

ABCA AGM and General Meeting 15/08/2022

Opened 7pm.

Present 27

Apologies Angela Kennedy, Mike Tamblin, Judith Parker, Belinda Clark, Wally Portelli.

ELECTIONS

Steve Fortey - President

Robert Burns - Treasurer

Ian Carruthers - Vice President and Secretary

Committee - Carol Fortey, Michael Scobie, Colin Tipney, Sandy West, Roger Johnson and Frederick Gautschi

Welcome to Sandy, Roger and Frik!

President's Report

The pandemic unsurprisingly has made it a somewhat disrupted year, especially in 2021, with a few meetings cancelled and meetings with various bodies restricted to zoom or not at all. The move to hold meetings at the Rugby Club was forced upon us by the limited space and lack of opportunity for social distancing at the surf club. It has worked out quite well. Many thanks to the Rugby Club.

The Committee. I'd like to pay tribute to the hardworking ABCA team, Vice President Ian Carruthers, Treasurer Robert Burns, Secretary Carol Fortey, and committee members Michael Scobie, Angela Kennedy, and Colin Tipney. They have been very willing to share the load, and each has made a valuable contribution. A sign that things are working well is that all the team are willing to back up for another year when elections for office bearers are held. They haven't even asked for a pay rise.

A long list of the things we have done over the past year would be tedious for me to write and for you to read. So, here's an abbreviated form:

Central Coast Council. Our dealings with Council have been many and varied, and for the most part Council has been willing to listen, understanding and cooperative. It's not been without frustrations and at times the wheels of change have turned quite slowly.

Over the past 12 months work has progressed significantly on the drainage problems at the beachfront. (See over for details)

The new playground at Ross Park is coming along. After much community consultation and an ABCA submission.

A new lifeguard tower has been installed on the beachfront.

The Interflow trucks have been frequent visitors and **sewerage pipes are being assessed**, maintained and/or replaced at a steady rate throughout Avoca. It's hard to complain that it takes 10 minutes to travel from one end Of Cape Three Points Rd to the other when it's for pothole repairs in one section and sewer pipe inspection on the other.

The water quality in Avoca Lagoon has been an ongoing concern and slow progress has been made. See the notes over the page for more on this.

Rates and Water Rates. The ABCA has put in detailed submissions on both these controversial issues. Our general meeting tonight should deal with the need for further action now that Council seems to be getting back on its feet financially.

Road and Traffic safety. Potholes, potholes, potholes. It's a huge task for Council and we deserve no more attention than the next suburb, which is also suffering. Avoca Beach is no. 1 for many things in my view but living in the area being rated No 1 by the NRMA for pothole damage to vehicles is not such an enviable record. Council is aware and doing its best. In the meantime, keep an eye on the road and practise your slalom skills. The great gash in the landscape on Avoca Drive has made a **temporary pedestrian crossing** a necessity. Council responded quickly to our concerns about adequate marking and signage. Improved lighting needs to come. We continue to agitate for increased safety.

March Meeting with Ric Hart, Council Administrator. This well attended meeting saw a frank exchange of views and Mr Hart was left in no doubt as to the views of Avoca Beach residents. A bonus is that since that time we have established direct communications with the Administrator, who has kept to his word about being approachable.

Defib Machines. Carol Fortey and I have joined a committee which has been successful in getting three publicly accessible defib machines around Avoca Beach. Big thanks to Dr Tom Ford from Central Heart for fully funding the one in the village, and to residents of the Ambassador Apartments, including Geoff Cameron and Erik at the Pizza Shop for their cooperation with the location. Tom also graced us with his presence at our June meeting and gave an interesting and informative talk on heart health. Two other locations about to receive Defibs are the Avoca Beach Public School (funded by the ABCA) and the Avoca Beach Picture Theatre (funded by George Brand Real Estate). Many thanks to John Feist and Liza Boltz, both parents at the school and especially to the principal, Ben Thomas, for his support of this lifesaving initiative.

Avoca Lagoon Water Quality.

In the interval since our June ABCA General Meeting, several Committee members met with the local State MP, Adam Crouch. We discussed the poor state of water quality in the Lagoon over years. We flagged the need for future funding to address actions that will be identified in the current technical study on causes that is being conducted by Council and the State Government. Mr Crouch expressed willingness to make representations within Government for allocation of funding once specific requirements are identified.

Sewer and drainage and the impact on the lagoon. ABCA members also met with senior managers in Council responsible for management . Failings in the sewer system are almost certainly a substantial contributor to the Lagoon water quality

problem. Beginning in late 2021, Council has commenced inspection of the Avoca Beach sewer network - 10.4km inspected and of which 2.0km found defective and repaired. Council has allocated \$2.5 million over the current 4 years capital works program to continue and complete this program in Avoca Beach. At this point, Council has no plans to investigate illegal connections of stormwater into sewers (which can cause overflows). Nor does Council have current plans to investigate the North Avoca sewer system - North Avoca is part of the Lagoon catchment. It was agreed to maintain regular contact between ABCA and Council sewer managers.

Drainage works in the beachfront area. Council's engineer in charge tells us the current stage of the Avoca Bowl Upgrade project involves the continued installation of large box culverts from the eastern carpark through to the creek in the south end reserve. Other associated works will be the installation of a large Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) on the eastern side of the gravel carpark and relocation (lowering) of the sewer main between the creek and Burns St. **(See map attached)**

To date, the contractor has laid the culverts as far south as the south end reserve. Next week they will install the precast GPT units before moving on to the sewer relocation works. There is approx. 6 weeks of work remaining, weather permitting. The next stage of works will commence around March 2023. It will be the continuation of the drainage box culverts through South End Park.

Steve Fortey

President ABCA

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted. Funds on 30 June stood at \$11,400. President thanked Robert Burns for his expertise.

Minutes from the General Meeting

Agenda

1. The Lifeguard tower

The tower has been installed on the beachfront. SLSC NSW and Council have the authority to install. It's an exemptive element under SEPP (State Environment Planning Policy) – as an essential service. Allowed up to 20 sqm. Avoca is 13.86, so smaller than it might have been. It is also portable and affordable (runs on solar). Extensive consultation took place about the location and size, and modifications were made – ABCA took part in this.

There are 11 such towers at beaches on the Central Coast. Ocean Beach, Killcare, Macmasters, Ficus Avenue, Wamberal, Toowoona Bay, Shelly, The Entrance, Nth Entrance, Soldiers and Lakes Beach.

Discussions regarding why it is required (distance, fast access, and loss of vision of swimmer in trouble). Also keeping the new tower free of advertising (unlike other coastal towers).

2. The road and sewage work down at the beach

This major drainage operation is being done in stages as finance and resources are released. Another 6 weeks to go for this stage and after this

the next will hopefully begin in March next year. Council has sensibly avoided peak beach usage times as far as possible. (see President's Report).

3. **The Landslip on Avoca Drive** – what is going to happen? Not a lot soon, it seems. Engineering studies, applications for grants, quotes all take time. The Temporary pedestrian crossing is difficult to see, particularly at night, lighting suggested.

4. **Defib machines for community use.**

We have managed three to be located for public accessibility. ABCA has funded one. (See President's report).

5. **Saltwater Estate**

Still no change to the DA and sales are being made as eco tourist cabins, which don't approve permanent residency. Will be high density living. We worry about the implications for all E4 zoned land across the Coast. Latest letter from ABCA attached.

6. **Water quality in the Lagoon**, our meetings with Adam Crouch and Council's Water and Sewerage people. Slow progress being made.

7. **Roadworks and potholes**

Stop and go workers have never been so busy. (see President's report).

8. **Natalia Drobot** off to world championships in Hungary, we wish her all the best.

9. **Social Media at Avoca** - a problem?

Noted that there is a second Facebook page labelled Friends of Avoca mirroring the one operated by ABCA - attempts being made to sort out situation.

There is also an entrepreneurial Avoca Beach Community 2022 page which has included, on occasion, inappropriate comments – this page is not associated with ABCA. The ABCA does not have a specific website, it uses Friends of Avoca and its email list of over 450 locals.

General Business

Council and Climate change - It was agreed that representations should be made to Council to elevate its priority on addressing climate resilience of communities, addressing potential major hazards holistically .

Wamberal Seawall? ABCA made a submission to Council regarding recent public exhibition of design elements for a large seawall at Wamberal. The submission addressed broad principles that would be applicable to Wamberal, and future beach defences at other beaches.

Council and democracy - discussion re when next Council Election should occur. Should democratically elected councillors be there to represent us sooner than Late 2024? A show of hands indicated a preference to remain with the administrator while Council consolidates financially.

Meeting concluded 8.40 pm

