



AIDA

March 2024 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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

AIDA acknowledges the traditional owners of these lands, the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin nation, and the Gadubanud People of the Eastern Maar nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and future.



Notice of 2024 AGM

Saturday 13 April at 3pm

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 13 April at 3pm in the Community Hall. We have invited our ward councillors Libby Stapleton and Mike Bodsworth, and the shire's CEO, Robyn Seymour, to join us to update us on council activities that are relevant to our area. There will be an opportunity for questions.

The Agenda for the AGM as well as a Proxy Voting form for those who cannot attend in person will be emailed to members two weeks before the AGM. Among the items on the agenda will be the election of the AIDA committee for the next year. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact me on charlotteallen114@gmail.com or complete the Committee Membership Nomination Form attached at the end of this newsletter. Completed nomination forms can be posted to PO Box 359, Aireys Inlet, VIC 3231 or scanned or photographed and then emailed to aida.aireys@gmail.com to arrive before Monday 8 April.

Following the AGM, historian and AIDA archivist Peter McPhee will give a talk entitled 'The Story of AIDA', which will explore the long history and many achievements of our organisation. After Peter's talk there will be time to catch up over refreshments.

Members can renew their 2024 subscriptions on the day. Membership forms will be available and new members will be welcome to join prior. Tea, coffee and wine will be available at the end of the meeting.

www.aireys-inlet.org

AIDA committee membership

AIDA committee member Guy Abrahams resigned in December because changed circumstances left him with little time to devote to AIDA. Our sincere thanks go to him for the valuable input he gave to the committee and we hope he will be able to join us again in the future. We are glad to report that in January Ian Herben became our newest committee member. We look forward to working with him for many years.

There are still vacancies on the committee and we would very much welcome more new faces and thinking. Please consider nominating if you appreciate, and are interested in, AIDA's work. Enthusiasm is the

only requirement but we would particularly welcome those with IT, communications, legal, planning or environmental backgrounds and skills.

The committee meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30 pm – in the Community Centre or on Zoom – and from time to time there are other meetings or events where committee members are called on to contribute their time if they are available. The committee's work is fun as well as important. Please call me on 0418 567 977 if you would like more information about the committee's activities. Please use the committee nomination form below.

Charlotte Allen

Nomination form for AIDA committee 2024

PERSON NOMINATED: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) _____

PROPOSED BY: _____

NOMINATED FOR: (PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX)

PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
SECRETARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	TREASURER	<input type="checkbox"/>
		COMMITTEE MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION: _____

DATE: _____

AIDA code of ethics for committee members

- (1) To support the Aims and Policies of AIDA
- (2) To be an active and committed member in the best interests of AIDA, free of motives of personal advantage and/or information gathering for personal advantage or gain.
- (3) To accept all decisions of AIDA made by constitutional means, and to refrain from public adverse comment about those decisions in any form which claims or implies representation of AIDA.
- (4) To declare any actual or perceived vested or pecuniary interest, and to abstain from voting in cases where such an interest exists. This interest must be declared before any relevant agenda item is dealt with, or when such conflict of interest becomes clear.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The Murnong Awards

Being the end of the year, I thought it would be good to reflect on what's happened with Wilding the Valley on Lot 2 and the Salt Wedge site over the last year. So why not an awards ceremony, without the ceremony. I've decided to call them the Murnongs, after the Indigenous word for *Microseris walteri*, the yam daisies that used to grow all over the valley prior to European

invasion.

So, the inaugural Murnongs. I am the sole judge, but if you have any complaints or problems with the judging decision, please feel free to contact Jacinta, hee hee.

Bird Photo of the Year: This was a tighter contest – quite a few in contention – but for us it was Katie Pahlow's photo of a cisticola perched on a Pale Rush on Lot 2. The colour of the rush and the cisticola match so beautifully (see below).



Mammal of the Year: Not even a close contest, it's the male Swamp Antechinus captured by the Geelong Field Nats on Lot 2 a month or so ago. Bring your friends along little fella, Lots 2's big enough for all your habitat-loss refugee mates.



Supporting Organisation of the Year: How could we separate Angair and AIDA, both deserve a Murnong for their tireless work protecting the local native environment.

Ecologists of the Year: Another tie, but being partners in defence of the natural environment, not a surprise. Of course, it's Drs Barbara Wilson and Mark Garkaklis. They have made such a difference to our understanding of the native species in the valley. And must have trapped more Swamp Antechinus than anyone else in the world.

Volunteer of the Year: Hardly a surprise, Roger Ganly. He works tirelessly for the environment, even when he and Nola are supposed to be on holiday in Europe.

Workers of the Year: Again, predictably, Jonty Lolait and Jack Corbel. They both put in so much more than they're

paid for; the future of environmentalism is looking safe with these two on the job. Thanks so much guys.

Plant of the Year: Tough one, but we're going to go with *Juncus pallidus*, the Pale Rushes that have sprung up all over the wetland. Who else but they could displace an acre or two of kikuyu grass, provide much-needed habitat for birds, insects and small mammals while cleaning the water going into the Painkalac Creek and reducing downstream flooding risk by increasing seepage into the water table. Heroes.



And, finally, the big one the inaugural ...



MUDDY MURNONG: Awarded to an organisation or individual who has tirelessly contributed to the protection and promotion of the natural environment in the valley. Drum roll: **Angair volunteers! Because they are just amazing!**

Thanks so much to everyone who helped on the Lot 2 and Salt Wedge sites last year. With good rain both sites are thriving. The Salt Wedge site is a harder ask than Lot 2, drier, windier, originally totally denuded and heavily grazed by roos, but even it is looking good.

Mick Loughnan

AIDA submissions

Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme Review & Urban Futures Strategy

Members may recall our newsletter item on this subject in November 2023. AIDA subsequently made a submission regarding these documents to the Surf Coast Shire just before the end-of-year deadline. In summary, we have requested that the shire undertake the following course of action:

- Canvas a broader range of issues in the Planning Scheme Review that reflect the nature and extent of feedback provided in the Coastal Character Engagement Report under the Stakeholder Engagement process.
- Include AIDA in the review of recommended changes to the Planning Scheme covered by projects and documents listed under New Strategic Work.
- Add a Surf Coast Lighting Policy based upon International Dark Sky Guidelines to the projects and documents listed under New Strategic Work (see p. 5).
- Include AIDA in any review of local planning scheme overlays as they relate to the requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay under the heading Key Issues.
- Add a Significant Tree Register forming part of further stages of the Environmental and Heritage Study under the heading Strategic Work.

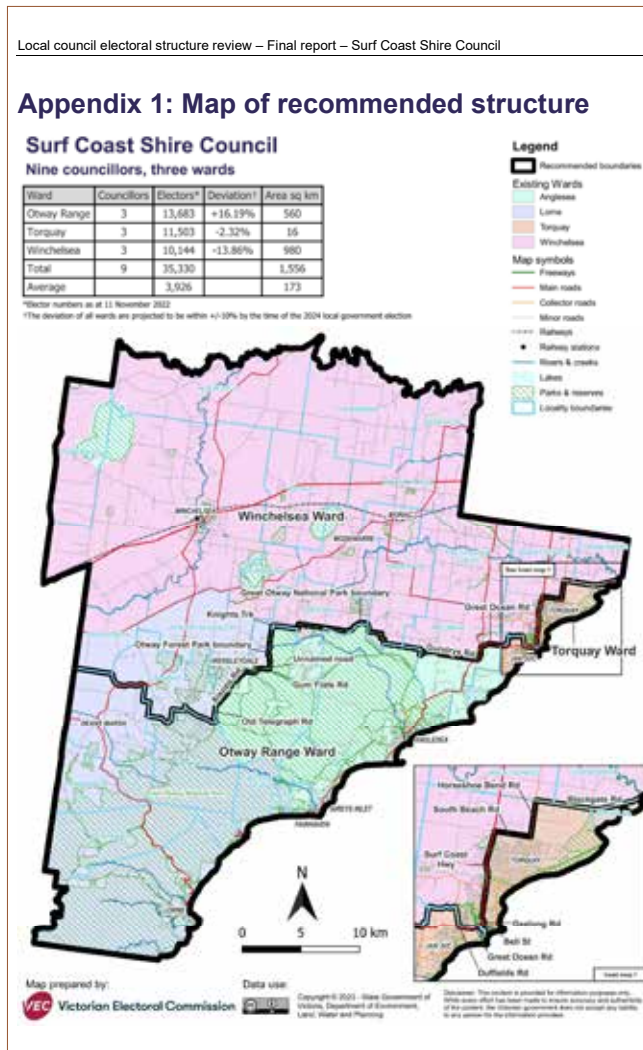
The shire has acknowledged AIDA's submission and we await advice on when further meetings will be held to discuss these documents.

Ian Laging

Shire Electoral Structure Review

In our March 2023 newsletter, we reported that AIDA had made a submission to the Victorian Electoral Commission's review of the structure of the Surf Coast Shire Council. The Surf Coast Shire was one of thirty-nine councils to have its electoral structure reviewed following changes to the *Local Government Act 2020*, which introduced several changes to local government. These changes included the types of electoral structures councils can have and required councils to be either unsubdivided (no wards) or

be divided into wards with an equal number of councillors representing each ward. Also, each ward had to have a similar number of voters.



One issue the review considered was ‘communities of interest’ that could influence the optimum grouping of communities within a ward. The AIDA committee put in a submission asking for three wards and that one should include the coastal communities of Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Eastern View and Lorne as well as their hinterland. Our submission argued that the coastal communities have links between community organisations, and share many of the same concerns, such as caring for the coastal environment, pressures of tourism and traffic on the Great Ocean Road, public infrastructure and the impacts of climate change, particularly dealing with bushfires and erosion along the coast and the vulnerability of the Great Ocean Road. The inclusion of the immediate hinterland in this ward makes sense given the close ties of population and employment with the coast.

The results of the review were released in February by the Minister for Local Government. We are very

pleased that our submission was successful and that our proposed ward structure was accepted. The AIDA committee was very appreciative of the guidance given in the preparation of our submission by one of our members, who is an election analyst with detailed knowledge of all things electoral.

A reminder. If you own a property on the Surf Coast but also own property in another municipality you are able to have a vote in both local government areas in council elections. If your primary place of residence and where you are casting your vote is not the Surf Coast Shire you need to contact the Surf Coast to register to vote in the local council election.

Charlotte Allen

Split Point Lighthouse Precinct – land transfers



The management of all Crown land along the Great Ocean Road is being transferred to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) in a staged process. The management for the Split Point Lighthouse precinct is being transferred from Surf Coast Shire Council to GORCAPA on 1 May 2024 and includes:

- Split Point Lighthouse car park and trail
- Split Point Lighthouse
- Split Point Lighthouse cliffside vegetation and trail

GORCAPA was established to protect and manage tourism along the full length of the Great Ocean Road coast and its parks. This includes addressing the

impacts of increasing tourist numbers, environmental processes, severe weather events and climate change. As the dedicated coast and parks manager, GORCAPA's purpose is to protect, conserve, enhance and manage public land.

The *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020* provides for the management responsibility of approximately 700 parcels of land and sea to be transferred to GORCAPA by 1 November 2025.

GORCAPA advised that there should not be any change in the way the community uses the Lighthouse Precinct but they will engage the community to help it understand the areas and shape the management plans for the future. It is also working with Traditional Owners to respect their cultural values and aspirations for the land and waters.

To have your say, and to stay up to date with the land management transfers, go to <https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/Home> then *Have your say* and select *View all opportunities*, or click on these links:

[Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Land Transfers Land Management Transfers](#)
[The land we manage](#)
[Your Great Ocean Road](#)

GORCAPA will use feedback from the community, visitors and stakeholders to help shape how it manages the parcels in the future.

Circular Economy Action Plan

Surf Coast Shire Council draft Circular Economy Action Plan is open for community feedback. Council wants community feedback on this draft plan, which aims to drive action within council operations and the community to avoid waste, increase resource recovery and regenerate nature.

In contrast to a linear economy, which is based on a take-make-use-dispose approach, a circular economy keeps valuable resources in use for as long as possible through reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling – avoiding waste and helping protect the environment.

At its February meeting council endorsed the draft action plan for public exhibition and an eight-week community engagement period during March and April.

The three-year plan includes a range of actions and targets, with five priority areas:

- avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery
- maximising reuse
- innovation and collaboration
- creating systems change, and
- advocacy.

Within the priority areas, the plan outlines 25 actions, including:

- Develop and deliver targeted community programs to educate and change behaviour to avoid waste, recover more resources, and consume more intelligently, including buying recycled goods and sharing.
- Council opting to use products and materials with recycled content for projects, asset renewal and maintenance, including steel, bitumen, concrete, timber and bollards.
- Develop a plan for Anglesea landfill following its expected closure in 2027.

Community targets include reducing waste to landfill per household, increased resource recovery and reducing food and garden waste in landfill.

A copy of the draft action plan, engagement details and how to provide feedback is at www.yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/circulareconomy

Dark sky

At the beginning of this year AIDA received some welcome news from Surf Coast Shire council concerning AIDA's bid for dark sky accreditation for Aireys Inlet and the surrounding areas. Council has officially given its support for the area to be designated as a dark sky community. Later in 2024, council officers will develop a shire-wide public lighting policy. AIDA will be invited to meet with officers to assist in incorporating dark sky principles into that policy. It is anticipated that the policy will be adopted by council later in the year.



Sean Dooley the Birdman

Sean Dooley will be speaking at an International Dark Sky event at the Ballarat Observatory or via Zoom. Details here: <https://ballaratobservatory.org.au/event/international-dark-sky-week/>



Reroofing the Aireys Inlet bark hut

Weather, time, vandals and graffiti artists had taken their toll on the Aireys Inlet bark hut. Peter McConachy, with the help of his son and three grandsons, reroofed it on Saturday 3 February. They will be back soon to replace the walls.

Peter, who owns a sawmill, is able to obtain bark from logs at his mill. The Anglesea & District Historical Society recently replaced the comprehensive history display inside. Ian Laging, AIDA's vice president, has agreed to act as the unofficial 'caretaker' of the hut following the death of James Bell, who held the role for most of his life.

Jan Morris née McConachy

Vice President Anglesea and District Historical Society



(Top) Bark hut first built by Robert McConachy in 1852, destroyed by fire in 1983, rebuilt by descendants in 1986, reroofed 3 February 2024 by Flynn, Peter, Grant, Saxon and Alex McConachy. The three teenage boys have accepted responsibility for future rebarking when required.

(Left) Removing old bark prior to reroofing

(Above) Work in progress



Bus access and parking

Members may recall that the issue of large tourist buses entering and parking in Inlet Crescent received extensive coverage in various AIDA newsletters last year. Unfortunately, this problem continued throughout the recent school holidays. Buses are not permitted to access the area during school holidays according to the current parking and access plan. However, the hinged signs to alert bus drivers to this requirement were not lowered during this holiday season, and this has now been the situation for many years. AIDA has again written to the Surf Coast Shire requesting that large buses be prohibited from entering the precinct altogether.



For about an hour from 10.30 to 11.30 am every day, Inlet Crescent becomes crowded with tourist buses dropping visitors at the base of Reserve Road. The buses frequently stay parked in the area (often with engines running) creating a congested and dangerous situation for other visitors and residents. We have also had reports of buses parallel parked in the angle parking areas in Inlet Crescent by the Skate Park (see photo opposite) and at Allen Noble Sanctuary occupying all the parking spots. This situation is clearly unsustainable, and the problem appears to be increasing despite the efforts of council's rangers.



The problem of tourist buses entering and driving through residential areas of Aireys Inlet is not limited to Inlet Crescent, as multiple buses have recently been observed parking along Eagle Rock Parade (below).

AIDA understands that the Surf Coast Shire is aware of the situation and trusts that the shire will soon prohibit large tourist buses from entering the area to ensure the safety and amenity of all visitors and residents.

Charlotte Allen and Ian Laging

AIDA website

Our current AIDA website is nearly twelve years old, committee member Mary-Jane Gething having set it up in 2012 and managed it since. Unfortunately, the website has become increasingly clunky and difficult to update and so the committee decided it was time for a review of its content and presentation. We are very grateful that AIDA member Rod Brooks has volunteered to set up a completely new website with the help of Torquay Web Design and to take over the ongoing management of the new site. We thank Mary-Jane for all her past work on the website and look forward to the new site rising from the ashes of the old one!

Second Small Dwellings

Shire Planning Scheme Amendment

The Surf Coast Shire has recently lodged information on its website regarding the Victorian Government's Planning Scheme Amendment VC253 approved by the Victorian Minister for Planning on 14 December 2023. Members are urged to read this document which defines 'What is a Second Small Dwelling' and covers topics relating to Title Review, Planning Permits, Bushfire Management Overlays and Building Approvals. Unfortunately, no mention is made of any other overlays including (significantly) the Neighbourhood Character Overlay. This omission (which applies to Second Small Dwellings only) takes us back over 20 years when dwellings in Residential Zones needed only to comply with Rescode in terms of design, setbacks, site coverage and other requirements.

AIDA has written to the shire expressing disappointment with the Planning Scheme Amendment and

the omission of Neighbourhood Character Overlay requirements. We are very concerned about the potential impact of this exemption, which would allow small dwellings to be built within vegetated setback areas between residential buildings. This scenario totally contradicts our own member and community surveys, which show strong support for the Neighbourhood Character Overlay.

AIDA understands and supports the need to provide more social and affordable housing in our local area to encourage a broad social mix forming part of a thriving and resilient community. We appreciate the dilemma that has arisen in this case, where changes to planning requirements to solve one problem cause detriment to other parts of our built and natural environment. We have asked the shire to make a submission to the Victorian Government requesting that Second Small Dwellings be made to comply with all local planning requirements.

Read about Second Small Dwellings on the Surf Coast Shire website here:

<https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Property/Planning/Planning-resources/Second-Small-Dwellings>

Ian Laging




Photo courtesy Angair


Anglesea Community & Health Hub

The Anglesea – McMillan Street precinct is used by people from our area as well as those from Anglesea. Please respond if you are interested in being involved in the community co-design process: <https://yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/angleseaHUB>

View this email in your browser

ANGLESEA COMMUNITY AND HEALTH HUB UPDATE





Community invited to be part of co-design process for Anglesea Community and Health Hub

Community members are invited to apply to be part of a co-design process for the Anglesea Community and Health Hub project.

This will involve a representative group of up to 30 people from the community, including precinct users, with a range of skills, experience and opinions taking part in a series of four workshops over the coming months.

Participants will be supported to understand what has already happened, what constraints need to be considered and the opportunities that the project provides for Anglesea.

The group will build on the work that has been completed to date, consider the results of the community engagement, and develop a draft concept plan that will be shared with the community for feedback and then presented to Council by the middle of the year.

Expressions of interest for the co-design process will open from 1-15 March at yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/AngleseaHub. You can call 5261 0600 if you don't have internet access.

Participants in the co-design process will be selected through an expression of interest process, with the aim being to provide a representative group that generally reflects the demographics of Anglesea. Selection criteria will include age, gender, housing tenure and interaction with the precinct.

The workshops will be informed by the project objectives along with design parameters and a statement of intent for the precinct.

Council endorsed the co-design process as part of further community engagement for the project at its meeting on 27 February.

Council also resolved to ratify an expression of interest submission to Regional Development Victoria's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, for a housing component to be considered for funding should Council ultimately determine, after the next phases of engagement, if this is its chosen direction.

The Anglesea Community and Health Hub is home to multiple community groups and agencies that deliver a range of services and programs. Its ageing buildings are struggling to meet community needs, so early planning is underway on a new 30-year plan that meets modern standards and meets service needs now and into the future.

For more information and the latest updates on the Anglesea Community and Health Hub go to: yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/AngleseaHub.