

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **Barwon Heads Association March 2014**

**Next meeting**  
**MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm.**  
**Barwon Heads Hall**

**Agenda: follow up from our February meeting from VicRoads.**  
**How to achieve safe outcomes for our pedestrians and cyclists?**  
**CoGG money distribution. What is the new system?**  
**At the November 2014 poll Barwon Heads is now in a new electorate.**

### **Report on public meeting re pedestrian safety in Barwon Heads**

45 residents including representatives from the Senior Citizens. Tennis Club, Trader's & Tourism, and Barwon Coast met with Scott Lawrence from Vic Roads and Gary Van Driel from CoGG. Apologies from Principal Primary School, Helen Edwards from the Opportunity Shop, Vicky Strachan from BH Arts Council, Paul Fox Committee member.

**Those present were invited to identify areas of concern, "hotspots" in the town. Numerous spots were identified:**

**1 The Bridge Precinct** (VicRoads and council)  
the crossing opposite hotel (dangerous poor design)  
the Bridge intersection Flinders Pde/Ewing Blythe Dv.

**2 Hitchcock Av/ Bridge Rd** (VicRoads & Council)  
Hitchcock Ave/Bridge Rd roundabout (dangerous for pedestrians)  
Bridge Rd /Golflinks Rd corner (poor visibility)

**3 Hitchcock Ave** (Council)  
Clifford Pde & Hitchcock Ave entrance (driver behavior)  
Uniting Church across to doctor's surgery (speeding cars)  
Community market on Saturday's  
(poor visibility corner Ozone /Hitchcock Rd)  
New development of shops on corner of Ozone Rd  
(will increase stress in this area)

**4. APCO/Geelong Rd** corner going east to Hitchcock Ave  
(VicRoads but mainly Council)  
Skate Park, Bowling Club, Tennis courts  
(significant increase in usage by juniors)  
Tennis club now has 80 juniors on Friday nights)  
Training on ovals for athletics, cricket, soccer on Friday nights and weekends,  
New kinder traffic into Geelong Rd and general pedestrian usage to the park and from  
the river.

**5. 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Rd** (Council & Barwon Coast)  
(no pedestrian paths from golf club track to surf club)  
pedestrian crossing at surf club has been removed

## **6 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Golf Club to Barwon Heads (VicRoads)**

no path at all

CoGG advised that pedestrian crossing in budget for next year 2014-15. Referred to walkability study (which has not been published).

Main intersections are Vic Roads responsibility. VicRoads (looking at technical solutions)

### **Residents concerns and suggestions.**

It was clear early in the meeting that residents thought the optimal approach was one of integrating various solutions and taking a whole –of-town approach. We are aware of solutions that have worked in other towns, for example Hastings Street in Noosa and Mornington main street as well as Gilbert Street in Torquay.

There was general agreement that the increase of cars and pedestrians in town generally means that what used to work for “the village” doesn’t work anymore. There was also general agreement that we would prefer, if possible, a minimum impact – maximum effect approach. Another point of interest was universal agreement about lessening speed limits through Barwon Heads, something that would not have been considered even five years ago and highlights the effects of the considerable growth we are experiencing. There is no doubt that Barwon Heads faces ever greater growth in traffic and housing density on a year by year basis.

### **Lowering speed limits.**

Lessening speed limits to 40 kph was supported for the following areas, from Hitchcock Ave along Bridge Rd to the bridge, from Ozone Rd south along Hitchcock Ave to Bridge Rd. There was also support for one speed from Barwon Heads to Ocean Grove to limit constant changes.

### **Solutions other than traffic lights.**

While the introduction of traffic lights to Barwon Heads was only supported by a few, pedestrian crossing, and speed humps (the wombat variety) were supported. The use of rumble strips, better speed signage and better visibility near corners because of illegally parked cars were also mentioned. Residents of Margate St and Flinders Pde expressed concern at the usage of their streets as throughways which means in reality, speedways. Residents of Seaview Estate spoke of the difficulty of crossing busy Golf Links Rd especially now that young children from the estate were out and about. This of course was especially important during summer. Poor lighting in some areas was also mentioned as was the possibility of making Grandview Pde south one way to stop right hand turn into Grandview from Bridge Rd outside IGA.

### **So what happens next?**

Of course residents asked what assurance do we have the Council & VicRoads will listen and act on our concerns and that the meeting would, frankly, amount to something positive. As other towns along the coast are facing the same issues the answer is clear – it is up to us to keep the relevant authorities aware of our needs. It’s an old clique but a good one – “it’s the squeaky wheel which gets the oil.”

### **CoCC and Community Grants \$7.2 million a year process kaput.**

The state government has written to all councils across the state directing them not to allocate any type of discretionary funding to individual councilors. Technically ward funding is finished but that in itself does not solve the problem of transparency, fairness and credibility about the distribution of money to community groups across the city.

The question of how the money will be allocated remains. There is also the question of the criterion used to allocate these valuable funds. So many small groups of hard-

working volunteers could easily be overlooked. For instance will the Arts be acknowledged? What about Heritage projects?

Discussion around our response to this will be part of our agenda for our March meeting.

Next meeting March 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. Barwon Heads Hall.  
Judith Brooks President