



## Annual Report - March 2005

The Get to the Point Program was initiated in October 2002. Initial funding was provided under the NSW Government's Small Towns/Main Street Regional Development Program as a result of representations by the Greenwell Point Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Inc.

At the outset the Program was run under the Guidance of the Chamber Executive and continued in that way after the Program was formalised as a separate incorporated association in 2004.

Since its inception the Program has generated a number of tangible benefits to the local community:

- Regular publication of the local Gazette continues to raise community awareness;
- The Foodies Festival, Oktoberfest and other fund-raising events have generated additional funds;
- The program has been acknowledged by the Shoalhaven City Council as the Principal Consultative Body for the area; and
- Significant progress has been made on the development of a Landscape Master Plan and steps to halt the continuing foreshore erosion.

In recent times there has been some disruption to operations due to key participants leaving the village. We have also suffered from a general lack of participation from the community at large.

It is easy to grow cynical when long promised developments fail to materialise from Council. But behind the scenes we have established good working relationships with Council officers and a lot of planning work has been done. If progress appears slow at present then we all need to consider how much worse it might be if we did not have a Principal Consultative Body.

In reviewing our achievements I want to pay special thanks to:

- Vera Farnham and Kerry Barnett for their events organising and fund-raising work;
- Joe Franklin for leading the Social Development team's efforts;
- Mike Smith for giving birth to the Greenwell Point Gazette and nurturing it through its first year of life;
- Lyn Kooyman for initiating the Landscape Master Planning process; and
- Graham Bannister who stepped in as caretaker secretary and has recently taken over from Mike as editor of the Gazette.

The Get to the Point Program has great potential to give the community a focus for deciding how we want the village to develop in the future and turning those plans into reality. I hope that the community will get behind the incoming Committee and make things happen.

Convener,

Alan Mayze