



## Newsletter February 2013

### **BOOK KEEPER NEEDED**

After many years of critically important service to Coastwatchers, Barbara Kidd deservedly retires from her role as voluntary Bookkeeper before the end of this financial year.

Our Treasurer says he has not been able to function in his role without Barbara's behind-the-scenes work, and certainly cannot continue in the future without her or someone reasonably good to replace her.

### **So we need a replacement Bookkeeper or a competent bookkeeping Treasurer**

Anyone offering to help will be given assistance until they are familiar with our system.

### **TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE PHONE –**

Keith 0427 546 156 or  
Barbara (02) 4471 7334

### **DON'T MISS THIS**

#### **TALKING WOMBAT AND OTHER LESSONS FROM THE LAND**

Author and entertaining speaker, Jackie French, will tell us about her life with the wildlife on her property in the upper catchment of the Deua River.

**When: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 at 2.30pm**

**Where: CWA Hall, Queen St, Moruya**

Jackie has offered us a collection of some of her books to raffle and there will also be a few if anyone wants to purchase one (and get the author to sign it!)

It will also be an opportunity to hear an update on the Dargues Reef gold mine which began operations in February. Coastwatchers worked closely with Jackie who was the driving force behind the campaign to limit the impacts of the mine, including possible pollution of our water supply.

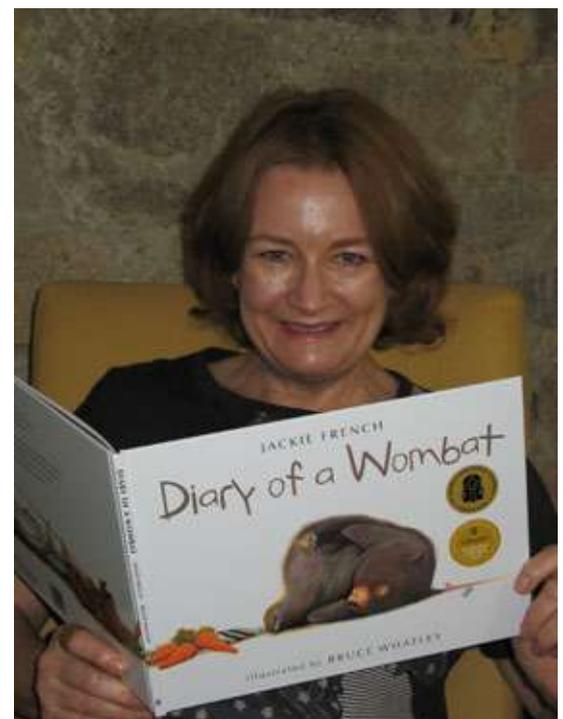
#### **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

### **PLANNING LAWS**

The NSW Government's Planning White Paper (the final stage before new laws are adopted) was to have been released last December but is not expected now until early March. Meanwhile we are working with the Better Planning Network to try to raise public awareness of this last chance for the public to have their say on proposed changes.

From what we have seen so far it appears that the new system will:

- Remove the right of communities to have a say in development proposals and planning matters directly affecting their lives
- Diminish the role of elected Councillors
- Permit 'Enterprise Zones' with no planning controls to be imposed over entire suburbs or Local Government Areas
- Not protect the environment or the heritage of the State



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2013, a year that is likely to be a very important one for conservation and environmental protection. As you would be aware this year is likely to be one full of challenges. We are witnessing governments, particularly the State, seemingly taking us back to the Dark Ages, and removing the gains of many hard won community conservation campaigns.

It's with a sense of sadness and envy that I say a very big thank you to Ms Barbara Kidd our bookkeeper who is off to enjoy retirement. This means we have an opening for an appropriately experienced person with an eye for detail and a passion for accuracy to join our enthusiast team.

Please contact Keith Joliffe (Treasurer) 0427 546 156 or Barbara (02) 4471 7334) or myself, we would really appreciate your help.

It is going to be a busy year and we need more help. The projects are many and varied and can be as small (just writing a letter or email) or large as you choose (that pet project you have been wanting to get your teeth into for years).

Some of the issues on the table affecting the region are:

The review of planning legislation ;	Campaigning to end native forest logging ;
Koala habitat research and protection;	Coastal protection and sea level rise;
Creation of Local Land Services and the future of Landcare, CMA's and natural resource management in our region.	

Many of our members live and work in Canberra and to acknowledge this your Committee of Management has lent its support for the creation of a Canberra Chapter of Coastwatchers. Keith Joliffe (keith1947@hotmail.com) and Judy Bourne (judbou@gmail.com) are the contact points for this group. I invite our Canberra members to contact Keith or Judith and perhaps meet over a coffee.

Now more than ever I call on our dedicated supporters and friends to get in touch with myself or anyone else on the committee to help in anyway you feel able to.

*Chris Kowal*

## PARKS OPEN TO HUNTERS

Going for a walk in the bush? From March 2013 onwards, make sure you slip into a fluorescent vest first.

From March 2013 the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2012 becomes law, allowing hunters to use guns, rifles and bows and arrows to kill their prey in over 90 per cent of National Parks in NSW - all the hunter has to do is apply online with the Games Council for permission to hunt in the National Park of their choice. There will be no obligation on a hunter to advise Park users that they plan to be shooting on a particular day or in a particular place. Indeed, there doesn't seem to be any provision for hunters to do this, even if they wished to.



Study after study has shown the only way to eradicate feral animals is through scientifically managed programs. This isn't only university modeling, but also on-the-ground research carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service among others. Yet the NPWS officers, the ones with the expertise and experience, don't seem to have been listened to at all about the legislation. I suppose it demonstrates we shouldn't let facts get in the way of political expediency.

It's difficult to understand how the Australian bush got traded away like this but it appears that the two Upper House members of the Shooters and Fishers Party successfully held the NSW Government to ransom. The O'Farrell Government wanted to privatise electricity, the Shooters and Fishers representatives had the votes to get this over the line, and the safety of the hundreds of thousands of ordinary, peaceful people who value a quiet walk in the bush was the price paid for these. Now the Shooters and Fishers Party know that the government need them to pass any controversial reform. Who knows what they'll ask for next?

John Perkins

## YOUR TIPS FOR GREENER LIVING

Some time ago we had a newsletter which focused on how to live more sustainably. Your feedback was very positive so we have decided to make greener living a regular feature in future newsletters. We need your tips on how to live in a more sustainable way and on which local businesses or community groups are helping do this. .

Eurobodalla Sustainable Devices ([www.eurodevices.com.au](http://www.eurodevices.com.au)) has a list of suggestions. You might like to see how many you can you tick off?:

### STAY COOL

During the heat of the summer we may be thinking about ways to stay cool. There are some very simple things households can do to save energy and money over the warm summer months and at the same time, improve the liveability of your home.

- Ventilate: draw cool air in on the shaded sides of buildings and create natural air flow throughout your home. Natural ventilation and fans are a far more efficient way to cool than air-con.
- Zone and draught-proof: close off unused areas of the home and seal windows, doors and any other gaps. Just by closing off unused areas you can save around \$70 per year on your power bills.
- Shade windows: use awnings or plants on the outside, or blinds and shutters on the inside, to protect windows that get the sun. About 50 per cent of heat that circulates in the home comes directly through your windows. Making changes outside your windows, like planting trees or installing a pergola, can keep your home cooler by up to 90 per cent.
- Insulate the ceiling, and if possible, walls and floors. Ceiling and roof insulation can save up to \$150 per year and keep you up to 7°C cooler in summer and 10°C warmer in winter.
- Use your air-conditioner efficiently. Set it at 23°C or higher. The temperature in your home should be comfortable, not icy. By increasing the temperature by just 1°C you can reduce your power use by up to 10 per cent.

Without a doubt probably the best and cheapest way to stay cool this summer is to take a dip in one of our beautiful beaches, rivers and pools.

*Mark Shorter*



### SAGE GROWERS MARKET IN MORUYA

In an effort to foster the growth of the local agriculture and horticulture industries, SAGE is conducting a two month trial of a local growers market on **Tuesdays in January and February from 3.30pm to 7.00pm**. Following this period, SAGE will consult further with Council and hopefully a permanent farmers market will be established. Whether the market would continue on a Tuesday evening, or at another time or day is just one of the details they will be considering after this trial period.

You are invited to send feedback as a consumer or stall holder. Email to [markets@sageproject.org.au](mailto:markets@sageproject.org.au).

If you're a local producer (roughly 150km radius from Moruya) and would like to attend any or all of the trial markets, you can download our [Stall Holder Information Pack](#) and call their Site Coordinator on (02) 4474 3478 or 0427 743 478 to book your site.

**A Student says** -- Whenever I see the economic growth figure on the news I can't help thinking of cancer...the analogy is pretty good...it mindlessly and incessantly grows without any regard for the body that sustains it, until it kills the very thing that allowed it to live in the first place. I am a young person, I am aware that 'economics' has given me comfort and possessions, but i don't know if it is going to be able to give me a future.

## AIRPORT IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Council has been holding confidential discussions about the future of the airport and primitive camping ground as part of a review of the Concept Plan for the airport.

Eurobodalla Mayor Lindsay Brown was quoted in the Canberra Times as saying a joint venture with investment partners, leasing and perhaps even selling the airport were options, although he did not favour selling the council-owned airport.

Coastwatchers has sent a list of questions to Council including ones about the impacts of lengthening the north-south runway on high conservation forest, Aboriginal sites and Yellow-bellied Glider habitats; what is being proposed for the primitive camp ground; what aircraft will be using the airport; and who will pay for the work. The full letter is on our website

[http://www.coastwatchers.org.au/sub022013\\_airport.html](http://www.coastwatchers.org.au/sub022013_airport.html)



*In the early 1990s Coastwatchers helped organize a meeting to keep the campground – just part of our long involvement in the Bengello area.*

## EUROBODALLA SEA LEVEL RISE POLICY UPDATE

On December 11 last year Coastwatchers made a deputation to Council to oppose Councillor Leslight's Motion to repeal the Eurobodalla Interim Sea Level Rise Adaptation Policy, including notations applied to S149 Planning Certificates. The Mayor used his casting vote to defeat the Motion.

Councillor Leslight blamed Council's Policy and hazard risk notations on S149 planning certificates for declining sales of coastal property. Yet a recent survey attributed the fall in sales to the downturn in the global economy, which affected not only local property sales but also the entire NSW coast. Irrespective of the Policy sea level rise will impact on vulnerable locations and buyers need to be aware of the potential risks before they invest in any coastal property.

Another reason given for repealing the Policy was 'uncertainty' in climate science predictions, but misinterpreted as meaning confusion on the part of climate scientists. One councillor claimed that sea levels are falling according to the Fort Denison tide gauge and sea level rise is "just a storm in a teacup." But more accurate satellite altimeter data collected since 1992, show that the overall global mean sea level rise (GMSL) is increasing and current scientific advice indicates that the degree of rise will most likely exceed current predictions, facts seemingly lost on the councillors who voted to overturn the Policy.

Despite the NSW Chief Scientist stating publicly that the science is sound, the NSW Government also promoted 'uncertainty' in scientific projections as the reason for reforming coastal protection legislation, but they too were clearly under pressure from vested interests to drop the "draconian" statewide SLR benchmarks introduced by the previous government.

Coastal zone projects in the Eurobodalla are affected by reforms to NSW Coastal zone management legislation and policies and will delay completion dates indefinitely. OEH workshops were held in November to update the local community and councillors about Stage One reforms of the Coastal Protection Act 1979.

Stage One passes the responsibility to Councils to formulate their own SLR planning benchmarks, or to retain existing policies until Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) are completed. They will now focus on managing the impacts of current coastal hazards on local communities, although councils can consider future hazards for strategic planning purposes. There is no required completion date for councils that are preparing draft plans without Ministerial direction.

During Stage Two of the reforms, the NSW Government will develop land use planning and local government reforms that will have implications for coastal management. In particular, the Government believes it is important that coastal management is more effectively integrated with the planning system.

Stage Two also aims to improve support for councils and landowners, within the context of these planning and local government reforms, including investigating potential funding options for councils and working with the Commonwealth Government on insurance issues for landowners. These reforms will be developed during 2013.

The Eurobodalla Coastal Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) has not met since the reforms were introduced and since then ERA Councillors Milton Leslight (chair) and Liz Innes have been appointed to the Committee. It will be interesting to see how CMAC functions under the new chairmanship.

Coastwatchers advocates a precautionary risk based approach to managing the impacts of sea level rise within a sensible, strategic and precautionary framework, based on the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD). This is consistent with Council's adopted Interim Sea Level Rise Adaptation Policy.

*Reina Hill*



*Wharves at Moruya (left) and Mossy Pt (right) during a king tide. This gives an idea of the predicted average tides in 50 years time.*



## Rural Lands Strategy

When the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) was adopted in 2012 all the E3 (Environmental Management) zone was deferred to be considered as part of a Rural Lands Strategy which will be used to review the LEP. In the meantime this land is zoned as Rural 1a under the provisions of the old Rural LEP. Watch out for opportunities to comment on the Strategy.

A rural property is described as single lots over 2 ha in size; or adjoining lots in the same ownership which total over 2ha in size.

LEP 2012 zoning information	Percentage of total Eurobodalla	Total area (ha)
<b>Zone</b>		
RU1	8.7%	29,835.8
RU3 (State Forest)	31.2%	106,984.6
RU4	0.5%	1,720.7
RU5	0.03%	91.6
E1 (National Park)	40.8%	139,882.4
E2	1.3%	4,546.7
E4	1.6%	5,486
Deferred Matter (E3)	11.1%	38,006.3
Other (including urban zones)	4.8%	16,431.1
<b>Total Eurobodalla</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>342,985.2</b>

Most of the 3471 smaller properties (under 10ha) are in the northern Eurobodalla and Moruya coastal areas. The 282 holdings over 50ha are mainly around Nelligen, Belowra and western Eurobodalla. The remaining 747 of 10-50ha are in south Eurobodalla, the Moruya hinterland, Bodalla and the Tuross River Valley.

For more information about the Rural Lands Strategy --  
Council's GIS system, with property search, multiple layers mapping, zoom and pan functions  
<http://maps.esc.nsw.gov.au>

Access to Rural Lands Strategy Documents (click on Rural Lands Strategy)  
[www.esc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au)

## A BIT OF FUN DOES A LOT OF HARM



It may seem a spectacular way to celebrate an occasion but releasing hydrogen-filled balloons harms the environment and is often fatal for marine life and sea birds. The Sunshine Coast council in Queensland banned releases of lighter than air balloons last October for good reason.

At the recent Art on the Path at Broulee the Seabird Rescue team was trying to make people aware that balloon releases should be banned here too. They have had to deal with the distressed birds which have been entangled or have suffered from eating the balloons with their clips and ribbons

Some years ago a very sensible girl at Tuross campaigned to have balloon releases banned in NSW. She was not successful but the industry now claims it is benign because the balloons are biodegradable. However, the clips and ribbons certainly are not. The balloons can take a year to disintegrate and are they really safe to eat?

On a walk along part of North Broulee Beach in January I collected the remains of at least 17 balloons. No doubt I missed many more. Multiply this figure by all the beaches and rocky shores in the state and allow for the balloons still at sea doing harm and you can see that the problem is enormous. So please spread the word and if you find this debris on your beach please let us know – enter coastwatchers association to search for us on Facebook.

*Jenny Edwards*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Rosedale subdivision update**

Council asked the developers for more information about this proposed 138 lot subdivision and was not satisfied with the response. More questions were asked but so far the answers have not arrived.

### **Cullendulla “ecotourism” proposal update**

Assessment of this proposal for serviced apartments on land at the end of Myamba Pde, Surfside is also delayed. Council has asked for further information, particularly about coastal hazard issues. This was the focus of our submission objecting to the proposal.

### **Finale to Coastal Wattle Saga at Long Beach**

After almost five years the Coastal Wattle saga at Long Beach has finally come to an end. Council has adopted a Property Vegetation Plan endorsed by the SRCMA and also an associated Implementation Plan. Both documents are consistent with the recommendations of the Coastal Wattle Strategy adopted by Council in 2010.

Due to reluctance on the part of the Community Association to accept Ministerial and professional ecological advice, further guidance was sought from both OEH and DPI.

OEH recommended that, *the Eurobodalla Shire Council treat all of the Coastal Wattle as remnant native vegetation and ...enter into a PVP, as this would meet any legal requirements that could arise under the NV Act ... Council has already taken this step.*

DPI acknowledged the importance of dune stabilisation and maintaining biodiversity on the dunes and advised that, ...*the PVP has recommended defined limits for clearing Coastal Wattle to ensure that wholesale removal does not occur, taking into consideration coastal hazards such as wave and wind erosion as well as habitat values. The PVP applies to the entire site where Coastal Wattle has been mapped. Therefore the rules around removing Coastal Wattle apply equally to any trial areas proposed*".

The above advice is unequivocal and consistent with that provided by the SRCMA and should resolve the matter for once and for all.

### **The Eden Chip Mill**

In December we had hopes that the Japanese owners of the chip mill at Eden would decide to close this loss-making and environmentally disastrous enterprise. Unfortunately the company meeting in Japan decided to keep subsidising the business.

### **SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL'S GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PROJECT**

Coastwatchers supported Council's recent grant application to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the Moruya Administration Building and Library complex and the Narooma Swimming Pool, and to use these buildings to promote and educate the wider community on sustainability and energy efficiency measures. While we would have liked Council to adopt a more ambitious target than reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 compared to the 2005/06 baseline, at least this project would be a step in the right direction..

Stage one of the Solar project is on track with over 300kW of solar electricity panels to be installed across eight sites. Installation is expected to be starting very soon. Council was recently successful in receiving about \$70,00 from the NSW Environmental Trust which will fund sustainability retrofits and workshops at 50 community buildings across the Shire.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY LOOKING EVEN BRIGHTER**

A flurry of recent on-line articles in February has highlighted the rapid pace at which many countries, especially Germany and China, are converting to renewable energy. The coal and gas mine proposals which are currently so controversial in Australia could be white elephants before they recoup establishment costs. The bad news is that they could have already done great damage to our agricultural land, biodiversity and water.

Even halting all subsidies for rooftop solar will not stop it, said Macquarie Bank. "The ever-increasing (grid) prices for domestic and commercial customers as well as rapid solar cost declines have brought on the advent of grid parity for German roofs. Thus, solar installations could continue at a torrid pace," it notes. The same applies for Australia.

#### **Tax deductible donations of \$2 or more can be made by --**

Cheques or money orders made out to

**The Coastwatchers Assoc. Inc Environment Fund** and posted to

The Treasurer, PO Box 521, Batemans Bay 2536

Or you can pay by EFT or direct deposit to

**Bank** : IMB Ltd

**A/C Name**: The Coastwatchers Association Inc. Environment Fund

**BSB**: 641 800

**A/C No**: 200 271 717

Please tell the bank to say the **name of the donor** on their statement. It helps if you email our book-keeper to let her know too [b-kidd@biapond.com](mailto:b-kidd@biapond.com)

## COASTWATCHERS COMMITTEE 2012-13

President	Chris Kowal	0424 286 022
Vice Pres.	Reina Hill	02 4472 8566
Treasurer	Keith Joliffe	02 4473 8519
Secretary / Public Officer	Jenny Edwards	02 4471 5032
Committee	Alison Baird	02 4472 8964
	Brian Versey	02 4472 7384
	Candace Wirth	02 4471 7442
Other assistance	Judy Bourne	Linda Chapman
Barbara Kidd	Sheila Monahan	John Perkins
Internet Operations	John Allen	02 4471 2512

PO Box 521, Batemans Bay NSW 2536  
Email [coastwatchers@netspeed.com.au](mailto:coastwatchers@netspeed.com.au)  
Website [www.coastwatchers.org.au](http://www.coastwatchers.org.au)



If undelivered return to;  
The Coastwatchers Association Inc,  
PO Box 521  
BATEMANS BAY NSW 2536

### COASTWATCHERS CO-OPERATES WITH:

Broulee-Mossy Pt Community Association  
Congo Area Association  
Conservation Council ACT Region  
Climate Action Network Australia  
Eurobodalla Landcare / Dunecare  
Friends of Durras  
Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  
Long Beach Landcare  
Maloneys Residents Association  
Malua Bay Residents Association  
Nature Coast Marine Group  
South East Region Conservation Alliance  
Tomakin Community Association  
Tuross Lakes Preservation Group

Coastwatchers is a member of -  
The NSW Nature Conservation Council and  
The Better Planning Network



# Coastwatchers

*Eurobodalla's environment and climate action group*

ABN 66 003 550 939

### EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Members can receive the newsletter by email and save our association paper, time and postage. The email contains a link to a choice of full or text-only PDF files that you can download when convenient

### COMING EVENTS

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March, .2.30pm**  
**CWA Hall, Queen St, Moruya**  
Jackie French "Talking wombat  
and other lessons from the Land"