

EMPIRE BAY & DISTRICTS NEWS

EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

www.empirebayprogress.org.au

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

empirebayprogress@gmail.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The pandemic certainly upended our lives, but I learnt the importance of being a part of a community and the need for local human connection. The ability to just stop, laugh, and joke with locals doesn't happen when you are in a zoom meeting or on social media channels, so I am so glad we have returned to some form of 'normalcy'.

As President of the EBPA for the past 5 years, the friendships I have made has been invaluable. There is no doubt that time volunteering as President was a wonderful opportunity to meet locals who shared similar interest in making our local community a great place to live. I have been involved with the Association for over 10 years. I am honoured. During my tenure, Greenfield Rd was reconstructed, followed next year by Shelly Beach Rd, the reserve in front of the marina is now safe and we have a new pump park and BBQ area for all the community to enjoy. I have raised much needed grant funding for the maintenance and upkeep of the Hall and Cenotaph.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee including Peter Sinclair (Vice President), Sharon Murray (Secretary and Hall Manager) and Genevieve Page

(Treasurer) who tirelessly give their time to the EBPA and Robert Thompson for his continual support.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 16 February with the election of the Executive Committee. If you would like to volunteer for a position, meet new friends and make a difference to our community please attend. Or come along and join the Association.

Xmas Eve BBQ

Good news! The Christmas Eve party is on this year. Bring your family and friends (no dogs please), picnic blanket, BYOG and join Santa Claus at the Hall on 24 December, from 5pm. NSW Government COVID rules will apply.

We hope that during 2022, we can make up for lost time and hold more events. If you have any ideas or would like to help organise an event please get in touch. We hope the Village Food and Fun Fair will return too in October.

Christmas is upon us and December is a particularly important month for other religions too, with Islam, Judaism and Buddhism among those also celebrating major festivals.

Wishing everyone a very happy 2022.

Cheers Carolen empirebayprogress@gmail.com

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

ONLINE: EMPIRESDLITE.COMPANY.SITE

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CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*From Elia
and the team
Sorrento
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Empire Bay*

EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
CHRISTMAS EVE BBQ
Empire Bay Hall from 5pm



Bring your family and friends (no dogs), picnic blanket, BYOG. Raffle, Santa Claus (hopefully photos), lollies for the kids

Donate prize to raffle please contact Carolyn—sinclairs.oz@gmail.com

NSW Government COVID rules will apply

AGM

EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Annual General meeting (AGM) is an important event for our Association.

Agenda

Welcome

Previous AGM minutes

Matters arising from minutes

President's annual report

Secretary's annual report

Treasurer's annual report

Election of Committee

Wednesday 16 February at 7.30pm

The Hall, 1-3 Gordon Rd, Empire Bay

Everyone welcome

Stay for a glass wine, coffee and cake

Community Plant Stall

After delays caused by COVID lockdown the Empire Bay Plant Stall is now on -

- ◇ A range of pot plants, succulents, seedling vines & exotics, grown by local community members.
- ◇ Blue Wave Retirement Care Auxiliary will be selling their homemade jams and pickles.



DATE: Saturday, 4th December

WHERE: Empire Bay Progress Hall, cnr Gordon Rd and Sorrento Rd

TIME: 9am until 12 noon

Please come and support our community event

The proceeds are donated to Empire Bay Public School and Empire Bay/Bensville Rural Fire Service.

janconsoli@optusnet.com.au
0402 246 427

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

To Facebook or not to Facebook?

Check your settings.

Recent events in the news have highlighted the dangers of posting photos of one's family on social media. Articles such as "How can anyone impersonate kids" (The Sunday Telegraph, Murdoch Media, 7 November, 2021) reported on how easy it is for anyone to use photos posted on social media without the owner's permission, often without the owner of the photo knowing that the image has been accessed.

Facebook and Instagram's policies regarding content and images do not state that anyone accessing this information need permission, so you must ensure that your settings are set to Private. Facebook's 'Statement of Rights and Responsibilities' state any image posted with the Public setting carries the implicit acknowledgement that a said photo is available for access and use by anyone, including entities not only Facebook. The Privacy settings are something of a grey area, as the content is still being posted to Facebook.

How do you protect yourself and your family from unauthorised use of your personal information and your family photos?

Tools such as two factor authentication can avoid unauthorised access. Check your privacy settings regularly to ensure that your settings are still set to the maximum. Also regularly check your settings as upgrades can affect your privacy.

Anyone who has an email address can set up a social media account. In some cases, a number of email accounts can also be set up with fake profiles, which aren't checked by these social media accounts. Accepting requests from people you don't know online can lead to their access of your private information and photos.

Be careful of posting photos of your children online, you have no control over where these photos may end up or who will view them. Even friends of friends can share your images with people you don't know.

My motto is if you don't know the person in real life, then don't accept them into your online life.

By Carolyn Sinclair

OUR LOCAL HEROES



Paying homage to our elder community members

Along the waterfront near the Empire Bay Marina is a historical, well-kept cottage that has many stories to tell. Sitting on Maurie and Ruth Pacey's veranda you realise how they have witnessed a change to their world over the past 50 years. Maurie Pacey was born in 1932 in Leichardt and Ruth was born in 1935 in Ashbury, Sydney.

When Ruth's father retired in 1939 the family moved to Empire Bay and settled in a house on the waterfront along Shelly Beach Road. This became Ruth's childhood wonderland. "Empire Bay was a small village with no cars, no medical services, and a daily ferry service to Woy Woy and a fortnightly ferry service to Gosford," Ruth remembers. "The other two ferry services included the Produce Ferry from Kincumber (the Protestant Ferry) and the Bensville Orphanage Ferry (the Catholic Ferry) which were important contact to the outside world."

Ruth attended Empire Bay Public School from the age of five (1940). She laughingly recalls her teacher Mr Jones's definition of Friday's sports afternoons, "As the time to clean the school and sweep the rooms." There was one classroom for the 26 pupils covering years 1-6. Ruth remembers there were only 4 pupils in her sixth class with Mr Jones using the cane to keep all the classes in line.

In those days summer was busy with holiday makers filling up the boarding houses and holiday rentals. She fondly remembers days swimming in the Empire Bay baths, riding bikes, fishing and walking to Killcare Beach using the dirt road which is today Wards Hill Road. Can you imagine asking the kids today to walk to Killcare Beach for a surf!

Ruth's mother was a nurse and was called upon to attend to many medical emergencies, as there was no doctor in Empire Bay. She recalls how her Mum would "remove fishhooks and lay people out after they had died." Sadly, Ruth's father had a heart attack. She recollects, "My mother frantically ran to the neighbour's to organise a boat to fetch the doctor across Cockle Channel, as the doctor could only get to Davistown and not across to Empire Bay." Unfortunately, it was too late.

In 1949, at the age of 14, Ruth and the family moved to Fairfield, a far different scene from the quiet life of Empire Bay. After attending high school in Parramatta, she worked for the GPO, in Martin Place.

In the early 1950s, Ruth frequented the famous Vic's Cabaret dance hall in Strathfield, one of the last big dance halls in Sydney. Here Ruth met Maurie Pacey "this lovely, good looking young fella," Ruth beams. As they sit on their verandah in Empire Bay, it's wonderful to see them both smile at each other as they reminisce of their dancing and courting days. They married in 1956 (Concorde West), and Maurie laughs when he recalls "catching a nice flathead on his first day of his honeymoon." Maurie worked in the Sales Department of Cumberland Newspapers.

Maurie's first contact with the area was due to Ruth, who still maintained some contact with Empire Bay, as her mother owned a shop at Davistown. After moving to various

suburbs of Sydney, raising three daughters, in 1973, Maurie and Ruth purchased a home on the Empire Bay reserve. Maurie could travel to work (Gosford, Newcastle, Parramatta) and still enjoy the tranquil home life. Fifty years later they are still appreciating the relaxed lifestyle provided by living in the Bay.

Before the Rip Bridge was built (1974), Empire Bay was an isolated small holiday village and the locals had to be self-reliant. The families would rely on the local general stores including Swinbourne general store and the shop near the Marina, and the butcher shop in Davistown. Maurie and Ruth recall the Tuesday and Thursday "hoj" games at the Progress Hall, the weekly card games and regular dance nights. They witnessed the dramatic changes to Empire Bay with the opening of the Rip Bridge. Families could gain easy access to entertainment and work away from the Bay. Empire Bay was discovered.

They have been very active members of the community. Maurie served as the Treasurer of the Empire Bay Progress Association for 5 years, and President for 4 years. Maurie also played a major role in establishing the tennis courts along Shelly Beach Road.

As the Empire Bay community changes and new families are discovering this paradise, it is very important to stop and remind ourselves of those early days and pay homage to the generations from an earlier time, like Ruth and Maurie Pacey. We owe them much.

By Robert Thompson

OUR CHILDREN

Empire Bay Public School

The amazing staff at Empire Bay Public School have worked tirelessly to ensure the students have a smooth transition back into everyday school life.

It's so exciting to see all our students smiling and laughing with their friends as they arrive back at school! During COVID lockdown, the students worked extremely well with remote learning and have returned ready to learn!

The school surroundings have changed so much throughout the year with the new oval being upgraded, turf being laid, class NAIDOC boards hung up around the school and new basketball rings! The school surroundings are thriving which has led to improved student wellbeing and behaviour.

The school sustainability programs are in full swing with classes cooking and gardening groups most lunch times. The new crops are planted and we wait to see what they produce! Stage 3 students are loving the new technology kits that have been invested in by the school, with each class focusing on a different technological component!

As the year comes to an end, we still have so many fun activities still to come! The students have worked so hard and deserve the opportunity to enjoy Raiders on the new oval, movie day with friends and Reggie Rewards for displaying positive behaviour. The Year 6 students are looking forward to their farewell and graduation as part of their transition to high school! The annual presentation day will still go ahead in a covid safe manner to highlight the success of students throughout the year!

Thank you, Mr Farquhar

<https://empirebay-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Coast Christian School

The best thing to have happened this term is the return of children to our classrooms and playground. In days to come, we look forward to welcoming parents back on-site as well. This is because any school community is really only completely functional when a full complement of students, staff and parents are involved.

There is so much truth in the old African proverb which says, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' At Coast, we value deeply the input and support from our parent body as we know they also value the family support the School provides.

Coast Christian values being part of the local Empire Bay community especially as businesses and activities begin to open up again.

Contact Melanie 4368 3377 for a personal tour
www.coastcs.nsw.edu.au

OUR COMMUNITY

Empire Bay/Bensville Rural Fire Brigade

Due to the vaccination rates we are finally out of lockdown and our brigade can do some meaningful training.

With the warmer weather and home gatherings it is barbeque season. Please check your gas cylinder is within test date, the connections are sealed and the flexible line has no cracks or signs of perishing.

We have already been called to a barbeque fire which could easily have spread to the house and pergola structure. The use of a gas fuse on the gas cylinder could have prevented it.

Other fire calls have been to non approved pile burns. We are in fire season and approval must be obtained with a current fire permit in your possession.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, it is time to check your display lighting for any damage before erecting it. Please only use Australian approved lighting and use a safety switch. We want Santa to visit you, not us in a fire truck.

Santa dates:

Once given approval, we hope to parade Santa around our community again to all the excited families.



Bensville:

9 December from 4.45pm

St Huberts Island:

10 December from 4.45pm

Empire Bay:

11 December from 4.30pm

Backup dates (pending weather and fire calls): 16th, 17th and 18th December, respectively.

Our brigade would like to thank our generous community for your support throughout this COVID year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Further information is available at the NSW Rural Fire Service website or contacting our Central Coast District Office on 1300060807

Cheers Rex Parker, Brigade Community Engagement Rep

Central Coast District Office on 1300 060 807

or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Empire Bay Fishing Club—Christmas Party



It has been a tough year for most and no one has missed the weigh-in more than our very own Weigh-Gnome, little Daz!

It was great to see him finally crack a smile when he was informed the weigh-ins will be back in the new year and did a jig when he was informed about the club's Christmas party. No one likes a party quite like the Weigh-Gnome.

The EBFC Christmas party will be on Sunday, 12th December at the Empire Bay Tavern. This is a family party so we hope to see all members there, young and old with their best Christmas grins on. Just to keep the

Weigh-Gnome's anticipation up, we will confirm the time and other details shortly and all members will be contacted via text message. Details will be posted on our Facebook page and website.

Little Daz is excited to see everyone again and he is practicing his dancing as we are expecting some live tunes on the day.

Until then, as always, stay safe on and around our lovely waterways.

By EBFC

empirebayfishingclub@gmail.com

<https://empirebayfishingclub.wixsite.com/nsw-central-coast>

PET CORNER

Understanding the 4 F's

Freeze, Flight, Fool around and Fight.

When a dog is in a new or stressful situation they deal with the rush of adrenaline (which has heightened their senses) usually with one of the 4F responses. This is why we encourage short, calm and polite socialisation when your dog is meeting another dog. Keep it short, so we don't get an overdose of adrenaline which will stimulate a heightened response usually flight or fight. If you see your dog becoming more excited end the interaction before one of the more extreme F's presents itself.

The first step in keeping YOUR dog happy, relaxed, and safe while out and about is understanding. Your dog is an individual, and he may deal with new or stressful situations in his own unique way. It's your job as a responsible owner to know his coping mechanisms.

If you'd like some help understanding your dog and how they deal with stressful situations, just give us a call – we are always happy to help humans understand dogs.

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Facebook, YouTube **www.animaltalent.com.au**

Louise Harding - Author & Canine Behaviour

COMMUNITY

Probus is back!

Out our recent meeting, we inducted 7 new members increasing our membership to 70.

Upcoming activities include -

- Lunches at The Ettalong Hotel
- Annual Christmas party at Beef & Barramundi at Ettalong
- Lunch at the Bayview Hotel
- Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre with lunch at Terrigal pub

In March, a 3 hour Sunday cruise on the Hawkesbury learning about local history and heritage and enjoying the beautiful islands.

Our members meet mid month for coffee and chat at our Impact Plants cafe. Visitors are always welcome.

The first Thursday each month at Umina Club, Umina Beach at 2pm.

<https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/empirebay>

Gaynor, Secretary, 0435 593 595

Empire Bay Marina Update—Crown Lands media release

Crown Lands has undertaken an assessment of the Marina's building and jetties which identified a range of significant defects and found that the marina structures are unsafe. For safety, the former marina has been fenced off, with public access restricted.

A Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) has been completed which has found higher than acceptable levels of contamination at the former marina, from sources likely including fuel, oil, lead based paint, asbestos and antifouling chemicals. Further testing and analysis of soil and sediment to ascertain the extent of contamination, impacts on the environment, and to guide remediation requirements will occur shortly.

A future decision on the marina site will need to consider the significance of contamination, remediation requirements, building and environmental safety, and other factors like access, parking, planning and heritage requirements.

For more information on Building Condition Report or Site Investigation Report download -

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/notifications/empire-bay-marina>

Garry McNamara

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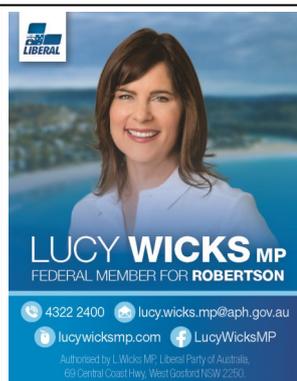
VALE

Claudine Elizabeth Oughton

Late of Shelly Beach Road (30 years living in Empire Bay)
Will be sadly missed by son Gavin, daughter Robyn,
son in law Ralph, grandchild Christine, and great grandchildren
Ashleigh and Matthew,
family, friends and the Empire Bay Community.

Karen Chorazyczewska

Late of Kendall Road
Will be sadly missed by
Husband Janek, children George & Harry,
family, friends and the Empire Bay Community.



Lucy Wicks - What is important to our community

If Lucy can be of assistance in any way or if you would like to arrange a coffee with her, please don't hesitate to contact Lucy's office:
**(02) 4322 2400 or
lucy.wicks.mp@aph.gov.au**

Bookmobile

Thursday, 2 & 16 December
Bensville—near Kallaroo Road park, 12.45-1.30pm
Empire Bay—Kendall Rd near the wharf, 1.45-2.30pm

EMPIRE BAY TENNIS COURTS

BOOKINGS: Empire's D'Lite 4363 1341
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BUSH CARE: Ring Nicola Booth— 0436 685 155

Back of Tennis Courts – 2nd Sunday of month from 9.00am

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Robert Madden 0417 291 641; Hart Peters 0417 674 687

AGM

EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(COVID rules pending)

Wednesday 16 February at 7.30pm

The Hall, 1-3 Gordon Rd, Empire Bay

Stay for coffee

Everyone welcome

Note: meetings now changed to quarterly,
third Wednesday night—August 18 and November 17

This newsletter is printed as a community service by **EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Inc.** While the honorary editor and the Association accept, in good faith, advertisements in this Newsletter and editorial supplied or comment made, we cannot provide any form of guarantee for the information or the goods or services advertised.

HALL TIMETABLE

MONDAY

8.15am-9.15am, Gentle Yoga with Julie
9.30am-10.30am, Morning Yoga with Julie
6.00pm-7.00pm, Yoga with Julie
7.00pm-8.00pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony *

TUESDAY

9.00am-12.00pm, Scrabble, all levels
5.30pm-7.00pm, Tae Kwon Do Academy with Jo

WEDNESDAY

9.15am-10.15am, beginners Tai Chi with Alain
3:30pm-4:30pm, MH Dance Academy with Mikayla
7.30pm-9.00pm, Empire Bay Progress Association (EBPA)
3rd Wednesday in February, May, August, November
(meetings now held quarterly)
7.00pm—8.00pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony *
(on the night of the Progress meeting please contact Tony for details)

THURSDAY

4.00pm-5.30pm, MH Dance Academy with Mikayla

FRIDAY

9.30am-10.30am, MH Dance Academy with Mikayla
7.00pm-8.00pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony *



Yoga with Julie on 0438 228 372: build core strength, become more aware of your body and mind and be calm.

MH Dance Academy with Mikayla Holt on 0404 824 775: RAD ballet, Jazz, Cheer, Acrobatics, Lyrical, hip hop, etc for 18 months- 25+.

PT Group Fitness Training with Tony on 0466 303 700: for all fitness levels, over 16. Great social atmosphere while you get fit, burn fat.

*holidays 18 Dec-9 Jan

Scrabble contact Shirley on 4369 2034: caters for all levels. Everyone is welcome.

Tae Kwon Do with Jo Brannighan on 0422 278 081: increase your fitness, confidence, improve concentration and learn self defence.

EBPA, contact empirebayprogress@gmail.com

Tai Chi & Qigong with Alain on 0422 795 365: gentle form of exercise, described as meditation in motion.

BOOK OUR AIR CONDITIONED HALL?

Weddings Anniversaries Birthdays Farewells Wakes—Ducted air-conditioning, kitchen facilities including fridge, oven, microwave, tea & coffee making facilities, accessible bathroom inside and outside, enclosed secure garden area, plenty of chairs and tables for both inside and outside, BBQ, TV & DVD player with overhead monitor.

**Hall hire information available on our website -
empirebayprogress.org.au/hall-hire**

Check the hall booking calendar on the website to check date is available and then contact Sharon, Hall Booking Officer on EBHallbookings@gmail.com or 0457 650 955 9am to 5pm weekdays only.