

Newsletter April 2016

Please join us next Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm at the Elderly Citizens Centre in Clifford Pde.

Our agenda will be as follows:

1. **BHA & BARWON HEADS SUSTAINABILITY GROUP JOINT MEETING** – (we have always had a good working relationship with the Sustainability group and welcome them to our April meeting.) Please join us for convivial discussion on Community Actions for a sustainable Barwon Heads. We think this meeting is very timely, and will build on very positive community events in the first part of the year, and robust discussion about the future of Barwon Heads and how we want it to grow.
2. BHA business
  - a. Fund Raising
  - b. Objection to 9 Bridge Rd development
  - c. Managing residential development advisory committee
  - d. Removal of vegetation and use of bushfire exemption by developers

### Part 1

At the 2015 Festival of the Sea, Barwon Heads Sustainability Group (BHSG) asked patrons for their GREAT IDEAS for Barwon Heads. After receiving many great ideas at the Festival, BHSG then consulted with 18 local community groups, collecting and collating more ideas for the town. These are now captured in the document Community Actions for a Sustainable Barwon Heads (see <http://www.bhsustainability.org.au/>), together with a wide range of projects and activities already underway, under the 7 themes:

- Community, Culture & Health
- Food
- Local Economy
- Natural Environment
- Resource Efficiency
- Transport
- Urban Design

Out of this consultation have come further ideas for projects, that groups might work on together, including:

- The Barwon Estuary Project
- A suggested Urban Design Strategy Project to embrace the many identified concerns, in the consultation with the BHA last April and others, regarding urban design, safety and transport issues
- A possible forum series, including Renewable Energy and deeper examination of the natural impacts of Climate Change

Please come and participate in the discussion.

### Part 2 – BHA business

- a. **Fund Raising** – the Committee is considering seeking professional support to represent the BHA at the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee and the proceedings for 9 Bridge Rd. We will need at least \$10,000 and are reluctant to proceed until we have raised this amount. If you are willing to contribute please send Geoffrey Waite our Treasurer an email with the amount you are willing to give. This is the first time we have asked for donations of this kind – and cannot stress how important we think this is. We also need more people who are interested in planning matters to participate. Please contact us:

Geoffrey Waite, Treasurer [agwaite@gmail.com](mailto:agwaite@gmail.com)  
Sandy Gatehouse, President [sandraandsarah@bigpond.com](mailto:sandraandsarah@bigpond.com)

## b. Objection 9 Bridge Rd

**You can still object:** *“I confirm that objections to planning applications can be made up until a decision is made. No decision has been made in relation to the current application at 9 Bridge Rd, Barwon Heads (PP1669/2015).*

*Regards, Rory O’Loghlen, (Acting) Coordinator, Statutory Planning CoGG 11/04/16*

The BHA has objected, in accordance with discussions and approval at our March meeting. Our objection is on our website.

### SUMMARY

- The unique coastal character of Barwon Heads needs to be protected
- Our township does not have the infrastructure or capacity to absorb this scale of development.
- To approve this application will set an undesirable precedent and alter the character of the area to a degree that will make it difficult for council to refuse similar applications in the future.
- This proposal is inconsistent with the Barwon Heads Structure Plan, with the residential neighbourhood, and its mass and bulk and removal of the historic house will have a huge and negative impact on the village of Barwon Heads.
- The bulk of this building, with boundary to boundary development is not suitable for Barwon Heads and is at loggerheads with planning objectives agreed with the community over the past 15 years.

## c. Managing residential development advisory committee

As we discussed in March the application for the development of 9 Bridge Rd Barwon Heads highlights the risks of the new Residential Growth Zone. The BHA has put in a submission to the advisory Committee and is listed to present on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. In accordance with the motion approved at the meeting, we are endeavouring to brief Shelly Fanning town planner to represent us.

It appears that most of our good work and community consultation over the past 15 years has been deleted from the Municipal Strategy Statement in 2013 so that the new zones could be imposed on us.

We remind all Barwon Heads residents that a very good vision for the Barwon Heads township was developed during the preparation of the Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan (BPSP), as follows:

“In the year 2016 **Barwon Heads** will be a unique, sustainable, residential and environmental hub; a landlocked community surrounded by pristine river, coast and wetlands. An intimate community which supports all age groups and provides a place of belonging for residents and visitors alike; where human impact is managed to support the fragile natural surroundings by:

- Clearly defined limitations on urban development
- Protecting and nurturing natural surroundings by managing human footprint
- Supporting walking, cycling, fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming and generally enjoying what our coastal village has to offer in an environmentally sensitive way”.

- d. **Removal Of Vegetation – there is significant energy to ensure that the protections that we considered were in place are retained and that there are robust protections for the future.** CoGG appear to have abandoned any responsibility for vegetation protection on lots under 1 acre in area within Warrenbeen Estate. Peter Bettess has stated that consideration of a vegetation overlay will be considered as part of the 2016 Structure Plan. This is not a satisfactory solution given that the 2010 Structure Plan

identified the need for an overlay and 6 years later nothing has been done. (We are in awe of the processes that we are teased with and the lack of apparent value given to them over time).

What is to prevent immediate action to put an overlay in place.

## **Other Business**

### **CoGG – update on Council issues**

#### **Diary reminders**

#### **Sunday 24th APRIL 2016 at 2.30pm - Barwon Heads Community Hall ANZAC EVE tribute performance! Barwon Heads Fine Music Society VOICES OF WAR presented by Geoffrey W Graham**

A 2 hour long journey with insights of the extraordinary events of 100 years ago.

'Hear the rifle fire, feel the pain of the soldiers, the anguish of loved ones, hear the cackle of the Aussie larrikin, the red glow of poppies and taste the bully beef.

This war touched many people—soldiers, nurses, families, relations and friends. Experience their voices.

Tickets available through GPAC 5225 1200

Members \$20; Visitors \$25.

Enquiries: phone Jenny on 5254 2580

#### **August 15th BHA meeting – the Hon Lisa Neville member for Bellarine will be attending our meeting.**

PLEASE JOIN US AT 7 NEXT MONDAY AND PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERESTING AND DIVERSE EVENING – tea and cake will be served.

## **Sacking of Geelong Council**

We are sad that the governance at the City of Greater Geelong has reached such a low ebb that the State Government has decided to sack the Council.

As ratepayers and stakeholders in this mess we look forward to intelligent and open discussions with the new regime.

We all support democratically elected Councils and hope that there is an election sooner than the 4 1/2 years that is proposed.

During this time we look forward to robust discussion on the boundaries of the City of Greater Geelong, and wonder whether the council formed in the 1990's is ever going to work. The communities of interest are too disparate and diverse.

Hopefully we will have an opportunity to work with the new structure especially on the new Barwon Heads Structure Plan.