

What a relief we are almost at the end of April – hopefully the fog will start to lift and our leaders will start to change some of the restrictions we have all been trying very dutifully to follow.

Warm wishes in particular to the families trying very hard to juggle working from home with remote schooling and the teachers who have pulled it all together.

## PLANNING

We thank all our members for their interest and support. Sometimes we get very depressed and wonder what the hell we are bothering for. But every now and again we get to the end of the tunnel and we get a small win.

**1a Grandview Parade/4 Bridge Road** – Application to subdivide the existing dwelling into 2 has been refused by the Council Planning Committee (comprising 6 Councillors).

Thank you Cr Jim Mason for your support, this was a difficult call. Thankyou to Crs Sullivan, Aitken & Grzybek for supporting the motion moved by Cr Mason for refusal.

This is a long saga in Barwon Heads and regardless of the result of this application this building is with us for a long time. It has highlighted a disjointed and blinkered planning department at CoGG, the number of times that facts and the logical have been scrambled into an argument to ignore and block are too numerous to reveal. We have notes and emails from 2017 to today on this matter, which highlight an inability and unwillingness of CoGG to review this permit and ensure compliance. The flat earth approach is unacceptable.

The regulatory process for this development to date has been completely unsatisfactory and highlights major flaws in Council's administration, supervision and enforcement of planning applications and building works as well as the State Planning system.

This development is the first substantial project undertaken in the Barwon Heads IHDA and from the plans was obvious that it would have a significant impact on the neighbourhood character, the abutting owner and public amenity.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Council issued a certificate of compliance pursuant to section 970 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act). The certificate refers to the use of a food and drink premises (café) and one dwelling as shown on plans by Michael Higgins dated 4 March 2016.

A permit for development in the IHDA area of Barwon Heads is subject to Schedule 42 of the Design and Development Overlay. The planning officer's analysis of the Design Requirements acknowledges that the development fails to meet 6 of the 7 requirements and seeks to excuse them all, including one by a condition that is of doubtful application and another without questioning whether an already constructed front fence complied with the requirements or was constructed in accordance with a permit. It fails to comply with the important issues of:

1. Site coverage
2. Street setback
3. Side setback

4. Permeability
5. Fencing
6. Canopy trees

It is always interesting listening to some of the Geelong based Councillors and their views of the capacity of Barwon Heads to sustain significant growth. Some divorce the coastal community from the opportunity to create a suburban shopping strip.

Please look at the report and our submission on our website.

**DISTINCTIVE AREA AND LANDSCAPE DECLARATION “DAL” PLEASE READ IT AND SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND IDEAS**

We have been recently advised that Phase 2 of the Public Engagement process is now open for the Bellarine Peninsula Distinctive Area and Landscape program.

Due to the current C19 situation, there are two surveys, seeking your feedback to help inform the development of a draft Statement of Planning Policy. There will be no Public Open House consultations – which is unfortunate. Please read the report and then put in your own submission. The BHA will be preparing a submission and will publish our thoughts mid may. Be wary of completing the surveys before you have read the information.

You can complete one or both surveys, just remember to click the 'submit' button after completing each survey.

You can also submit a response via a written email submission - details are below.

So please read the documentation on the DEWLP website below. The Association strongly urges all members/friends to make a submission, as we do not want this important Legislation to be framed without adequate local input (and knowledge) due to the current C19 situation.

Some suggested topics to include in your submission are:

- Climate Change and it's impact on the Bellarine;
- Protection of the Bluff and coastal reserves
- Maintaining existing town boundaries
- Combining all the wetland reserves under one state reserve,
- Reduced building heights
- Strengthened heritage controls,
- Coastal reserves/land should all be PCRZ (conservation zoning)
- Expanding the Port Phillip Heads Marine Park,
- Controls on subdivisions and mandated Housing Land parcel sizes
- Maintaining our foreshores

Public Engagement of this phase closes at the end of May 2020.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bellarine-peninsula>

## REFURBISHMENT OF OLD KINDERGARTEN IN CLIFFORD PDE TO A COMMUNITY & ARTS HUB

As you know Lisa Neville has pledged \$1m to refurbish the old kindergarten building. This is a CoGG project. We are represented on the working group and are quietly confident a proper project plan is evolving and we are making progress. A Council report has been prepared to inform Council of the concept options developed to ascertain what is possible on the site and the costs associated with each option to guide the development of the site. This report will be presented to Councils' Bellarine Community Focus Meeting to be held on 12th May.

## LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

We encourage our members to watch CoGG meetings online via the streaming service that has been set up. It is not very good but more interesting than labouring through the minutes that are often very late.

We would hope for better if meetings are held via zoom or a similar medium now the Local Government Act allows Councillors to meet online for decision making.