



AIDA

March 2021 • www.aireys-inlet.org

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



AIDA's AGM

AGM 3pm Saturday 10 April

The AIDA committee met on line using Zoom throughout the year and we explored having the AGM at the Aireys Hall with the option for members to join using Zoom if they wished. Unfortunately, Zoom won't work in the hall so the AGM will be in person in the hall.

The committee hopes to see many of you at the meeting and encourages you to attend.

Our mayor, Libby Stapleton, Anglesea ward councillor Mike Bodsworth, and Lorne ward councillor Gary Allen, plus the acting shire CEO will be providing the meeting with an update on council's plans relevant to our area.

Following the AGM, Aireys resident Libby Mears, chair of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, will outline the new authority's immediate and long-term plans for the Great Ocean Road. We

are looking forward to this early indication of how the authority will approach its task of protecting the road's environment and local communities. We will be particularly interested in its long-term plans for tourism along the road.

The following links will provide members with a form for a [proxy vote](#), plus the [financial report](#), [minutes](#) of the last AGM, and information about the election of new and existing committee members.

Please fill out either the proxy form PDF or a print out of it. Proxy forms can be posted to PO Box 359, Aireys Inlet, Vic 3231 or emailed to aireysinletdistrict@gmail.com.

We welcome any questions from members, and these can be sent prior to the meeting to the addresses above or attached to your proxy form. We will also be able to accept questions during the meeting.

Charlotte Allen

AIDA membership

AIDA membership numbers are its strength. Our strong member numbers give AIDA its voice and ability to advocate to government and government agencies. If you know of anyone in the community who is not a member but who agrees with AIDA's aims and values please encourage them to join. Information about how to join is on the website at <https://aireys-inlet.org/>

Many thanks to the many members who have renewed their membership for 2021. Our membership secretary sent out a reminder to unfinancial members in late February so if you have not renewed your membership yet then please do. If you no longer wish to remain a member please let us know at aida.aireys@gmail.com so we can adjust our database.

Charlotte Allen

AIDA committee

Barb Fletcher will retire from the committee at this year's AGM and we will be very sorry to see her go. Barb has been an enthusiastic member of the committee for fourteen years, including seven as president. For thirteen years she has been involved in the important role of checking all planning applications and where necessary submitting objections and appearing at VCAT on AIDA's behalf. She will be missed.

We already have one new nomination but would welcome any further nominations from members. The committee meets on the first Friday of the month at 7.30 pm and from time to time there are other meetings or events where committee members are called on to contribute their time.

The committee nomination form is included in this newsletter.

Charlotte Allen

2020 Community Survey – the community speaks

'In a globalized world it is important that the voice of local communities is heard.' This opening comment by Charlotte Allen, President of AIDA, sets the scene in AIDA's publication this month of the 2020 Community Survey insights, based on local opinion sought in late 2020 and which revealed our community's views on many critical local issues. (The [full survey](#) and longitudinal data and the [raw data](#) are both available.)

One of the most important considerations in the design of this year's publication was our wish to make the survey data and comments easily understandable, widely accessible and transparent. With this in mind, the data from the 23 questions, 398 respondents and over 2,600 comments were translated into six key overarching themes: Character, Tourism, Development, Key Assets, Community and Future. Each of these themes was supported by an overview of the relevant question responses and readers are able to access the relevant raw data and comments, should they wish.

This survey is part of a longitudinal study that was begun in Aireys Inlet in 1983. This year, some redundant questions were discontinued and this provided us with an opportunity for community members to reflect on the implications of the focus on the Great Ocean Road with the creation of the new Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) and the Covid pandemic.

Some of the principal threads in community opinion revealed by the survey related to how the region of Aireys Inlet sees itself ... *'an untouched, serene coastal village, highly valued for its environmental assets'*. We are proud of our cohesive community, made up of strong, knowledgeable local organisations and connected, passionate local businesses. We are



welcoming of visitors who value and wish to enjoy the distinctive attributes of the area and value its residents who respect our 'quiet village in nature' character and seek infrastructure associated with such a place.

It was pleasing to find that the wider community's attitudes (more than half of the respondents were *not* AIDA members) are very much aligned with those of AIDA members, meaning there is strong support in the community to protect the character of our townships and our environment.

The survey revealed that there is also work to be done; there are a number of cautionary issues – actions to be taken around risk and mitigation of our vulnerabilities. There are irritations to be overcome where possible and we perceive weaknesses around planning regulation adherence, environmental strain and the protection of place. There are ways to strengthen our community capacity, our social inclusivity, and the strengthening of our voice to government. Support of our local businesses is particularly needed in the off season. Our ability to achieve a vital and much-needed balance will be tested by the delivery of high quality eco-tourism experiences in keeping with the character of our place and the improved tourism management of the Great Ocean Road, particularly as it relates to its visitor capacity. These are but some of the challenges as a community we will face in the future and yet more are covered in the report.

Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of the survey responses was the many insightful suggestions made by members of our community, many of whom have had a long relationship with the region, are very knowledgeable and were generous in their thoughtful and constructive contributions. We look forward to these community suggestions being valued and carefully considered by local and state government for the opportunity they present and indeed, by the community itself, in helping to deliver a secure future for the place we all love.

Suzanne Cavanagh

AIDA – Surf Coast Shire meeting

On 27 January the AIDA committee had a Zoom meeting with the Anglesea and Lorne ward councillors, the three senior Surf Coast Shire general managers, and the two managers for Planning and Development and Community Relations.

AIDA has had similar meetings with the shire in the past and found them very useful, as was this meeting.

The issues raised by AIDA included:

- our concern that there seem to be more and more permits being approved for houses that are out of character for the area;

- the need to reduce speed limits on local roads;
- Eagle Rock Parade – Step Beach car parking;
- AIDA's budget bid; and
- AIDA seeking accreditation as a Dark Sky destination.

The shire raised:

- the Surf Coast Walk extension;
- council's Climate Emergency Declaration; and
- council's Community Vision and Council Plan.

The following is an update since the meeting.

Planning

We have made a Budget Bid request for funds for a heritage assessment of the area around the Lighthouse and Lighthouse Keepers Cottages, with particular regard to the need to protect the views of these historic buildings from all vantage points. We also requested funds to make the necessary planning-scheme amendments that will ensure protection of these important assets. We are also investigating how AIDA might be able to secure some additional planning-scheme amendments to further protect the low-key character of our townships.

Speed limits

The committee is pleased to see the speed limit on roads in the Lighthouse Precinct reduced to 40 kph and we have written to council requesting that the speed limits on all local roads in Aireys, Fairhaven and Moggs Creek be reduced to 40 kph. We have also written to VicRoads requesting that the Great Ocean Road speed limit through Aireys and Fairhaven be reduced to 50 kph which would bring the area into line with all other townships along the Great Ocean Road.

Parking: Eagle Rock Parade, Step Beach

We have been concerned for some months about the informal parking that has recently been established off Eagle Rock Parade in contravention of a council resolution and have been in discussions about the issue without a resolution.

Budget Bid

Our Budget Bid also seeks funds to improve the area around the Top Shops as described in the 2015 Structure Plan. This would include works to prevent the formation of a large puddle outside the pharmacy after rain.

Dark Sky destination

As a result of the meeting an information sheet was sent to the councillors and officers about AIDA's process of applying for accreditation with the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) to become a dark sky community.

If successful this will have far-reaching benefits for the community, and the environment.

Other communities have used their accreditation to promote tours of the night sky, astrophotography and astronomy. Environmental benefits include the re-emergence of species that depend on a level of darkness for their food source.



The process of applying for accreditation requires a review of council policy regarding street lighting, other public lighting and residential lighting. There are several technical requirements to be addressed as well as an assessment of lighting both private and public. There is a ten-year window in which requirements must be met.

There is also a requirement to demonstrate community commitment to dark skies. This takes the form of community awareness events, for example a star-gazing or astronomy event, and the provision of teaching material for local schools about the night sky. Local retailers would be required to show support by minimising their illuminated signage.

The Surf Coast Walk extension

Council advised us that \$44.1 million was allocated in the State Government budget in November for new trails along the Great Ocean Road. A significant part of this funding is to extend the Surf Coast Walk from Fairhaven to Grey River. DEWLP are managing the project. The proposed route for the extension of trails is available at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/trail-study> AIDA also raised the need for some maintenance on the existing Coast Walk.

Climate emergency

Council has developed two plans for how it intends to address the climate emergency. More information can be provided through council's environment team. Council staff attended AIDA's last committee meeting

to provide a full briefing. See Surf Coast Shire Climate Emergency – news, below.

Community vision and council plan

The council's Community Survey is now closed but was promoted in an earlier email to members. The information will be used during the development of council's ten-year Community Vision and four-year plan.

Charlotte Allen

Surf Coast Shire Climate Emergency

Council has released two documents that might interest members. Links to the **Community climate change survey summary** and **community greenhouse gas emissions profile** are available [here](#).

Climate change survey findings are available [here](#).

Community emissions profile are available [here](#).

Council has also planned a **Community Climate Mobiliser** program that members might like to join. Further information and an Expression of Interest application for community members can be found at <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Your-Say/Climate-Emergency>

The Expression of Interest will be open 17–31 March, with the program beginning after Easter.

Surf Coast reimaginED

Council is running a series of free, online workshops to build skills and spark ideas for living a sustainable lifestyle.



The Thrifty Gardener

Wednesday 24 March, 7.00 pm via Zoom. [Register here](#).

Be inspired to reuse waste materials in your garden to help the environment and make your garden beautiful, functional and productive on a budget. Presented by Richard Rowe from Sustainable Gardening Australia.

Climate action through gardening

Wednesday 31 March, 7.00 pm via Zoom. [Register here](#).

This webinar will introduce you to simple actions you can take to reduce your personal CO² emissions at home and help prepare your garden for the changing climate.

Grow Free 3231



'Take what you need give what you can' is the basic premise behind an Australia-wide and international movement of gardeners, growers and gatherers committed to the principle of sharing fresh, home-grown produce, preserves and the like.

The Grow Free initiative promotes and enables building community through sharing food, as well as a commitment to managing waste and sharing gardeners' and growers' inevitable gluts of fruits, vegetables and herbs.

The Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Moggs Creek communities are good at this. During the COVID lockdown community members began sharing garden produce and preserves at a couple of sites in town and following this a permanent site was located and Grow Free 3231 was born.

The colourful cupboard (a neighbourhood donation) was modified and painted by 'community creatives' and is located on the back verandah of the



Lighthouse Tearooms. It has become a hive of activity since the launch in late January 2021.

Community members are delighted to be a part of the sharing and exchange that is the foundation of Grow Free 3231. They might scribble a note of thanks, draw a picture, share a recipe or make suggestions for how best to use the produce they have donated. Joining the Facebook page is another way to share handy gardening, preserving, baking and sustainability tips.

Spin-offs are occurring too:

- preserving sessions on how to use Fowlers Vacola,
- making beeswax and pine-resin wraps,
- making plum paste, and
- growing sourdough starters.

Comments from the Users Book at the Grow Free 3231 cupboard say it all.

'Thank you for the plum jam, berries, seeds and greens! A beautiful initiative. Will bring produce as soon as I can.' Zelda

'I took some cumquats and some plums. What a wonderful idea.' Leonie

'Thank you for the zucchinis and cucumbers. I love this and I love the 3231 community.' Jacqui

'Took some zuccs and pears. Left seed packets made by Ali and Laila (4 yrs). Happy Gardening!'

The giving and taking occurs in many different ways. Recently a community elder expressed concern that she wasn't sure what she might be able to contribute, then promptly set about supplying our preservers with gorgeous cloth coverings to make the jams, chutneys, pickles and pastes even more attractive.

A 'thank you' in the Users Book is among the best contributions any of us can make!

Jo Murray

Clearing of Bristlebird Reserve



Bristlebird photo courtesy Margaret Lacey, who now puts new bird photos from our area on Instagram at [marglaceygorbirds](#)

Residents of Moggs Creek will be aware of signage depicting areas to be cleared to create firebreaks. These are to be 40 metres wide and include Bristlebird Reserve at the junction of Old Coach and Old Neuk Roads. This area has been known to contain Rufous Bristlebirds and these (now classified by DEWLP as *vulnerable*) birds can be seen running across from Bristlebird Reserve to the scrub on the east side of Old Coach Road.

AIDA was contacted by members with concerns for the welfare of the birds, and the potential environmental damage with the approved low-level slashing to Bristlebird Reserve and along the east side of Old Coach Road. Zoom meetings were held between the AIDA Committee and representatives of DEWLP, Parks Victoria and Surf Coast Shire in which AIDA forcefully put the case for not slashing the Reserve to protect and provide habitat for this vulnerable species. Unfortunately, we were unable to shift their decision: the one compromise was in the timing of the slashing. This will now be done in two stages – the first in March near the houses and then in April when the roadside and verges will be cut back. AIDA has also asked that slashing height be set at an appropriate level to reduce destabilisation and erosion of the slope.

It is to be hoped these asset-protection measures do not prove to be the end of our lovely 'road runners'.

Barbara Fletcher

Filming on the Surf Coast

Filming of a ten-part drama series has started on the Surf Coast and will continue until mid-May. The cast and

crew will be based in Anglesea with filming locations stretching from Torquay to Wye River.

The series is about a rebellious teen, Summer Torres. After pushing her high-flying Australian mother to the brink, Summer is sent to live with family friends on the Great Ocean Road. Over the three months of Summer's exile, she's introduced to the fun and thrilling world of competitive surfing and discovers a talent and drive she never knew she had.

The filming will take place on beaches, car parks and on the water. Access to all areas for the community will be maintained throughout filming. Water-safety specialists on jet skis will accompany the team.

The location and times of filming will be on the 3231 Facebook page and on posters around the village.

Rubbish Rangers

As mentioned in an email to members late last year, AIDA donated \$1000 to the Rubbish Rangers who have been doing such a marvellous job picking up litter from around our townships and along the Great Ocean Road from Urquhart Bluff to the Memorial Arch at Eastern View.

AIDA's donation has enabled the group to purchase additional long-handled picker-uppers, rubbish bags and hi-vis vests printed with the Rubbish Ranger logo.

We were very pleased that AIDA was able to provide some funds to support this wonderful initiative but it is disappointing that so much litter continues to be dropped around our area. It seems dog owners (not putting their little green bags in a rubbish bin) and parents (leaving used nappies and wipes on the ground) are major offenders.

Hopefully, the example being set by the Rubbish Rangers will start having a positive impact in deterring litterers whether they are locals or visitors.

Charlotte Allen



Nomination form for AIDA committee 2021

PERSON NOMINATED: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) _____

PROPOSED BY: _____

NOMINATED FOR: (PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX)

PRESIDENT ☐

VICE PRESIDENT ☐

SECRETARY ☐

TREASURER ☐

COMMITTEE MEMBER ☐

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: _____

