October 29th 1992

359 Clovelly Road
Clovelly NSW 2031

The Secretary
Gordons Bay Consultative Committee
Randwick City Council
Avoca Street
Randwick NSW 2031

Attention: Linda Ohlmus

Dear Linda,

Overseas business committments prevented me from attending the last two meetings of the Gordons Bay Management Committee.

After the first meeting, I wanted the Committee to consider the attached letter for discussion and for some reason or other it does not appear to have reached the Committee or been tabled. The same appears to have happened for the Bibliography that maybe relevant to the Gordons Bay plan of management.

I did want to comment on the minutes of the 31st August 1992 as well in relation to the safety and pollution issues.

1. Surf Life Saving Club:"rubber duckies" craft is there for a serious purpose and not for play. It should be referred to as the inflatable rescue boat or in short IRB. Calling it a rubber duckie detracts from the serious nature of its purpose.

2. Dogs and sharks. There is no scientific evidence to support the contention that when dogs are in the water sharks are attracted. Noted marine authority and author of "Dangerous Marine Creatures" Reed Books 1989, Dr Carl Edmunds, says that this idea arose from a book published by Dr Coppelson called "Shark Attack" in 1958, where there was a report of a swimmer being taken in the vicinity of a dog also being taken. The following books provide a good source for disproving this popularly held claim:
"Sharks and Survival" edited by P W Gilbert-Heath 1971
"About Sharks & Shark Attack" Davies-Routledge Keegan & Paul 1965
"Sharks" Moss-Prentice Hall 1984.

   I also consulted with Mr John West, Curator of the Shark Attack File, at Taronga Zoo, and he confirms this

AND JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE STATISTICS OF AUSTRALIAN DEATHS IN THE LAST TEN YEARS.

as well.

I would also like to bring to the Committee's attention that there is large scale paranoia about sharks. When one considers the following causes for human fatalities in Australia in the last ten years, sharks should not even be thought of as a problem.

Traffic accidents	32,772
Drownings & submersions	3,367
Scuba diving accidents	88
Bee stings	20
Lightning strikes	19
Shark attacks	11

TURTLE ATTACKS 0.

(Data from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Taronga Zoo Shark Attack File and Dr Doug Walker - source Sydney Morning Herald, October 6th, Dr John Paxton of the Australian Museum in a Letter To the Editor).

3. Seaweed and Pollution. Seaweed cannot be referred to as pollution as it is a natural process in the ocean's cycle and is frequently dumped on the beach following heavy storms. CSIRO reports have confirmed that the presence of seaweed on beaches is a positive effect in reducing the ozone depletion problems that we are supposed to be experiencing.

Whilst the foregoing is hardly earth shattering, I would like to table for the Committee's consideration the foregoing, because if the three problems are considered in a different light then there will be different approaches to solving the problems.

Yours sincerely,

John Rowe