



AIDA

April 2015 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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



AIDA

Celebrating fifty years

Come to AIDA's AGM

Saturday 11 April at 4.00 pm

Aireys Inlet Community Hall

Hear writer and publisher Hilary McPhee speak about her personal experiences of Aireys and the coast over the past fifty years.

See photos and other memorabilia highlighting local issues since the beginnings of AIDA.

Share your stories and experiences of Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Eastern View.

AIDA people – a history

AIDA's strength has been the commitment and support of its members, particularly those holding the important offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer. It is possible to mention only a few of these dedicated workers in this brief history of AIDA, but AIDA would like to pass on thanks to all committee members and their families who have helped AIDA over the past fifty years.

1960s

Civil engineer Ian Noble was the inaugural president in 1965. He successfully led a community movement to stop a proposed camping ground development in the lower reaches of the Painkalac Creek Estuary, downstream from the Great Ocean Road bridge. He was also a leading figure behind the design and installation of the Aireys Inlet water and sewerage systems.

www.aireys-inlet.org

Brian Williams, also an inaugural member, gave the Aireys Inlet community thirty years of service through AIDA. He worked tirelessly to organise the conservation and restoration of the Foreshore of Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Eastern View, establishing a coastal weeding group and pioneering the formation of the current foreshore committees.

Brian's A *Brief history of AIDA: from birth to 2000* can be accessed on the AIDA website under AIDA's History.

1970s

During the 1970s Brian Williams, Ted Fletcher, Dennis McMahon, Dick Veasey, Ken McDonald and Ron Burton were instrumental in successful land use and planning issues as well as community developments such as the annual art and craft show and the tennis club. The cliff-top walk from Step Beach to Sandy Gully and on to Sunnymead was opened. An environmental study of the Painkalac valley by Monash University was commissioned by AIDA to investigate the effects of damming the creek. Study weekends were organised with the 'Environmental Studies Association of Victoria' in 1973 and 1975, which resulted in a report detailing suggested uses for the Crown land between Urquhart Bluff and Eastern View. Most of the recommendations made have since been adopted.

1980s

Joan Forster served as AIDA president in 1987 and 1988. She brought a love of native plantings, and many areas, including the Painkalac Creek, Allen Noble Sanctuary and Step Beach to Sandy Gully cliff-top walk benefited from her expertise.

In the 1980s the Geelong Regional Commission was influenced by AIDA's presiding presidents Ian Noble, Ken McDonald, Dick Veasey, Barbara McKenzie, John Grigg and Peter Thompson to acquire Mellors Swamp and adjacent land and to refuse to allow Eagle Rock Parade and Anderson Streets to become through roads over Sandy Gully.

On 16 February 1983 the disastrous Ash Wednesday fire claimed the life of AIDA secretary Colin Barton. Barbara McKenzie and the AIDA team provided the newsletter to facilitate community communication during the aftermath. Subsequent planning policies to retain Aireys Inlet's unique coastal character were strongly supported by AIDA.

1990s

As Aireys Inlet and district became more popular with weekenders, the 1990 presidents – John Grigg, Rachel Faggetter, Peter Thompson, Jane Grant and Kim Neubecker – had to take steps to protect pristine environmental areas. A Painkalac Creek Wetlands and Floodplain Environmental Study sponsored by the

Department of Conservation Forests and Land released in 1991 recommended against development of the river flats for a recreational oval or residential development. The 1993 Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan rezoned Mellors Swamp, the estuary environs south of the Great Ocean Road and the council owned river flats as Public Open Space – Flora and Fauna Reserve. AIDA, ANGAIR, the Victorian Conservation Trust and other local groups came together during this period to have the coastal public land from Hutt Gully to the mouth of the Painkalac Creek placed on the Interim List of the National Estate Register.

2000s

Unprecedented levels of new development and a whirlwind of state and local planning initiatives characterised the period from 2000 onwards, and presidents Tim Gibson, Ian Godfrey, Barbara Leavesley and Barb Fletcher guided AIDA's responses to these increasing challenges. AIDA initiated, planned and is still pursuing the development of local older persons' housing and made strong contributions to the introduction of our Neighbourhood Character planning controls. AIDA pursued the seemingly never-ending saga of effective traffic management for the Lighthouse Precinct, also proposing the Lighthouse Discovery Trail, and contributing to the skate park playground. We participated in each stage of the shire's planning for the top and bottom shops, and initiated the Great Ocean Road pathway linking the two and the completion of the Allen Noble Sanctuary.

But not all of AIDA's endeavours have been fully successful, as during this period many inappropriately large houses continue to be constructed and our informal gravel streets are progressively being suburbanised.

AIDA has worked closely with the shire and local authorities, contributing to the discussion and eventual content of several important planning documents, such as The 1993 Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan, which continues to preserve low-key development and the natural environment of our coast.

Without the fifty years of diligent surveillance and tireless work from the AIDA committee and members we would not be enjoying a beautiful coastal environment where the 'forest meets the sea' so close to a large metropolis.

Historic Aireys Inlet and district (p. 3), top to bottom

View from the lighthouse

The Arch

Great Ocean Road at the Surfclub corner

Eastern View Hotel

*Historic photographs courtesy
Anglesea and District Historical Society*



GREAT OCEAN ROAD FROM EASTERN VIEW HOTEL



New plan for the district – 2015

Aireys Inlet to Eastern View: Planning for the Future

The development of the 2015 structure plan coincides with AIDA's fiftieth anniversary. The Aireys Inlet and District Association, is a voluntary association of about 400 members, residents and non-residents. Since 1965 AIDA has worked with the shire to ensure that land-use change in the area is sympathetic to the environment and preserves the special character of the coastal communities of Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Eastern View.

Every community along the Great Ocean Road has its unique characteristics, which helps to create a diverse, beautiful coastal–rural region. In the Aireys Inlet district, these characteristics include not only a beautiful beach with its cliffs and sand dunes, but an open river valley with its stream and estuary surrounded by national park. The valley acts as a complex ecological link between the forest and the river estuary.

Aireys Inlet and its district have managed to maintain a more low-key coastal village ambiance than neighbouring townships while catering for the service needs of its residents and visitors. It is a much loved and highly valued place.

AIDA's vision of the nature of Aireys Inlet and district in twenty to thirty years is that both future generations and visitors will continue to be able to enjoy what today is distinctive about Aireys Inlet and its district, both its bio-diverse natural environment and its village character. There are opportunities to improve the amenities available to residents in particular that do not impinge on the natural beauty of the area or its environment, to enhance the experience of the increasing numbers of those who value walking and bike-riding, and to meet the safety challenges of a changing climate and increasing numbers of visitors.

Our detailed submission to the structure plan, supported by thirty years of surveyed local opinions, focuses on specific dimensions of that vision:

- protecting the special character of the Aireys Inlet and district settlements;
- the natural environment;
- community safety; and
- the necessary infrastructure.



AIDA's submission

Prior to its submission to the shire, AIDA ran a [survey](http://www.aireys-inlet.org/aida-community-survey-2015/) of its members canvassing people's vision for Aireys Inlet and district: <<http://www.aireys-inlet.org/aida-community-survey-2015/>>

AIDA has now completed its survey of community opinions relevant to the structure plan, which is on p. 6, for your information. (See details of availability on website below). The AIDA committee hopes that this comprehensive view of community planning and environmental values and opinions will inform the final shape and content of the 2015 structure plan.

AIDA 2015 Questionnaire Full Results 20-2-2015.pdf provides the detailed analysis of responses to each of the twenty-three questions asked, together with the respondents' comments on the issues.

AIDA Questionnaires – Current Views & Longitudinal Attitudes.pdf shows the pattern of responses to this and three previous AIDA surveys comprising largely the same questions, dating back over the past thirty-two years.

The importance of the role of the 1990 AIDA questionnaire in informing the 1993 Structure Plan for Aireys Inlet to Eastern View determined the AIDA Committee's decision to proceed with a questionnaire, hopefully to inform the outcomes of the 2015 structure plan.

In addition to this community survey AIDA will be making further submissions to the shire regarding the directions and content of the structure plan.

Notable findings

Significantly the results show the strength and also the consistency of responses over time to most of the questions. This is remarkable both because it reflects community opinions going back twenty-five to thirty-two years, and also because the profile of viewpoints is very largely the same whether limited predominantly to AIDA members, as in 1983 and 2015, or to all residents and ratepayers, as in 1990 and 1999. In addition, the response rate of those polled in each case has been high – equalling or in excess of the 43 per cent response documented in the 1993 structure plan for the 1990 questionnaire. Findings from the 2015 AIDA questionnaire:

- Respondents expressed great appreciation for the environment and strongly supported environmental protection.
- They expressed the need for urban and neighbourhood character protection, including

- more effective measures than at present.
- A new question regarding older persons' housing at Fraser Drive received strong support.
- Respondents expressed opinions on a number of local street character design issues: shared use of local streets by both pedestrians and cars, informal unsealed local roads and naturally vegetated residential roadsides; and disapproval of the steady increase in the use of signage throughout the area.
- A number of responses relate to the shire's suggestion of a sporting oval in the Painkalac valley. An increasing proportion of respondents over the years, now standing at 59 per cent, are opposed to any sports oval at all in the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View area, while there is opposition from 75 per cent of respondents to any development on the Painkalac Creek flats upstream from the Great Ocean Road Bridge.
- The only recreational developments receiving strong and consistent majority support (88 per cent to 89 per cent over the past thirty-two years) are more walking tracks; an average of 64 per cent favour more bicycle tracks.
- Over 70 per cent of people supported improved emergency fire safety infrastructure (both access and telecommunications).
- The existing 'night sky' low public lighting policy is strongly endorsed.

There are many other responses that provide invaluable and more specific views on a range of issues and locations.

The thirty-year history has permitted the development of a longitudinal analysis of local opinions, part of which is illustrated on p. 6.

This year's results and the Longitudinal Study are available on AIDA's website at [AIDA 2015 Questionnaire Full Results 20-2-2015](#) and the history of local opinions is at [AIDA Questionnaires – Current Views & Longitudinal Attitudes](#).

At the AIDA website <http://www.aireys-inlet.org> scroll down the home page and click on the 'AIDA Activities' box labelled AIDA QUESTIONNAIRE 2015. At the bottom of the page that opens up you will find links to the [AIDA 2015 Questionnaire Full Results 20-2-2015](#) and [AIDA Questionnaires – Current Views & Longitudinal Attitudes](#).

The following letter from Jorgen Peeters, Senior Strategic Planner Surf Coast Shire, is reproduced with permission.

Findings from Phase 1

The story so far

The first phases of community engagement for *Aireys Inlet to Eastern View – Planning for the Future* have been successfully completed. The consultant team of AXOS Urban spent eleven days in the townships from 24 January to 3 February 2015 to embed themselves in the community to understand the local context, issues and community aspirations. They spoke to over 500 people, including permanent and non-permanent residents, visitors, traders and school students through informal conversations, meetings, workshops and interviews. In addition, around 150 surveys were completed, either online or in hard copy.

We sought to understand what it is that people currently love about the area, the key issues facing the towns and what the community would like Aireys Inlet to Eastern View to look and feel like in the future. We heard some clear and consistent messages about the importance of the natural environment and coastal village character, but also a broader range of views regarding specific topics such as whether there should be an active recreation space in Aireys.

The general outcomes and emerging directions and themes from Phase 1 have been captured in the *Phase 1 Understanding Places: Summary of Findings Report* (prepared by AXOS Urban) and *Phase 1 Understanding Places: Background Report* (prepared by Council).

These reports are available for viewing on the Surf Coast Shire website at http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Property/Building_Planning/Planning/Strategic_Projects_Studies/Aireys_Inlet_Planning_for_the_Future

If you would like a hard copy please contact me.

Have your say on the vision

As part of the second phase of the project – Visioning – the findings of Phase 1 have been extracted to formulate a shared vision and supporting principles for the towns.

The Vision and Principles document is also available at the above website and is attached for your convenience. It is also available on the AIDA website <http://www.aireys-inlet.org/new-structure-plan-for-our-district/>. Council is now seeking your views on the draft Vision and Principles to make sure we have got it right.

Kind regards,

Jorgen Peeters
Senior Strategic Planner
 Surf Coast Shire | 1 Merrijig Drive | Torquay VIC
 3228 P: (03) 5261 0557

AIDA has sent a response on behalf of AIDA members as the deadline was tight.

Questions	Year of Questionnaire			
	Dec 1983 275 Respondents (AIDA only)	Oct 1990 599 Respondents (whole district)	Oct 1999 1701 Respondents (whole district)	Feb 2015 290 Respondents (AIDA)

3. Should the area be conserved for its natural beauty and serenity as a retreat from the pressures of big city living?	?	?	Entirely 80%	Entirely 80%	Entirely 92%
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8. Aireys Inlet to Eastern View has some special environmental controls not applying elsewhere. What is your opinion of them?

(a) Protection of the night sky, by limiting street lighting, illuminated advertising and private external lighting	-	-	-	-	Working well 62%
(b) Protection of neighbourhood character, including environmental protection, by controls on house design and site development	-	-	-	-	Needs strengthening 58%

9. There is a variety of opinions on some local issues. What do you think about

(a) The provision of housing for older persons, close to the shops?	-	-	-	-	Approve 75%
(b) Pedestrians sharing local streets with cars?	-	-	-	-	Approve 73%
(c) Naturally vegetated residential roadsides?	-	-	-	-	Approve 92%
(d) Unsealed local streets?	-	-	-	-	Approve 74%

11. Do you support the development of conservation zones within the area for:

(a) Marine rock platforms and beach zones?	-	-	Yes 87%	Yes 89%	Yes 90%
(b) Coastal sand dunes?	-	-	Yes 91%	Yes 93%	Yes 93%
(c) Wetlands and natural waterways?	-	-	Yes 89%	Yes 93%	Yes 94%
(d) Coastal heathlands?	-	-	Yes 89%	Yes 90%	Yes 92%
(e) Native forests?	-	-	Yes 91%	Yes 92%	Yes 94%



12. Which additional recreational developments would you favour in the area?

(a) Walking tracks	-	-	Yes 88%	Yes 88%	Yes 89%
(b) Bicycle tracks	Yes 50%	Yes 67%	Yes 74%	Yes 66%	
(g) Sports oval	Yes 35%	No 45%	No 49%	No 59%	



14. Do you see the need for planning or infrastructure improvements in the area for:

(i) Fire protection?	Yes 71%	Yes 65%	Yes 60%	Yes 67%
(j) Emergency access and evacuation?	-	-	-	Yes 75%
(k) Better telecommunications infrastructure, including for mobile phones and tablets?	-	-	-	Yes 72%

Surf Coast Shire Open Space Strategy

The shire is updating its Open Space Strategy and AIDA members were emailed with information in early March. The new strategy will guide the protection, development and management of the shire's open spaces for the next ten years.

The shire has released an [Issues and Opportunities Paper](#), to initiate the review and update. This includes an overview of existing and projected demand and population growth, as well as trends in the way the community uses open space.

Our area – Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Eastern View – is one of seven distinct areas identified in the paper. The paper says we have 5 per cent of the shire's population and 12 per cent of its open space, of which 66 per cent is classified as 'waterways and lakes'.

The paper also states that our area has:

- a median age of forty-six (shire forty)
- 18.3 per cent of its population aged fourteen and under (18.6 per cent Victoria, 21.3 per cent shire)
- 27.2 per cent of its population aged over sixty (19.7 per cent Vic, 21.2 per cent shire).

Based on current population projections, the paper says the area is likely to experience limited population growth. The council-commissioned Ross Planning discussion paper (*Open Space Strategy 2015–2025*) quoted a projected population for Aireys Inlet to Eastern View of 2.8 per cent of the overall Surf Coast, a drop of 2.2 per cent in the next ten years.

The shire is looking for the community's thoughts and ideas about the value of open space and how it is used and is inviting comment on the issues paper until **Friday 3 April**.

It can be downloaded from the shire's website. There is also a community survey available [on line](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FBLY7R9) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FBLY7R9>.

The strategy will be developed over the next six months and the community will have opportunities to comment on the draft strategy as it is developed.

The AIDA committee will make a submission and will review the draft plan and encourages members to make their views known to the shire.

The issues paper was considered at council's January meeting. Although not specifically mentioned in the Issues and Opportunities Paper, the minutes note the lack of an oval at Aireys Inlet is likely to be raised as a 'gap' in infrastructure.

So it's back to the debate about whether or not an oval is needed at Aireys Inlet!

An oval/recreational space in the Painkalac valley? AIDA's view

This has been raised again in the context of the recent consultant's brief for the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan.

The environmental impacts of positioning an oval in the Painkalac Valley have been put forward many times: the impact of importing soil and seed; fertilisers polluting the river and the consequences of allowing lighting, buildings and gravel car spaces and people into this highly valued, fragile valley, one of the few river-valley ecological systems along this stretch of coastline. Whether 'low profile' or with 'small-scale amenities' as the Structure Plan consultants have advised the community, these adverse impacts will not be able to be overcome.

This issue has been raised many times over the past thirty or so years and it is surprising to see it again proposed in the 2015 Structure Plan. The results of a 1991 Painkalac Creek and Floodplain Environmental Study commissioned by the then Geelong Regional Commission, Barrabool Shire, Department of Conservation and Lands and AIDA and carried out by a professional team, recommended against development of the river flat for an oval or residential development citing the environmental value of Mellors Swamp and the regional significance of the Painkalac Creek wetlands, and set the tone for the 1993 Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Master Plan which rezoned Mellors Swamp as Public Open Space – Flora and Fauna Reserve, and recommended retention as an open valley landscape of the freehold river flats alongside Bambra Road.

Indeed, a recent survey of members undertaken by AIDA shows a majority of respondents still wish to conserve the valley, an outcome which showed no appreciable difference in opinion from the wider surveys of all residents carried out in 1990 and 1999.

As importantly, AIDA would seek economic justification for what would be an investment by council of millions of dollars for the establishment of an oval/public open space with continuing upkeep and maintenance costs additional to that.

The question of an oval/public space has been raised on and off over the past thirty-five years and neither an economic or demand-based case has ever been established.

So it's back to the future in 2015 where the lack of an oval could be a 'gap' in our open space and the review of the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan is canvassing opinion on having a 'sports field and small scale amenities' located on the Painkalac Valley.

If this 'gap' in our open space is to be filled, AIDA's firm position is that the Painkalac river flats are not a viable site.

Can you help?

The AIDA committee has decided to have a table outside the top shops for a few hours on a Saturday morning several times a year to sign-up new members, chat about local issues and renew memberships.

In the past this has been an annual event, but the positive response to AIDA's presence on a Saturday morning in early February led to the committee's

decision to hold more regular events.

Setting up the table is an additional time commitment for your busy committee. We would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping out by spending an hour or so with a committee member at the table on a Saturday morning during the year.

If you can help, please email:

AIDAmemb@aireys-inlet.org

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2015 AIDA COMMITTEE

Nomination forms should be in the hands of the Secretary, Mary-Jane Gething, PO Box 359, Aireys Inlet, Victoria, 3231 not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11 April 2015. Nominees, proposers and seconders should be AIDA members and the form must be signed by the nominee to acknowledge acceptance. All members elected to the Committee should be prepared to sign the AIDA Code of Ethics (see below).

NOMINATION FORM FOR AIDA COMMITTEE 2015

PERSON NOMINATED (block letters please)

NOMINATED FOR (please tick appropriate box):

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

PROPOSED BY (1)

SECONDED BY (2)

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 of 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