

BAYWATCH

News from the West Pittwater Community Association March 2012 Volume 8, Number 1

Be in the draw to WIN a parking sticker for Church Point! (financial members only) Come to the AGM

The Year's Highlights:

- Govt. abandons Summer
- Lifejackets now compulsory for walkers
- Archeologists examine abandoned Pasadena
- Brush turkeys banned from Western Shores—move to island
- Fished dinner restaurant gets 2 Michelin stars
- Waterfall Hydro plans before council.

Welcome to the autumn edition 2012 of BayWatch. We are pleased to present President Michael Wiener's Annual report (page 2)

There are many interesting stories related to our beautiful part of the world. We invite you to contribute to the next edition by simply putting together 100-150 words and forwarding it to the editors:

baywatch@wpca.org.au

Do you subscribe to the wonderful BaysNews online newsletter? Get regu-

lar updates on all that happens in our community. For more information contact Brigitte at :

brigitte@amadesign.com

Fees are now due and payable and still only \$20 per household! We use your \$20 p.a. carefully and wisely, to promote the interests of all of us that live in this paradise we call home. Do you want to know what the WPCA committee is doing? Meeting minutes and agendas are all posted on wpca.org.au

How to Pay:

1. Pay at the AGM on Sunday 18th March at 12.30pm, **lunch provided.**

2. Pay by direct debit. See the WPCA web site for information:

www.wpca.org.au

3. Cash to your nearest WPCA representative.

4. Pay by cheque:

PO 289, Church Point 2105



Lace Monitor in Elvina Bay

Goanna is the name used to refer to any number of Australian monitor lizards of the genus Varanus

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LIFE JACKETS NOW COMPULSORY

You are required to wear a life jacket under most circumstances, when travelling by boat between home and the rest



of the world. A lifejacket must be carried for each person on board all vessels, unless exempt. It must be the correct size for the wearer and in good working condition. If you are less than 12

years of age, you must wear your life-jacket at all times. A *tender* is a vessel less than 3m that is used



to transport people between the shore and another vessel, **NOT** another shore. All paddlers must wear a lifejacket on enclosed waters when more than 100m from shore .

Some good news: You are not required to

carry or wear a life-jacket on enclosed



waters when using a rowing shell.

Or swimming.....

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2011 has seen very clear forward movement on the implementation of the Church Point Plan of Management.

The grants secured for the commuter wharf by Council have led to the recent selection of a tenderer to build a new commuter wharf.

I suggest that anyone who would like more information visit Council's website.

Mark Eriksson and Mark Ferguson from Council will be attending the AGM to answer questions on Church Point and provide more detail on the capital works program to implement the Church Point Plan of Management.

Church Point hasn't been our only focus.

The Committee has also responded to issues regarding tracks, ferry sheds, bush regeneration, boating hazards including commercial fishing, name changes and services such as the water taxi to name a few. The replacement of the South Elvina ferry shed is imminent and the new plans are posted in the ferry shed.

There is one very important issue coming up in the near future and that is a survey to judge the community's acceptance or otherwise of the proposal for a decked two level car park opposite the commuter wharf instead of the single level at grade car park currently in the Masterplan.

I urge everyone to fill in the survey —as participation is the key — and attend Council and community meetings on Church Point when they are held.

At the two previous AGMs those present rejected the option of the decked 2 level carpark as undesirable and inappropriate.

Council's reason for including it are is an attempt to keep fees low by leasing out exclusive use private spaces for \$4800 per annum and subsidising the non-exclusive use parking.

Given that revenue from the carpark is much greater than initially anticipated it could be possible to hold accrued carpark monies longer and get additional grants to keep fees at their current level and maintain the character of Church Point without the need to resort to the 2 level option.

There are Committee members who have indicated they will step down in 2012.

Please consider becoming part of the Committee.

We encourage all Lower Western Foreshore residents to become members of the WPCA. A Church Point Car park sticker will be drawn at the conclusion of the AGM as a lucky door prize But you must be a financial WPCA member to be eligible.

A special thanks to all those committee and non-committee members who have participated over the past year.

Michael Wiener



Salvation Creek Falls



Waratah on the Elvina Track

Community, Recreation & Economic Development Reference Group

This committee met four times during the year, chaired by Councillors White and James. Some Issues.....

A Volunteers expo to be held in 2013

Greater emphasis on youth activities – the likely creation of a Pittwater Police Citizen Youth Club.

Better dissemination of information regarding health services. As transport is such a

key consideration, the committee has placed great emphasis, getting council to encourage sufficient public transport to suit the needs of the community (feeder bus service from Church Point to Mona Vale for example)

If you have special interest in any of these matters and you would like me to promote your interest at CRED, please feel free to contact me.

....Paul

Planning an Integrated Built Environment

As well as providing council with an opportunity to promulgate information to the community through its community group representation, this Reference Group seems to have found a life of its own. It has developed a unique “sustainability checklist” to provide advice about sustainable development to any developers or others planning to

develop within the Pittwater area. This checklist has been published on the council website. The committee is now busy developing an action plan to ensure that relevant people know about this checklist. This action plan includes working with schools, architects, engineers and so forth. There has also been some discussion, so far unsuccessful, about the possibility (or not) of making it a mandatory part of the planning approval process. I would love to have your views.Joy

Ferries at the bottom of my Garden

At the end of any day in Pittwater, those of us who have passed through the twilight-time pressures



of the work/kids stage of life, can retreat to a comfortable place, wine in hand, to contemplate just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.

Yesterday I did just that. I watched a dozen yachts in a tacking duel around a buoy. Sails cracking in the wind, the setting sun highlighting the million dollar hulls, as they ‘went about’ and headed north. An awesome sight!

In the silence that followed, a small dinghy slowly rounded Woody Point. A single rower heading for the mainland. A silhouette in the fading light. And I was struck by the thought that transport to and from our off-shore homes began this way; simply and slowly.

Depending on our choice of technology, we can now all

whizz across Pittwater in the style we can afford. We can berth on the mainland at yacht clubs, private marinas and even pull up on beaches. And we have our own commuter wharf at Church Point. Our family scurried back and forth for years. We didn’t talk to many in the community. We had busy lives. We left our scabby old tinny at the commuter wharf.

Until, some years later, the day came when the crowded commuter wharf simply became too much for this older, and perhaps wiser, resident. “An accident waiting to happen”; the possibility of a broken ankle or worse made the berthing task less and less attractive. I looked at the options and decided to sell the boat and embrace the unique service we are so lucky to have; and I fear we tend to take for granted.

It is now two years later and I still find myself in awe of the young couple who arrived in our midst, bought the Church Point Ferry Service and provide us with

the most idiosyncratic transport and community service. Our ferry service is more, much more than a bus service over water. It is the backbone of the community. Standing on Halls Wharf with the red flag waving in the light morning breeze. What better way to start a day?

Arriving at Church Point for the trip home, with bags and packages and dogs in tow, we can unwind from the stress of mainland ‘busy-ness’ with a beer or coffee, meet and greet, finally flopping on the ferry to head home into the setting sun.

This very special service brings Western Shore residents together with Islanders; most of whom smile and chat or just gaze at the ever changing vistas in the different Bays. I can catch up with old friends, make new friends, read the paper, listen to Tim’s iPod, watch the antics of children or the wonder in the eyes of visitors heading for the Youth Hostel.

Behind the scenes, I am aware it is not all smooth sailing for Simon and Penny. The loss of the Curlew, the huge cost of the L. Duck, the unpredictable Amelia K, engine breakdowns and repairs, the effect of bad weather on schedules, the shortage of crew (the ones we have are amazing) and the ever changing government regulations.

It is an ongoing challenge to continue to give us this wonderful, unique service. We must never take it for granted. One can only wonder why these two extraordinary people are always smiling!!

edduss



'Our aim is to ensure that the National Park remains pristine and free of weeds'

...Lesley Stevens

The highlight of 2011 was the fifth and final assault on the dreaded Asparagus fern on Rocky Point. Thanks to the consistent support of the Western Shores community and other bush care enthusiasts from all over Sydney we have removed 95% of the asparagus fern that was menacing this beautiful reserve.

Every year for 5 years 60 people have given up a Saturday morning to deliver this coup de grace - a wonderful reflection on the volunteering spirit and love of the Australian bush alive and well on Pittwater.

The final 5% will be dealt with in the coming month by a group known as the 'Hard Core Offshore' (you know who you are) and may involve abseiling and heavy-duty tools. All those who like their

bush care to be slightly edgy - this is the gig for you.

In other news we also farewelled Bushcare Supervisor Michael Kniep and welcomed his replacement Paul Webb.

The group's 2012 plan is to maintain the work done up on Rocky Point and to make a start on the fishbone; to start work at the Swiss Chalet intersection to ensure that the National Park remains pris-



tine and free of weeds; and to continue to do what we can to fight the weeds at the Beach Reserve.

If any of this essential work appeals to you, or you're in need of morning tea and some wide ranging discussion, please join us on the first Monday of each month at 0900. Just call Lesley on 9979 9477 the day before to see where the group is heading for the morning.

...Lesley Stevens

The past 12 months in Elvina Bay

'The year I learned to trash the tinnie and love the ferry'

'The year I learned to trash the tinnie and love the ferry.'

It started when I had the bilge pump repaired three times in six weeks; when boat on the beach, waterlogged from yet another deluge, I spied a waterfall, anorexic to be sure, but nonetheless a waterfall, spurting with small but increasing menace from a hole in the side of the hull.

The ferry began to look very attractive and the attraction increased as drivers greeted me by name, lugged heavy

bags on board and manoeuvred the very beautiful *L Duck* with aplomb and good humour. I became irrevocably hooked the day a small child 'forgot to get off' at Bells and the driver turned round and delivered him safely home.

A waterbound community needs to be well-served by its water transport. And our ferry service, its accessibility, friendly efficiency and the fact that it's a delightful place for a chat, serves us well indeed.

...Michelle McDonald



Commercial Fishing in Pittwater

'Pittwater is a major fish nursery'



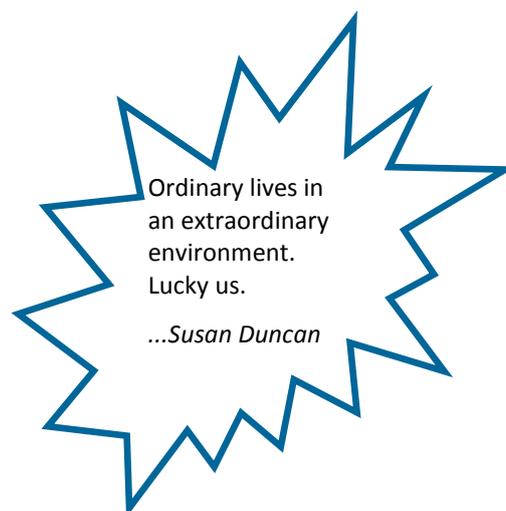
The issue regarding Commercial Fishing in Pittwater is nearing resolution.

The proposal is for Pittwater (notional line from West Head to Barrenjoey), to be declared a Recreational Fishing Haven and protected from commercial activity as it is a major fish nursery. This is a negotiated stakeholder position and is proposed as an immediate solution.

The Primary Industries Minister is due to release a review on status of fishing and affected waters in June.

An update on this issue will be provided.

...Karen Lambert



Ordinary lives in an extraordinary environment.
Lucky us.

...Susan Duncan

People call it Pittwater; I call it Paradise. The closest, most thoughtful and helpful community in which anyone could be lucky enough to live.

When Headquarters Fire Brigade said they would keep the *Margaret Molloy* fireboat until I die and scuttle it with me inside, to make the Molloy Fishing Hole, I said my life on the Western Shore is now complete.

...Margaret Molloy

Up The Creek

'It's our little piece of paradise'

McCarr's Creek may look like an appendix to Pittwater – but it is far more useful (and attractive), feeds into the waterway (rather than collecting the pips, seeds and debris) and is much less likely to cause complications for the main body. We visitors say that we are going “up the Creek” (or just UTC) and so we do, as often as we can. The lucky residents are there all the time.

Life on the Creek this year has been customarily quiet. One house welcomes short-term tenants, which can be inter-

esting. One is for sale and another may be coming on the market. Otherwise, the never-moving moored yachts provide an attractive shelter from the mainland (unless motor cycles are roaring along McCarr's Creek Road late at night).

We like it UTC. It's our little piece of paradise and while we may be just hanging around down here, we are a loyal and happy part of the West Pittwater community. Don't forget us!

.....Nick Cowdery



What happened to Summer?

'It seems the new seers have read the wrong entrails'

Coldest summer in half a century,
foul weather gear out for the Woody Point,
frangipanis flower two months late - if at all.
It seems the new seers have read the wrong
entrails as the tide gauges show no rise.
The modellers must have been using the wrong
plasticine.
Left over the broken Y2K program.

...Piers Akerman

Lovett Bay Rhythm

'...the blue chambers of Lovett Bay'

Mine owners. living in city penthouses,

Import showman Monkton

Who advises a takeover of the media,

So to rule the world.

Through the blue chambers of Lovett Bay

Glides a vast turtle, whose mother

Was there when Flinders

First chanced the Entrance, so

She understands the rhythms

Of the natural world.

Decades on, what vapors

Will her hatchlings breathe?

...John Bryson



Editor's Note:

Clearly, in this edition of BayWatch, the editorial sub-committee have stuck a nerve. We have entries from some of Australia's most respected authors, with never before published stories, commentary and features, and we are humbled. We know how wonderful it is to live on the Western Shores, the authors of our articles know it and you do too. You would not be reading this otherwise.

What are we going to do next year!

Surviving the curse of glamour

When I came here, twelve years ago now, the only boundaries were healing ones, as the eye moved from turquoise bay to eucalypt green, from sandy trail to pink Lilli Pilli ... but today we become a suburb, and new lines are drawn.



Who will save our vital community?

I came to a place that harboured difference and simplicity. We were dropouts, writers, nature lovers, single mums, artists - all living in that moneyless state that comes with creativity ... but today, a developer mindset takes hold, on the island and in the bays.

Those who would stay, are asked to step up and subsidise the lifestyles of affluence. Who will save our vital community from this modern day enclosure movement, the curse of glamour and corporate values?

WPCA Membership:

NOW DUE & PAYABLE

\$20 per household

Pay at the AGM on Sunday 18th March at 12.30pm, with lunch provided.

Be in the draw to WIN a parking sticker for Church Point! (financial members only)

...Ariel Salleh

Bush Care

I was inspired to try bush care by my first neighbours in Pittwater, Ann and Nick Reeve. On a casual walk along the track, they would pluck tiny seedlings of lantana from the verge, and tell me how the whole area – now gorgeous bush – used to be shoulder-high thickets of lantana. When I first started, lantana was the only weed I knew, and faced with a small seedling, I had to tear a leaf and sniff it to be sure I wasn't uprooting a baby native peach.

I found tackling a large lantana was like a "green gym", an invigorating change from hunching over the computer at my desk. Over the years I've learnt heaps from bush

care enthusiasts about local plants for my garden, and what the wallabies do and don't eat. In these busy and commitment-phobic times, few people want to have to turn up to a bush care group every month, and that's okay. Just turn up if you feel like it, even half an hour can make a difference – to you and to the bush! Even plucking a single weed seedling when you go for a walk – it all adds up over time. April 21st and 22nd is the next big bush care event at the YHA in Morning Bay. An ideal opportunity to try without commitment. Lots of people turn up from all over Sydney and further afield to help with bush care on both mornings, followed by a lovely

lunch at the YHA. For information call Michael and Sarah at the YHA on 9999 5748. The Morning/Towlers Bay bush care group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 9am to 12 noon. Sites vary according to the weather and the season, so ring 9979 6390 if you'd like to turn up. As well as several sites in Morning Bay, we're making good progress reducing the crofton weed across at North Towlers Bay, where the old crumbled wharf is on the site of the old YHA and National Parks houses.

...Caroline Adams

"...the simple act of spending slow time in the bush opens your eyes to its magic..."

from A Life on Pittwater by Susan Duncan.



Fire Brigade Matters



The West Pittwater Rural Fire Brigade AGM is being held on Sunday 18 March at 10.00am at Elvina Station. We urge all members to please attend. Your yearly subscriptions will also be due on this day after the meeting.

Another summer has gone by and thankfully we are all safe. This summer was the wettest the Bureau of Meteorology has recorded in Sydney and district due to La Nina. But what we have had instead of fires are trees down, hill-slides and wet impassable trails.

What does this mean for us? This means a lot of vegetation growth in the wet humid conditions both around everyone's houses and in the Chase surrounding us. The fuel loading I am seeing in Lovett Bay and on the Towlers trail is almost as heavy as before the 1994 fires especially as there have been no available opportunities to complete any hazard reductions to reduce this growth. Between Oct and March you need a permit to burn and they are obtained from either Kylie or Roy. Any questions about either of these please contact a brigade member or call into the station next time we have a training day.

We also encourage all households to talk amongst themselves and fill out a Bushfire Survival Plan. These plans are available from the Station and give you advice on how to prepare your property to get it ready for the bushfire season as well as in case of a bushfire. Do you stay and fight the fire, or do you go? Where is the closest evacuation point and what you need to do if you go and what to take. The Survival Plan also gives you advice on organising your own evacuation plan in case of a house fire. I urge every household in the Bays to grab one if they don't already have one at the next dinner or next time they pass the station. It could save your life.

Community AED

The community Automatic External Defibrillator is now installed in a box on the back corner of the Elvina Fire Station. It is not locked so everyone can access it in case of an emergency. If there is an emergency please either go yourself or send someone to grab the blue defibrillator bag and call **000** to get ambulance help.

Community Fire Units

Sometime this year we will be getting 2 boxes for our Community Fire Units. These will be stand alone cabinets to be located in McCarrs Creek and Morning Bay. The aim of the community fire units are for residents who are not active members of the brigade to be able to man these units to protect their own homes in the event of a Bush Fire leaving the active brigade members free to fight the fire elsewhere. There will be training provided for residents who would like to be involved. We are also hoping to get 3 more units for Rocky Point, Sturdee Lane near the waterfall and Lovett Bay North near the Boatshed, but when we will get these units I don't know. I am hoping there will be a unit on display at our AGM on the 18 March. (fingers and toes crossed on this)

The West Pittwater Rural Fire Brigade AGM is being held on Sunday 18 March at 10.00am at Elvina Station. We urge all members to please attend and new members are always welcome. Your yearly subscriptions will also be due on this day after the meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the brigade for their time, assistance and support throughout the year. Thank you also to the members of our community for your continuing support of the brigade and the brigade activities.

.....Kylie Stackhouse

‘The work, which commenced in May, was initiated without regard to a proposal...’

Significant work occurred on the fire trails around Elvina and Lovett Bays last year under Council’s allocated maintenance budget.

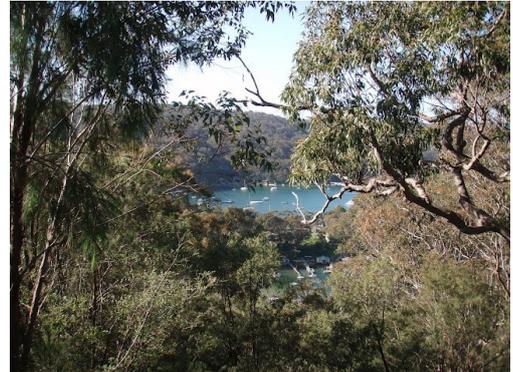
Unfortunately, the work, which commenced in May, was initiated without regard to a proposal by the WPCA from 2010 suggesting a collaborative approach with Council, RFS and the WPCA. What ensued from a number of meetings with Council staff was an agreement that the proposed track works would not be an overkill, creating roadways of much greater width than the current tracks. Also agreed to was a greater focus on the details of crossfalls, compaction and material selection so to achieve an improved outcome over previous track works.

Part of the track work incorporated excavated shaley fill provided from a local building site. This material was mixed with lime before being spread and compacted onto the track. Council advised of their intention to provide a cement stabilised crushed sandstone surface layer. However, budget limitations meant that only portions of the track were covered with this product.

So, we haven’t been short of rain lately and the tracks have had some of their most severe tests with the run-off of last week. By their very nature, the unsealed gravel of our fire trails will erode and further maintenance will always be required. It is the quality of the workmanship that dictates how well they resist the weather.

It is pleasing to see that the track surface

comprising the stabilised shaley fill has “weathered the weather” pretty well, with relatively minor degradation of its surface. The few areas that were covered by the cement treated sandstone have also survived the recent rains well. And, yes, there are a number of washouts,



particularly on the approach section to the fire shed needing some more of Council’s budget money for repair.

Council has been advised of the slip that occurred to the side of the track adjacent to Ventnor. To date we have not had a reply on this.

...Michael Doherty



To Kuddle or Keelhaul?

It sounded so lovely. A dream job. A Deckhand on the school ferry. Imagine. Floating around Pittwater, sparkling days out on the water, toss a few ropes around, chat to the driver, watch a few small children as they sit quietly doing their homework then deliver them home after a day at school. Imagine....

What ?? 60 kids – are you kidding me? Good God ! What on earth was I thinking ? !!!

Day 1 - Small Boy A comes over to tell me that Small Boy B sitting next to him is "opening his pants at me"... oh yay ... they didn't cover this at TAFE !!!!

Day 2 - Pant Opening Small Boy B presents me with an apology note complete with a drawing of him sitting on the ferry "being good".

And it goes uphill or downhill from there ... sometimes all within the hour.

Sound travels so well over water – so how wonderful to hear the approaching ferry with 60 children united in singing happy birthday to the birthday child – that lasts all of 2 minutes and then reverts to the usual chaotic yelling and screaming you can hear for miles.

Above the mayhem, you may just be able to hear the lone screams of a frazzled deckhand muttering the daily mantra: Do your shoe laces up * NO, don't lock her in the cupboard * break that head-lock NOW * stop hanging out the back window and don't throw your lunch out there * put your rubbish IN the bin, not NEAR the bin * stop flicking that rubber band * stop throwing the paper plane at her (oh sorry that's a paper duck, yes I knew that) * just because it's raining and you're good at spelling, doesn't mean you write rude words on the misted up windows * yes you can borrow the phone to tell mum you don't want to go to cello * don't stand on the seats * stop running and sit down ... no ... no ... on your bottom ... no, no on the seat not on his vegemite sandwich * try and not talk until we get to Tennis or better still try and not breathe till then ... and the old favourite ... Yes yes, I DID realise someone just farted, but thanks anyway for telling me.

And the questions: Roz, can you open my chips, do

you have a knife/tweezers/scissors/sharp object? ("No, and even if I did ...") Generally these are needed for minor surgery on splinters or to fix a toy or to retrieve 20c because someone is in floods of tears as they've lost their treat money between the wooden slats in the seats. And, one of the winning questions "Roz, what's a transvestite?" ... right ... Here thanks must go to one of the island thrill seekers who occasionally catches the school ferry to Newport. She stepped up to the plate and helped with the answer. For her assistance Eunice gets a lifetime 15-second head start up the stairs at Newport Wharf before being trampled by the kids disgorging en masse from the ferry.

There's the constant lost property. How can you get off with 1 shoe when you got on with 2, or leave your expensive musical instrument onboard or worse, on the grass at the Newport Arms. Then there are the school hats, raincoats, lunchboxes, sports gear, homework. How can you leave your entire school bag on board (Tim B. was recently seen swimming a school bag back to one of the kids who had left it on board ...well kind of) or the treasures from cleanup day at Newport that HAVE to be taken home – the half dead tennis racquet, the broken sign, the old bird cage (thankfully minus bird), the big stick (surely you have one of those at home ?), the skateboard with no wheels, yes, and the pram !

Sometimes the children enter into the spirit of the journey and count aloud as the deckhand misses the rope toss for the second, third and perhaps fourth time or on the good days you hear the applause and "you're a legend" from the kids after nailing a spectacular rope toss from "miles" out.

Port side is where the girls choose to sit – over there it's the tinkling of laughter, books, games, coloured pencils, artwork, new hair styles, reading and of course, complaints about the boys.

The boys ... aah the boys ... starboard side is normally a heaving mass of boys with paper planes, fat elastic bands for flicking, skate boards, footballs, bellowing, shouting, intense computer games with their accompanying cries of "Die Die"... and on those quiet news days, why not tackle the deckhand for something to do.

It's the stories shared between the deckhand sisterhood - The recent kindly boy who arrived on board proudly announcing "I've got a snake in my bag" ... well yes of course you do ! The poor old dead snake got whipped out and

did the rounds of the ferry on the way to Newport prior to its starring role at Show and Tell. It's having to stay longer at Eastern for an urgent toilet stop for one of the boys who just couldn't hold on. It's being told by one boy that you are so old I can hear your bones creaking (there was "slightly" more to it than that, but certainly not appropriate to relay now ... ask me) It's being told that "You're really good at your job" and most importantly it's the big boys, our ferry drivers who, with the skill of riot police, know just when to step in with crowd control.

Amidst all this, we keep the kids safe and hopefully happy, help them get on and off when the winds aren't helping us and the little ones are nervous. We remind the new kindly kids of when their stop is coming and are patient with another older boy who ALWAYS says "I can't remember where I'm getting off today". We do shoe-laces, dish out textas and drawing paper, sweep up the eternal and ever present squashed popcorn. We enjoy the mufti days, organise birthday singing, and help the chief decorator and organiser Carrie with the Halloween and Chrissy decorations, the Easter eggs and Easter drawings.

Sometimes you feel slightly guilty for asking Penny and Simon for staff Tasers for Christmas, because it's not all bad - there are the hugs, the smiles, the thank yous, the laughs, the strain of trying to keep a straight face, AND the thought of a bucket of red wine, just a little bit earlier than sundown.

Roz

