

TWIN WATERS

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - May 2022

This Month

Rail link to Maroochydore takes the next step

Land Valuations Up – appeals possible.

Twin Waters West appeal takes a significant turn

Historic Photos from the Lake.

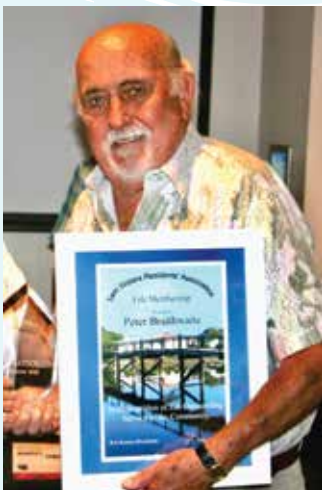
Footpaths upgrade underway

Electric Scooters on the rise

Upcoming Events

**Cocktail Party
May 14 Loose Goose.**

**Save the Date:
Christmas In July – 31 July.
Details to come.**



**Vale former TWRA President,
Peter Braithwaite**

President's Report

I have often used the expression "We live in a great community" and we do! But it's spoiled sometimes by people who act without thinking. I was given a report that for the third time in about 18 months, careless parking caused a problem for an ambulance rushing to assist a patient who had suffered a suspected heart attack. In one case the ambulance had to reverse a distance and try to get through another way.

I also had reports that in at least one of these incidents, the ambulance parked some distance away and the patient had to be wheeled back to the ambulance past a number of houses.

A couple of weeks back I had a conversation with a couple of local police – no, I was not in trouble – they were talking about reports of speeding cars.

Most of Twin Waters has a safe 40 Kmph speed limit. Ocean Drive and Nojoor Rd have a 60 Kmph limit. An off-duty officer was recently driving a car at the speed limit of 40 Kmph in Twin Waters Drive, when he was overtaken by a motorbike which was estimated to be travelling at around 70kmph in a 40 zone!

Prior to the Easter weekend there was another case of a car driving quickly down Nojoor Road towards the boat ramp. To his surprise, the driver found the road stopped at the river and in trying to avoid the boat ramp, wiped out many solid timber bollards.

When I visited the scene the next day, I counted nine bollards out and saw the evidence where the small white car, or what was left of it, had been dragged out of the water! Observing the speed limit and paying attention would have avoided emergency services being needed and the driver's recuperation in hospital.

Let's pay attention to parking and speeding to ensure we maintain our great community!

Finally, it is with great sadness that I report that long-term Twin Waters resident and past president of TWRA, Peter Braithwaite, passed away on 22nd April after some recent health issues. Peter and Margaret lived in various parts of Twin Waters including Lytham Court and then an apartment in View Point prior to their move about three years ago to Living Gems nearby.

Peter was President of TWRA for 4 years (2011-2015) and had worked on the elected committee for many years. He was also responsible for organising many of the TWRA activities including some years organising our TWRA Golf Days and worked on a number of the other organising committees. Peter was the instigator of the social evenings at Loose Goose in recent years; a model that has been continued. Because of his contribution to TWRA and the community, Peter was made a Life Member of TWRA in 2015.

On behalf of TWRA and Twin Waters residents, we send our condolences to Margaret and the family.

Until next month
Cheers

Tony

**Most of Twin Waters has
a safe 40Kmph speed limit**



**The damaged bollards at
Norjoor Boat Ramp**



Life on the Lake...

From time to time, we are going to look back at how our community developed to be the amazing place we have today.

This month, we have pics from 2002 – when Twin Waters, was being carved out of the bush.

First view is from Blue Water Court across the, then new, footbridge linking to where ViewPoint apartments would be built.



Second Pic shows the construction of ViewPoint apartments and the landscaping that became Viewpoint Park.

Third Pic: Today's view from Google Earth showing current properties. The line in the circle marks the direction from where the pics were taken.

Thanks to Brian Finniss for the historic shots. Brian and Dorothy built the first house in Blue Water Court, one of the first houses completed in Twin Waters.



News and Issues...

The TWRA General Meeting at Sunshine Novatel Resort on 11 April was the focus for many stories over the last month affecting Twin Waters and surrounding districts. We encourage Twin Waters residents to come along to future meetings to hear what is happening and how you might be affected by changing times. Meetings are open to all, TWRA members or not – and held every second month. Next meeting – 7.30 pm, Monday, 13 June at 7.30pm at Novatel Sunshine Resort.

See next page for details of the feature event of the April meeting, the previously promoted Shore Birds lecture from Sunshine Council expert, Dr. Simone Bosshard, Coastal Conservation and Permits Officer. A great talk about the amazing ‘behind the scenes’ story of wildlife in our area.

Main points from the meeting:



NEW LAND VALUATIONS ~ Report from State Member for Maroochydore, Fiona Simpson.

Hiked up with increases between 19% to nearly 21%, they reflect the booming real estate market of recent times. While not a problem for most residents, as land tax doesn't kick in on properties that are the principal residence, Fiona made the point that if residents have concerns, they can appeal – but must do it before 30 May. Full details on the Qld Government website: <https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/title/valuation/search>

RAIL LINK TO MAROOCHYDORE:

The Federal Budget has made the long-sought dream of a heavy rail link from Brisbane to Maroochydore a lot more real. Fiona welcomed the Federal Government allocation of 50% of the cost of extending the track up from Beerwah to Maroochydore. All eyes are now on the Queensland Government for the other 50%. Perhaps, the looming Olympics will give it that extra push.



ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

Fiona Simpson also noted increasing concern over the growing numbers of electric scooters on our roads and footpaths. TWRA is also receiving emails from residents reporting close shaves both in cars and on foot. Fiona reports the Government is planning new regulations for their use covering speed and how they operate on the roadways. We will keep you posted.

TWIN WATERS WEST – APPEAL CASE TAKES A TURN TOWARDS FINAL DECISION:

The Planning & Environment Court on 29 March set out the roadmap to the final stage of the appeal by Stockland over Council's refusal of their Development Application for Twin Waters West. The formal court hearing is now scheduled to commence on 18 July and run for up to 4 weeks. The Court will determine 17 Issues in dispute including, residential character, water quality, flood emergency management, construction management, the future of Settler's Park, traffic management and community expectations of the district. Looking ahead, in our June issue, as we move closer the critical Court case, the TWRA newsletter will run a special feature on the more than decade long history of the long running battle over developing Twin Waters West.



FOOTPATHS

Residents were able to see the future shape of their footpaths, when the first event in the Twin Waters footpath restoration program began in late March with the pouring of the new surface at Esperance Drive. Called Plain Broom Finish it is expected to last 80 to 100 years. As reported previously, the work is part of a 5-year restoration program of Twin Waters footpaths that have been significantly deteriorating in recent years. Originally, the first job for the program was supposed to be the much-discussed footpath on Ocean Drive past the Golf Club. Previous reports had it due to start in late April and before that the end of March.

The new start date is the week beginning 30 May. The reason: Council says on-going legal processes connected to buying the small section of Golf Club land intersecting with the footpath that must be completed before work can begin.

Proposed finish date is 24 June.



WARWICK DANIELS PLAYGROUND INSTALLED IN JUNE.

The new playground equipment supported by the TWRA is on its way. The proposed design from Sunshine Council.

Protecting our Shorebirds:

A Presentation on a unique side of our local wildlife by Dr Simone Bosshard to the April 11 General Meeting of the TWRA.



Dr Simone bosshard



Some of the birds fly 10,000 to 15,000 kilometres in eight to ten days without stopping, resting, eating, or drinking. To enable them to cover long distances, they build size and body weight. They can lose as much as 50% of their weight during these long flights. The birds don't "glide", so they must flap their wings constantly 24 hours a day. Some birds have a system where they "sleep" by shutting down half their brain during flight.

Why We Have To Be Careful

On the Sunshine Coast, shorebird resting and feeding areas often overlap with recreational use areas. We can help the birds by giving them space and avoid disturbing them to ensure our summer visitors have enough energy for their long journey back.

Any disturbance to the birds during this time limits their ability to gain essential weight and energy. Even short disturbances add up and impact on their return journey and breeding success.

Shorebirds are easily disturbed by people, dogs, vehicles and watercrafts getting too close to the birds and causing them to fly away. You can help protect our shorebirds by : Observing from a distance using binoculars; Not running at flocks of shorebirds; Choosing a location away from the birds for your activities; Keeping your dogs under control; Taking your rubbish home.

For those attending the meeting, Simone Bosshard distributed a small colourful reference field guide called "Shorebirds, Gulls & Terns of Coastal SEQ"; this is a practical pocket guide to the many birds we see on our beach and river shoreline.

We have a few spare copies.

Meanwhile, the council has a remarkable video on the Sunshine Coast Shore Birds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViHurQjoA7w>

And detailed website with excellent maps for the best spots to see the birds for yourself.

<https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Environment/Native-Animals/Shorebird-Protection>

What are Shorebirds and Why are they special?

The birds are called "Shorebirds" because they feed at low tide on the sand flats around the sandbars and shoreline of the lower Maroochy River.

The birds migrate annually from the Northern Hemisphere and spend summer on our doorstep which allows these birds to miss the very cold winters. The birds travel from Asian countries plus parts of Siberia and Alaska generally arriving in September to November, regain weight over our summer and then return north in March and April. Their roosting areas are generally sandbanks, beaches and protected areas of the sand islands near the river mouth that stay dry during high tide, and some species roost in the mangroves along the river.

