



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

This has been another very interesting and extremely busy year. This has been a team effort with significant community support and interest. In particular a big thank you to:

- Our loyal members and welcome to all our new members and supporters;
- Talking Heads – we have been very greedy again this year and Trish has been so very supportive; and then the library came along.
- A wonderful committee, who all come when asked and participated in a broad range of community activities throughout the Bellarine;
- Our very generous donors.

We continue to build relationships within the community and are very pleased at the number of traders who are now members and regularly attend our meetings. We have kept our members and the community involved through regular newsletters and our monthly Talking Heads article. Monthly BHA meetings have been well supported and have encouraged a broad range of discussion. We are still trying to attract some younger members, and acknowledge how hard it is for people with young families to attend our evening meetings.

This year we have said farewell to John Burke who has made a huge contribution to Barwon Heads, and have witnessed the folding of the Barwon Heads traders group. We have good relationships with Bernard and his team and will continue to encourage strong discussion with the local traders. Our village relies very much on good local businesses. This is what protects our local feeling and enables us to walk, shop, drink coffee, celebrate and eat good food. We miss Steve Craddock and Julie Shaw and remember them fondly.

THE ADMINISTRATORS

We have met with the Administrators Kathy Alexander, Laurinda Gardner & Peter Dorling during the year, and attended numerous Council meetings. We welcomed the Council Juggernaut to Barwon Heads, and we congratulate them for holding meetings throughout Geelong and trying to understand and engage with the very diverse community. We also congratulate them on the energy they have transmitted into the community and for being interested and listening.

Even though there has been some healthy tension; they have without doubt tried very hard to leave a positive impact on a very dysfunctional and diverse City of Greater Geelong. Early in their reign Kathy Alexander said at the meeting in Barwon Heads that she saw Geelong as a number of small villages. We will continue to fight to protect that. Later on as she was trying to line up the ducks, she said in reference to the 3,000 people in Barwon Heads who supported the retention of their community library, that in the interests of “equity” across the city, it only seemed fair to also ask the other 217,000 residents of CoGG if Barwon Heads should have a community library or whether that money could be better spent elsewhere. It appears that the concept of involving the community in the decision making process is being diminished by this approach. Those who are most affected by a decision have a right to be involved. The Administrators said that the exchange of views with the community did not mean these views would influence the decision. If this is the case they should stop wasting our money on consultants' reports.

We will need lots of energy to ensure that our local facilities and amenities will not be replaced by large “Taj Mahal” facilities in the growth centres and central Geelong. If we are going to become the clever and creative city surely we should value and empower our local communities, and not bury them in the maze of one size fits all, and featureless municipal buildings. The current policy of moving growth away from Melbourne to Geelong will continue to challenge our sensibilities and put at risk our villages and our facilities. Communities across the City of Greater Geelong are banding together to fight and protect their local communities and to oppose decisions that are out of character with the local community. However in the eyes of the Administrators decisions will be made in the interest of the greater good rather than equity. We need to engage with our politicians and our new Councillors to ensure the interests of the smaller townships are acknowledged, promoted and protected.

HIGHLIGHTS

Victorian Electoral Commission Review

As you are aware we made submissions and presentations to the Victorian Electoral Commission Review of the CoGG electoral structure during 2015-2016. We supported:

- a multi- councilor structure totaling 11 councilors;
- the division of the City of Greater Geelong into fewer but larger wards with a change of ward boundaries from the current 12 to 4 wards. 3x three-councilor wards 1x two-councilor ward;
- Barwon Heads joining a new Bellarine ward;
- an urgent review of the present system of election of the mayor.

This model was confirmed by the Citizens Jury will be the basis of the Council elections in October 2017.

Joining the Bellarine

In early July seven community associations met in Drysdale. We continue to meet. The meeting was jointly hosted by the Barwon Heads Association and the Portarlington Community Association. Other groups represented were Indented Head, St Leonards, Ocean Grove, Breamlea, Drysdale and Clifton Springs. We have now been joined by Point Lonsdale and Leopold.

There will be three councilors serving the 54,000 residents of the Bellarine Ward. The new ward will have the biggest population of voters in the City of Greater Geelong. Apart from distinctive local issues for each town there was consensus around issues of communication, infrastructure, development, environment and safety. Our new councilors will have to work collaboratively together to deliver fair and equitable distribution of assets and services across the whole of the Bellarine region. Each councilor will need the support and endorsement of the other two to make progress. It was agreed to hold a series of candidate debates across the Bellarine Ward to give residents an opportunity to meet and question candidates and for our Bellarine residents groups to keep talking.

The Barwon Heads Library

In April the Council announced it was planning to close our library at the end of June. This decision by the Administrators brought our community closer together and has introduced a new generation of families to Council matters and the BHA. With no communication that the future of the library was being reviewed we were all taken by surprise and strongly opposed the recommendation to close the Barwon Heads library. Our meeting in April passed a motion to retain and grow the library to reflect our current and growing needs. We were strongly supported by Lisa Neville, Sarah Henderson & Simon Ramsay. We helped co-ordinate a public rally and are still very involved. We sought and received further time for proper consultation and discussion so that a proper plan can be prepared for the Barwon Heads Library and its future. We were all amazed and many angered by the “dear community” letter we received from the Council which confirmed all our fears of our coastal town disappearing into the great Geelong mass. This is not about individuals but the Barwon Heads community, and it is united. This is a threat to our sense of community and ignores why we all live here.

Our library is open, we are involved in constructive discussions with the Geelong Regional

Library Corporation, the Barwon Heads Primary School and our representatives in Parliament to continue and improve its services to our community.

Safety & Security

This has continued to be a major focus during the year. There are a number of initiatives that we continue to participate in. Personal and community safety is a high priority for all. The BHA is a member of the Bellarine Community Safety Group, initiated and chaired by the Hon Lisa Neville. This participation has given us direct access to senior and local police. We now know our local police and share the discussion with other community representatives from Queenscliffe, Portarlington, Indented Heads, Ocean Grove, Drysdale and St Leonards. Judith Brooks and Geoffrey Waite regularly attend these meetings.

We remain involved with the Bellarine Police Community Support Register, a confidential register of personal information that is voluntarily provided by people living on the Bellarine Peninsula, in conjunction with Bellarine police. The information provided is stored on a confidential database that can only be accessed by the police and other emergency services in order to assist approved authorities with information required during medical or other emergencies. The register offers a phone service where volunteers call the registrants (who request it) and keep in contact regularly to check if things are OK. Jeremy Gaylard continues to be our representative.

PLANNING

Planning is and will continue to be a major challenge for Barwon Heads residents and the BHA. Our members face significant challenges to the peace, quiet and privacy that they have come to expect as residents of Barwon Heads. Single lots of land are being subdivided and single story houses replaced by bland 2/3 story structures. The protection of vegetation and the provision of adequate parking are also significant issues. We have been putting in objections to applications that set poor precedents and threaten the coastal village amenity. We do not have the resources or capacity to object to normal domestic developments, however we have been assisting our members to object and to attend VCAT hearings.

Review of the Barwon Heads Structure Plan 2017

This has been a major project for the BHA and the community. We have been involved for over 6 months of intense thinking, participation and listening. We have tried to inform our members through newsletters and Talking Heads about opportunities to participate and be involved. There is considerable concern in the community about the scale of buildings and their poor design. We don't want to be like a new housing estate, and are fighting hard to protect our coastal amenity. We thank the Planners at CoGG for a very comprehensive review and for listening in the main to our community with patience and respect. We are amazed that there is criticism that the process of consultation is inadequate.

We strongly support the following recommendation, that if adopted, will provide interim protection of the Warrenbeen Court vegetation: "requesting the Minister for Planning to exercise powers under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 by applying an interim Environmental Significance Overlay schedule while the formal Planning Scheme Amendment is prepared and considered".

We don't accept the statement "that the recommendation to not extend the settlement boundary will have an influence on how development occurs within the township, especially in the context of previous statements that the two are not linked.

We are also disappointed there is no recommendation to conduct a further Traffic and Parking Study. The GTA study in 2010 did not take into account impacts of the Bridge development, or the 2 Growth Zones at Armstrong Creek and Ocean Grove, or address heavy vehicle traffic. It was very disappointing then and has little relevance now. If this is not a relevant matter for the Structure Plan where is it relevant and how will it be addressed by the Council? We still have 7 pages of unresolved traffic & parking issues

9 Bridge Rd Barwon Heads – the Barwon Heads Community had a huge win.

Amendment C354 - 9 Bridge Road Barwon Heads Heritage Overlay has been approved by the Minister for Planning (or their delegate). The Amendment process is now completed. This has been a long process, which has enabled us to work closely with the Council, Heritage Consultants and our community to protect this historic house from demolition and overdevelopment.

A separate amendment to apply an interim Heritage Overlay to the site was approved by the Minister and came into effect on 6 October 2016. This overlay expires on 22 December 2017.

The Amendment applies permanent Heritage controls to 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads and:

- amends the Schedule to Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay (HO) to include the house and cypress tree at 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads (HO1989) on a permanent basis.
- amends Planning Scheme Map 88HO by placing HO1989 over 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads on a permanent basis.

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

We are pleased that the pedestrian crossings project was completed before Christmas 2016. This has made Barwon Heads safer for pedestrians, locals and visitors. It has slowed down traffic in the very busy pedestrian streets; but cannot be to blame for the traffic jams that have occurred in town over the past 5 years during the peak holiday seasons.

We continue to express our concern about the speed of motorists through Barwon Heads and in particular the size and number of large trucks that are now using Barwon Heads as the truck route.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We continue to form close relationships with other community groups. In particular the Barwon Heads Sustainability Group; the Barwon Heads Traders; the Barwon Heads Arts Council; Save Barwon Heads Alliance; the Barwon Heads Senior Citizens (for friendship & the use of their facility) and the Ocean Grove Community Association. We also have strong working relationships with Barwon Coast and the City of Greater Geelong. As previously mentioned we will miss the Traders and thank them for their contribution to our meetings, the recent donation and particularly Bernard Naphine and David Littleton. This year we have developed relationships with other community groups on the Bellarine and have attended the early meetings of the Bellarine Community Council and have formed an alliance with the Portarlington Community Association to initiate and host meetings with other Bellarine community groups.

I thank all of the Committee for their efforts this year. Jeremy has been a very supportive Vice President, Geoffrey an amazing keeper of the purse and membership records, and Sarah a very able Secretary with IT skills none of us have. Judith has continued her passion for Barwon Heads and makes a very valuable contribution. Judith remains our main conduit with VicRoads and has formed a good relationship with them. She and Geoffrey have represented the BHA on the Bellarine Safety Committee; Paul as a resident and local business person for his community interest and research/record keeping and support; Richard for his passion for the history of Barwon Heads and continued understanding in and involvement with the providers of public transport on the Bellarine; Steve Paterson who has been a significant support especially with proof reading my Talking Heads articles and on a range of planning matters and I warmly welcome to our newest member Colin Bridges a retired lawyer with a great interest and passion for the community and a broad range of skills we value and now rely on. I will also mention Mandy Bridges and thank her for her passion and guidance.

We are very lucky that we have such good opportunities to engage with our parliamentary representatives. We thank Lisa Neville our local member of Parliament who is always available and interested in anything we contact her about; Sarah Henderson our local resident who represents us in Canberra and Simon Ramsay our member in the Victorian Upper House for his interest and support.

OUR MEETING PROGRAM AND GUESTS

September 2016 – AGM

October 2016 – Graham Banks Local Area Commander Geelong and Senior Sergeant Shane Madigan Station Commander Bellarine Police Station

November 2016 – Christine Smith, a Barwon Heads resident a member of the new democracy citizens jury discussing the options for a new Geelong Council

December 2016 – Christmas drinks and Guest Andrew Maud co-owner and Manager IGA Barwon Heads talked about his plans for our local supermarket

February 2017 – Leigh Dennis Coastal Adaption Program Manager CoGG

March 2017 – General discussions

April 2017 – Sarah Henderson our member for Corangamite and a local Barwon Heads resident. (first discussion of proposed library closure)

May 2017 – Laurinda Gardner Administrator & Brett Luxford CoGG to discuss Barwon Heads Library

June 2017 – Tim Hellsten Manager Planning Strategy and Urban Growth Planning Strategy and Urban Growth & André Schmid Senior Strategic Planner Planning Strategy CoGG

July 2017 – general discussions in particular on Barwon Heads drain

August 2017 – general discussion on Structure Plan

Sandra Gatehouse
President Barwon Heads Association 2016-2017
18/9/17

Geoffrey Waite
Treasurer Barwon Heads Association 2016-2017
18/9/17

BARWON HEADS ASSOCIATION INC

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

BALANCE SHEET

	2014/15	2015/16
ASSETS (from previous year)		
Cheque account balance 1 July last year	1785.31	1636.05
Operations 2016/17	-149.26	1297.15
EQUITY (Cash in Bank at 30 June)		
Subscriptions Bank A/c Balance 30/6/17		
Donations Bank A/c Balance 20/6/17		
TOTAL bank balances	1636.05	2783.94
FIXED ASSETS (at cost)		
BHA Banner	50.00	50.00
Data Projector	374.00	374.00
Tape Recorder	94.00	94.00
Printer	121.50	121.50
TOTAL FXED ASSETS	639.50	639.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0	0
TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY	639.50	3423.44
Number of Paid Members		216

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income	2014/15	2015/16
Subscriptions	990.00	1390.00
Donations	490.00	7861.00
Donation from BH Film Society	100.00	
TOTAL	1580.00	9251.00
Expenditure	2014/15	2015/16
Advertising in Talking Heads	238.00	35.00
ANZAC day wreath	129.50	60.00
Bank Transfer Charge		2.00
Corporate Affairs Fee	53.00	54.40
Committee Expenses		295.00
Data Projector/Printer/Tape Recorder		58.80
Donation to Festival of the Sea		100.00
Functions (Christmas Party)	244.00	280.00
Hall Hire	200.00	140.00
Photocopying	158.50	61.00
Planning Study & Report (Coastal)		1463.00
Planning Study & Report (Heritage)		4500.00

Printing of Membership Renewal form	163.90		
Supplies/Telephone/Stationery	202.36	84.65	
VCAT appearance fee			
VCAT registered post			
Web site maintenance and development	340.00	420.00	
New Web site hosting		400.00	
TOTAL	1729.26	7953.85	
TOTAL SURPLUS/LOSS FOR YEAR	- 149.26	1297.15	+

Sandra Gatehouse
 President Barwon Heads Association 2016-2017
 18/9/17

Geoffrey Waite
 Treasurer Barwon Heads Association 2016-2017
 18/9/17