

BHA

BARWON HEADS ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg.No.A003024 4U
P.O. Barwon Heads 3227



Barwon Heads Association Newsletter May 2016

Please join us next Monday 16th May at 7:00pm at the Elderly Citizens Centre in Clifford Pde.

Our agenda will be as follows:

Part 1 SAFETY & SECURITY

Barwon Heads Neighbourhood Watch - Revisiting our discussions on safety in Barwon Heads. Andy Barlow has established a new Barwon Heads neighbourhood watch group. He will discuss this and seek support.

Part 2 UPDATE ON WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

New

- Barwon Heads Structure Plan 2010 – review process 2016
- Drainage outfall ozone rd

Ongoing

- Managing residential development advisory committee
- Objection to 9 Bridge Rd development
- Removal of native vegetation

Part 3 COMMITTEE

- Fundraising
- Subscriptions 2016-2017
- Committee membership

Can you help - we also need more people who are interested in planning matters & local history to participate in the BHA. What should the coastal village of Barwon Heads look like and how should it evolve???

We are organizing a Federal electoral forum for the 20th of June with the Ocean Grove Community Association. Please put in your diary. We will advise of the venue closer to the date. This is very important, Corangamite is a very important electorate.

PART 1 - SAFETY & SECURITY

The BHA has always focused on the safety and security in Barwon Heads and our October meeting had community safety as our main theme and was attended by Sr Sergeant Angelo Ferrero from the Bellarine Police Station at Ocean Grove. He has now been replaced by Shane Madigan, the new Snr. Sergeant in charge of the Bellarine Police Station. The BHA, through Judith Brooks has also been an active member of the Bellarine Community Safety group that has been established by our local member Lisa Neville.

We welcome the initiatives of local resident Andy Barlow to establish a neighbourhood watch group. He will be discussing this at our meeting and we encourage our members to join.

Jeremy Gaylard has also volunteered to be our representative on the Committee of Management for the Bellarine Police Community Support Register.

PART 2 – WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Barwon Heads Structure Plan Review 2016

We have been advised that The City of Greater Geelong has commenced a review of the Barwon Heads Structure Plan. The BHA Committee met with Tim Hellsten & Andre Schmid from CoGG during the week to discuss our concerns about the process and to identify areas that had not been implemented or followed in the current Plan. In particular the protection of native vegetation. We confirmed our confusion at the number of strategic documents and our belief that Barwon Heads was unable to sustain the scale of development that is proposed in the new residential zones.

We emphasized the need to preserve the coastal village character and that infrastructure is currently inadequate and will just be further stressed. We highlighted the need to sustain the coastal village feel and the current pressures on parking, roads, drainage, power, water, schools, poor public transport etc. A major concern is the protection of the town boundaries and an expectation that the previous decision is confirmed.

We also discussed the mechanisms that Council uses to communicate and expressed our view that this seems to be inadequate. There is always a high expectation when we participate in these exercises that the community will be listened to, and that the Council will do what it says. We are continually disappointed and increasingly concerned.

The review of the structure plan process (IN COGG'S OWN WORDS):

- *The requirement to undertake a review is set out in Part B, Section 3.0 of the current Structure Plan.*
- *The review will have regard to all aspects, directions and outcomes of the existing Structure Plan and the Panel Report for Planning Scheme Amendment C159 – The Barwon Heads Structure Plan.*
- *The first stage of the review is an information scoping stage. This involves requesting information from referral agencies and internal Council Departments in relation to the current status and future provision of services, infrastructure and facilities to the township; and an update of directions in the current Structure Plan.*
- *Referral Agencies include Govt Departments, Infrastructure Providers (i.e. Barwon Water, VicRoads), CCMA/ Central Coast Board, Barwon Health/ Bellarine Community Health, Barwon Coast COM and so on.*
- *At the same time we are also talking to community stakeholder groups and landowners informally to outline the process for the review and to make sure we are across all issues for the town.*
- *Background information received at the information scoping stage will be used to prepare consultation material for a wider community engagement process later in the year.*
- *A consultation strategy is still being prepared to outline how we can effectively engage with the Barwon Heads community.*
- *The final timeframe for the review is yet to be finalised. Consultation with the community is anticipated around the middle of 2016, with an adopted Structure Plan expected during the first half of 2017. Once adopted, Council will initiate a Planning Scheme Amendment, which will include a further formal exhibition and consultation process.*
- *The Barwon Heads Association will be kept informed of key dates in the review process as they become known.*

Ozone Rd pipe – We are aware through the Barwon Heads Sailing Club and Barwon Coast that CoGG are preparing to install a new drainage pipe to replace the existing outfall at the Ozone Rd jetty. The new pipe will be further away from the jetty. We are still clarifying information and understand the Sailing Club are in negotiations with the Council. We hope that a representative of the Club will be at our meeting. The BHA committee understands that there is considerable concern about the scale and potential impact of the proposed pipe. This is the first time most had heard of it. We all recognise that there is increased interest in and use of our little river beaches, this has been quite notable this year.

We are concerned that between 2011 and Feb 2016 a 800mm diameter pipe has increased to a 2.2mx2m2 culvert - its huge!!!. Was the 800mm pipe a guess, or has it grown to handle the impact of the significant amount of development? Is this the best solution or the cheapest? What are the potential impacts? What has the rainfall and runoff modelling considered? Is there a gross pollutant trap? Visually it will be very intrusive and ugly, apart from the obvious boating & safety concerns. This looks like an engineers solution without considering other factors, and no real community consultation. Is it too late to engage with the Council? What processes are there in place to measure water quality & e-coli levels.

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 19th May. We have briefed Shelly Fanning town planner/environmental lawyer to advise 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.

Objection 9 Bridge Rd – still ongoing - 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'Loughlen, (Acting) Coordinator, Statutory Planning CoGG 11/04/16

As you are aware the BHA has objected, in accordance with discussions and approval at our March meeting. Our objection is on our website.

In conjunction with Ross Harrison we have also been reviewing the historical significance of the old house. We have been in discussions with a Heritage Architect and Heritage Victoria. Ross has been the leader of this and has put in an amazing amount of time and energy and has developed some very good relationships. Information is still being collated.

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 understand that CoGG are working on this **Part 3 BHA business**

- **Fund Raising – the Committee has taken professional advice relating to the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee and the proceedings for 9 Bridge Rd. We have received some very generous donations and thank members for their support. We are still seeking further donations and have established a separate bank account solely for donations to seek professional advice.**

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. Please contact us:

**Geoffrey Waite, Treasurer agwaite@gmail.com
Sandy Gatehouse, President sandraandsarah@bigpond.com**

- **Subscriptions 2016-2017
The Committee propose that subscriptions are increased for 2016-2017, commencing July 1, as follows:**

**Family membership \$30
Individual membership \$20
Concession membership \$10**

All membership renewals received before 30th June will remain at the current rate.

- **Committee membership
The Committee have co-opted Steve Paterson to the Committee. We thank him for his time and interest. We welcome his thoroughness and skills.**

Diary Reminders

June 20th – Federal Election Forum (venue to be confirmed) 7:00pm

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