

Barwon Heads Association

Monday 19th October 2015
Barwon Heads Senior Citizens Centre
7:00pm

Minutes

Welcome by Chair Sandy Gatehouse

Apologies – John Romeril, Geoffrey Waite, Jack Stoney, Dawn White, Marg Pockock, Virginia Ronaldson.

Attendees – Jan Anderson, Emiiy King, Jo Larson, Paul Fox, Warren Jackson, Sarah Jackson, Judith Brooks, Ann Vile, Peter Leonard, Faye Connors, Trish Clayton, Jeff Brooks, Brenda Miles, Christine Shady, Steve McNamee, Jenny Wallace Smith, Don Blackmore, Michael Palmer, Richard Hastings, Jeremy Gaylard, Sandy Gatehouse

Sandy introduced Senior Sergeant Angelo Ferrara, Station Manager Bellarine Police Station. She told the meeting that she and Judith had met Angelo at Bellarine Community Safety Workshop they attended on behalf of the BHA in response to an invitation from the Hon Lisa Neville & Assistant Commissioner for Police Tess Walsh.

Angelo explained how police resources are shared amongst the Bellarine Peninsula police stations to better service the whole area. We have four divisional vans am/pm and one during the night.

The Bellarine averages 25-30 crimes per week, Barwon Heads owns 5-10% of that. The three main crimes are Theft from cars, Burglaries, Theft of cars. These crimes are related to Youth, Drugs and Alcohol. Angelo pointed out that most of our youth are fantastic and crime is committed by a small minority of repeat offenders (not from Barwon Heads).

Crime has increased over the past twelve months.

Ocean Grove Police Station has brochures that contain information on how best to keep our property and selves safe. People are not locking up.

Angelo encourages the Barwon Heads community to set up a Neighbourhood Watch. A police member would help us with this although Vic Police no longer have formal involvement with Neighbourhood Watch.

000 is not for emergencies only, should be used whenever police need to attend.

Another issue raised is whether cameras can be better used at Apco and the Main Streets to help catch criminals.

Residents should note times of hoon driving so that police can put a Divisional Van or Highway Patrol in place at the best time.

Angelo will look into whether we can access crime statistics regularly, eg monthly.

It is recommended to keep pets inside on New Years Eve when illegal fire crackers are set.

Sandy introduced Jeff Brooks Chairman of the local Barwon Heads Airport, and very active member of the Barwon Heads community.

Jeff gave a very interesting talk about the privately owned airport and how it operates. The airport caters to Charter Flights, Business flights, Jumpers, some flight training, Geelong Helicopters, Air Ambulance, CFA and the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre.

He explained that there are two types of sky divers – Tandem jumpers and Fun jumpers. The Fun Jumpers are the jumpers who tend to fly low over the road when approaching the airport. Steps are being taken to move jumpers further away from the road. Tandem jumpers will be landing 400m from the road (wind dependent) and fun jumpers will be encouraged to land further from the road.

The airport has a Fly Neighbourly Policy that includes not landing or taking off over houses, use less power to reduce noise, be respectful of noise/time. Permission has to be sought to use the airport and can be denied if a pilot has previously not adhered to this policy.

The owners of the airport have tried to work with COGG and Vic Roads to address road safety issues. There is an easement across the road from the airport for the road to be widened. It would be a massive undertaking to widen or duplicate the road.

JLI seafood also causes traffic to pull in quickly – could there be a better turn in for this?

The issue was raised about whether the BHA could meet with airport owners and jointly ask Vic Roads and COGG to put in some low cost solutions such as signage and road markings.

There is agreement that this is a very dangerous spot along the road with erratic driving making it worse.

Airport owners phone numbers are on the airport website and can be used to report noise or any other issues.

1. Updates

- a. Pedestrian Safety Project – the working group is due to meet with Vic Roads on October 20th.
- b. Dangerous Footpaths – hopefully there will be enough money from the pedestrian project to upgrade footpaths in Bridge Rd.
- c. Carr St/Geelong Rd Corner

2. Committee Report

- a. Attendance Bellarine Community Safety Workshop in response to invitation from the Hon Lisa Neville & Assistant Commissioner for Police Tess Walsh. This is an ongoing group and will meet again soon. We will keep our members informed.
- b. Letter to Vic Roads regarding traffic management issues on Barwon Heads Rd in the vicinity of the Barwon Heads Airport. We have written to VicRoads There are a number of issues,

which have been identified relating to this part of the Barwon Heads Road including:

- i. The intersection of Black Road Rd and the Barwon Heads Rd has been assessed by Vic Roads as worthy of remedial attention. While the community is waiting for the required funds for an extensive treatment we request Vic Roads install the same treatment at Black Rock Rd/Barwon Heads Rd as they have at the Ghazeepore Rd/Mt Duneed Rd intersection. PLEASE INSTALL TWO STOP SIGNS AND CLEAR ROAD MARKINGS.
- ii. There is a deep ditch which runs along the road reserve on the northern side of the Barwon Heads Rd, (near the old church), which is dangerous and from time to time, causes cars to pitch and loose control. COULD THIS PLEASE BE REPAIRED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY?
- iii. Would VicRoads consider a risk assessment of the current situation where parachutists float low over the road and land in a paddock (Northern side) some 50 metres from the road?

3. Community Events

- a. 21st October 6:30pm – 7:30pm Barwon Coast & Barwon Heads Football & Netball Club master plan consultation - Multi Purpose Facility Barwon Heads
- b. 25th October 11:00am Rally against the Geelong Star Fisherman's Beach Tourquay

4. Next Meeting November 16th CFA

December meeting 14th December at Bowling Club