



Barwon Heads Association Newsletter, June 2016.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – thank you so much to you all for your support this year. All members who have joined since March 2016 will have their membership extended to July 2017.

Please encourage your neighbors and friends to join. We thank the wonderful donations we have received this year – they have enabled us to get planning and heritage advice from experts. This advice has been given very generously with the experts we have used all giving us considerable discounts and been very generous with their time. We have all benefited from professional advice rather than relying on volunteer time and information. We are in a much stronger bargaining position when we have experts supporting us.

Any ideas for future fund raising are very welcome.

Notice of BHA AGM
19th September. 7:00pm at the Senior Citizens Centre. Nomination forms will be on the website soon.

ELECTION FORUM – Thank you to all our members who attended this forum. We enjoy our close working relationship with the Ocean Grove Community Association and thank Michael Harbour and especially Phil Emery for chairing. It was an interesting night, even for those who have already worked out which political party they follow. We know Sarah Henderson and Libby Coker, but a number of the other candidates were just names and hearing from them in person was quite a surprise.

We were pleased that 8 candidates participated and over 120 Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove residents attended. The following topics were covered: Corangamite economy, environment, infrastructure, health and retirement. There was also passionate discussion on the plans by the Coalition for a plebiscite on gay marriage and on the fate of refugees in offshore centres.

9 BRIDGE RD, HERITAGE VALUES REVIEW - THE FULL REPORT CONTRIBUTES TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HERITAGE HISTORY OF BARWON HEADS PLEASE READ IT. As most are aware there is a current planning application proposing the complete demolition of the extant 19th century house and its replacement with a three storey mixed-use building. The BHA with Ross Harrison commissioned an independent review of the heritage values of the house and site. This report has been prepared by RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants. This is a wonderful report and available on our website. It highlights what is possible when we have proper funds to use for expert advice and opinion.

We have requested an Interim Heritage listing through CoGG and understand that the independent review they have commissioned has confirmed the importance of the site, and the recommendation. The CoGG report will be made available soon.

Here is a brief summary from CoGG of the next steps regarding the proposed heritage overlay:

- *Council officers are finalising a report to the Council (administrators) on the heritage overlay for 9 Bridge Rd*
- *The report is scheduled for the Council meeting on 26 July 2016*
- *If Council resolves to support the heritage overlay we will request the Minister for Planning to apply an interim control as a matter of urgency using his powers under 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act.*
- *Once Council has requested the interim overlay under 20(4) of the P&E Act, the house is protected from demolition under the Building Act.*
- *If Council agrees, we will also request the Minister's authorisation for a planning scheme amendment to apply a permanent control, subject to a normal process of public exhibition, review by an independent Panel etc.*
- *The final decisions on both the interim and permanent heritage overlay are with the Minister. There is no certainty that he will use his powers under 20(4), Minister's have made decisions either way in the past.*

The township plan shows that the subject site formed part of Allotment 1 Section A, a one acre parcel of land, which was purchased by Alfred Hill Roadknight (a well-known Geelong valuer and estate agent) for £27 on 22 June 1886. The report concludes:

Arguably, the subject house is the most prominent 19th century house in the town, being located on a corner block at the southern end of the main street. It has landmark qualities particularly when considered together with the large cypress (70-80 years old), which is evocative of early beachside development. Although the house has undergone alterations, it retains design features of its original late Victorian style including the gabled roof form, the original rendered chimney with terracotta chimney pots, timber slatted screens and finials to the gable ends, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding (not original fabric) and weatherboard wall cladding. It is noted that unlike a number of other 19th century houses in Barwon Heads, which were relocated to their current site in the 20th century, the subject house has remained on its original site.

SECURITY & SAFETY - We have joined the Bellarine Police Community Support Register and encourage you to go online and register www.bellarineregister.org.au. Jeremy Gaylard has joined the Committee, so we will provide more information once we fully understand how it works and become more involved.

ENVIRONMENT – Minister Neville has launched the Geelong Queenscliff Coastal Adaptation Program, details are on www.ourcoast.org.au. There is a community information session on the 3rd August at the Ocean Grove Shell Rd Pavilion from 2pm – 8pm. The work done as part of this program has identified vulnerable areas in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. The project has involved detailed technical assessment of coastal data and resulted in a series of hazard maps showing inundation in a range of severe weather events and sea level rise scenarios. This information supports our argument that our coastal villages should not be over developed beyond our natural capacity to cope.

Please look at the website it is very detailed. We encourage you to attend the information session and ask lots of questions, we will provide a more detailed summary when we have read it in detail.

THE BARWON HEADS STRUCTURE PLAN 2010 (you will all get sick of us reminding you that this is a very important review which has started), states: *“Barwon Heads is not designated as a growth location and is in fact situated between two areas which are strategically supported for further urban development; Ocean Grove and Armstrong Creek. These two locations have long been designated to accommodate the future expected growth in Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula, in order that other smaller coastal towns and sensitive environments can be protected”*.

The review will consider strategic planning issues for the town, including managing growth, infrastructure issues, urban character and vegetation protection. In relation to vegetation the review will address an issue identified in the 2010 Structure Plan regarding the character of the Warrenbeen Court Area.

We support the strong focus of the Save Barwon Heads group to protect the boundaries of Barwon Heads, but also feel that saving Barwon Heads will also require a whole of town focus and this review of the Structure Plan cannot assume the continuation of the residential zones that are in the planning scheme. We are in discussion with the Save Barwon Heads group and hope to encourage a robust discussion with CoGG on a wide range of matters.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG - We have written to the new Administrators and requested a meeting to get to know them. Hopefully they will attend one of our meetings soon. We have found an allocation in the Geelong Budget to fix some of our footpaths. We note huge expenditure in Armstrong Creek and wonder what we get back for our high rates.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT - the working group met with Vic Roads at the end of June. We understand that the estimated commencement day is 18th July and will take 8 weeks with works staged to reduce interruption to traffic.

Diary Dates for BHA meetings 7:00pm Senior Citizens Centre Clifford Pde

- July 18th
- August 15th the Hon Lisa Neville
- September 19th BHA Annual General Meeting

Please email your thoughts to us through our website. www.barwonheadsassociation.com

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Police

Minister for Water



Monday, 27 June, 2016

A SAFER WALK FOR PEDESTRIANS IN BARWON HEADS

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to improve pedestrian safety in regional Victoria with work set to start in Barwon Heads next month.

Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville welcomed the announcement that will see work to improvements in the coastal township begin after the July school holidays.

Four pedestrian crossings will be installed including raised zebra crossings on Hitchcock Avenue and on Flinders Parade, and regular zebra crossings along Bridge Road and on Ewing Blyth Drive.

Cyclists will also benefit with new bicycle lanes along Bridge Road between Golf Links Road and the Barwon Heads Bridge.

The footpath along Bridge Road in front of the IGA supermarket will also be upgraded to match the footpath in Hitchcock Avenue.

The Labor Government has been working closely with a number of community groups including Barwon Heads Association, Barwon Heads Traders & Tourism Association, Barwon Heads Senior Citizens Group, Barwon Heads Sustainability Group throughout the planning process.

More than 90 people attended two community sessions late last year, providing feedback that was used to determine an appropriate design to improve community safety.

The crossings will continue to be reviewed over the coming summer season to monitor their effectiveness, with adjustments made as needed.

Quotes attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

"We're providing safe and more accessible pedestrian facilities to and from Barwon Heads' busy shopping strip."

"These improvements will make pedestrians and cyclists safer and help to ease congestion, particularly in the summer peak."