

OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 13

January 2007

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

On behalf of the OG&DCA I wish all of Ocean Grove a very Happy New Year. I would also like to thank those in the community who actively participated in our organisation and the community as a whole throughout 2006.

We look forward to 2007 and seeing more people attend our Community Forums and becoming members of the OG&DCA. It is only with your support and membership that we can continue to be heard by our local and State politicians and ensure that Ocean Grove remains a great place to live and visit

I would like to welcome two new committee members for 2007 John Fendyk and Howard Deane.

Best Wishes
Michael Harbour
Chairperson

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2006

During 2006 the OG & DCA, with support from the community and other organisations, continued to be actively involved in a number of key issues which will impact on the future of Ocean Grove and surrounding districts. The following is a snap shot of our achievements:

- ❑ **Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan** - The City of Greater Geelong and in particular Cr. Jan Farrell initiated this key document which provides the strategic direction of the Bellarine Peninsula as a whole, including the 9 townships and the rural sector, with each having a representative on the Community Reference Committee.

Ocean Grove also had a Community Working Group which provided research and information into the process.

This Strategic Plan is an integrated approach and reference document for infrastructure and social development on the Bellarine Peninsula.

- ❑ **Shell Road Reserve and Bellarine Aquatic Centre** - The OG & DCA, together with the key stakeholders, has been actively involved in developing a Master Plan for the Shell Road Reserve.



As you are aware, the first stage of works for the Shell Road Reserve, the soccer pitches, have now been constructed. Stage 2 is the Bellarine Aquatic Centre which is in the process of having consultants appointed.

Although the Bellarine Aquatic Centre will only have a 25 metre lap pool initially, we will continue to have the community's voice heard for the planning of a 50 metre pool so that in the future the pool can easily be extended.

We will also continue to lobby for the remainder of the Shell Road Reserve to be developed.

- ❑ **Ocean Grove Structure Plan** - The draft Ocean Grove Structure Plan was placed on Public Exhibition 17 October 2006. Council has received over 60 submissions.

We have made it quite clear in our seven page submission that the Structure Plan lacked vision and innovation and was not reflective of Ocean Grove being a coastal town.

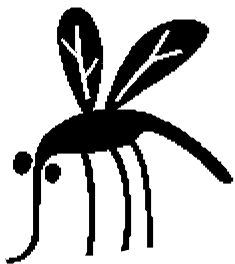
We will continue our endeavours to have the City of Greater Geelong develop a more appropriate Structure Plan for our town and provide a Traffic Study which uses current traffic data and is reflective of what the community wants.

- ❑ **Barwon Heads Bridge** - The OG & DCA was very active and successful in lobbying the State government and Council to save the iconic Barwon Heads Bridge

The Minister for Planning established an Advisory Committee to evaluate options and provide recommendations into the best long term solution for a bridge. This is on the basis that the existing heritage bridge is not to be demolished.

The Advisory Committee's report was due to be presented to the Minister for Planning mid December 2006.

Note: A recent announcement has advised that the new Minister will release the report in February.



There have been many other issues our committee was involved with during the year and we successfully held 5 Community Forums, including Mosquito and Barwon Coast forum, mid year report forum, emergency services forum and local candidates for the recent State government elections.

SPECIAL PROJECT

The Association has completed preliminary investigations into the proposed walking and cycling trail around the town.

A draft map showing various alternative routes will be discussed with the City of Greater Geelong early next year.



The next step is to seek funding for a feasibility study and master plan.

The Association has adopted the Round the Grove Trail as our special project for the next few years.

We are pleased that the potential link has been formally recognised in the draft Ocean Grove Structure Plan.

OCEAN GROVE SEA

The Sea Wall and promenade at Ocean Grove is a well loved and much used part of our coastal landscape having been constructed in stages from the early 1960's

In recent years the sea wall has started to show the results of storm action and Barwon Coast as the local foreshore managers have undertaken regular repairs. Most notably in the past 2 years a series of repairs to the surface of the promenade have been undertaken due to partial collapse of the underfill.

Barwon Coast was delighted to receive news back March 2006 from Lisa Neville MP Bellarine that the State Government had allocated up to \$890,000 towards a \$1m plus project to completely rebuild the seawall and promenade

The project has reached the stage where consulting engineers are preparing designs and costing for different material usage for the sea wall and promenade eg concrete, steel, timber etc, and it is proposed to present the designs to the local community in February (time and place to be announced).

From - Mr. Bob Jordan,
Barwon Coast Committee of Management

We attempt to liaise with VicRoads regarding a number of traffic issues around town including: Orton Street, the

TRAFFIC

major round-abouts, and a town maintenance and beautification plan.



We are trying to try find out just where the demarcation is in regards to what organisation (VicRoads or COGG) is responsible which road etc.

A recent update from VicRoads advises that they are:

1. Working with the City of Greater Geelong regarding a landscape proposal for the round-about at the corner of Grubb Road and the Bellarine Highway.
2. Will continue to work with the City of Greater Geelong regarding the development of a walking track.

The overall traffic study will be incorporated into the Ocean Grove structure plan.

OCEAN GROVE NATURE RESERVE

There has been concern in the area regarding 'fire-management' issues in the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve.



One of our committee members attended a meeting convened by the CFA in regards to this matter. Many issues were discussed at this meeting and as a result the OGDCA wrote to Parks Victoria on your behalf. A letter has been sent back to us and explains that the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve policy is formulated within the Otway Fire Protection Plan and as part of this plan the Department of Sustainability & Environment is required to ensure that fire access tracks are maintained to allow access to emergency vehicles. We were assured that the tracks and fire breaks within the reserve underwent an annual maintenance procedure early in December as planned. As part of their responsibility Parks Victoria has advised us that they do from time to time have 'fuel

reduction burns' and these are subject to weather conditions. Parks Victoria has offered to meet with us to discuss this issue in more detail This matter will be discussed further by the OG & DCA committee when we meet again early February. If anyone has comments or questions about this matter, please contact the association secretary – Tony Potter on 0439 033 939 write to him c/o OG & DCA at PO Box 78. Ocean Grove 3226

COMMUNITY FORUMS & AGM DATES FOR 2007

The Community Forum meeting dates for 2007 are 7.30pm; **11 April** (including the AGM), **13 June, 8 August** and **10 October** at the **Grove Centre**. Anyone is welcome and we also welcome suggestions on what the community wishes to have as topics for 2007.

MEMBERSHIP in the OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Since the association was formed the annual membership fee has been \$5 per year. To assist the voluntary committee members administer the membership database, we have decided to offer either a 4 year (\$20) or 1 year (\$5) membership.

“SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION THAT SUPPORTS YOU”

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL (1 OR 4 year membership).

Please tick area of interest.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Attend occasional Council meetings.
- Serve on a sub-committee
(please circle area of interest)
 - Recreation
 - Traffic
 - Future planning
 - Tourism
 - Family/Youth Services
- Assist with any admin tasks or distribution of materials or newsletters.
- Other – please suggest.

PLEASE SEND - \$20 for a 4 year Membership or \$5 for a 1 year membership to:
PO Box 78. Ocean Grove 3226 or bring to the next Public Forum.

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