



BHA ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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

- The Barwon Heads Community.
- Our loyal members and welcome to all our new members and supporters;
- Talking Heads, Trish has been so very generous, supportive and encouraging. Our page 3 continues to be our main mechanism for communicating with the town and our visitors.
- 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 continue as members and regularly attend our meetings. We have built on these relationships this year and initiated a meeting of 24 local businesses. We have encouraged them to establish a Barwon Heads traders group and will continue to encourage and support them. We have also offered to support the Festival of the Sea Committee for 2020 and are keen to see a return of the duck race.

We keep our members and the community involved through regular newsletters and our monthly Talking Heads article. Monthly BHA meetings have had some very interesting and informative speakers, but the Committee has been disappointed by the numbers of attendees. Unless there are lots of new ideas and offers of help we are planning to have fewer meetings during 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

Being part of the Bellarine

The BHA continues to be a strong supporter and leader of the Combined Bellarine Community Associations. This group has continued to develop in 2018/2019 and have now met bi-monthly for more than 2 years. Each association has nominated representatives from its association to attend these meetings. The role of Chairperson has rotated. This has worked well and it is anticipated that this will continue. There has been little need for funds, with reliance on community spaces for meetings and donations of photocopying. We have all have worked well together and have developed good relationships based on trust and openness. The stronger groups have provided support, resources and guidance to the smaller ones. Members include representatives from community associations from Portarlington, Indented Head, St Leonard's, Ocean Grove, Breamlea, Drysdale, Clifton Springs and Point Lonsdale. Colin Bridges, Judith Brooks and I have been the representatives from the BHA during the year.

Chris Kelly from the Portarlington Community Association has provided very efficient secretarial services and advice. We are very lucky to have her.

There is now agreement to enter into a Combined Bellarine Community Associations Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is not intended to establish a binding contractual relationship, but it will facilitate the continuation of the working relationship that has evolved and will lead to the conduct of more collaborative activities and a stronger relationship between the parties. Our Bellarine Ward Councillors have been invited to most meetings and have attended many discussions.

We continue to work closely with the Ocean Grove Community Association and have developed closer working relationships with the Point Lonsdale Civic Association. We are all talking about the same thing – over development and failure to plan properly for the impacts of growth on fragile coastal villages.

Our speaker in June was Fiona Conroy a long term Bellarine farmer. She gave us an amazing insight into the challenges of farming in a peri-urban area. We were very sympathetic to Fiona's pleas for a rural rate differential.

We are also represented by Geoffrey Waite on the Community Safety Networks – Greater Geelong and Bellarine.

The City of Greater Geelong

We welcomed the return of elected Councillors in November 2017 and have continued to work with our three Bellarine Ward Councillors Stephanie Asher, Jim Mason & Trent Sullivan. This is a hard gig, and not only have they had to work out priorities for the Bellarine, they have had to deal with all the other CoGG issues. Our Councillors have always been available and willing to talk; can they deliver what we want? – I don't know.

We thank them for their interest.

There is little doubt that The City of Greater Geelong is a big complicated beast. The municipality has a population of over 252,000 and this is expected to increase to more than 393,000 by 2041, growth of almost 56 per cent.

Is it too big?

Should coastal towns like Barwon Heads be part of it?

Should we lobby for a Bellarine Council over the next 5 years?

Proposed Changes to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 2019

We wrote to Minister Somyurek , the Minister for Local Government expressing our concern at the proposed changes to the Local Government Act. In particular the government's proposal to replace the present system of multi councillor wards with single councillor wards and particularly with the lack of community consultation of this aspect of the proposed bill. The former Geelong Council demonstrated some adverse outcomes of single councillor wards and the extensive consideration by the Citizens Jury recommended the multi councillor ward system to help overcome such problems which was not only supported by the government but also by the Victorian Electoral Commission. It is also used by a substantial majority of Victorian councils.

We expressed our disappointment that there appeared to be political support for the changes with little apparent benefit to the community.

We strongly supported the continuation of the existing multi councillor wards which is the system adopted by most Victorian councils and which in our opinion has overcome the difficulties exposed by single councillor wards. We believe that our community is experiencing improvement in local government by our councillors who have demonstrated a cooperative shared responsibility with the ability to provide mutual support for the overall benefit of the community.

Water Quality in the Barwon River

The City of Greater Geelong installed a new stormwater discharge outfall at the Ozone Rd Jetty during 2017.

The river beach has been changed forever and we are still finding chards and rocks emerging from the sand in the tidal zone. As reported last year this was not a good project for Barwon Heads and highlighted a weakness at CoGG and its capacity to plan such complicated projects in sensitive environmental areas.

However – we met some good people and have developed our knowledge and contacts. The BHA with significant input from our Committee members John Nolan and Colin Bridges, have overseen the establishment of the Barwon Estuary Public Health Water Quality Monitoring Project.

Our goal is to have an ongoing and integrated water quality-monitoring program of the Barwon River, its estuary and local beaches established with ready community access to the monitoring data and reporting of expected future conditions. The monitoring would focus on public health indicators for recreational uses and provide a publicly available Beach Report - Water Quality Forecast as is already available for 36 beaches in Port Phillip Bay.

To date we have been unsuccessful in attracting further funding, but this is a priority.

Our local member Lisa Neville is the Minister for Water; she has been kept well-informed and provided support and encouragement.

Draft Marine and Coastal Policy

We made a submission to the very verbose draft policy that was published for input by the Department of Water, Environment, Land & Planning (DELWP). We endorse the vision for a healthy, dynamic and bio diverse marine and coastal environment that benefits the Victorian Community now and in the future. We are particularly interested in how the policy will link and integrate conflicting uses and users to sustainably plan for and manage the marine and coastal environment.

We are very concerned by the combined impacts of Climate Change and Population Growth. We welcome the recent analysis of Climate Change and the proposed Inundation Overlay in the Geelong Planning Scheme. We have seen no intelligent analysis of the impacts of population growth on our coastal village or others for that matter and are witnessing the transformation of the flood plains to housing estates.

We note the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 defines the marine and coastal environment to include “all private and public land and waters between the outer limit of the Victorian coastal water and five kilometers inland of the high water mark”

We expect to be able to refer to this policy to the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) and VCAT and expect it to be acknowledged as the framework to be followed, not just a whisper or dumbed down reference document to be ignored if it doesn't suit.

Our submission is on our website.

Barwon Heads Traders Group

Our members and the Barwon Heads community were appalled and disappointed when the Barwon Heads newsagent closed in May. The Committee initiated a meeting of traders on the 3rd of July. We were very pleased that 28 people attended representing 24 businesses. They have met a couple of times and we are encouraging them to be proactive. We are major supporters of local businesses and do not want the village to become the classic tourist destination.

Erena from the Barwon Heads Wine Store suggested the following issues for discussion:

“I am keen to see if other traders might support things like BH Christmas marketing, a development of a (simple) BH trade mark that links the traders and marketing collateral for accommodation and tourism outlets. In a perfect world I would love to see the traders join together for occasional events and potentially see Festival of the Sea re launched on Hitchcock Ave with a focus on what is here in Barwon Heads.”

Festival of the Sea

We are keen to see a return of the duck race in 2020 and are offering to champion this and provide resources.

This is an important event in Barwon Heads, which appears to have shrunk due to lack of interest in the community.

PLANNING

Planning has continued to be a major challenge for Barwon Heads residents and the BHA. This will be an ongoing challenge without proper protections and recognition of the frailty of our location. Where are the best practice guidelines for coastal development? Where is innovation recognised and encouraged? Why aren't the community valued and listened to as the major stakeholders, rather than the bureaucrats fixated with ensuring low cost housing and development anywhere.

This has been a challenging and disappointing year. Our members face significant challenges to the peace, quiet and privacy that they have come to expect as residents of the Village of Barwon Heads. Single lots of land are being subdivided and single story houses replaced by bland 2/3 story structures. The failure to protect vegetation and provide adequate parking continue to grow as significant issues. We have been putting in objections to applications that set poor precedents and threaten the coastal village amenity.

Barwon Heads Structure Plan Amendment C375

Well done Barwon Heads, the Save Barwon Heads Alliance and all the individuals and experts who participated. We have a wealth of relationships and information that we have shared. This will inform future discussions with the Council and the Government and in particular the process of declaring the Bellarine Peninsula a Distinctive Area and Landscape under the Planning and Environment Act 1987

Planning and Environment Act 1987 - The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C375 to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. The Amendment came into operation on the 15th July 2019. The Amendment implements the Barwon Heads Structure Plan (August 2017) by revising local planning policy, changing the zoning of various residential areas, and amending various overlay provisions applying to certain residential areas and the Barwon River Environs.

Specifically, the Amendment:

- amends Clause 21.14 Bellarine Peninsula and Clause 22.36 Heritage Overlay 1649: Flinders Heritage Area;
- replaces the Barwon Heads Increased Housing Diversity Area map in Clause 22.63;
- rezones all the land in the Residential Growth Zone Schedule 3 (except land south of Bridge Road) to the General Residential Zone Schedule 1 and all the land in the General Residential Zone Schedule 2 (except Warrenbeen Court properties) and the land in the Residential Growth Zone Schedule 3 south of Bridge Road to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 6;
- rezones all the properties in Warrenbeen Court from the General Residential Zone Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone Schedule 7;
- inserts a new Schedule 6 Barwon Heads Incremental Change Area and a new Schedule 7 Warrenbeen Court Residential Area, Barwon Heads to Clause 32.09 Neighbourhood Residential Zone;
- replaces Schedule 6 (interim control) to Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay with a new Schedule 6 on a permanent basis;
- amends Schedule 9 to Clause 42.03 Significant Landscape Overlay (Barwon River Environs);
- amends Schedule 25 to Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay (Barwon Heads Town Centre); and
- inserts new Schedules 41 and 42 to Clause 43.02 Design and Development Overlay.

Although the location of the Western town boundary has been maintained changes to zoning of the substantial part of central Barwon Heads permit a greater density and height of development. We argued for further changes, which were rejected by the Panel and the Council including:

- removal of the IHDA on the bases that Barwon Heads does not have an “activity centre”, is not a commercial mixed use or former industrial area and is not accessed by trains/buses to a central hub.
- Heights of 11m are still possible in the General Residential Zone, and should be reduced to 9m
- Inclusion of advertising for single dwellings in the General Residential Zone
- Protection of mature trees on private land.

Distinctive Areas and Landscapes: Bellarine Peninsula

As you are all aware this project is now underway and is being led by DELWP in collaboration with the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the Wadawurrung People. DWELP advises that the Victorian Government is committed to protecting the environment, landscape and lifestyle of the Bellarine Peninsula, which is experiencing increasing urban development pressure. It intends to declare the Bellarine Peninsula a Distinctive Area and Landscape under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. After declaration, a Statement of Planning Policy will be prepared to set a long-term vision and land use strategies to guide future land use and development and long term settlement boundaries. The declaration is likely to occur within the next month and follows community consultation sessions held across the Bellarine including Barwon Heads.

Work will then commence on the preparation of the Statement of Planning Policy which should specify protected settlement boundaries and height controls in the declared areas to protect the local environment, landscape and lifestyle. This is the most critical component of work and will involve another round of consultation sessions and BHA will make a formal submission to DELWP on behalf of members. We expect a protected settlement boundary and height controls will be developed for Barwon Heads and should recognise the new Barwon Heads Structure Plan. We are also hopeful that it will define a coastal village which has not been done to date in the structure plan and the settlement strategy.

We will consult with members on our formal submission to DELWP soon. Any initial advice or comment is welcome to assist us to prepare our draft submission.

Developments in Hitchcock Ave

We are witnessing significant developments in Hitchcock Ave. All were granted waivers of parking. We cannot understand why this is so easy, and wonder where people are meant to park. The area is currently very busy, and with the proposed developments will become saturated with parking and traffic. Traffic reports accompanying 3 major development applications and accepted by Council all have the same parking statistics from 2 days in winter, to justify the waiver of 36 car parking spaces.

The recent application for the redevelopment of the old Peppercorn Foods site includes another application for a waiver of eight parking spaces. The current development has access to car parking at the rear of the site, which is accessible via Hitchcock Avenue only and was previously used by staff and for deliveries. The proposed outdoor dining in the paved driveway will require moving of table and chairs to gain rear access to the 2 car parks. We question the practicality of this.

We find it hard to agree with the applicant “that Hitchcock Avenue and the surrounding area has sufficient parking to meet the requirements for the expansion of the existing food and drinks premises (café). Patrons will also use other modes of transport including walking and cycling. Bicycle parking can be provided on site and there is provision for additional spaces, if required. The proposed café supports the strategic objectives to consolidate commercial uses and the existing driveway access have a negative impact on the pedestrian movements in the surrounding area. “

We laugh at the reliance on public transport and Uber – “A bus stop is located in Bridge Road, near the intersection of Hitchcock Avenue. Also, patrons can use other ride-sharing services such as Uber to access the premises.” Really!!!

These waivers are all granted at no cost to the benefit of developers and the disadvantage to local residents and existing businesses.

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

The BHA Parking & Traffic Sub-Committee meets three times year. As well as our Committee members, we have representatives from Regional Roads Victoria, the City of Geelong, traders including the IGA and the hotel, BH Cycling Club, the BH Primary School and the Ocean Grove Community Association as an observer.

Council has \$80,000 in its 2019-2020 budget for the Barwon Heads 2019/20 traffic and parking study. This is good news as the Association has encouraged Council to undertake this important work. This will be required to consider both short and long term issues.

School children travelling to school were considered to be at risk due a lack of clarity and planning for bike paths, a lack of footpaths on some streets, inadequate road crossings, and left hand turns into Clifford Street in the morning peaks. Council is going to investigate and report to the school.

Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) provided a briefing on the outcomes of actions to ease congestion in Barwon Heads this summer. Comments provided included:

- Feedback was mostly positive and RRV was thanked for their effort
- Traffic controllers were jovial (but less so in last week) – personality of controller makes a difference
- Modified roundabout and temporary left-hand turn at Ewing Blythe Drive was beneficial and didn't cause problems for those queuing and turning right out of Flinders Parade, short-circuiting movements back to Bridge Road via hotel car-park and safety issues for bike riders.
- On hot days need to keep traffic controllers later in the afternoon.
- Need traffic controllers over this busy Easter period. After the meeting RRV confirmed that controllers would be present for Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

RRV presented at the BHA May meeting. We were amazed that the number of pedestrians crossing at the Bridge Rd crossing between 7am and 7pm was 6780 people, and the hourly count was a maximum of 954 people between 11:30 and 12:30 on 29th December 2018. Only 10% of the cars travelling from Ocean Grove stop in Barwon Heads and 14% from Geelong.

We are pleased there is funding for traffic controllers for the forthcoming summer.

There continues to be significant heavy vehicle traffic movements in both directions through Barwon Heads along Bridge Road and Golf Links Road with some movement down Hitchcock Avenue. RRV acknowledged that this was a significant amenity and safety concern for the community and agreed to investigate and report back at the next meeting.

With the assistance of a consultant Barwon Coast Committee of Management (BCCOM) has developed a design concept for the shared pedestrian/bike trail from BH to the 13th beach SLSC on the north side of the road. This will require some vegetation removal. As the path is on a Council Road Reserve any works would be led by Council. This design concept design will be costed and discussed with Council. The next stage will be public consultation in which the Association will participate..

The lack of adequate pedestrian crossings and inconsistent speed limits in town was also raised on a regular basis.

There is a need for a proactive road shoulder maintenance program to improve safety to all road users including cyclists. RRV advised of backlog, but is committed to review maintenance schedule for the Spit.

The pedestrian crossings have 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. Council has little interest. 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.

The Barwon Heads Library

We are very proud that our Library continues to grow and is now a role model for other small community libraries. The Friends of the Barwon Heads Community Library was formed with the support and encouragement of the BHA. It has had numerous events this year with strong community and school support and are listened to by the Library Corporation. Thank you to Karen Firth and her committee for their time and energy. Thank you to BHPS Principal Daniel Vella for his interest and availability. Hopefully our library is now safe.

Old Kindergarten in Clifford Pde

The community, particularly through the Barwon Heads Association and the Barwon Heads Arts Council, have been lobbying for a community space in Barwon Heads since 2013. In 2014, a petition gathered 932 signatures supporting the transition of the soon to be vacant kindergarten into a community hub. During last year's election, Minister Lisa Neville pledged \$1m to the community to redevelop the kindergarten site and the pledge photograph was taken in front of the kindergarten. This project is funded through Regional Development Victoria and will be paid directly to the City of Greater Geelong. It is standard practice for only the funding partners to a project to sit on the Control Group. The Community Reference Group (which hopefully we will be on) will be working closely with the Project Control Group throughout the life of the project.

Thank you Lisa Neville for the \$1m. Hopefully we will see something worthwhile.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We continue to form close relationships with other community groups. In particular 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.

I thank all of the Committee for their efforts this year:

- This year we have had 2 Vice-Presidents (neither stepping up to be President but they have taken a lot of the load from me and their input and advice has been wonderful)
 - o John Nolan joined the Committee at a pivotal time and has been a significant contributor especially the proposed drain into the river, water quality, planning and he chairs our traffic and parking sub-committee
 - o Gabrielle Nagle also joined the Committee last year. She has strong community connections and we value her input.
- Geoffrey Waite is an amazing keeper of the purse and membership records and has represented the BHA at the Bellarine Safety Group this year
- Colin Bridges took over as Secretary and has been a significant support on all planning matters this year, Colin is a retired lawyer with a great interest and passion for the community and a broad range of skills we value and now rely on.
- Sarah Jackson provides support, strong connections with the community and sends out all mail outs to members
- Richard Hastings continues his passion for the history of Barwon Heads and continued understanding in and involvement with the providers of public transport on the Bellarine;
- Karen Firth has strong community connections and interest in the community and equity, her IT skills mean she is now managing our website; she is the Chair of the Friends of the Barwon Heads Community Library Committee
- Philip Bade continues to provide his input into planning matters and we value his advice.
- Brian Cook our newest committee member has strong IT skills, is very well connected to the Scouts and now he has retired will hopefully have more time for us.

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 represented us in Canberra until the May Federal election and is coming back as a Senator. Libby Coker is our new member for Corangamite. . We wish our local elected members well.

I repeat our thanks to our Bellarine Councillors Jim Mason, Stephanie Asher & Trent Sullivan.

We also value the strong support from Gary McPike the CEO of Barwon Coast.

OUR MEETING PROGRAM AND GUESTS 2018 - 2019

September 2018 – Helen Wood Captain Barwon Heads CFA

October 2018 – BHA AGM guests Cr Jim Mason & Gary McPike CEO BCCM

November 2018 – Election Forum for Victorian State Election (co-hosted with Ocean Grove Community Association)

December 2018 – Christmas drinks at the Bowling Club with bowling tuition from the club

February 2019 – No guest – general discussion on health concerns in Barwon Heads

March 2019 – Geoff Brooks DELWP, management of the Ramsar wetlands to the west of Barwon Heads

April 2019 – Jacinta Burke Corangamite CMA, Barwon Estuary Monitoring Project

May 2019 – Mark Tonkin & Fiona Simpson Regional Roads

June 2019 – Fiona Conroy, Bellarine farmer Secretary of the Victorian Farmers Federation

August 2019 – Libby Coker MLA Member for Corangamite

Sandra Gatehouse

President Barwon Heads Association 2018-2019

16/09/19

**BARWON HEADS ASSOCIATION INC
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019
BALANCE SHEET**

	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
ASSETS (from previous year)				
Cheque account balance 1 July last year	12,727.74	5,938.81	2783.94	1636.05
Loss on Operations 2018/19	7,304.68	6,788.93	3154.87	1297.15
EQUITY (Cash in Bank at 30 June)	5,423.06	12,727.74	5938.81	2783.94
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	5,423.06	12,727.74	5938.81	2783.94
FIXED ASSETS (at cost)				
BHA Banner	148.50	50.00	50.00	50.00
Data Projector	419.00	419.00	419.00	374.00
Tape Recorder	94.00	94.00	94.00	94.00
Printer	121.50	121.50	121.50	121.50
TOTAL FXED ASSETS	783.00	684.50	684.50	639.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY	6,206.06	13,412.24	7453.31	3423.44
Number of Paid Members	182	194	34	216
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
Income	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Subscriptions	3,270.00	2,193.00	3220.00	1390.00
Donations	6,780.00	11,144.81	2885.00	7861.00
TOTAL	10,050.00	13,337.81	6105.00	9251.00
Expenditure	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Advertising in Talking Heads	95.00	400.00	62.50	35.00
ANZAC day wreath	55.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
Bank Transfer Charge	2.00			2.00
Bellarine Association		85.20		
BHA Banner	148.50			
Candidates meeting (O.G. and At The Heads)	90.50	268.50		
Corporate Affairs Fee	57.80		55.80	54.40
Committee Expenses		177.00	156.50	295.00
Data Projector/Printer/Tape Recorder			45.00	58.80
Donation to Festival of the Sea	100.00	100.00	120.00	100.00
Functions (Christmas Party)	364.00	183.79	709.00	280.00
Hall Hire	600.00	120.00	180.00	140.00
Legal Fees (Barrister	2,750.00			
Liability Insurance	991.98	991.98		
Photocopying			40.00	61.00
Planning Study & Report (Coastal)	10,595.00	3180.50		1463.00
Planning Study & Report (Heritage)	786.50			4500.00
Printing of Brochure & Membership Renewal form	564.90	98.00	195.80	
Supplies/Telephone/Stationery		97.60	192.03	84.65
Tributes and Awards	153.50	29.00		
VCAT appearance fee			19.50	
VCAT registered post			19.00	
Web site maintenance and development		557.50	695.00	420.00
New Web site hosting		234.00	400.00	400.00
TOTAL	17,354.68	6583.07	2950.13	7953.85
TOTAL DEFICIT FOR YEAR to 30 June 2019	7,304.68			
TOTAL SURPLUS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS		6788.93	3154.87	1297.15