



Copacabana Community Association Inc.

Autumn 2024

COPA NEWS

www.copanews.com.au

We acknowledge the Garigal Clan of the Wannanginni Guringai people as the ancestral custodians of Bulbararing Allagai and Tjudibaring and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

There's a breath of

Autumn

in the air

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WHAT'S ON

MARCH

Saturday 2

Copa Bushcare 2-4pm
Volunteers meet opposite shops

Sunday 3

Clean Up Copa Day 10am-12noon
Volunteers meet opposite shops

3-8 March

NSW Pro Surf Series, Ryde Central
Coast Pro. Avoca Beach

Sunday 24

Avoca Beach Markets

Friday 29

Good Friday public holiday

APRIL

Monday 1

Easter Monday public holiday

Saturday 6

Copa Bushcare 2-4pm. Volunteers
meet opposite shops

Monday 8

CCA Community Meeting
7.30pm Surf Club

Friday 12

Last day of school term

Sunday 28

Avoca Beach Markets

Tuesday 30

First day of school term

MAY

Saturday 4

Copa Bushcare 2-4pm. Volunteers
meet opposite shops

Wednesday 8

New Moon Smoking Ceremony
Copa beach 7pm

Saturday 25

Central Coast Comicon
Gosford Racecourse

Sunday 26

Avoca Beach Markets



A word from the CCA President

Hello Copa people, CCA members and friends

As you may know, the CCA's management committee's main objective is to help to improve, beautify and protect the local character and amenity of Copacabana. We consider it an important function of the CCA to keep abreast of and **oppose any policy from Council or State government that would be detrimental to the special character of our suburb** and/or destroy our natural environment and/or overload local infrastructure due to over-development (or inappropriate development).

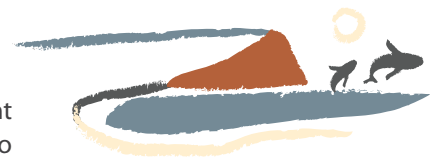
The former Gosford Council developed extensive Character Statements for all suburbs and (in part) recommended that Copacabana's desired character **'should remain low-density residential foreshores where future development does not dominate the informal scenic quality of prominent backdrops to the ocean beach'** and **'avoid disturbing natural slopes plus any existing trees and ensure a leafy character for these prominent backdrops to the ocean beach'**.

Please see our story on the facing page about the work we do to protect Copa from inappropriate planning and zoning permissions that would destroy the most important characteristics of our beautiful suburb. We are fighting on a lot of fronts this year.

It was gratifying at our February community meeting to see many new faces amongst the group who turned out, interested to hear about what's been happening in Copa and the current issues we are dealing with. We've welcomed around twenty new members in the past couple of months, but we need more people to **join up, come to meetings, have your say, and contribute to the agenda**. We also need new faces on the Management Committee. So please, if you're interested, contact us to discuss at info@copanews.com.au

Please note that **Copa Clean Up Day** (part of the Clean Up Australia campaign), will be managed by the CCA. It's on **Sunday March 3, 10-12am. Volunteers needed**. Meet at our tent opposite the shops and you'll be directed to appropriate areas to gather up rubbish and return it to us for disposal. We had lots of families with kids last year, so please bring yours along and help them 'make a difference' in Copa.

Enjoy the cooler weather and the Easter break – Sue Steedman



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CCA TALKS TO COUNCIL ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES THAT MATTER

Planning and Zoning changes (proposed by both Council and/or State government) that would permit inappropriate development are an ever-present issue and we are vigilant in monitoring any proposed changes that would impact our suburb.

Our (already lacking) infrastructure would not support any substantial population increase and we have been vocal in our requests to Council to execute existing, much needed improvements, particularly on our beachfront areas and sand dunes. e.g., the footpath at Bonnie Lookout; improved beach access for very young children, aged persons and those with a disability; improved showers; improved tracks and pathways to the beach; new footpaths from the shops to the lagoon and other issues.

In 2023 we made two major submissions to council:

The **Draft Deferred Matters Lands Planning Proposal** would allow for a large increase in the number of permitted land uses on some lots that were previously restricted to a handful of uses (to preserve their ecological and scenic qualities). We strongly objected to a number of these proposals on the basis that Deferred Matters lands need to be protected for their unique environmental values and the zoning changes would put them at risk. We await Council's response.

The **Draft Plan of Management for Council Community Land** amongst other recommendations, proposed to recategorise Copa foreshores as 'General Community Use' (GCU) instead of 'Natural Area Foreshore' and to remove the 'Wetlands' category for lands adjacent to the lagoon (and also to classify them as GCU). The 'General Community Use' category technically allows for leasing of lands and for structures to be built on them. **The CCA strongly objected and asked the Council to revoke those categories.** We have recently been advised that in both cases, the **GCU category will not be applied** and instead, the classifications will be 'Natural area – foreshore'; 'Natural area – escarpment' and 'Natural Area – Wetlands.' This is an important 'win' for our community.

We continue to attend meetings with stakeholders and community groups across the coast who also object to a number of these proposals. There were three such meetings in February alone.

In our submissions to Council, we make comprehensive submissions which include considered objections and recommendations for change and usually include a list of questions. Over recent years, we've had nothing in response except an automated acknowledgement that our submissions

have been received. We have been critical of this 'one-way' process – a situation we believe would not have occurred had we had Councillors to advocate for community views to be properly considered. We are relieved that there will be a Council election in September, and that we will again have strong local representation.

In 2024, Council has begun to acknowledge the considerable amount of work and time entailed in making formal submissions and staff appear to be attempting to involve community representatives further in decision-making processes. A case in point was a workshop we attended in February for organisations and individuals to discuss specific concerns regarding the Draft Plan of Management.

We have also received some direct follow-up regarding our repeated requests for infrastructure improvements. We thank Dr Gordon Reid, Member for Robertson, for making representations to Council on our behalf on this issue.

We are currently working with senior Council staff to provide input to **CCC's Coastal Management Plan, which will impact the way in which our beaches and foreshores are managed and protected in future. You can provide** direct input via the Council portal at <https://centralcoastcouncil.mysocialpinpoint.com/opencoastcmp>

Representatives, including new CCA Management Committee member, Bernadine Mitchell (welcome Bernal!) have attended several face-to-face meetings on the subject, including a workshop held at the Surf Club on February 13, and we continue to advocate for stronger policies and protections. Bernadine has successfully negotiated with Council to carry out some much-needed work on dune remediation (and repair the damage caused by considerable erosion in that area).

We have also prepared a submission in response to the **State Government's new Housing Policy**, which will mandate zoning changes to facilitate increased housing development densities across all Councils in New South Wales.

You are welcome to come along to our next meeting, **Monday April 8, 7.30pm at the Surf Club** for an update on all of these important issues.



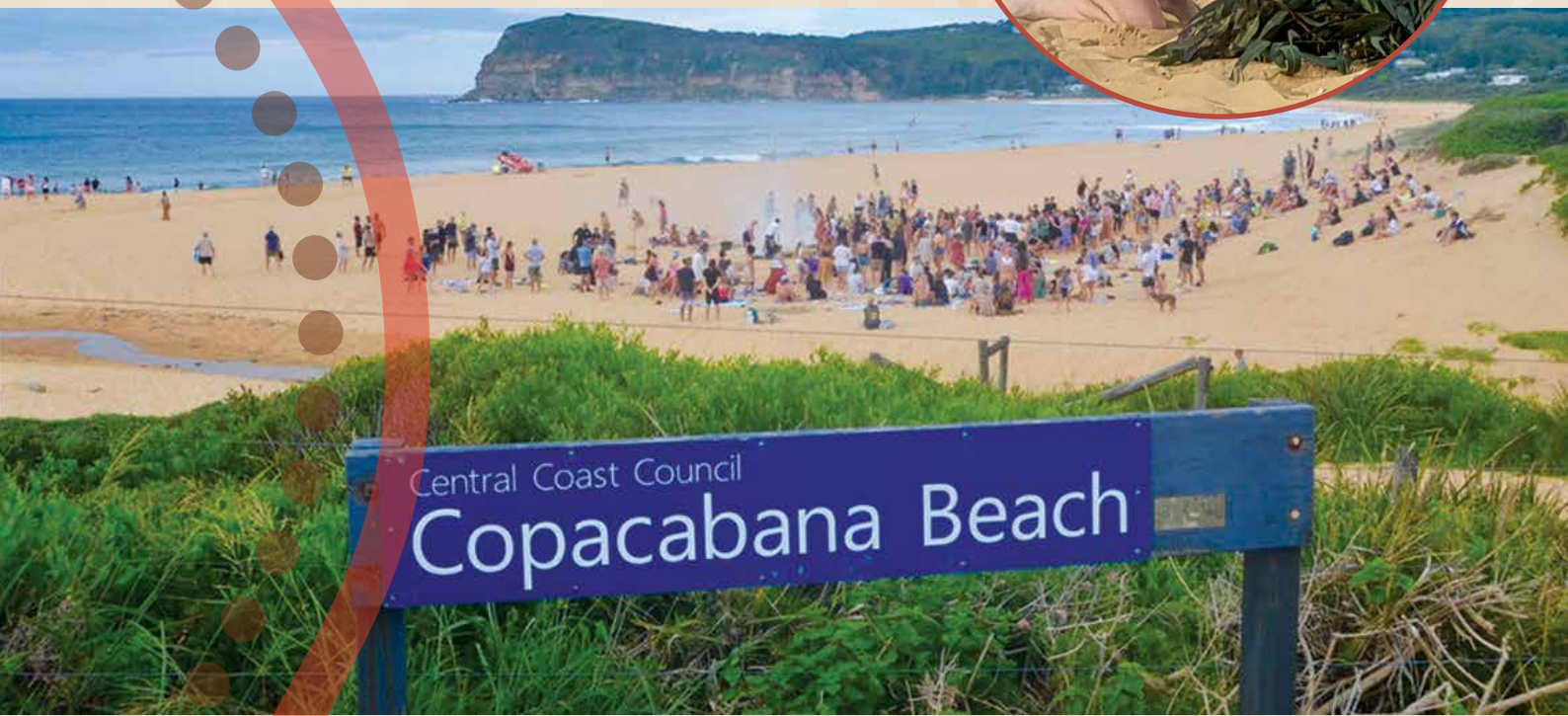
Smoking Ceremonies on our beach

Many Copa residents have had the special experience of participating in a smoking ceremony on our beautiful beach, along with local Aboriginal residents and visitors. They are always moving and memorable experiences that help to create connections and foster understanding and inclusiveness in our community.

There is a New Moon smoking ceremony scheduled for Copa on Wednesday May 8th – 6.30pm for a 7pm start. All welcome.

For further information email info@girrigirra.com.au

Photography by Rob Morgan



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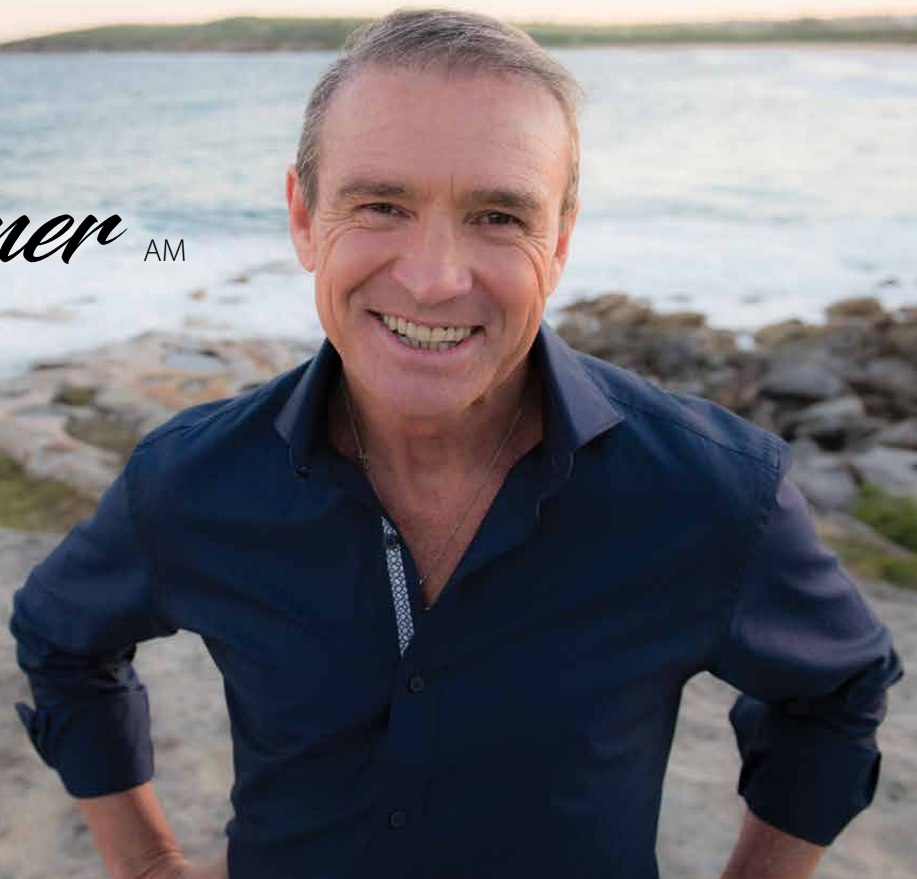


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Pat Farmer AM

“Life is full of adventure and bends in the road – you either take them or you live on regrets.”



Pat Farmer and his wife, Tania, have lived here for the past six years after he spent many happy childhood holidays on the Coast. We are fortunate to have many high achievers here in Copa who just go about their business without any fanfare. Pat is a case in point. His list of achievements is so long there is not enough space to list them here.

Pat served as a Member of the House of Representatives, representing the seat of Macarthur from 2001 to 2010 as a member of the Liberal party. Nowadays he is perhaps best known as an ultra-marathon runner. He has clocked up thousands of kilometres over the past 30 years - including a run from the North Pole to the South Pole - raising millions of dollars for charities in the process. Beneficiaries have included Lifeline, Cancer Council, Diabetes Australia and the Red Cross. His most recent run was in support of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, clocking up 14,400 in six months, after which he received 'some beautiful letters of thanks and support from indigenous people around the country'.

We spoke to him after he and local teacher Graeme Lowe completed a project to beautify the garden beds around the Surf Club – as he refers to it, 'getting stuck in with a minimum of fuss'. In his youth Pat worked with his brother in his landscaping construction business, so those practical skills came in handy. Pat said it proved to him what a wonderful place Copa is, with many locals walking by while he and Graeme were working in the gardens offering to help and chip in cash.

He loves living here, saying 'Copa is just perfect', particularly as a training ground. Most days he runs down along the beach and through MacMasters to the trails in the Bouddi national park, enjoying the beautiful scenery along the way. His golden retriever, Lily, loves swimming in Cockrone Creek and long beach walks, so being part of a dog-friendly community is a big bonus for he and Tania.

Pat says that after he builds up enough strength and fitness, his next run will probably be in Japan. He lost a lot of weight during the Run for the Voice, with the weather scorching hot from Adelaide up to the red centre and even though he holds records for desert running, the effort took a toll on him.

With so many incredible achievements over the course of his life, we wondered what Pat regarded as his proudest moment? 'My children being born without a doubt. Brooke and Dillon are my greatest legacy. Their mother passed away when they were little, and I raised them with help from family. I'm so proud of the adults they've become.' Brooke will shortly move to Kincumber, and he says its 'nice to have his kids close and 'out of the rat race of Sydney'.

We are lucky to have someone who makes such a difference living here in Copa and wish him well, wherever the next run takes him.

For more information on what Pat's up to, go to his website www.patfarmer.com

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Influenza season is coming – help prevent the spread



You may be eligible for a free Shingles vaccination. Ask our friendly staff.

It's been reported that the 2023 flu season was among the most severe since 2019, with a 13.5% increase in cases year on year (June to June). The Australian Immunisation Register reported that there were decreases in vaccination rates across all states and territories. The most notable decreases in vaccination rates were observed in South Australia (20.6%), New South Wales (19.5%), Victoria (18.9%), and Queensland (18.6%) (ABC News, 2023).¹

Here are some ways to help prevent the spread of flu:

Get vaccinated:

It is important to get the influenza vaccination each year to continue to be protected, since it wears off after 3 to 4 months and flu strains (types) change over time. You may be eligible for a free flu shot. Call us to enquire or make an appointment.

Observe good hygiene:

Wash your hands and practice good hygiene by covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing. Throw used tissues in the bin immediately and don't share cups, plates, cutlery and towels with other people.

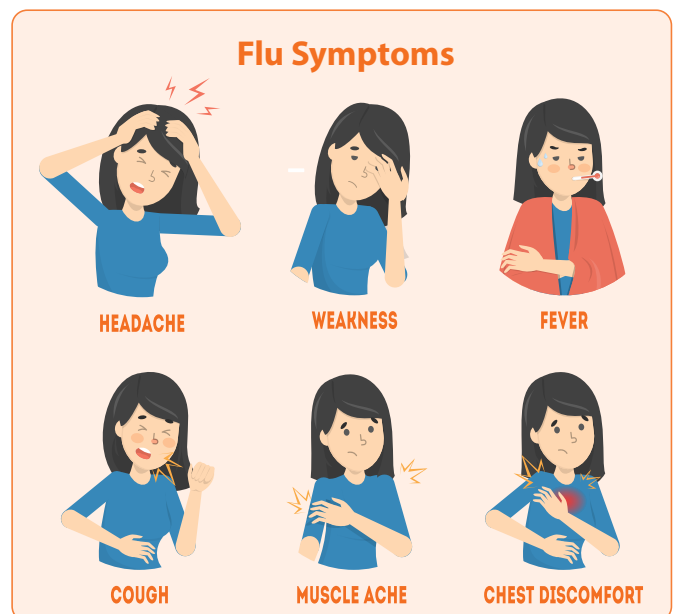
Keep surfaces clean:

Clean surfaces such as your keyboard, phone and door handles regularly to get rid of germs.

See www.healthdirect.gov.au/flu-vaccine-faqs for more info.

This will also help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If you are planning to travel mid-year, it's important to check on other vaccination recommendations for your destination, so give us a call and make an appointment to get your flu vaccination and any others you may need. The surgery tends to be quite busy over the flu season, so it's best to book early.



¹ <https://ausvaccs.com.au/australia-grapples-with-severe-flu-season>

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Copacabana SLSC UPDATE



This year is the 60th year anniversary of Copacabana Surf Life Saving Club which has been serving the Copacabana community and its visitors since 1963. The Club started with just fourteen active members, but now boasts over four hundred and fifty members of which some ninety are active surf life savers...patrolling our beach on weekends and public holidays.

The origins of surf lifesaving can be traced back to September 1902, when surf bathing increased in popularity after the removal of a law which stated that during daylight hours it was prohibited. As the popularity of surf bathing quickly grew, small groups of experienced and regular surfers, concerned with the rising incidence of drowning, initiated the formation of lifesaving bodies to assist those requiring rescue.

As these clubs grew in size and numbers, the need for a united front to raise funds and seek assistance from local and state government resulted in the New South Wales Surf Bathing Association being formed on 18 October, 1907.



The Surf Life Saving Central Coast Branch was formed in October 1938 at a meeting with the five original Central Coast surf clubs. After the establishment of the Branch, there was a temporary halt to the further advancement of Surf Life Saving during World War II before renewed growth slowly accelerated and the other fifteen affiliated clubs, including Copacabana, were formed.

Copacabana SLSC has a focus on enjoyment and participation at all levels, along with various competition programs for those that like to race! Memberships are available for juniors, masters, seniors and families, either active or associate.

To celebrate our 60th Anniversary year we staged a Diamond Knights Gala event on February 24. It was held on the Green under a big top tent. The one hundred people who attended included members and community people who came together to celebrate.



If you would like to get involved in surf lifesaving or the running of the club, we are always after volunteers. Have a look at our website, Facebook and Instagram pages for the most up to date information about the activities of the club. For inquiries email: admin@copacabanaslsc.org.au

See you on the beach!
Board of Copacabana SLSC



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We are now settled into our new office between Bees Knees and Ocean Bar Cantina. Come on in and say hi next time you're down at the shops!

"Reclaiming the personal touch"

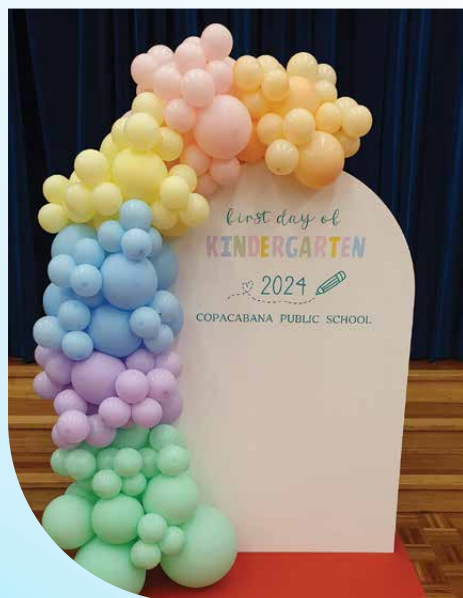


Copacabana Public School

A message from Penny Hooper – Relieving Principal

At Copacabana PS we've begun an exciting and memorable 2024

Late in 2023 we inducted our new leaders into their positions as Captains; prefects; Sport Captains and Library/Tech at our annual Presentation Day ceremony. There was much excitement and we foresee many leadership opportunities ahead for these students. We are thankful for our ongoing support from Kincumber High school students, who presented school blazers to our new Captains, Rhys Doutry and Stella King.



There is a big year ahead for Copacabana Public School students and staff, with a new curriculum for Years 3-6; STEM lessons; sport; special assemblies; creative arts events and all the activities that make up the school calendar. We look forward to welcoming parents and friends at various times over the course of the year.



We have welcomed thirty-eight smiling new faces to our new Kindergarten cohort for 2024. Of course there will be great adventures ahead for these students and we look forward to helping nurture their aspirations for the years ahead. Just think, many of these students will graduate Year 12 in 2037 after thirteen years of schooling.

Move your home up the wanted list.

McGrath

Steve Nixon 0403 943 341
stevenixon@mcgrath.com.au





Copacabana RFB

The recent Christmas holidays were notably busier than usual for our team, marking a period of heightened activity, although not reaching the levels seen during major bushfire events. We responded to 25 calls during this period, a significant number covering a variety of situations. These included addressing a house fire, attending to multiple motor vehicle accidents, aiding ambulance services, rescuing injured bushwalkers, managing backyard burns and bushfires. Despite the high demand, our team effectively managed each situation, demonstrating their commitment and professionalism.

In addition to our emergency services, we maintained our community engagement initiatives. Our annual Santa runs through Copa and Kincumber were, as always, a highlight, spreading holiday cheer and strengthening community bonds. The Australia Day weekend also saw our successful open day cake stall, offering a chance for locals to interact with our team in a relaxed setting, while also raising funds for our services.

Our recent recruitment drive has had a positive outcome, with four new trainees joining our team. This is a welcome development, as it strengthens our capacity to respond to emergencies and reflects the community's interest in supporting and participating in our work. These new members will now start their training, ensuring they're well-prepared to contribute to our varied and critical tasks. Their arrival is a positive step for our team and the community we serve. Additionally, in December, two of our trainees successfully completed their Bushfire Fighter assessments and have since become active members of our team. These new firefighters have already been responding to multiple incidents over the past few months, demonstrating their skills and commitment to our community's safety.



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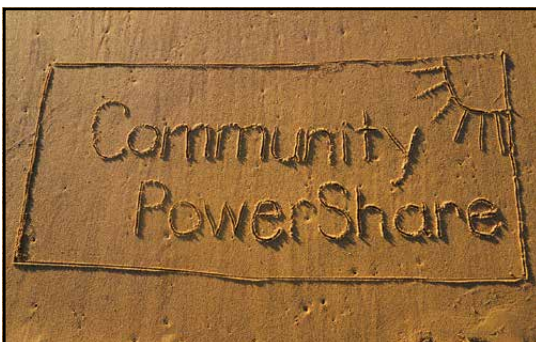
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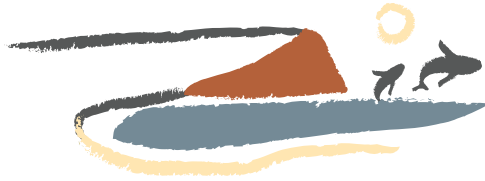
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Copacabana Community Association

Your Local Community Organisation



Copacabana Community Association Inc.

Join the CCA and contribute your ideas for Copa

This quarterly newsletter is designed and published by the Copacabana Community Association (CCA). It is distributed in hard copy and via email. We also manage the website copanews.com.au

The CCA is run by a volunteer Management Committee who work on behalf of members and the broader community to improve facilities and advocate for beautification projects in Copa. We make representations and submissions to local Council and State government in order to safeguard the unique, low-rise 'beach and bush' characteristics of our suburb and we keep a close eye on zoning regulations that currently protect our area from over-development. From time to time we also apply for grants and funding to support important community projects and events.

We co-ordinate events designed to foster inclusivity and often work together with the Surf Club and the Copa RFB to help achieve better outcomes for the community.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, April 8, Copa Surf Club, 7.30pm

Please come along to the meeting and join us for drinks afterwards.

The CCA gets its revenues from sponsors of this newsletter and from annual membership subscriptions.

We thank all of our sponsors for their generous and loyal support and welcome new advertisers and members. Banner ads are only \$250 per issue and 'Locals ads' are \$80 per year (ie 4 issues @ \$20 per issue).

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Attn: Treasurer/New member in subject line

YOUR CCA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Sue Steedman **Secretary:** Margaret Platell **Treasurer:** Rob Morgan **Committee Member:** Bernadine Mitchell

We have vacancies for two or more new committee members.

Please email us at info@copanews.com.au if you'd like to join us. We really need new volunteers.

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