

EMPIRE BAY & DISTRICTS NEWS

EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
www.empirebayprogress.org.au

APRIL/MAY 2025
empirebayprogress@gmail.com

Empire Bay Progress Hall Renovations Completed



Adrian (AJ) & Adam from AJ Building & Carpentry.

The Progress Hall's recladding project was completed February, on schedule and on budget. Thank you AJ Building & Carpentry.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

Planning is well underway for our Anzac Day commemoration ceremony. This year, we have been fortunate enough to receive a small grant to pay for some of the larger expenses incurred with hosting our event. Each year, we are privileged to have several veterans and dignitaries attend our ceremony which is testament to the welcome and support provided by our Empire Bay community. It is also wonderful to see so many families and children in attendance. I look forward to seeing you all again in April.

Updates on items mentioned in my January newsletter:

Recladding of the Progress Hall is almost complete. We have taken the opportunity to refresh the hall with a new colour scheme. Please walk round or drive past and have a look. We have a small amount of painting left to complete prior to final walk through and sign off. Project progress reports have been provided to the Office of Responsible Gambling in line with our grant conditions. We have taken the opportunity to apply for a further grant to paint the internals of the Progress Hall, upgrade the electrical system and to undertake leveling of the hall floor. If successful, the hall should require no further significant investment for many years.

No further updates have been received from either Crown Lands or council in respect of the waterfront. I have taken the opportunity to write to both Adam Crouch and Jared Wright in respect of my discussion with Crown Lands. They have both agreed to take up internally with council and

recognise the importance of this to our community. I will provide updates as they become available. I have also taken the opportunity to follow up with council in respect of the Empire Bay boat ramp which is in urgent need of repair. As per what has become the normal position, council's response is that there is no budget available with budget planning underway for next year where it may be considered. I have taken the opportunity to re-emphasise to council that this appears to be the case with any Empire Bay concern including the indefinite deferment of the Shelly Beach Road upgrade, Boongala Ave flooding, Greenfield Road signage, waterfront play area upgrades, waterfront sea wall repairs etc.

This year, Jan Steele, a long-standing resident of Empire Bay and a member of your Progress Association was recognised at the Central Coast Australia Day awards and at the Terrigal Women of The Year Awards. A wonderful achievement and well deserved. Further details in respect of Jan are contained later in the newsletter.

We are working on upgrading the Progress Association website to improve a few key functions, specifically around automating hall bookings and payments and improved layout. We have discussed requirements with some of our local technology 'savvy' residents and hope to have reached a decision on how to progress in the next couple of months.

At our last meeting, we had a presentation from Brisbane Waters Waterbus (BBW). Since this meeting, a number of presentations and meetings have taken place between BBW and various stakeholders and government officials. Your Progress Association has been invited to sit on the Steering Committee of BBW. If anyone is interested and feel they can add value to this initiative, please let me know. **By Ken Shaw**

LOCAL HISTORY

The Story Behind Warren Yachts - Kincumber

The longtime locals will tell you of the days in the 1990's and the early 2000's when the corner shop would close and school kids would gather along Empire Bay waterfront to see the latest super yacht, from Warren Yacht's Kincumber shipyard, cruise down the channel to it's new home beyond Broken Bay.

Warren Yachts has a history that reflects the passion and innovation of its founder, Dave Warren, and the evolution of the luxury yacht industry in Australia. Dave Warren established his shipyard in a massive building (still standing) behind the Kincumber Mitre 10 in the 1980's.

Dave, born in the UK, spent his childhood in Dorset. At the age of 18 immigrated with his parents to Australia. Here he completed his boat building apprenticeship, building wooden boats at North Harbour Boatshed, Balgowlah, and Cedric William's Boatshed, Bayview.

Dave developed a fascination with speed and design, leading him to build his first ocean racing sailboats. In his Woy Woy boatshed, Dave built 8 boats for Ben Lexcen, and later Alan Bond's yacht for the Admiral Cup.

Dave's keen eye for detail and his relentless pursuit of perfection were evident in every boat he built. He sought to push the boundaries of what was possible in boat design, squeezing every fraction of a knot from hull shapes and engineering solutions. During it's time, Warren Yachts became the largest consumer of carbon fibre in the world.

This dedication to excellence set him apart in the competitive world of luxury boat building.

The 1980s, using his extensive knowledge of marine engineering, Dave began crafting luxury motor yachts that combined speed, elegance, and innovative design.



"Aussie Rules", 87', built for Greg Norman, 1995

By the mid-1990s, Warren Yachts had established itself as a world leader in the luxury yacht market. The company gained a reputation not only for the quality of its boats but also for its integrity and passion for boat building. This period saw the introduction of the Warren Super Nova, a groundbreaking model that featured the first retractable hardtop in its category, allowing for a versatile experience on the water. Its design was sleek and modern, contrasting sharply with the more traditional, boxy shapes of competitors. Winning international awards at the Monaco Boat Show. The quality of fit, finish, and material selection was unmatched, reflecting Dave's refusal to compromise on design or engineering.

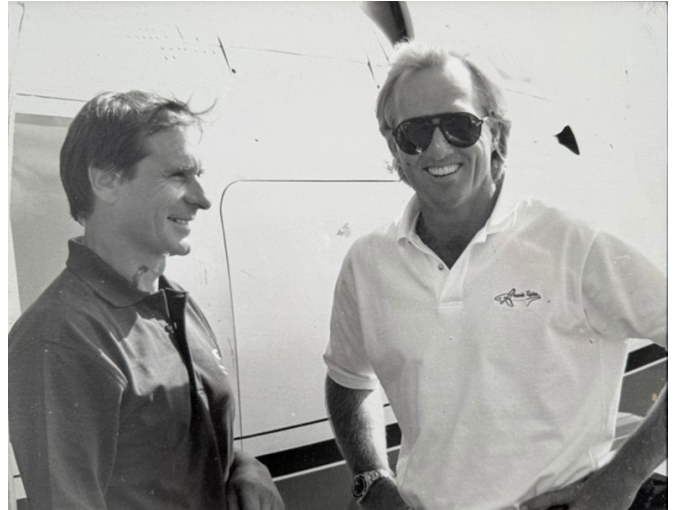
Dave built 28 boats over 20 years at the Kincumber site. His clients read like the who's who of Australia's rich list and included Greg Norman, Alan Bond, Kerry Packer, Lindsey Fox, Steve Lowy and Rene Rivkin. "All our clients were fairly wealthy" Dave recalls, "so you met some interesting people."

One of the well-known models from Warren Yachts is the Warren S87, a sleek, high-speed motor yacht designed to

compete in the global market. The company also produced several 92-foot and 120-foot flybridge customised yachts, which became popular among buyers seeking a combination of speed, luxury, and comfort.

Dave, reminiscing, "one of the highlights of the Kincumber factory was the construction of \$60 million, 44 m Tri deck motor launch called "**Slipstream**". The paint job alone on the black and silver luxury cruiser cost over \$1,000,000."

The company employed 50 - 120 staff at Kincumber depending on the workload, as well as many subcontractors.



Dave Warren, with Greg Norman, during one of Greg's visits to the Kincumber shipyard. Photographed in front of Kerry Packers helicopter, Erina Helipad.

Scott Thorington, a former employee, attributed the success of Warren Yachts to Dave's attention to detail, his foresight in boat design, and his ability to think creatively beyond traditional moulding techniques and boat building ideas. 'Dave revolutionised luxury boat building in Australia.'



Launching Crystal Lady, 114' Supernova model, Kincumber boat ramp, 2001

In 2003, Warren Yachts was acquired by the American Shipworks Group, and Dave stayed on-board on a part-time basis for a few years. In 2005, with the continued buildup of silt in Kincumber Creek the business became unworkable, and the Kincumber shipyard was forced to relocate to Shipwork's operation in Brisbane.

The downturn in the economy in the 2008 -2009 posed significant challenges and Shipworks closed the Brisbane operation and returned to the USA. Brisbane staff retrenched and moulds sold off.

Dave's legacy lives on through the well-built, high performance Warren Yachts that are still sought after by enthusiasts and collectors today.

Dave Warren is still a local resident, retired, and remains engaged in innovative and challenging high-end projects. You might also catch Dave with the wind in his hair and a smile on his face as he wing-foils at various locations around Brisbane Water.

By Robert Thompson

Source: Interviews with Dave Warren, Scott Thorington, Central Coast News April 2005, social media, Google.

LOCAL HERO



Jan Steele with Adam Crouch MP, Member for Terrigal

Jan Steele was nominated for an Australia Day Award in recognition of her significant volunteer work with the Woy Woy Rotary, Camp Quality, the Empire Bay Progress Association and the Empire Bay Community.

There aren't many individuals with Jan's generosity, energy, and compassion who still willingly and ably offer their support to so many community initiatives. Jan is a true asset to our community, and well deserved to be recognised for this Australia Day Award.

OUR COMMUNITY

Empire Bay Fishing Club

What a great start to 2025. January and February weigh-ins have had a great turnout and many fish weighed in. Our club keeps growing with more families getting involved.

We have our regular Fishing Competitions the 2nd Weekend of the month and welcome new members at any time. We would also like to Thank our 2025 Sponsors without your support our club could not be what it is. **Empire Bay Fishing Club** empirebayfishingclub@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/EBFClub2257>

Empire Bay/Bensville Rural Fire Brigade

Empire Bay RFS has had a couple of busy months. We have been involved in Storm damage clean up, Strike teams deployed for fires, local & out of area hazard reductions and crews involved in search & rescues. We have also had members involved in courses such as BA wearers course (congratulations to our members who completed the course & passed.) We also have members attending the Basic Fire Fighter Assessment coming up shortly, Crew Leader safety course. Good luck to those members on courses. We have also got members helping out on courses as instructors & assessors.

The bushfire season is till 31 March 2025 as such fire permits are still required for pile burns. You will require to contact the Central Coast Fire Control Centre on 1300 060 807. You are also able to locate more information in regards to fire permits, bushfire survival plans and lot more information on the NSW Rural Fire Service website - <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

You can also apply for a fire permit through the NSW Rural Fire Service website as well.

Recruiting - We are always looking for new members to join

this family orientated brigade. Your time with us will be filled with unforgettable moments, make a number of new friends not only from our brigade but from throughout the central coast district and learn new skills. If you are interested in joining and want more information, please contact our membership officer Sue Dengate - 0417 028 286 or contact us through our facebook page or drop by out station on Tuesday nights after 700pm. **Andrew Webster, Empire Bay Rural Fire Brigade.** For more information contact Central Coast District Office on 1300 060 807 or visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Probus—Friendship and Fun in Retirement

Big changes happening at Empire Bay Probus club. Our club started back in 2017 with just 35 members and a limit of 50 members back then. We updated our membership ceiling to 70 members some years back but found the ceiling wasn't practical and we can now unroll up to 90 members. If any residents are interested you can now come along to our monthly general meetings, first Thursday every month at Club Umina to see that Probus is all about.

The club organises many interesting activities and events each month like lunch at "Chef's Kitchen" at the Bay. A Pizza night at Tropicana Pizza in Woy Woy in April, then a banquet lunch at Indian restaurant "Spice 29" in May. The club often plays "Bocci" with a big turnout at Davo RSL Club. Want to know more about Probus, call President **Francis 0415 910 800.**
Ray Rumble



Saturday May 17, 10 AM – 2 PM

Empire Bay Hall 1 Gordon Rd

Come and enjoy delicious homemade cakes and slices with tea or coffee prepared and served by local volunteers.

The cost will be \$10 per head with all proceeds going to the NSW Cancer Council.

Raffle prizes generously donated by Empire Bay businesses
Tickets \$1 each.

Please come and enjoy the morning, meet your neighbours and make new friends all for a worthy cause.

Everyone welcome.

Enquiries to:

Jan Consoli 0402 246 427; Margaret Thomas 0427 438 439

OUR SCHOOL

Sustainability



At Empire Bay

A kitchen garden offers numerous benefits for both health and sustainability. Growing your own herbs, vegetables, and fruits allows you to access fresh, organic produce right at your doorstep, reducing reliance on store-bought options that may contain



pesticides or preservatives and less of that endless packaging! It promotes healthier eating, encourages outdoor activity, and reduces your carbon footprint by cutting down on food transportation. Moreover, a kitchen garden fosters a deeper connection to the environment, provides cost savings,

and can even serve as a relaxing hobby that nurtures mental well-being.

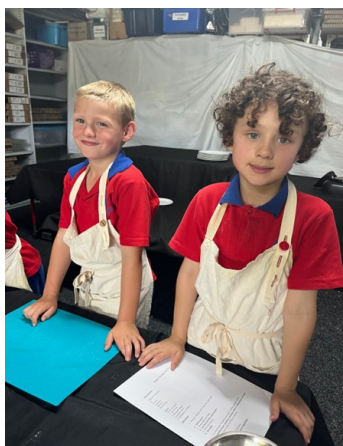
At the end of Term 4, all classes at Empire Bay had a cooking session, with our garden group providing home grown vegetables for many of our dishes. Our goal is to show children how easy, healthy, fun, and sustainable planting and cooking can be.

Through hands-on cooking experiences, children not only develop essential skills like knife handling and

recipe reading, but they also get to apply their maths knowledge to measuring ingredients and planning meals. Most importantly, they create memorable dishes to share with friends.

A variety of dishes were created, including noodle stir-fry, corn and zucchini fritters, rice paper rolls, fried rice, zucchini and carrot muffins, and coleslaw. Year 6 students made pizza dough and made more than 40 vegetarian pizzas!

We were excited last year to continue our cooking journey, fostering creativity, collaboration, and healthy eating habits along the way.



Lisa Maddic

Tel: 4369 1796

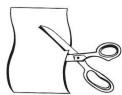
Web: www.sustainabilityatebps.com

National Scrapbooking Day '25

Saturday May 3, 2025

Empire Bay Progress Hall 10.30-4.30pm

Cost \$65, includes beverages, morning & Afternoon tea and lunch – Lots of Prizes & Raffles. Raising funds for McGrath Foundation.



Message Denise on 0439 133 366 to save your spot. Also, Beginners Class \$15 includes afternoon tea.

LOCAL AUTHOR

The Secrets of Anzac Ridge: In Flanders Fields

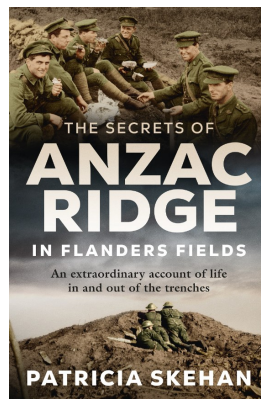
Local author, Patricia Skehan, received an unpublished war diary during lockdown in 2020. She discovered how James (Jim) Armitage, from Sydney Grammar school, enlisted on his eighteenth birthday in May 1917.

Jim and several classmates, assigned to the 3rd Division, 8th Field Artillery Brigade, served under Sir John Monash in Flanders.

The names of Anzac Cove and Anzac Ridge are synonymous with Gallipoli in 1915, but this history is set two years later on the second Anzac Ridge, in Flanders, France.

Jim's diary detailed months of specialist artillery training before arriving on the infamous battlefields of Flanders: Ypres, Villers-Bretonneux, Amiens, Perrone, Messines, Montbrehain.

Life, in and out of the trenches, is vividly described as the boys matured fast in the battle-hardened arena of war. The setting is the town of Steenwerck, site of the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station near Anzac Ridge. A commandeered chateau in the town served as the secret headquarters for Monash, head of the 5 Australian divisions in Flanders.



For years the township flew under the war radar. Sir John ordered the bombing of Steenwerck once it fell into German control in April 1918. Secrets contained in the chateau and surrounds were too dangerous to fall into enemy hands. Letters from doctors, nurses, padres, and civilians describe the chaos as Steenwerck burned.

Filled with wartime drama, pathos, and humour, additional Anzac stories are sourced from soldiers of several divisions. Field Artillery used horses to haul the heavy wagons moving artillery guns around the battlefields. Many horses were killed in battle.

Jim was 100 years old, the last surviving Central Coast WWI veteran, living in Brentwood Village, Kincumber, in his final days when presented with the Chevalier Medal of Honour by the French Consul-General. Jim quipped, "You're about eighty years too late."

By Trish Skehan

[Published by Hachette for release in bookstores March 26, prior to Anzac Day, 2025.]

VALE

Ruth Pacey

Age 90

Late of Sorrento Road,

a longtime resident of Empire Bay.

Loving wife of Maurie (dec'd),

mother to Sharon, Jenny & Carolyn

Nan to her 4 grandchildren,

Nanny Ruth her 8 great grandchildren

Elizabeth (Betty) Zanatta

Late of Shelly Beach Road

A long-time resident of Empire Bay

Dearly loved wife of Franco (dec'd).

Will be sadly missed by her family,

Friends and the

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Garry McNamara

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Dr Gordon Reid MP - How can I help?

Please contact my office if I can be of any assistance.



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Authorisation by Dr Gordon Reid MP, ALP
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CROUCH MP

Member for Terrigal



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Troubadour Folk Club

continues at Empire Bay

Every second Saturday each month Troubadour holds Club Night showcasing various local musicians in 15 minutes sessions, come and enjoy the music with a cuppa.

Empire Bay Hall 7pm, everyone is welcome.

COMMUNITY CONNECT CALENDAR

Mondays - 10:30-11:30am Zumba with Fiona

Tuesdays - 7:45-8:45am Yoga with Robyn

9:15-10:15am Yoga with Abi

Tuesdays - 7:45-8:45am Yoga with Abi

Fridays - 7:45-8:45am Yoga with Robyn

*Special Easter Yoga Workshop classes with Robyn 8-9:15am, April 18th-21th, contact Robyn to book on 0449 164 769

For further details pls. contact the KSLSC on Ph (02) 4360 1150 or email Admin@killcaresurfclub.com.au



Bookmobile

March: 20th; April: 3rd; May: 1st, 15th, 29th

Bensville—near Kallaroo Road park, 12:45—1:30pm

Empire Bay—Kendall Rd near the wharf, 1:45—2:30pm

EMPIRE BAY TENNIS COURTS

BOOKINGS: play.tennis.com.au/empirebayTC/court-hire

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CONTACT: Rod 0412 834 336 Email: ferryman23@hotmail.com or find us on Facebook.

SCRABBLE: Everyone is welcome from beginners to experts

Come for 1 game or play for 3 hours, it's up to you.

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WALKING EXERCISES IN THE HALL

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Card games—All ages welcome

Empire Bay Hall

Monday: 12:15—4:15pm

There will be a variety of card games available and lots of fun, friendships and laughs.

Please contact **Shirley** on 4369 2034 or **Jan** 0402 246 427



EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting

Wednesday, TBA July, 7:30pm

The Hall, 1-3 Gordon Rd, Empire Bay

Membership \$5

Further information email:

empirebayprogress@gmail.com

EMPIRE BAY HALL TIMETABLE

MONDAY

8:15am—9:15am, Gentle Yoga with Julie

9:30am—10:30am, Morning Yoga with Julie

12:15pm—4:15pm, Social card games for everyone

6:00pm—7:00pm, Yoga with Julie

7:00pm—8:00pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony

TUESDAY

9:00am—12:00pm, Scrabble, all levels

WEDNESDAY

9:15am—10:15am, Tai Chi with Alain

1:15pm—2:45pm, Singing Circle with Barb

3:30pm—5:00pm, MH Dance Academy with Mikayla

6:30pm—7:30pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony

7:30pm—9:00pm, Empire Bay Progress Association (EBPA) (meetings now held quarterly)

THURSDAY

7:45—8:30am, EBPA Walking exercise (free)

9:30am—11:00am, Gail James Yoga (Starting from Feb 6th)

FRIDAY

9:30am—10:30am, MH Dance Academy with Mikayla

6:30pm—7:30pm, PT Group Fitness Training with Tony

Yoga with Julie 0438 228 372: build core strength, become more aware of your body and mind and be calm.

MH Dance Academy with Mikayla Holt on 0404 824 775: RAD ballet, Jazz, Cheer, Acrobatics, Lyrical, hip hop, etc for 18 months- 25+.

Social card games for all members of the community. Contact Shirley on 4369 2034 or Jan 0402 246 427.

PT Group Fitness Training with Tony on 0466 303 700: for all fitness levels, over 16. Great social atmosphere while you get fit, burn fat.

Scrabble contact Shirley on 4369 2034: caters for all levels. Everyone is welcome.

Qigong with Jen gentle exercise for the mind, body & spirit.

Tai Chi & Qigong with Alain on 0422 795 365: gentle form of exercise, described as meditation in motion.

Singing Circle with Barb on 0435 004 264: fun and uplifting, no experience needed.

OUR CENOTAPH FLAG If you have lost a family member, a friend or a neighbour please advise Robert Thompson on 0408 415 765 so we can lower our Cenotaph Flag as a mark of respect.



This newsletter is a community service by **EMPIRE BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Inc.** While the honorary editor and the Association accept, in good faith, advertisements in this Newsletter and editorial supplied or comment made, we cannot provide any form of guarantee for the information or the goods or services advertised.

BOOK OUR AIR CONDITIONED HALL?

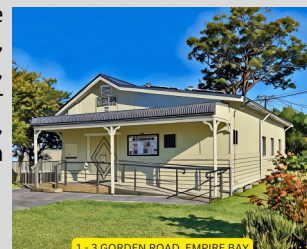
Weddings Anniversaries Birthdays Farewells Wakes— Ducted air-conditioning, kitchen facilities including fridge, oven, microwave, tea & coffee making facilities, accessible bathroom inside and outside, enclosed secure garden area, plenty of chairs and tables for both inside and outside, BBQ, TV & DVD player with overhead monitor.

Hall hire information

available on our website -

empirebayprogress.org.au/hall-hire

Check the hall booking calendar on the website to check date is available and then contact Sharon, Hall Booking Officer on EBHallbookings@gmail.com or 0457 650 955 9am to 5pm weekdays only.



1-3 GORDON ROAD, EMPIRE BAY