

# OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.

Issue 11

July 2006

**Our sincere thanks to Jo Hawthorne** who retired at the AGM after serving two extremely productive years at the helm of the Association. The Association is very grateful to Jo for the time and effort she gave during her two years. During this time Jo managed to ..... We are very happy that Jo has decided to stay on as a committee member.



Evelyn Wuchatsch also stepped down at the AGM after two years of dedicated input. Thanks to Evelyn whose contribution extended beyond financial and membership matters to include many 'invisible' administration activities. Evelyn will also stay on as a committee member.

**Welcome Michael Harbour** who was unanimously elected President at the May meeting of the committee. An active member of the local community, Michael has been on the OGDCA committee for over two years. He also recently completed a 12 month role as Ocean Grove's representative on the Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan Committee. Michael has embraced his new role with diligent enthusiasm and continues to provide a steady leading hand in the Association's activities.

#### **2006 Committee appointments:**

**David Withington** - Vice President

**Tony Doolan** - Treasurer

**Tony Potter** - Secretary.

**Four Sub-Committees** will work towards improving the focus on the Association's key priorities for the next year: **Traffic** (Chair - David Reid), **Media** (Chair - Stephanie Asher), **Sport and Recreation** (Chair – Tony Doolan) and **Special Projects** (Chair – David Withington).

**The key priorities** for the next 12 months have been defined and were presented as individual reports at the Association's public meeting on June 14. The issues include the Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan, to be formally adopted by Council on 30 June; the vision for Ocean Grove in the form of the Structure Plan, currently being developed by Council and consulting firm, Hansen Partners; the Traffic and Parking Study, which was drafted and presented for public comment in May; the Bellarine Aquatic Centre, with the Scoping Study Report and recommendation from the Council Project Control Group due to go to Council on 27 June; the Shell Road Reserve sport and recreation facilities, including the Association's recommendation for master planning of the 'Surfside precinct'.



**Meeting dates for 2006** – the committee will continue to meet monthly and our bi-monthly public meetings kicked off on April 12 with the Emergency Services Forum (see below for more detail). This was followed by the very successful 'Mid-year Report' held on June 14 (summary reports attached). The next public meeting will be held on August 9 (mosquitoes), followed by guest speakers in the form of local election candidates on October 11.

**The Emergency Services Forum** attracted key speakers including,.....

**The June Public Meeting** was a great success, with a turnout of more than 80 locals resulting in a packed Grove Centre. Reports were presented by committee members on the key priority issues outlined above and the general reaction was very positive. Several people commented that the views presented by the Association were very balanced and objective.

The first was a report on the **Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan (BPSP)**, a 15 month project headed by Councillor Jan Farrell. Cr Farrell was commended for her efforts on the project which involved contributions from over 2500 Bellarine residents. The BPSP was formally adopted by Council on 13 June. For a full copy of the Plan, see the CoGG website.

The second report presented at the meeting concerned the **Structure Plan** for Ocean Grove. The OGDCA was briefed in May by Council planning staff and representatives of Hansen Partners, the consultants engaged to prepare a new Structure Plan. Council plans to use the Ocean Grove review to draw up a template for future reviews of other town structure plans.

The OGDCA representatives were advised that a discussion paper was being prepared for public release by late June or early July. Any person or group will have an opportunity to lodge a submission about any aspect of the discussion paper.

We were pleased to be assured by the consultants that they intend to be innovative and proactively look for opportunities to improve the town. They particularly mentioned that they are keen to identify vacant land that could be put to better use. They are also focusing on opportunities to renew and develop the town centre, and opportunities to establish a proper community centre for the town.

Following the exhibition of the discussion paper, the submissions will be considered and a draft revised Structure Plan put to Council. Once the new Structure Plan has been approved by Council, a Planning Scheme Amendment will be prepared and put on exhibition. This will be a further opportunity for people or groups to make a submission.

Eventually the new Structure Plan will be incorporated into the Geelong Planning Scheme as law.

Issues put forward as priorities by OGDCA included:

- Traffic management solutions
- Community and recreation facilities
- Potential for quality redevelopment of the town centre
- Streetscape improvements
- Footpaths and pedestrian links
- Public transport links
- Getting the balance right between development of the town centre and Shell Road Reserve
- Resolving the apparent conflict between the Structure Plan and the SLO re foreshore development

We urge everyone interested in the future of Ocean Grove to take a close interest in the Structure Plan review and submit their ideas and concerns.

The next report focused on the recent **Traffic Study** and was delivered by David Reid, who has been a resident of Ocean Grove for over 45 years. Most of the questions and comments from

attendees centered around the Traffic Study, with many residents concerned about the impact of changes on traffic flow in residential streets.

The Association prepared a submission regarding the Traffic Study and has received positive feedback from CoGG. The OGDCA submission contained the following key suggestions:

The full version of the traffic submission is attached for reference.

The **Bellarine Aquatic Centre** was the focus of the fourth report, containing a summary of the recommendations of the Recreation and Leisure Needs Study and the progress of the community consultation process and Scoping Study which began early this year.

The report noted that \$400,000 has been allocated by CoGG for 2006-07, for scoping and detailed design of the Bellarine Aquatic Centre.

Since the public meeting, the recommendation from the CoGG Project Control Group was presented at the Council meeting on June 27.

The recommendation is that Council:

*1) supports Option 4 being further developed and in the future constructed at Shell Road Ocean Grove as part of the Surfside Centre. This concept option includes:*

- program pool space to accommodate all levels of Learn To Swim*
- water play opportunities for children from toddlers to teenagers*
- an ability to provide some water water exercise*
- a lap pool of 25 m by 8 lanes*
- outdoor recreation space.*

*2) notes that car parking, precise location of a Bellarine Aquatic Centre on Shell Road Reserve, the location of the Ocean Grove skateboard park, and the potential location of any future Bellarine Community Health Centre or Ocean Grove Neighbourhood House at Shell Road Reserve will be determined in the preliminary design stages of the Bellarine Aquatic Centre project.*

This recommendation was adopted by Council at the June 27 meeting. (The full report on the Scoping Study is available on the CoGG website, contained in the Agenda for the June 27 meeting.)

The Association submitted comments and a formal recommendation for consideration by Council prior to the 27 June Council meeting. This included a master plan of the Surfside Centre precinct (see more below), which incorporates the potential for a 50 metre pool and complementary use of existing facilities.

**A master plan of the 'Surfside precinct'** was the final report at the OGDCA public meeting, presented by the OGDCA's newly elected President, Michael Harbour. Michael outlined a suggested master plan to incorporate the recommendations from the Recreation and Leisure Needs Study as well as community feedback about the Aquatic Centre.

A full copy of the submission to Council and the Surfside Centre precinct master plan is attached for reference.

The Bridge – [Update here...?](#)

## OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING FOR 2006 – MOZZIES!

Wednesday 9 August at The Grove Centre, Presidents Ave at 7.30 pm

The CoGG Health and Bi-Laws Dept. have offered to bring us up-to-date about their **MOZZIE** campaign. Put the date in your diary now and tell your friends and family too.



### DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Only \$5 – help your association help you!

**Subscriptions for  
2006/07 are now due.**

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND \$5 to:**

**PO Box 78. Ocean Grove 3226**

**Please tick area of interest.**

- 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.

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