



Killcare Wagstaffe Trust

Newsletter

July 2016

General Meeting Sunday August 7th at 9.30 am
at the Maitland Bay Information Centre.
All visitors and residents are welcome

Please excuse the short newsletter. There has been an extremely short time between the committee meeting and the printing deadline this time round.

Pretty Beach School Bush Classroom

Several years ago the Trust donated \$1000 for seating for the bush classroom that had been damaged by fire. The education department had become spooked by the death of a student by a falling branch. at a school in Pitt town. Countless trees have been felled in schools since to reduce the risk and the appetite for projects like bush classrooms have been severely reduced.

The Trust and the WTKCA have met with the school and the site is being assessed for safety. We would like to see this small but important contribution to environmental education on the peninsula return to the school.

Daleys Point Aboriginal Carving Pamphlet

The committee is redesigning the old pamphlet for this important site to help preserve and lift its profile in the area. It will be available at the Maitland Bay Centre.

The site itself is towards the end of the ridge that extends from the top of Wards Hill to above Daleys Point. It consists of a sandstone shelf and a large sandstone overhang with a northern aspect. The shelf has engravings of fish, human forms, several large whale figures, a wallaby and either a manta ray or sea turtle. The overhang has some more engravings and a midden which suggests regular occupation.

The overhang has been fenced off. While this restricts access and visibility, it helps protect the site from vandalism.

Deposits in the midden have been dated and show occupation between 5000 and 500 years ago. Both areas have grooves and smoothed areas that are likely to be the result of food processing.

New Logo

We have decided to go ahead with a new logo. In previous discussions we have tossed around the idea of using the powerful owl as a symbol. They do live on the peninsula and, as an apex predator, represent a powerful force of nature.

By choosing the owl we would like to harness both the sense of power and the sense of watchful vigilance over the area.... maybe with a slogan like " eyes on the environment".

The designer of the murals at the Maitland Bay Centre, which includes a beautiful image of the powerful owl, has been approached and has agreed to help out.

A Plastic Bag and Bottle Free Peninsula

As mentioned in the last letter, the committee has decided to throw its weight behind efforts to make the peninsula a plastic bag and bottle free area.

We will organise the design, manufacture and initial distribution of "The Bouddi Bag". After some discussion about the relative merits of calico versus hessian we have decided to go for hessian. Although a little more expensive it is stronger and more durable. Rather than cover it with advertising we will go for professionally designed graphics that highlights the plastic bag free message and makes a statement about the area.

All the commercial outlets on the peninsula have been approached and have agreed to give it a go if we can support them with the supply of bags. At this stage we aim to provide each household, including rental properties, with their first bag and subsidise the initial batch for the shops.

With a bit of luck we will be ready for a launch before the summer holiday season gets under way.

The first step towards phasing out the sale of plastic water bottles is to provide a free alternative source. The first filtered water station is to be installed near the toilet block at Killcare. We hope that this will be followed by another at Wagstaffe shortly after. Refillable bottles can then be sold by the outlets. Once again these can be distinctive.

Vale Neil Desailly

Neil passed away on June 3 after a short illness. He was a member of the trust since 1988 as well as being an active volunteer at the Maitland Bay Centre and with the Bouddi Bitou Bashers .

Neil moved to Killcare in 1986 with his wife Bern . He had spent many years in New Guinea as a patrol officer and then magistrate . He taught law at the Institute of Technology on his return to Australia.

Neil moved down to Boorowa last November to be with his family . He turned 90 last August .