 1830's with the construction of Loftus Street Macquarie Place was reduced in size from a public square to a small park. The obelisk is now on the corner of Loftus Street.

Macquarie Place includes other interesting features. A cannon from Sirius the flagship of the first fleet, originally brought to land as part of shore defences, and the ship's anchor salvaged after it was wrecked in 1770 on the coast of Norfolk Island were mounted in the park in 1907. A flamboyant Edwardian "public convenience" with Art Nouveau detailing, closed in 1996 and filled below ground level, has been retained above ground and restored as a heritage relic.



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Top: The Macquarie Obelisk from Wikipedia, Above: The Anchor from HMS Sirius and Cannon from HMS Sirius By Julioren. Left: Plan of underground public toilet at Macquarie Place, Contributed by City of Sydney Archives [CRS 569/P425]

# Pittwater Online News

[Front Page](#)   [Contents](#)   [Park Bench Philosophers](#)   [Profile of the Week](#)   [History](#)   [Youth](#)   [Seniors](#)   [Environment](#)   [Food](#)   [Lynda Hill](#)  
[Community News](#)   [Pictures](#)   [News From our Inbox](#)   [Books](#)   [Events](#)   [Artist of the Month](#)   [Reflections](#)   [Collector's Corner](#)   [DIY Hints](#)

January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41



## New Era Rope Making Machine manufactured by A D Long 1911

Evidence points to rope making in Europe at least 28 000 years ago with fossils in a cave at Lascaux, dating to approximately 15,000 BC. Leonardo da Vinci, much later, drew sketches of a rope making machine but it was not until the early 18th century that these machines began to be built.

The New Era Rope Making machine, also called the 'Hawkeye', the one shown here, from Trevor's Museum was made by and Patented by A. D. Long of Fairfield, Iowa in 1911. In Australia identical contraptions were made by Metters Ltd an Adelaide company formed by Frederick Metters (1858–1937) in 1891, who also became famous for their range of cooking stoves, notably the 'Early Kooka'. The Metters one shown here is a 1928 version, made in Western Australia.

How to use a Rope Making Machine;

*Twisted ropes are built up in three steps. First, fibres are gathered and spun into yarns. A number of these yarns are then formed into strands by twisting. The strands are then twisted together to lay the rope. The twist of the yarn is opposite to that of the strand, and that in turn is opposite to that of the rope. It is this counter-twist, introduced with each successive operation, which holds the final rope together as a stable, unified object.*

*Traditionally, a three strand laid rope is called a plain- or hawser-laid, a four strand rope is called shroud-laid, and a larger rope formed by counter-twisting three or more multi-strand ropes together is called cable-laid. From Rope. (2011, December 28). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rope&oldid=468015650>*



September 21, 1915.  
 New Era Mfg. Co.,  
 Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Found, a long felt want in your new Rope machine. Worth its price many times a year around the farm. Yours very truly,  
 C. A. BERG,  
 Prop. of Lake-View Farm,  
 Willmar, Minn.  
 Breeder of Prize Winning Short Horn Cattle.

August 11, 1914.  
 This is to certify that the 170 feet of rope that E. J. Brown made for me to work on hay fork with the New Era Rope Machine, works better and handles lighter than any factory rope I ever used and I have been using rope for 45 years.  
 JAMES A. BROWN,  
 Eden Prairie, Minn.

Just fill out the order blank in this book, tear it out and send it to us with your personal check, postoffice order, express order, or bank draft, and we will ship the machine to you promptly, all charges prepaid.

NEW ERA ROPE MACHINE CO.,  
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

use, and not one complaint.

## Rope Making on the Farm



Metters Photo: Rope making on a Metters Ltd Rope making machine made in Subiaco Western Australia 1928 purchase price in 1928 was twelve shillings six pence Date 17 April 2006, image by Gngarra

Further  
 Original New Era Booklet on:  
<http://www.wctatel.net/web/equityrealty/NewEraRopeMaking.html>

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# Pittwater Online News

[Front Page](#) [Contents](#) [Park Bench Philosophers](#) [Profile of the Week](#) [History](#) [Youth](#) [Seniors](#) [Environment](#) [Food](#) [Lynda Hill](#)  
[Community News](#) [Pictures](#) [News From our Inbox](#) [Books](#) [Events](#) [Artist of the Month](#) [Reflections](#) [Collector's Corner](#) [DIY Hints](#)

**January 15 - 21, 2012: Issue 41**



**January 2012 Specials in File**



[JBHandMitre10January2012Specials.pdf](#)

Size : 841.461 Kb

Type : pdf

## DIY Oasis

Johnson Brothers Hardware and Mitre 10 have some great January specials that may inspire you to create a miniature Oasis in your own yard. Summertime is when our children love to 'camp out' and if they're within range of mum and dad the mischief may be kept to a minimum.

For a picnic on the lawn there is a great Blue and Orange Sunshelter which can also then be used for when you visit the beach. At dusk citronella candles may be lit in a perimeter around the oasis area to keep mozzies and other bugs at bay. If you're having an older peoples BBQ Bamboo Torches will light the way and give an authentic oasis feel to your garden surrounds.

There is a ceramic Pizza stone set for food everyone loves, Willow Eskys to keep cordial cold and a Blowmould table to serve it on. There are even children's plastic mould chairs for those who won't sit on a picnic rug.

The garden is the perfect recourse for end of summer days and Johnson Brothers Hardware and Mitre 10 at Avalon and Mona Vale stock a wide range of garden essentials to ensure your green area is welcoming and at its best. The Neta soaker hose and reel currently on sale will ensure no plant has to wilt.

Once you have everyone out of the house you may want to think about remodelling or updating the Kitchen. JBH and Mitre 10 have a great showroom at 7/51 Basset Street, Mona Vale store and expert staff to advise you on the best storage solutions for the kitchen. Their Straightline kitchens start from \$999.00.

Click on logo to visit their website

**JOHNSON BROS  
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