

Coffee Morning

GLOW members and friends attended a hugely informative Coffee Morning at The Coffee Club on Saturday 24th February. Riley Petherbridge, Newcastle Beach Life Saving Club Hunter Branch Director of Youth spoke about all things to do with Life Saving in Newcastle and left those who attended more knowledgeable and appreciative of the work they do to protect those who use our beaches and coastline. Riley's passion for Surf Life Saving and working with youth was evident in his presentation and a reflection of all the volunteers who give up their time to be members of Surf Life Saving clubs in the Hunter. Thanks again to the Coffee Club for allowing us to use their venue and equipment.



International Women's Day



21 ladies attended this year's International Women's Day at the Carrington Bowling Club. The guest speaker was Samira Ahmadi a refugee from Afghanistan who is now living in Newcastle. Samira told of her journey via India along with her family to finally reach Australia to start a new life free of war and the persecution of women. She answered many questions and left those in attendance realizing how lucky they are to be living in Australia.

Anzac Day

GLOW placed bunches of rosemary at the Wickham Superior Public School Honor Roll at the Newcastle Interchange to commemorate Anzac Day 2024. This monument was created to commemorate the students and teachers of Wickham Superior Public School who served in the First World War. There are 326 names listed. The 48 who died in the war have a star beside their name. It was created by former local stonemasonry firm Meldrum and Markey. The marble and granite Honor Roll was



removed in 1990 after the Newcastle earthquake damaged the school so extensively that it was declared unsafe. Each of these names represents a real person with a story to tell. facetoaname.com.au allows you to put a face and a story to each name on this honor roll and to find out more about the school and the suburb of Wickam. If you have not seen this monument, it is well worth a visit to the interchange. GLOW life member Joyce is pictured placing flowers at the monument on Anzac Day.

Discussion with Ward 1 Councilor Declan Clausen - 19th April

1. Throsby Street Footpath

Declan advised that the footpath on Throsby Street near the Post Boxes falls within Council guidelines and will not be upgraded. Wickham residents can email Council about the footpath in front of The Bottlo to make it consistent with the footpaths either side as it is a trip hazard and difficult to use for those with walkers.

2. Garbage Bins at Hannell Street Bus Stop

A garbage bin can not be placed at the Bus Stop as there is nowhere for the collection trucks to stop for emptying. Council could utilise the City Presentation Team to walk around and pick up the rubbish.

3. 2024 PDP Engineering Design

City of Newcastle (CoN) has commenced engineering the design of Union Street public domain. GLOW will be meeting with CoN Project Planning Coordinator, Matthew Blandford, on 22nd May, to start fine tuning the design. If anyone wants to attend, or has an idea pitched, please contact secretary@glow.org.au.

4. Tree of Knowledge Park



GLOW asked Declan if the fencing around the future extension of Tree of Knowledge Park can be removed. This park will be a gateway to the harbour and the removal of the fencing will open up the space for public use until Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC) eventually get around to developing the park and handing it over to CoN. Paul O'Rourke, CEO of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, is also keen to have this space available for a possible world yachting event to be held in the near future that will require a site for large marques.

Declan advised that the land is owned by HCCDC and CoN has little sway with HCCDC. However, Declan is helping Paul to reach out to local, state and federal authorities, and with Paul pushing this, it could force HCCDC to open up this parkland long before they get around to redeveloping it. Go for it Paul!

Passmore Redevelopment

Have you seen the new stadium at Passmore Oval? Take a walk and have a look. Note that the Holland Street short cut is now fenced off - see below.



Wickham Park Temporary Path

GLOW representatives met with Duncan Howley (Project Manager, NSW Transport Asset Holding Entity) and Leeca Higgins (Senior Electorate Officer for Tim Crakanthorp) at Holland Street. NSW TAHE has put up new security fencing across Holland St to prevent people accessing the site. Their preliminary work into the access walkway has found significant site contamination, including friable asbestos in and around the old shed. So, for public safety, NSW TAHE cannot permit access by the general public.



Duncan's short-term, 3-month plan is:

- o Determine contaminant risk and identify a suitable walkway corridor.
- o Decontaminate the walkway corridor.
- o Fence the sides of the decontaminated walkway corridor.
- o Put down a temporary gravel/mat walkway.
- o Open up Wickham Park with the temporary walkway. This temporary walkway will not be compliant with accessibility standards.

Once the walkway corridor is identified, the detailed engineering will start on the permanent access walkway that will be fully compliant with accessibility standards. It will involve earthworks for ramps, etc. GLOW will be meeting again with Duncan, Leeca and Tim (if he is available) on Wednesday, 22nd May 8.30am at The Coffee Club/Burger Bites. All are welcome or email secretary@glow.org.au if you would like GLOW to raise anything further.

Separate to the walkway access, CoN is currently assessing the entire site for contamination. Duncan says this is due diligence by CoN to fully understand the cost liability of site remediation before agreeing to a purchase price for the land. As advised some months ago, NSW TAHE wants to divest itself of this land by the end of this financial year. Hopefully this is still achievable.

Once CoN has the land, they will need to do a Wickham Park Greenspace Plan, then budget for detail design, then budget for and construct the Greenspace Plan. That's at least a 5 year timeframe, more realistically 10 or more years if we don't push hard. Hence, GLOWs push for the temporary access in the interim.



Mother's Day Stall

Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th, Saturday 11th May - 10am-12pm -1/19
Throsby Street, Wickham - Cash Only
Cards/Aprons/Coasters/Happiness Kits/Earrings/Potholders

Christmas in July

Keep an eye out for the date and location.

GLOW welcomes your points of interest and input for future Newsletters. Email info@glow.org.au

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