



AIDA

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011



The Pub

Members of the community registered their concern about the loss of our pub with two significant alterations to the for-sale sign. The first graffiti, above, was removed, but 'icon' soon became 'con' (below).

It was with much relief that AIDA learned that a consortium of ten locals (residents and long-term holidaymakers) headed by musician and builder Tim Wood has bought the property and intends to retain the pub, which will be renovated and tidied up then relaunched as a destination pub with good food and

wine and live music. Importantly there will be no pokies, just a family-friendly venue and community meeting place with that great coastal view. Tim expects it to be open for business by Christmas. He reports that one competing bid proposed using the land for a caravan park and the second for subdivision into small residential blocks.

When AIDA invited Tim to give us additional information, he provided the following quote.

'All members of the Lighthouse Syndicate have an association to Aireys Inlet. Several wish to remain as passive investors and for the most part anonymous. The common denominator is the belief that the Aireys Inlet Hotel is of important historical, social and economic benefit to the town and should remain as a hotel and significant open space.

While we clearly recognise that this 3 acres of prominent land has enormous subdivisional and developmental potential, we intend to ensure that any future development is in context with the town and in sympathy to the site and the hotel.

We do not assume we can appease all parties, but intend to proceed in an inclusive and consultative manner.

The securing of this site by locals is a coup for the town and its future.' (Tim Wood)

Gary Johnson



Surf Coast Shire Pathway Strategy Review 2011

The Shire is reviewing the pathway strategy that was adopted in 2006. The intention is to set out priorities until 2022. Meetings were held at Aireys Inlet in June and July 2011, with advertisements placed in local press, but individual ratepayers were unfortunately not notified.

AIDA supports walking as the preferred way of getting around and enjoying our coastal townships and our natural surroundings. It was AIDA's proposal early in 2004, for the development of an Aireys Inlet Pedestrian Strategy, which ultimately led Council to develop the current Pathways Strategy for the Shire in 2006. We supported the 2006 Pathways Strategy because it included only gravel paths in Aireys Inlet to Eastern View and our endorsement of the strategy was based on that specification. AIDA's current viewpoint remains largely unchanged. We now understand that – so long as the pathway system is designed to be safe and convenient – opposition to concrete pathways has become even firmer in the local community since 2006.

Regarding the current review, we recommend that the key priorities for the design and implementation of the Pathways Strategy in our area should be:

1. Protection of our informal local coastal village character by constructing any pathways in compacted gravel of a suitable standard, rather than of concrete, and employing an informal curved design rather than straight alignments;
2. Retaining wherever possible the shared use of residential roads for both pedestrians and vehicles;
3. Completing the establishment of a strategic framework of main pedestrian links between the key parts of our townships and also the key surrounding environmental attractions;
4. Establishing additional pedestrian crossings over the Great Ocean Road;
5. Where appropriate and required within residential areas, creating a limited number of pedestrian cross connections with the main strategic pathway framework;
6. Establishing strategic linkages with the pathway systems of GORCC and DSE;
7. Enhancing pedestrian connections with beaches, cliff tops and surrounding bushland, so as to provide improved recreational opportunities and reduced need for local car use and car parking.

AIDA is in the process of developing a prioritised listing of specific recommendations that fit with the above principles. We encourage AIDA members to consider their priorities and let the Shire know by 30 August 2011. Snail mail to Manager Engineering Services, Surf Coast Shire, PO Box 350, Torquay 3228 or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Ian Godfrey

Supermarket

AIDA opposed the planning application for the supermarket proposed for the Bottom Shops. Our opposition, in support of the Council position, was based on the failure of the applicant to abide by the Planning Scheme, including Amendment C55. We were heartened by the VCAT Senior Member's rejection of the revised plans. Her conclusion in the judgement of May 2011 follows:

The potential use of the site for a commercial development including a supermarket on the review site is appropriate and would be beneficial to this centre. There are a number of positive features of the proposal. However, on balance, I find that the reduction of parking sought is too great in this constrained location, that the interface with the Painkalac Creek corridor could be improved, and other design details require resolution. I have therefore determined not to allow the Application. (Baird 2011)

The most significant of the 'other design features requiring attention' was the location and size of the loading bay which was considered too tight for practical use by delivery vans.

AIDA is pleased that the Member's judgement acknowledged that our concerns and those of Council were justified as regards the Surf Coast Planning Scheme and Amendment C55.

AIDA was able to email a detailed version of this judgement to those members who have provided email details, and will be continuing to email up-to-date information in future. We are aware that about a third of our members have still not listed their email address with us and urge these members to do so.

Gary Johnson



Painkalac Reservoir

Since January 2010, the dam on Painkalac Creek has been in the process of being upgraded to meet current guidelines for national dam safety management. The dam, constructed in 1978 and holding 514 million litres of water, was raised by 2 metres, had a 1 metre wave wall installed on the top of the embankment and the spillway was widened by 4 metres. Additional measures taken can be found at

http://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/image_get.cfm?id=A2076386

It was expected that the works would be completed about August, 2010, but recent information indicates that a small project is still incomplete. A wing wall is still to be constructed, which is estimated to take about ten weeks, although the starting date is not yet known. Once this wing wall is completed, the popular walking track to the dam site will be reopened.

The water storage level was reduced to about 60 per cent of capacity during the early stages of works. As of June 2011, the dam was again full to capacity.

Gary Johnson

Meeting with Surf Coast

In the constantly changing environment of Aireys Inlet, AIDA has been, and will continue to be, a key player in the process of change. Our input is regularly sought in providing the community viewpoint in submissions to Council. However, there are times when this input can be 'catch-up' and in major issues this can lead to a fractious consultative process.

In an attempt to improve engagement and ensure an early inclusion in any change process, AIDA Executive recently met with Sunil Bhalla (Director of Infrastructure, Surf Coast Shire) and Councillor Libby Mears. Their commitment was greatly appreciated, because both meetings were during the evening.

The hour-long session included discussion on the process of community consultation in the Aireys Pathways Strategy, an update on works in Precinct Two (currently on hold) and a commitment to include AIDA in the planning for future works in the Lighthouse Precinct. Importantly, AIDA was able to argue for early consultation in any future planning process and it was agreed that this would facilitate the process. It was also agreed that regular and ongoing meetings between Sunil Bhalla, his officers and AIDA should be held. The first is to be in September.

Barbara Fletcher



Surf Life Saving Club

In view of the significant coastal erosion affecting the SLSC site (see photos), AIDA attempted to obtain a statement about the fate of the SLSC redevelopment. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, so must rely for the most part on a *Surf Coast Times* article.

It reports that Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Shire have each approved the proposal but DSE has requested an additional engineering report subsequent to the undermining of the dune and destruction of pedestrian ramp in front of the clubhouse. The club has commissioned the engineering assessment.

Text and photos Gary Johnson



Planning matters

11A Pearse Road Aireys Inlet

AIDA is to attend mediation at VCAT on this Application which proposes a very large house on a subdivided block.

3/18–20 Phillip Street Aireys Inlet

Again, this proposal was for a large home on a subdivided block. A hard surface area was larger than that designated in the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Neighbourhood Character Overlay provisions of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme, and the building was too close to the side boundary. Some concessions were made by the owner, including moving the car port from the side boundary, and making modifications to lessen the overshadowing of the adjoining property. These changes were sufficient for the Surf Coast Planning Committee to allow the building to proceed.

315 Great Ocean Road Fairhaven

Plans for replacement of the old fibro building opposite the Mad Max house have been put to Council. This site is highly visible and enjoys unimpeded views. The proposal, although appearing to be a sensitive design, still proposes additional height. AIDA has objected on this issue, seeking reduction of 1 metre in the overall height of the building.

Federal Street Aireys Inlet

An application for two adjoining garages, one of which was a large double-storey garage with big windows and access to a balustraded area on the second floor, was modified at on-site mediation. AIDA and other objectors have been forwarded amended plans for the site.

85 Great Ocean Road Aireys Inlet

AIDA attended a mediation session on site for this proposal. The plans for the wine bar – tavern had been changed between application and the mediation, so new plans will be forwarded by the planner. AIDA's principle objection is to the applicant's argument for the waiver of 32 car-parking spaces in a proposal which in itself will rely on these spaces to assure viability of the business. Concerns regarding lighting spillage and noise, although raised in our objection, are able to be enforced through Council's regulatory process.

Barbara Fletcher

Planning Permit Applications Online

The Surf Coast Shire has recently begun making planning permit applications available online at the following address:

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/planning_advertising.htm

The applications available are ones that have gone on public exhibition. That means that the Shire's requests for additional info from the applicant or referral agencies (e.g., VicRoads or DSE) have been completed. The information available varies greatly but generally includes plans and one or more supporting documents such as application, colour schedule, photos, vegetation report and design response summary.

Also shown in a separate table are applications that were recently exhibited but where the advertising period is completed. Note that until a decision is made, submissions can still be made. AIDA congratulates the Surf Coast Shire on this initiative.

Gary Johnson

Anglesea Wildflower Weekend and Art Show

24–5 September 2011

Memorial Hall, 3 McMillan Street, Anglesea

What's on

- Displays of terrestrial orchids of the Anglesea – Aireys Inlet region
- Native and indigenous flower displays
- Indigenous plants, arts and crafts for sale
- Exhibition of high quality local art...prizes for best exhibits
- Light refreshments available
- Activities for kids
- Guided wildflower walks and bus tours, included in the entry fee
- Weed exchange. Pick up a local plant FREE in exchange for an environmental weed.



Entry fee

Adults	\$5.00
Pensioners/students	\$2.00
Children 12 years and under	FREE

Organised by ANGAIR: Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna

Phone/Fax (03) 5263 1085 email: info@angair.org.au

Visit our web site at: <http://www.angair.org.au>

Enquiries: Chris Morrissey (President) 9853 9269 or 5263 3131

Janet Stephens (Publicity officer) 5263 3369





Lighthouse Precinct

AIDA members may have already noticed recent works carried out by the Surf Coast Shire in Inlet Crescent South. As shown in the photo (below), the parking spaces near the eastern end of the road have been reorganised and resurfaced to prevent further erosion of the midden (and continued bogging of cars and vans in the loose sand). Landscaping (above) along the north side of the road will prevent informal parking on the nature strips. These works were funded from

the Shire's 2010–11 budget as the second stage of the Traffic Management Plan for the Lighthouse Precinct (the first stage being the works in Federal Street). Funds from the 2011–12 budget will support final planning and detailed designs for the Skate Park Car Park and remaining traffic management works in the Precinct. The AIDA Executive will be working with the Shire's Infrastructure Officers on these designs, to be implemented in the 2012–13 budget year.

Mary-Jane Gething, photos Gary Johnson



AIDA has a web page

Please visit our very new web page, which Perry Gaylard has very kindly offered to host on his beautiful 'Aireys Inlet – Down by the Sea' website. Just click on the AIDA logo (beneath the lighthouse on the main photo) on Perry's home page:

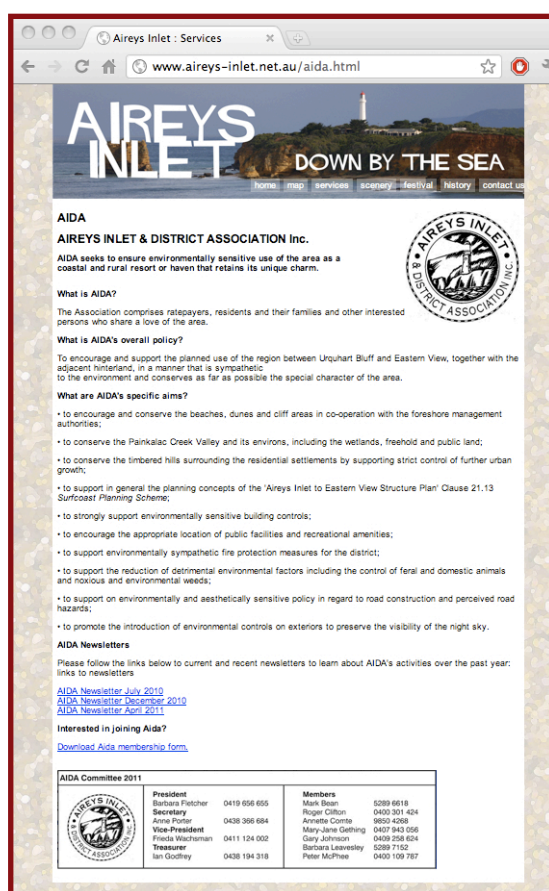
<http://www.aireys-inlet.net.au/>

At present our page describes AIDA's overall policy and aims, and lists our current committee members and their contact numbers. There are also links to pdfs of our three most recent newsletters and our membership form.

In future we plan to add notices about current activities and events. Once you have finished inspecting the page you might like to click on the 'history' button on Perry's banner for an extensive history of Aireys Inlet and the surrounding area, and on the 'scenery' button to see Perry's lovely photographs of the area.

Bookmark the site once you have accessed it, because at present a Google search for 'Aireys', or 'Aireys Inlet' will not reveal our site (but many visitors should bring us up the list), and a search for 'AIDA' will only benefit opera fans.

Mary-Jane Gething



AIDA committee 2011

<i>President</i>	Barbara Fletcher	5243 3034 0419 656 655	<i>Committee</i>	Mark Bean	5289 6618
				Annette Comte	9850 4268
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Porter	5289 6754 0438 366 684		Mary-Jane Gething	9415 7323 0407 943 056
<i>Vice president</i>	Frieda Wachsman	9376 1504 0411 124 002		Barbara Leavesley	5289 7152
				Gary Johnson	0409 258 624
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ian Godfrey	9620 2404 0438 194 318		Peter McPhee	9419 1120 0400 109 787
<i>Membership</i>	Lecki Ord	0418 301 947		Roger Clifton	9500 9757 0400 301 424

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If not claimed return to PO Box 359 Aireys Inlet 3231