

OCEAN GROVE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.

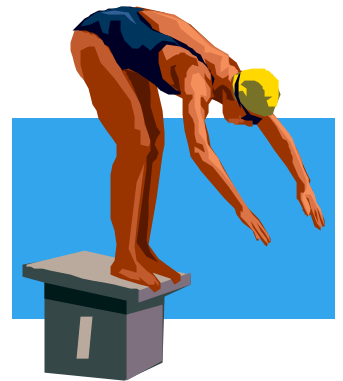
Issue No 6

March 2005

From the President, Jo Hawthorne:

It has been a hectic start to 2005. The committee has been busy over the holiday season getting prepared for another busy year ahead.

The Committee publicised the release, on 13 December 2004, of the draft copy of **Bellarine Peninsula Recreation & Leisure Needs Study**. Since then, Ocean Grove residents have been encouraged to submit their responses to this very important Study to COGG by February 18th, to help ensure the swimming pool and other essential sporting facilities are located at the Shell Road Reserve in years to come.



7000 copies of the **Association's brochure**, outlining history, aims and objectives etc. have been printed and, except for a few distribution disappointments, have been circulated to every household in Ocean Grove/Collendina area, and also left with many organizations round town. The Committee would appreciate any feedback about the size, layout, colour, contents etc., particularly for the next time funding permits publicity in this way.

Included in the brochure, was a flyer publicising our latest **Public Meeting**, this time on February. 9th at Surfside, to meet and hear from our new **Councillor, Jan Farrell**. The meeting was extremely well attended, and Jan noted many questions for her investigation – as well as appealing to the community to get behind the recommendations in the Recreation & Leisure Needs Study by submitting their responses to COGG. Jan advised that a Consultant will soon be appointed to carry out our long-overdue Traffic Study – and so it goes on! See page three of this newsletter for some extracts from this public meeting.

The Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan is now up and running, with Cr. Jan Farrell in the Chair, and our own Committee member, Michael Harbour, representing Ocean Grove on the Community Reference Committee. COGG Agenda of 25/1/05 explains the Strategic Plan in the following words:

'The development of the Bellarine Peninsula Strategic Plan 2005-2016 will provide Council with an integrated vision for the Bellarine Peninsula – including land use, planning decisions already in Structure Plans (town boundaries etc.), social service plans to support people living and visiting the Peninsula and township visions about healthy and sustainable communities'

The Committee consists of 4 Ward Councillors and 11 community representatives, who commenced to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month on February 9th. We will keep you informed of progress, as we have already been advised that our Association will be one way of communication as the Study works towards its goals for the Bellarine.

COGG Meetings

Regular fortnightly **Council meetings** are underway for 2005 and, as you will all know from the letterbox drop, the next **full COGG Council Meeting was held on our own turf, at the Surfside Centre on Feb. 22nd**. Hopefully many of you were able to go along to see just how Council meetings are conducted.

Our President Jo Hawthorne is always looking for members to attend Council meetings, on either the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend on behalf of the association please call Jo on 5256 2221 if you are able to help. They are not usually late nights in fact, the meeting on February 8th was over in 1 hour – hardly worth the trip into Geelong, but we need to have members attend whenever possible.

We have also been monitoring the beautification and maintenance of the 2 **main entrance roundabouts** to Ocean Grove with City Officers and, whilst not happy about the results so far, aim to see those through to an acceptable stage before much longer.



We are also taking a keen interest with the progress of the landscaping at the RSL cenotaph at the new The Parade and Hodgson Street intersection.



We have asked Cr. Jan Farrell to find out and advise us what the maintenance programme for Ocean Grove is.

Many people feel we are being very neglected by Council in this way.

A win for us!

At least we have had one small 'victory' The 5 minute drop-off parking bay outside the Post Office has been the reinstated – this was certainly missed once the roadwork was completed.

The Committee and Cr. Jan Farrell have also been pursuing with COGG the **congestion and delays with delivery trucks and motor vehicles at the entrance to the Coles and Home Hardware car-park** on The Parade.

Committee members have supported the **Peers Crescent area residents** in their efforts to resolve very unsatisfactory matters along the river area, as they liaise and meet with Council officers. Cr. Jan Farrell gave those people every opportunity to be heard in a recent meeting at The Grove Centre. Hopefully, COGG will take those comments on board, and return with some worthwhile proposals concerning the rock wall, vegetation, motorist and pedestrian use of Peers Crescent and surrounding streets.

2005 Annual Meeting

The **2005 Annual Meeting** will be held on April 13th at The Grove Centre, with Guest Speaker to be confirmed in the near future.

Our Constitution allows for up to 13 members, and there will be 8 positions available (6 of the present Committee are up for re-election this year, if they wish to do so). If you are interested to become part of this enthusiastic group of people, and wouldn't we love to need a ballot, please contact either Anne (5255 5636) or Ray (5255 1686) for a Committee nomination form, and lodge it with either of them or to P.O. Box 78 before April 6th.

Public meeting dates for 2005

Public Meeting dates for 2005 are as follows, generally to be held at The Grove Centre, and speakers to be advised closer to the meeting date.

We are hoping to have the 4 Bellarine Councillors take part in a Panel at our June meeting, and COGG Mayor, Shane Dowling, address our August meeting.

Dates for your diary:

April 13

June 8

Aug. 10

Oct. 12

Dec. 14

Some Extracts from the Public Meeting with Cr. Jan Farrell:

Cr Farrell opened by thanking the Ocean Grove community for all their support. She expressed her excitement that the Recreation Needs Study had been released two weeks after the election and that there was support for the pool in Ocean Grove.

She urged all attendees to make sure they put in a submission form supporting a pool in Ocean Grove.

Questions were taken from the floor. The following are some of them and the responses from Jan.

Qu: "There is a feeling on the Bellarine Peninsula that we are a voice in the wilderness, what are the dynamics on Council, have you established a relationship with other Bellarine Councillors?"

Jan: "Of the 12 Councillors, 6 of us are new. We on the Peninsula feel lucky to have the Strategic Plan happening - the vision for the area and an identity for each town. The needs of an ageing population especially in St Leonards and Indented Heads are to be addressed. Cr McMullin in Barwon Heads is an experienced Melbourne Councillor. We are feeling very positive; we have a combined voice of four and the Strategic Plan to tackle."

Qu: "Regarding the Recreation Needs study, what are we likely to get? We've heard that Leisurelink are going to get the dollars first?"

Jan: "Yes, Leisurelink will get the dollars first; however, my goal in my term is to swim in a new pool in Ocean Grove. State Government money is needed and there is an election in the next 12 months. I am also hoping that soccer fields will be here this time next year."

Qu: "The Shell Road reserve development is up for discussion, what is the timetable?"

Jan: "There are 2, mine and theirs.....mine is this year's budget, some things can be done now. The final report is due out May/June but all budget inputs will be finalised in May." Jan will be pushing her agenda.

Question regarding where the CFA will be relocated:

Jan: "The CFA has funds already so the move can happen first. It has been suggested that the CFA move to Shell Road but not where it is proposed on the current plan."

Qu: "What is Council doing about the proposed retirement village on Shell Road?"

Jan: "There is no application with Council for a retirement village. There is a green wedge that needs to be protected by not rezoning."

Qu: "A skate park is on the Shell Road plan, but no consensus on where it should go. The existing skate park is a disgrace compared to the one at Clifton Springs."

Jan: "The skate park has not come up in discussions, because there are three different views on where it should go." Jan accepted the petition from the community.

In summary:

Cr Farrell took many questions on notice so we look forward to reporting back to our members on some of the pertinent issues.

The meeting was well attended and Jan was very keen to hear some community views on what were issues in our town, from swimming pool developments to roundabout beautification to traffic issues and drainage....
Jan will be very busy over the next few months.

Membership Renewals Due

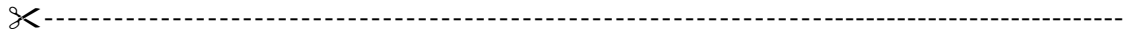
March marks the end of our financial year and thus the 2005/06 membership fee is due. Many members have paid at the last few Public Meetings, but for those of you who have not, please forward the \$5 fee to the P.O. Box with the Renewal form below.

The \$5 fee goes towards stationery, postage, hall hire for meetings etc. All the Committee members are volunteers.

We hope you are finding the newsletters informative and enjoyable.



Any members who have email addresses please advise so that we can send your newsletter electronically (and save on postage!)



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Please tick area of interest.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Attend occasional Council meetings.
- Serve on a sib-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.

SUBMIT \$5 to:
PO Box 78. Ocean Grove 3226

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***For more details about the Ocean Grove and District Association
please contact:***

Anne on 5255 5636 or Jo on 5256 2221