

NEWSLETTER
Barwon Heads Association November 2013

Please Note:
No November Meeting
December “Christmas” Meeting to be advised
Committee Activities Ongoing

Hold the horses on the planned mayoral election forum

Because of the long list of candidates (16) the Committees of the Ocean Grove and the Barwon Heads community associations decided against holding a forum. There is certainly not the enthusiasm and optimism in the community which accompanied the 2012 inaugural mayoral election. It is obvious that several candidates this time around have enormous resources supporting them and the Geelong Advertiser has been groaning with full-page spreads trumpeting their claims to victory. The BHA, along with many in the City of Greater Geelong community, were disappointed with the Age's article implying that Mr Costa runs Geelong. Not a good look for the city. Geelong is so in need of a fresh, innovative and positive approach for its future, that we can only hope the new mayor will be up to the challenge.

The New Councilors Discretionary Fund Proposal
(as opposed to the 'old, perfectly OK' councilors Discretionary Funds)

The CoGG is now facing a “forensic” examination by the Local Government Inspectorate of what councilors did with some \$7.5 million over the last nine years. While Acting Mayor Bruce Harwood is eager to ‘bring it on’ councilors have, nevertheless, organised several public meetings to explain their new approach to the distribution of ratepayers money to community projects. It appears that words like, equity, accessibility and transparency are now in vogue. The BHA encourages residents to attend these meetings to have their say and to hear what councilors are putting forward as their new approach to funding community projects. We are all ‘shareholders’ after all!

Many Unhappy with the Sale of the RSL land

The BHA has been very supportive of the bid by the RSL Project Bid Group to purchase the land originally bought by contributions from the people of Barwon Heads for the RSL many years ago. Unfortunately latest news is that this bid was unsuccessful. Our letter to the RSL Board stressed the long history of community support for the site and requested, when the sale goes ahead, that the proceeds do not go into general revenue but be reinvested into the Barwon Heads community. In our phone conversation with the CEO Mike Annett, the position of the RSL was made clear. Because the joint Ocean Grove/Barwon Heads RSL branch is happy with the sale the RSL will go ahead. Mike Annett stated that the proceeds of the sale will be used to support the RSL branches across the Bellarine and not the budget of ANZAC House. The RSL Project Bid Group have left their offer on the table and further lobbying is taking place.

New Planning Zones Raise Their Newly Shorn Heads

Back in March Graham Neal of “Just Building Survey Solutions” explained the possible implications of the new residential zones to our members. The CoGG have just announced their preparation to implement these new zones - Amendment C300 - be added to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. Those who are interested can find the amendment at your local Customer Service Centre and if you feel you will be adversely affected you can make a submission to the Planning Authority by Monday 16th December 2013.

Committee Activities on Behalf of the Membership

Firstly, thank you to Marg Pocock and Paul Fox for filling the casual vacancies on the Committee for 2014.

Recent Committee activities include; questions to council regarding pedestrian safety in Barwon Heads in the coming holiday season, questions to council regarding the BushFire Attack Level assessment of the building to house the kindergarten children in the Village Park, combined meeting with Barwon Coast and Ocean Grove Community Association regarding Draft Victorian Coastal Strategy, meeting with the Trader's Association and Barwon Coast to canvass community concerns and investigations as to improving WiFi connections in Barwon Heads.

The Committee is also working on, with others, answers to the question: What would Barwon Heads do if it was under fire attack? Does Barwon Heads have a fire plan? It is time the community gathered together to answer such important questions. We will keep you posted.

www.barwonheadsassociation.com

Judith Brooks
President