



The most travelled stretch of road in Avoca has no pedestrian access.

Pathway Petition on Avoca Drive gains momentum

It's a dangerous piece of road that nearly every resident in Avoca uses often, and it's been an issue for years. Avoca Drive from the 'Bowlo' to Heazlett Park is a stretch of road unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Finally, we seem to be making progress. The Avoca Beach Community Association, with community helpers, is beginning to see results. First, we saw an approval by Council of the concept of a Shared Pathway, being a cycleway and pedestrian walkway separated by a painted line. It's in the design stage with Council and being costed right now. The design is due for completion early next year. Yes, 2025, nothing happens quickly. No surprise though, that Council won't have the funds for the construction. So, we need to rely on State and Federal Grants for funding.

A breakthrough?

An enterprising local resident approached Gordon Reid (Federal Member for Robertson) and within a week or two Dr Reid had set up a petition for us, saying he was confident of securing Federal and/or State funding provided we obtained 2,000 signatures. We responded. A QR code and a little publicity saw 600 signatures over the festive season. A table in the village on a Saturday saw almost 400 signatures in 4 hours from shoppers and walkers. But our best haul was a further 600 at the Avoca Beachside Markets. To his credit, Gordon Reid came along and rolled his sleeves up for a solid hour or two to help our volunteers. We are now over 1500 and closing in on the goal of 2000. We're hoping the February Markets get us over the line. Then we'll see what Gordon Reid can do for us.

If you haven't yet signed, please scan the QR code below.

Thanks, Frik Gautschi for the ABCA



Please scan the QR Code



Petition signing in the village



Avoca Drive, where do the pedestrians go?

Update on local Issues

The Community Association continues to be active on a range of issues for residents. Progress can be slow at times in gaining responses and action from the relevant authorities, but persistence does pay off. Your support in advancing these campaigns and in sharing information is important.

Road Safety

Committee members are in regular contact with and meeting with Council management, the local State Member and the local Federal Member to press the case for implementation of several priority road problems in Avoca Beach.

Road improvements are largely dependent on State or Federal funding. However, Council has a budget for maintenance such as potholes, line painting and broken safety signs - these can be reported via the Council website.



Dr Gordon Reid and enthusiastic volunteers at Avoca markets Cape Three Points Rd, we're working on it.

Cape Three Points Road – Campaign for Footpath (Cabbage Tree Ave to Ridgway Rd)

For anyone on foot, including students going to & from school, this section along the road verge (450m) is very hazardous and impassable for some. A campaign for funding of a path is progressing. This pathway will also provide a welcome link between Avoca and Copacabana.

We were delighted to learn that in December this footpath project was submitted by Council for funding under the NSW Government "Get NSW Active" 2024/25 program, as one of only 5 permitted for Council. Successful projects are expected to be announced between March and May.

Additionally, State Member Adam Crouch, has offered to submit the pathway project for possible funding in this year's State Budget. In the meantime, Central Coast Council management has confirmed it will progress short term works to improve road safety, and thereby pedestrian safety.

Recently, Council management organised contractors to respond to ABCA Committee's request to cut-back encroaching vegetation along "the goat track". This happened just before school resumed, allowing students to see where they are walking and without fear of snakes, ticks or leeches.

Intersection of Avoca Drive and The Round Drive

(near the Scout Hall)

Efforts with Council and the Local State Member, Adam Crouch, to deal with safety and congestion issues at this busy road junction have become a long-running saga. Moving an electricity pole is said to be expensive and represents one barrier to progress. The state Member has signaled that opening of the \$350 million Regional Development Trust Fund will be announced soon and may be an avenue for Council to secure funding.

Removing Buses from Austral Avenue

Another long-running saga on something that we think is simple to fix. The Local Member in November tabled this issue in State Parliament, producing a response from the Government that the matter will be dealt with "sometime in the near future" when NSW Transport reviews the State bus network. For us, it's a fine example of making easy things hard.

Community Power Share – a local Community Battery Project

Community Power Share is a not-for-profit community-based project that aims to collect, store, and share excess electricity generated by rooftop solar panels in postcode 2251.

We are aiming for a grant funded community-owned battery. Our ultimate aim is to reduce community energy costs and facilitate the transition to a greener energy economy.

It is hoped the battery can be located on land belonging to Central Coast Council as part of a partnering arrangement.

This is a complex technical and regulatory project and there are many steps to go through before launch. However, progress is being made.

Once again we thank Scott and Robyn McClung for their leadership on this.

To find out more or express interest in joining the scheme, visit:

<https://communitypowershare.org/>

Landslip.

As indicated in the October '23 newsletter, we are waiting to learn whether Council's application for State funding to stabilize the cliff landslip next to the retail strip has been successful.

(continued on page 3)

Editorial credits: Steve Fortey: Editor | Michael Scobie: Advertising

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Also if you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, get in touch.

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ABCA President's Report

Thanks to our volunteers.

It's been said that a good community can be judged by the number of volunteers willing to come forward and help. Avoca has an amazing number of volunteers ready and willing to do their bit. So, to the Surf Club patrol members over a busy summer season, we say a huge thank you (it's not over yet). Turning up and keeping us safe weekend after weekend, and doing the public holidays as well is much appreciated.

That's not all. Often unsung heroes, the Rural Fire Brigade is committed to our safety and quietly does a very important job. We all appreciate them more in times of emergency, but there is a lot of training and maintenance that tends to go unnoticed. I'm sure they would appreciate more volunteers, why not pop down for a chat?

There's more, much more. The Scouts, the Red Cross, Landcare, and all those who coach or administer at the Rugby Club, Kayak Club, Board Riders Club, Cricket, and Football Clubs. These are people that make a great community. They also provide limitless opportunities for the rest of us to get involved.

On that note, may I say a huge thank you to my fellow committee members on the Avoca Beach Community Association. The time and enthusiasm they contribute to the community would surprise many.

Steve Fortey

Local Issues (Continued from page 2)

The Beach – New Management Plan.

Council is due to finish a new generation Coastal Management Project by end June 2024. (This will replace the current Coastal Zone Management Plan)

Community consultation will soon occur. This will be an

important time for the Community Association, and Avocans generally, who will have the opportunity to engage with the Council proposals regarding management of the Avoca Beach foreshore.

Avoca Lake – Water Quality.

The Committee has just received an interim report on the Lagoon monitoring studies undertaken over the past two years by State Environment Department scientists. We await the full project report.



Beatrice, working hard to monitor water quality.

The interim report indicates that the large hole in the central basin (30% of the lake area) – produced by sand dredging decades ago – is basically an ecological disaster driving much of the continuing poor water quality. Additionally, the southern basin (The Round Drive surrounds it) has problematic sediment loads in the water.

*The ABCA committee continues to persevere on all the above. We invite community members to lend their support.

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Avoca Beach Community Association Inc.

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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 633000 | Account No. 210489795 | Bendigo Bank; or by mail. (Donations also welcome.) Providing your email enables us to send you local information.

A "Refresh" for our 60-Year-Old Village Church

"You only see well with your heart, what is essential is invisible to the eye". - THE LITTLE PRINCE



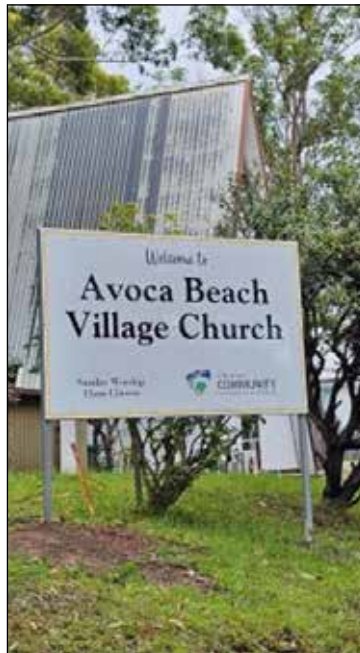
Last year Avoca Beach Village Church marked sixty years of worship on the site of what is now the only church in Avoca at the corner of Cape Three Points Road and The Round Drive. The little A frame church at 62 The Round Drive was built in 1963 and is celebrating by having a "refresh": new signs, new carpet, and a fresh coat of paint as well as a new roster of visiting speakers and preachers - a very inclusive group aged as old as 21 (James McGilvray) and as young as 92! (Gordon McAuslan).

We are a small progressive and inclusive congregation of around 15-20 members and children and pets are welcome too. Rhana Smith is our most long-term congregant and was married in this little church to her sweetheart Max in 1967. Max has recently passed on to glory, but Rhana still comes with Poppy her little companion Sydney Silky cross. Many other regular members are no longer with us, but the little church continues.

Formerly a Methodist chapel the church was bought in 1983 by the Open Brethren denomination which has now been re-named as Christian Community Churches of Australia - a low-church, reformed, protestant denomination similar to the Baptist churches. Now people from many denominations and backgrounds attend and are welcome to attend. The Sunday worship service is a simple one-hour service of classic old hymns, holy communion, some prayers and offertory and a friendly cuppa afterwards downstairs. Visitors welcome.

Suzy Greene one of our regulars who regrets not coming along years ago says:

"Don't wait to be invited to join us at our weekly Sunday service. I used to drive past the little church on the corner of The Round Drive on my way home to Copacabana and never thought to visit until an old school friend invited me along. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming, and I loved the small little church. We have visiting speakers with God's message from the Bible each week, and then have a lovely catch up with everyone over a cuppa and cake afterwards. I really look forward to going each Sunday."



We are so thankful to Ed, Jack, Nick and George from the men's sheds at Kincumber and Copacabana for helping us install our new signs and soon we will come and remind you of our request to make us some outdoor picnic tables!

All welcome for worship 11am to 12 noon on Sundays or healing prayer 1pm- 2pm on Tuesdays. Please don't hesitate to enquire about using our little chapel for your group meetings, your wedding or a recital. The church seats 80 comfortably.

Come and worship in spirit and in truth!

"People look at the outside appearance but God looks at the heart".

Enquiries: Church administrator
Stephanie Hall 02 4381 1775

Welcome to

Avoca Beach Village Church

cnr Cape Three Points Rd and The Round Drive, Avoca Beach

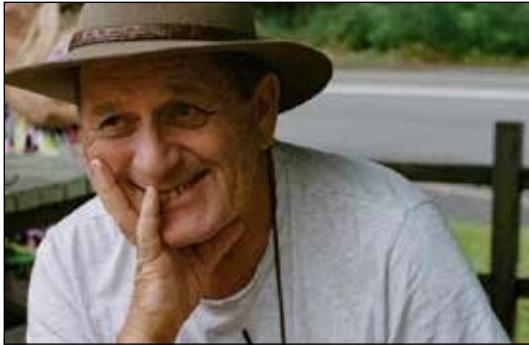
Sunday Worship
11am-12noon



The Avoca Beach Art Scene continues to amaze.

Carol Marando and Jon Ellis are a creative couple who bring refreshing and diverse talents to our thriving art scene. They settled in at Avoca Beach with their two young children just over twenty years ago, after living in the bush for 10 years.

It was in Central Australia on a painting trip, of course, where the artist couple met in the very early 90's. Both were working toward exhibitions at their respective galleries.



Jon



Traces of Jon's English accent still survive, although it was way back in 1976 that he originally arrived in Australia after travelling overland from the United

Kingdom. Jon tells me he was immediately struck by the colours and quality of the light here in our beautiful land, not to mention the beaches and the excellent weather! He doesn't remember a time when he was not painting and drawing, almost always out in the landscape.

As much as Jon loves finding inspiration in the bush and remote landscapes, these days, he is more likely to be down the road somewhere in Avoca. It's not an uncommon sight to see him standing in the street painting or drawing. He'll then take these visual notes back to the studio to develop into more substantial works; the studio process allows him to change and rework paintings until something "falls into place". His paintings have a vital and dramatic quality, and even though he is known for using thick paint it's not because he loves impasto, rather he just keeps making changes and adding layers in a quest to capture the elusive essence of the scene. His work is always attention grabbing.



Carol

She was able to successfully transfer her painter's eye to making exquisite "art" jewellery, which she sold around the world for almost 20 years.

Today Carol is known for her excellent ceramic pottery, her works being highly treasured.

A diversion?

Always seeking to challenge and re-invent herself, Carol began studying counselling and then psychotherapy about 10 years ago. (She now has a Masters in Psychotherapy).

Today Carol divides her time between her private practice and her latest artistic passion, ceramics.



Carol was trained in the Fine Arts as soon as she left school and has proven herself multi-talented in a variety of fields. In her early days she made and sold jewellery and got hooked on lampworking (the process of glass bead making).

With an excellent large home studio space as their base, both Carol and Jon manage busy and productive professional lives. Jon holds weekly art classes in his home studio space as well as teaching painting at Gosford Regional Gallery, and Carol sells her work at The Mousehole and occasionally on the Five Lands Collective Stall at the Avoca Markets. Both also sell their work from home.



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Avoca Beach 'Bowlo' – Your Local



Since opening its doors for business way back in 1960, The Avoca Beach Bowling Recreation Club has been an integral part of the Avoca Beach community. Following their extensive renovations and improvements over the past couple of years the Club provides a worthy welcome at the gateway to our beautiful area.

The renovations to the Club by parent Wyong Leagues Group, include a reconfigured, improved floorplan and an extensively refurbished sports bar. Additionally, the Club added a large airconditioned playground area, very popular with families, and an alfresco dining Terrace right outside offering parents and grandparents peace of mind while children play either in the playground or on the family-friendly synthetic green.

With these changes the venue has become increasingly popular, especially during the holiday period, bringing in record numbers. People appreciate the comfort, the value dining, great bars, not to mention the entertainment, raffles, and activities.

“When we planned to invest heavily in renovations a couple of years back our aim was to exceed expectations, this appears to have been achieved if results are any guide,” venue manager Scott Galloway says. “We have received nothing but praise for investing in the future of our venue. We continue to see the benefits of the vision coming to reality. One pleasing thing is big influx of memberships and enquiries about how far our courtesy bus travels.”

A major feature of the club, the Sports Bar with its giant viewing screen is decorated with feature walls depicting national sporting heroes including NRL, Cricket, Rugby, AFL, Boxing and Soccer heroes. A decision was made when planning the décor however to dedicate a large part of the space to our own local heroes of Avoca Beach. Local surf photography legend David Benson was approached to showcase a selection of his magnificent action-packed images. The Sports Bar also features a mouth-watering special menu to accompany the action.

The Club’s restaurant, The Table, offers fresh and exciting dining featuring a delicious mix of western and Malaysian favourites – The Table has something for everyone.



Despite the recent modernisation of the Club, it has never forgotten its origins. It is very proud to have a highly active Bowls program built upon a very competitive men’s and ladies’ program. Excellent facilities are provided to the mighty Sharks who call the Club’s traditional and synthetic greens their home.

Since its inception Avoca Bowlo has always taken its role in the community very seriously, with many local associations to both charitable and sporting institutions. As an example, last season’s premiership winning Avoca Rugby, has had a long- term association with the Bowlo. Their direct sponsorship enables regular fund-raising activities throughout the year like the very popular weekly Rugby Raffle. The Club is also the major sponsor of Avoca FC with its over 730 registered players from juniors through seniors benefiting from the support.

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Patricia Lynch -- 101 years old and loving life

In this issue we celebrate Patricia Lynch, one of two centenarians living in Avoca. Jack Bartlett being the other. We wonder if there are any more.

Patricia was born in Canowindra January 21st, 1923. She was the 11th child of Peter & Agnes Timmins who went on to have 12 children all up. Peter worked as the teacher/Principal of a one teacher school, at Kurrajong. His own children were keeping him in a job!

Agnes worked as the sewing teacher. Life was fun with 7 brothers and 4 sisters, and a pianola bought on the day Patricia was born was put to great use for family singalongs.



Here's the Timmins family, Patricia, one of 12, is bottom right at her father's feet.

Patricia moved to Rosebery, Sydney with her family when her father retired and she finished her education at Brigidine College in Year 8, like many young girls at the time.

A young girl in the Great Depression, and a young woman during World War Two, these were interesting times to grow up, to say the least. Most of Patricia's older siblings were married when she started her first job at a local factory called Union Moulding, making knobs for radios etc. After learning shorthand & typing at secretarial school, she got a job as secretary to the Chief at De Havilland, contributing to the war effort through the making of Tiger Moth aeroplanes.

During this time, at the local CYO, Patricia met Joe Lynch who worked at the County Council until he was called up to serve in the Army and the Air Force. They were married in 1944, during the war.



First date. Pat aged 16.



1944. Married to Joe

They settled at Chatswood, then moved to Rosebery, having 6 children of their own. Both Pat & Joe had a love of gardening and played tennis.

They began holidaying at Avoca Beach in the 70's and eventually bought a beach house in the early 80's where they eventually retired. Life was good, living opposite the beach, they joined the Garden Club, went on many trips, and continued playing tennis.

They have 11 grandchildren, and 31 great grandchildren, and now 2 great, great grandchildren. Patricia's daughter, Adrienne, and her family have made Avoca Beach their home.



Enjoying life in retirement. Pat and Joe, Married for 70 years.



Patricia's family and friends celebrating her 100th birthday across the road from their home.

Joe died in 2015, but with family support, Pat is still in her own home at 101. She celebrated her 100th birthday in great style in Hunter Park last year with 120 relatives. Today she spends her life quietly, watching sport on TV and enjoying her family as constant companions.

Her recipe for longevity: "enjoy your life, eat and sleep well, don't drink too much..... and never smoke."

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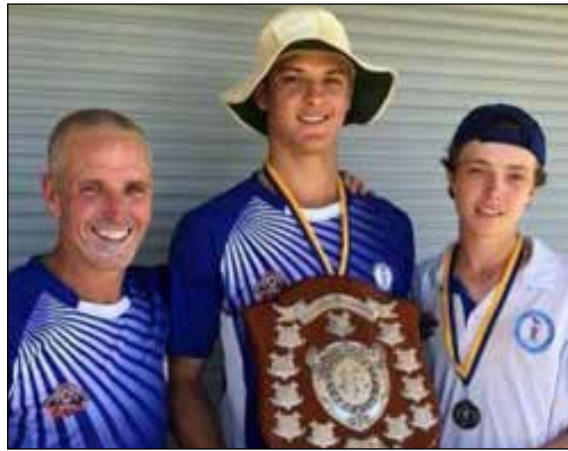
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Cricket in their blood – Howzat?

Born and bred in Avoca Beach, Broc Hardy was awarded the Alan Davidson Medal for best cricketer on the Central Coast for 2022/23. No less able is older brother Jake; barely out of their teens, both play 1st Grade for The Entrance Cricket Club, captained by Jake. But wait - there's more: dad Ashley is also in the team! And none of them is there just to make up the numbers, as The Entrance 1st team are current champions of the Central Coast competition, doing so for the 3rd time with the trio of Hardys in the team.

One might say that cricket is in their blood, if not their genes. Great-grandfather Percival (Perc) played first grade for Pottsville Cricket Club, a half-hour's drive from Murwillumbah in northern NSW, where granddad Len was born at his parents' 650-acre farm during WWII. Len played cricket from an early age, making a name as wicketkeeper and batter ('batsman' in those days, when helmets weren't even worn by motorcyclists). He juggled school, duties on the farm with his brother, and cricket. At age 16 he was playing for Murwillumbah Cricket Club, before long was playing representative cricket for Tweed Valley, and at 21 was selected for NSW Country.



Len Hardy (left) and son Ash and grandsons Jake and Broc with one of many trophies.

In 1996, the family moved to Avoca Beach, purchasing a large block on The Round Drive.

Len wasted no time subdividing the block and building a new home for himself and wife Maureen. Son Ashley bought the original house and duly moved in with his new bride. By 2001 Jake and Broc had arrived and even before starting school, the boys were given the first of many cricket lessons by their newly retired 'Pop', who conveniently lived next door.

It was no surprise that both Jake and Broc were stand-out cricketers from the moment they could hold a bat. Yes, at our very own Avoca Beach Public School. Len fortuitously stayed in shape, thanks mainly to bowling a great many overs to his grandsons because, in 2008, he was invited to start training for Veterans' cricket at Duffy's Rd Oval at Terrigal. The plan for an annual Cricket Challenge

between Queensland and NSW for over-60s was hatched.

The first 'Origin' took place in April 2008 at Tenterfield, won by Queensland (narrowly, says Len). There were several more such Origin tournaments, plus other veterans' matches including two in Tasmania, one in Perth and one in Victoria.

Before giving it all away, Len took up Lawn Bowls, and continues to do so at Avoca Beach Bowling Club at least once per week.

Jake and Broc attended Kincumber High School, playing representative cricket for NSW Country sides at various age levels and junior club cricket, both regularly topping the batting, bowling and fielding statistics. More recently, both (now young men) had opportunities to play for amateur clubs in England for the English summer (Clubs are allowed one international player and do so to bolster their Clubs' performance). Jake played for Thornham Cricket Club (near Manchester) in 2022, and Broc enjoyed warmer weather at High Wycombe Cricket Club in London last year during our winter.

Ash never missed a beat in his own cricket, playing for The Entrance for over 20 years and was eventually joined by his sons, rightly making him ever so proud, along with an even prouder Pop who rarely misses watching a game. Ash recently entered the 'veteran' era himself, having been selected for the inaugural NSW over-40s cricket team - NSW Cyclones - which was unbeaten in 2022/23.

Although Ash and the 'boys' no longer live here, patriarch Len does, so they still call Avoca Beach home.

Frik Gautschi



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Avoca Beach Surf Club – the season so far..

On patrol

As the holiday season winds down it is very pleasing to say that we have had a predominantly incident free season at Avoca with most beach goers listening to the directions of our Lifesavers while on patrol. We have seen enormous crowds once again with the beach full of cabanas most days.



Our Patrols start at 8am and finish at 6pm over the summer period, with 35 plus people each day covering these patrols. Our volunteers again filled the busy Christmas Day shifts, and we are very grateful for these volunteers who gave up their Christmas lunches to ensure that our beach was safe.

This year the Club has rewarded all our patrol teams (14 in total) with a small appreciation of \$200 vouchers for the restaurant upstairs. Thanks again to Avoca Beach Seafoods for the supply of hot chips to all the patrol teams each day we are on Patrol.

Competition

At this time of the season the training for competition starts to ramp up. On any given day we see many of our members from Nippers through to Masters out in the surf training hard to hone their skills and strive for their best efforts in the upcoming carnivals. With the Branch Titles just around the corner I'm sure most competitors are motivated to try that little bit harder at this time of the year.

Well done and thanks to our coaches - without their efforts and time, our competitors would not be who they are today.



The Avoca Beach Under 19 Boat Crew (MACDOGS) taking the Gold medal at the recent Young Guns Surf Boat Carnival.

State Titles are again at Queenscliff starting on the 7th of March and finishing on the 17th March.

Aussies are up on the Sunshine Coast this year starting on the 13th of April and concluding on the 21st April.

Would you like to support us?

If you or your business would be interested in becoming a Sponsor or Supporter of the Club please reach out to us to arrange a conversation. We would love some assistance with costs associated with keeping our IRB on the beach each weekend and the upkeep of all our trailers. There are also many more areas of the Club you could become involved in.

A drink, dinner, and a beautiful view

If you have been upstairs to "The Surf Club Avoca Beach" you will have seen how busy it has been. I want to pass on my thanks and congratulations to all the Staff involved in making this happen. We have opened on all days except Christmas Day over the Holiday break.

If you plan on visiting, ensure you make a booking to reserve a table for the restaurant. Just google Avoca Beach SLSC and scroll through to the Restaurant and Bar tab to find the booking function. We will have a new menu coming out for the start of March.

Come join us

Don't forget it's not too late to join the Surf Club. Jump on our website and follow the tabs on how to join or use the following QR code:



See you on the beach.

Stuart Harvey, President Avoca Beach SLSC



Sharks prepare to defend their rugby title.

Avoca Beach Rugby has a rich history steeped in community spirit and a passion for Rugby excellence. As a club we pride ourselves as being an active part of our community. The club is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers and supportive families with a commitment to instilling the values of teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship in its members.

The club is also supported by our fantastic sponsors, without whom we could not provide the facilities we do to our members.

2023 was a fantastic year for the club with our 1st grade men being crowned Central Coast Rugby premiers and our juniors picking up two premierships and the overall club champions title. We now turn our attention to defending our titles and improving across the board in season 2024.

Steering the ship as club coaches again are Jake McPhie and Mitch Jacob. As first year coaches last season they set an exceptionally high standard, driving excellence amongst the playing group, the majority of whom are back on deck this season.

Pre-season training is well and truly underway and confidence is high that the Sharks are on an upward trajectory. We welcome any new players and if anyone is interested please contact us initially on the email below.

The girls' teams continue to add life and vibrancy to the club. They have quickly become crowd favourites.



Our junior club is the envy of many with an emphasis on having fun and improving the rugby experience for all. We do this by investing in our coaches to ensure the best possible rugby education.

As a club we are always looking for players, volunteers or sponsors. If you are Interested in any of these roles? Please contact us at avocasharks@gmail.com.

Avoca Kayak Club

A hot and humid Penrith Regatta Centre hosted the NSW State Sprint Championships in January this year. The conditions seemed to be to the liking of the Avoca Kayak Club members, most paddlers came away with personal best times, made finals and some won medals !! We don't have enough space to mention everyone who raced, but special mention to Tor Manser, Emily Jane and Julian Glew all who were selected for the NSW state team to be competing at the Nationals later this year. Our next competition will be Oceania Sprint Championships and GP2 at Penrith 16-18th January, this is also a selection event for the Paris Olympics. If you would like any more information about AKC please call Paul Hutchinson on 0414630012.



Avoca Beach Rugby Club playing the game they play in Heaven since 1975

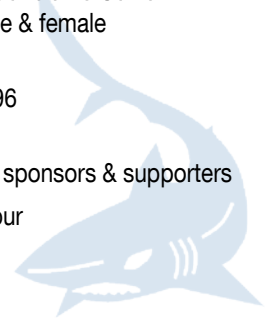
Come along and join in the fun. Every Saturday we field teams from Under 6's to Senior grade throughout the season at the Sharkpool (Heazlett Park). Both male & female players are welcome

New players can contact Club President Brendan Slape on 0400 009 296 or Junior VP Chris Donovan 0460 927 279

The Club appreciates the continued support of all our local businesses, sponsors & supporters

See our web page <https://www.avocabeachrugby.club> or check out our Facebook page Avoca Beach Rugby Club -The Sharks

More info by email at avocasharks@gmail.com





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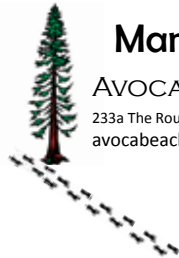
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