

# FINGAL FLYER

## SUMMER 2018 ISSUE



FHCA Community Action & Aircraft Noise Campaign



What's happening at Fingal School?



Fingal Coastcare, Bird Notes with Kate & TVSC News



Cooking with Jo



*Cover photos courtesy of Robyn Cook*

Keep  
Fingal  
Special!



# BIRD NOTES with Kate

## IT'S SPRING/EARLY SUMMER AND BIRDS ARE NESTING...

In my garden and surrounds we've observed:

- A pair of **Olive-backed Orioles** nesting in the outer branches of a lilly-pilly. They make the familiar 'oriole' call. The male has a pink bill and a red eye to go with his olive back. The female's breast is creamy white with bold teardrop streaks. Orioles can be confused with the Figbird which has red skin around a black eye.
- **Lewin Honeyeaters** with the 'half moon' ear mark, are nesting in a neat cup-shaped grass nest dangling from a small branch. These birds have a 'machinegun rattle' call.
- We must have been good neighbours, as the resident **Kookaburra** group is back in the tunnel nest they constructed last year in a termites nest. We can hear, from about 30m away, the large chicks demanding food - and I know their family is dutifully feeding them! Kookaburras are very effective breeders as the whole group helps to raise the young - the parents, offspring from last year, the year before and even the year before that. So there are about 6-8 birds sharing the duties of sitting on the eggs and feeding the chicks. Their skillful, accurate flight through the trees is most impressive.
- Residents were pleased to see a **Tawny Frogmouth** family gazing down on passers-by in Lagoon Road in November 2018. There were two adults and two fluffy chicks on a flimsy stick nest. In a matter of days they had fledged, but we are delighted to see them quite regularly in the trees around the lagoon, so they seem to be living in the area.

*Photo by Tony Cadell 2017*



*Photo by Lisa Cross 2018*

The **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** are back on our peninsula, I saw a big flock of about 30-40 birds fly over in late November - flapping slowly, looking like they are floating on air. They chew the banksia cones for the seeds. So the banksia trees are important for birds – they provide nectar for the honeyeaters in winter and then seeds for the cockatoos.

The Shorebirds are coming back to our shores from their huge migration to north Asia and Siberia. Many of these species are declining in numbers as the resting places (wetlands) on their migration route are being destroyed. Recently 26 **Eastern Curlews** with their long, down-curved beaks were sighted alongside the river. They will need to rest, so it is important that they are not disturbed by humans, dogs or anything else. Why, you ask, do they go to Siberia when life is good here? It's because the chicks feed on insects and there is an abundance after the snow melts. There is also 24 hour light in the Arctic summer – so lots of time for eating!



*Photo by Isabela November 2018*

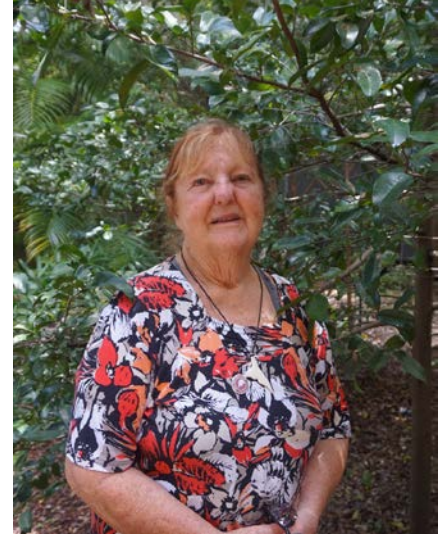
Kate McKenzie  
29 November 2018



# THANK YOU JAN SINCLAIR

It was wonderful to join in the morning tea on 17 October to celebrate 10 years since the opening of the Fingal Head Public School Dreamtime Pathway and bushtucker walk. Many of our locals contributed a lot of energy and many hours to this project.

It was also special to catch up with old friends including Jan Sinclair who has worked with many Schools and others in our region to extend understanding and install bush tucker gardens in our Schools. An outstanding contribution to our important environment. Thankyou Jan Sinclair for the substantial contribution you have made throughout the Tweed over many years.



## NEW HOME FOR PHASCOGALES

Is that a rat in the attic? Or is it just a phascogale that lost its nesting tree?

Phascogales in the roof are easily mistaken for rats, and during mating season in May to July they can be very rowdy. But they're the endangered cousins of quolls so deserve some help. Coastcare thought a nesting box near the roof may tempt them out.



One box is sometimes not enough because phascogales and sugar gliders both have the same taste in housing. There need to be enough homes to go around, so three nesting

boxes were made with the help of Tweed Valley Woodcrafters.

What's with the trendy camo paint job?

Well some people have too much time and too many left over sample paint pots.

Did you know - normally, the common name for critters is easier to say than their proper name but "phascogales" copped "wambenger". No luck there!



# COMMUNITY ACTION

Summer brings much warmth, growth, visitors and celebrations to the peninsula. At this time of year with so many enjoying the beauty of the peninsula and all it offers we need to take extra care to Keep Fingal Special.

2018 has been a busy year for the Association. Issues covered included the Aircraft noise campaign, the Fingal Peninsula ET Focus group, Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypass project, Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee, Telecommunications – improving mobile signal and strength and the Local Development plan and related amendments to the LEP. We have also produced four issues of our community newsletter the Fingal Flyer.

The history of our campaign to improve the mobile phone signal strength and coverage for the 85% of respondents who currently experience problems was discussed at length at the FHCA meeting in October 2018. I provided a detailed history of our campaign and it appears that I should refresh others about the history of the campaign.

The April 2018 meeting of the FHCA discussed the federal government's response to a resident seeking improvements to his mobile phone reception specifically the government's response "to buy a new handset". The following day the FHCA issued a community survey to gauge how widespread the issue of inadequate mobile signal was for residents of Fingal Head as an insert to the Autumn Fingal Flyer. This was an initiative of the FHCA – no telecommunications companies were involved.

At the June 2018 FHCA meeting the outcome of the survey was reported. It was also reported in the Winter Fingal Flyer issued in early July 2018. The community survey established that 85% of Fingal Head resident's responding to the survey are experiencing problems with mobile phone signal. The report made it clear that a mobile phone tower had not been an option advanced and urged the community to be clear that this community is seeking an improvement to the mobile phone signal. The FHCA formed a working group to advance the campaign.

By the August 2018 FHCA meeting a working group had been established who developed a strategy/ action plan. There has been no shortage of resident suggestions at FHCA meetings but the most helpful has been the suggestion by a resident to utilise WIFI calling to improve mobile phone service in your home. This was first raised at the August meeting and has been adopted by many to overcome the signal issues in their homes. At the meeting the FHCA again clarified that it had not advocated for a telecommunications tower in Fingal Head.

In advancing the campaign the Association forwarded correspondence on the evening of 6 September 2018 advocating for an improvement to local representatives Justine Elliott, and Geoff Provest, Minister Mitch Fifield, and Minister Bridget McKenzie as well as the General Manager, Tweed Shire Council.

Early the following week a resident asked if I was aware of a proposal by Telstra to install a 'Mobile telecommunications small cell' near 33 Queens Street Fingal Head. I had no knowledge and to date the FHCA has not received correspondence from Telstra regarding this issue. Our letters advocating an improvement were to politicians and the Tweed Shire Council not telecommunications companies. It is false to assert that this proposal resulted from our letters sent late on 6 September 2018. Since becoming aware of the proposal we worked to obtain formal information from Telstra via Justine Elliott's office about what their overall proposal was so that the whole community could be informed. Justine Elliott's office forwarded details of the advertisement on 13 September 2018. The closing date for submissions

was 26 September 2018. I understand that the Telstra proposal went directly to a few residents and was advertised in the Daily News. There was no community consultation process.

We established that the small cell proposal could only improve an area between 100 – 400 metres. This will not address the overall aim of our community to ensure that we all have equitable access to reliable mobile phone signal and coverage.

There are a number of additional concerns raised relating to health and safety. Others organised a petition. It is incorrect to assert that FHCA was used by Telstra to “speed up the process.”

It was clear that this proposal was not a solution for residents of the whole peninsula. We are seeking equitable access for all members of our community. For this reason the FHCA opposed the proposal to install mobile Telecommunications Small cell at Fingal Head near 33 Queen Street and resolved to continue to seek to improve the mobile phone coverage and signal strength experienced by residents of the Fingal Head peninsula.

Telstra withdrew the proposal prior to the closing date for submissions.

At the October 2018 FHCA meeting it was resolved to “request Telstra to address the community regarding options and solutions to the poor mobile phone coverage on the Fingal peninsula. The meeting will be convened by FHCA, and all community members will be invited to attend.” Telstra was invited as they were the proponents of the small cell proposal and were the major provider in Fingal Head with 65% of community survey respondents identifying Telstra as their provider.

The meeting was arranged, residents were invited to forward their questions in advance and arrangement were made with the Telstra Regional Australia Northern NSW General Manager. The meeting was held on the 15 November 2018 at the Fingal Head Public School. It was well attended and residents had the opportunity to hear from the Telstra representative directly regarding options and solutions.

Residents were informed and it was confirmed that WIFI calling was a solution in their homes. Further there is currently no proposal Telstra is pursuing. In relation to situations where residents and others are working in the forest, at the Coastcare Nursery or volunteering at Clean up Australia Day or other such events we remain without a solution to the poor mobile phone coverage.

It will be important for residents to reflect on the information and discussion at the Community meeting and make their own decisions about how they can address their mobile phone issues. Within their own homes I expect that WIFI calling will significantly improve the situation for many residents.

On behalf of the community Association I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to advance the community in 2018. It is important for residents to understand that the FHCA has no staff, we receive no funding, our efforts are all voluntary, and we rely on membership fees and donations to fund our work including the cost of production of the Fingal Flyer. We encourage you to join the FHCA, take an active role and support our work. Together we can work to advance the issues identified by our community.

For now, take a breath and enjoy some rest and relaxation in our beautiful environment over the holiday season.

**Helen Twohill**

President – Fingal Head Community Association Inc.

# COOKING WITH JO

## DILL CURED OCEAN TROUT WITH HORSERADISH CREAM

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup castor sugar

1 cup salt

Handful of dill finely chopped

1 x 1.3 kg ocean trout fillet skin off and pin-boned

### **Horseradish cream**

1 cup thickened cream

¼ cup minced horseradish, salt & pepper



### METHOD

Combine the sugar, salt and dill in a bowl mix well.

Spread ½ of this mixture over the base of a clean plastic or enamel tray.. lay the trout on the sugar mixture, then spread the remaining mixture over the top. Cover the trout with a piece of plastic film or baking paper, then place a chopping or another plastic or enamel tray on top and weigh this down with a heavy object eg tinned tomatoes on top. Refrigerate the trout for 8 hours for a soft cure or 24 hours for a firm cure.

To make the horseradish cream, place the cream in a glass or stainless steel bowl and beat with electric beaters until soft peaks form. Then fold the horseradish through till combined. Taste, add salt and pepper to liking..

After curing, brush all the salt mixture off the trout , using the back of a knife. Thinly slice the trout crossways, then serve with the cream. Leftovers can be stored in the fridge for 3 days covered.

If using bottled horseradish use less and taste as you go.

Serve this as a Christmas nibble on a cracker with the cream, or place on a plate as an entrée, or serve with a salad.

Merry and safe Christmas, Jo





# FINGAL SCHOOL NEWS

## 2019 STUDENT LEADERS INDUCTED

Contratulations to the 2019 student leaders who were inducted at the school's Presentation Assembly this week.

School Captains Indiana Hennessy & Beau Shearer

School Vice-Captains Iesha Pearson & Shek Yepwi

We thank our outgoing leaders Max, Namaala, Taj, Leila and Jade for their outstanding leadership throughout 2018, they will be missed.

## DUAL RECIPIENTS OF FINGAL PS VALUES AWARD NAMED ON PRESENTATION DAY

An outstanding list of nominees for the Fingal PS Values Award in 2018 created an extremely difficult decision for the hardworking and dedicated P&C team this year.

The list of nominees includes:

Mary & Joel Slabb (Juraki); Meg Houghton and Kai (Story Dogs); Fran Krasna (School Admin Officer and P&C Vice President); Crystal Pearson (P&C Secretary); John Dent (School Learning Support Officer); and Jade Tatam-Lube (graduating Year 6 student).

This year's worthy recipients of the Fingal Head PS P&C Values Award are: John Dent and Jade Tatam-Lube. Congratulations John and Jade!



ENROL NOW FOR 2019

Call FHPS school office on 5524 2315



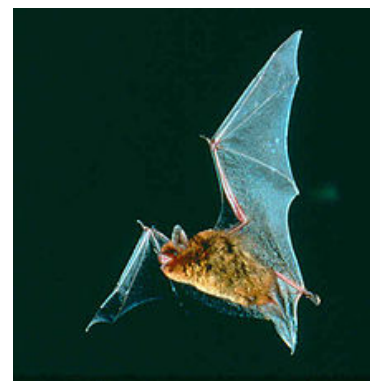








# MICRO BATS



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Micro Bats consume 50% of their body weight in insects every night.
- Southern Myotis (one of our local species) has been recorded capturing 1,200 fruit fly in one hour. That's one every three seconds.
- Micro Bats live in hollows and under the bark of large trees. The less large trees, the less microbats and the less insects eaten.
- Microbats are very small animals - only 4 to 11 cm in body length
- Micro Bats are nocturnal and rely on echolocation and to a lesser extent eye sight to locate insects and fly at night.
- Bats are the only group of mammals that are specifically adapted for flight
- Little Bentwing-bat (another one of our local residents) flies at speeds of up to 50 kilometres an hour.
- Thirty-five species of micro bats in Australia are threatened or endangered.
- Habitat loss and the disturbance of roosting sights are the main reason for declining numbers.
- On the Fingal Peninsula we have many micro bats and one of our residents is building nesting boxes to help preserve these threatened creatures and help control biting insects.

**A Success Story** In Victoria, the Friends of Drouin's Trees with the help of the local men's sheds started providing nesting boxes for micro bats. A brand new "micro bat house" was put outside while the evening meeting finished up. When they picked up "the house" 15 minutes later two micro bats had moved in! That's desperate for housing.

## SAND MONITORING AT FINGAL BEACH

In response to concerns raised with the Tweed Shire Council by the FHCA we were advised that "there is currently a large amount of sand movement up the Tweed coast as evidenced by the wide beaches and obstruction of the three coastal creeks. This sand will move northward to replenish Fingal Head Beach."

Our representative on the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypass (TRESB) project, Larry Woodland has advised that the project is currently updating information packages relating to Fingal and Letitia beaches, providing discussion points on the natural fluctuations (and patterns) in beach width, volumes and shoreline position, through the use of vertical imagery coupled with commentary. The aim is to link focussed studies that have been undertaken over the years that investigate sand movement along these beaches.

A number of aerial photographs of Fingal beach have now been loaded to the following website and these will be updated regularly. They start with aeries from 1962 up to current date showing the natural cycle of coastal erosion and beach rebuilding.

<https://www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au/articles-and-studies/interesting-items/fingal-beach-behaviour>





## FAREWELL OLD FIG

The big old fig tree on the corner of Queen Street and Marine Parade has succumbed to Brown Root Rot caused by a fungus *Phellinus noxius* and is to be removed by Tweed Shire Council soon.

There is a great deal of concern that a tree that old and that big would be habitat for many little critters. It may be possible for the TSC to leave some stumps so that nesting hollows can be carved into them.

Very sad to see such an old resident go.



## MORE VISITORS TO FINGAL HEAD

Fingal Head really is special. A resident reported a wonderful experience in her back yard helping a family of Pacific Wood Ducks and their chicks on their way into the forest when they were being attacked by kookaburras.

Another spotted two Tawny Frogmouths in the tree outside her window.

They are regular visitors.

Very special!



# HOMES FOR FINGAL FAUNA

Over 300 Australian native animal species rely on tree hollows for shelter, survival and a place to rear their young. Fingal Head is a haven for many native animals that are rapidly losing homes and habitat as development continues to engulf Kingscliff and areas surrounding our precious spit. Until recently some species, such as the brush-tailed phascogale (that were considered to be locally extinct) have been discovered here in Fingal Head. As a community we are exceedingly fortunate to have the opportunity to co-exist with wildlife that work behind the scenes to pollinate our plants and disperse seeds, help with pest control (by feeding on mosquitos and other insects), prey on mice and rats, mulch our soil and enrich the biodiversity and beauty we live amongst.



By sponsoring a hollow - we will enrich our haven, and insure that our local wildlife populations thrive. Sponsors will be invited to attend hollow installation (in March 2019) and will be recognised. Watch this space. Ongoing monitoring will keep community members informed on the occupancy rate of hollows and the species that have chosen to reside in them.

For more information or to support this community project please email Sarah Jantos - [hello@greenheroes.org.au](mailto:hello@greenheroes.org.au) or Phone 0416 050 946.



Food Art Music  
River Views

Bookings Phone  
0755231130

## SUMMER HOURS

Tues 9-5

Wed 9-5

Thu 9-5

Fri 9-5

Sat 9-10.30

Sun 8-5

## Sheoak Shack Fingal Live Entertainment every Saturday

22 Dec 2pm - Ben Camden  
7pm - Jessie Morris

29 Dec 2pm - Mason Rack \$10  
7pm - Shem

5 Jan 2pm - Dougy Reggae  
7pm - Manoa

12 Jan 2pm - Tane Tokorangi  
7pm - Andy Burke Band

19 Jan 2pm - Pat Coyle  
7pm - Tin Parlour



# COASTCARE



**Native Westeria** *Callerya megaspema* is in flower in the bush at the moment (pictured above right). See if you can spot it in the canopy.

## **Myrtle Rust** *Uredo rangelii*.



Another outbreak of this very destructive fungus has been detected in Fingal Head. It targets and quickly kills plants in the *Myrtaceae* family which includes Midyim Berry, Lilly pillies, tea tree, paperbarks, bottle brush, native guava, water gum and eucalyptus sub species *ANGOPHORA* SPP., and *CORYMBIA* SPP. *SUCH AS* Bloodwoods, Brush Box. It is obvious by orange spots under the leaves and general discoloration of the leaf. If you notice it please let TSC know on [tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au) or 02 6670 2400.



## QUARRY REMNANT

A local resident recently noticed two people removing vegetation in the quarry rainforest remnant. She tried to ring TSC Rangers but there was no mobile cover. On later inspection it appears they have removed large festoons of Native Hoya which would have taken an extremely long time to grow and will probably never be the same in our lifetime. This area and all littoral rainforests are protected by the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, National Parks and Wildlife Act and NSW Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) – Coastal Management as well as local government planning policies. Any interference with vegetation in Littoral Rainforests or other SEPP protected areas including wetlands can incur huge fines.





## PROTECT THE NATIVE VEGETATION

---

If anyone witnesses damage being done to any native vegetation on Crown Land or any other inappropriate or damaging activities please contact the TSC Rangers on 02 6670 2444 and 1800 818 326 AH or send an email to TSC on [tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au).

Fingal Head Coastcare wish you as always, a safe, happy and fire free holiday season.

Kay Bolton - *Fingal Head Coastcare*

'Helping to Keep Fingal Special'



## BITING MIDGES

---

Also known as 'sand flies', biting midges are small flies renowned for their nuisance biting. They tend to occur in areas such as coastal lagoons, estuaries, mangrove swamps and tidal flats.

What are they? The female biting midge takes blood meal to provide protein to develop her eggs. The 'itchiness' from her bite is due to allergens in midge saliva.

As biting midges are biologically linked with the lunar cycle, take note of the lunar period when midges are most active. The midges can be most active in the few days following the full and new moon, so take this into account when planning outdoor activities around this time during the warmer months. For further information go to <http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au>



## REMEMBER NO FLAG = NO SWIM

---

With the weather warming up, the Tweed's lifeguards want to remind you to only swim at a patrolled beach and always swim between the flags. In particular, due to the rough surf conditions and drownings, it is recommended that there is no swimming at Dreamtime Beach. It is also not patrolled. Council does not permit the lighting of fires on Council controlled land, this includes beaches.

For more information on lifeguard patrols and safe beaches to swim, visit [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/beaches](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/beaches).

(Reprinted from Tweed Link – 30 October 2018)



# AIRCRAFT NOISE CAMPAIGN



## CHANGES TO RUNWAY (RW) 32 ARRIVALS

Advertised in the Public Notice section of the Tweed daily News on 20 October 2018 was advice that Gold Coast Airport Smart Tracking Update – Runway 32 as follows: “Airservices is proposing to update the Smart Tracking satellite navigation approach procedures for aircraft landing at Runway 32 at Gold Coast Airport. Two smart tracking flight paths are proposed to replace the existing flight paths for aircraft landing to the airport from the south. Some residents may experience increased levels of aircraft noise and changes to where aircraft are currently tracking. Information on this change can be found at <https://bit.ly/2CSxmNc> Feedback closes on 29 November 2018.”

Despite being active participants in both community consultative forums with the Gold Coast Airport no advance advice was given to community representatives. This is highly irregular and was raised at the following ANACC & CACG community consultative forums, 25 October and 7 November 2018 respectively. We were advised by Airservices Australia (AA) that they have changed their consultation policy.

At the ANACC meeting the AA representative stated that he would provide detailed Google Earth mapping of the proposed new flight paths. We needed these to determine the people to be impacted by any increased aircraft noise. Despite the fact that I again raised this at the following CACG meeting (7 November 2018) no detailed mapping had been provided to the community. We were reassured that the information would be provided before the closing date for submissions – 29 November 2018.

The detailed mapping was forwarded on Tuesday 27 November 2018 – two days prior to the closing date for submissions. This is inadequate. The detailed mapping indicates that the outer edge of the proposed flight path change will impact on the Fingal peninsula, directly the southern end of Fingal Road. There was insufficient time to alert residents of the proposed flight path change over their homes prior to the submission closing date.

While the full impact of this proposed change upon the residents of the Fingal peninsula will not be able to be established until the implementation of the proposal, expected at the end of January 2019, the Association in its submission identified that this process was flawed and that the information should not have been withheld. We objected to the proposal proceeding and requested the timeframe for consultation be extended to allow all those impacted to be made aware of this significant change.

This overall situation is not satisfactory given the detailed expansion of Gold Coast Airport planned in the coming years - projected growth in annual passenger movements forecast to grow to 16.6 million in 2037. I understand that the planned new flight path would apply to five flights per day and that a review would be done after twelve months of the operation of the new flight path.

I suggest that if residents are negatively impacted that they might like to provide their feedback directly to AA at the next community consultative forum ANACC scheduled for 7 February 2019. Alternatively residents should consider raising their concerns with their elected representatives.

Understanding the bigger impact of this change is important for residents. Prior to the extension of the Runway in 2006 and the introduction of AirAsia X flights in November 2006 Fingal Head was generally not used as a departure heading for Runway 14 departures for low cost overseas airlines. The exception to this is Freedom Air which flew a daily flight to New Zealand and was later absorbed by Air New Zealand. Since the initial two flights per week Air Asia X has increased to two daily flights with additional low cost operators – SCOOT & Hong Kong Air, adding to the

increasing aircraft noise experienced by Fingal Head and more broadly Tweed residents. These operators are in addition to northern flights operated by Jetstar and New Zealand flights operated by Jetstar and Virgin as well as Air New Zealand. Gold Coast Airport is actively promoted as and international low cost carrier airport.

Reflecting on our representation in the last twelve months on this campaign, I acknowledge the time and effort from others in our community in representing our interests, John, Larry and those of you who raise concerns at Association meetings and through the Noise Complaints processes. Thank you. Frustration at the adequacy and achievements of the consultative processes remains a significant concern. Despite this we will continue to work together to Keep Fingal Special and seek improvements to the aircraft noise experienced.

**Helen Twohill –**

**President, Fingal Head Community Association Inc.**

# CONCERNED ABOUT AIRCRAFT NOISE?



- **Please** ensure that GCA and Air Services Australia know that we want improvements by utilising the complaints process by lodging a complaint, or make an enquiry by:
- Using the online NCIS form at **[airservicesaustralia.com](http://airservicesaustralia.com)** and by using the **webtrak** tool
- Phoning **1800 802 584** (freecall) -  
staffed Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, excluding public holidays
- post to: Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460





## TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS HERE

Advertised in the Public Notice section of the Tweed daily News on 20 October 2018 was advice that Gold Coast Airport Please be aware that its turtle laying season. Fingal Head has welcomed many new turtles over the years. Remember to keep your dogs on a leash during this time and minimise digging and disturbance. Once again Fingal Head may be able to experience the very special welcoming of turtles. Please report all track sightings to Kate McKenzie on [katemckenzie95@gmail.com](mailto:katemckenzie95@gmail.com).





# TVSC SAILING NEWS



The sailing club's 8th Summer Sunday Race series is going well with up to 20 boats sailing. A week off for a social sail to the Chindy Tavern for lunch and back on Sunday 25 November was very popular too. Chinderah Local Sandy Sorenson surprised us all meeting us at the wharf sailing her restored Heron solo for the first time. A great achievement to celebrate reaching "level 70" in the game of life! The Junior and Teen sailors have also impressed us all this year. 13 year old Sid Willis and his Dad Tim restored a donated timber Northbridge Junior which after many years of neglect is now flying across the river again and 10 year old Layla Scholz and Dad Gunnar sanded to within an inch of their lives and repainted another donated boat - a Flying Ant which is now a stunning pink. Layla and best friend April must have been born sailing - after only a couple of months they are confident to sail "Flippant" in 20 knot winds. And of course Fingal locals Taj Krasna, Kynan Luescher and Thomas Busbridge continue to enjoy our wonderful river under sail - the stronger the wind the better!



*Layla Scholz & April Bernet on "Flippant"*



We break for Christmas and New Year after the race on 16th Dec - Juniors/Teens sailing will be running over the holidays with some midweek sessions so get in touch if you have kids age 8 to 17 who are keen to learn and have some watery fun.

Email: [tvscmail@gmail.com](mailto:tvscmail@gmail.com) [www.tvsc.com.au](http://www.tvsc.com.au)  
or call

TVSC Commodore Bill Fenelon 0411 123 405

*Pictured Left: Sandy Sorenson on her 70<sup>th</sup> sailing her Heron dinghy solo*

# ROVERS NEWS



The 2018 year has had its ups and downs for the club including the club suffering a significant loss of active members. The 7 member Committee for the 2018/19 season was elected at the AGM and include Ernie Williams (President), Des Williams (Vice-President), Tracy Barrell OAM (Secretary), Leween Williams (Treasurer), Jane Colvin, Lisa Bolton and Glen Hardy. Paul Ransom was elected Club Captain.

Whilst our active membership number is increasing, unfortunately (as at the issue date of this Fingal Flyer) they are not sufficient for us to run patrols this summer. We are seeking assistance from other clubs and working with SLSNSW Northern Branch to rectify this. We welcome new members and old members wishing to rejoin. The club will run Bronze Medallion courses and Proficiency to get new members active so we can re-start patrolling as soon as possible to make Fingal Beach safer for visitors and locals. If you're not water confident, there are land based positions available including radio operators, drone operators and patrol captains. So if you or members of your family have an interest in life saving, being involved in the Fingal community and being part of our club, please contact us at [secretary@fingalroversslsc.com.au](mailto:secretary@fingalroversslsc.com.au) and enquire about joining.

## BEACH NEWS

You may have noticed an Emergency Response Beacon and Angel Wings installed at the northern end of Dreamtime Beach. The items have been funded and installed by Surf Lifesaving Australia and local member Geoff Provest and the club thanks them. The Beacon is fitted with a camera and radio. The camera has a live feed to the Surf Lifesaving monitoring system in Sydney and any member of the public can activate and report an emergency.

## FAQ's OF INTEREST

***Is the camera active 24/7?*** Yes. The camera is monitored every day during daylight hours and becomes activated when the emergency button is pushed at all other times.

***Is there a radio/mobile system installed to assist communications during an emergency?*** Yes. When the emergency button is pushed, this opens radio communication with Surf Lifesaving.

***What do I do in the event of an emergency?*** Anyone can report an emergency with this device. Either, push the emergency button, wait for a dial tone then follow the verbal instructions given. Alternatively, dial "000" on your mobile and inform the operator that your location is "Dreamtime".

***Is the camera linked to Coastal Watch surf-cam so people can see the surf break on Dreamtime Beach live on the internet?*** No. The camera has been installed for emergency purposes only and access for a live feed for recreational purposes has not been approved.

Fingal Rovers is looking forward to a positive 2019 and our primary goal for the year is to increase active membership so we can appoint patrols and better safeguard our coastline. Hope to see you at the club and on the beach soon.

Ernie Williams

***Fingal Rovers Club President***



# WIFI CALLING

Fingal Head was one of the many small communities earmarked for small cell deployment, called “mobile black spot program”, in preparation for the coming 5G microwave technologies and to improve Telstra mobile phone coverage. Our small town has a unique feature which is extremely hard to find these days, it has minimal microwave radiation throughout the town.

Phone towers and the electromagnetic energy (EME) they emit have aroused much attention and discussion around visual appearance, location, health concerns and cancer risks.

The rapid expansion of mobile phone technology over the last ten years to smart phones, starting with 1G network in the mid 1980s and now the first 5G are entering the Gold Coast. This is causing concern among people around the world, with one major reason being that there has been no span of time for sufficient research into or around the long-term side effects associated with the microwave energy exposure used to transmit these mobile phone signals. The impending arrival of 5G will be another increase in strength and microwave length type. From all the conflicting research to be found, one thing is clear, we just do not know yet whether there are serious health issues associated with long term EME exposure.

A large proportion of the population of Fingal Head have expressed their concerns over the nearly successful surprise installation of the first 5G small cell base station/mini tower into our local street – near 33 Queen Street. This new roll out of so called small cell base stations are very different to the typical tower installation. It works on networking the signal from street corner to street corner in a localised way immersing the whole area with overlapping microwaves to prevent black spots in homes, with each station transmitting to at least 400 metres. Installation is exempt from local Council planning schemes. Telcos have been granted permission by the federal government to attach the preparatory 5G cells to existing light and power poles throughout the suburb streets. Go to the website: <http://ecsfr.com.au/> for much more information on this topic and also to sign the current petition to stop mobile towers from entering world heritage landscapes and requesting further research.

Telco is supposed to inform and consult with a community of an intended installation, but this step for us in Fingal was not complied with thoroughly as many were unaware of what was coming. A few Fingal residents became aware of the small cell proposal on September 7, 2018 and thus sprang into action going door to door to inform neighbours of the coming 5G small cell base station proposal that would be put in less than 20 metres from where 20 children under the age of 16 reside. Telco gave Fingal residents until the COB on September 26, 2018 to submit; questions, request more info or give objections to this site. So, a petition was created with a list of objections and a request to our Federal Member, Justine Elliott, to also support this appeal. With support of the Fingal Head Community Association voting against it and Tweed Shire Mayor Katie Milne's support and approximately 75 individual petitions objecting to this proposal collected along with other individuals personally emailing directly, on September 26, 2018, Telstra/Telco advised that they would not pursue that current site.

Now that the residents of Fingal have room to breathe, we are coming together as a community to work out what the community as a whole want for their airways and what options are available to improve their household mobile coverage.

The first special community meeting regarding mobile phone telecommunications options was presented on November 15, 2018 by Michael Marom, the General Manager from Telstra from the northern region of NSW. Overall it was a step in understanding the lack of coverage issues. Many questions were raised and addressed and the benefits of the new **Wi-Fi calling option** was a happy solution for many people to their black spot issue instantly. Michael Marom also apologised to the community for its failure to consult with our local community in a public meeting before a proposal was sent to install a small cell near 33 Queen Street.

On Nov 25th 2018 we heard from Michael Marom in writing that, “As advised at the meeting we (Telstra) have suspended the project planned for Fingal Head and currently have no plans to revisit this exercise. Our next windows for consideration will be post June 2019. Regards, Mike”

## So what now & what have we learned?

- Use Wi-Fi calling when requiring improved signal in your home.

- Upgrade your phone to a more modern version of mobile to improve your coverage. Older phones do not have the strength these days to gather the microwaves needed for strength of signal. 2G has already been removed from services.
- Optus has better signal strength in Fingal because of its existing tower locations.
- If you need to make an emergency call to 000, your mobile provider will use any provider that is available. E.g. if you are with Telstra and only Optus covers where you may be in that moment then your emergency call will go through Optus.
- The Telcos must consider community desire in regards to tower installation.
- There is an urgent need for a comprehensive survey of all households in Fingal to bring clarity as to who is in acceptance or rejection to the implementation of a phone tower or 5G small cell anywhere in our town. This will be **our next step** so that we are clear and ready for the next approach from Telco/Telstra or Optus or Vodafone.

*Many people in our community have learned to do **Wi-Fi calling** over the last month. If this is something you still do not know how to do. Enter into your google search: Telstra or Optus Wi-Fi Calling and you'll be easily taken through very simple steps.*

Wi-Fi calling is only available on Telstra/Optus/Vodafone currently.

This may improve with demand and exposure.

Mobile compatibility –

- Apple iPhone 6 onwards, Apple Watch 3 onwards
- Samsung Galaxy devices, S7 onwards, Note 5 onwards
- Google Pixel 2 devices onwards
- LG devices G6 onwards

Only the latest system update on these phones will allow 'Wi-Fi calling'

**Vilia Hendry and Clover Hart**



# MIND BODY ACCORD

Device Advice  
Electromagnetic Radiation Reducation  
Massage therapy  
Fairy Tarot Reading

Anyone living in blackspot areas can instantly improve their coverage with a new service called 'WiFi calling'. It will effectively turn your WiFi into an extension of your mobile provider. Please call MBA for more details.

MARK  
0403881664



# GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Sunday 21 October marked graffiti removal day. Sharing a couple of snaps of the volunteers and an example of the achievements of some of their work. Thank you for helping keep Fingal Head special.



# KEEP FINGAL SPECIAL

Emergencies	000
Tweed Shire Council	02 6670 2400
TSC Rangers	02 6670 2444 AH 1800 818 326
Tweed Wild Life Carers	02 6672 4789
Wild Life Carer Fingal	0416 050 946
Australian Seabird Rescue	02 6686 2852 0428 862 852
NSW National Parks and Wildlife	02 6670 8600
Kingscliff Police	02 6674 9399
Tweed Heads Police	07 5536 0999
Kingscliff Fire Brigade	02 6674 1271
Rural Fire Brigade	02 6672 7888
NSW Maritime Authority	07 5587 5222 AH 0417 248 415
Maritime Services	131 256
Illegal Dumping	02 6670 2400 or <a href="http://www.illegaldumping.com.au">www.illegaldumping.com.au</a>
Gold Coast Wildlife Hotline	1300 130 372



# THANK YOU

The Fingal Flyer has been produced by Christine Marshall since the Autumn 2016 edition. As Principal of our local School, Christine has a very busy job so this additional commitment is greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Fingal Head Community Association Christine thank you so much for ensuring that the Flyer is produced and printed to ensure our community is kept informed.

Thanks are also due to all our contributors and volunteers who assist with distribution.

An electronic version of all editions of the Fingal Flyer since Spring 2017 are also available on the Fingal Head School website. Simply go to the Fingal Head School home page, choose News, and choose Fingal Flyer.

If you would like to contribute to the Fingal Flyer or if you have time and skills and are interested in assisting with the production of the Fingal Flyer please contact Helen Twohill at [helen.twohill@bigpond.com](mailto:helen.twohill@bigpond.com) OR

Please email, text or call Christine Marshall with feedback, ideas and suggestions.

Email [christine.n.marshall@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:christine.n.marshall@det.nsw.edu.au) | Mobile 0432 112 362 | Work 07 5524 2315

We hope you enjoy reading the Summer 2018 issue of the Fingal Flyer.



*Fingal Head is a special corner of the world that we all love and cherish.*

**The Fingal Head Community Association** urges you to become a member so we can protect this unique area together.

*Community activism is stronger in numbers.*

If you would like to help **'KEEP FINGAL SPECIAL'** please join today.

**PO Box 28 Fingal Head 2487**

**[fhcmail@gmail.com](mailto:fhcmail@gmail.com)**

The Fingal Flyer is produced by the Fingal Head Community Association Inc. four times each year. Please note that the views expressed in the articles are the responsibility of the contributors who submit content and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association.



# FINGAL GENERAL

STORE & CELLARS

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS

LIVE MUSIC 5-8pm

-all through Summer-



Post Office  
Bottleshop  
Groceries  
Cafe

Take-away  
Bait & Ice  
Newspapers



**fingalgeneralstoreandcellars**

## Trading Hours

Monday - Thursday 7am - 5.30pm

Friday - Saturday 7am - 5.30pm

Sunday 7am - 5pm

**07 5524 2313**

50 Main Road  
Fingal Head

[bandk@fingalgeneralstoreandcellars.com](mailto:bandk@fingalgeneralstoreandcellars.com)