



AIDA

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



Planning Scheme Amendment for new Structure Plan

A top priority for AIDA is to check carefully any significant changes to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme. It sounds like a rather boring pastime but it is essential that the council's Amendment C110 captures the recently agreed changes to the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan and brings them into the enforceable framework of the Planning Scheme. The shire planners made draft modifications to planning policies and provisions that affect the scheme and its design and neighbourhood character overlays. They then made them available for consultation.

Although AIDA agreed that most of the changes were contained in the amendment, we submitted fifteen points of concern that were discussed further with the shire's planners. Some points were changed easily with the insertion or deletion of a certain word or phrase.

Many points originated in the Neighbourhood Character Study of 2004 and are seen as essential guides to retaining the much-loved qualities of our part of the world. An example is the deletion in the draft of 'so it appears to be nestled in the trees' referring to dwellings. The phrase has been reinstated and now is in the Statement of Neighbourhood Character. In other cases, a simple clarification was made or an item was removed, as it did not originate from structure plan recommendations.

Other points addressed include a statement about the ongoing management of parking in commercial car parks and another about road surfaces.

AIDA is fortunate to have a long-serving member, Ian Godfrey, who was involved in the framing of the original Neighbourhood Character Overlay, and who understands the significance of retaining key words and phrases. Although on holiday in Europe, he took the time to ensure that the draft remained true to the original intent. Also, AIDA is grateful to the shire planners for their diligence and assistance.

Gary Johnson

The Painkalac Project

The idea of having a public fundraising campaign to purchase the Painkalac valley land was raised in AIDA's last newsletter. The aim would be to hold the valley in public ownership and to progressively return the wetlands to their natural state.

AIDA and ANGAIR have joined forces and formed a new incorporated association, The Painkalac Project (TPP), to carry the idea forward. TPP committee, which has AIDA, ANGAIR and community members, has been meeting to discuss the challenging issues the idea raises.

We have secured the support of Trust for Nature, which considers TPP a very worthwhile conservation project. However, there are some significant issues that need to be resolved before we can progress further.

In the meantime TPP is gaining a better understanding of the challenges and possible funding sources.

For more information, contact:

Janice Carpenter: janicejohnoz@yahoo.com.au or
Roger Ganly: rganly8@bigpond.com

Fairhaven underpass update

In May, the Fairhaven underpass reference group (AIDA, VicRoads, the shire, community members and the Surf Lifesaving Club) met to discuss the community's feedback about the visual impacts of the Fairhaven underpass. They agreed that the following actions will be taken:

- the metal fencing will be powder coated in grey
- the concrete walls will be painted in grey tones
- landscaping will include the planting of larger and more mature bushes during August 2016
- the lighting will be reviewed to minimise light spill and intrusiveness
- there will be no mural or artwork in the underpass at this stage.

The reference group also agreed that sample areas of the powder coating and painting will be done for the group to review. If necessary, other colour options will be explored before the final colours are approved.

VicRoads has engaged a lighting specialist to minimise light spill from the structure, change the way the ramps are lit and the lighting poles. This work should be done before the walls are repainted.

The reference group will meet again to review the sample painting, which will be done during spring.

The net effect of the changes will, hopefully, reduce the visual intrusion of the underpass, especially as the plants establish and grow, but it will always be a scar on the landscape.

Charlotte Allen

PCEFCAG

Painkalac Creek Environmental Flows Community and Agency Group

Now Painkalac Reservoir no longer provides water for Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven, water releases can be controlled to improve the health of the Creek. PCEFCAG met for the first time on 28 July and will act as an advisory body to Barwon Water and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. There are a number of constraints but with 160 ML no longer being consumed by the town, there is the possibility of 'pulses' of water to increase flows to mimic normal rainfall events – the dam currently dampens these apart from when the dam is full and water spills out. This would undoubtedly have a positive impact on the health of the creek and estuary.

There has been considerable modeling undertaken already and I was delighted to learn that Deakin University is to work with Barwon Water and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to measure the impact of changes in water flow. This is an exciting project and there are many questions about the best management, the impact of climate change, and long term monitoring.

Perhaps one day there will be platypus once more living in the creek below the dam.

Gretel Lamont



AIDA's Surf Coast Shire budget requests

For the first time, AIDA's committee decided to make a submission to the Surf Coast Shire's draft budget. In our written and verbal submission AIDA raised four issues:

1. Improve the appearance of the 160 metre long retaining wall on the Great Ocean Road, between the Painkalac Bridge and Lialeeta Road, with plants that will droop down over the wall. AIDA requested that the shire provide indigenous species recommended by ANGAIR, which AIDA could plant. The shire approved this request and has included a grant of \$12,500 in the budget.
2. Since about 2013 council has had \$60,000 in its budget for a grass pathway and five small wooden bridges along the eastern side of the creek from Butlers Bend to Old Coach Road. We wanted to know when council would begin planning for this pathway and have been advised that there are some problems with constructing and maintaining a pathway along the creek, and that \$60,000 would not overcome these constraints. We will make further enquiries to the shire so we can get a better understanding about the issues and whether this pathway will be developed. We are aware there is support for a pathway but there are also community concerns about a pathway in this location.
3. Some AIDA members have been concerned about the build-up of silt in the Allen Noble Sanctuary and we asked if this could be addressed. It was agreed that the silt trap would be emptied and other aspects of the management of the sanctuary would be considered after consultation with the community and friends' group.
4. AIDA asked for support to overcome Aireys and district's telecommunications black spot problem and to make this happen as soon as possible. We congratulated the shire for placing our black spot problem on the list of projects that political parties could address to assist the community. We asked that they consider installing temporary base stations over bushfire seasons until telecommunications services are improved. This point was not addressed in the shire's response but a commitment was made during the recent election to provide a new base station for the Aireys district.

Gary Johnson

Herbicide spray

Late last year AIDA asked the council to review its use of herbicide in public spaces, around trees, fences and bollards, and along pathways, drains and roadsides in and around Aireys Inlet as this had resulted in some unnecessarily large areas of unsightly bare earth.

We had a very positive response and the shire agreed to stop using herbicide and trial some other approaches and we had been enjoying watching the grass slowly recovering. Unfortunately herbicide was used again in July and the limited regrowth that had occurred has been knocked back.

AIDA raised this with the Parks and Open Space staff at the council who apologised and told us this was due to a misunderstanding. They also informed AIDA they are reducing the use of herbicide across the shire and are continuing to look at other options. These are:

- using mulch where possible
- allowing the grass to grow around structures such as bollards, signs and fences and using brush-cutters occasionally
- trialling plant-derived herbicides to control weeds in places such as gravel paths
- removing any unnecessary in-ground structures

We welcome the reduction of herbicide use and the trialling of the more environmentally friendly growth inhibitors. We are also pleased that the grass will be allowed to grow to cover the large areas of bare earth.

Charlotte Allen



Record rainfall

It is a long time since we've seen rain like we saw in July this year. The rainfall to 31 July was 137 mm against a BOM Aireys monthly average for July of 66.5 mm. This is more than double the July average, and for fewer days. The highest rainfall for any July recorded at the Aireys station (since it opened in 1990) was 104.8 mm in 2000. It's interesting to

note that over half of the rain that fell in July fell on Thursday 6 July (33 mm) and on 22–23 July (39.8 mm).

The temporary flooding of Painkalac Creek and the valley itself were spectacular sights, before the inlet was opened on Saturday 23 July and again on the following Friday, which caused great excitement. Well after dusk, locals and visitors were still watching the creek gush out to sea.

Angela Berry and Gary Johnson



Welcome to new shire appointee

In early June some of AIDA's committee met with Anne Howard, the new General Manager of Infrastructure and Governance at Surf Coast Shire. The CEO, Keith Baillie, also came to the meeting to introduce us to Anne.

We requested the meeting to welcome Anne to the Surf Coast on behalf of members and to brief her about AIDA's objectives and work to maintain the low-key nature of our coastal communities.

It was a very good informal meeting and we were pleased to have the opportunity to meet Anne and hear from her about her approach to involving the community in infrastructure projects.

Anne comes to the Surf Coast from Echuca where she was the General Manager, Prosperity, at the Campaspe Shire Council.

Anne offered to meet again later in the year and to come to an AIDA committee meeting.

We were also delighted to hear that Anne has an important connection with Aireys Inlet as her forebears, the Pearse family, lived in the Bark Hut.

Charlotte Allen



Charlotte Allen (left) with Anne Howard

ANGAIR's annual wildflower and art weekend



The award-winning ANGAIR wildflower and art weekend is back again in September in all its colourful glory.

The winter rain promises spectacular displays of local wildflowers. You can take a guided wildflower walk or bus tour or wander around the Anglesea Hall to view the diversity of our indigenous flora. You can buy indigenous plants, swap a weed for a local beauty or buy a nature-inspired artwork.

The kids will particularly like the Roaming Reptiles exhibition and adults and kids alike can have a go at playing the CFA's Fire Game.

Where Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea

When Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 September 10.00 am – 4.00 pm