



## Our New ANZAC Memorial

Visitors to the Avoca Beach foreshore may have been curious about the sudden appearance of a War Memorial in the garden under the pines to the east of the Surf Club.

Well, the story goes back twelve years to the first Anzac Day Service held at Avoca, instigated by Gary Hore, a Vietnam Veteran, who says fully twelve people attended on that day. Over the years it has 'grown like topsy', and last year well over a thousand people turned up for the beautiful dawn service.

When the old sea-wall was being excavated last year David Benson and Gary Hore spied a beautifully weathered piece of sandstone gauged from the depths and thought what a wonderful memorial stone, with its Avoca Beach provenance, it would make, and then become the focal point for the Anzac Day Service.

Gary seconded the help of Lindsay Cunningham to help gather support and community funding, and Michael Scobie to draw up a plan. He then obtained the necessary official Council permits and blessings through the auspices of the Avoca Beach Community Association with the help of Steve Fortey, its chairman. The project was now underway!

James Rae of "Talking Stones" helped out with the memorial plaque, and Angus Smith of "Novahortus Landscaping" assembled the feature stone and it's sandstone surrounds. A low perimeter hedge of Coastal Rosemary is to be added to complete this simple but touching memorial remembering "those who have served our country in all conflicts".

Well done to the enthusiastic souls who envisaged this and put it together, and thanks to those who donated to the cause to make it all possible. We now have a new focus for assembly at the Anzac Dawn Service. See you there. 'Lest We Forget'.  
Michael Scobie



Steve Fortey, Lindsay Cunningham, Gary Hore, Michael Scobie.



# Happenings at Heazlett



Avoca's picturesque Heazlett Park has been the home of the Avoca Beach Rugby Club since 1975 and very recently the base for the highly successful Avoca Kayak Club. In summer the Cricket Club gives it that beautiful village green effect when the bat and ball take over. Heazlett is the major, and many would say only, public recreation green space we have.

Since winning the very first premiership in 1975, Avoca Rugby has gone on to be the most successful club on the Central Coast. Originally using a makeshift shed as its clubhouse, members commenced discussions with Council in the early '80's and the result was the current clubhouse which was a combination of local volunteer labour, donated building products and a grant from the NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation. It was officially opened in 1990.

Times change and Avoca Rugby has grown, it now has 5 senior teams, and 12 junior teams. Proudly 3 of them are female. This brought new challenges, and in 2018 the club was successful in gaining a \$175,000 grant from the NSW Sustainability Fund for refurbishments to the clubhouse.

Work has just been completed, the main changes being downstairs, with a much-needed female change room being the major addition, also new showers, toilets, hot water system and tiling throughout. The upstairs of the clubhouse is also getting a makeover.

Another welcome project just completed at Heazlett is the amenities block by the lake. Used over the years as a public toilet and change rooms by visiting teams, it really was a sad, tired old building. The Rugby Club had been seeking upgrades to this facility for many years and the breakthrough came when it approached the newly formed Kayak Club. The result was a joint project and plans were drawn up with both clubs contributing equally to costs. Grants were applied for and the NSW Government and Central Coast Council came good. Work was completed just prior to Christmas.

Heazlett Park now has state of the art public toilet facilities (with ambulant access), new male and female change rooms for all users of the oval and badly need storage facilities for the Avoca Kayak Club.



The Avoca Beach community can be proud of what both clubs have achieved. Together with the popular tennis courts and the recently refurbished children's playground, Heazlett is now a happy hunting ground for Avoca's avid sporting community.

And by the way, the 2020 rugby season is just getting underway, new players welcome. Want to put the boots on? Head Coach, Justin Staben. 0439 139 430. Interested in kayaking? Give Scott Cunningham a buzz. 0452 430 153

**Editorial credits: Mike Rubbo: Editor | Julie Pickett: Advertising, Proof reading**

**If you would like to receive a digital version of this newsletter, please send us your email address and we'll put you on the list. Send to [avocabeachca@gmail.com](mailto:avocabeachca@gmail.com)  
Also if you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, get in touch.**

Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.

## **Membership Application**

1. First Name: ..... Surname: .....

2. First Name: ..... Surname: .....

Address ..... Postcode..... Phone: .....

Email address: .....

Support your community through membership of the Association.

Send the completed form to our email address (above) or mail PO Box 105, Avoca Beach 2251.

Annual fee is \$10 per member. Payment to the ABCA bank account BSB 032545 | Account No. 128465; or by mail.

(Donations also welcome.) Providing your email enables us to send you local information.



# President's Report



It's been an amazing summer, one which many of us will never forget. Unfortunately for the wrong reasons.

At Avoca Beach we have been lucky to escape the worst of nature's catastrophic events and many have enjoyed a wonderful holiday period. Obviously, this does not mean that our turn will not come. With this in mind, we have approached Council to make a disaster management program that is relevant to our area. You may not realise it, but Council does have such a program for the whole area in general --- but how many of us know what's in it, and how it would help us if a fire came racing down Kincumba Mountain and across from Bouddi?

Do we have an evacuation centre, who is responsible for it? These and other questions were raised at our recent general meeting. We hope to have answers in the immediate future.

It was great to see our new construction works at the beachfront pass in fine style their first real test of cyclone induced high seas. Sure, the water came up into the car park, the surf club needed sandbagging as a precaution and there was some flooding, but the works stood strong against some powerful surges. Even for a brief moment, the rock pool was covered in sand, giving false hope to many.

It turns out mother nature was teasing us. Once the worst of the seas abated, there was some excellent surfing on display at our famous point break. Unfortunately, as happens up and down the coast, the post storm water quality was not too great and many keen swimmers were kept out of the water.

At our recent meeting of the ABCA we came up with a plan to help bushfire victims. It hopefully will be a community effort. We approached George Brand Real Estate and asked them to get in contact with their holiday home- owners. Thanks to some wonderful work by Michelle Harvey at GB we have around thirty generous holiday homeowners willing to donate a week's free accommodation to bushfire victims. Accom is also coming on board. A fantastic response!

As a beginning we have been in contact with the organisers of the recovery centre at Lake Conjola. You might remember they lost over ninety homes in one terrible day.

They are very happy with this idea as those who lost their homes are in for a long, stressful time in their lives as they negotiate the red tape and then the rebuilding process. They have been told it will be at least six months before rebuilding can even start.

We believe a week's respite in Avoca at a suitable time will help people destress a little and recharge the batteries.

## How can you help?

We'd like to ease the financial burden and show we care simply by offering victims a few meals at our local restaurants and cafes.

Businesses we have approached so far have been very generous in donating meals etc. But we can't expect them to pick up the tab for multiple visitors.

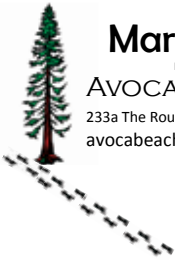
So, can you shout, or at least contribute to a meal or two for the bushfire families while they are in town?

If you can, bank account details are below. Full disclosure of all funds donated will be available. Hope you can join us in showing some real community spirit.

Thanks, Steve Fortey


## Banking details are:

ABCA  
BSB: 032 545  
Acc: 188 465  
Ref: Put BFR & Surname



**Maria Murray**  
Registered Podiatrist  
**AVOCA BEACH PODIATRY**  
233a The Round Drive, Avoca Beach, NSW. 2251  
avocabeachpodiatry@gmail.com

Ph: (02) 4381 2662  
Fax: (02) 4382 3590  
Mobile: 0409 691 981



# ACCOM

PROPERTY

BUYING - SELLING  
HOLIDAY & PERMANENT RENTAL

4385 3860

2/200 Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach

www.accomproperty.com  
www.accomholidays.com



# Our Famous Local Frogs



Photograph K McQueen 10/02/2020 – Avoca Lagoon

Green and Golden Bell Frogs (GGBF) became famous around the time of the Sydney 2000 Olympics as, right where the tennis courts were meant to be built at the brick pits in Homebush Bay, a population of GGBF was identified. As a result, construction came to a grinding halt and the tennis courts were eventually relocated.

This species was once one of the most common frog species on Australia's south-eastern coast. Now however, they are listed as Endangered under NSW legislation and they are known from less than fifty locations in NSW, most of which are small, isolated populations near the coast. On the Central Coast, there are historic records at several locations however the two main remaining populations are at Davistown and, you guessed it, here in Avoca/North Avoca.

On the second weekend in February 2020, the heavens opened like we haven't seen in a while, which combined with a warm night, was a perfect time to go frogging - and I was not disappointed. Frogs were out in force around Avoca lagoon - I heard at least seven different species calling, including the distinctive call of the GGBF.

Yet what's amazing is that one week before, those same areas around the lagoon were bone dry and there was

not one croak. A lot of frog species have adaptations to help them withstand dry periods.

For example, some frogs can stay underground for years while they wait for the next rains by producing a cocoon that covers their entire body to reduce water loss. But most frogs around Avoca lagoon don't possess those specific adaptations but still manage to survive extended periods of dry weather. These local species just had to find shelter or dig a burrow to withstand the recent extended dry weather, but as soon as the rains came, they were ready to go, such amazing resilience.

The GGBF is a large species of frog (up to 100mm in length), and when trying to identify it, variations in their colour can make it tricky. They are usually a vivid pea-green, splotted with an almost metallic brassy brown or gold. The backs of some individuals may be almost entirely green; in others golden-brown markings may dominate. During winter or time out of the sun, the colour of both males and females can darken almost to black. Diagnostic features are a gold stripe running along the side from the eyelids to the groin, with a narrow dark brown stripe beneath it, from nostril to eye.

The main threats to frogs are pollution, loss of habitat, climate change, invasive species and road mortality, however scientists believe that the decline and disappearance of many frog species in Australia and overseas is due to a disease caused by a Chytrid fungus. The fungus attacks parts of a frog's skin and since frogs use their skin in respiration, this makes it difficult for the frog to breathe. The fungus also damages the nervous system, affecting the frog's behaviour. Chytrid fungus is probably transferred by direct contact between frogs and tadpoles, or through exposure to infected water. The disease may not kill frogs immediately, and they can swim or hop to other areas before they die, spreading fungal spores to new ponds and streams. This means it is very important not to move frogs from one area to another or to handle multiple frogs.

So, if you do feel inspired to go frogging (it really is a ribbiting way to spend a rainy Saturday night), enjoy but watch where you tread and please don't pick them up - look but don't touch.

by Kristy McQueen

**Raine & Horne**<sup>®</sup>  
Avoca Beach *(since 1951)*

**#1** In results & experience

**4382 1444**





## Gas again!

I was happy to tell Vik Garg that we're glad the servo's back in business. Vik's originally from India but did his university training at UTS in business administration, and paid his student fees by working part-time at service stations. So, it was quite logical that when he started up in business, he would open a servo himself.

He now has eight of them scattered across New South Wales. He has one other on the Central Coast, actually at Long Jetty, but this is his favourite and is glad that he can call it Avoca Fuel, giving it that local identity. The gas he sells is from Mobil. His aim is to keep it as cheap as possible. I noticed that he's matching the famous low-cost Metro servo in West Gosford. "Yes, but we'll always be a penny or two dearer than them, they being the supplier, but we're going to be always the cheapest hereabouts."

I asked Vik how price changes are made. He says he's constantly watching the fluctuations elsewhere and rings through information to Avoca Fuel where Leah, if she is on duty, (that's Leah in the photo) can change the price instantly by punching numbers into the computer.

People are complimentary about the layout. The Bowtell's building has been tastefully reclad, and the

Leah Looker sometimes on the counter and Owner, Vik Garg



shop is promising. Vik tells me that it will carry more low-cost essentials, that it will always be cheaper for milk and bread. The milk is an especially welcome item since one will be able to get it very early in the morning or late at night.

The servo is going to be open weekdays from 5 am to 10pm and on the weekends. Sat. 7-10pm and. 7-9. on Sunday. They're aiming to catch people going to work not only for gas, but tradies who want a pie or sandwich, both made locally at Killarny Vale Bakery, on the way to the job.

Vik hopes to become a valued part of the community. He loves cricket, his son plays, and he's interested in being a sponsor of the local Avoca Kincumber cricket team for youngsters. For a modest contribution, he hastens to add. I spoke about something that I would like to see, namely a mirror facing those who exit the pumps. With the large Norfolk Island pines lining the road, it's very difficult to see who's coming around the curves as you get back onto Avoca Drive. A mirror strategically placed, would be a great safety feature. We're not quite sure who would be responsible for mounting such a mirror on a pole, but we'll be looking into it with Vik's support.

I told him that people will miss the garage that used to be next to the old servo. He's sorry not to be able to offer that, but Dean's garage was always cluttered with cars waiting to be worked on, and it meant that those after gas were often lined up almost out into the road. Older drivers didn't feel safe, especially when there's a queue for the pumps.

I've always assumed it would be very hard to put diesel in your car by mistake. Vik said you'd be surprised how often it happens even though the nozzle is very different. Of the few people who somehow manage to make the mistake, some can indignantly ask for a refund, Vik says. "What does it do to your engine," I ask? "If you siphon it out on the spot you can get away with no damage. But if you start your motor with the wrong fuel, it's a massive problem." Mike Rubbo.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

# What does the tragedy at Lake Conjola have to teach us?



I drove down to Lake Conjola just north of Ulladulla to see what we might learn from the inferno which destroyed almost a hundred houses there on New Year's eve. The fires came without warning, fast and furious, driven from the west by fierce winds. The local RFS brigade was not there to defend the community till later in the day. They were further south fighting other fires

Virtually all the houses in Conjola Park, which is near the Prince's Highway, were destroyed in the first hour late that Tuesday morning. There had been no warning only the grim RFS message: It's too late to leave. So ferocious was the fire that houses virtually exploded. So, lesson one. Such mega fires can be rapid and overwhelming. A fire coming down Kincumber Mountain could hit us with equal ferocity and whilst we'd probably have better RFS protection, the fieries can be stretched thin if these fires are all around

The fire continued east down the Conjola Peninsula towards the main settlement of Lake Conjola which sits on flat land closer to the lake and sea. (see aerial photo below) It reached Ingenia Lifestyle, a village of manufactured homes, where reputedly a retired firefighter persuaded 80 villagers to take refuge in the Ingenia clubhouse, newly built to high fire standards.

Looking West. Ingenia. Club house centre left above pond



This decision was perhaps based on the fact that the designated evacuation point, the community hall, further east towards the sea, was quite unsuitable. (see photo)

This hall surrounded by trees, was locked, had unusable taps and out of date fire extinguishers. The Ingenia clubhouse, by contrast, proved to be a good choice in that it withstood the fire, though those inside were faced with the fearful possibility that the large windows on the southern side might burst. These double glazed windows were facing a bank of burning trees which dangerously heated the glass, a terrifying wall of flame as inside the temperature rose to 45°. Do we have a modern fire resistant building that would provide similar shelter? Is our Surf Club potentially such a shelter? We need to know more

Luckily for Lake Conjola, the fire did not move much past Ingenia Lifestyle where only two houses were lost (Top photo) probably because mulch in their gardens caught fire. But the main community on the flat land nearer the sea faced a massive ember attack in the early afternoon. Looking east. Lake Conjola.





With the lake and sea very close, many residents there decided to defend their homes, there still being some water pressure. Lindy Dunn and her husband, Peter defended their house all through the afternoon until around 4 pm when visibility was so bad they couldn't see the house through the smoke. The couple then left by car for the water's edge. With the help of helicopter water bombers making run after run late in the day, only one house was lost. What does this teach us? Could we defend our houses and get safely to the water at the last minute?

The population of Lake Conjola is very small compared to our 4000 plus. What sort of traffic jams and confusion could result if many of the residents of Avoca tried to get to the water by car at the last minute as did the Dunns? This would be the natural thing to do since, if you fear losing your home, the next thing you'll need most in life is your car, both as an immediate shelter and as a way to get to somewhere safer in the dark days ahead .

Our other alternative, evacuating towards Erina or Kincumber, is even less likely if left too late. It's true we are not just one road in and out as is Lake Conjola, but the roads we use are tunnels of trees and could well be aflame. Assuming clogged roads to the water ahead of time, does it make sense to have the oval opened as a place where many cars could park? What about access to the beach at the shark tower? Hundreds of four-wheel-drive's could presumably find safety on our kilometre plus of beach. Thinking ahead about such things, about where to go and what to do if fires strike, may save property and lives.

Investing in water tanks, sprinkler systems and generators, may also be something that we need to consider if we want to continue living in our beautiful leafy environment beside the sea. These represent a great expense, it's true, but if they greatly increase protection, are they not worth it to secure one's house? Recovering emotionally and rebuilding after bushfire loss is not easy or assured. It can take years of claims and paperwork to rebuild. Tathra has not yet fully recovered.

The Lake Conjola community hall.



The people of Lake Conjola admit they were complacent, that it would have been good to have met ahead of time and go over the various options, assuming a massive fire event could come, especially given the drought and climate change. As it is, they quickly turned the community hall into a Recovery Centre , creating a very

effective local team, tapping local energy and expertise. They had no choice but to act locally because Conjola was cut off completely for seven days.



Peter Dunn, with his military and Canberra fires disaster relief background, is providing excellent leadership for this team .You've probably seen Peter before. Remember the Dec. 17 Press conference called by the Emergency leaders for Climate action? Peter was the speaker who said ."We have to stop burning fossil fuels. This is not speculation. This is Science. " Also he said "Our leadership is asleep at the wheel." How ironic that two weeks later Peter would be providing leadership in his own community, helping to get the Conjola Recovery Centre up and running in that ill-equipped hall, dedicated to Conjolars rebuilding Conjola .

Conjola Recovery will take a very long time but it's made easier by everyone working together, sharing the pain and resolve. Also, what they are discovering and achieving through the Recovery centre may well become a model for other coastal communities. We could be thinking about how we might set up our own local recovery centre, where it might be, and what talents we'd draw on to run it. Like Conjola, we can't rely on outside agencies to solve all the problems there will inevitably be, at least not in the short term.

On a more cheerful note, Avoca is hoping to be able to offer respite holidays to Conjolars who've gone through this nightmare . Steve Fortey, the ABCA President, is in touch with Avoca real estate agents who are presently sounding out those with local rental properties to see who might be prepared to donate getaway time. Perhaps others reading this article might also know of places available. The recovery team at Conjola is thrilled with this initiative, feeling a break from the unbelievable stress down there, will be a godsend for many.

Mike Rubbo

**Open until 8pm 7 Days a Week**

02 4381 0600



AVOCA BEACH *Seafoods*

BYO WELCOME

(no charge)



# Name your Pizza.



It began with Rob Carlton one of our more famous residents. Rob invented his own pizza recipe which Erik down at the Avoca pizza now has on the menu. Rob says “ My pizza is called Rob’s special. It’s very simple. Pepperoni, fresh tomato, capsicum, olives and chilli flakes. Fresh tomato is the key.”

“To answer your question, Mike, no, we haven’t gone off it. Son Leo and I have been ordering it every Friday night for years. Our other son, Jimmy, has his own variation on it. He uses Rob’s special as the base, then does a huge number of things to it and calls his the Hot Daddy. Erik suggested changing my pizza’s name to the Silver Logie after I won that award. But I said no.”

This got me thinking that it would be a good idea if other people propose their own pizzas. I pitched it to Erik and he’s agreed as long as these rules are followed. 1. The ingredients have to be what is already on offer. 2. You have to have ordered and consumed your invention five times. 3. Ten people have to testify that they found it worth adding to the menu. 4. A sample slice has to be tasted by Erik at the time of his choosing.

Having played by these rules, and it is an honour system, you submit your recipe to Erik and he decides if it goes into a book called, the AvocaPizza Hall of Fame.

I now have my own accredited recipe. I start with their gourmet vegetarian which is delicious in itself. Then, because I find the tomato base too tart, I substitute a pesto base. For the same reason I eliminate sun-dried tomatoes as a topping and get extra eggplant instead. All of this contributes to the second part of my pizza’s name which is Nutty. It really does have a roasted nutty flavour.

The first part of the name comes from the fact that I am not a responsible pizza eater. I consume far too much and so the full name is Naughty but Nutty. (See top of the page) One of its best features, in common with their gourmet vegetarian, are those delicious pitted black olives, scattered over the surface.

So have a go. Remember the rules are strict but based on an honour system. Don’t expect the pizzeria staff to ask for proof of your five purchases, your ten fans, et cetera. Erik’s judgement is final as to whether you make it into the Hall of fame book. Mike Rubbo



## Every picture can tell a story.

These dogs are long gone, but the Rileys will never part with this painting on the left done in 2005.

Similarly, remember when the theatre ran Alfresco? If you’d like a painting of something special, email me at [michael.rubbo@gmail.com](mailto:michael.rubbo@gmail.com)





# How's this WEATHER?



Opening a conversation with a comment on the weather is typically frowned upon, but these days, the weather is far from dull. From a devastating drought and bushfire season straight into an East Coast Low (ECL), the Central Coast has been through the wringer.

ECL's are intense low-pressure systems which occur, on average, several times each year off the eastern coast of Australia. Although they can occur at any time of the year, they are more common during autumn and winter. ECL's will often intensify rapidly over a period of 12-24 hours making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the eastern coast (Bureau of Meteorology). The Pasha Bulker ran aground at Newcastle in the ECL of June 2007.

The ECL that developed off our coast in February 2020 brought gale force winds, heavy widespread rainfall leading to flash flooding and major flooding in low lying areas around creek lines, estuaries, lagoons and rivers. This combined with big swells and high tides to wreak havoc. In true Avoca spirit, locals were out sandbagging the surf club in anticipation of the high tide, however despite taking a bashing from the ocean, our new foreshore works held up well and the club survived unscathed.

After months and months of no rain, the ECL washed the catchment clean – straight into our rivers, lagoons and oceans. The catchment of the Hawkesbury River was flushed, Avoca lagoon breached itself on Sunday 9th February and Wamberal, Terrigal and Cochran lagoons were also opened.

Toxins accumulated by human activity in the catchment along with suspended sediments, sewage and bushfire ash resulted in stormwater that turned our ocean dark brown. But what really struck me in the aftermath

of the storm was the thick foam that formed along the shore.

Seawater naturally contains dissolved salts, proteins, fats and dead algae but following heavy rainfall, it also contains stormwater pollutants. When this mix is agitated by wind and waves, it creates sea foam. When it is absolutely pulverised by an ECL, with wind gusts of up to 90 km/hr and 6 metre waves as was the case, you get sea foam of gargantuan proportions. I watched two kids playing hide and seek in foam nearly 1 metre deep, then make beards and hats out of it – very funny but a sure way to a belly ache.

The ECL resulted in damage to homes, cars, power supplies and infrastructure, however it did drop an astounding 300 ml of much needed rain into our water catchment in just 4 days, replenishing the Central Coast's dams at Mangrove Creek, Mooney Mooney and Mardi, as well as weirs at Wyong River, Ourimbah Creek and Mangrove Creek.

It also gave our earth a good soaking, and finally extinguished the Gospers Mountain fire which burnt more than 512,000 hectares since igniting on October 26. So, when talking about the weather, remember to mention the good with the bad.



**DAVID O'GRADY  
PLUMBING**  
COMPLETE MAINTENANCE  
Lic No. 7047

**David:** 0414 435 419  
**Daniel:** 0421 708 422  
Avoca Beach  
daniel.ogrady.plumbing@gmail.com



**chopstix**  
avoca beach

TAKE-AWAY  
HOME DELIVERY  
GLUTEN FREE CHOICES  
P 02 43 823 939

modern chinese fusion



Sandbags being filled to protect the Surf Club.

MR



The new wall stood up well to the onslaught.

Steve Fortey



The sea was a mass of foam. Don't swim in it, I told some kids.

MR





It could have been worse.

MR



When the power went out at the theatre, they were watching "A Nice Day in the Neighbourhood".

MR



Not a tire from the storm but a section of an old tree. Taken back by the sea the next day.

MR





The morning after.

MR



A future champ on the sand?

MR



Our beach rights for dogs due to become an issue again it seems. Stay alert.

MR



# Not just finders keepers with Tim Davies



I'm sure you've seen Tim on our beach, colourfully dressed, skinny as a rake and waving his magic wand. That's Tim Davies searching for metal in the sand. I went up and asked him whether it was really profitable since coins are worth so little these days. Tim explained that it's not just coins he's after, though sometimes he's found what he calls "the money pot," hundreds of coins all clustered together.

This can happen when massive storms cut through beaches and churn everything up as they did in 2016. The sea can act as a sifter and sorter, concentrating caches of coins and valuables lost many years ago. In one of Tim's money pots was \$1000 worth of pre-decimal currency, dating from over fifty years ago. ,



In the case of a of our recent storms, the carving and the churning happened north of Newcastle and on the Northern Beaches, not on the Central Coast. But over the last few weeks Tim has found a lot of rings, \$20,000 worth. His finding skills are so well-known now that people find him on online, tell him where they lost a ring , and ask him to hunt for it. Not commission, just ask. I caught up with Tim a couple of days later after a woman from Canberra had lost her ring at North Avoca. Tim searched way into the night the stretch of beach described, and finally found the ring up near the entrance to the North Avoca surf club.



I was on the spot when he gave it back to the woman's aunt who lives locally. Below is Melissa, the aunt, so happy to take the ring back on behalf of her niece. Tim doesn't charge for the service. "It's by donation," he says, Why? "It's a community service and some people don't have the money." Of course grateful owners can be counted on to be generous, I guess, at least at covering costs. As Tim points out, it cost him a lot in this case, backwards and forwards from Ettalong where he lives and a lot of gas used up to find that ring.



This treasure hunting has made Tim a keen student of nature. In fact it was way back in 2000 that he trademarked what is now his motto; Respect nature or fear it. He's quite convinced we're not doing that, neither respecting nor fearing enough.

Some years ago Tim started a Gofundme campaign under the name Treasure Hunters NSW. The site is looking for donations to fund the young volunteers who Tim's trained to look for rings etc as a community service, surely a worth while thing for young people to be doing. Imagine how good it must feel to find someone's engagement ring and be able to give it back to the astonished owner. Surely it doesn't get much better than that?

Mike Rubbo

# 202 Manufactured homes behind Lizotte's



Bangalow stud today. A tranquil 40 acres.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, what is it about the Central Coast, and in particular, Avoca Beach, what attracted you here and to call it home? Could it be its scenic natural beauty, the beach with its lovely lake, could it be the sense of community that some may feel? Or is it the proximity to the National Parks of Bouddi and Brisbane Water and all that just a little over an hour away from the big smoke of Sydney? Now, ask yourself how much of this are you prepared to sacrifice or share with what some describe as the "inevitable development" of this area?

At the moment developers are targeting the Avoca surrounds. Why wouldn't they? It's a great place to live and an easy sell for the over-populated Sydney region on the other side of the Hawkesbury River. Also, these canny developers are profiting from a zoning absurdity. Houses like these, manufactured off site, can be classed as caravans. See any wheels? Does that not undermine public confidence in the planning process?



Using this bizarre E4 zoning loophole, the interstate company, Living Choice (who already have a number of retirement villages in the area) intend to create a 202 gated style manufactured home community on what is now a tree studded rural property. 600 trees need to go!

Well, 4400 people have signed a petition against the development and 105 objections have gone to Council, both must be records.

This huge (see aerial overlay) new development will certainly be well equipped, coming with a community club house, bowling green, swimming pool etc. It's targeting the premium end niche market, aimed at those 64 and over keen on down sizing, with a staged

development which could take as long as 5 years to complete.



Entrance off Avoca drive at the top left of the pic.

1. Will it add to the strain of an already overloaded water and sewage system? YES!
2. Will it threaten and jeopardise water quality within the Avoca Lake Catchment and our beach? HIGHLY LIKELY! (Recent problems at Terrigal Beach with polluted waters is a case in point)
3. Will it increase a growing traffic congestion problem as well as the ability to park the extra cars at Kincumber Shopping Centre? DEFINITELY!
4. Will it place an extra 400 elderly people alongside surrounding retirement village residences in jeopardy if a fire breaks out on Kincumber Mountain? YES!
5. Will the endangered fauna that move from coast to hinterland and beyond through green corridors on the site be at peril from a construction road via Picketts Valley Road? YES!
6. And finally, does this development (the Caravan Caper) open the flood gates to high density housing into the future of remaining green areas surrounding Avoca Beach, stripping the suburb of its present low key character? MOST PROBABLY!

The flip side one could argue, is that Choice Living as they prefer to call it will be good for local economy, for jobs etc. They say too there's need to find housing solutions for the baby boomers coming through. All valid points. So, is this a case of not in my backyard? PROBABLY.

But are they after a free ride as they change the local character? Recent information provided by Living Choice reveals there's no obligation on them to contribute to any public facilities like footpaths, road improvements, etc.

That's a little disappointing given the tens of millions in profit coming their way if approved. Profit making is fine but something much more low key, 40 one acre blocks for example, could still make a handsome profit on the \$12 million they paid. Profit is fair over the top profit at the expense of lifestyle, is not. Graham Murray.





BAR & BISTRO

# SALTWATER

02 4382 2322

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

AVOCA BEACH HOTEL

**Complete Carpet Service**  
*Peter King*

- ✓ Carpets Steam Cleaned
- ✓ Carpet Laying & Repairs
- ✓ Carpet Supplied

**Mob: 0412 162 927**  
**Ph: 02 4381 0299**

PO Box 86, Avoca Beach 2251

**PRECIOUS PETS**  
**DOG & CAT GROOMING SALON**



**0438160693**  
1/197 The Round Drive, Avoca Beach

**THE MOUSEHOLE**  
ARTS & CRAFTS

SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE FOR 43 YEARS  
Open 7 Days  
184A Avoca Dr Avoca Beach  
0490 796 279

**belle**  
PROPERTY

**Ben Bedford**  
0433 778 000 @avoca\_agent

**ALLMALAY**  
Malaysian Cuisine

DINE-IN, TAKE-AWAY & BYO

**4381 2885**

Specialising in Authentic Malaysian Cuisine

14/172 Avoca Dr  
Avoca Beach



AVOCA BEACH  
**ARCHITECTURAL  
HARDWARE &  
LOCKSMITHS**

35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

All your hardware supplies...

Phone (02) 4382 1286  
Fax (02) 4382 1010  
MOBILE 0412 437 327 (all hours)  
177 Avoca Dr, Avoca Beach NSW 2251  
[www.avocaarchitectural.com](http://www.avocaarchitectural.com)

- Locksmithing
- Car Locks Repaired

CENTRAL COAST  
**FLOORmaster**  
*Kincumber*

CARPET • TIMBER • LAMINATE • RUGS

Home of Quality Flooring

Scott Norkett  
**0419 499 024**

SHOWROOM  
Shop 5/22 Willesee Cres. Kincumber 2251

# Avoca Beach Pizza & Pasta Café

172 Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach **Ph 4382 3506**

Open 5pm weeknights Monday – Friday

12 noon Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

• FAMILY FRIENDLY • ALFRESCO DINING • EXCELLENT COFFEE AND CAKES

Also available: gluten free pizza, pasta, crepes & desserts, plus vegan & lactose free pizza.



## Avoca Beach DENTAL

Shop 7/188 Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach NSW 2251

**P** 02 43 811 888 **F** 02 43811887 **W** [avocabeachdental.com.au](http://avocabeachdental.com.au)

**E** [reception@avocabeachdental.com.au](mailto:reception@avocabeachdental.com.au)

- No Gap payment for check-ups, cleans and general xrays for all eligible health fund members

- Bulk Billing for eligible children with CDBS

- Single visit crowns and bridges using CEREC technology

- Teeth whitening using Phillips Zoom!

- Denture fabrication and repairs

- Finance options available

### FRIENDLY GROCER



Avoca Beach Friendly Grocer  
the friendliest supermarket in town

#### Your Friendly Grocer has

- Friendly service
- Great range
- Value for money pricing
- Free home delivery
- EFTPOS facilities & ATM

176-178 Avoca Drive, Avoca Beach  
Ph: 4382 1884



## AVOCA Thai

### HOME DELIVERY

5.30pm – 9.00pm  
Minimum order \$30.00  
Limited Area  
Delivery Charge \$3.00

Dine in or take away  
**4382 3737 or 4382 3712**  
[www.avocathai.com.au](http://www.avocathai.com.au)



Shops 1 & 2, 170 Avoca Drive  
Avoca Beach NSW 2251



Avoca Beach Surf



[avocabeachsurf](https://www.instagram.com/avocabeachsurf)

## Avoca's number 1 Agent for Sales, Service, Rentals and Holiday Lettings

Put us to the test... We're confident of passing the toughest examination!

**George Brand Real Estate Avoca Beach - 4382 1311** [avoca@georgebrand.com.au](mailto:avoca@georgebrand.com.au)

[georgebrand.com.au](http://georgebrand.com.au) 9 offices covering the coast

**georgebrand**  
more exposure. more buyers.