

Minutes BHA MEETING 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 7:00PM  
SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE IN CLIFFORD PARADE

Apologies: Sarah Henderson, Judith Brooks, Stephen Paterson, Daniel Vella, Ian Rouse, Sarah Jackson, Karen Firth, Trish Clayton

Attendees BHA Committee - President Sandy Gatehouse; Vice-President Jeremy Gaylard; Treasurer Geoffrey Waite; Committee Paul Fox, Richard Hastings, Colin Bridges

Attendees (there were 50 attendees counted including those who signed the book): Bernard Naphine, John Romeril, Louise Stewart, Jenny Wallace-Smith, Noel Calvert, Lyle Allan, Heather McCarthy, Peter Oakley, Brenda Miles, Tom Hudson, Mandy Bridges, Graham Walker, Virginia Ronaldson, Annabel Gill, Judy Feilding, Yvonne Hern, John Nolan, Vicki Strahan, Bronwyn McIntyre, Natale Lewington, Warren Jackson

Guests: Ms Laurinda Gardner; Mr Brett Luxford; Ms Cathy Ferencz COGG; Deb Sheard & Chris Kelly Portarlington Residents Group

1. Sandy welcomed our colleagues from Portarlington Deb Sheard and Christine Kelly
2. Sandy talked about the Our Future forum in Geelong on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> which she attended. The purpose of the assembly was to create the most appropriate vision for Greater Geelong. Interesting the scenario that had the most support was A CLEVER AND CREATIVE CITY-REGION

“Clever and creative city-regions address their challenges by avoiding a business-as-usual approach to problem solving, and adapt to global shifts so they continue to thrive economically, culturally and socially”.

3. Process for review Barwon Heads Structure Plan. This process kicks back again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. CoGG will also be holding a ‘drop-in’ information session on Wednesday 7th June 2017. The drop in session will be held at: Barwon Heads Uniting Church Hall 4.30pm to 7.30pm
4. City of Greater Geelong boundaries – options for discussion, submissions close 11.59 pm on Sunday 28 May. We don’t have time to discuss tonight but will send out our submission to members for comment.
5. Update Amendment C354 – 9 Bridge Rd, report to go to Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May
6. Update on Barwon Heads Drain, responses to questions still vague, but they have worn me down. Will put details on website.
7. Update on Traffic matters received from CoGG. Will be on our website with our responses soon.
8. Closure of Barwon Heads Library – welcome Ms Laurinda Gardner - Administrator City of Greater Geelong and Mr Brett Luxford General Manager Investment and Attraction and Ms Cathy Ferencz Acting CEO Executive Manager Collections and Technologies
  - a. Sandy advised the meeting of the process to date and concern at the lack of consultation leading to the decision to close the library.

- b. She invited Bronwyn McIntyre to speak – she has a young family and they are regular users of the library. Key concerns:
  - i. Poor consultation to close the library
  - ii. Distance between sites should not be a reason to close the library
  - iii. Solutions ie catching the 55 bus, many families go into the library after school, bus timetable unworkable and inadequate
  - iv. Ocean Grove library already stretched
  - v. Annual Report “all regional libraries continued to deliver excellence”;
  - vi. Usage data questionable – Library has books from school collection and GRLC counts only books from GRLC. School children’s borrowing not included in GRLC data. Accuracy of visitation – how is it calculated and by whom. Which libraries are people actually a member of?
  - vii. Don’t like being benchmarked amongst regional libraries rather than community libraries, “take ownership of community user ship”
  - viii. Survey – should have taken place before decision to close the library, not interested in results of a survey after decision been made
  - ix. We understand that there will be new libraries built in new communities are important but not at the expense of others
- c. Key actions
  - i. Community meeting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at BH hall
  - ii. Continue to email and also Lisa Neville and Natalie Hutchins
  - iii. Meeting on wed at the Ocean Grove Bowls Club
  - iv. Submissions on the CoGG budget
  - v. Attend next CoGG council meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May
  - vi. Annabel Gill and Colin Bridges to speak on behalf of the Save Barwon Heads Library Group
- d. Colin Bridges member of the BHA committee also presented to the meeting - *We strongly oppose the closure of the Barwon Heads and other branch libraries and the way by which the decision was made. The Library Corporation’s own Plan outlines its strategies to direct its resources and energies to: “work collaboratively with the community to increase awareness of, access to and use of library services.” It also refers to maintenance of service levels and a branch network. Its Draft Plan for 2017/18 states “we seek out, listen to and respond to community input ‘The City of Greater Geelong Plan refers to its aim to act with integrity by being open and transparent. The community was given no notice of the Library Corporation’s plan to close branches, no consultation with affected communities and 7 days notice in a newspaper report prior to a Council decision on its recommendation to Council to close the libraries. There are many facts on which Council has relied which we would dispute but no opportunity has been given to be heard on any of these issues. This is not good governance. Older members of the community and people with a disability tend to be less mobile and less able to travel conveniently to any other library facilities and find public transport difficult and inconvenient. We enjoy the benefits of being able to walk to our local facilities. The Barwon Heads Association and other interested parties responded to Council’s request to discuss the contents of a proposed survey to residents to assist the Library Corporation’s transition plans. Community recommendations for information relating to relevant questions to be included in the survey, particularly in relation to matters of transport and access by the elderly and disabled were ignored and the final version of the survey requests no information relating to the library*

*facilities actually used, method of travel or inviting any comments. The Council has had 5 reviews of library facilities since 1999. What measures has it used to improve use of the facilities in that time? If it considered that usage was a problem why has there been no consultation with the community?*

*This is an opportunistic financial decision made in an undemocratic manner as a consequence of past management of the library. It was made without any consultation on how improved services may improve library participation in smaller communities or assist members of the community with disabilities.*

- e. Ms Gardner said this was not an easy decision, “as a whole there are a lot of libraries”; here to listen and Mr. Lux ford from CoGG, sorry survey didn’t reflect feedback. 15,000 people triggers need for a library.
- f. Questions
  - i. Why are CoGG listening after the decision has been made?
  - ii. Are transition arrangements going to be cheaper? (Still being determined)
  - iii. Will our rates be reduced?
  - iv. Is there a reverse switch if we can turn on to make Administrators change their minds?
  - v. School library and CoGG library within same building; alternate models for delivery of books to the school
  - vi. What will new models cost
  - vii. Was the cost of the central library fundamental to the fact that others were being closed in order to maintain it
  - viii. \$58,800
  - ix. Not open often enough, irregular opening hours
  - x. community benefits of living in Barwon Heads – this community is sustainable and wants to retain services that support this
  - xi. We are paying 10% more in rates than last year and our services are being cut
  - xii. What does it mean for the school
    1. library management system
    2. catalogue
  - xiii. Decision was a recommendation of the Library Corporation through a consultants report SMH
- g. **MOTION \_ Mandy Bridges moved and Tom Hudson seconded WE REQUEST THE COUNCIL RESCINDS ITS DECISION TO CLOSE THE BARWON HEADS LIBRARY” PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
9. Other matters
  - a. **Planning application 135 Tait's Rd Barwon Heads, Committee concerned at this application. Seeking further advice; Committee has support of the meeting to object if required.**
  - b. **MOTION OF SUPPORT Moved John Romeril, seconded Tom Hudson. FOR THE BHA TO SUBMIT AN OBJECTION TO THE APPLICATION FOR A STORAGE FACILITY AT 135 TAIT'S RD**
10. Further discussion on recent press reports regarding establishment of community hub combining old kindergarten and senior citizens; ongoing discussions with a range of community groups. Bernard Napthine suggested this didn’t reflect a decision of the BHA. Sandy Gatehouse replied that it reflected discussion over a number of years, and motions passed to lobby to retain the old kindergarten in Clifford Pde for community purposes. BHA has been supporting the Arts Council and the Senior Citizens in their endeavours.

11. Development opposite the IGA is a café bar, 2 units, 3 stories, waiver of parking.  
This is a large development with no apparent advertising. Concern expressed.

Meeting closed at 8:35pm

STRUCTURE PLAN - BHA meeting on June 19th will discuss the Plan in detail.

In the meantime please read The DRAFT PLAN which will be available for download from the CoGG website from 23 May. We will be able to make a submission on the updated Structure Plan and new planning controls. CoGG will also be holding a 'drop-in' information session on Wednesday 7th June 2017. The drop in session will be held at: Barwon Heads Uniting Church Hall  
4.30pm to 7.30pm

Information about the Structure Plan is available

<http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/strategicplanning/documents/item/8d3c1f4e90c7c5b.aspx>

## UPDATE ON ISSUES

### CLOSURE OF THE BARWON HEADS LIBRARY

As many of you are aware we are involved with many others in the community to identify our needs and lobby for a better library service. It is clear that the Council is determined to close the Barwon Heads library. The Council is trying to organise a meeting to discuss transition options – maybe we want to discuss more than that. Their approach has been extraordinary and many consider that the Council is getting close to the test for unreasonableness.

'Is it so unreasonable that no reasonable person would ever have come to it?'

They have let the library service run down, which in is also unreasonable.

*“\$58,000 is the total annual running cost for public library services provided 13 hours per week from the Barwon Heads Primary School (including customer service and preschool storytime once a week) and is made up of \$42,329 in salaries (including on costs) and \$16,400 for communications (technology, photocopying, internet access).*

*Please note. These costs do not include the running of the school library. The Barwon Heads Primary school has a designated teacher-librarian maintains its own library collection.”*

As expected, the bulk of this cost is salaries. Given they are retaining staff, the true saving of the closure is extremely minimal - \$16,400. The savings to Council are \$58,000

We will have a more robust discussion on Monday night.

There is a petition to sign which we will have at the meeting, and it is available on our website if you want to print it and get people to sign.

We have lots of signatures which is great – need thousands to be really effective.

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## WARD BOUNDARIES FOR NEW GEELONG COUNCIL

VEC has published 2 options for proposed electoral boundaries for Geelong Council. The two options for the Bellarine Ward would work, but we are uncertain of the whether the inclusion of the Moolap Salt works redevelopment isn't a diversion from broader Bellarine issues. We are keen to support a new council that has wards that create a sense of belonging and ownership for voters, enabling elected Councillors to effectively represent their communities. If the wards are too diverse the work load on Councillors becomes too hard and the quality of representation suffers.

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/reviews/greatergeelongesc.html>

## 9 BRIDGE RD - AMENDMENT C354

The Council Administrators will consider an officer's report at the 23 May 2017 meeting and will decide whether the amendment should be adopted. The Council meeting agenda will be published on 12 May 2017.

## OXONE RD DRAIN

We continue to liaise and feel like we are banging our heads against the 'drain wall'.

## BARWON HEADS TRAFFIC MATTERS

Hopefully we will have an update from Vicky Shelton CoGG