



## Safe haven in the Shoalhaven

by Jackie Parry

If you've noticed that scruffy little sailboat pick up a mooring and hang tenaciously, refusing to budge, that is us. Noel and I have lived on Mariah II for almost eight years. I'm originally from north London and Noel is a true-blue Aussie. Fed up with what land life threw at us, in 2000 we headed for Darwin and then continued west—for five years.

While traversing the planet, my 'event co-ordinating' background was put to good use. Noel's skills as a carpenter and builder were always in demand on our 33 ft timber boat.

The trip to Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand was easy. With little wind, cheap diesel and flat water we could put down our cups of tea without them sliding around; we consider this great sailing!

After Sri Lanka and Oman the next part of the Indian Ocean was filled with pirate stories; indeed, people we know were boarded, coming away with their lives, but little else.

The Red Sea and the Suez Canal was an incredible experience, once is definitely enough though. The battle-worn country of Eritrea holds a special place in our hearts; we'll never forget the awesome landscape and proud people.

Popping out into the Mediterranean was simply awesome and a great relief to be back in the first world. After Cyprus, Greece and Italy, we lowered our mast and puttered through the middle of France to England where we replenished the coffers.

Eighteen months later we set sail

again, stopping at Spain, Portugal and North Africa.

We hit a whale in the Atlantic Ocean; petrified, we held our breaths while we waited to see if it would hit us back. Sadly, we think we took its life, our fear turned to sorrow.

We stepped back to the 50's in Cuba, and were enthralled to have the opportunity to traverse the spectacular Panama Canal. This was followed by the magnificent Galapagos Islands and then the enormous Pacific Ocean – 21

days at sea.

The Pacific islands are the gem in the worldwide sparkling ocean. We physically played with sea lions, stroked stingrays and swam with whales; explored many unique islands that are but a patch of sand

within the vast wet vista. We had a beer with a president, met a plethora of remarkable natives who couldn't do enough for us; we've had close encounters with sharks and crocodiles; we've had many goodbyes.

Australia, family and a rest beckoned. Greenwell Point is a soothing balm to our travel weary, salty souls. After visiting over 30 different countries and almost stopping at some, we have finally found the most welcoming place, somewhere we are happy to rest. The locals' help is unsurpassed, your kindness and generosity is beautiful, as is your glorious village. Thanks for making us so welcome.



Noel and Jackie on their epic circumnavigation.

## Column 3

Well he didn't last as long as John Howard has in Government but your editor has hung up his typesetter and called it a day. If you want some indication of how hard he's finding it to come up with something to write look no further than "A pun my word!" on page 2.

If and when you see the next edition of the Gazette will depend on whether or not someone volunteers to take on the job of Editor/Chief Reporter/Publisher/Advertising Manager.

February's meeting of the Get to the Point Programme saw a record crowd of around 100 people gathered to discuss the shortage of fish in the river (see report on page 3). There were Councillors, radio personalities, RiverWatch executives—you name it!

This sort of community involvement is what the Get to the Point Programme has been struggling to achieve since its inception. Having a specific topic which people feel strongly about is obviously the way to go. But how do we know what if anything you do feel strongly about?

But enough of this pot stirring and on to a farewell pinched from the title of Douglas Adams' fifth and FINAL book in the Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy trilogy—So long and thanks for all the fish!

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**Scouting About** with Julie Brown

February was a month for celebrating the founder of the scouting movement, Lord Baden-Powell.

We had Founder's Day at Bangalee Scout Camp where all the Groups in the District came together to enjoy the organised activities. The flying fox and abseiling were again the favourites by far, with all water activities a close second.

On Thursday 23 February we joined 1st Illaroo to celebrate his Lordship's 125th birthday with games and stories depicting his life. Thank you to those who attended including two District Leaders, Alex Patten and Geoff Hunter, lots of parents as well as the 35 Joeys, Cubs and Scouts.

Congratulations to the leaders who provided a great and informative night. Well done Rama (Chris Osbourne) of Illaroo, Bagheera (Rae Woods) and Raksha (Julie Brennan) of Greenwell Point.

A special thanks must go to Lee Ralph who supplied two fittingly decorated cakes and the parents for bringing along the party food which was quickly demolished. Last but not least, thanks to the ladies we could not have done without, Theresa Dunn, Joanne Weymans and Trish Hellman, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

March is looking like being a water activities month with the Charge Certificate (Canoeing) and the Head of the River Camp. So if any of this sounds like something you would like to be a part of just ring me on 4447 1693 or one of the Leaders listed on the back page. Or just get on down to the Scout Hall in Greens Road for a spot of serious dib dob dibbing.

**A pun my word!**

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell? Reading while sunbathing makes you well-red. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion. If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Lino-leum Blownapart. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it. Every calendar's days are numbered. Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine. When an actress saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses. Acupuncture is a jab well done. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

**Success at the show**

Great results for "Crafty Fingers" of Greenwell Point at the Nowra Show. 23 items were entered from which 5 Firsts, 5 Seconds and 1 Ribbon for fine crochet doilly (congratulations to Wilma Whysall) were achieved.

The group meets every Tuesday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm in the games room at Coral Tree Lodge Caravan Park, Greens Road, Greenwell Point.

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.

While you're there you might ask for a little taste of John Farnham's home-crafted Dark Ale (*yum yum—hint hint—Ed.*) which also won a first prize at the show.



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**Clean Up Australia Day 2006**

Nobody volunteered in time so Clean Up Australia Day got postponed till next year in Greenwell Point. Bit sad.

**Name your park competition**

Entries received so far for the "name our foreshore park/reserve" competition are: Pelican, Twin Rivers, Riverhaven, SK8, SK8ing (is someone trying to tell us something?), Resthaven, Serenity, Lunar, Boat Trailer, Icon Schmicon and the imaginative Greenwell Point Reserve.

The judging panel needs at least twenty suggestions and has decided to extend the closing date until we get enough. Enter and win two free tickets to the next GTTPP function.



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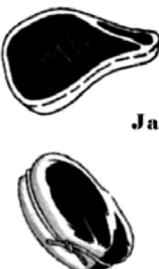
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## Fishing for answers

Representatives from NSW Fisheries (now part of the Department of Primary Industries) were on hand to field questions from a large group of local fisherfolk at last month's Get to the Point Programme Meeting. Fishing fanatic Bonita Brown and Lyndell Jones were there from the ABC. Councillors Ward, Kerr and Green participated as did Council Tourism Manager Tom Phillips. Riverwatch was represented by President Pat Mason and Vice-President Charlie Weir.

As well as starring on ABC Radio advertising the meeting the previous week, David McCorkell had prepared a list of questions on which the meeting focussed. Fisheries' responses to these questions are summarized below.

**When is it proposed to ban all commercial fishing in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries?** Not being considered at the moment although a trust fund is available for buy-back of licences which could include the Shoalhaven.

**Could commercial fishing in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries be limited to those fisherman who have traditionally fished the estuaries for many years as their primary livelihood?** In September 2002 NSW Department of Fisheries divided the state into seven Zones. The Shoalhaven/Crookhaven Rivers are in Zone 6. Currently there are 50 licensees endorsed to net/fish this zone. Licensees from other zones cannot net/fish outside their allocated zone.

Based on Fisheries records 17 fishermen regularly work the river complex, 12 locals and the remainder from the Illawarra area.

Catch restrictions only apply to abalone and crayfish. Netters can take as many legal-sized fish as they can catch.

**Why is recreational fishing in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries less productive than it was only a few years ago?** Drought effect, combined with Tallowa Dam water being pumped to Sydney. Inadequate fresh water flow to stir up the river nutrient to feed the small crustaceans and fish which are the target of larger fish, river silting up, increase in recreational anglers, increase in local population, lack of fishing knowl-

edge shown by some recreational anglers.

**What are the rules regarding commercial fishing?** Space precludes publishing the rules provided by Fisheries. A copy has been posted on the Community Notice Board.

**What action should be taken if the rules are seen to be broken?** Report anything perceived to be a dodgy practice to the District Fisheries Officer on 4441 8969.

**How many commercial licensees are permitted to fish in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries?** 50. Each person with a commercial licence must send in the details of their catch monthly. This then enables Fisheries to monitor both the number fishing and catch amounts. Records for the last five years (25, 18, 19, 14, 17) indicate a downward trend in the number of licensees.

**How many commercial licensees fished the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries before the closure of St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola, Coila Lake and Tuross estuary?** See above stats.

**Why has the Department allowed licensees who have been "bought out" from areas such as St Georges Basin to purchase unused licenses and then allow them to resume fishing in their original zone albeit in a different location eg Shoalhaven and Crookhaven estuaries and consequently contributing to the problem of overfishing that is now apparent in these estuaries?** Before the buy-backs Fisheries were unsure of the number of licences in circulation. Under new regulations some licences did not have the required previous catch records, forcing owners to purchase additional licences to meet the new requirements for endorsement. The buy-back identified all licences in this zone.

Special thanks to the Department of Primary Industries reps, District Fisheries Officer, Glenn Staples and Regional Director DPI Relations, Anne Muir for attending the meeting and providing the information.

What happens next?

The meeting got some coverage in the South Coast Register on 1 March.

The three Councillor's in attendance at the meeting all spoke in favour of buying out the Commercial licences and at February's Council Meeting, Clr Gareth Ward

successfully tabled a motion to have Council approach the authorities to further promote the voluntary buy-back scheme.

Despite NO votes from Clrs McCrudden and Wilmott it was agreed to refer the matter to the Policy and Planning Committee. It's a start.

If you have a view—lobby a Councillor today!

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## Back Page — Get to the Point Goings On

### Development Applications

The following DAs were received by Council during February:

DA06/1100 Two storey addition to existing dwelling—12 Bartlett Dr.

DA06/1139 Three car barn style garage—61 Greens Rd.

### Master Plan ready to go

The “final” draft Greenwell Point Master Plan has been completed and forms the basis of our foreshore Plan of Management scheduled to go to the March meeting of Council. Once approved by Council the Plan of Management will be put on public display for comment and discussion.

Council already have some funds set aside for commencement of works this month. A meeting was held late February with representatives from Council and the GTTPP to explore options for how these funds might best be spent.

It is proposed to commence landscaping works on the entrance to Anzac Park and some of the Pool surrounds. The reason for selecting these areas is that work can commence quickly whereas many other areas, eg main car park, additional toilets and so on, will require submission of development applications and would therefore be unlikely to commence this financial year.

Come along to the GTTPP Meeting on 16 March to view copies of plans and to raise any issues of concern. If you have views on what the priorities should be then why not come along and express them.

The current foreshore park to the north of the boat ramp is a real mess. It's going to be a few years before we get the new boat ramp and formalised boat trailer parking area. So in the meantime what do people think about closing the bulk of the area off to vehicular traffic? Might give the grass a chance to regrow once the erosion remediation works have been completed.

Get to the meeting and have your say.

### Allens have landed

It may not be Stonehenge but some mysterious mounds of earth have started to appear dotted around the foreshore park. Have we had visitations from aliens?

Apparently, in characteristic forward-thinking mode, Council have decided to use some of the spoil from the foreshore erosion works (which miraculously commenced ahead of schedule on 20 February) to form the bumps and lumps designed to add a bit of contour and interest to the long term landscaping of our “Insert your name of choice” Park.

### Dates for the diary ...

**Friday 11 March**—Greenwell Point Community Memorial Hall Management Committee Meeting commencing 10.00am.

**Saturday 15 April**—Easter Fête commencing 8.00am

**Thursday 20 July**—Get to the Point Programme Annual General Meeting and Office Bearer Elections (hint, hint) commencing 7.00pm.

### Regular happenings

**Scouts (10 ½ years +)**—Every Monday 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the Scout Hall, Greens Road—Contact Craig 4447 0401.

**Cub Scouts (7 ½ years to 10 ½ years)**—Every Thursday 6.30pm to 8.00pm at the Scout Hall—Contact Rae 4447 1735.

**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.

**GTTPP 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. 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.

### No pool not cool

Council have copped a fair bit of heat over the village pools being closed on the peak public holidays over the festive season but say it all comes down to dollars. The pools already run at a loss and additional opening hours would add somewhere between \$7,000 and \$12,000 net additional loss according to Council figures. But is it loss or investment?

A decision will be made in the 2006/2007 budget planning context.

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#### Get to the Point Programme (Inc)

### NEXT MEETING

**7.00pm Thursday 16 March**

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### EASTER FETE at the HALL

**SATURDAY 15 APRIL**

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