

Ocean Grove & District Community Association Inc.

OG
DC
Association

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OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

April 2007 to 2008 Achievements

2007-2008 has been a busy year for the OG&DCA with 3 Community Forums and preparing various detailed responses to key policies which will impact on the future of Ocean Grove.

The Community Forums included the following topics.

1. June 2007 – Local Traffic Issues – Forum prioritised local traffic issues which require solutions.
2. August 2007 – Lisa Neville was the guest speaker at the August forum discussing her role as a Minister in the State Government and about local issues on the Bellarine Peninsula.
3. November 2007 – Living with your Environment - In November 2007 four guest speakers they were Bob Jordan (Barwon Coast), Stuart Elliot (Volunteer Climate Change Presenter - Al Gore Climate Project), John Duthie (Friends of the Bluff) and Marc Mullins (CoGG Environmental Unit) presented varying views on environmental issues ranging from what you can do in your own backyard to global warming.

All Community Forums were well attended by the public, ranging in numbers from 40 to 80 people.

In addition to the Community Forums the OG&DCA participated in and responded to various Local and State government policies which will have an impact on the quality of life for the residents of and visitors to Ocean Grove. These included:

1. The Barwon Heads Bridge

We had a successful outcome in not only ensuring that our iconic bridge would not be demolished but also that a new 9 metre high bridge would not be constructed across the Barwon Estuary.

Based on the recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Panel the State Government preferred option is to leave the existing bridge for vehicle traffic only and construct a wider pedestrian/bike path connected to the north (upstream) side of the bridge. The second option is to construct a new pedestrian/bike path bridge slightly upstream (5 metres) from the heritage bridge.

The final outcome will be subject to Heritage Victoria's response which is now considering VicRoads application. However we were appalled at VicRoads design response to demolish half the bridge. It appears that the State Government is not willing to have VicRoads withdraw this application.

2. The Bellarine Aquatic Centre

We thank Cr Farrell and the CoGG officers incorporating most of our requests which included a new common entry to the whole complex, separate change rooms facilities for dry & wet activities and, although not constructing a 50 metre pool, now having a design which allows for an extension at a future date.

3. Ocean Grove Recreational Reserves

During the year the OG&DCA formed a Working Party with the Ocean Grove Football & Netball Club, Ocean Grove Cricket Club, Collendina Football Club and Waves Soccer Club to identify the Scope of Works required at the Memorial Reserve, Shell Road Reserve and Collendina Reserve. This resulted in a Master Plan Study report and a submission to the Commonwealth Candidates for the seat of Corangamite and the State and Local Government representatives.

Although not successful in obtaining a commitment in funding there was general support for the outcomes of the Master Plan Study.

We will be pursuing the matter further this year with a view of obtaining funds and having works completed by November 2010.

4. Ocean Grove Traffic

As an outcome of the OG&DCA Traffic Forum in June 2007 the following priorities were identified by the Community as the highest needs to be addressed:

1. Town Centre – provide pedestrian crossings across The Parade (near Medical Centre) and improve the main car park layout/traffic flow.
2. Presidents Avenue/The Parade– intersection upgrade.
3. The Terrace/Tuckfield Street – provide road link.
4. Through traffic – find alternative solution.
- 5a Tuckfield Street/Marlin Drive – intersection upgrade.
- 5b Thacker Street/Wallington Road intersections – upgrade and investigate through traffic in Wiltons Road.

We have since had 2 meetings with Council and VicRoads with the latest being 4 April 2008. The current status is as follows:

Priorities 1 & 2 – Pedestrian crossings have been installed. We have requested that the western crossing (Medical Centre) be continued across The Terrace in line with the Lolly Shop walkway CoGG will investigate.

With respect to the re-arrangement of the main Car Park and Presidents Ave/The Parade intersection Council will wait until the new Target complex is opened and then monitor the changed traffic conditions for 6 months.

It is anticipated that Council will prepare a report with recommendations in March 2009. Works should then be carried out by December 2009.

Priority 3

VicRoads have stated that they have no (short or long term) plans to either create a link between The Tuckfield Street and The Terrace or change The Terrace to the main arterial road. (i.e. The Parade is to remain the main arterial road).

However Council will be pursuing the sealing of the shoulders of the Terrace.

Priority 4

VicRoads have no immediate plans to provide alternative traffic routes through Ocean Grove. However they will continue to monitor traffic movement patterns, particularly as Ocean Grove expands to the north.

Priority 5a

VicRoads undertook a traffic count of Tuckfield Street and Marlin Drive during December 2007. The outcome being:

- The AM (0800 – 0900 hours) and PM (1700 – 1800 hours) peak periods showed that the intersection satisfied the requirement for traffic lights.
- The remainder of the day/night showed that the traffic volumes were well below the requirements for traffic lights. We pointed out that it was not just about traffic volumes but this intersection is also a school (flag) crossing and a number of families and children use this intersection to cross Tuckfield Street to access the Shell Road Reserve. This will increase once the Aquatic Centre opens.

VicRoads have agreed to undertake an annual traffic count survey in early December each year. They have also agreed to upgrade and enhance the right hand and left hand turning lanes into Marlin Drive from Tuckfield Street. A design proposal will be prepared in the next 3 months.

Priority 5b

Council has applied to VicRoads to reduce the speed limit from 80km to 60km just north of Lake Avenue (note: This does not go as far as Thacker Street). Council and VicRoads also agreed that a left turn only lane into Thacker Street from Wallington Road is required Council will now prepare a design proposal and seek VicRoads approval.

With respect to Wiltons Road Council have been taking traffic counts. The outcome to date is that these traffic volume (including trucks) do not warrant any traffic management system. Council will continue to monitor the situation.

5. Town Maintenance

Initiating contact with City of Greater Geelong regarding town maintenance, including main entry roundabouts. This achieved some positive results including planting of the Orton Street/Wallington Road roundabout, and more regular upkeep of the town's street landscapes. This is an ongoing issue which will be continued to be monitored by the Association.

6. OGDCA Website

We have commenced construction of our own website www.ogca.com.au and anticipate it be operational in the next month.

7. Affiliation of Bellarine Community Associations

On 12 March 2008 the majority of Community Associations on the Bellarine Peninsula (including Queenscliff) met and agreed on a range of common issues which impact on the Bellarine as a whole. Those were categorised into 5 groups being:

- Transport – including public transport, bicycle paths and road networks.
- Sustainable Growth & Land Development including town boundaries, green wedges and rural land.
- Natural Environment – including foreshores, nature reserves and the Barwon River.
- Tourism – including holiday accommodation, eco-tourism and convention centre.
- Social Infrastructure – including health and emergency services.

The aim of this affiliation is to facilitate common interests and to lobby all levels of government on behalf of the Bellarine. The group will meet 4 times a year and the next meeting is in June 2008.

8. General Information

The Role of the OG&DCA

It is also appropriate that I remind people of how the OG&DCA functions.

Our Statement of Purpose is:

- To provide a forum to exchange information and ideas;
- To encourage participation in the community;
- To advocate on behalf of Ocean Grove;
- To co-operate with other Ocean Grove groups.

The OG&DCA functions as follows:

- OG&DCA was incorporated on 7 August 2003 under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981;
- Any person can become a member of the OG&DCA. Our membership has ranged from 70 – 200 members;
- We have a Committee of up to 13 people (all volunteers) of which 50% have to stand for election every year. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and Minutes are taken. Any Committee member has to advise the Committee if they have a conflict of interest (ie financial gain) in any specific issue being formally considered by OG&DCA;
- A statement our finances are presented at our AGM, which is held annually in April.
- We hold approximately 4 Community Forums every year which are widely advertised.

For the year just passed our Committee members were:

Michael Harbour	- Chairperson
David Withington	- Deputy Chairperson
Kate Casley	- Secretary
Howard Dean	- Treasurer (part year)
David Reid	- Strategic Planning Chairperson
Stephanie Asher	- Public Relations Chairperson
Ray Davey	
Karen Thornton	- Membership Chairperson
Norm Elliot	
John Fendyk	
Jo Hawthorne	
Trevor Chappell	
Tony Doolan	- Treasurer (part year)

The OG&DCA has been entered into an agreement with the Bendigo Banks' Community Partnership program. In summary this entails the following:

Existing members who are customers of Bendigo Bank can nominate their account as part of the scheme and the OG&DCA will receive an income of 0.1% of the value of that account. For new Bendigo Bank customers this will be 0.2%. There is no cost or loss of income to the customer/member.

The OG&DCA will use the funds raised for operational costs, plus specifically nominated projects such as:

- Sustainable Street Project;
- Ocean Grove Entrance Signage;
- Ocean Grove Pedestrian/Bike Trail.

I would like to thank every one of them for their support not only to our Association, but to Ocean Grove in general. Because if it was not for these volunteers, Ocean Grove and the surrounding districts would not have achieved some of the benefits over the recent years which have improved our quality of life.

Thank you for all for being members of the OG&DCA and for your support.

Prepared by:
Michael Harbour
Chairperson OG&DCA
9 April 2008