

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

2018 In Summary

Your Association conducted two community forums in 2018 which provided the opportunity for the people of the Ocean Grove community to engage with firstly our three Councillors for the Bellarine Ward and the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong in May 2018. Then, in cooperation with the Barwon Heads Association, in November 2018 to engage with the candidates for the Victorian State Government Lower House for the Bellarine Electorate. The feedback on providing these opportunities was good and we will continue to run other community forums in 2019.

We continued to engage regularly with VicRoads (now with Regional Roads Victoria – RRV) and COGG staff on a range of road and traffic issues. We helped promote and participated in the first RRV community forum on the Grubb Road upgrade and we continue to push in 2019 for the continued opportunity for community input into the planning of the upgrade and also to lobby the State Government to fund the upgrade in this current term of government. We have maintained our support for the delivery of the Ocean Grove Principle Pedestrian Network (PPN) project by the COGG while concurrently pushing for COGG to seek State and Federal co-funding to lift part of the burden from ratepayers.

Community Safety issues saw us continuing to be involved in the Bellarine Community Safety Group chaired by Lis Neville MP and in the latter part of 2018 we were invited to join the committee of the Community Safety Network project chaired by the Department of Justice. We are keen to hear your concerns about community safety.

In “Places and Spaces” we pushed COGG for a more “adventurous” approach to the planned upgrades to playgrounds in Ocean Grove but we were not successful – but we haven’t given up.

Unfortunately 2018 finished on a very sad note with long time member and previous Chairperson Michael Harbour passing away shortly before Christmas after a long but courageous fight. Michael made a great contribution to the Association, the Ocean Grove Community and the wider community of the Bellarine. A motivated, honest and hardworking man with a wicked sense of humour Michael Harbour will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

2019 Our Focus Areas

At this time our focus areas for 2019 can be broadly grouped under the following and we have highlighted the higher priority issues **

- **Development and Growth**
 - **** Control of planning on the Bellarine**
 - **** Grubb Road & Tuckfield Street upgrade**
 - **** Increasing the capacity of the Bellarine Aquatic & Sports Centre**
 - Setting aside the land for a future fourth primary school in Ocean Grove
 - Geelong Ring Road – The Bellarine Link

- **Road Safety and Road Maintenance**
 - **** Orton Street and Presidents Ave intersection – ensuring the State Government deliver their election commitment.** (*# Please be aware that Regional Roads Victoria are conducting a drop at the Shell Road Pavilion on 19 Feb, 7-9pm to seek feedback on a proposed solution – we encourage you to go along and provide them you feedback*)
 - The Parade and Hodgson Street intersection – squaring up in accordance with the 2014 Urban Design Framework.
 - Ongoing maintenance of roads by VicRoads and COGG
- **Health, Education, Culture & Community**
 - **** Pushing the COGG for the delivery, through co-funding arrangements with State and Federal Governments, of the OG Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) project.**
 - **** Initiating a Southern Bellarine Coastal Forum with professionals, stakeholders and the community on the future developments in the green wedge between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale.**
 - Lobbying both Council and State Government for improved cycle and pedestrian connectivity from/to Ocean Grove.
 - Innovative playground improvements beyond “plastic” unadventurous layouts.
- **Environment**
 - **** Opportunities for micro generation renewable energy innovation and delivery including benefits to low income earners and low income renters.**

Community Forums in the pipeline for 2019 include:

- Federal Candidates Forum (*proposed date Wed 1 May 7-9pm Ocean Grove Bowls Club*)
- Southern Bellarine Coastal Forum (*possibly late June 2019*)
- Dementia Awareness Forum (*date yet to set*)

We always need your ideas, concerns and your help

For your community association to be useful we always need:

- Your ideas – what do you think our community needs – please tell us.
- Your concerns – what are the issues in Ocean Grove – please tell us.
- Your help – please join us as a member of the Association (one off fee of \$10) and get involved.
- You to follow us on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/oceangrovecommunityassociation/>

How to Contact us

- **Email:** ogcommunityassn@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.ogca.com.au
- **Facebook:** follow us and share on our Facebook page - Ocean Grove Community Association <https://www.facebook.com/oceangrovecommunityassociation/>
- **Come to a meeting:** The first Wednesday of each month (except January and December) at 7pm at the Ocean Grove Bowls Club (Board of Directors Room) – **please send us a quick email to let us know you will be coming.**

Phil Edwards

Chairperson on behalf of the Committee of the Ocean Grove Community Association Inc.