



AIDA

December 2015 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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

AIDA membership due 31 December 2015

AIDA AGM Saturday 9 April 2016 at 3.30 pm



Aireys school wants every day to be a Sun-day

Aireys Inlet campus is undertaking a campaign to make its crippling power bills a thing of the past, and invest its savings into the development of its students.

The school aims to install a \$20,000 kilowatt solar power system, funded by the community, saving the school up to \$3,500 a year.

Assistant Principal, Meg Parker, said if fundraising efforts are successful, the benefits to students will be realised immediately.

'From the moment the solar panels are installed, we can start to invest money we'd normally pay to the power company into school improvement projects instead. But without the support of the people and businesses throughout the Surf Coast, it simply won't happen,' Meg said. 'I urge anyone who has a soft spot for the primary school in Aireys Inlet to chip in a little or a lot to help us reach our target. We have plans to reinvest the money saved into projects such as the kitchen garden program, rain gardens, and frog ponds. We really feel this will benefit our school enormously.'

Five schools around Australia are participating in the Bendigo Bank-backed Solar Schools initiative.

Donations to the Aireys Inlet fundraising campaign can be made online at:

<https://www.thepeoplesolar.com/projects/laic-aic/>

Further enquiries to Meg Parker on 52 897 144.

Pedestrian refuge at the Bottom Shops

The shire, with input from VicRoads, has developed a draft plan to install a pedestrian refuge between the Bottom Shops and the playground, skate park and car park, due to be installed after Easter 2016.

The AIDA committee wrote to the shire to express significant concerns about the draft plan and to request an on-site meeting.

The proposed refuge is placed on the Great Ocean Road so that its pathway intrudes into the grassed area by the car park, includes lengths of curb and channel, a new light pole, green bike lanes and a loss of vegetation.

The entry to Inlet Crescent is to be widened so that it forms a more direct cross road over the Great Ocean Road into the Bottom Shops car park. This is unrelated to the works needed for the pedestrian refuge and was first raised during the Lighthouse Precinct traffic-planning discussions some years ago.

Representatives from the AIDA committee, the shire and VicRoads met on-site in late November to discuss the plans. It was a constructive meeting and AIDA was able to share its local knowledge and suggested moving the refuge about 12 metres to the east to the existing informal access point off the car park. This would remove the need for any impact to the grassy area and for the new light pole. We also asked for the curb and channel to be removed from

the plan and any vegetation lost to be replaced.

AIDA also argued that the green painted bike lanes are a suburban response, are not in use in any other places along the Great Ocean Road and should be removed.

There was a long discussion about the proposal to widen Inlet Crescent. It was acknowledged that these works are not related to the pedestrian refuge but a desire by VicRoads to avoid conflict between cars turning into the shop car park at the same time as a car turning into Inlet Crescent. AIDA's position was that this is unnecessary and would make the entry more dangerous by increasing the speeds at which vehicles enter the area. AIDA also reported that they had never seen the conflict in vehicle movement.

The shire and VicRoads undertook to review the draft plan to investigate AIDA's proposed improvements and get back to AIDA in the new year.

Contact a committee member for a copy of the plans.

Charlotte Allen

AIDA celebrating 50 years

As part of AIDA's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, an exhibition of 'Then and Now' photos was held at the Aireys Pub on 1 November. The event was well attended with about one hundred visitors enjoying the photos. Of particular interest were long-term residents reminiscing about past times and the older generation telling their children and grandchildren how Aireys used to be. One surprised AIDA member was delighted to recognise herself in one of the historic photos.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the committee to meet AIDA members, and twelve expressions of interest were received from potential new members. Our grateful thanks to Janice Carpenter for organising this successful event and to two members, Mickey Dewar and David Ritchie, who volunteered to help set up the exhibition and pull it down.

Gary Johnson

Herbicide spray in Aireys Inlet



AIDA wrote to the shire in October about the use of herbicide in public spaces, around trees, fences and bollards, along pathways, drains and roadsides in and around Aireys Inlet.

The spraying regime has resulted in some very ugly and unnecessarily large areas of bald earth and the only obvious reason for the spraying is to facilitate grass mowing in these areas. Our letter included some photos.

AIDA asked the shire to stop using spray and to consider alternatives such as using a brush cutter, mulching or planting indigenous species around the bases of trees, around bollards and fences, planting rushes and native grasses in the steeper drains.

The shire responded quickly and agreed that there are opportunities to trial changing some of their processes. They said they will tell their staff to stop using spray and use mulch under trees, let the grass grow in the areas under bollards and fences where there is grass on both sides and use brush cutters when necessary. They will also investigate planting the embankment of the various drains and, if this approach is approved, planting will begin next winter.

AIDA thanks the shire for its positive response and looks forward to watching the grass grow.

Charlotte Allen



Great Ocean Road underpass at Fairhaven



If you have travelled along the Great Ocean Road past Fairhaven recently, you will have seen a great deal of construction activity near the Surf Life Saving Club at the intersection with Yarringa Road. An underpass is being constructed following concerns about the risk of pedestrians being struck while attempting to cross this busy road. The underpass goes beneath the Great Ocean Road between the car park on the north side and the sand dune on the beach side.

According to VicRoads, more than five thousand vehicles travel this section of the Great Ocean Road every day and two hundred of these are commercial

vehicles. During the summer peak period, traffic can increase to over 22,000 vehicles, making it very difficult and dangerous for the many people crossing the road including children, tourists, surf lifesavers, Nippers, beachgoers and surfers.

The underpass will connect with existing walking tracks and incorporates wheelchair-accessible ramps and stairs. Works also include new safety barriers, footpath, drainage, vegetation management and new lighting will improve safety and visibility at night.

Funding of \$3.99 million has been provided by the Victorian Government’s Safe Pedestrian Facilities Programme for the planning and construction of the underpass, to provide safe passage for pedestrians accessing the beach and Surf Lifesaving Club from the Fairhaven township.

The location and size of the underpass can be seen on the VicRoads photo. Note that the ramps are open structures with no roofs. Coverage may have provided parking spaces. As a result of the development, eleven car-parking spaces will be lost from the Yarringa Road car park. VicRoads report that they will be providing a gravel car park with twenty-three spaces on the Great Ocean Road near Painkalac Creek, approximately 600 metres from the underpass. Access via a path from this new car park to the beach and the Surf Lifesaving Club will be available. VicRoads has been very helpful in providing information for this article, however AIDA’s request that VicRoads engage the community in discussions about the car park has thus far been ignored.

Construction of the underpass is expected to be completed by Christmas.

Gary Johnson



Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan progress

An updated structure plan provides the overarching principles for planning in our area for the next twenty or so years. Consequently, it is one of the most significant documents that AIDA will digest and comment on this decade, and the committee took much time to consider every word in it.

In July the draft Aireys Inlet to Eastern View structure plan, including the urban design framework for the Top and Bottom Shops, was presented to council and released in August for public comment. Council received ninety-four submissions, an indication that the community knows the importance of these documents. As Ian Godfrey indicated in the August newsletter, AIDA was generally supportive of the draft. Many of the most significant issues had been resolved in terms that would be acceptable to members based on recent surveys.

Despite that note of support, AIDA submitted twenty-eight points regarding the structure plan for consideration by the shire. Many asked for further clarification or minor changes so that the intent of the key direction or action would be clear to all readers, including planners and developers. A similar number of points were made regarding the urban design framework. In a few cases, AIDA disagreed with a point and put forward an alternative point of view.

We were pleased to see that many of the issues raised by AIDA were accepted, at least in part, by the shire officer and the changes would be recommended to council.

Councillors considered the final draft of the structure plan and framework at their November meeting. Decisions and current information can be seen on the council website:

http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/My_Council

Click on Agendas & Minutes.

Gary Johnson

AIDA's strength is its members

AIDA's strength and ability to lobby and advocate is due to its membership numbers, which are almost four hundred.

Your membership is really important to AIDA. Please renew it by 31 December, and encourage your friends and neighbours to join if they also love the things that make this part of the Surf Coast so special. If you know someone who supports our aims but isn't a member, please invite them to join and give them a copy of the membership form to complete (see p. 5).

Charlotte Allen, President

Older persons housing

AIDA members will be well aware of the ongoing saga of the older persons housing issue, but to update those who may not know of this matter – there has been a proposal to build well designed and appropriate housing on a council-owned, flat site in Fraser Drive Aireys Inlet as an alternative for locals who may wish to downsize or move from dwellings that are becoming difficult to maintain. This plan has been discussed for many years and AIDA has been heavily involved from its inception, contacting and meeting with council officers, tendering many submissions and ensuring the concept has not been lost in the ongoing turnover of councillors and council officers.

It appears that there has been some progress. In a meeting with Brendan Walsh (Manager Business Improvement, SCS) AIDA learned that Surf Coast Shire has appointed a local businessman as well as Sirovilla, who currently run the Lions Village in Anglesea and Sirovilla Retirement Village in Geelong, to put together a business case to develop up to twelve two-bedroom, single-storey residences on the site. The plans may include rebuilding the four existing social-housing dwellings and will maintain the Community Garden on the site. It appears likely that older persons will pay incoming fees and a monthly rental rather than buying the property outright. Council hopes this will safeguard the development from holiday occupancy, or from being bought for holiday rental accommodation. Once completed, Surf Coast Shire will no longer be involved and the development will be controlled by the housing agency chosen for the project.

Before going to tender, the community will be consulted. AIDA welcomes progress in this matter and will be keenly involved in the planning stages. We need to ensure proper design to fit within the planning scheme and local neighbourhood character, ongoing independence for the Community Garden and a suitable development that will remain viable long into the future and finally give the elderly in Aireys Inlet a chance to continue to live within the area.

Barbara Fletcher

AIDA AGM

Saturday 9 April 2016 at 3.30 pm

The AIDA AGM has been moved from January to April because of the bushfire risk during the summer months in the Aireys Inlet district.

Join or rejoin AIDA here or online – www.aireys-inlet.org/join-aida



Aireys Inlet & District Association Inc.

Membership Application and Renewal Form – 2016

Family (\$20) Single (\$10) Donation Total

Note: Family membership entitles voting rights for two adult members as named on this form.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Prof _____

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Prof _____

Postal address : _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Aireys Inlet district address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Preferred telephone number/s: _____

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

Email 1 _____

Email 2 _____

AIDA wishes to contact members by email where possible. By giving your email address we presume your willingness to receive AIDA emails and electronic newsletters. Email addresses are of course confidential and will not be passed on to any third party.

New member (subject to ratification by AIDA Committee)

Renewal

I/We wish to join / renew our membership of the Aireys Inlet and District Association, support its objectives and purpose and agree to be bound by its Rules.

Signature(s): _____

Date _____

Payment option: Cheque Direct deposit Cash

Account name: Aireys Inlet and District Association BSB no. 063-860 Account number: 1003-8912

Reference: Please put your initial and surname, eg ASmith

Please post this form to: Lecki Ord, AIDA Membership, 1702/1 William St, Melbourne 3000

or scan and email to: AIDAmemb@aireys-inlet.org