

## SIRA President's Report July, 2015

New baby words have a high mortality rate!  
Let's see if any of these fledglings fly:



1. *Perp*: When seeking a berthing space, to reach over and pull around the back of a boat that has drifted sideways and align it perpendicular to the wharf so you can raft up beside it.
2. *Criss*: To jam your boat beside another that has drifted sideways, so that your tethers now cross and the other boat is stuck sideways.
3. *Carnesia*: Not remembering where you last parked your car (more common on Mondays).
4. *Caroflage*: Cars that conceal themselves when you are sure that you have parked them elsewhere and walk straight past them.
5. *Hypercarnesia*: Not remembering that your car is parked at the far end of Church Point until you have walked to the other end
6. *COD (Circuit of Despair)*: Driving once or twice around the Church Point carpark when it is full with little to no chance of finding an available spot.

SIRA is planning to publish a Newsletter with updates and reports sometime soon. Here are some headlines:

### Sewerage:

1. Detailed results of the recent survey will be published shortly. In summary, there was a very high response rate (about 350) with over 96% 'Yes' responses to the question: *"Do you support a sewerage system for Scotland Island, on the condition that the only cost is to connect your household plumbing system to the Sydney Water System?"*
2. There is a clear record of the State Government's commitment to a sewerage project. [Click here.](#)
3. The report released by IPART recommends retaining the Priority Sewerage Program (PSP) in Sydney Water's Operating License, but with no obligation for Sydney Water to complete Scotland Island. The report says that for this to happen "a direction to Sydney Water (from NSW Government) under the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989 (NSW)*" will be required; or the Government seeks bids from the market to service specific PSP areas via competitive tender, with Sydney Water as a potential public sector adjudicator."
4. At our recent General Community Meeting, and in the survey comments received, there is strong support for an integrated solution (including wastewater, water, power and data), that would require a coordinated and integrated government approach.

### Roads and Drainage

At our recent General Community Meeting, Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council announced that:

1. An amount of \$300,000 emergency funding has been allocated for roads and drainage repair works on Scotland Island following storm damage. This is triple the normal allocation and great news!
2. The 'hairpin' (up to the top of the Island) is in the scope to be repaired, but funds need to be allocated (about \$400K) – again applause. There was also some discussion and demand for an interim solution.
3. The fire trail across the Island will probably be designated as a 'road opening within a reserve' that will allow maintenance work to be carried out now and into the future. This is a great outcome for emergency access and those for whom this is the only practical access.

## Church Point

At our recent General Community Meeting, Mark Ferguson, General Manager, Pittwater Council also said:

1. At the Council meeting on August 17, two reports will be tabled and Council will hopefully make the final decision to proceed and go out to tender for the new carpark. The actual work should start early 2016.
2. The Councillor's will make the decision, but Council staff will be recommending that the fee be increased to \$500. Initially, he said the reason was that this allowed the project to be funded. When questioned (we had a brief look at our own financial analysis of the project) the other reasons for the increase was as a means of demand management and to make the project more politically acceptable. Clearly we will be talking to Council on this matter!
3. Mark was asked who would bear the financial risk if there were insufficient people to take up the exclusive lease option (\$4,900 per annum). He answered that it would be Council's risk.
4. To the request for some exclusivity for Church Point Permit holders between 6pm and 6am, Mark implied that some proposal will be in the *Demand Management Report* that will go to Council.
5. In terms of the recently circulated alternative plan, Mark Ferguson said that he has written to the proposer, and outlined the reasons why Council will not be supporting the alternative plan.

## New Member Database and Communication System

1. Considerable work has gone into the new database and communication system, building upon an updated and effective new website and our new Privacy Policy.
2. Thanks particularly to the members of the Finance and Membership, Communications and Community Engagement teams, led by Hubert van Mierlo and Cass Gye, for this achievement.
3. As we transition to the brave new system, I want to acknowledge and thank Cass for setting up the original database, maintaining the accuracy and privacy of information and initiating the email communication system to members for many years.

## Last new word

Historically most forms of discrimination (e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexuality) have been unconscious until we have invented a language to critique them.

So here is a new one "*Personality-ism*".

When you travel to a different culture, without realising, it is quite possible to do or say something that can be perceived by the locals as rude, offensive, or weird, etc. Similarly we are often unconscious of how we come across to others with differing personalities and there is a vast language of abuse for describing such differences.

To counter *personality-ism* we need:

- a) Tolerance, or cutting people slack when they are a bit weird or offensive, and
- b) Accommodation, or changing our behaviour to be more harmonious.

Why is this important? The research is now clear that physical health, mental health and community harmony are highly inter-dependent and we want and need a healthy place to live for ourselves and our kids.

*Bill Gye*

July 2015