



AIDA

March 2018 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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



Notice of AGM

Saturday 28 April 3.30 pm

Community Hall, Anderson Roadnight Reserve, Aireys Inlet

All members, and prospective members, are welcome to attend. You can pay your 2018 subscription at the door.

The AGM will hear from Keith Baillie, CEO of the Surf Coast Shire, and Ward Councillors Margot Smith and Libby Coker.

New committee members are welcome. If anyone would like to nominate they can get in touch via the AIDA website or complete the nomination form in this newsletter. Nominations should be received no later than Friday 20 April 2018.

Following the AGM we will have short presentations from two students who are doing PhDs relevant to our area. They are:

Ross Wissing, who is investigating the role of the home garden in sustainably meeting human and ecological needs in urban Geelong. Ross also works in open space planning at the Surf Coast Shire with a focus on land management, policy and master plan development, and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Krista Bonfantine, a watershed ecologist, who has spent much of her life in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico and Colorado but has also worked along both coasts of the United States. She will share a brief description of her research project, which is focused on the Painkalac Creek, and summarise some of her preliminary results. She will also be looking for feedback to help set direction for the future of the project.

We invite you to join the committee for refreshments following the presentations.

Charlotte Allen

www.aireys-inlet.org

Shire Unsealed Road and Street Network Strategy

In November last year the Surf Coast Shire released its draft Unsealed Road and Street Network Strategy for public consultation prior to its finalisation. AIDA was invited to make a submission.

The draft strategy, covering all the unsealed roads within the shire, is based largely on a 'multi-criteria assessment tool' which is proposed to assess each of the shire's individual unsealed roads and streets according to its:

- strategic importance;
- benefit to abutting residents;
- road safety and pavement condition;
- existing traffic characteristics; and
- traffic volumes and potential growth.

Most members will recall that AIDA's surveys of resident viewpoints over the past thirty years, as well as the shire's own citizens juries, set up in 2007 and 2012 to review the roads and drainage needs in Precincts 1 and 2 in Aireys Inlet, have all clearly favoured the retention of the existing gravel roads wherever this is possible. The most recent community survey, with returns from 279 local ratepayers and residents, showed that 74 per cent favoured the retention of unsealed local roads.

Nevertheless, over the past fifteen years the proportion of bitumen residential streets in Aireys Inlet to Eastern View has been increased by council from 28 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

Much of the intended upshot of the Unsealed Road and Street Network Strategy is to determine which remaining unsealed streets should be preserved as such and which should be sealed.

In reading the draft strategy AIDA was very concerned to see that in the proposed design of the multi-criteria assessment tool, which the strategy is to depend on for its conclusions, it is acknowledged that 'local community response to upgrades' is an 'obvious omission' (refer to Section 7.0 Conclusion of the draft strategy). The AIDA committee agrees with this editorial comment and made a submission to council in January which reflected that, in taking account only of engineering, safety, performance and economic benefit, the draft strategy does not reflect or include public perceptions and values. Without these, many of the proposals of the strategy are unlikely to be supported by the local community.

We await the results of the consultation process with interest.

People power and responsive organisations

On a 42°C day in January, with gusts up to 93 kph and a fire danger rating of extreme, a power pole in Fairhaven decided that it had had enough. It began showering sparks and ignited the vegetation below, creating a potentially dangerous bushfire situation. It was not the first time this had happened. Consequently the neighbours' were prepared and kept the fire under control with their hoses until the CFA arrived.

Then the locals got angry and organised. This pole had caused problems too many times before; each time the only response had been, apparently, nothing more than getting the pole back into service. Multiple calls and emails went out to Powercor, the Surf Coast Shire and our state member Richard Riordan to solve the problem. A petition to Powercor was organised. The Surf Coast Shire sent a crew to examine the transformer-laden poles, with a view to reducing the vegetation below the poles and developing an ongoing policy. Richard Riordan agreed to discuss our concerns about the fire risks with power poles on the coast.

Powercor examined poles from Moggs Creek to Anglesea and found another significantly overheating pole

in Anglesea. Importantly, they identified that an excessive flow of power was routed through the Fairhaven problem pole, which could have caused the overheating. They promised a response within weeks. We soon had a power interruption notice, followed by an interruption of four hours while a crew of at least six replaced insulators, fuses, etc. And more is on the way.

The take-home message is that a concerted, well-documented call by many adversely affected people to an ongoing problem can get rapid action from the relevant organisations.

Gary Johnson



Painkalac Valley update

In the December 2017 newsletter we reported that the Surf Coast Shire was doing an audit of the requirements of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) that was agreed between the shire and the land owner as part of the Section 173 agreement that applies to the three blocks on the valley land.

This audit demonstrated that the requirements of the CMP had been met and the planning permits are valid. The CMP required that the ephemeral wetlands in the upper valley had to be fenced prior to any building work commencing as well as temporary fencing around the three house sites and around the landscaping.

This fencing has now been completed as the owner prepares to put a house on each of the three blocks; you may have seen the earthworks and orange temporary fencing. The permits would have expired in April had works not been started.

The shire, DELWP, the landowner and the people who lease the land will now have discussions to decide on the ongoing management of the fenced-off ephemeral wetland areas. In the meantime, horses will continue to graze in these areas.

The Painkalac Project (TPP), that was established by AIDA and ANGAIR, with some community representatives, has continued to try to reach an agreement with the landowner to move some of the land into public ownership for rehabilitation into a wetland and TPP has had discussions with the shire, Trust for Nature and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority about the concept. It remains our hope that this aspiration will be successful.

In the meantime the shire is interested in developing a walking track through the Painkalac Nature Reserve as part of its involvement in the 'City Deal'. We understand this would start from somewhere behind the Bottom Shops.

Charlotte Allen



A hiccup in black spot funding?

When the Commonwealth Government announced in May 2016 that Aireys Inlet would be included in the second round of black spot funding to remedy poor mobile telecommunications, we thought that it was just a matter of time before we got a new base station. However, *The Geelong Advertiser* of 10 January 2018 reported that the Victorian Government was withdrawing from the scheme as they considered it 'a pork-barrelling exercise'. The state government project does not have a timeline but will '... choose new mobile phone tower locations, in consultation with Regional Partnerships and Emergency Victoria'.

AIDA wrote to the Federal Member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson MP, to request an update. She quickly responded that 'Our government continues to commit to a mobile base station upgrade for Aireys Inlet ... Very disappointing the state has pulled out ... I hope to have more news on this program soon'.

We also wrote to the Victorian Minister for Trade, Investment, Innovation and Digital Economy, Mr Philip Dalidakis MP, to explain that Aireys Inlet and district had a genuine need for mobile telecommunications improvement and met all the criteria of the existing funding program. As of going to press, AIDA has not received a reply.

If you have influence with the Victorian Government, please attempt to convince them of the need for this program for our community, especially in the summer bushfire season.

Gary Johnson

Great Ocean Road Taskforce

In September 2017 the State Government appointed a Great Ocean Road Taskforce to review current governance arrangements and to make recommendations to:

- strengthen protection of the landscape
- improve the visitor experience
- provide greater certainty in land-use planning
- attract investment proposals to benefit tourists and local communities.

They have now released an Issues Paper and invite you to 'Have your say' by 30 April 2018:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/great-ocean-road-taskforce>

The GOR Taskforce is to report to Government by the end of 2018.

Charlotte Allen

NBN in Aireys Inlet

The NBN build has begun in Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven and will be progressively available from April. The district is getting Fibre to the Node (FTTN) technology.

Many people are confused about what the NBN is and what it means for them. This article aims to give you a better understanding of the technology and what you need to think about when connecting to the NBN.

How it works

A few NBN nodes have been built around town. They are in large green metal cabinets on nature strips, located near grey cylindrical 'pillars'. These pillars connect, via copper wires, to every house that has a telephone line. There is a node outside the church in Aireys Inlet, and others in Bambra Road, Aireys St, Wybellenna Drive and Yarringa Road. There may be more.



A node (top) and a pillar (bottom)

The rest of the world is connected to the town via an optical fibre cable to the Telstra exchange on Bambra Road. From the exchange, green fibre optical cables have recently been installed via existing ducts to each of the new node cabinets. Optical signals from the exchange will go to each node. This is where the optical fibre stops. Complex electronic circuitry in the nodes converts the optical signals to electrical signals, for transmission on a copper cable to the pillar.

When you are connected to the NBN a technician will go to the pillar, disconnect you from the existing copper wire to the telephone exchange and connect you instead to the nearby node. Once you are connected to the NBN your internet and telephone signals will come to you via the node.

If you are outside the town boundary or more than 1 km from a node, you may be offered NBN satellite connection or fixed wireless. This is relevant to a number of properties in the district. These are inferior services compared with fibre to the node. Try arguing that you need a micronode which is what we think will be provided in Eastern View. This is a small node that serves a smaller number of customers.

Connecting to the NBN

Eventually you must connect to the NBN even if you just want a landline phone. However, there is an 18 month period for people to move across to the NBN. You will need to choose an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to connect to the NBN.

Choosing an ISP and plan

What you need to think about

You may have had information from Your current phone or internet provider may have sent you information, but you do not have to stay with that provider. How do you decide what is best for your household?

If you want access to the internet, you will need to consider the download and upload speed that you would like and the amount of data needed. But even if you chose the plan with the maximum download speed, the actual speed you get will depend on a number of factors including:

- the distance from your house to the node – the closer the faster;
- the number of people accessing the node at any one time – it will be slower when neighbourhood kids get home from school and in holiday periods when more people are using the internet;

- the quality of the copper line between the node and your house – this varies greatly – NBN had to replace corroded copper wires in Anglesea;
- the quality of the wiring in your house.

What speed and how much data do you need?

- There are many ISPs offering a range of plans with various speeds and amounts of data with competition for your business, so try to work out your needs.
- How fast do you want to be able to download and send files? You can check current upload and download speed on Ookla (speedtest.net).
- Do you need to download or upload large files for work or perhaps sharing movies of grandchildren with other parts of the world?

- Do you watch Netflix – how many different movies are watched at the one time in your house?
- If you plan on streaming to an Ultra High Definition TV, Netflix suggests 25 Mbps per TV.

Choosing a plan to match your needs

Choice has a good article on choosing an NBN plan <https://www.choice.com.au/electronics-and-technology/internet/connecting-to-the-internet/articles/nbn-plans>

Finally, if fibre to the premises (FTTP) had been connected, download speeds would not be an issue and there wouldn't be ugly nodes that need electricity. And no, 5G is not going to be a solution in the near future, but that is another story.

Gretel Lamont



Planning and VCAT hearings

The AIDA committee routinely reviews all planning applications made to the Surf Coast Shire that are within our area of interest – Urquhart Bluff to Eastern View. In the rare instances where the applications are significantly outside the Surf Coast Shire planning scheme or covenant requirements and would be detrimental to the local character or set a precedent, the AIDA committee sends an objection to Council.

At times, these applications proceed to a VCAT hearing and AIDA will often choose to support its objection at VCAT. It has been some time since this happened but late last year there were two applications that proceeded to VCAT.

One of these was in the Fairhaven Estate, overlooking the Painkalac Valley, where there was an application to build outside the site's prescribed building envelope. (All blocks in the estate have building envelopes, which were negotiated when the area was subdivided to protect the environmental and landscape qualities of the area and views from each block.) Our objection was supported by some community members and the Surf Coast Shire and was successful, with the owners being able to make alterations within the existing building envelope only.

The other VCAT hearing was for a site on Yandana Road, Fairhaven, where the new dwelling would break the ridge line. The Surf Coast Shire and local residents also objected. We await a decision.

Memorial Arch Masterplan

As a participant in the GORCC Memorial Arch Masterplan Community Reference Group, AIDA attended the final committee meeting in February. This consultation group has been meeting since 2015 and a final 'interim' Options paper has been developed which seeks to balance the need to retain the historical significance of the Memorial Arch site against the need to protect the fragile dune area from the increasing number of tourists visiting the site. The final option was a compromise to shutting the site completely which was the popular choice, and will be released by GORCC for public comment in the near future.

An ongoing issue has been the installation of toilets at the site, which is being advocated by our Federal MP, Ms Sarah Henderson. AIDA recently wrote to Ms Henderson to inform her of the consultative process that has occurred and outlined the reasons the Committee had recommended against a toilet at the site.



Those reasons are:

In the local context, the site:

- has limited, if any capacity to cope with an increase in infrastructure without adversely affecting the surrounding dune environment, visual amenity or parking requirements;
- is not connected to sewer mains, therefore the only alternative is septic or self-cleaning toilets which:
 - require relatively large areas due to the infrastructure and number of toilets required;
 - require excavation into an already fragile foreshore environment, susceptibility to storm surges; and
 - are water intensive, requiring a new water supply with high maintenance and operating costs;
 - could encourage overnight camping in the car park.

In a broader context, the Great Ocean Road:

- is at risk of exposure from inundation, storm erosion and coastal recession along this section of the coastline due to sea level rise over the next 20 years and therefore throws doubt on the viability of additional infrastructure in these hot spots;
- already has existing public toilet amenities and sewer infrastructure in the coastal towns and visitor information centres in close proximity to the Memorial Arch Precinct which can be better utilised and enhanced so that visitors and tour companies stop in these locations prior to continuing along the Great Ocean Road to the Memorial Arch site;
- provides important commercial opportunities for coastal towns to benefit from longer stays and visitor spending during these rest stops.

As well, AIDA pointed out the need for better signage to existing toilet facilities in the Aireys–Fairhaven area, and to the proposed development of the (already seweraged) Grey Point Reserve where the concept proposed by the Committee for Lorne will, for the first time, be able to accommodate long buses in Lorne.

An article outlining AIDA's opposition to toilets at the Memorial Arch was published in the February *Surf Coast Times*, and subsequent Facebook chatter was very supportive of our position.

We are still awaiting a response from Ms Henderson.

Barbara Fletcher

Moggs Creek Bridge update

VicRoads has funding to replace the bridge at Moggs Creek, which has deteriorated sufficiently to require an upgrade. Following a drop-in session held at the Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club in September 2017, AIDA wrote to VicRoads outlining concerns with the proposals. These concerns have subsequently been raised by our members. They included:

- the proposed extent of road widening and the suburbanisation of what is now a low-key approach and turn-off into the hamlet of Moggs Creek;
- the proposed retaining wall/embankment from the Great Ocean Road to the beach;
- reduced car parking at Moggs Creek beach and loss of amenity and safety to residents which will occur with the inevitable overflow car parking in Moggs Creek itself.

Most importantly, members have raised issues with the proposed larger, formal pedestrian refuge, which is overkill for the numbers it would serve, and a danger to motorcycles especially, and also to traffic unfamiliar with the Great Ocean Road. With this installation comes the subsequent necessity for a highway light to illuminate the refuge, which will forever change the incredible night sky in this area and be an intrusion to local residents. VicRoads responded only to underline their original concepts.

Subsequently, they indicated they are now considering the engineering possibility of a temporary bridge during construction, which they say will reduce impacts on the environment 'somewhat'.

On 16 March, four committee members met with VicRoads representatives to discuss this proposal for the temporary bridge and any ramifications to the local environment. We are pleased to report that there have been substantive modifications to the original plans in an attempt to accommodate the wishes of local residents. These include less intrusion into the cliff face and less cut into the escarpment leading into the Old Coach Road, minimal loss of car-parking space and modifications to the turn into Robyn Road as requested by residents to ensure greater sight lines. The major sticking point is still the pedestrian refuge and proposed lighting.

A community meeting was held on 17 March to outline the latest proposal. Although Ms Sarah Henderson MP conducted the meeting, residents could ask questions and be updated on these plans. This meeting reinforced concerns about the pedestrian refuge and lighting.

AIDA has been assured that there will be further consideration on this issue and we will be meeting with VicRoads in the future to continue discussions.

Barbara Fletcher

Call for nominations for the 2018 AIDA committee

AIDA members may put themselves forward for election to the committee or, with their consent, be proposed for election by another AIDA member. All members standing for election to the committee should be prepared to sign the AIDA code of ethics (see below). Completed nomination forms may be scanned and emailed to contact@aireys-inlet.org or mailed to the Secretary, Mary-Jane Gething, PO Box 359, Aireys Inlet Victoria 3231, to be received by Friday 20 April 2018.

Nomination form for AIDA committee 2018

PERSON NOMINATED: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) _____

PROPOSED BY: _____

NOMINATED FOR: (PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX)

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

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 about 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: _____



AIREYS INLET & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 359 AIREYS INLET VICTORIA 3231 (Reg. No. A000710V)

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

I, (name) _____

of (address) _____

being a member of the Aireys Inlet & District Association Inc.

appoint (name of proxy holder) _____

of (address of proxy holder) _____

also being a member of that Association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual/special/ general* meeting of the Association to be held on 8 April 2017 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of / against* the following resolution(s) (*delete as applicable)

(insert resolution(s)): _____

and otherwise to vote without guidance on my behalf.

Signed _____ Date _____