



Awards and Prizes for the Fast Fingered Fabricators

Just over 12 months ago a local self-help craft group was established.

"Crafty Fingers of Greenwell Point" is rapidly approaching a membership of 20. These very enthusiastic members are not only making things for themselves, but also for charity. In the past year they have made and donated over 30 crocheted rugs to worthy causes.

At the recent Nowra Show six members of the group entered 29 pieces of craft work. To their great surprise and elation they walked away with 18 prizes.

The "Fingers" meet every Tuesday afternoon commencing at 1.30pm in the aptly-titled Games Room at Coral Tree Lodge Caravan Park.

Are you interested in joining the group or perhaps just seeing what they get up to? Join them for a knit and a knatter and an enjoyable afternoon sharing skills, ideas and friendship.

Crafts include crocheting, knitting, patchwork, embroidery and cross stitch. You can even learn broom-sticking (which apparently has nothing to do with the sort of things that Harry Potter gets up to).

Oh, and if you have any spare wool, fabric or threads – donations will be gratefully received to be transformed into very worthwhile charity works.



And the winners are from left: Gillian Alley, Laurel Kennedy, Margaret Zielinski, Janelle Tompsett and Monika Oakman (Tanya Patterson not present).

Column 3

Council have just released the 2005 – 2010 Community Plan. A copy is on display in the Post Office or you can download it from the Council web site. Based on a community survey, focus group input and the 2001(!) Census, the plan is full of visions, outcomes, goals and strategies. All good stuff – but only if the community buys into it and actually works towards achieving the outcomes.

It's a bit like the Get to the Point Strategic Plan developed in 2002. Whilst this draft document was a good start, it never achieved widespread community circulation or agreement.

How many people knew this plan established "To develop Greenwell Point as a friendly village in harmony with its history, fishing industry and environment" as the vision for the Get to the Point Program? How many people agree that's a good vision to have?

According to the Shoalhaven Community Plan, only 50% of survey respondents were aware of their local Principal Consultative Body. Less than half of those were satisfied with the PCB's performance. Why? Because people felt the PCB didn't listen to the community, were dominated by one side and took no action. Do you believe that's the case in Greenwell Point? Well the Annual General Meeting for the Get to the Point Program is on 17 March at 7.00pm at the Community Memorial (aka RSL) Hall starting at 7.00pm. Show your support – nominate for a position, vote for office holders, have your say. If you don't get behind the Program we won't have a Principal Consultative Body and that would be a shame!

Get to the Point Program (Inc)
NOTICE
of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00pm Thursday 17 March

Greenwell Point
Community Memorial Hall

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Oysters Turn to Gold

In the year 2000 Nicolette Stasko published a book entitled "Oyster" in which she said "I still find it difficult to pick a favourite because I love oysters, all kinds of oyster; and every one, as long as it is fresh and in reasonable condition is a new and enjoyable experience for me. But if I'm forced, I'd have to say oysters from the Crookhaven for consistent quality and flavour."

Nicolette obviously knew her stuff because last month the judges of the Royal Agricultural Society Fine Food Show 2005 awarded Gold to our very own Bedrock Oysters and Shoalhaven Oyster Services.

After winning a Silver last year Bedrock went one better this year. Well done gang!

Shoalhaven Oyster Service

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Hospital Auxillary

The local branch of the United Hospital Auxiliary was officially formed in 1950 but had already been very active prior to receiving official status. Mrs Jeannie Evans (nee Skinner) was the foundation President with Mrs Wheeler Honorary Secretary.

The Auxiliary has been working hard since then for the benefit of the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital. The group meets at 2.30 pm in the Greenwell Point Community Hall on the first Thursday most months. If you would care to join this active group please come along and help keep up the fundraising for such a worthwhile cause.

Upcoming events include a stall at the Easter Fete (see article on P&C) and a Mother's Day Banquet at the Bowling Club Chinese on 10 May.

And while we're on the subject of the Hospital they need more Pink Ladies. These selfless volunteers assist people who are in Hospital without any nearby relatives or friends to help out with odds and sods.

If you can spare a day a month contact Mandy Butterfield on 4423 5302.

Who Needs an Alarm Clock?

This summer, as with all past summers, the residents of Greenwell Point have either suffered or enjoyed the annual visits of the Koel. The dark glossy black male Koel, the one we usually see, and his brownish speckled mate belong to the cuckoo family.

They arrive here during August and September having travelled from places such as New Guinea and the Lesser Sunda Islands which are a part of Indonesia. Koels keep to the shelter of leafy trees and shrubs and are often hard to see. The females are silent and retiring, but the males are less secretive and easier to see, their shrill coo-ee call can be heard mainly in the mornings and evenings and often at night.

The Indian koel does not build a nest but around Greenwell Point usually lays its egg in a wattlebird's nest. Female koels appear to choose foster parents whose eggs have a similar size, shape and colouring. The female koel appears to time her egg laying to occur just after the host bird's. Locally this usually happens with the second nesting of the wattlebirds.

The koels are noisiest when they are trying to lure both wattlebirds into chasing the male koel while the female slips in to lay her egg in the unprotected nest. Koel chicks have a short incubation period and they are able to monopolise the food brought by the foster parents. The other nestlings starve or are pushed out of the nest by the larger koel chick. Although adult koels are mainly fruit eaters (do you wonder what happens to your ripe strawberries early in the mornings), the nestlings are forced to take whatever is offered by their foster parents such as insects and caterpillars.

We take pity on our wattlebirds and give them pieces of wholemeal biscuits which they in turn feed to the koel chick as it sits in the backyard tree demanding an endless supply of food. Shortly the koels will leave and even the young, without parental guidance, will find their way north.

Peace at last—until next year.

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Grand Easter Fete

Why bother with the Royal Easter Show when you can just stroll up the street to the GP Primary School Parents & Citizens Easter Fete. Commencing at 8.00am on Saturday 26 March at the Community Hall this major event in the Greenwell Point calendar is not to be missed.

As well as all the usual stalls there will be the kids lucky dip, the Easter Bunny Scratchy raffle and of course the GTTP Chockie Wheel spun by the star of last year's School Days Trivia Night perhaps still sporting his infamous fishnet tights.

This is a major fund raising event so please call in, have fun and spend up big.

The P&C have just earmarked \$5,000 of funds raised from previous events for new playground equipment. How good is that?

If you have any stuff to donate to the fete – bric a brac, books, cakes, plants etc please drop them off at the Hall on Friday afternoon. If you'd like to volunteer to help install the new playground equipment give Kate a ring on 4447 0115.

P & C Errata

The local P&C meets at the School at 3.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month—not Thursday as incorrectly reported last month. Oops!

Public Notices

Anyone interested in forming a Vintage Machinery (Agricultural) group in the Shoalhaven area please contact Tony on 4447 0232 after 7.00pm.

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Broadband Internet Access

The petition we ran last year has paid off. Our telephone exchange should be upgraded this month and you will be able to get broadband access. You will need a special ADSL modem and any phone lines you have need to have a special filter fitted. It's not rocket science and Telstra do a self-install kit. Many people will have received a letter from Telstra inviting them to sign up to Bigpond but you don't have to go that way. Shop around and see who gives the best deal. There are heaps of plans depending on your usage (which will inevitably be more than your present dial-up) so making a choice can be a bit tricky. Telstra and Optus both offer additional rewards for phone, mobile and internet all on the one bill. Do your sums and come out in front.

Anglican 'Appenings

Anglican Service at Union Church will have morning tea after the 8.00am service on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Business Corner

If you operate a small business, whether from home or otherwise, there are often problems and questions you may come across where you think "How can I find out about this?"

Small Business Answers can help you find these answers - and it won't cost you anything! This federal government funded initiative has been operating in regional Australia since mid-2001 and has helped many thousands of small businesses to access information, resources and advice. Whether it's business planning, marketing, leases, employment issues, finding information, networking, starting a business, whatever, Small Business Answers can assist you. With a network of 55 Small Business Answers Officers there is always someone who will be able to help. If you operate a business and would like to access the free services and information provided by Small Business Answers, just give Lyn Eckersley a call on 4422 5402.

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Back Page — Get to the Point Goings On

Project Progress (?) Report

Here's a summary of status from our Council project co-ordinator.

"The entrance sign has not yet been completed by the manufacturer but is due to be provided any time now.

Documentation required for the lodgement of a Development Application for the foreshore remediation works is nearing completion. Completion of a Statement of Environmental Effects for the works is pending the receipt of advice from an archaeologist in relation to the archival recording of the old sandstone wharf.

The latest thinking was that from an economy of scale perspective, it would be best to combine those works that

did not require a development application (minor maintenance works that were generally a low priority) with those remediation works that do require development consent rather than split the 2 work components separately. This will also be a lot easier and efficient from a contract management perspective.

To keep the project rolling contract documentation will be prepared concurrently with the Development Application assessment.

Finalisation of the Landscape Master plan is unfortunately being held up by the boat ramp location but once a preferred location of the boat ramp location is identified (from a technical perspective) the plan should not take long to finalise and therefore I would envisage that this will be available to be placed on public exhibition some time in April 2005".

Letters to the Editor

What a month – our first suggestions in the Suggestion Box and our first letters to the editor. The 50Kph sign aroused a bit of excitement and for a couple of days people were even seen to slow down! Here's what Jim Gill, resident of Mulgoa and frequent visitor to Greenwell Point, had to say ...

"Drive through Bomaderry or in the vicinity of Coolangatta Resort or maybe the highway from Gerringong turn-off to Nowra and there is one thing that slows the 'lead-foots' down is the sign '24hour speed camera ahead'. It is a pity that if one was installed in the village, that the revenue collected from fines could not be channelled back into your community. Unfortunately it will take a fatality or near fatality before the authorities will do something about it. Get your local MP to help! They get a salary for assisting where needed or doing nothing at all. The pay rate is the same! Remember you voted them in so get them working for you."

Jim also felt compelled to offer the following words of support to Santa's little helpers. "It's a shame that there would be one that would complain about the 'Santa' coming around the village to spread the cheery word of Christmas to all the kids (and some adults). What do they have for Christmas dinner? Takeaways? Having lived in a village for 34 years and as a former RFS Superintendent I am aware of the time, effort and support that the RFS members put into this day. Keep up the good work fellows and turn a blind eye to the ratbags. Just drop them in a bag of lemons to suck on next Christmas".

Suggestion Box

It's working! The first suggestions have started to arrive in the Box at the Post Office. Half the suggestions received mentioned upgrades to the tennis courts. Is there strong support for this? Show up at a Get to the Point Meeting and express your opinion. Stacy Turner's suggestion is worthy of publication in full.

"Many years ago Greenwell Point used to have a playgroup at the local Community RSL Hall. There would be plenty of parents with children four years and under who would love to see another playgroup up and running. Most if not all of these children would be attending Greenwell Point Primary. If there was a playgroup the children would make friends and would know more children at the school on their first day. Come on people – let's do something good for our children in our small community."

Another meritorious suggestion arrived in the mail ... "For the first time visitor there is very little to assist the tourist in locating points of interest or services. What about a big blue and white *i* sign showing where local information can be obtained?"

The suggestion that we need a shopping mall may be a little ahead of its time given the population of the village. What do you think?

Keep 'em coming folks – drop a note in the big blue (or is it green) Community Suggestion Box at the Post Office or to PO BOX 68 or email suggestions@greenwellpoint.info.

Get to the Point Program (Inc)

Office Bearers

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Secretary(a/g)—Graham Bannister	4447 1554
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Vacant tba

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Greenwell Point On-Line

www.greenwellpoint.info

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