



Killcare Wagstaffe Trust
keeping an eye on the environment

Killcare Wagstaffe Trust

Newsletter

April 2021

Annual General Meeting

The next meeting is on Saturday 19th June at 3.30 pm at the Wagstaffe Hall.

It is our AGM

We chose to delay the AGM from its usual May date as too many committee members had conflicting commitments

Guest speaker. Vicki Elliot from the NPWS

Committee Report 2020 - 2021

The Trust's 2020 year commenced with the huge success of our Climate Change expert presentation at the Killcare Surf Club with over 150 attendees. Unfortunately our intention to build on the momentum of this event was knocked by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic which still casts a shadow on our capacity to campaign and hold large public events.

Despite COVID the Trust continued to be active throughout the year. The highlights were:

Protection of Bouddi National Park

The influx of temporary residents and holidaymakers put extreme pressure on Bouddi during the year. Increased littering, dumping, vandalism and mountain bike damage was a result of this. The Trust continued to lobby NPWS to ensure that significant environmental values were maintained. The Trust also made a detailed submission to the development of the new Plan of Management for Bouddi NP.

Killcare Beach Bushcare

The Trust continued to support volunteer bushcare activists operating in both the southern and northern precincts of the Council reserve in the dune areas behind Killcare Beach. During the year, Council funding was obtained for weed eradication in the stormwater gully beside the dog car park track to the beach. Regeneration of the gully is currently underway.

Bouddi NP Walks

To enhance public appreciation of our locality, the Trust organized three well-attended walks to more remote parts of the park to significant ecological and historical sites. Our expert committee members provided insightful commentary.

The next walk will be from MacMasters to Little Beach. Send us an email (killcarewagstaffetrust@gmail.com) if you would like to be informed of the date.

Political Lobbying

The Trust continued its strategy of lobbying politicians of all persuasions seeking assurances that essential environmental and ecological standards and compliance regimes are not compromised. A prime focus was the negative implications of the new amendments to the Federal Environmental Planning and Biodiversity Conservation Act. At the State level the Trust continued to lobby for the creation of an E5 zoning classification to protect environmentally significant public land, such as the COSS lands, from developers.

We wrote to our federal member, Lucy Wicks, to express our concern over the federal government's response to Graham Samuel's report on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. In particular, we are concerned that the legislation currently before the Senate aims to shift approval powers to the States before adequate National Standards have been developed.

Recognising that we are unlikely to get her to change her mind or that of the Liberal Party, we have asked for the opportunity to engage with her on these important issues. After all, this is our democratic right if not our responsibility. There was no response to our letters until her office was informed that we intended to publicise the lack of response. That stimulated a phone call, an email from Ms Wicks and an offer of a meeting. We will accept the offer of a meeting.

If you are interested here is a link to Graham Samuel's final report:

<https://epbactreview.environment.gov.au/resources/final-report>

Unfortunately, some Trust initiatives could not be progressed during the year, COVID, combined with the Central Coast Council financial crisis stalled the following initiatives:

Community Garden at Turo Park

The Trust hoped to commence work on establishing a community garden at Turo Park. This will require Council consent and seeking local resource funding as money from Council is now unlikely to be forthcoming.

Hardys Bay Foreshore Enhancement

The Trust, in conjunction with WTKCA and other motivated locals, have been planning and negotiating with Council to build a new seawall, establish paths and plantings along the southern foreshore of Hardys Bay. New works were on the verge of commencing mid-year until the Council financial crisis was publicly revealed. As a result, there is no timeframe for this significant local initiative.

During the coming year the Trust will continue the above activities, particularly environmental lobbying, climate change activism, bush regeneration, community garden establishment, guided Bouddi walks as well as maintaining a constant vigilance for development proposals incompatible with the local character of our unique community.

We invite all KWT members to tell the Committee what your priorities are and what issues you would like the Trust to pursue in the future.

Putty Beach Reserve - Volunteers needed

#1

The Reserve on either side of the path between the first car park on Beach Rd and the beach is plagued by the Bidens pilosa weed. Bidens is a massive seed producer and there seems to be an endless supply of new plants springing up, many within arms reach of the path. The volunteer bushcare group has been making an effort to eliminate it from either side of the path but it's becoming a little too time

consuming. We are asking for one or more people who walk this path several times a week to take a minute or two (really no more) to pull out a few of the emerging Bidens plants every time they walk down the path.

Send an email to killcarewagstaffetrust@gmail.com with your contact details if you are interested.

#2

A new volunteer regeneration group has started on the north end of the Reserve. They are working from the middle car park and meet on Tuesday mornings at 8am. The group working from the first Beach Rd carpark still meet on Thursday mornings at 9am. Extra help is always welcome – just turn up. Tools are provided.

Maitland Bay Information Centre



The Centre is open again after the long Covid break. Over 250 visitors dropped in over Easter. The volunteers will be there every weekend from now on.

Many thanks to the mystery donor who dropped in a framed photo of the SS Maitland.

Interpretive Sign for Putty Beach Reserve

The erection of the sign next to the path from the first carpark to the beach marked the completion of the Council grant obtained by the Trust for the restoration of the adjacent gully.



Regeneration volunteers: Gai Davies, David Legge, Piers Jones, Jon Charles

Summary of changes to the Constitution

Keeping a small community association going involves a fair amount of work. As well as attending to the matters associated with our aims and objectives there are requirements arising from our legal responsibilities under the Fair Trading Act. These include the election of office bearers, the scheduling and attendance of committee meetings and general meetings, keeping the accounts, reporting to Fair Trading, maintaining membership lists and receiving membership fees.

A recent review of our constitution revealed several matters that the committee felt could be changed to give us a little more flexibility and help us stay compliant with our Constitution and the Fair Trading Act.

The proposed changes are:

1. **Aims:** Gosford City Council changed to Central Coast Council
2. **Membership:** delete reference to agreeing in writing to the aims of the Trust (the act of joining will be taken as an indication of agreement) and deleting the need to keep records of dates of beginning and ending membership
3. **The Committee:** Committee meetings will be held at least three times a year instead of every two months. The quorum shall be three members rather than four.
4. **General Meetings:** Deleting "There will be at least two other General Meetings a year". The quorum shall be five members rather than ten. Notice of a general meeting shall be given seven days before the meeting. The need to do this by hand or by post will be deleted.
5. **Meeting procedure:** References to auditing the accounts and appointment of an auditor will be deleted as these are no longer statutory requirements.
6. **Public Officer:** If the position of Public officer becomes vacant a new one will be appointed in 28 days rather than 14 days. The public officer is responsible for:
 - notifying Fair Trading of any change in the association's official address within 28 days
 - collecting all association documents from former committee members and delivering the documents to the new committee member
 - returning all association documents to a committee member within 14 days, upon vacating office
 - acting as the official contact for the association, including taking delivery of documents served on the association and bringing them to the attention of the committee as soon as practicable
 - custody of any documents as required by the constitution.
7. **Office Bearers:** The annual accounts will be presented at the AGM. References to an auditor and the need for the accounts to be signed by two members will be deleted.
8. **Miscellaneous:** References to The Common Seal of the Trust will be deleted. A Common Seal is no longer a requirement of a community association.