



AIDA

June 2017 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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



Annual General Meeting

About 40 members turned out on a wet and wild afternoon on Saturday 8 April to attend the AIDA AGM.

We were pleased to welcome to the meeting our two Anglesea ward councillors, Margot Smith and Libby Coker, and the shire's CEO Keith Baillie. The mayor, Brian McKitterick, and Cr Clive Goldsworthy, whose Lorne ward includes Moggs Creek and Eastern View, were apologies. Margot and Libby spoke briefly about current local issues and Keith spoke about the shire's four-year Strategic Plan and the difficulties of balancing priorities when everything is a priority. He encouraged community input to help shape the plan for 2017–21 using the online survey.

Charlotte Allen presented the president's report focusing on the year's main concern: the Painkalac Valley (see p. 3). The financial report was accepted. All members of the previous committee renominated and were re-elected. Nominations were also received from Greg Day and Adam Rudy and were accepted by members. The committee warmly welcomes Greg and Adam and looks forward to working with them.

The AGM was followed by stimulating talks by two long-time residents of Aireys Inlet, Greg Day and Jane Grant. Greg spoke about connection to place and how he came to be teaching the Wadawurrung language at the primary school. He performed a musical item that he sings in language with the students. Jane, a past president and secretary of AIDA, spoke about her family's connection to Aireys and the Painkalac Valley as well as their experience of the Ash Wednesday fires. People stayed on for light refreshments and the opportunity to talk to the committee and other members.

President's report 2017

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people and pay my respects to their elders both past and present.

Welcome to our ward councillors, Libby Coker and Margot Smith, and the shire's CEO Keith Baillie. Thank you for giving us your Saturday afternoon. We are fortunate to have councillors and a CEO with your commitment and we appreciate your interest in AIDA. The mayor and Cr Clive Goldsworthy were also invited but are apologies.

Welcome to all AIDA members – particularly new members and those who haven't come to the AGM before.

Once again the Painkalac Valley has been a focus of our attention for much of the year. AIDA's newsletters tell us that development or subdivision proposals for the valley tend to come up about every five years and every time AIDA gears up to protect the valley, the community mobilises and gets anxious, divisions emerge, AIDA's membership goes up and we all – the community, councillors and council staff – spend many hours, and money, coming to a resolution.

We had hoped that the specific community consultation during 2015 about the valley for the new structure plan had finally resolved the concept of an oval on the river flats. It is unfortunate that the issue was raised again last year and we hope this is the final time the sensitivities around the issue divide our community.

As everyone is aware, there are currently applications to change the protections over the valley with council. [See **Painkalac Valley update**, p. 3.]

The recent growth in AIDA's membership reflects the community's concern about these applications and it is not just AIDA members who are worried. Two-thirds of the

objectors to the two applications are not AIDA members.

There have been many proposals for the valley for half a century, and many from the current landowner over the past 30 years. While our council has been consistent in its decisions to protect the valley, we wait for its decision with some nervousness.

Council will be considering the applications at its meeting on 26 April and I hope many of you will be able to attend the meeting to hear council's decision.

One of the committee's priorities is to keep an eye on any proposed changes to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme. This, and related policies such as the Neighbourhood Character Overlay, provide the framework for the shire's planning decisions. It is important that the community's view and agreed neighbourhood character are reflected in all planning policies.

There have been three proposals to amend the Planning Scheme this year and the complexities and an outline of the amendments have been in AIDA's recent newsletters.

Two amendments relate to biodiversity. One covers lower density settlement areas such as Aireys Inlet's larger bush blocks and the Painkalac Valley, and the other deals with the shire's urban areas, including much of Aireys Inlet to Moggs Creek.

The third amendment was to bring the changes in the new Structure Plan into the framework of the Planning Scheme. AIDA suggested many changes to the draft amendments, most of which were accepted. Our thanks go to the shire planners for their cooperation, assistance and willingness to go through the detail in the amendments with us.

At the last AGM, I mentioned our disappointment about the visual intrusion of the Fairhaven underpass. It is frustrating that a year later the landscaping, re-painting and improvements to the lighting are still not complete. VicRoads has had multiple delays to finalising the works.

However, there was a meeting recently that reached agreement about what needs to be done and most of the landscaping and painting should be completed by the end of June. Further work to reduce the light glare will be done and the dune replanting should happen by the end of winter.

Another issue I mentioned last year is the pedestrian refuge at the Bottom Shops and concerns over the extent of the planned works. Our thanks go to the shire for its willingness to incorporate the feedback from its community consultation into the final plan for the refuge.

Changes to the plans for the crossing will minimise its footprint, and reduce the impact of the new light. Plans to widen the entrance to Inlet Crescent have

been dropped. These would have removed most of the screening vegetation and significantly increased the expanse of sealed roadway and they didn't conform to the Structure Plan's intent for Aireys to have a non-suburban and coastal village character.

A constructive relationship between the council and the community invariably leads to a better outcome. We appreciate the opportunity for the community to be heard and for the willingness of council to respond to our requests. Just wonder what might have been if the surf club and VicRoads had followed a similar process when the underpass was being planned.

AIDA's committee has also represented members on both the group set up by Barwon Water to establish an environmental flows regime for the Painkalac Creek now the reservoir has been decommissioned, and on the community group that explored the recreational opportunities at the reservoir.

AIDA was also on the group set up by GORRC to look at the options to resolve the issues created by the increasing numbers of tourists, cars, mini-vans and buses stopping at the memorial arch where there is limited space, no public toilets and significant safety concerns.

I suspect the overcrowding at the memorial arch is the 'canary in the coalmine' and this is just the beginning of the problems created by the increasing number of tourists wanting to experience the beauty of the Great Ocean Road and its coastal communities.

The road is already one of Australia's top tourist attractions and the pressure will only increase with publicity like that of late last year when a travel magazine wrote about the ten most charming beach towns in Australia. Four on the list are along the Great Ocean Road – Aireys Inlet, Lorne, Wye River and Apollo Bay.

Tourism along the road needs to be sustainable. It is recognised as a growing business in the shire but it seems to me that actions will need to be taken to make sure the Great Ocean Road experience, and our environment, aren't overwhelmed and degraded by the sheer number of people and vehicles wanting to travel the road.

It's a challenge that shouldn't be ignored and communities like ours need to be in the conversation in the interests of combining the community's values with sustainable tourism and support for our traders and tourist operators.

I will finish with thanks on your behalf to the AIDA committee members. This has been a particularly busy and challenging year and everyone on the committee has been committed to looking after what is special about our part of the coast. This community is fortunate to have them.

Charlotte Allen
President

AIDA committee 2017–18

President	Charlotte Allen	c.allen@bigpond.net.au
Vice-president	Gary Johnson	garycj@internode.on.net
Treasurer	Ian Godfrey	ian.godfrey@mac.com
Secretary	Mary-Jane Gething	m.gething@unimelb.edu.au
Membership	Lecki Ord	lecki1@mac.com
Archivist	Peter McPhee	p.mcphee@unimelb.edu.au
Members	Angela Berry	angelaberry11@gmail.com
	Janice Carpenter	janicejohnoz@yahoo.com.au
	Annette Comte	comte@netspace.net.au
	Greg Day	timeismusic@bigpond.com
	Barbara Fletcher	barb.a.fletcher@bigpond.com
	Gretel Lamont	gretel.lamont@gmail.com
	Anne Porter	porter48@bigpond.com
Adam Rudy	adamrudy@gmail.com	



Painkalac Valley update

At its meeting on 26 April the Surf Coast Shire refused the planning application to alter some of the conditions in the section 173 agreement protecting the Painkalac Valley, and the application to subdivide the largest and most southern block.

Once again the community demonstrated its passion for the valley by objecting to the applications. AIDA objected on behalf of its 400-plus members and it is interesting to note that about two-thirds of the rest of the objections were from people who are not AIDA members.

The sixty-day limit for an appeal to VCAT against the shire's decision to refuse the applications is up on 25 June and we understand there will be no appeal.

There was a number of significant issues raised

through the planning application process, which we are now following up with our planning lawyer. These include the advice from the lawyer that many of the conditions in the Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Plan are not being met or enforced.

The incorporated association, The Painkalac Project, that was formed by AIDA and ANGAIR to investigate the potential to purchase the land through a public fundraising campaign will now reconvene to see if this plan can be progressed.

However, the AIDA committee has been informed that the owner of the three blocks on the valley is investigating the concept of building a house on each of the blocks and that he has been in discussion with a builder.

AIDA's concerns about the best use of the valley land are underscored by the recent launch of the CCMA's online flood portal. The map shows floods of a particular magnitude (or greater) that have a 1 per cent chance of occurring in any given year. Importantly the map is colour coded to indicate where there is detailed flood information. It appears that the valley land will be increasingly vulnerable.

The portal may be accessed at <https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/EM1xBvSWZaDxiR?domain=ccmaknowledgebase.vic.gov.au>

Bottom Shops pedestrian crossing

The construction of the new pedestrian refuge at the Bottom Shops is due to be completed by the end of June.

The Surf Coast Shire consulted the community about the plans, and the extent of the works was altered in response to the feedback it received.

We are pleased that the plans to widen the entrance to Inlet Crescent were dropped after AIDA raised its concerns with the shire. These works were not related to the new crossing and would have been an unnecessary suburbanisation of the area.

The shire has had a detailed landscape plan developed with assistance from ANGAIR and it is seeking feedback. The plan can be found on the Surf Coast Conversations web page: <http://www.surfcoastconversations.com.au/aireys-inlet-pedestrian-crossing> People are welcome to leave comments there.



Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch Master Plan

The final meeting for the Community Reference Group was held on 20 February 2017. A draft Precinct Master Plan was outlined at the meeting which provided options for design direction and future development of the Eastern View Memorial Arch Precinct. This draft plan arose from feedback from an initial survey of residents (not many responses) and meetings of the Community Reference Group and a parallel working group – Agency Working Group – comprising tourist, business and government agencies. These meetings were facilitated by GORCC with the designated consultants, Spatial Design, and acknowledged the continuing and increasing visitor pressure on the site.

The final Great Ocean Road Memorial Arch Master Plan details project background and purpose, lists key attractions along the Great Ocean Road, cites historical markers, visitor amenities, walks and photo opportunity sites and outlines current thinking on climate change impacts on the Great Ocean Road

before outlining three options proposed for the site. Each option addresses the key concerns including:

- vehicle and pedestrian accessibility
- cultural heritage
- ecological and environmental impacts
- commercial impacts
- site management.

The options outlined in the master plan are detailed in their description and whilst these proposals cover the main priorities and design directions of the two groups and GORCC, other options and ideas are welcomed.

A fact sheet has been developed by GORCC and will be distributed to the Aireys Inlet and surrounding community for further consultation in the near future following finalisation of the master plan document. Full information on the options paper will be available on the GORCC website: www.gorcc.com.au

AIDA urges all members to view this document, nominate a preferred direction for the Memorial Arch precinct or put forward an alternate view – this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Barbara Fletcher

Fairhaven underpass

Hopefully there will have been some works to improve the underpass by the time this newsletter is out!

Vic Roads has advised AIDA that the painting of the guard rail, weld mesh fence posts and painting of the north-facing wall (behind the bus shelter) was due to begin in the middle of June.

Planting the mature prickly tea tree will be done when the painting of this section is complete.

The rest of the underpass painting is due to start shortly after.

