



Innovation gets growers to the Point

Oyster growers from up and down the coast descended on Greenwell Point on 1 February to attend an Oyster Growers Workshop at the Shoalhaven Oyster Service premises.

The Allen Bros have received widespread acclaim for pioneering a brilliant innovation in oyster farming conceived by Brian's daughter Katie McCann.

Katie came up with the idea for a "floating oyster-growing cage" and won a Young Business Idol award in the process.

Her invention is made out of a strong plastic mesh shaped into a cylinder with foam attached. The system allows the oysters to spread evenly along the cage allowing them to feed more often and recover more

quickly after spawning.

Katie's cages have been so effective her family's business has more than doubled. "It's enabled the business to grow so much - it's now self-maintained - a whole new way of oyster farming."

Not only that, but the new cages are environmentally friendly.

Now the Allen Bros, in conjunction with the NSW State Department for Regional Development, are working to spread the use of the system for the betterment of oyster growers throughout NSW and are helping put Greenwell Point on the map.



Brian and Barry Allen with Katie McCann's award winning invention.

Name your park competition

For a while it looked like the only entry would be the winner—Pelican Park! Unfortunately the entry was anonymous. The only identifying feature was that it was written on a piece of orange paper.

The search for the submitter was averted by two late entries "Twin Rivers Park/Reserve" and "Riverhaven Park/Reserve".

The judging panel has decided to extend the closing date to the end of February. Enter and win two free tickets to the next GTTPP function.

Pool closed for record hot day

What do you think about Council's financially-motivated decision to close the village swimming pool or have restricted hours during the middle of the peak tourist season? Does this make sense to you?

This matter will be discussed at the next GTTPP Meeting on 16 February so come along and have your say. If you can't make it to the meeting then drop a note in the Community Suggestion Box at the Black Marlin or email editor@greenwellpoint.info.

Column 3

Well here we are in another new year and it promises to be an interesting one for the Get to the Point Programme.

Founding father and long-term president Alan Mayze has indicated that he won't be standing for re-election at the AGM scheduled for July this year. Secretary Graham Bannister is also in the same boat so we need some new blood.

At the last GTTPP meeting a proposal was put to write to all local community groups and get them to send along at least two representatives to the monthly GTTPP Meetings. So, if you are on the committee of a local community group then consider this to be your invitation. Send some reps to the GTTPP Meetings.

Council's long-awaited foreshore "Plan of Management" is supposed to be finalised during February and the foreshore erosion works are scheduled to commence along Adelaide Street on 20 March.

Additional funds have been voted for work on our ICON park but nothing can start till the "Plan of Management" has been approved. As we keep plugging away at these issues with Council 2006 may be the year in which we get beyond the plans, the consultant studies and the reports and see some REAL progress.

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Scouting About with Julie Brown

Many new activities are planned for the first term for both Cubs and Scouts.

For Scouts there will be a special camp where they will learn about canoeing properly and achieve a special award. Having done that, they can then enter the Head of the River Competition and go on a long canoe trip with other groups. Also they will be able to compete with other Districts at the *Wet and Wild* at Boonerah Point, Mt Warrigal.

Cubs also have a day of water activities planned at Boonerah Point.

Founder's Day, which is Lord Baden-Powell's birthday, will be a combined day for both Cubs and Scouts where there will be many challenges and heaps of fun including adventures such as the Flying Fox. Cubs will also be having a birthday party with 1st Illaroo Cubs for Baden-Powell's birthday. The whisper is that the Scouts are having one too.

Christmas thanks

A big thank you to the Firies who once again drove Santa around the village and thanks also to the Black Marlin for donating the lollies.

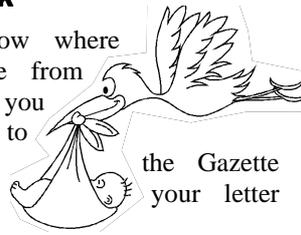
Thanks to the folks who decorated their houses with Christmas lights and brought some festive cheer to the village. Also to Allan Mayze for putting up the village lights but not to the individuals who used them for target practice—this year's casualty rate was higher than last year.

Advance to Nowra Fair?

In late-breaking news Council are considering a motion from Clr Kearney to sing the national anthem at the conclusion of all Council meetings! Song sheets to be included in Council papers.

Not by stork

We all know where babies come from but have you ever stopped to wonder how the Gazette arrives in your letter box?



Well it's all down to our dedicated delivery team marshalled monthly by Vera Farnham. Special thanks to Vera and her foot soldiers—Wendy Vaughan, Rob and Janelle Tompsett, Laurel Kennedy, Julie Brown and Lesley Bannister.

We need a volunteer with some knowledge of Pyree to do deliveries in that area. Ring Vera on 4447 1358 if you can help.

Church News

Our Greenwell Point Union Church was the venue for a delightful Carols night in December and was well attended by residents and visitors. The Christmas Day service was also well attended.

Everyone is welcome at the regular Sunday services commencing 8.00am. The church is also available for weddings, baptisms and funerals and inspections of the church can be arranged.

A pastoral care group meets in the church on Tuesday afternoons and would welcome new members. A cook book with a little local history is available for \$6.50.

Can you help? There is always need for pianists and scripture teachers.

Inquiries to Sandra Walter on 4447 1822 or Doris Hoffman 4447 1641.

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Stephen Simms

Get to know your Elders

In the October edition it was reported that Elders of Berry had taken over East West Real Estate. Whilst true at the time of publication it wasn't true for long.

Your local Elders is now part of the Callala/Cuburra/Greenwell Point network of Elders under the guidance of principal Stephen Simms.

Essential facts

Althaiophobia is a fear of marshmallows.

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times. Try it with your Gazette—after you've read every last word.

23% of photocopier faults are caused by people sitting on them and photocopying their buttocks!

33% of all Americans flush the toilet while they are on it.



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rockoyster clams up

Recent industrial relations changes introduced by the Howard Government heralded the concept of "work choices".

This notion was just too appealing for your local computer guy, Graham Bannister, trading as *rockoyster*. He made a big choice and decided to close down the company's computer repair division. The burgeoning web design side of the business will continue.

rockoyster would like to thank all those valued customers who have made the last few years a great learning experience—especially Macka for generating the most novel problems! May your hard drives keep whirling, your viruses be few and the blue screen of death remain a stranger to you.

Pet friendly holidays

Local accommodation mogul, Jeff Veale, has expanded his offerings in the village with the opening just prior to Christmas of Jeff's Crookhaven Cottage.

Jeff currently operates the Point Holiday Apartments in Adelaide Street. The Cottage, located in Crookhaven Drive, has been completely redecorated inside and is ideal for the family who likes to take its pets with them. Mention the ad from the Gazette when booking in your friends or family and receive 20% off regular prices.

Councillors Get to the Point

Clr Paul Green and Clr Gareth Ward attended the November meeting of the Get to the Point Programme.

Clr Green addressed the group on his thoughts on alcohol and unsociable behaviour amongst the youth of the Shoalhaven. A proposal is being developed to put before Council to seek better laws to make both youths and their parent more accountable for their actions.

Both Councillors stressed the need to report all incidents to the Police.

Will anyone be left?

Have you noticed how many houses are for sale in the village? Every street has a forest of for sale signs. Will they sell? Is this the sea change in reverse?

Support your local Police

Representatives of the Get to the Point Programme, along with other Shoalhaven community groups, attended the inaugural Police Accountability Community Team (PACT) meeting chaired by Superintendent Kyle Stewart at Nowra Police Station on 15 December. These meetings will be held every six months from now onwards.

Shoalhaven Command covers some 4,700 kilometres with 1,000 kilometres of coastline - approximate population 79,000 in 2002, which in 2005 has increased to 87,000. During holiday periods the estimated population rises to 400,000. Statistics were presented on assault, break-ins and drug offences.

Attendees were requested to advise their communities to REPORT ALL INCIDENTS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO RESIDENTS. Just like in politics the staffing levels for the police is a numbers game. The more incidents that get reported the more likely they are to get extra officers.

Reports can be made anonymously to the POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE (PAL) on 131 444 or CRIMESTOPPERS on 1800 333 000. If you have a concern when you ring to report at the local Nowra station and you do not feel that you have received a satisfactory answer then ask to speak to the Duty Officer. "Triple-0" (000) is for emergencies only - crimes in progress, accidents or fires and the like.

Please advise the police in advance of any community events or organised parties so they can be more prepared in case of callout.

Greens Road landmark vanishes

The 32-foot yacht which has graced the shores of Greens Road for the past three years has finally "set sail" to distant shores.

In a flurry of cranes, trucks, stop/go men, traffic jams and inquisitive bystanders *Southern Aura* was hoisted from its berth and transported to the Gippsland Lakes.

The new owner is keen to restore her to her former glory and they may be seen cruising these waters one day.

Hair today, shorn tomorrow

Julie Brennan has closed down her salon in Nowra and is now operating full time in Greenwell Point (see ad below).

The move has brought several new visitors to the village as many of Julie's Nowra customers are making the trip out here. So it's clear that Julie's 24 years experience in hairdressing is well appreciated. Julie offers excellent discounts for seniors.



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Back Page — Get to the Point Goings On

Development Applications

The following DAs were received by Council during November/December/January: DA05/3751 Erect ColorBond double garage—23 Haiser Rd. DA05/3765 Removal of concrete boat ramp—25 Adelaide St. DA05/3786 New two storey dwelling—79 Adelaide St. DA05/3908 Two storey addition to existing dwelling—55 Haiser Rd. DA05/3955 New urban dwelling, demolition of existing dwelling and shed—18 Jervis St. DA05/4076 Replace existing screenroom with gable roof—7 West St. DA05/4117 Outbuildings, detached for storage only—19 South St. DA05/4145 Urban dwelling additions—3 Terrara St. DA06/1064 Roof to existing deck. Setback variation from Church Street—11B Church St.

The last Gazette?

The November issue was whimsically billed the last gazette—for 2005, but this is serious.

Does anyone want to take over as Editor of the Gazette? If not then this may well be the last issue. The present Mr. Ed has grown weary of the task and is desperately seeking a replacement.

If you are a bit of a nosey parker with a literary bent then you could be the person we need.

Contact the President on 4447 0097 and present your credentials— anonymity assured!

Where did the fish go?

Local recreational anglers in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers continue to report dwindling fish stocks.

Steve Starling commented on ABC radio that the Shoalhaven River, which he has fished for most of his life, is not worth spending time on as the river netters have decimated the fish stocks. He stated that Australia is the only country in the world that condones commercial fishing in its river estuaries. He observed that where commercial fishing has been banned eg St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola, Coila Lake and the Tuross River estuary, fish stocks have significantly increased.

A guest speaker from the NSW Department of Fisheries has been invited to address the next meeting of the Get to the Point Programme on 16 February on the issue of professional fishing licenses with access to the Shoalhaven. Yet to be confirmed at time of going to press— watch local noticeboards for details.

Dates for the diary ...

Friday 3 March—Schools Clean up Day.

Sunday 5 March—Clean Up Australia Day.

Monday 20 March—Work to commence on new rock wall along Adelaide St—contact David 4447 0327 to book grandstand seating.

Regular happenings

Scouts—Every Monday 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the Scout Hall, Greens Road—Contact Julie 4447 1693.

Cub Scouts—Every Thursday 6.30pm to 8.00pm at the Scout Hall—Contact Craig 4447 0401.

Bingo at the Hall—Every Thursday commencing 10.30am—Contact Lola 4447 1850.

GP United Hospital Auxiliary—First Thursday each month commencing 2.30pm at the Hall.

Shoalhaven Vintage Machinery Club—Last Wednesday each month commencing 7.30pm at 23 Bartlett Drive.

Anyone for Tennis—Every Monday (weather and court surface permitting) from 9.30am at the Village Courts, Gordon Ravell Oval—All welcome.

Pyree Village Arts and Craft Markets—Fourth Sunday each month commencing 9.00am at the Shoalhaven Potters Workshop, Greenwell Point Road.

GTPP Community Meeting—Third Thursday each month commencing 7.00pm at the Hall.

GP Ladies Auxiliary —Third Thursday each month commencing 1.30pm at the Hall.

Crafty Fingers Group—every Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Coral Tree Lodge. New members and visitors are welcome to come along to learn crochet/ knitting/ needlework or for assistance with your own project and just to meet with like-minded villagers. For info call Tanya 4447 1313.

Greenwell Point Union Church—Sunday Service commencing 8.00am. First Sunday of month Baptist, second Uniting Service, third Presbyterian, fourth Anglican and fifth Baptist.

Clean Up Australia Day 2006

David McCorkell is looking to organise a full scale village clean up day on 5 March this year.

But he is going to need some volunteers to help with the organisation to make it all happen. If you can help call David on 4447 0327.

Get to the Point Programme Inc

Office Bearers

President—Allan Mayze 4447 0097
Secretary—Graham Bannister 4447 1554
Treasurer—Linda Innes 4447 1207

Team Leaders

Physical Design/Environment

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Social Development

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NEXT MEETING

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