

AIDA President's Report 2019

Saturday April 27

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

We welcome to our Ward Councillor Margot Smith, Unfortunately the CEO, Keith Baillie, was unable to attend today and is an apology. Thank you, Margot, for your attendance and support of AIDA. We also welcome the candidates for the Corangamite electorate in the upcoming federal election. These candidates are Libby Coker, Labor, Damien Cole, Independent, Neil Harvey, United Australia and Sarah Henderson, Liberal. All other candidates were invited and either declined or did not respond.

Welcome to all AIDA members.

As has become the norm over the past few years the Painkalac Valley has remained very much the centre of our attention. At this time last year we were still hopeful that the Painkalac Project might have been successful in getting securing agreement for the majority of the wetlands to be vested in council with a Trust for Nature covenant over it. Unfortunately, this did not happen eventuate but, as you will be aware, one of AIDA's members purchased Lot 2 and is intending to rehabilitate the lot and restore its wetlands. AIDA and ANGAIR are supporting this project. The Painkalac Project Association has been disbanded as its aim of bringing the three lots on the valley into public ownership is no longer possible.

The committee, like many of AIDA's members and others in the community, has been very disappointed with the various changes that have happened to the valley over the past twelve months. Over the year we, like many of you, have been raising our concerns with the Shire and requesting that the protections afforded by the Conservation Management Plan, and other planning policies that cover the valley, be enforced. It has been very disappointing that to date this has not happened.

In early December, in an attempt to resolve the various issues related to the valley, the Shire decided to ask the Department of Justice Mediation Service to organise a meeting to seek to mediate the various issues. Due to difficulties with organising a date when the owners of the three lots, the lessee of Lot 3, Shire officers and two AIDA representatives were all available, this session did not happen until yesterday. To ventilate the issues prior to the mediation and to clearly state AIDA's concerns and understanding of the controls afforded by the CMP and other planning policies we sent the Shire 19 letters, one in early March about the potential for possibility of a new bridge for the horse stables in early March, and the remainder in late March. Each letter covered one particular issue in accordance with advice received from the Shire. Exploring these issues and getting gaining a detailed understanding of all aspects of them, including all the existing controls, planning policies and zoning requirements, was an onerous and enormously time-consuming task which Ian Godfrey took on. We are very thankful and appreciate his

willingness to dedicate so much to the task. We will be making these letters available to AIDA members to read.

The mediation session yesterday lasted XX hours and was XXX. The outcomes XXX

Once I have finished this report I will ask Ian Godfrey, who was at the mediation with me, to come to the mic and we will take questions you may have.

The Shire's investigation into the potential for a walking track in the Painkalac Nature Reserve to link to a revitalised area along the creek behind the Bottom Shops is complete and the project is waiting for further finds to be identified before further work can be done.

AIDA held two community meetings during the year. One was to ~~get gain~~ a better understanding about the traffic implications of the Shire ~~considering~~ re-opening Coalmine Road. This issue remains unresolved as the Shire will consider the issue once there is clarity about the plans for the Alcoa land which is next to the road.

The other meeting – Will Tourism Kill the Great Ocean Road? - ~~which was~~ in January was in response to the Great Ocean Road Action Plan which was released in late 2018. AIDA made a detailed submission to the Taskforce and following the release of the Action Plan we established a working group to closely examine the implications of boosting tourism expenditure and investment along the Great Ocean Road, as well as identifying what we believe is needed to better support local communities to benefit from the tourist economy, to maintain appropriate environmental and landscape protections and to ensure communities such as ours continue to have a voice. We remain concerned about the potential for the Great Ocean Road ~~experience, and~~ the environment and local communities, to be ~~severely negatively~~ impacted ~~and degraded~~ by the ever-increasing number of tourists.

The GOR Action Plan staff are planning to hold a community meeting in Aireys soon to discuss the plan further and we will raise our concerns and requests at this meeting. The AIDA committee is working on a detailed submission setting out our views.

Both meetings were well attended by AIDA members and other community members, which demonstrates there is a desire for us to hold more community meetings and we will do so again when we see an opportunity.

The work to replace the Moggs Creek bridge has started and, as we reported in one newsletter, we are very pleased that VicRoads responded so positively to the community feedback to make extensive changes to their plans and pedestrian refuge lighting option.

During the year the committee continued to review all the planning applications for our area from Urquhart Bluff to Eastern View. At his request we met with Richard Riordan, the State Member for Polwarth, and with the CEO of GORCC as well as several meetings with VicRoads and with the Shire and our Ward Councillors.

AIDA's membership remains strong. It is this strength that gives AIDA its voice and we hope all members will renew their subscriptions this year. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join up if they agree with our aims and objectives.

Our thanks to Nan McNab for continuing to produce our beautiful newsletters.

I would like to thank the AIDA committee for its team work and support over the year. Everyone has put their hand up when needed. I also want to say a special thanks to the four committee members who have not renominated for the committee this year.

Janice Carpenter has been on the committee for a number of years and, on AIDA'S behalf, was the very committed, diligent and welcoming President of The Painkalac Project since 2016 until it was wound up this year.

Gary Johnston has been the Vice-President of AIDA for many years and, until recently, had the time consuming task of reviewing all planning applications to the Shire that are in our area of interest and reporting on these at our committee meetings.

Lecki Ord has been AIDA's very able membership secretary for many years and although she is not renominating for the committee, she has agreed to continue in this capacity for which we are very grateful.

Ian Godfrey has been on the AIDA committee for 16 years and is a past president and treasurer. His expertise and forensic interest in planning matters will be sorely missed at our meetings but we are delighted that he has offered to be a resource whenever needed.

The Aireys and district community are very fortunate to have had the experience, expertise and enthusiasm of these four and they will all be missed and are welcome back at any time.

Ian and I will now take questions from the floor about yesterday's mediation.

Charlotte Allen
President

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