



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

It is with pleasure I present the President's Annual Report.

2013-14 has been a busy year for the BHA with outcomes still in the pipeline. Apart from a replacement tree at the bridge roundabout that took over six months to achieve, we are awaiting wider outcomes. We are pushing ahead with several campaigns that we hope will bear fruit in the coming months. Much of our energy has gone into our focus on pedestrian safety and traffic management. This has meant consultation with firstly our community and then secondly the agencies who are responsible for such matters. Our February public meeting/forum on pedestrian safety have been effectively used to brief our local council and state representatives and have reaped positive rewards via the direct involvement of VicRoads.

This year our focus has been less on forums and more on information sessions. These have covered Barwon Heads fire preparation presented by the local CFA, a talk by Tehree Gordon from Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary and a presentation by William Tieppo Regional Manager VicRoads. During 2013-14 we have continued to build relationships within our community and providing a contact point for exchanging ideas and proposals of interest to our community. For instance, we started the important community conversation around the future of the old kindergarten and strongly support its retention as a community asset. We have also drawn the community's attention to the need to articulate support for public spaces, especially the village park.

### **Activities**

1 Continuing our theme of improving relationships with key stakeholders in our community we have liaised with the Barwon Coast, the Barwon Heads Sustainability Group, The Senior Citizens, The Primary School and the Trader's Association and recently the Barwon Heads Arts Council. We keep a consistent communications with our members and residents via our Talking Heads column, personal letters to members, our newsletters and our website. We have also become closer to the Ocean Grove Community Association and plan to run a state election community forum with them this November.

2 2014 has seen our new-look website go online. We acknowledge the great support of our Barwon Heads Community Bank in supporting us with a grant of \$1,000 towards the cost of the website. Shelley Cross from Ocean Grove's Wonderful Websites has helped

design, host and administer our site. We have showcased Barwon Heads on our site and are keen to explore ways of using the website to the advantage of both the town and the association.

3 We have attended question time at CoGG during the year and have kept a consistent communication with our local ward councilor and our local state representative. We expect to negotiate with the mayor's office to run a joint BHA and OGCA meeting for us to meet Mayor Lyons. In preparation with the change from South Barwon District to our new state electoral district, Bellarine we have met with both the Liberal and Labor candidates for Bellarine to discuss issues facing the town. Our priority has been funds for a resolution of pedestrian safety at the Bridge Rd Hitchcock Ave roundabout.

4 With the help of Barwon Coast we have revived the issue of 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Road Safety. The 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Road Working Group met with Viki Shelton the relevant CoGG manager on 30<sup>th</sup> May. She had authorised the finances and resources for a new study to review the work done in 2012. We are currently waiting on council engineers to do the final work on the environmental significance of sand and vegetation removal. Vicki Shelton again stated that pedestrian safety at major intersections in Barwon Heads must have priority in terms of limited council budgets however we have lobby both mayor candidates for the state election regarding further funding for 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Road.

5 The formation of Pedestrian Traffic Safety Working Group  
Met on 15<sup>th</sup> July and will form the basis of our liaison group with VicRoads.  
The first meeting of the PTWG largely reviewed ideas and suggestions discussed at February's public meeting. Focus was on the recognized "hot spots" in BH. The aim of the meeting was to discuss ideas rather than reach conclusions.  
There was general agreement that speed limits were one of our main options for traffic management. 40kph in Hitchcock should go down to Ozone Rd or Geelong Rd or from APCO. A 40 kph in Bridge Rd from Hitchcock Ave to the Bridge. Pedestrian Crossings and/or wombats (raised crossings) across Bridge Rd east and west at intersection with Hitchcock Ave and across Hitchcock north and south at the same intersection.

#### **Our forum/meeting program 2013-14**

**September 2013** AGM at The Heads. Mulaway Room Guest speaker G21 CEO Elaine Carbines

**October 2013** Special General Meeting Special resolution Constitutional changes.

**November 2013** Combined community forum with Ocean Grove Community Association for federal election.

**December 2013** Christmas drinks meeting.

**February 2014** Public Meeting re pedestrian safety in Barwon Heads

**March 2014** Meeting discussion re response from VicRoads and CoGG re pedestrian safety.

**April 2014** No meeting Easter Monday.

**May 2014** Presentation from Barwon Heads CFA

**June 2014** Presentation from Tehree Gordon Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary

**July 2014** Presentation from Vic Roads Regional Director William Tieppo & Luke Britnell from Strategic Planning.

**August 2014** Future of the old Kindergarten site in Clifford Pde. Motion: That the BHA strongly supports the old kindergarten site remaining as a community asset for community use. " Carried. Motion: That the BHA strongly supports the retention of

public spaces in Barwon Heads. Carried.  
**September 2014** Annual General Meeting President's & Treasurer's Report.

### **Future Challenges for the BHA**

The main challenge facing Barwon Heads is keeping enough residents aware of and interested in the issues which will impact on the community.

We will be giving attention to rates, parking, the western boundary, Armstrong Creek expansion while continuing to campaign for a workable pedestrian crossing system to meet the design challenges Barwon Heads presents.

It is also important to maintain a case for the completion of stage 5 of the Ring Road as soon as possible to provide an effective traffic by-pass of Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads.

### **Acknowledgements**

When Sandy Gatehouse and myself became President and Vice President in August 2012 Trish Clayton the editor of our local paper Talking Heads offered us her immediate support. Our photos soon appeared and the BHA was given the inside page of the paper for our monthly column. The BHA thanks Editor Trish Clayton for her enthusiasm, energy, and commitment to her community organizations.

Bob Jordon, General Manager of Barwon Coast has been available and always ready to discuss our concerns. We also thank him for this.

Bernard Napthine, in his role as President of the Trader's Association, has also offered the BHA very positive support and Viki Strauhan from BH Arts Council has been a strong communicator and member of the BHA.

I wish to thank all the Committee for their efforts during the year, especially the executive, Vice-President Sandy Gatehouse who has continued to offer enormous time, research resources and wise advice to the BHA and Treasurer Geoffrey Waite who has kept meticulous spread sheets on every cent spent. Thanks also to Richard Hastings for his work on the Public Transport, Paul Fox for his great community research and contribution plus providing resources for the BHA Committee and for Marg Pocock for her perspective on the needs of the town.

Finally thank you to the many residents of Barwon Heads who support us both in words and action.

Judith Brooks  
President  
September 2014