



AIDA

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009

presented at AGM January 2010

A recent statement by someone much respected in this community that "AIDA is one of those groups worth bottling" has given rise to much thought over the past months. To be actively involved in local matters, in a local organisation such as AIDA, can sometimes appear just as a continuum of issues stretching from the past, and then ever onward into the future. Although this makes for interesting times for Committee members, it also means we need to be constantly vigilant to keep ahead of issues. But those words "worth bottling" gave great validity to these efforts, and reinforced community confidence in AIDA as a local community representative. We will continue to pursue our aims and objectives to maintain heritage in this unique and lovely area.

We have a number of areas to report on which have been of importance in 2009 – many have been ongoing, and some will require further action throughout 2010.

Split Point Lighthouse Precinct

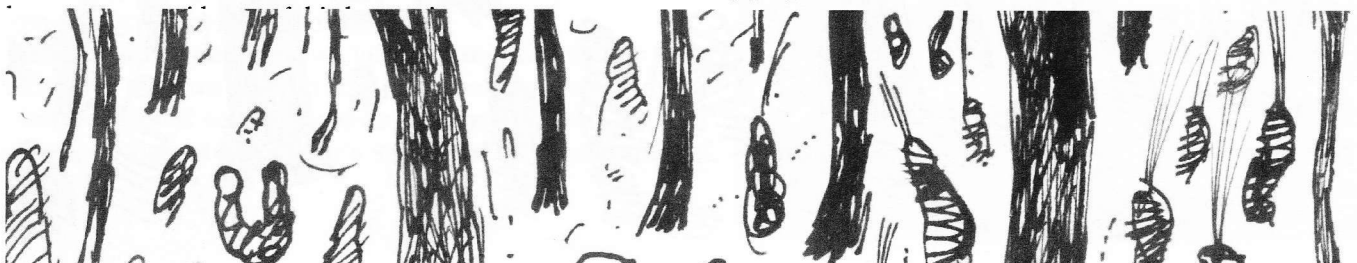
This long running issue appeared to be coming to resolution, with Councillors and staff taking time to listen to concerns of residents as to the impact of excessive traffic and tourist numbers in the area, and making sensible decisions based on these concerns. Our expectation was for action to actually follow up these decisions, but the process appears to have slowed considerably. The proposed traffic management plan was dependent on traffic flow information being collected by consultants during peak periods. Money was set aside in the July Council Budget and it was anticipated that we would see a traffic count this summer. So far we

Aireys Inlet Citizens Jury Precinct 2

This Jury met in November 2008 and reconvened in June 2009 at the jurors request to consider Council costing of their recommendations. This process has been detailed in the September 2009 Newsletter, but, in brief, there were points of difference in the recommendations of the Jury, and those put to Council by the council officers. A Resolution put to Council by two local Councillors sought further community feedback on the issue by way of a Hearings Committee. We are however concerned that although the intent of this Resolution was to further the consultative process, there is a chance that it may deliver outcomes which are outside those of the Citizens Jury and thus will actually reduce the authority of the consultative process. We are also interested to see the methodology proposed to assess and implement the two or more possible results.

Urban Design Guidelines (for the Top and Bottom Shopping Precincts)

AIDA welcomed and participated in this very well run, community consultative process, which will deliver guidelines to cover and protect future development in the Top and Bottom Shops. These guidelines contain reference to building scale, siting and setbacks, streetscape, form and features, materials, landscape and public spaces. The Guidelines are currently before the Planning Minister and it is expected they will come into effect in early 2010. Prior to this, Council anticipates these regulations to be used in assessment of any proposal for these two areas.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

Surf Coast Sustainable Design Guidelines

Recently, by sheer luck, one of the Committee members came across a Council proposal to supersede the "Surf Coast Style" and "Surf Coast Design" Guidelines with a new pack to be known as "Surf Coast Sustainable Design Guidelines." This had been put together by a consultancy (Parsons Brinckerhoff) and formulated with input from local builders and architects. AIDA is extremely disappointed in the draft document, which, although very glossy, has some glaring omissions. These include lack of reference to local Overlays, no indication that new fire provisions apply to new development, lack of clarity as to its statutory basis, and "suggestions" for certain building design outcomes which are actually a requirement under building overlays. We have submitted our response to the Planning Officer, also stating our disappointment in the non-inclusive process which has been a glaring departure from Councils recent practices. We are hoping for a meeting to discuss all issues in the near future.

Planning

As noted in the last President's Report, there is a new planning team at AIDA, and a very steep learning curve it has been for the two newcomers. As always, we are reliant

on input from local residents, and it has been extremely pleasing that locals are contacting us both for advice and to notify us of planning issues. Specific applications have been documented in the Newsletters, but perhaps mention should be made of one in particular.

This is the proposal to build behind the Top Shops, and to seek a waiver on parking requirements for individual residences. Council called in this application, discussed the problems and deemed the application as inappropriate for the area. The applicant took the matter to VCAT, and we were horrified when, in his judgement, the Presiding Member not only let the application through, but actually set down that private long term parking was appropriate in the parking area in front of the shops, and that this would not be a problem to those seeking short term parking. In theory, these 1 to 3 bedroom duplexes could put additional 8 to 10 cars in the spaces for any time they wish.

We have since received notice of the same proposal with the same parking waiver for the Bottom Shop area, where there appears to be no shortage of space to house vehicles.

We are continually being challenged by some developers who push the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Character Overlay – the old "it applies to everyone else, but not me" scenario. We have something special and unspoilt in this area, very different to most coastal towns, and need to be aware of the special provisions which protect that uniqueness. Please continue to contact us if you have any concerns, or want advice as to the appropriateness of certain



PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

proposals. Our phone numbers are in the Newsletter and at the General Store in the AIDA bulletin board.

We have noted already the appointment of our new Mayor, Cr Libby Coker, and wish to congratulate her on this appointment. We look forward to working with her with the same ease and inclusiveness we have had with her predecessor, and wish her well in the role.

It was interesting to read last years report, and see our visions for 2009, for they are the same this year. Our local survey/questionnaire which has in the past provided us with very useful, across the community information, has been discussed in many meetings, but remains stalled due to State privacy laws which limit our access to addresses of residents in the region. And we will pursue the Older Persons Housing Scheme – which is not only of extreme importance to the area, but is becoming more relevant as the years progress!

On behalf of the Committee, I would again like to thank Dot Leslie for her excellent production of our Newsletter, to Kim Neubecker for her input and expertise in the Citizens Jury process, to Jane Grant for her time and input to the Urban Design Guideline Steering Committees and to Dennis Leavesley for his representation on the now wound up Painkalac Estuary Plan Implementation Committee. And finally, to farewell with sadness Tim Gibson from our Committee. Tim and Ros have been tireless in their community involvement, but have now left the area. Tim

has served on the AIDA Committee for 10 years, 3 as President, 1 as Treasurer and 6 as membership Officer. We will miss his wisdom and knowledge at our meetings.

Which brings me very neatly to the next thank you, and of course, perhaps the most important – to the Committee members. It has been a pleasure to preside over this “mob” and the work, intelligence and good humour each has brought to the meetings has made this busy committee an excitement and pleasure to be part of.

We will be calling for nominations later, so if there is anyone wishing to join us at the committee level, please feel free to submit your name. And please also feel free to put forward any questions, either at the meeting, or by contact with committee members.

And before I close, there needs to be acknowledgement of the terrible tragedy of the Black Saturday bushfires, and the impact of these on our community. Each of us is now more fire aware, and has designed a fire plan practical to our individual circumstances. We have pared down the valuables, and have the emergency pack ready at hand. Our bushland has changed with cold burns and undergrowth clearance. We have made contingency plans to cancel meetings if the fire danger rating is above a certain level. I therefore look forward to our guest speaker, Beth Davidson, for reinforcement of our preparations and helpful advice for the coming summer months.

Barbara Fletcher



JIRTI BORN OVAK

CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES

Perhaps the most important Planning Application in its effect on the amenity and social focus of Aireys Inlet, this month came before Council – a proposal to build a supermarket on the site of the old hardware store at the Bottom Shops.

AIDA has contacted those members who had given their email address to notify them of the plans, and to urge action, either in favour or against the proposal, and have received a large number of responses, all against the current application.

Our objection was submitted to Council before the closing date of 26 March 2010, and was based on the following:

1. Economic and Social Arguments – does the town need such a large development? The impact on existing businesses, and the impact of the withdrawal of the “social hub” of the Post Office and General Store facilities to the Bottom Shops.
2. Non-adherence to the Urban Design Guidelines in being over height, not including the concept of internal parking, failure in side and rear setback requirements, landscape and architectural design failures. The UDG are to be included as a Clause in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme, and were drawn up by the Shire after extensive community consultation, in which AIDA was heavily involved. These Guidelines are currently on public display prior to obtaining Ministerial approval

to be incorporated into the Planning Scheme, and will govern commercial development at the Top and Bottom shops. AIDA believes that this development, in being so totally contrary to these Guidelines, has the potential to totally subvert their intent and give them little authority for future development.

3. Proposed reduction to car parking requirements.
4. Flooding potential.
5. Lighting and its adverse effect on wildlife, amenity and the night sky.
6. Access and safety of trucks to the loading bay and the Great Ocean Road.
7. The removal of petrol tanks and site testing for possible contaminants.
8. Failure to observe the objectives of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme Commercial Development Clause.

The importance of being able to get information out to members in a matter such as this has shown the value of our having email access to our members. If you wish to be “part of the action” in this and future issues, please forward your email address to o AIDA Membership – lecki1@mac.com

*Barbara Fletcher
Gary Johnson*

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S NEW PLAN FOR LAND AND BIODIVERSITY

In November 2009 the State Government released a White Paper for a complete overhaul of the way our land and biodiversity is managed. While there are some good ideas in it, there are also some very concerning ones.

In particular, they are going to absorb the newly revised Victorian Coastal Strategy into the general land and biodiversity plan under a new Natural Resource and Catchment Management Act – with no mention of ‘coast’ in its title. This is despite The Federal Government last year praising the Victorian coastal management system as being the benchmark for Australia.

Secondly, the Government is planning to abolish the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) altogether. This council has been a scientific advisory committee carefully examining where National Parks need to be established, e.g. they advised the areas to be included in the Otways National Park. Although basically a government body they have always been at arms length from

government departments so they could give an independent and scientifically accurate view on why a Nation Park should be established or not. In the White Paper the government plans to call a committee together when they feel there is a need.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) is so concerned about that they have prepared a petition wanting 10,000 signatures to present to the Premier on World Environment Day (June 5 2010). I have copies of this petition which I could post to you or you can look at the VNPA website – www.vnpa.org.au.

The White Paper can be obtained from the DSE (www.dse.vic.gov.au/landwhitepaper) or phone 138 186.

A review of the document can be found at www.victorianaturally.org.au

Barbara Leavesley 5289 7152

Split Point Lighthouse Precinct update

Some of you may remember, in February 2009, that Council approved the Split Point Lighthouse Master Plan. This was indeed a great day for local residents, who have for too long endured excessive traffic in the Precinct.

One of the provisos in the resolution was that funding would be set aside for a Precinct Traffic Management plan in the 2009/10 budget. Over a year later, in March 2010 consultants have been engaged for this Traffic Management Plan. For such a small Precinct it does seem to be taking a long time for anything to happen. There is an interesting comparison to be made with the Precinct and the Geelong Ring Road.

If we look at the opening of the Geelong Ring Road in November 2009, this was the culmination of 30 years work and resulted in 23 km of road. In Aireys Inlet after 12 years of lobbying the Council we still don't have a traffic management plan for the area, let alone any tangible improvements, and we are only dealing with about 2.3 km of road. Obviously, it's a lot easier to get cars into an area than to get them out.

But the connection with residential streets in Aireys Inlet and the Geelong Ring Road does not end there. Since the opening of the Ring Road there has been a huge increase in the number of day visitors to the area. Anecdotally, there has been a 30% increase in day visitors. Local residents have noticed the increase in traffic numbers, as has the Shire who has erected new parking signs directing people to a new, informal carpark in Eaglerock Parade.

Unfortunately, despite the new 'carpark', and an acknowledgement that the Ring Road has led to more traffic, it appears that rather than taking new traffic counts during Easter of this year that the consultants have been provided with traffic counts from the pre-ring road era. AIDA is currently lobbying the Council to take new counts that will reflect the increase in traffic. It would be extremely frustrating to finally have a Traffic Management Plan that merely reflects a by-gone era. Unlike the Geelong Ring Road, we really do not want to wait 30 years.

Frieda Wachsmann

Membership

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership for 2010 promptly – it certainly saves us a lot of time. I have emailed a reminder to those unfinancial members who have given AIDA their email addresses, and the response has been very positive. Email addresses can help us keep in touch with much less effort than printing and posting, and therefore we can get more useful information to you.

The membership form is also very useful to us, so please fill in as much as you can. Local addresses for part time and full time residents are key to our ability to notify you if there are changes proposed for your area. (Full time residents some times only put their PO Box number.)

However, if your address label on this newsletter says "2009", then we haven't received your renewal and ask that you would sort this out as soon as possible - so that you feel you get a full year's value out of your membership.

Lecki Ord

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

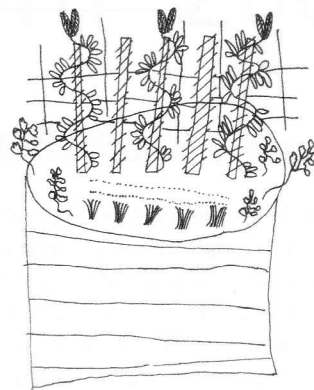
We are off to a good start, thanks to our Steering Committee's enthusiasm and our generous sponsors.

The 2 Fraser Drive site for our Community Garden 3231 is almost ready to go.

Boundaries are pegged out, water tanks ready to be cut down for garden beds and materials for the shed are on site. We will now be able to go ahead and build the rabbit proof fence and get a start on the garden beds and erecting the shed.

Phone 0438533346 to obtain a membership application and be part of this exciting community activity.

Tania Teague



OPENING CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY 14TH MAY 3.30pm

LEO HANLEY

AIDA Committee 2010

Barbara Fletcher	President	52433034 52896524
Frieda Wachsmann	Vice President	0411124002
Tania Teague	Secretary	52 896526
Ann Porter	Treasurer	52896754
Mark Bean	Member	52896 618
Gary Johnson	Member	98076904 52896728
Ian Godfrey	Member	9620 2404 0438194318
Graham Teague	Member	52896 526
Barbara Leavesley	Member	5289 7152