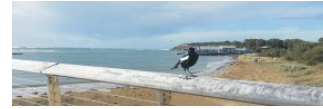


Barwon Heads Association Inc.

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BARWON HEADS ASSOCIATION AGM ANNUAL REPORT, MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2023 SENIOR CITIZENS, CLIFFORD STREET, 7.00PM

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2022/23

The Barwon Heads Association (BHA) acknowledges the Wathawurrung People, the traditional owners of the country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to them, their culture and their elders past, present and emerging.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The BHA Committee have continued to meet approximately monthly during the past year, in addition to holding General Meetings for our members.

Our first General Meeting was held on 20th March 2023 when the BHA welcomed **Jon Duthie, our local environmentalist, and President of the Friends of the Bluff**. Jon spoke of the importance of the Bluff to the Wathawurrung people, home to amazing plants, birds and animals and is a calming, meditative space with great views. Friends of the Bluff is a community volunteer group formed in 1995 to assist in the recovery and re-vegetation of the Bluff.

Along with the Ocean Grove Rotary Club, the BHA assisted with the sale of Ducks for the **Great Barwon River Duck Race** and the launching and collection of Ducks on Easter Saturday, April 8th. The BHA thank Heather Willson from the Ocean Grove Rotary for the amazing time and effort which Heather and the Rotary Club Members put into this event. Monies raised from the event are shared locally in Barwon Heads/Ocean Grove with local groups including with the Barwon Heads Primary School, the Barwon Heads Scouts Group and the BHA.

A special thanks to the numerous businesses in Barwon Heads who donated excellent prizes to the lucky duck winners and help make the event a success.

Barwon Water were our guests at our General Meeting on Monday 22nd May, 2023. Shaun Cumming (now CEO) and Kate Vallance spoke about the **Barwon Water Renewable Organics Network (RRON)** which they are currently consulting with the community on. They plan to build this new recycling facility at Black Rock. Shawn updated our members on plans to upgrade and replace the Ocean Grove Sewer Main which, following a major spill in 2021, has been found to have a manufacturing fault in the pipe used and is to be replaced through Barwon Heads in late 2023/24.

Libby Coker, Federal member for Corangamite and **Alison Marchant, State Member for the Bellarine** were our guest speakers at the BHA General Meeting on Monday 21st August at the Barwon Heads Arts and Community Hub. Libby and Alison spoke about current housing issues, cost of living, assistance for rentals, environmental programs, storm water run-off into the Karaaf wetlands, Barwon Head Roads Duplication, the Library, state debt planning reforms and the Bellarine DAL. Questions from our members continued after the meeting with time to speak to Libby and Alison on an individual basis.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In addition to our general meetings and the Great Barwon River Duck Race, the Committee of the BHA have been represented in a broad range of community activities including:

- Convening the Transport and Parking sub-committee which meet with representatives from Regional Roads, the City of Geelong, Barwon Coast and traders (including IGA), BH Cycling Club, the BH Primary School and the Ocean Grove Community Association as an observer. I thank David Littleton and Colin Bridges for their contribution to the sub committee who are currently reviewing parking in the CBD, speed limits and the School bicycle route safety issues.
- Liaising with CoGG on new tree planting. Rod Ashby and David Littleton have been driving this issue, and I thank and congratulate them on the new trees we see planted around Barwon Heads in the last few months, and thank Dan from CoGG for his enthusiastic support.
- Participating in the Combined Bellarine Community Association (CBCA) which meet regularly during the year, and I thank Colin Bridges and Sandy Gatehouse for representing Barwon Heads at these meetings. Along with the BHA, the CBCA represented the Bellarine in submissions concerning the Bellarine DAL which have now been gazetted by Government and will be slowly worked into the existing planning schemes. This process has taken several years to complete, and I thank Sandy Gatehouse, Colin Bridges and all the other members of the BHA, the Save Barwon Heads Alliance and the Barwon Heads community who actively contributed to the final result.

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- The BHA submitted a comprehensive and well researched submission to the Electoral Review Expert Panel (the Panel) set up by the State Government to review the Local Council Ward boundaries, names, and in the case of CoGG, reverting to single councillor wards. Brian Cook prepared and presented the BHA Submission to the Panel and I thank Brian for his researched and comprehensive submission and suggestions as to how the outcome may be improved. Brian has followed this submission up with compelling letters to the Minister for Local Government. I thank Brian for his efforts on this submission which the Panel acknowledged and I also thank the individual members of the BHA who put in submissions to the Panel.
- Participating in the Bellarine Community Safety Group. Brian Cook is our representative on this group who along with the community, council and police look at ways to help keep our community safe.
- Monitoring planning applications in Barwon Heads and the surrounding area. The BHA has always had an interest in planning and development in and around Barwon Heads. Through the work of the BHA and community groups across the Bellarine, all towns now have a fixed boundary, more awareness of height limits and an awareness of the Zoning regulations of different areas.
- Working to strengthen planning rules and integrating the DAL into local planning regulations. This area of planning will continue to be the major focus for the BHA, the CBCA and the Bellarine communities. Led by Sandy and Colin, along with great BHA member support through time and donations, the Bellarine Distinctive Area and Landscape Statement of Planning Policy has now been gazetted by government.

Scrutinising of proposed developments in our sensitive environment will continue to be a challenge.

- Supporting our Library and working with Friends of the Barwon Heads Library. Following CoGG's decision to close the Barwon Heads Library, Friends of the Barwon Heads Library with support from the community of Barwon Heads and the BHA campaigned long and hard to overturn Councils budget decisions. This is not the first time our library has been threatened and is likely to be an issue again in the future. The BHA acknowledge the commitment of Karen Firth as president of Friends of the Library and active member of the BHA and will continue to support the library to ensure its future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

BHA continue to share close relationships with other community groups including the Barwon Heads Scout Group, Barwon Heads Arts Community Hub, Save Barwon Heads Alliance, the Barwon Heads Senior Citizens the Ocean Grove Community Association, and the Combined Bellarine Community Association.

We also have strong relationships with Barwon Heads Primary School and Library, Barwon Coast, the Bellarine Catchment Network (Where Geoffrey Waite is our representative), Friends of the Barwon, Friends of the Bluff, the City of Greater Geelong and especially our Council representatives Jim Mason, Trent Sullivan and a special thanks to Stephanie Asher who has recently retired.

The BHA welcome Elise Wilkinson as our new councillor to the Bellarine and Barwon Heads.

We also thank Libby Coker and Alison Marchant for the support and commitment they give to the electorate and our community.

A special thanks to Trish and her monthly publication of Talking Heads, and the generous space she gives us. Barwon Heads community look forward to seeing what amazing subjects will be on the front cover, not to mention the latest recipe, and of course the Barwon Heads Association news along with other local items.

Thank you to Sarah Jackson for sending out our members newsletters and updates.

OUR MEMBERS

Without our members, there would be no BHA. As President, I thank all our members for their support and donations which are vital to allow the BHA to function and represent the community of Barwon Heads.

The BHA is currently in a strong financial position mainly due to no major planning issues and member support ESPECIALLY Donations. The BHA's greatest strength is in the number of members we can claim to have, and since Covid, numbers have dropped a little. I would urge everyone who wish to see Barwon Heads maintain its character and charm as a Village by the Sea and preserve the natural environment in which we are located to help support the BHA and take an active interest in the community and visitors.

I would encourage our members to discuss our activities and encourage others to participate.

THE BHA COMMITTEE

I thank my committee for their effort and support during my year as President. I could not manage without their work behind the scenes.

Colin Bridges as Vice president, is of significant support on planning, editing our publications and being available to assist in keeping the BHA functioning.

Sandy Gatehouse as immediate past president, has kept me up to the mark and has provided valuable advice and guidance. Sandy has taken on a big commitment with Barwon Coast for which we congratulate her as well as keeping us up to date at the BHA.

Brian Cook is our Treasurer and his approach to new systems and information analysis along with online payments of subs and donations is of great benefit to our members. Brian is the leader of the Barwon Heads Scout group as well as preparing excellent submissions for the BHA.

Karen Firth has been assisting in the update of the website and is a constant worker behind the scenes. Karen is President of the Friends of the Barwon Heads Community Library Committee and a tireless worker for her community.

David Littleton has taken on the important role as the Chair of the Traffic and Parking Sub Committee.

David has COGG to contend with in the areas of parking, street beautification and seeking funding for the programs the Council have agreed to when accepting the Traffic and Parking Study Report.

Rod Ashby has taken an active interest in the environment and trees around the town. Along with David, Rod has encouraged the council to plant trees around the town and has a good relationship with Dan who is in charge of tree planting for CoGG

I wish to also thank John Nolan for the assistance given to the BHA in preparation of several planning submissions. The BHA appreciate being able to call on people with special talents to assist in preparation of such detailed submissions. I have tried to remember everyone who have assisted the BHA over the year, and apologies to any organisation or person I have omitted.

Philip Bade
President 2021-2023