

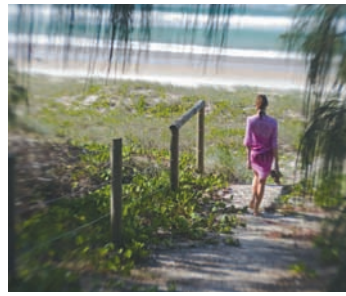
Salt Village – a special environment



This booklet has been prepared to provide information for residents and visitors about the natural features of Salt Village. With proper management, the important environmental attributes of this special site can be protected and enhanced for all to enjoy now and in the future.

salt

A village life by the sea



Welcome to Salt Village

Salt Village was approved in 2003 and development commenced shortly after. Features include world class resorts Peppers Balé Salt, Peppers Salt Resort & Spa and Mantra on Salt Beach, plus a Golden Door spa, specialty shops, 16.5 hectares of parklands, 6.6km of cycleway and walkway, a Boat House, Salt Surf Life Saving Club and over 450 residential allotments. In short, Salt Village has something for everyone.

Among the most important features of Salt Village are the adjoining 26 hectares of Crown public lands forming natural areas along the beachfront and Cudgen Creek that have been protected and enhanced since the development began. Over 70,000 plants have been established, tens of thousands of person hours and \$2.5 million have been spent to ensure that these natural areas are restored to their former glory. Proof of the success of this program is the numbers of animals, including threatened species, that are now calling Salt Village home.

There are many ways to enjoy the special environment at Salt Village. Most importantly though, it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure this special Village is protected and enhanced for all to enjoy now and in the future.

Native Vegetation

Management plans for the native vegetation along Cudgen Creek and on the beachfront were prepared as part of the application to undertake the development of Salt Village. These plans were reviewed and agreed to by Council, Department of Lands, other relevant government agencies and the community. The actions described in these plans have now nearly all been implemented with more than 70,000 plants planted on the site and the majority of weeds controlled.

Plants selected for the site include those found in vegetation communities most likely to have occurred naturally on the site, including rainforest, heath and riparian forest.

What you can do...

Native vegetation is susceptible to many threats from residential development. Among the most important of these is invasion by weeds and illegal clearing. To protect and enhance the native vegetation at Salt Village:

- Don't dump garden clippings or rubbish in natural areas
- Plant local native plants in your garden
- Avoid planting known weed species
- Keep to tracks when walking in natural areas
- Do not clear native vegetation





Protecting Threatened Species

Ospreys are large birds of prey which feed almost exclusively on fish. They prefer to nest in tall dead trees overlooking the waterways in which they catch their food. In recent years Osprey numbers have reduced to alarming levels due to habitat destruction. An artificial nesting pole has been installed near Cudgen Creek at Salt Village. Within weeks of its erection, it was being utilised by a pair of Ospreys. These birds are now regular visitors to the Village.

Common Blossom Bats are small bats with reddish fur that feed on the nectar of native plants, in particular the Coast Banksia. One thousand mature Banksias were planted at Salt Village to provide food for the Common Blossom Bat and visitation to the site by Common Blossom Bats was monitored annually from 2003– 2008 through a scientific program funded by the Salt Village developer, Ray Group.

Loggerhead and Green Turtles are found along the coastline of New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. These turtles are endangered in Australia and internationally. Effective management actions for the turtles at Salt Village includes no lighting near the beach, limited four wheel drives on the beach and distribution of educational information.

Native Plants & Animals

There are a number of interesting and important plants and animals found at Salt Village. Some of these are recognised as threatened under legislation in NSW.

Other native animals, such as migratory birds, visit the site from time to time. Still other species are increasingly using the site as areas of vegetation are enhanced to provide better habitat.

Whatever the nature of their habitation, native animals are invaluable parts of our environment. Many of them provide important ecosystem functions such as control of household pests like insects or rodents.

What you can do...

The best way to avoid impacts on native animals and potential injury to yourself is to leave them alone. As a general rule, native animals won't hurt you if you don't go near them!

Other important steps include:

- Keep cats and dogs restrained or indoors at night
- Do not let pets or children chase native wildlife
- Do not feed native wildlife, rather plant habitat and feed trees so they can feed themselves
- Do not throw rubbish into natural areas or waterways
- If you find injured or sick native wildlife contact the Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers on 02 6672 4789
- If turtles are observed on the beach please contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service on 02 6670 8600



Carpet Python *Morelia spilotes*



The Importance of the Dunes

Coastal dunes are important protectors of whatever lies to their landward side. This can include the plants growing along the foreshore, the animals that reside in the vegetation or the people and structures found in the coastal zone.

The decision to protect and enhance the dunes adjoining Salt Village was taken not only to protect the important vegetation community that is home to many threatened plants and animals, but also to provide protection for those who reside at or visit Salt Village.

Without the dunes and the vegetation that prevents the sand blowing or washing away, coastal locations like Salt Village are at risk from storm wave attack, storm surges and extreme tidal events.

With the severity and frequency of storm events purported to be on the rise due to global warming, protection and enhancement of a healthy dunal system adjoining Salt Village will protect the community and their investments for many years to come.

Community Involvement

The long term involvement of Salt Village residents and the local community in the management of the natural areas at Salt Village is a major aim of the current management program.

In addition, a series of educational signs have been prepared and installed around Salt Village. If you wander along the Salt Beach and Cudgen Creek walkways you can learn about the special features of each location. The large signs at the Salt Surf Life Saving Club and the Boat House also include a community noticeboard for announcements and messages.

What you can do...

- Join a Landcare/Dunecare group (Tweed Landcare Inc. 02 6679 3308)
- Pick up rubbish whenever you see it and dispose of litter thoughtfully
- Report inappropriate or illegal activity in natural areas such as dumping, clearing etc.
- Walk or ride a bike and take note of what you see along the way
- Go bird watching
- Learn the names of the native plants in your garden or in local parks
- Join a naturalist group
- Try photographing or drawing the plants and animals you see in natural areas
- Participate in your local 'Clean Up Australia Day'



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