



Killcare Wagstaffe Trust

Newsletter

April 2015

Annual General Meeting

Sunday May 4th at 9.30 am

at the Maitland Bay Information Centre.

After the meeting -Deb Holloman will lead a walk to Bulima spur

All visitors and residents are welcome

It is the annual General Meeting and all positions become vacant. The current committee has agreed to stand for their current roles but any new interest would be welcome. You can nominate at the meeting.

Photo competition

Congratulations to Ian Bull for being a second time winner of the KWT photo comp. His photograph of a cave on was, interestingly, also chosen as a subject by one of the other contestants. It is a small cave on the Iron Ladder Beach track. He said that " the cavity is has a relatively small opening to one side so is totally protected from rain. I assume therefore that the erosion is by wind only and can only wonder how long it has taken to form - tens of thousands of years, hundreds of thousands"

The field was small but of a high standard. The photos will be on display at the Maitland Bay Centre until the AGM.

Sea level rise and Gosford Council

In 2012, the NSW government decided to remove all projected sea level rise benchmarks. The responsibility for setting appropriate levels for planning purposes was handed back to councils, which are merely encouraged to give sea level rise projections "due and proper consideration". It seems absurd to ask bodies with little or no expertise in assessing this complex and contentious area to come up with their own projected sea level rise for their planning policies .

Recently, Gosford Council decided to revise its expectation of sea level rise down from 40cm by 2050, which was set by the State government, to a much less inconvenient 20cm. The mayor, Cr Lawrie McKinna, claimed that this new level strikes a balance between "our future planning, the community's needs as well as important environmental factors". He goes on to say that "rather than prohibiting development, these new levels allow us to take a flexible risk-based approach to development in areas potentially affected by sea level rise..."

In its deliberations, the Council referred to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released late in 2013. This did slightly reduce its projected sea level rise by the end of the century, particularly the lower end of the range. It is now 0.45m – 0.82m for late in the century and 0.52m-0.98 by the end of the century. Council has taken the minimum projected rise for late this century and and halved it to estimate this minimum in 2050.

The authors did provide several qualifications to these ranges. Firstly, the lower levels were achievable only if there was substantial mitigation of the factors driving climate change – principally CO2 emissions. Secondly the upper limits could well be exceeded if unforeseen events such as the collapse of the Greenland or Antarctic ice sheets occur – both of which are possibilities that they take seriously.

When choosing a benchmark for expected sea level rise for planning purposes, the emphasis should be on safety and protection of assets. Future costs, including the costs associated with getting things wrong, should be taken into account. Using the minimum projected rise as the basis for future planning decisions seems neither prudent nor responsible. Sea level rise will increase the frequency of flooding events, increase erosion of all coast and bay foreshores, and increase the need for raised road levels and even sea walls in low lying areas. Surely a benchmark nearer the higher end of the predicted range, between 40 and 50 cm, would be more in line with sensible planning policy, however inconvenient.

Aerial spray 1st week in May

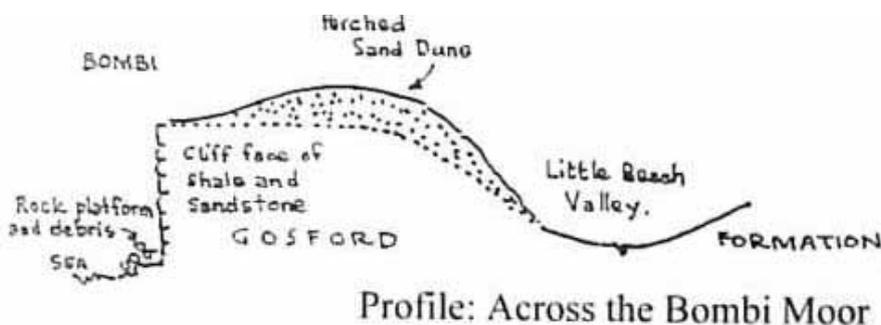
The NPWS has scheduled aerial spraying of the coast between MacMasters beach and Box head/ Lobster Beach. Gosford Council has agreed to throw in a little extra so that the Putty Beach Reserve can be included. This has been planned before and abandoned for one reason or another. While adverse weather could still prevent the spraying we are hoping that at last this important work can at last go ahead.

The spray is a very low concentration of herbicide that did not seem to have much effect on native plants at this time of year in the test area a couple of years ago. It can, however, kill bitou and erhartia grass, two of the most prolific weeds on the reserve.

Perched dunes

Ancient perched sand dunes occur over an extensive area on Mourawaring moor on the headland to the north of Little Beach, and Bombi moor on the south of Little Beach. These were laid down in the Pleistocene era which lasted from 2.5 million years ago until just before the last ice age, around 12000 years ago. The Pleistocene was notable for frequent glacial periods with consequent changes in sea level.

The dunes are thought to be the windblown remains of an ancient beach when the coast was some distance east of its current position. Subsequent erosion of the coastline has left them high and dry. The pure white sand of these dunes was mined in the 1960s for silica used in the manufacture of high quality optical glass.



They are dry, exposed environments subject to constant winds and salt spray. The soils are poor and the vegetation is restricted to heath plants on the exposed areas and low woodland on the less exposed leeward side.

The vegetation is a mixture of dry woodland and heath. This is marked by the dominance of Wallum Banksia (*Banksia aemula*). Other shrubs include Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia ucilifolia*) and the hardy Scrub she-oak (*Allocasuarina dystila*) Where it forms a woodland, Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) and Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*) are more common.



Wallum Banksia (Banksia aemula)

Heath dominated by wallum banksia like that on the Bombi and Mourawaring moors is rare along the NSW coast, so these moors are considered important and have been identified for special protection.

Bombi moor can be reached after a short walk south from the Little Beach car park Head towards Third Point. When the sand below your feet turns a brilliant white you are walking on the dunes.

In August a profusion of heath plants will be flowering in this area. Deb Holloman will lead a walk over Bombi moor to explore this special landscape after the August meeting.



Virtual Coast Walk

You can do a virtual walk from MacMasters to Box Head through google street view. There is a link on the National Parks page on the Bouddi Coastal Walk. (or just google "google walks bouddi")

Watch For

The Southern gannet returning to the foreshores and the mullet leaving the estuaries and running up the coast



Meg Fromel

Meg Fromel bought her house in "Sunny" in Beach Rd Killcare in 1987, moving from the Blue Mountains. Being heavily involved with the National Parks Association she is an avid bushwalker. Her involvement taking her to India, Nepal, Tasmania, Queensland and Alice Springs as well as many walks around the central coast and north and south of Sydney. A familiar sight around the area, walking along the many bush tracks as well as along the beach. Meg spent a lot of time with the local bird watching group leading many walks. She is a treasure trove of knowledge on all local walking tracks and native plants.

Being an inveterate chatterer, with excellent local knowledge, she was an ideal volunteer at the Maitland Bay Centre. Her first recorded volunteer day at the centre was on March 31, 1990 – aided by her good friend Ester Seymour. She continued to volunteer at the centre monthly until just recently. She was awarded a 20 year volunteer medal by NPWS in 2012.

A longtime member and supporter of the KWT, Meg's advice and insight has been invaluable. Meg is an avid reader, talented artist and musician (playing the flute).

Last month Meg sold her home, "Sunny", and, has moved to the Peninsula Village at Umina Beach, where she is settling in very comfortably. She is as bright and cheery as ever, just learning to adapt to life in the slow lane.

Meg will be missed at the MBIC and by her many friends in Killcare who now need to pop over to Umina for a chat.