

## MEMBERS UPDATE MAY 21ST

**As you read this you will see a recurring theme of “please send us your ideas”; if you cant access us via the website please drop your ideas into the post office in an envelope marked BHA.**

**Closure of Barwon Heads Library** – the library will reopen soon it is currently being painted and refurbished as part of the school renovation exercise. THE COUNCIL THEN PLANS TO CLOSE IT PERMANENTLY AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. Don't be tricked to change over to Ocean Grove, and if you are a member with a Barwon Heads postcode please transfer your membership to the Barwon Heads Library.

A great team of young mums and keen library users are working hard to lobby to keep the library open and improved with strong support from the BHA. Please help by signing the petitions in the Barwon Heads businesses, and lobby the Administrators and members of parliament. (We now have over 1,200 signatures). This petition will be presented to the Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.

Our May meeting approved a motion to ask the CoGG administrators to rescind their decision to close the library. We will put this notice to the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with a detailed supporting brief.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE BARWON HEADS BUSINESSES THAT HAVE ENCOURAGED THEIR CUSTOMERS TO SIGN THE PETITON, THE CLOSURE OF THE LIBRARY WILL IMPACT ON EVERYONE YOUNG AND OLD. ONCE A SERVICE IS LOST WE WILL NEVER GET IT BACK.

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR CONTACTS THAT MIGHT HELP KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN.

**THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE BARWON HEADS LIBRARY ON JUNE THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 2:00PM. PLEASE PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY.**

**Process for review Barwon Heads Structure Plan** - the draft is being launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be available online from that date. We will send you an update, but in the meantime please read it via the CoGG website. We look forward to reading it and a robust discussion. Formal submissions close on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**City of Greater Geelong boundaries** – Over the past 18 months the BHA have made submissions to all of the processes reviewing CoGG and its boundaries including to the Victorian Electoral Commission

“VEC” and 100 person Jury. We now intend to put in a further comment on the options that have been published by the VEC; our draft follows:

*(INTRO BHA.....)”We believe that the proposed wards should give significant weight to reflect geographic communities of interest. We agree with the comment in the Consultation Paper that Moolap would fit better in a Geelong ward. We are concerned that proposed major developments in the Point Henry and former salt works areas are not matters which align with the interests and representation of the contained townships separated by rural and coastal areas of the Bellarine Peninsula.*

*On such basis we support the proposed Bellarine Coastal Region boundary specified in Model 2 but are concerned that Model 2, particularly in relation to the proposed Northern Region ward, fails to create wards with geographic connection of common interest which will impede good governance and proper representation for those wards. In our opinion both Models are flawed and unsatisfactory and should be reconsidered to increase the number of electors within the more geographically compact Central Geelong ward and reduce the number of electors in the Bellarine Coastal and Northern Region wards within a structure more akin to Model 1.*

*The future good governance of the City of Greater Geelong is a matter of serious concern and should not be imposed in haste to meet an arbitrary election deadline.”*

PLEASE SEND US COMMENTS BY THURSDAY SO WE CAN SEND OUR SUBMISSION IN. WE ARE NOT DEBATING THE CONCEPTS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION WE JUST WANT A FUNCTIONING COUNCIL

**Update Amendment C354** – 9 Bridge Rd is going to the Council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. We hope the Administrators will approve it.

**Update on Barwon Heads Drain** – the Council has given notice it plans to grant itself a permit to build the drain. We now know that there is no entity with clear responsibility or interest for monitoring the water in the river and in particular the level of ecoli. It seems a very primitive solution to the drainage challenges of Barwon Heads to put a big pipe into the middle of the river and discharge storm water onto our precious river beaches and so close to the Ramsar wetlands.

**Update on Traffic matters** - we have received a detailed response from CoGG to a number of traffic issues – we will publish this soon.

**Discussion of a Neighbourhood Hub incorporating the Senior Citizens Centre and the former Barwon Heads Kindergarten** - We have been involved in discussions between the Barwon Heads Senior Citizens and the Barwon Heads Arts Council, and have encouraged the 2 organisations to work closely together and identify shared needs and objectives with a view to incorporating the former kindergarten and

senior citizens centre as a local community hub. This aligns with earlier decisions by the BHA to support the retention of the old Barwon Heads kindergarten for community purposes, and our support over many years of the Arts Council and the Senior Citizens. Hopefully we will have time to discuss this further at our June meeting.

**Planning 135 Taits Rd** - there is an application for a storage facility for boats and caravans including 14 X 20ft containers and 16x40ft containers on the north western part of the site. This was discussed at our May meeting with support for the BHA to seek further advice and lodge an objection.

**Planning** – there is considerable concern about the developments that are popping up without advertising. If you are concerned do not hesitate to call the City of Greater Geelong and seek further information and confirmation that the development in question can proceed without advertising.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE STRUCTURE PLAN, PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS BEFORE THIS**