



AIDA

December 2022 • www.aireys-inlet.org

Urquhart Bluff • Aireys Inlet • Fairhaven • Moggs Creek • Eastern View



Michael van Berkel

AIDA's Dark Sky event

On a cold, crisp and clear September evening AIDA held its first Dark Sky event. One hundred and fifty people attended this sell-out event, which was truly a night of wonderment as people saw the Dark Emu, the Southern Cross, Saturn and Jupiter. It was not necessary to be an astronomer to appreciate how lucky we are to have such a dark sky in Aireys.

The event started at 7.30 in the community hall. Frieda Wachsmann gave a brief introduction followed by a welcome from Surf Coast Shire councillor, Mike Bodsworth. Speakers were Judith Bailey, Secretary of the Victorian chapter of the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA); Krystal de Napoli, Gomeroi woman and astrophysicist; and Gregory Day, author and local resident. They each spoke for about fifteen minutes.

At around 9:00 pm buses took participants out to Lot 2, 79 Bambra Rd, about 2 km outside of Aireys Inlet. At Lot 2 participants were greeted and directed

along a path lit by red LED lights that led down to the flat, the darkest part of the block. Ophthalmologist Michael Loughnan, one of the owners of Lot 2, gave a talk about how our eyes adapt to light. Judith Bailey and Yovanka Reynolds from the Ballarat Astronomical Society set up a 12-inch Newtonian telescope and helped participants identify Saturn and Jupiter, and other features of the night sky. The night was particularly dark and cleared after a time, which meant it was perfect for star gazing. Local resident David Beauchamp also provided his telescope. Local ecologist Peter Crowcroft set up a moth-attracting enclosure.

Feedback from the event has been extremely positive with requests for another event next year. The quality of the speakers, the overall organisation and of course the beauty of the dark sky meant that the night was memorable. AIDA is in the process of editing recordings made during the event to put on YouTube.

Next step to Dark Sky accreditation

The event was an important part of AIDA's plans to achieve accreditation as a Dark Sky community from the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA). The association is based in Arizona, USA, and works to preserve the night sky from the effects of light pollution, and so preserve it for future generations. Its work takes on many aspects of preservation of the night sky, including grassroots lobbying for improved residential street lighting, advocacy for planning policies and education and community awareness.

The preservation of our night sky has important ramifications for both humans and other animals. Already there are several examples of fauna becoming endangered due to disruption of their habitat by light pollution. One such example, which clearly demonstrates the knock-on effect of light pollution, is its effect on the migration habits of the Bogong moth, a staple food for many animals including the pygmy possum. Low numbers of moths have led to starving possums during breeding season with a resultant decline in possum numbers. The demise of the dark night sky can harm the health of humans, and wastes energy and resources. It robs us of a cultural legacy that encompasses all people since the beginning of humankind.

Dark Sky accreditation will complement the initiative of the State Government's new Great Ocean Roads Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) and other agencies to advance nature-based, sustainable tourism along the Great Ocean Road. There is increased interest in 'slower' tourism rather than the fast coach travel we have seen previously. This previous approach has diminished the amenity of small coastal towns and contributed little to the local economy. The Dark Sky project fits the new model perfectly, as it is aimed at encouraging visitors to stay longer, to appreciate the natural world and to value a special region of Australia.

Frieda Wachsmann

Aireys Inlet Fairhaven traffic speed

AIDA community surveys over decades have shown strong support for the 'rural' nature of our roads and the opportunities provided for shared road use by pedestrians, cyclists and cars. The quiet, serene, village character of the Aireys district is partly reinforced by the way we balance what could be competing uses of roadsides and the roads themselves.

On our residential streets, whether paved or unpaved, the life (and movement) of townsfolk happens at a leisurely pace, prioritising social connection and the experience of being out in nature.

But life on our streets is not all rosy. Traffic on the Great Ocean Road through Aireys has always been at odds

with 'sharing roads'. Only the speed limit reduction from 80 to 60 kph suggests that the highway passes through, and in fact bisects, a residential area. Previous traffic measurements have shown that traffic volumes range from 4000 to 15,000 vehicles per day in the summer peak.

This traffic on the Great Ocean Road (particularly in peak season) impedes pedestrian movement across the road and divides the town in two. All other towns on the Great Ocean Road have speed limits of 50 kph.

To provide evidence to support AIDA's efforts to ameliorate these problems, AIDA organised our most recent community survey on 'Sharing Our Roads', which ran from March until June this year. Thank you to all our members who participated. AIDA received over 150 responses to the nine questions posed in the survey, with many participants choosing to elaborate upon their answers in great detail. The full results of the survey, including the detailed comments, are available at this link: [AIDA Shared Roads Survey Data All 220429](#).



Just over 64 per cent of the respondents nominated speed on our roads (both the Great Ocean Road and the residential roads) as a major problem. Nearly 74 per cent of respondents said that lower speed limits would improve conditions and 63 per cent favoured 'shared roadway' signs at the entrances to town. The recent reduction of the speed limit in the Lighthouse Precinct to 40 kph has proved very beneficial and it is hoped that this limit might be extended to the remainder of our residential roads.

Supported by the results of the 'Sharing Our Roads' survey, AIDA has been lobbying the Surf Coast Shire and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) to have the speed limit on the Great Ocean Road through Aireys and Fairhaven reduced from 60 kph to 50 kph. As noted above our townships are the only Great Ocean Road communities not to have a 50 kph limit.

Chris Ryan

Traffic speed trial and associated Deakin University survey



November 2022

Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet to Fairhaven - road safety evaluation



Map: Great Ocean Road (B100) Aireys Inlet (green) and Fairhaven (pink).

We're working with Great Ocean Road communities at Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven to identify road safety improvement opportunities, to create more reliable journeys for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Deakin University is working with the Department of Transport to understand community sentiment about the Great Ocean Road in Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven.

We're gathering information from people living, working or travelling this section of the Great Ocean Road through online surveys.

This feedback, along with technical data collected at key pedestrian crossing points, traffic volumes, vehicle types and speed, will form part of an independent evaluation to determine future road safety improvements in the area.

You can access the survey via https://researchsurveys.deakin.edu.au/fe/form/SV_6S8T7SIWWj1uBGS

The survey is open for two weeks, closing at midnight on Wednesday 7 December 2022.

Traffic volumes range from 4000 to 15000 vehicles per day in the summer peak.

The project has strong stakeholder support including the Aireys Inlet community and Surf Coast Shire Council.

This survey focus is on the Great Ocean Road through Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven. The information gathered will be used along with technical and other data from previous surveys, to prioritise safety improvements along this stretch of road.

Please take the time to complete our survey to share your individual experiences.

This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (reference number SEBE-2022-65).



The shire has supported AIDA's advocacy and it is very pleasing that RRV will begin a 6-month speed reduction trial in early December. RRV will be monitoring and assessing the trial before deciding whether the reduction will be a permanent change.

As part of this process, Deakin University is now working with the Department of Transport to understand community sentiment about the Great Ocean Road in Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven.

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We encourage AIDA members and others in the community to complete this new survey. AIDA will be communicating the results of our own survey to the Deakin University group.

Charlotte Allen

2 Fraser Drive – Project Update

A project is underway to explore the suitability of council-owned land at 2 Fraser Drive, Aireys Inlet, to develop social and affordable housing.

A Design-In Workshop was held on Saturday 19 November (11.30 am – 2.30 pm). It was facilitated by an independent consortium of consultants led by Dr Andrea Cook (RedRoad Consulting) and Helen Jennings (Wayfarer Consulting).

The design-in involved fourteen community members and two Surf Coast Shire councillors, Deputy Mayor Cr Mike Bodsworth and Former Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton.

The design-in provided an 'armchair tour' of the proposed site (the weather was inclement) and a whole-of-group discussion about some of the policy conditions and contextual factors governing the site and its potential development and use as social and affordable housing.

The workshop then moved into a series of small group discussions covering critical challenges and opportunities and where they line up with potential project options and desired outcomes. The small groups then developed some guiding principles for the design of the site and surrounds, considering trade-offs between, for example, dwelling yield (going further to meet the considerable local housing need) and maintaining cherished neighbourhood characteristics of Aireys Inlet including low building densities on large blocks, low-profile built form nestled into native vegetation. Council is awaiting the design-in engagement report which councillors will consider alongside other engagement inputs including summaries of over one hundred conversations held at four drop-in/pop-up sessions, two community submissions and forty-two survey responses.

- 36 per cent of the survey respondents lived in the immediate neighbourhood, either on Fraser Drive or surrounding streets; a further 29 per cent lived in Aireys Inlet and District.
- 15 per cent of survey respondents reported living in the district and experiencing housing stress, i.e., paying more than 30 per cent of their income towards their mortgage or rent.
- 33 per cent lived or worked in the district and were either finding it difficult to find affordable housing or knew someone finding it difficult.
- 56 per cent of respondents said that they had no experience of (un)affordable housing, they were just interested in the project.
- 66 per cent of respondents reported being aware

of the role social and affordable housing plays in providing housing when private rental and home ownership markets cannot meet housing needs. Eighteen per cent had lived in a neighbourhood that had social and affordable housing. Eighteen per cent had experience working in the social and affordable housing sector. Five per cent of respondents have experience living in social or affordable housing.

Respondents identified the top three factors that will influence the success of the project as:

1. The relationship and design interface with the Community Garden and surrounding neighbours.
2. Designed to provide diverse and high-quality housing to meet a range of housing needs including the needs of an older cohort and key workers.
3. Designed according to ecologically sustainable design principles and complementary to the local natural environment.

The top three barriers to success were identified as:

1. Development feasibility: site constraints, planning requirements and community preferences influencing the density and affordable housing.
2. Overcoming/mitigating ongoing impact on amenity such as traffic movement in Fraser Drive and parking.
3. Fostering social cohesion among new neighbours.

Community conversation topics included:

- Concerns about who the future residents might be and whether they will have access to all the health services and community supports they might need, as well as transport to employment. The likely need for every future resident to have access to a private vehicle threw light on a potential issue regarding traffic movement and parking.
- Concerns about what the future development might look like, i.e., concern that the development would be a more intense built form than the prevailing neighbourhood character of surrounding houses, that it wouldn't be of high quality or built according to ecologically sustainable design principles and to the requisite Bushfire Attack Level standards.

These conversation threads were woven through the design-in discussion too. They emphasised the importance of finding the right Registered Housing Agency (RHA) or consortium involving a RHA – because they are mission driven and highly regulated; they develop and maintain architecturally designed, 7+ NatHERS (Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme) rated housing; they manage eligibility and allocations; and, particularly RHAs operating in

the region, provide support for residents ensuring sustainable tenancies.

These conversational threads also underscored the importance of community collaboration on the design of the housing and interface with neighbours including the community garden.

The next phase of engagement is a co-design process that will draw on the expertise of community members – both technical and lived experience – to be able to resolve design challenges and co-create a design concept that the whole community can be proud of, ensuring the development can enhance the social, heritage and environmental values unique to Aireys Inlet while creating high-quality social and affordable housing that will strengthen the diversity and social fabric of the town and builds the local economy.

Council will be receiving a report on the engagement findings and objectives for the Expression of Interest (EOI) process at the 13 December 2022 council meeting. The meeting agenda, including the report, will be available on our website a few days in advance of the meeting. Community members are welcome to attend the council meeting in person at the Torquay Civic Offices (Council Chambers) or tune into the <https://webcast.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/>. Community members can also utilise public question time at the council meeting to frame in a question things that ought to be given consideration or a specific response: <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Council/Council-Meetings>.

The Community Advisory Group EOI process has closed and is currently being assessed with participants to be notified before the end of the year.

Further project updates will be shared via our website <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Your-Say/Social-and-Affordable-Housing> and email for those who signed up to the 'stay in touch' project contact list. If you'd like to sign up to stay in touch contact Alicia Hooper via info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or 5261 0600.

*Alicia Hooper, Surf Coast Shire
Strategic Initiatives Coordinator*

State Election Candidates Survey

AIDA provided its members via email with information about the attitudes of candidates for the state government's Polwarth electorate to the management and protection of the Great Ocean Road. AIDA asked the candidates for a statement of no more than 150 words responding to the following statements and question:

The Aireys Inlet and District Association is primarily concerned with the conservation and protection of environment and character of the area between Urquhart Bluff and Eastern View.

The Great Ocean Road is a major tourist destination and tourism is a major contributor to the economy of the area. However, it is recognised that tourism puts pressure on our environment, facilities, infrastructure, and communities.

What would be your approach to new tourist developments and the inevitable change in the area?

The answers were collated, in alphabetical order, exactly as they were provided to us except where any response was over 150 words, in which case the reply would be cut at the 150-word mark. Candidates who did not respond had 'No response provided' beside their name.

The collated answers were emailed to AIDA's over 500 members a week prior to the election on 26 November and are available on our website at <https://aireys-inlet.org/4595-2/>

Frieda Wachsmann & Mary-Jane Gething

Fairhaven embankment collapse

Recent rain has caused the embankment on the Great Ocean Road between Lialeeta Road and the bridge over the Painkalac Creek to collapse, an caused erosion on Narani Way, Fairhaven.

The collapse of the embankment is most unfortunate and completely predictable given the total removal of all the vegetation cover. We also note the significant erosion from Bimbadeen Drive to Narani



Way following vegetation removal for a fire break.

It is to be hoped that the Forest Fire Management officers responsible for planning such significant clearing for fire breaks will have realised that total vegetation clearance is not appropriate in these situations.

AIDA has contacted the relevant authorities to learn what remediation works are being considered to stabilise and revegetate the areas. We requested that the options under consideration do NOT include the building of any further retaining walls. The most appropriate action would be to revegetate the area with deep-rooted, fire-resistant and fire-retardant species that will stabilise the banks.

As this newsletter was being finalised we were informed that:

DELWP is aware of the slumping at Fairhaven, along with many other similar issues across the Greater Otways area due to the accumulation of soil moisture through the above-average rainfall events.

Surf Coast Shire and the Department of Transport are working on options for this site, in both the short and medium terms, for both water and erosion control. The vegetation management undertaken as part of the fuel break program left all the root systems in place including the larger weedy tree roots and shrubs, mulching to ground level only. This was a deliberate act to retain soil-binding matter across this embankment. We will leave it to the Geotech Engineers to advise on the causes and effects, however observations in similar soil types on similar slopes across the district has seen slippage and movement due to the amount of water held in and moving across the soil profile. This indicates to us a bigger geological and hydraulic event than the management of vegetation alone.

I understand Surf Coast Shire has the clean up on their works orders but am not sure of the timeline for this.

Chris Ryan and Charlotte Allen

Were you in Aireys in February 1983?

AIDA has been successful in securing a grant of \$2500 from Surf Coast Shire Council to employ a project officer to compile an oral and visual record of the environmental and social impact of the 1983 fires. An extremely generous offer from a resident and AIDA member has matched that grant. We have the opportunity to complete an important project.

The 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires destroyed much of the area from Urquhart Bluff to Eastern View, AIDA's area of activity. Unlike our neighbouring community of Anglesea, there is no oral history of the experience of those who lived through the Ash Wednesday fires in our district. Visual imagery is scattered between households. We aim to produce a 'dynamic' oral and visual resource that will be able to be added to in future years.

We are appointing a project officer with the necessary personal and technical skills to contact and

interview people who lived through the fires and to copy visual records, and to upload these to our AIDA website.

We now need to compile a list of contacts for this project officer to interview. A number of members have already contacted us, but please let me know if you or someone you know would be suitable to interview, or if you have relevant photographs.

Peter McPhee

p.mcphee@unimelb.edu.au

Ash Wednesday fortieth anniversary

The Surf Coast Shire is planning to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fire with an event in the Aireys Inlet Community Hall on Wednesday 16 February 2023. The Shire is keen to hear from any community members or groups who might also be planning to mark the day. Contact Sally Sneddon:

ssneddon@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

AIDA meeting with Surf Coast Shire

Several weeks ago, the AIDA committee asked to meet with the Surf Coast Shire to discuss a number of issues that are on our agenda. This meeting was held on 26 November. In addition to the AIDA committee, the meeting was attended by Anglesea ward councillors Libby Stapleton and Mike Bodsworth as well as Lorne ward councillor Gary Allen; Surf Coast Shire CEO Robyn Seymour; Executive Manager – Strategic Projects and Partnerships, Damian Waight; General Manager Placemaking and Environment, Chris Pike; General Manager, Community Life, Gail Gatt; and Manager Planning and Compliance, Kate Sullivan.

The issues discussed included – AIDA Dark Sky advocacy and the need now to have council's assistance; planning issues surrounding the local Neighbourhood Character Overlay and in particular the number of instances where the shire planning officers are waiving set-back requirements; car-parking incursion into the reserve adjacent to Eagle Rock Parade; the increasing frequency with which the mouth of the Painkalac is being opened to mitigate potential flooding impacts and questions about the effect the openings might be having on the ecology of the creek and its environs; the shire's movement towards carbon-neutral design/planning requirements (beyond the new 7star ratings); and finally the proposed speed-limit trial through Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven and speed limits through township streets.

Charlotte Allen

How healthy is the Painkalac Creek? January community forum



AIDA has surveyed its members and other residents on many occasions since its foundation in 1965. The surveys have indicated consistently that the single most valued environmental 'asset' is the valley of the Painkalac Creek. The creek and its estuary have also been the object of a series of high-level scientific reports highlighting the richness of its biodiversity and the complex relationship between creek and ocean.

AIDA intends to hold a community forum at 4pm on 21 January 2023 to explore the health of Painkalac Creek from both biodiversity and human recreation perspectives.

In 2016 AIDA held a community meeting to discuss the creek and estuary. At that time the reservoir had recently been removed from the water supply system and Barwon Water was planning to release environmental flows during the year. We had speakers from Barwon Water, Surf Coast Shire and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA). The event was very well received and well attended.

The January 2023 community forum will further explore the health of the creek. First, we are interested in the ecological health of the whole system, given the changes of water flows and the increasing frequency of the mouth of the inlet being artificially opened. Which agency is responsible for monitoring the ecological health of the system? Second, increased pressure on Painkalac Creek for recreational purposes has highlighted occasional concerns about the cleanliness of the creek water, especially over summer. What are the water-quality testing regimes for the creek, and who is responsible for implementing these and publicising results?

We are inviting speakers from Barwon Water, the shire, CCMA, Estuary Watch and GORCAPA. We understand that the shire, Barwon Water and the EPA are conducting water sampling until the end of April to determine *E. coli* levels in the water and we are hoping there may be some early results that can be shared on the day.

Peter McPhee

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Dune habitat and restoration – Inlet and Eastern View

In early November the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) announced that its habitat-restoration project on the Painkalac and the Eastern View sand dunes had started.

The Authority said that the projects will deliver important ecological works to support vulnerable small mammals, flora communities and Cultural Heritage within the Painkalac Dune system at Fairhaven and to sections of the Eastern View dune system. The projects are supported by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, through funding from the Australian Government. The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) has provided support for the projects via a Cultural Heritage Permit. Authority staff have had numerous online and onsite meetings with EMAC representatives to ensure that EMAC values are represented, and the objectives of both projects align with the Eastern Maar Country Plan and will protect any known and unknown Cultural Heritage within the project's boundaries.

The Painkalac Dune Habitat Restoration Project will deliver environmental improvements to approximately 22 acres of the Painkalac Dune, a large and ecologically valuable dune and estuary system.

The Painkalac system supports Ecological Vegetation, Coastal Dune Scrub/Coastal Grassland, Coastal Saltmarsh/Mangrove Shrubland and Coastal Tussock Grassland, which are fundamental habitat for fauna listed in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) such as Southern Brown Bandicoot, Swamp Antechinus, and the Broad-toothed Rat. The removal of large stands of Coastal Tea Tree, Sallow Wattle and Polygala from the hind and fore dune will encourage natural regeneration of the dune's indigenous flora, with supplementary revegetation in some areas where Coastal Tea Tree has created monocultures.

This dune system also currently supports a large stand of Moonah, an endangered species and part of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG) listed vegetation community Coastal Moonah Woodland. Foxes will be controlled throughout the dune system to minimise the impact of predation on native fauna. This will benefit the native bird populations, in particular the FFG Act listed threatened Hooded Plovers and the Rufous Bristlebird, both known to be in the project site. Erosion on the front of the dune, both natural and human-induced, will be addressed through brush matting and fencing to restrict access.

Human intrusion into the dune via informal

accesses is adding to erosion processes and damaging the fragile ecosystems, particularly the flora. Access points at Eastern View will be formalised with fencing to help prevent informal access into areas of the dunes to avert accidental damage to the front of the dune.

The Eastern View Dune Protection Project will deliver approximately three acres of environmental restoration to Coast Dune Scrub/Grasslands which is classed as depleted. This area supports important habitat and vegetation communities for EPBC-listed small mammals such as the Swamp Antechinus and Southern Brown Bandicoot. The removal of Coastal Tea Tree and Sallow Wattle from the back half of the dune system will encourage natural regeneration of the indigenous flora in areas that are currently a monoculture. This system currently has a large area of Buffalo Grass, a remnant from tennis courts, that will be controlled using a herbicide.

All works align with objectives set in the Coastal Vegetation Strategy, formally known as the Native Vegetation Weed Action Plan. To read the full Coastal Vegetation Strategy visit <https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/About-the-Authority/Our-publications/Coastal-Vegetation-Strategy>

For further information contact Scott Hives at scott.h@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

GORCAPA staff met with Associate Professor Barbara Wilson and her fellow researchers to discuss their project which ultimately helped shape the GORCAPA Dune rehabilitation works (see following article).

Scott Hives

Refuges for Otway Ranges threatened small mammals

We have conducted long-term research and management of native mammal species and communities of the eastern Otways since 1975. The work has concentrated on how species and ecosystems respond to threats such as fire, climate change, and fragmentation. Work since 2013 has revealed severe declines of threatened species such as the New Holland Mouse and Swamp Antechinus, together with significant declines of total small mammal communities across the landscape. A significant finding was that higher mammal abundance (two- to six-fold) and native species richness were recorded at coastal dune sites, compared to inland sites. The contraction of mammals to these areas indicate that they represent significant key refuges from disturbances.

Our work has identified the presence of federally listed (EPBC Act) mammals (Swamp Antechinus, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Broad-tooth Rat, the Southern Long-nosed Potoroo, together with rare White-footed Dunnart, Rufous Bristlebird and the iconic Long-nosed Bandicoot in these refuges. The refuges provide beneficial environments, such as structurally complex vegetation, food resources and protection from disturbances such as fire, predation, water stress. We have identified a number of key refuges including the dunes between Anglesea and Urquharts Bluff, the Painkalac and Eastern View dunes and the Painkalac estuary system. We have worked with Parks Victoria, DELWP and GORCAPA to identify where these refuges

occur across the landscape and to ensure management including appropriate fire regimes, weed, fox and cat controls are implemented for their protection. Our collaboration in recent years with ANGAIR on the Rewilding the Valley project at Michael Loughnan and Jacinta Halloran's Painkalac Valley property has been very important and provides a wonderful vision of the future possibilities for our threatened wildlife.

The work is continuing under the Small Mammal Conservation Project under the federally funded Wild Otways Initiative (2021–2023) with the Corangamite CCMA: <https://ccma.vic.gov.au/projects/wild-otways/>

*Associate Professor Barbara Wilson OAM,
Deakin University*



Female Swamp Antechinus captured at Painkalac Creek July 2022, showing pouch development (Photo B. Wilson)



Female Swamp Antechinus with pouch young (Photo J. Cripps)



Pittosporum

The weed Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum* is spreading rapidly through the Surf Coast Shire and Great Otway National Park. It has perfumed clusters of creamy-white flowers in spring followed by large berries that ripen to orange and are spread by birds. It forms a dense canopy, shading out indigenous understorey plants. A plan to target pittosporum is being devised, but in the meantime, if you see it, please pull it out, from gardens, roadsides and the national park.



Regional Trails Management Strategy – have your say

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, in partnership with Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria, DELWP and the local governments of Surf Coast, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Warrnambool and Moyne, is developing a Regional Trails Management Strategy for the Great Ocean Road region. This strategy will provide an overarching guide for the consistent and coordinated planning, development, management and marketing of world-class trail experiences that reflect the region's unique character, environmental and cultural importance.

As part of the development process for the strategy, stakeholders are being invited to complete a survey outlining their use of the trail network and opportunities for improvement. The survey is open to 18 December 2022, takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is located at <https://trc.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/great-ocean-road-regional-trail-management-strategy>.

This web landing page provides further background to the strategy and features an Ideas Wall, where you can share your ideas on existing and new trails and help shape the future of trails in the region. Comments on trail maintenance, use, management and planning, marketing and promotions, etc., are welcomed.

For any questions or enquiries concerning the development of this strategy, please contact Trail Coordinator, Matt Aquilina on matt.aquilina@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

Diary Dates

There are three dates to note in your diaries:

The Painkalac Forum (details in this newsletter) is on Saturday 21 January 2023 at 4pm in the Aireys Community Hall.

The Surf Coast Shire is planning to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fire with an event in the Community Hall on Wednesday 16 February 2023.

Finally our AGM will be held on Saturday 15 April 2023 at 4 pm also in the Community Hall. Details of the AGM and our guest speaker will be available in 2023 but in the meantime put the date in your diary.

AIDA membership renewals due 1 January 2023

AIDA's strength and ability to lobby and advocate is due to its membership numbers, which recently grew from 400-450 over recent years to more than 500 this past year.

Your membership is really important to AIDA. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join if they also love the things that make this part of the Surf Coast so special. If you know someone who supports our aims but isn't a member, please invite them to join and give them a copy of the membership form to complete.

If you joined AIDA after 1 September 2022 you do not need to pay the 2023 subscription. Your next membership payment will be due 1 January 2024.

Renewing members do not have to return a form unless their contact details have changed, but please make sure the member(s) names are clearly identified when making payment using one of the methods described below (single \$10, family \$20).

To become a **new member** of AIDA please download and complete the [Membership form](#) (PDF) and make your subscription payment by direct deposit* or by cheque/ money order (see the form for details). Then please return the completed form to: AIDA Membership, PO Box 359, Aireys Inlet, Victoria 3231, or scan the form and email it to: aireysinletdistrict@gmail.com

*Payment by direct deposit

Account name: Aireys Inlet & District Association
BSB 633-000, Account 1572 531 88,
Reference: Please add your initial and surname, e.g. ASmith



AIDA wishes you a happy and safe festive season

Charlotte Allen, President