

AIREYS INLET & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – HELD VIA ZOOM
SATURDAY 30 MAY 2020

MINUTES

1. WELCOME/ PRESENT

Charlotte Allen (President) welcomed everybody to the AGM.

Members present on line: Charlotte Allen, Andrew Beedon, Sue Beedon, Angela Berry, Helen Berthelsen, Janice Carpenter, Suzanne Cavanagh, Caroline Chesterfield, Annette Comte, Les Comte, Kim Dalton, Rachel Faggetter, Barbara Fletcher, Lloyd Fletcher, David Ford, Julie Fink, Leah Gaylard, Perry Gaylard, Martin Gehrckens, Mary-Jane Gething, Ian Godfrey, David Huck, Gary Johnson, Noni Johnson, Ian Laging, Alan Lamb, Desley Lamb, Jacqui Lamont, Heather Lawson, Ann Le Lievre, Jo Murray, Nan McNab, Catherine McNaughton, Peter McPhee, Gary O'Loughlin, Lecki Ord, Anne Porter, Ian Porter, David Quin, Chris Ryan, Penny Robbins, Barbara Selvay, Jane Stephens, Jenny Stevens, Richard Tait, Maureen Tehan, Frieda Wachsmann, Mark Wellard

Members who provided proxy votes: Jacqui Arnott, Chris & Ann Brown, Hugh & Liz Fitzpatrick, Ros Gibson, Linsey & John Howie, Judith King, Suzanne Luxton, Kit McPhee, Aurore Mulkens, Graham Murrell, Jiri Tibor Novak, Margaret White

Guests:

Margot Smith, Surf Coast Shire Councillor (Anglesea Ward)
Tony Revell, Surf Coast Shire Councillor (Anglesea Ward)
Keith Baillie, CEO Surf Coast Shire

2. APOLOGIES

Mary-Ann Boyd Squires, Matthew Cuthbertson, Dale Jennings

3. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHARLOTTE ALLEN, AIDA PRESIDENT

Again, welcome everyone to AIDA's AGM with a difference. I would first like to pay my respects to the traditional owners of the lands on which our coastal communities sit – the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar people and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. This week is Reconciliation Week with this year's theme, which was announced last year, of "In this together" resonating strongly in the current pandemic.

I trust everyone has stayed safe over the past months. I know many of our members have been in their homes on the coast for the duration of the lockdown – and some are likely to change their work/life arrangements permanently to spend more time on the coast.

It is a pleasure to see so many members joining our on-line Zoom AGM – and in particular those members who normally are unable to join us. Welcome. We also welcome our Anglesea Ward Councillors, Margot Smith and Tony Revell, as well as the Shire's CEO, Keith Baillie, and I thank them for giving us their time and for their ongoing support for AIDA.

We have had responses from over 70 members who either intend to be with us or have sent in a proxy vote so we have a quorum.

The meeting will follow the Agenda that was included with all the AGM information sent out a few weeks ago. I don't intend to read out my President's Report, which was included with that information, but I will spend a few minutes on its key issues.

I have muted everyone to eliminate any background noise but there will be opportunities for questions at the end of the AGM and after we have heard from our Ward Councillors. The Shire's CEO is also available to answer any questions. Please unmute yourself if you wish to speak but use the chat button at the bottom of your screen to submit your question or comment.

From time to time as issues arise members offer us their expertise, which is always much appreciated. Recently electoral analyst, David Quin, offered to prepare AIDA's detailed response to the VEC Ward boundary review and our thanks go to him. As always greatly appreciate Nan McNab's efforts producing our very fine newsletters. We also thank Perry Gaylard for producing our publicity flyers and Lecki Ord for her ongoing work maintaining AIDA's membership database.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Ian and Anne Porter who recently resigned from the AIDA committee, on which they served for a combined total of 18 years. For many years Anne prepared our monthly correspondence report and meeting minutes and Ian has been a significant contributor over the years, most recently by writing AIDA's submission to the Great Ocean Road Authority Action Plan.

My biggest thanks go to the committee for their hard work and commitment to AIDA. Everyone has played a role and risen to the task whenever required. Frieda Wachsmann looks after the finances, Peter McPhee takes meeting minutes and is our archivist, Chris Ryan spoke at our Summer Forum, has represented AIDA at the Alcoa/Eden Project meetings and keeps an eye on the GOR, Suzanne Cavanagh set up our new Facebook page, is leading our contact with other communities along the GOR as well as providing the committee with her tourism strategy expertise, Annette Comte organises, collates and takes care of the newsletters, and Mary-Jane Gething takes care of the website and is AIDA's secretary. Barb Fletcher and Catherine McNaughton are primarily responsible for all things planning. We are delighted to have nominations from Leah Gaylard and Martin Gehrckens to join the committee and we will welcome them.

One of AIDA's key aims is to play a role in ensuring that as our area develops and grows it does not lose its character of a low-key, non-suburban coastal community nestled in the trees. Unfortunately, the requirements of the recent Bushfire Management Overlay means that we will continue to lose some vegetation as new houses are built.

It is also unfortunate that more and more planning applications for new developments are for large blocky buildings best suited to a suburban environment. The AIDA committee, and in particular Barb and Catherine, with assistance from Ian Godfrey, review all planning applications for our area and we make submissions to the Shire in instances where an application doesn't meet its planning policies or the Neighbourhood Character Guidelines. AIDA also appears at VCAT to argue its case when required. Reviewing of planning applications is an aspect of AIDA's work that is much appreciated by members, but our submissions are not always successful and this year we lost at least two members who thought we were not doing enough to stop inappropriate buildings. We do

what we can and it's disappointing to have more and more applications for these large suburban dwellings.

Some committee members recently had an on-line meeting with DEWLP's Barwon South West senior staff to discuss our concerns about aspects of the yet to be established GOR Authority, the need for community involvement, transparency and the opportunity for a tourism strategy re-set given the current situation. We have another meeting planned for next week and will continue our advocacy work in this area.

The committee also has some significant concerns about the potential for the Eden Project in Angelsea to become a reality. Does the GOR really need a development of this size, which could cannibalise existing businesses that rely on the tourist dollar, increase traffic and tourist numbers?

Many of you will be interested to hear that the Hearing of Submissions for the application for a private bridge over the Painkalac Creek will happen via remote access on June 16th. Those who made a submission about the application will be notified about the meeting by the Shire and asked if they want to be heard. AIDA will make an oral submission at the meeting.

AIDA has put in a bid to the 2020-21 Shire Budget for funds for three modest projects. These were to fix the ponding outside the chemist shop at the Top Shops, provide some funds for the long-promised pathway along the Eastern side of the Painkalac Creek and to revegetate an area, designated as conservation zone, behind the Bottom Shops that is currently being used as a driveway and for car parking. Unfortunately none were successful and instead there are funds provided only for some minor road works on Bambra Road. It seems our area has not been well supported in the draft budget.

It is also very disappointing that the Shire has not provided any funds to progress the Capital Works and New Initiatives in the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View – Planning for the Future Structure Plan that was finalised in November 2015. The Structure Plan was prepared by the Shire and agreed to by the community after a comprehensive consultation program. A number of projects including the Painkalac Creek Trail East and Top Shops and Bottom Shops Urban Design Framework implementation, are now overdue for completion. We need to ask why it is that since 2015 these priorities have been ignored while funding is provided for other projects such as minor road works?

We had originally planned to have a "What If" discussion about traffic management and evacuation plans after this year's AGM, but we couldn't proceed with it due to COVID-19. This session would have explored the interesting work that the Shire, and other agencies, are doing to keep us safe should we be impacted by bushfires. Given the severity of the recent bushfire season we felt that this would have been a very timely and important conversation with Surf Coast Shire's Community Emergency Management team, Parks Victoria, DEWLP, CFA, and VicPol to discuss the current traffic management plans and evacuation scenarios in our area. We plan to proceed with this discussion later in the year when conditions allow, hopefully before the next fire season and you will all be invited.

Now for the AGM agenda. If you have any questions, please use the chat button to submit them. I have asked Suzanne Cavanagh to look after any questions and direct them to the appropriate person for answers.

4. PRESENTATION BY SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCILLORS

Margot Smith (MS) thanked AIDA for inviting her to attend the AGM and made the following points:

- She has read AIDA's recent report and is concerned by the conflict between suburban development and coastal character and the need to protect vegetation;
- Our experience during COVID provides an opportunity to reset aspects of tourism on the coast;
- No one seems to want the return of drive-through buses;
- Aim is for visitors to come and stay as opposed to driving through;
- Happy for tourists to come and treat the environment with respect and enjoy the environment;
- International tourism activity is unlikely until the end of the year;
- Seems that more people are currently in Aireys Inlet and Anglesea enjoying working from home here and maybe in future more will move permanently after enjoying the experience.
- Advised that she is not going to stand for council in the upcoming elections in October – 8 years is enough. She is hoping for good candidates. It has been wonderful meeting passionate people who want to protect the area and thanks AIDA for all that they do.

The President thanked Margot and said that we certainly will miss her and have enjoyed working with her.

Tony Revell (TR) thanked AIDA for the opportunity to attend the AGM and made the following points:

- He echoed Margot's thanks and acknowledged the work done by AIDA and the contributions made;
- The best decisions are made after listening to community feedback;
- In making the right decisions on planning matters there is great value in community consultations recorded in AIDA's surveys;
- Will always respect submissions made with a lot of community thought and input;
- Appreciates the high standard of AIDA submissions e.g. electoral boundaries and planning.
- Very interested in post-COVID recovery planning.
- COVID led to the Shire convening weekly remote meeting with the Aireys Inlet community and the Shire will welcome suggestions from the community as we go through recovery;
- The draft budget has been very challenging as it has had to address declining revenues and COVID requirements on the budget;
- Councillors will now hear oral submissions on the planning application for a bridge across the Painkalac Creek on 16th June via remote access. There have been 42 written objections to the application and 18 in favour;
- The Eden Project is waiting on the State Government as to whether water can be made available. No water no project.
- He will be renominating for Council.

The President thanked Tony very much for his contribution.

It was agreed that questions would be delayed until the end of the Agenda.

4. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2019

The Minutes of the AGM on 27/4/19 had previously been circulated to all.

Motion **"to accept the minutes as a true record of the 2019 Annual General Meeting"**

Moved by Mary-Jane Gething

Seconded by Chris Ryan

Agreed.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report for 2019 was emailed to members with the meeting papers. A copy will be published in the next newsletter and on the AIDA website. No questions were asked.

6. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Annual Financial Report was emailed to members with the meeting papers.
Frieda Wachsmann read the Financial Report. A copy will be published on the AIDA website.
No questions were asked.

Motion **“that the 2019 Financial Report be received”**

Moved by Frieda Wachsmann

Seconded by Charlotte Allen

Agreed.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RESOLUTION that the number of ordinary members of the AIDA Committee to hold office for 2020/2021 should be set at a maximum of twelve.

Moved by Mary-Jane Gething

Seconded by Annette Comte

Agreed.

Charlotte had thanked the retiring committee members, Anne and Ian Porter, for their service in her opening remarks.

Mary-Jane Gething reported that the following nominations have been received for positions on the 2020/2021 Committee:

President:	Charlotte Allen
Vice President:	Barbara Fletcher
Secretary:	Mary-Jane Gething
Treasurer:	Frieda Wachsmann

Committee Members:	Suzanne Cavanagh
	Annette Comte
	Leah Gaylard
	Martin Gehrckens
	Catherine McNaughton
	Peter McPhee
	Chris Ryan

There being no more than one person nominated for each position on the Committee, the persons listed above were declared to have been elected to the new Committee.

8. MEMBERSHIP FEE AND DUE DATE

Motion **“that the AIDA membership fee remain at \$10 per voting member i.e. a single membership will be \$10 and a family membership \$20, and that the due date remain the 1st January”**

Motion moved by Charlotte Allan

Seconded by Barbara Fletcher

Agreed.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES

Q Can the shire please prepare a Heritage Strategy to protect the Lighthouse Precinct which has holes in the heritage overlay between the Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keepers Cottages and to protect heritage which tells the story of Ash Wednesday? From Catherine Mc Naughton

A Keith Baillie – Shire does Heritage Studies. A good question to get clarification on and to consider in future budgets. Happy to look into and get back to AIDA.

C Ian [Godfrey] thinks there was a conservation study done by Peter Lovell for the Commonwealth before the responsibility was handed over. Probably 25 years ago. From Lecki Ord

C Speaking of the Lighthouse Precinct, I am hoping everyone is aware of the massive development proposed for 26-28 Inlet Crescent. From Jane Stephens to Everyone:

Q Would Keith or the councillors be able to comment on where they see the GOR Authority going in terms of its composition and relationship with the Shire? How do we move forward. From Peter McPhee.

Also

Q Thanks Charlotte. Given the concerns AIDA has raised over the composition of the GORSAC, is there anything the members can do to help ensure local and community representation? From Richard Tait.

A Keith Baillie – Great Ocean Road Planning is now included at state level so that planning is not just considered locally at the level of one town, but also around impact on the whole GOR. The systems view is a richer view and worthwhile. Representation: When the authority was proposed various governance models were considered such as local advisory committees or broader representation. Instead the government chose a skills-based board with limited potential for local input. Any possibility for the model being revised is unlikely. The Advisory Committee has a specific function to assess the conformity of the Strategic Plan with any proposals. This Strategic Plan is yet to be prepared and is hugely important. Question is how to appropriately have development on the Great Ocean Road. Vic State Govt consider that with economy, visitor economy growth is a key state level priority and the aim is to create more jobs on Great Ocean Road. Advisory Committee very much a bunch of planners but it is a planning construct designed as a planning committee explicitly for the GOR. It will refer to the Strategic Plan.

Any Council Crown Land will come under the GOR Authority (on coastal side of the Great Ocean Road) inland might still be DELWP or Council. Council will retain Planning Scheme role in framework of GOR strategic Plan and Standing Advisor Committee.

What will Council's relationship with the Authority be? This argument has been lost. Just about any Crown land that the council has been managing will go to the Authority. Council will only be responsible for its own land.

Q Perhaps this is the time to revise our dependency on the visitor economy. The state government might be going to do that before too long. From Lecki Ord

A Keith Baillie – Council is doing an economic strategy which does talk a lot about the vulnerability of the economy. Where will jobs come from? The Shire is preparing an Economic Development Strategy that recognises the importance of the visitor economy. Eden and Cape Otway Road Modewarre Sports development plan for 800 jobs – what else could do this? Surf Coast Shire financial situation is a big issue comparing services and affordability.

C EDEN jobs seem to ignore its impact on existing jobs and existing hospitality businesses (small businesses) which it could easily cannibalise. From Christopher Ryan

Q What about the impact on the community and the environment? Particularly tempting to flip back into economic argument without equal emphasis on community and environment.

A Keith Baillie – Have been pleasantly surprised by the environmental benefits of COVID. Will be sad to the them reversed.

Q What about the failure to fund AIDA's requests for funds to invest in local infrastructure improvements?

A Keith Baillie – The biggest difficulty for council is its financial position and affordability of both large and small initiatives. Initiatives put to council are over subscribed 2 to 1.

Q Will the Shire be applying for post-Covid stimulus funding from state and federal government for Aireys Inlet shops Urban Design plans and pathways and for walking and cycling paths to link with DELWPs plans to link Fairhaven to Apollo Bay? Catherine Mc Naughton

A Keith Baillie – Yes – Council is considering projects and priorities. The Surf Coast Walk extension is included in the City Deal and will be considered in post Covid stimulus. More local projects could also be considered.

Q If the authority will be managing Crown land in future, might Council postpone the decision for a bridge over the Painkalac on public land? From Nan McNab

A – Keith – No for the bridge. On the ocean side of the creek, responsibility will go to the Authority. On the land side the Authority is not interested. Responsibility will probably stay with the council. Planning issues probably not different with Authority or council.

C Keith Baillie – AIDA's planned bushfire forum is very worthwhile in considering bushfire planning and safe evacuation or safety in place - before next summer. Last Dec 28th was Extreme day almost Code Red had terrifying contingency planning for Council and other agencies. Need more planning for next time ahead of next summer. Evacuation and traffic very important. May not be able to safely evacuate everyone. Tuesday Council briefing on next wave of Emergency Management reforms. Need to position communities better for when there is a fire. Needs to be very clear acceptance that not everyone will be able to leave the town. Tony is very skilled in this area.

Q As development and visitor numbers continue to increase, I would like to bring to the attention of the Shire the large increase in rubbish on the sides of the roads especially the GOR. The mad mile between Forrest Road and Point Addis is strewn with rubbish. Also bins at beaches are overflowing each weekend. Could Council also address we need much better signage for wildlife. Kangaroos are killed in large numbers by vehicles. The signage is not at all adequate. From Jacqui Lamont

A Keith Baillie – Rubbish seems to be more on beach and roadsides – maybe something to do with more takeaways rather than sit down restaurant meals and more visitors over recent sunny weekends with lockdown easing? Rubbish collection at winter off peak timetable being reviewed as needed and talking to the contractor to increase collection frequency. Trying to arrange clean-up crews with state govt funding for COVID employment stimulus. Kangaroos are usually dealt with on a site-by-site basis. If specific locations are documented can increase signage.

Q How can we strengthen the voice of the community at this time of critical change so we don't repeat the problems of the past? From Suzanne Cavanagh

C A comment - it is clear that the 'strategic framework' and its impact will be a significant focus for the work of AIDA and our partner residential community organisations in the coming few years. From Christopher Ryan

C High fossil fuel using tourism travel seems problematic in climate emergency. Catherine Mc Naughton

11. CLOSURE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The President closed the meeting at 5.35 pm.