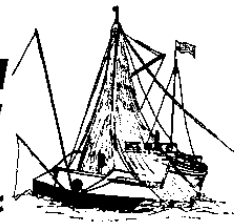


The Greenwell Point  
**GAZETTE**



Get to The Point – Greenwell Point

Published on behalf of Greenwell Point Chamber of Commerce. Delivered free to all residents of Greenwell Point & Pyree.

VOL I 2003

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the G P Gazette. I've taken the liberty of calling it the Gazette since it sounds better than the Bugle, the Echo, the Blatt or the Herald.

What do you think? If you have a better idea for a name of your local Newsletter please let us know by leaving a note in an envelope at the G P Post Office counter. All correspondence will be carefully considered.

In this issue we applaud the work by the ladies and fellers who organised and ran the G P Fishers, Farmers and Foodies Market on Friday 10th Jan.

By all accounts it was a terrific success just going on the estimated numbers of visitors. Much praise also must go to the gals at the Bowling Club who worked like Trojans serving drinks and food to the clamouring hordes.

My own perspective of the volume of extra heads in town

was brought into sharp focus at D J's where there was a 45 minutes waiting line for their delicious fish 'n chips while across the road, Pelican Rocks had at least a 30 minute waiting queue. Well done to those who served!

I am told that all the stall holders had a sell-out response to their goods and much praise goes to the folk who organised the marquee.

Next year (and we promise it will be an annual event!) we hope to be much better organised since the lead time this year was short and things had to be done in a hurry.

Many thanks also to Radio 2ST and especially Barry Mack for the announcements which drove listeners to Greenwell Point from all over the Shoalhaven.

With more lead time next year, maybe the South Coast Monthly imag will come to the

party with some of their usual excellent editorial teasers.

While we are thanking everyone for their effort, and not forgetting the volunteer distributors, we must also be grateful to those businesses whose adverts adorn these four pages. Without their financial support, this little newsletter could not be printed. They deserve your support in return.

In closing this editorial let me say that I am pleased to tell anyone who asks that I enjoy living at Greenwell Point – seafood capital of the beautiful South Coast. Not just for the seafood – which I've not been able to catch on a hook yet – but for the friendly atmosphere which is evident in every face which I see in my daily rounds.

It is contagious, so let's keep up the nodding, waving and greeting each other and continue to make this the best little S.C. village ever.

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# GET INVOLVED

In this issue I would like to raise the subject of individual participation in community events. Like every other community in the country, both large cities and small villages, there always seems to be a concentrated core of enthusiastic volunteers who are willing starters at getting involved in local projects and schemes. This is fine and I applaud any who are able to contribute even the most minute amount of time to community life. But I feel that there must also be a lot of folk who, for reasons of lack of confidence or fear of criticism or something else, would like to join in and help push a project along but prefer to sit back and 'see what happens.'

I say to those who need a little encouragement to step outside the square, leave the comfort zone – IT CAN BE FUN to be involved, and remember that whatever effort you put into a community scheme will benefit everyone including yourself and your family.

It may feel a bit strange at first to see yourself putting up your hand to volunteer for, say, letter-box stuffing or even something as simple as collecting information from others for publication in this little "rag" but... someone's got to do it!

And you just might enjoy being involved at the same time.

Communities are a bit like coral outcrops – made up of many individuals all bonding together to form a whole structure. Think of the Great Barrier Reef! It's like that with us; we have the opportunity to create a firmly-bonded community here at Greenwell Point and with major effort by many and minor effort by the rest, some of our planned projects will become reality and help to create an interesting, cheerful village of pleasant surrounds where others who take an occasional peek at our lifestyle may think to themselves – "Hey, that Greenwell Point seems like a great place to live."

Of course, the result of such interest will be reflected in real estate values rising to benefit locals and more visitors means more profitable businesses in town.

But that aside, we enjoy a fairly relaxed and pleasant lifestyle at the moment although there are some physical aspects which could be improved. For any who were unable or unwilling to attend the Community Meetings run by Jenny de Greenlaw in November 2002, the audience present came up with some 96 proposals on improving our lot. (consult the printout from de Greenlaw's first meeting; November 2002).

This document makes interesting reading even so soon after the event and in the light of the Foodies, Farmers and Fishers

Market success on January 10, we have proved that we can get the old finger out and get on with making improvement a reality.

But, this also requires the enthusiasm of many and I would appeal to all to consider getting in touch with those who have access to the words of wisdom spoken by Jenny de Greenlaw about government funding. In essence it reads; **IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN WITHOUT POPULAR SUPPORT NOW!**

Please think about it. Consider what you can offer in the way of knowledge or effort or time. It need not be something that costs much in time nor any cash. It need not interfere with your lifestyle but whatever you can offer is sure to make a difference to Greenwell Point in the long term. Details of contacts on page three.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A few things that are in the wind should be aired publicly now. At the combined Community & Chamber of Commerce meeting held at Backgate Restaurant on Tuesday 28th January, David McCorkell ran out a couple of interesting notices.

First one is regarding the Bank Management Plan (sorry, not a plan to manage your bloody Bank!). This is a plan to manage



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the erosion of the river bank at Greenwell Point with the co-operation and part-funding of Shoalhaven Council. I presume the Dept of Land & Water Conservation is also funding some part of it because they have a spoke in the wheel.

However, Council has engaged consultants Web McKeown to provide a list of options with costings for stabilization of the foreshore from Pine Park to Crookhaven Drive. This is a very comprehensive scheme and deserves our interest and, provided that action is commenced forthwith, our support. Let's face it; if nothing is done – the park will eventually disappear and we'll be left with a soggy marsh.

Remember also that Dave is not the original instigator in this argument. People from Greenwell Point have been trying for years to get something done to alleviate the erosion caused by the wash of visitors' and perhaps some locals' fast-running boats.

The second point raised by David was a reminder of the Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, 2nd March. Due to commence at 9am, registration will be at Recreation Park where your name will be recorded for insurance purposes and a bag will be issued for collection of rubbish, weeds and other detritus. Besides the bag each collector gets gloves (mmmm, nice silky latex, pleeeze) and a ticket to the sausage sizzle. If you can turn

up with a trailer, please do so – Council is having a FREE TIP DAY.

Thank you David McCorkell. Enquiries to Dave on 4447 0327.

A couple of other items of note were raised at the meeting. One was the progress made by Mike Smith in selling advertising in this Newsletter simply to off-set the cost of printing (look for the obviously missing names). The other is a long-term project but one which we feel is quite achievable – Wind-driven Power Generation.

This may sound to some like pie-in-the-sky but the way trends are going around Australia and around the world, alternative sources of power generation are becoming a huge concern, especially in light of the finite capacity of fossil fuels.

More on this as we go.

There will be no hobby-horsing, just good, straight, honest reporting of the facts and our prospects as a community.

One other item of interest which was raised by Alan Mayze was the prospect of building a formal "Gateway to Greenwell Point". We feel this is an admirable suggestion since, if the village is to gain a more important image and go after Council, State and Federal dollars, we'd better put on a bit of a front if only to impress the pollies and the 'bean-counters' who will be looking at us through a long-distance microscope. Phone Alan on 4447.0097

Until next issue (which MAY not be for two months...we'll see about that) stay well and keep smiling at those neighbours, friends and, most particularly, those strangers. Remember: A stranger is only a friend you haven't met yet.

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# T H E B A C K P A G E

*In future issues this will become the sports page. For now, since we don't have much to report in sport, its going to be turned over to odds and sods.*

## 1st Greenwell Point Cubs & Scouts.

Recruits are needed and most welcome at this fine body of Australian Youth. Both girls and boys should make enquiries through Julie Brown, Cub Leader on 4447 1693 or Scout Leader Geoff Bishop on 4447 0357.

Cubs meet Thursday nites 6.30 - 8pm at the Scout Hall 115 Greens Road.

First nite back was 6th Feb. Any youngster aged 7y9m to 10y6m is welcome.

Good times are guaranteed. If you can stand lotsa fun... come and join in. Games, puzzles, crafts, dress-up nites, special guests, things to make, meetings with other packs.

Scouts meet Fridays 6pm to 8pm at the Scout Hall. Come along and join in the fun including canoeing, games; surfing, swimming, hiking, first aid, construction, jota-joti, jamborette, sleepovers, bike hikes etc.

Get involved now !

Ever wondered why railway gauges were set at 4' 8.5" ?

Because that's the way they built them in England and the British engineers were responsible for building the Aussie lines.

But why did the Brits use that dimension?

Because the first rail lines in U.K. were laid by the same folks who built pre-railway trams and they used that gauge.

So why use that odd measure?

Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used to build horse wagons which used that wheel spacing.

And why did the wagons have that particular wheel spacing?

British roads of the day were severely rutted and to get outside those measurements would risk breaking a wheel.

And who built those old roads in Britain?

Imperial Rome built the first long-distance roads for their legions and cobbled them with stone. These roads have been used ever since.

What about the ruts in the roads?

It was the Roman war chariots which formed the initial ruts which subsequent generation came to fear and avoid. Since the chariots were all alike they didn't risk wheel damage.

The Australian standard rail gauge is 4 ft 8.5 inches and is derived from the original specifications for the Imperial

Roman war chariot. As laid down by beaurocrats who seem to live forever.

: So... next time you are handed a spec and told that we have always done it that way and wonder which horse's arse came up with that, remember that the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses.

*THAT'S NOT THE END...*


When next you see a space shuttle sitting on its launch pad, notice the two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid fuel rocket boosters - SRB's. The SRB's are made in Utah and the engineers who designed them would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped from the factory to the launch pad by train.

The train line happens to run thru a tunnel in the mountains. The SRB's had to fit through the tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railway track and the railway track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' backsides.

So, we have the Space Shuttle, arguably the world's most advanced transportation system, being designed around the restriction of the space inside a rail tunnel the width of two horse's arsens.

And you thought that being a horse's arse wasn't important?

Think about it. Until next time, Seeya. Mikey.

  
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