

The Waterline News

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WATERLINE NEWS AND INFORMATION

GOING, GOING, GO...



May 2022 Editorial: Geoff Ellis

The signs on our front page were erected by Save Western Port Woodlands to alert people to the extent of sand mining across our region.

Sure, our environment is our economy and striking the balance between prosperity and sustainability is contentious at the best of times. What do you think needs to be preserved and how can we accommodate jobs and growth?

There is still time for you to have your say about the future of Bass Coast. You have until 5pm Friday 29th April to make your submission to the DAL.

What's a DAL? In 2019 the state government declared Bass Coast a "Distinctive Area and Landscapes" (DAL) to guide future land use. The first round of community consultation on our DAL took place in 2018. The second round of consultation in 2019 saw the release of a discussion paper, which included a vision for the next 50 years to 2070 for Bass Coast.

The paper proposed a number of controls to protect the area. The third and final round of consultation is the most important document of all, a draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), which will eventually be enshrined in law. The SPP aims to protect our best features and lock in town boundaries. Given that this document will be the foundation stone for the 50 year vision for our area, your input will have far reaching impact. You can make your submission at

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/participate>

Salutations. Geoff Ellis, Editor, Waterline News.

THE WATERLINE NEWS

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Check out our back issues at: www.waterlinenews.com.au

The Waterline News is produced on the lands of the Bunurong, Boon-wurrung, members of the Kulin Nation who have lived here for thousands of years. We offer our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging and through them, all First Nations People.



We need bees.

Bees are important to our livelihood. They help to pollinate most of the crops we eat and many that feed farm animals.

Nearly two-thirds of Australia's agricultural production benefits from bee pollination.



But bee populations are under threat.

Destruction of their natural habitat, intensive farming practices, and pests and diseases are just some of the complex reasons driving a decline in both the number and diversity of bees.

Without bees, our food security is at risk.

There are over 20,000 species of bee that exist globally and Australia is home to around 2,000 species of native bee.

Native bees have co-evolved with our unique native flora over thousands of years. Some species of plant can only be pollinated by a particular species of bee. In the absence of pollination, the plant species cannot reproduce so if that bee species dies, so too will the plant.

Without bees, biodiversity is at risk.

Ecosystem Health .

Bees are keystone species that play a vital role in preserving ecosystem health. Bees provide essential pollination services for plants. Maintaining plant diversity supports other essential ecosystem services including helping to regulate climate, purify air and water, build soil and recycle nutrients.

Without bees, ecosystems are at risk.

<https://www.worldbeeday.org.au>

Text courtesy of the **CRANBOURNE LENS**, the newsletter of the Friends of Cranbourne (Royal Botanic Gardens).

U3A BASS VALLEY

University of the Third Age

All U3As in Victoria suffered massive disruption during the worst of the pandemic. The Bass Valley U3A was no exception. 2022 has been a year of recovery and re-emergence, admittedly a tentative one. Our numbers are bouncing back, though a couple of our courses are in hiatus for another year.

*To encourage retirees and those in the older age group to get back out into the community – and many of our groups tend to be as much social as intellectual or creative - **the Bass Valley U3A has decided to drop membership fees for 2022.***

Additionally, if you have a passion for some subject or activity, and feel others may share it, let us know about it, and if the interest is there, we can hopefully add it to our list of activities.

Geoff Guilfoyle

<https://www.u3abassvalley.com/>

President, Bass Valley U3A
Leader, Grantville Local History Group
Editor, The Western Port Times



Inside The Philosophers Zone

**A nation that destroys its soils
destroys itself. forests are the
lungs of our land, purifying the
air and giving fresh strength to
our people."**

Franklin Roosevelt

Corinella and
District
Community
Centre



48 Smythe St
Corinella
PH 5678 0777
ABN 59965439986

Your local Neighbourhood House



What is Corinella and District Community Centre?

We are a Neighbourhood House (NH). We are part of a network of over 400 Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria.

What do neighbourhood houses do?

There isn't really a simple, single answer to that. Each NH works within the needs of their community. Broadly we bring people together to connect, learn and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities. In Corinella we focus on social activities such as our book club, art group, community lunch and meditation group. We have just restarted Children's story time.



We also have a couple of community groups such as the "Leadbeater Lifters exercise group" and the "Crafties group" who hire our spaces to run their activities. We provide services such as printing, computers and internet for those who need them. We also have a food pantry for those experiencing hardship or just having difficulties making ends meet. Something many experienced for the first time during Covid.

We have partnered with Gippsland Community Legal Service to have a community lawyer at the centre each fortnight. We also have a Justice of the Peace available on Thursdays. We are always looking into new activities and are currently looking into yoga sessions and children's playtime. We are happy to hear from community members with the skills to lead groups.

Are you part of Council?

NO. We are a local Not-For-Profit organisation, an incorporated association. We are run by an elected committee of local volunteers, we have members who pay an annual fee, they vote at our AGM and are able to nominate to be on our committee.

We are a tenant in a Council building, we pay rent and operate independent from Council, we do often receive council support in the form of grants, which of course we like.

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How is CDCC funded?

We receive funding from DFFH to cover the costs associated with employing a part time manager. All other costs from equipment to electricity, even our food pantry, is funded through our programs, activities and fundraising. We hold two major Art Shows as fundraising events. These have been interrupted by Covid restrictions the past couple of years but the June Art Show on the June long weekend looks like it should be good to go! We recently held a High Tea as a fundraiser, our first since 2020 and plan to hold more of these. We have a team of 15+ volunteers including our committee, reception, gardening, maintenance and catering assistants. New volunteers are always needed, particularly for reception and to lead groups.

We look for grants to cover big items, usually new equipment. For example we have recently been successful in a grant for Solar and Batteries. We hope this will do a couple of things for us. Firstly reduce our energy costs, but more importantly allow us to continue to operate when the power goes off and allow us to provide at least a phone charging service to our community.



**If you would like to find out more drop in and see us,
pick up a brochure or follow us on Facebook
“Corinella & District Community Centre”.
We also have an Art Show Facebook page.**

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District
Community
Centre



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday May 7th 2022 at 10.30 am



Members and Guests are very welcome to attend

RSVP by Wednesday May 4th
for catering purposes please
Email reception@cdcc.asn.au



MAY^{1ST} RALLY

WONTHAGGI 2022

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

SPEAKERS, OPEN FORUM & MUSIC



MEET AT 11AM AT THE MINE WHISTLE IN
APEX PARK, WONTHAGGI ON SUNDAY 1ST MAY.

BRING A PICNIC TO SHARE WEATHER PERMITTING

Our Environment with Alison Normanton

A Glimpse of Past Days: European settlement at Western Port and Corinella:

The explorer, Bass describes the land he sees in 1798, *“the grass and ferns grow luxuriantly, the country thinly and lightly timbered. The gum tree, she and swamp oaks are the most common trees. Little patches of brush are to be met with everywhere, but there are upon the east side several thick brushes of some miles in extent, whose soil is a rich vegetable mould. In front of these brushes are salt marshes..... We saw a few of the brush kangaroo and the wallabah[sic]. Swans may be seen here, hundreds in flight, and ducks, a small but excellent kind, fly in thousands. There is an abundance of most kinds of wild fowl.”*

Captain Samuel Wright declared formal possession of Corinella (at Settlement Point) in 1826, which was later abandoned. During its establishment, shells (probably some of which were the middens from First Nations sites) were collected to make the lime for bonding of bricks, seagrass was removed for insulation, mangroves were removed for soap making, and timber was cleared at an alarming rate!

“Western Port Chronology 1798 – 1839: Exploration to Settlement” (Valda Cole 1984: Shire of Hastings Historical Society)

Corinella’s landscape was forever changed when European settlers, with Government endorsement, cleared the land.

Published in **The Age newspaper on the 17th February 1877**, an article is written by a potential surveyor/ buyer who travelled from Melbourne to Western Port to assess *“the excellent quality of the land still unselected at Corinella, a district on the eastern shore of Western Port Bay; and to its general adaptability for grazing and agricultural purposes. He concludes, “ the uneven nature of the country, the density of the scrub, and the extreme heaviness of the timber would necessitate the expenditure of vast labor [sic] and a large amount of money before it could be rendered available for agricultural or pastoral purposes. That no additional clog may be placed upon the enterprise necessary for its reclamation, the present restrictions on selection should be removed. When this is done, the thorough and prosperous settlement of the district can only be a question of time.*

Coming down to Corinella somewhat sceptical of its attractions, I left it full of admiration for its natural beauties, and of hopeful anticipations of its prosperous future.”

The Western Port Times May 2021 pp.16-20

Corinella is still a beautiful place.

Many community members have dedicated their time to retrieving what was lost, when profit was put before conservation. Surely, we now know better?

To have your say in protecting this precious foreshore, complete the short survey before April 29th, at Engage Victoria website, Corinella Foreshore Reserve Draft Landscape Management Plan.



Foreshore beach foliage.
Photo by Jen Rutherford

Save The Western Port Woodlands (SWPW)

Dear SWPW members and supporters

Submissions on the Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes draft policy close at 5pm on Friday.

This is our best chance to get recognition of the Western Port Woodlands and to ensure they will be there for generations to come. We are hoping for hundreds of submissions to prove that these woodlands are recognised and valued by the community.

DAL made easy

Many of you have already completed very impressive submissions.

For others it's still on the To Do list.

If you need a little help to get started, use the easily googled **DAL submission generator** and include your personal comments in a ready-to-go submission document asking for protection of the Western Port Woodlands.

You'll then be directed to the Engage Victoria site to upload your submission. Job done! (And thanks to Gerard Drew who worked through Covid to master the intricacies of Google Forms and set up the submission generator).

Three great discoveries:

On a night walk in the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve last week Dave and Jackie spotted a koala.

Koalas used to be common in the Western Port Woodlands but are rarely seen these days.



"It was high up in a eucalyptus tree so the photos were pretty poor," Dave says. "Took a couple of quick shots and left him to rest."

The koala was the highlight of the night but they also spotted lots of ringtail possums, several southern brown tree frogs and three tawny frogmouths, and heard an Australian boobook owl calling.

A group walking in the Gurdies last week spotted a dead mouse-like creature on the track. It's nose and teeth led them to suspect it was an antechinus. They sent a photo to an expert who identified it as an agile antechinus, not seen in the area for around 10 years.

The fact that it was dead is not necessarily a bad sign. According to the Australian Museum, "Males live for approximately 11 months and have a short breeding cycle of about 2 weeks in winter, after which they die as a result of stress and exhaustion." The specimen has been sent to the expert for further testing.

Finally Irene Proebsting from the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club was walking in the Gurdies last weekend when she spotted a Horny Cone-Bush (*Isopogon ceratophyllus*), recently listed as globally endangered.

These discoveries all help to bolster the reputation of the woodlands as a biodiversity hotspot that should be protected. Keep your eyes open – and please tell us about your discoveries.

Regards
Catherine Watson



More information

Website: www.savewesternportwoodlands.org/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Save-Western-Port-Woodlands-101246181838119

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/swpwoodlands/>

The purpose of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act is to recognise and protect landscapes important to the community, conserve ecosystems and biodiversity, integrate planning policy and decision making, and recognise traditional owner stewardship.

The major land use conflict in our region is the expansion of sand mining throughout the Western Port Woodlands. Sand mining is not sustainable and it does permanent damage to the environment.

The Draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) fails to recognise and protect this landscape which is so important to the community; it fails to conserve this ecosystem and its biodiversity; and it fails to integrate conflicting planning policies. The final Statement of Planning Policy will fail to achieve its purpose if it does not protect the Western Port Woodland from mining expansion and other inappropriate developments. I urge the review team to amend the draft by taking account of the following:

1. The Western Port Woodlands must be recognised in the SPP as the last biodiverse remnant vegetation in Bass Coast with details provided as to how it will be effectively protected and enhanced.
2. The Western Port Woodlands are home to 6 endangered Ecological Vegetation Communities, 7 EPBC listed faunal species, 3 EPBC listed floral species, 14 FFG listed faunal species and 3 FFG listed floral species, plus many more vulnerable species. They must all be strongly and effectively protected.
3. The 2016 Extractive Resources Demand and Supply Study showed that Victoria has more than adequate sand reserves which would not require the destruction of rare habitats and ecosystems.
4. The environment IS the economy in Bass Coast.

The natural environment is an essential part of life and a large part of the region's character. This is not just about postcard views of a landscape, or a thin green curtain of roadside plantings. It's about protecting entire, complex, diverse, living ecosystems and habitats which support all life, including humans. If *'the entire declared area has landscape significance'* then it should all be protected equally from recognised threats even to the point of exclusion of human entry, which is the same standard of protection that currently applies to extractive industry sites.

5. The final SPP needs to be stronger, with timelines which would allow monitoring of progress towards the Vision. It also needs more binding goals and milestones and details of monitoring, compliance and enforcement processes to ensure that any evasion is identified and rectified quickly.

We have an opportunity here to make the natural world in Bass Coast our priority into the future.

First the hills were denuded of trees and the wood shipped to Melbourne, then it was coal which was mined and freighted to Melbourne. After that, Western Port was stripped of its sea grass. Today, it is sand and gravel being trucked out to feed Melbourne's Big Build. Surely it is past time to stop the plunder of Bass Coast's non-renewable resources.

When is it time to say, 'Enough'?

The economic benefits to Bass Coast are relatively minor, in terms of jobs etc. and the local community already has to deal with dust, noise and thousands of truck movements every day. Melbourne benefits from the resources and the profits go to the private companies which lease public land. It doesn't seem to fit into a *'diverse, resilient, circular economy that promotes innovation in the productive use of rural land, natural resources and value-adding activities'* which is binding Objective 6b.

Surely it is time to say, Stop! Words on paper – even fine words – are just words. They must be translated into **actions**. We have to begin making hard choices and decisions and then taking difficult actions. Do we care enough to change? Do we care enough to begin putting the needs of other life-forms ahead of human wants/needs/greed? Do we want rare native orchids or sand? Bandicoots or gravel?

Rare, vibrant, native, remnant woodland ecosystems or vast holes in the landscape? Sand and gravel reserves exist elsewhere but once these woodlands are destroyed they are gone forever. If all the mining leases already approved were to be activated the land will never be rehabilitated, even by 2070.

Locally, we are willing to turn off unnecessary lights at this time of year to give fledging shearwaters a better chance to migrate successfully. We have a very special area here in the Western Port woodlands, supported by research based evidence and valued by the community. If the SPP does not protect the Woodlands it will have failed.

It will fail the human community and the biodiverse living communities of flora and fauna which rely on it to survive and which call it home. Do we care? Do we care enough? Are we willing to make some difficult choices in this instance and make our environment the priority, which is the goal of the DAL designation?

Please use your voice on behalf of all the other life forms which call the woodlands home but have no voice or choice in the decisions we are making.

Website:

www.savewesternportwoodlands.org/



BASS: Lest We Forget



BASS: Peter and Trish Thick

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COMMUNITY AT HEART

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Authorised by J Crugnale 9 McBride Street, Wonthaggi.
Funded by Parliamentary Budget.

Minding your Peas and Lettuce

Peas are not only easy to grow but are very good value for the effort, tasty and versatile as well as expensive to buy.

They have been grown as a food crop for over 7,000 years, being grown in Egypt and Georgia by 4,800BC and India by 2,000 BC. Only dried peas were eaten before the Romans began eating them green. By the Middle Ages there were two types of peas: field peas that were dried and garden peas that were sweeter green peas. Modern sugar snap peas date from 1979 when peas were bred lacking the tough inner pod membrane making the whole pod and peas edible.

Podding Peas. Pods still have the inner membrane and common varieties— are Greenfest, Melbourne Market, Telegraph.

Sugar Peas are eaten whole. There two types

Snow Peas have flat thin pods which are eaten very young, as soon as they are size , as they lose flavour if left to mature. You get a higher yield as the plant puts energy into making new pods rather than maturing existing pods. Common varieties are Oregon Giant, Oregon Sugar Pod, Yakumo, or generic Snow Peas

Snap/Sugar Snap have rounded pods with thick walls and are eaten just before maturity. Common varieties are Mammoth Melting, Oregon Mammoth, Sugar Bon, Tall Snap Pea or Sugar Snap

Unless you have a very large garden, you get a better return for your budget, effort and a higher food yield per square metre by growing Sugar Peas, especially the climbing varieties.

Peas must be picked regularly like most crops, as letting the pods mature will slow down production and reduce yield, so allow good access.

Peas tolerate a more alkaline soil (6.5 to 7.5) than their summer crop relative crop- beans (6.0 to 6.5). They need calcium. Use dolomite lime if you have an acid soil (unlikely in Bass Coast) or gypsum if you have more alkaline soil.

Sow from autumn to spring as peas like the colder weather.

They are best planted as seeds as they do not like being transplanted and seeds are cheaper.

You should get your first peas in 60 days.

Peas need well prepared soil with generous amounts of compost dug in. If you don't have compost then sugar cane mulch, pelletized Poultry Manure with a generous sprinkle of gypsum can be dug in. Add a generous layer of mulch, 10cm thick, BUT NOT pea straw as it can spread disease.

Peas like well drained soil so a raised bed in clay is an advantage.

Sow the seeds quite thickly in a shallow trench =5cm deep at least 50cm to the next crop. Cover and water in well. You may need to protect from blackbirds. Peas need a sunny spot but beware of shading other crops.

You can thin the plants when about 10cm high to about 5cm apart by cutting the rejects off at ground level with scissors. These can be stir fried or "saladed", so thin over a week or so. Funnily enough the leaves, stems and flowers taste like peas!!!!

Dwarf/Bush peas grow to 1m while climbing peas grow to 2m+.

A side lattice of canes can be used to support lower varieties but a higher, stronger, wind resistant trellis is needed to support climbing Peas.

A 1-2m row of well grown pea plants will yield enough to feed a couple or small family for months. Last year we ate peas from June to November when they had to make way for tomatoes.

As peas fix nitrogen to make protein they are very nutritious. The roots left/dug in add to soil structure and fertility while the chopped, spent vines are good for the compost.

Wilts and Mildew are the main diseases but well grown plants with good air flow (not difficult in Bass Coast), will grow ahead of these diseases and while sometimes unsightly are usually not a problem.



These Melting Mammoth Snow Peas were planted 21 days before this photo was taken

Lettuce

Lettuce were bred from milk thistles, probably by the good old Egyptians. The Roman name *Lactuca* (milk) evolved as lettuce spread as a crop. It is hard to imagine but the Vikings enjoyed a bit of lettuce with their mead and roast. Most modern varieties were developed by the 19th century and are grown worldwide.

Lettuce are either **Heading** (Iceberg) or **Loose Leafed** (Cos, Oakleaf), while **Butterhead** are loose heading!! While Heading lettuce have a place on the menu, Loose Leaf are more versatile, yield over a longer period and are quicker to grow. You don't have to pick the whole Loose Leaf plant but can *cut-and-come-again*. Heading lettuce are picked when they have grown a firm head, taking longer and often all at once.

Lettuce seedlings transplant well, but are cheaper to grow from seed. They are surprising tough. I often dig up self-sown seedlings from my gravel driveway to re-plant elsewhere.

Lettuce Patch Method Lettuce can be grown in rows but this alternative method is very effective.

1. **Prepare** a 50cm square area of garden bed. Dig it over with compost, generous amounts of pelletized fertiliser and some gypsum if needed. Lettuce roots only need about 20-30cm so a big pot is fine if kept well watered.
2. Make sure the surface has a **fine tilth** (no big lumpy bits or chunks), sprinkle a layer of fine soil over if needed.
3. Mark the edges with a few short sticks. Then **sprinkle the contents of your seed packet** as evenly as possible over the patch. You can use a small jam jar to mix the seeds in a hand full of fine dry river sand. Shake well. This gives more volume to sprinkle and stops the seeds from landing in clumps. You can put more than one variety in the jar, and if the sand is dry some can be sown later. . Your aim is for about 100 seeds over the 50cm square.

4. Pat the seeds into the soil with your hands and thinly **cover** the patch with fine soil, seed raising mix, or fine river sand

The river sand is good as it is usually a contrasting colour so you can see where your patch is, and it allows emerging lettuce to break through easily. Beware of fine clay or silt- they can crust. Seeds will have trouble punching through.

5. **Water GENTLY** so you don't wash away the seeds. Keep moist for the 10 days or so that seeds take to emerge. Lettuce plants need constant moisture. Otherwise they become bitter and bolt to flower.

6. You should end up with a patch that looks more like lawn than a vegetable row.

7. **Harvesting.** When about 10cm high, start harvesting. I usually just gently grab a few plants here and there, pulling them out whole, taking care not to sprinkle soil over the other plants. Use scissors to cut off the roots, wash then eat. The first harvest will need about 4-5 plants per serve but as they grow less are needed. After a couple of months you will be harvesting the remaining few full grown lettuce which will be taking up the whole plot. If you are a big lettuce eater, then plant a succession of plots to keep yourself in yummy greens all year round

- 8 You can leave a couple of your favourite varieties to bolt to flower. The resulting fluffy seeds will self sow randomly, or you can cut off the mature seed heads and press them gently onto the surface of a lettuce nursery bed. A friend has been growing her own for decades.

Protect from overwatering (fungus/moulds), snails, slugs, earwigs and herbivores.

Lettuce are an ideal plant for everyone as they are easy and quick to grow, are happy in pots, best picked just before eating for better flavour and nutrition, are nutritious (being an excellent source of Vitamin A and K as well as foliate and iron) and being low calories won't frighten the dieting.

Sow now in April/ May

Vegetables: Broad beans, beetroot +relatives silver beet & rainbow chard (all very easy), Asian greens, parsnips and carrots, radish, English spinach and of course lettuce and peas

Flowers: Pansy, Viola, Nigella, Lobelia, poppies (all sorts), sweet peas (before Mothers Day!!), Alyssum

Plant seedlings of the Brassicas: cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and kale, spring onions and leeks

Flowers – seedlings of Pansy, Viola, Lobelia, Aquilegia, Alyssum,

Next Issue – Some mysteries of pH explained, aphids and growing Asian Green



Affordable housing



In the last year, home prices in Australia have grown at their quickest rate since 1989 – almost eleven times faster than wages.

Recognizing that housing stress is a deeply gendered issue, Women's Property Initiatives (WPI; formerly the Victorian Women's Housing Association) was established by a group of volunteers 25 years ago to provide secure and affordable homes for low-income women and women-led families. The organization now oversees an expanding network of long-term, supportive rental accommodation – some owned, some managed on behalf of development partners – for women at risk of homelessness. In 2013, WPI began to explore a scalable model that could address what it identified as a significant gap: women over the age of 55 with enough savings to leave them ineligible for social housing, but who were unable to access a mortgage or purchase a home outright. Forced to deplete their savings in an increasingly unaffordable and precarious private rental sector, these women effectively “aged into poverty.”

WPI's Older Women's Housing Project is now taking shape on a quiet side street off the Princes Highway in the outer Melbourne suburb of Beaconsfield.

The four-unit pilot, was originally conceived as a shared equity scheme but, owing to the struggle faced by many older women to contribute financially beyond an initial lump sum, and the fact that even partial property ownership precludes low-income earners from receiving Commonwealth rent assistance, WPI had to pivot in the run-up to purchasing the site with philanthropic support in 2018.

Future residents will now invest \$150,000 each through a loan agreement with WPI, which reduces the level of debt required to deliver the development. In return, they will be offered an open-ended lease, with rent capped at 30 percent of income and adjusted as their circumstances change (including retiring onto a pension).

Should a resident decide to exit the project, her loan will be refunded in full with interest, preserving the value of the initial investment.

The ‘villa unit’ was originally devised in the early 1970s, to meet the emerging demand for low-cost, low-maintenance housing for an older generation, many of whom were widows or divorcees.

This typological DNA is evident in the new linear subdivision, shared driveway access, small private courtyards and primacy afforded to parking.

The design is characterized, though, by a palpable care for the small, human touches that will transform these spaces into homes.

Individual units gain their own identity through expressive sloped ceilings over living zones, punctuated by pop-up windows that catch the sun and offer sky views, creating rhythm and variation in the exterior form when glimpsed from the street.

In response to questions about the local viability of similar developments, CEO Ali Wastie responded that “In principle this type of development can be considered in a residential zone but approval of any application would be assessed on its merits upon application, based on variables such as site conditions, actual design and access.”

“We understand that affordable housing is an important community issue and will continue to focus on the development of our Affordable Housing Strategy.” Ms Wastie stated.

This article continues on Page 16

Affordable housing (continued)



This article is continued from Page 15

At the November 2021 Council meeting a motion was passed to make available identified surplus road reserve land for the provision of social housing and the identified community housing organisations have undertaken due diligence on these sites.

Ms Wastie advises that "Community Housing Limited would like to progress with two sites, with the first at Ivor Street, Henry Street East, and Henry Street West in Wonthaggi North and the second at Wyndham Street and Roydon Street in Cowes."

If successful, Community Housing Limited would further develop their proposal including consultation with Council and the local community before submitting their proposal to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for approval. We continue to advocate for social and affordable housing in Bass Coast and welcome any applications.

Jessica Harrison from Housing Matters see the need for action. "The Bass Coast Shire Council has a number of reports on their website which underline the urgent need for more housing solutions." she says.

Housing Matters would like the Bass Coast Shire Council to release its affordable housing strategy.

That strategy was intended to guide the council's response to housing insecurity and homelessness in Bass Coast.

It needs to be available as soon as practicable so that the council and community can work together to find local opportunities and solutions." Jessica said. The group has been pushing BCSC to take action on homelessness for several years.

As winter approaches, current desperate solutions that have been reported to Jessica include a person sleeping in a bin behind shops in central Wonthaggi, families camping in the bush and a local Agency had to put a homeless person in a taxi to spend the night in a St Kilda hostel, as there was no room locally.

"The State Government Social Housing Growth Fund Regional Round Grant Program allocated a minimum of \$25 million for the development of social housing in Bass Coast" Jessica further reports that the group is pleased that tenders have been received for two sites, "but we need many more homes and beds to really start addressing the problem"

"In 2020 Housing Matters proposed that the Council purchase a house to be leased to welfare agencies for emergency housing. This was not done, and the situation is now worse for homeless people." Jessica Said.

The group also asks that Council install hot showers in toilet blocks in a number of locations in the Shire, including Libraries and Information Centres and makes the location information available on the website.

Jessica requests that Council updates their website with information on emergency housing agencies, as Cardinia Council has done. This listing could also include food banks and other support agencies.

"Council could make land available for free camping and provides facilities for washing and toilets."

"Just and fair solutions are within our reach, but it seems that due to regulatory or bureaucratic hurdles, action on housing solutions in our area is in limbo.

"We would love to be proved wrong," Jessica says.



Cape Woolamai Coast Action has been actively involved over the past 22 years in maintaining and restoring the foreshore along the Cleeland Bight coastline. During that period volunteers have planted thousands of native species and removed numerous invasive and problematic weeds.

That foreshore has recently experienced serious and deliberate encroachment damage and destruction of large areas of the foreshore by people building bike tracks and jumps through the underbrush.

Peter Dumergue, Secretary Treasurer of Cape Woolamai Coast Action Inc. urges anyone who witnesses or notices damage being carried out to contact the Shire, either by phone or via the BCSC Reporting Portal online.

Margaret Dumergue put two questions to council at the April Ordinary meeting in relation to this damage and was informed that 'Council officers will continue to patrol the site daily, at random times and that officers engage with anyone in the area to deter further activity and where necessary, reinforce the protected status that this native vegetation has under state and federal legislation.'

Later in the meeting, Cr Rochelle Halstead moved a notice of motion that called for amendments to BCSC's current skate strategy including 'provision of a BMX track in the Cape Woolamai area near Veterans Drive to complement the Strategy'

The motion was eventually defeated on the casting vote of the Mayor with three of the current nine councillors being absent from the meeting.

Although the Waterline News has not been directly contacted by builders of the ad hoc tracks and jumps, it has been informed that riders are coming from far and wide to use these tracks as the current facilities are far from adequate to meet the growing demand across the shire.

Initial consultations for the current Skate strategy date back to 2016 and although the strategy has delivered several local skate parks the promise of a regional Skate facility continues to be unmet.



Cape Woolamai: Troubles in the Trees

With MIKHAELA BARLOW

The first thing I noticed when I moved from Cowes to Cape Woolamai seven years ago was an increase in the amount of kids on bikes.

Every time I go out, I see kids on bikes. During the holidays, on the weekends, after school, even during school hours when young parents take their younger tots out on balance bikes.

The paths between San Remo and Smith's Beach are almost a highway during the ride to and from school. When kids aren't on bikes, they're riding skateboards, longboards and scooters, both electric and acoustic (Muscle powered). Teenagers and adults, both young and *surprisingly spritely for their age*, often carry surfboards as well, headed to one of many beautiful beaches that are the main reason for living in Cape Woolamai.

Which brings me to the second thing I noticed when moving to Cape Woolamai.

Most of the people living in Cape Woolamai do so because they love it. They absolutely adore it. They love every beach, every dune, every crest, every fall - every precious hooded plover and every inch of delicate, treasured coastline.

Everyone in Cape Woolamai wants to see this place remain the paradise that it is, and Cape Woolamai Coast Action is made up of valuable community members that put that into action by hosting annual working bees, working on revegetating the coastline at the Cape Woolamai safety beach.

And it's here where these two essential parts of Cape Woolamai have butted heads.

Once you've walked around Cape Woolamai, you start to notice some additions.

Usually, it's just little things. A mound of dirt strategically placed and flattened on the outside of a set of bollards. A set of jumps on the edge of a car park. Piled dirt and smoothed curves on the already existing tracks along the coastline, easing the sharp turns through the scenery.

I like to call it *surprise architecture*.

And, it seems as though some of the trees planted in a recent Cape Woolamai Coast Action working bee have been uprooted to make way for more surprise architecture - a new bike track through the foreshore.

So. This is obviously outrageous. Obviously. Without a doubt, no dispute. This never should have happened, it's completely inexcusable.

Moving right along - what is the actual issue we find ourselves with here?

What's the bigger picture?

The problem we have is that our community wants two things which seem incompatible. On one hand we want to protect and respect our coastline. On the other hand we want to enjoy and revel in it. For some reason, these two things cannot comfortably co-exist.

So. What's the solution?

Well, we could all just sit here and whinge, that's traditional Island behaviour. Or we could refer to the vague, well-phrased yet sparsely-detailed plans that Bass Coast Shire has currently in place leading to the certain realization that nothing will change. Same outcome.

So, how about we look a little deeper? We have two pressing issues.

One, our coastline needs protecting. Our environment needs proper maintenance and attention. That is without question or refute.

Two, our kids, young people and, frankly, our entire community is *severely lacking* in decent biking infrastructure. If I do some research on my Google machine, I can find tons of handy links leading me to some information I think might prove useful to both these issues.

BMX and mountain biking has become a *thing* in nature parks. Endless videos on YouTube will show you impressive tracks through well preserved, clearly maintained parks. Usually, the footage is from a go-pro strapped to the helmet, interspersed with absolutely beautiful footage of the habitats they're riding through, as well as immaculate feats of balance and bravery and, of course, hilarious tumbles and bloopers. ***This article continues on Page 19***

Cape Woolamai: Troubles in the Trees

This article continues from Page 18

The surprise architecture through the vegetation along the safety beach is actually nothing new.

From what I've seen through the years, the people constructing it - based on the professionalism of some of the tracks, it can be difficult to assume it has always been constructed by *the youth*.

Ripping up new saplings is something I don't think I've seen though. In fact, in my walks with the dog, it usually looks as though the users of the surprise architecture have been planning around the new vegetation.

At this point, I can only imagine how rightfully outraged and heartbroken the Cape Woolamai Coast Action Group is at this shocking development, as I have not been able to reach them for comment before publication.

But remember, we're looking for a solution, not further outrage.

Let's gather all this information together.

Biking infrastructure inside, through, under, over, around, up and down treasured and delicate scenery is not only possible but doable, with numbered and varied examples from all around the world.

We have many in Cape Woolamai who care for it and want to enjoy it - just go about it in different ways. We have a community that is clearly more than willing to put in the necessary work to not only care for the environment, and put in their time to restore the land, but also install needed infrastructure into an otherwise really-quiet-boring-if-you're-not-at-the-beach town.

The Bass Coast Shire currently has a guide to start making plans for specific 'Active' infrastructure goals.

What does this information tell us?

Those in Cape Woolamai who are installing surprise infrastructure and those in Cape Woolamai Coast Action Group are not opposed. They can work together - especially if the current plan from Council is to... make a plan?

These two groups need to come together to develop a strategy focusing on coast protection, habitat preservation and community-driven infrastructure.

With a committee consisting of representatives of *both* groups, they could simply continue to do *exactly what they've been doing so far*, only together, instead of in direct, headache-inducing opposition.

Together, they could plan the best way to plant out the vegetation at the safety beach to better preserve and protect, and even better, play in it. Properly. Carefully.

With a strategy, a plan, actual compromise and foresight, it could be possible to have the best of both worlds.

To be able to ride your BMX or your new e-bike through a custom made trail winding through the bush and dunes along Cape Woolamai safety beach, plastic triangles guarding saplings growing along your left and right, Bower Spinach growing into the trees above you so you can duck underneath, an echidna fleeing into his burrow as you ride past.

It would be wonderful if, after such a horrible transgression was made, these two groups could find it possible to come together and figure out a way to follow in the footsteps of so many places around the world who do just this - who take the initiative into their own hands, and build, maintain and care for their own places of enjoyment and inspiration.

And, who knows - perhaps then the Council might be more inclined to hasten their 'Active' plan if they can see the community *will do it for them* if they don't hurry along.— MIKHAELA BARLOW



1. What is the name of the German national airline?
2. In which European city can you find the home of Anne Frank?
3. How many stars are on the American flag?
4. How long is the Great Wall of China?
5. Who founded Ferrari?
6. According to the Bible, who was the first murderer?
7. In what year did Princess Diana, Princess of Wales, die?
8. Which famous British murderer of women of the 19th century was never arrested?
9. On which mountain did Jesus take his last supper?
10. What is the highest five digit number?
11. What is the most commonly fractured human bone?
12. What is the most famous university of Paris?
13. Which animal is on the golden Flemish flag?
14. What is the name of the Indian holy river?
15. Which South American country is named after Venice?
16. How many stars feature on the flag of New Zealand?
17. What colour do you get when you mix red and white?
18. What is both a French wine region and a luxury American car?
19. For which narrow sea strait is Hellespont the ancient name?
20. Who invented the barometer?

21.

What are these cameras known as?



22.

Where is this historic bridge?



23. Whose office is this ?



24. Stumpey lived in Reed Crescent in which town?



ANSWERS PAGE 33

Mat Morgan's people powered Green campaign for Monash

Mat Morgan with Greens founder Bob Brown



Many people are describing the 6 week federal election campaign as a marathon. Greens Candidate for Monash, Mat Morgan, would tell you that's just the final sprint for a people powered campaign like his.

We've been running with an all hands on deck approach since late last year. Because that's what it takes to change a neglected, 'safe' LNP seat like Monash."

The major parties can run their whole campaign over 6 weeks because they're just screaming matches based on scare campaigns and gotcha moments, funded by dodgy corporate donations which do the campaigning for them now because even their volunteers have disengaged.

It's easy to put materials in everyone's letterboxes when you're accepting millions in fossil fuel industry donations, you just pay for postage. Last election the UAP were even paying people to hand out for them on election day.

"It's like we're riding pushbikes to the same destination as the other candidates but they're driving trucks full of dodgy money to cover their fuel costs.

To build a people powered campaign to compete with the old party machines, we had to get started early. The Greens as a party don't accept corporate donations, but this election they're proposing a ban all donations from coal and gas corporations, and to cap all other donations to \$1,000 per year.

This is on top of a whole range of other integrity based policies listed in their "Politics For People Initiative" which includes supporting, and fast tracking federal anti-corruption commission legislation through the senate by Christmas if the ALP win the election.

"Our volunteers and I have spent countless hours doorknocking all over the electorate. The top issues that come up constantly from constituents are climate, housing and integrity in politics."

"When you see a Greens volunteer at the polling booths on election day, they're quite likely volunteering for the first time. That's because Greens supporters know that we have to step up this time.

It's more important than ever that we put The Greens in the balance of power to hold the next government to account.

We'll push the next government to go further on climate by stopping new coal and gas mines, and we'll tackle cost of living pressures by getting dental into Medicare and by addressing the housing crisis, not making it worse!"

"I see it like this; we need everyone to take one step forward. I was a volunteer last time, this time I'm stepping up to be the candidate.

If you voted for us last time, we need you to step up and volunteer. If you voted for a major party last time, we need you to preference us first this time. If just a few hundred people in key seats changed their vote last election, The Greens would've been in the balance of power.

We've tried business as usual. Look where we are.

We're running the biggest greens campaign Gippsland has ever seen, people are getting involved for the first time and we are making change happen one person at a time.

No paid staff, no dodgy donations; people power.

-Mat Morgan, Greens Candidate for Monash



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Authorised by D Leonard, Level 1, 82 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 3922

4 months ago, becoming a politician was the furthest thing from my mind.

I have always had an interest in politics, but never felt like any of the parties truly aligned with my values. I've spent much time complaining at the circus that seems to be going on in Parliament house.

In January this year, Voices for Monash, an organization I'd been following since last year, put out a call for expressions of interest to be their supported community independent. I have followed the success of the Voices for Indi campaign, which beyond all odds saw Independent, Cathy McGowan AO elected to Federal Parliament. I knew of her achievements during her time in office, and of her successor, Independent Helen Haines, and how as Independents, these women provided huge benefits for their community.

A spark in me ignited.

It was time to stop complaining and start doing.

I love our community. I am passionate about us, and I want to make sure our voices are heard in parliament.

Since starting this campaign I have spoken to thousands of people that feel the same way I do – that the parties are not representing us, they are not acting in our interests, and their values do not align with ours.

Our community is passionate about climate action – as I am. Our community realises the need to move forward to renewable energy and decarbonised industry as soon as possible, and recognises the benefits this presents, not only in terms of climate but also in stimulating the economy, creating new jobs and lowering the cost of living.

The community is also in favour of a federal anti-corruption commission – Distrust in politicians is at a high – which is not the way it should be. There needs to be an independent body that will hold our politicians to account.

Equality and inclusivity is important to our community. The Monash electorate is made up of a number of small but incredibly strong communities. We have each others back, and we recognize the importance of every single person in our community having a voice, regardless of gender, race, religion, age or culture. It pains me to see that our government, that is supposed to be representative of the people, is largely made up of a very small demographic of Caucasian older males.



We need more diversity, more people with different lived experience to be able to make richer and more appropriate decisions on our behalf.

Housing affordability, roads, infrastructure, telecommunications, and access to health services are all issues affecting our community in Monash. If elected, these are all issues I will fight to address in Canberra. I will continue to speak to people from all parts of the electorate, of all demographics, to make sure I am best representing them.

I truly hope I have the privilege to represent our electorate – to make some real and positive changes in terms of climate action, integrity in government, equality, inclusivity, and all the other issues I mentioned, as well as those that continue to be brought to me from our community.

It will be a hard slog, but no one ever succeeded by not trying. If you would like to give me your feedback about how I can best represent you, or what issues you think are important, please email

contact@debleonard4monash.com.au .

You can find out more about me and what I stand for on my website: debleonard4monash.com.au

debleonard4monash.com.au

Authorised by D Leonard, Level 1, 82 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 3922



Climate Action Rally, Inverloch.

Around 150 people rallied and marched, holding up traffic in Inverloch, to make climate change an issue in the Federal Election. The Greens Matt Morgan, Jessica O'Donnell (ALP) and Deb Leonard attended. Dr Nola Maxfield and BCSC Mayor, Cr Whelan were two of the many passionate speakers.



The Battle for Monash

Whoever our elected leaders are, they should all be working towards improving the future of ordinary Australians. Everyone knows that climate-change is already challenging the lives of many ordinary Australians and we haven't exceeded 1.5°C increase in average atmospheric temperature yet, but its getting close. Future generations of Australians will face vastly worse challenges, but hey, "Its not a race".

Any government that actively pursues the ongoing exploitation of coal, gas and oil is engaged in an act of environmental sabotage and also an act of bastardry towards its people.

People that I speak to want honest and responsible representation in parliament but some people feel that this may be an impossible goal. The first step in attempting to achieve responsible representation is to set up a federal ICAC, [Independent Commission Against Corruption]. An ICAC with retrospective teeth will claw back some of the waste and deceit of the past three years in spite of a hollow promise by Morrison to set up an ICAC, at the last federal election. If governments spend taxpayers money on projects or grants that are not supported by independent evidence for the safety and benefit of the Australian people, then the Australian people deserve to have their hard won tax-dollars returned to the budget. If the basic process of governance can be constrained by an ICAC, then more responsible governance should become the norm.

If you look carefully at the candidates presenting for Monash on May 21, 2022, there are at least two candidates that support a retrospective ICAC, but Russell Broadbent is not one of them.

In a recent pamphlet titled Delivering for Monash, Russell Broadbent stated: "The pandemic has been tough on everyone. By working together we are getting through it".... Is this your memory of Russell's actions during the past few years? I can recall Russell criticizing nearly every action recommended by the professional medical community and then pandering to crack-pot, non-evidenced based treatments like ingesting Ivermectin, a drench to suppress worm burdens in the guts of common livestock.

When it comes to education, Russell's record is no better. On his website, Russell records handing over a cheque for \$1.75 million to a catholic primary school in Warragul on 17th November, 2021. In this speech he stated: "we are ensuring that every child gets a quality education no matter where they go to school". Unfortunately, that is a sad misconception because the LNP Morrison government is not supporting public education in comparison to its funding of private religious schools. For every dollar given to private religious schools the Commonwealth has contributed 77cents; and for every dollar our public schools get, the Commonwealth contributed 21cents based on 2019/2020 published figures.

The Morrison LNP government has continued to renege on the aims and goals of the original Gonski Review, (2011) into Australian Education.

Our public schools continue to be underfunded and the majority of children enrolled in our state schools are suffering the consequences.

This country cannot afford to squander all that potential talent. Every Australian child needs the opportunity to fully develop his or her talents so that they are equipped to make a worthwhile contribution to society. The future of this nation depends on an educated and skilled workforce. Russell and his cronies in the LNP are only interested in maximizing opportunities for a chosen few and it should be no surprise that they do not consider that they owe a duty of care towards to all Australian children, let alone the environment.

The challenge of climate-change requires more than just bolting a few solar collectors onto your roof. We urgently need renewable energy on an industrial scale and we need to use it to value-add to our mineral resources, including iron, aluminium, lithium and rare-earth elements. We need to leave fossil fuels in the ground where they can do no more harm and we need to develop technologies to recycle and reuse the huge volume of spent products that we currently consign to waste. This will require research and development and a well-educated, skilled population. These are things that are not happening under the Morrison LNP government.

On the issue of Action on Climate Change, since 2010 when he voted to block the Emissions Trading Scheme, Russell Broadbent has done next to nothing to promote renewable energy uptake in Gippsland. If the Morrison government proceeds with its Gas Recovery Program, then Western Port may become a hub for the storage and transport of liquefied natural gas. This will have enormous implications for the environment throughout Westernport. We should be concerned with Broadbent's voting history in parliament. Since 2006, The Open Australia Foundation has recorded and analysed the votes of our elected representatives in Parliament. Some of Russell's voting history is summarised below:

- Voted consistently against a carbon price on energy.
- Voted consistently against the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
- Voted consistently against protection of Australia's fresh water.
- Voted consistently against increasing marine conservation.
- Voted consistently against increasing political transparency.
- Voted consistently against increasing funding for vocational education.
- Voted consistently against increased investment in renewable energy.
- Voted consistently against increasing diversity of media ownership.
- Voted consistently against treating government action on climate change as a matter of urgency.
- Voted consistently against restricting donations to political parties.
- Voted consistently against a federal anti-corruption commission.
- Voted consistently for unconventional gas mining, (which includes fracking).

If you care for the future of this country then put the LNP candidate Russell Broadbent last on your ballot and put any United Australia Party candidate down at the bottom next to him.

Written by Edward Minty for The Waterline News,
12th April, 2022

Edward Minty: 30 Toorak St, North Wonthaggi, 3995, Victoria.

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With the Federal Election set for Saturday, 21 May, Bass Coast Shire Council will continue to promote its advocacy priorities to all candidates.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, said that Council's Advocacy Priorities have been developed with the help of community feedback provided for the Council Plan, Community Vision and other important Council strategies.

"These Advocacy Priorities reflect what we have heard through-out community engagement over the past 12 months," Cr Whelan said.

"The natural environment is very important to our community, so we are seeking **action and investment on Climate Change** measures.

Safer roads are crucial, as is being connected so we will continue to campaign for increased investment in road infrastructure and digital connectivity right across Bass Coast."

Bass Coast was Australia's fourth fastest growing local government area in 2020/21.



To accommodate this growth, Cr Whelan said that it is imperative that the Federal Government **fast tracks the Wonthaggi North East Structure Precinct.**

"New residential land will provide greater housing and rental affordability."

"This land will provide for up to 12,000 new residents and will provide access to the only vacant commercially zoned land in Wonthaggi, meaning more local jobs.

"The precinct will also feature new community infrastructure including schools and sporting facilities," Cr Whelan said.

"Investment in this precinct will fast track new development. This land is needed now."

"This growth also means **new community and sporting facilities are needed.** "Both Phillip Island and Wonthaggi communities require **new aquatic facilities** and Council has undertaken years of work to ensure that both of these facilities are shovel ready and stand the greatest chance of investment through pre-election commitments," Cr Whelan said.

Tourism is one of Bass Coast's most important industries, which has been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

"We have gone almost two years without international visitation and now, staff shortages and lack of worker accommodation continues to impact our tourism and hospitality industries," Cr Whelan said.

"We will continue to advocate for **investment in tracks and trails** and we are supportive of linking tourism trails infrastructure throughout Bass Coast.

"We also strongly support Phillip Island Nature Park's bid for the **Summerlands Peninsula Trail** linking the iconic Phillip Island Penguin Parade to the Nobbies."

In addition, Destination Gippsland has provided a blueprint for the Gippsland Odyssey, a 700km trail that will showcase the best of Gippsland.

IDAHOBIT – MAY 17

May 17 is a day to go rainbow and show our pride and support for our LGBTQIA+ community, whether you're a part of the community or an Ally.

And that's exactly what we are planning on doing at Bass Coast Shire Council. May 17 is a day when we can all stand together against discrimination.

Even in 2022, this is so important as we are still not all treated equally.

Our Council Plan "Our Bass Coast, Our Future" outlines Council's role in developing inclusive communities where everyone is equally valued and diversity is celebrated.

IDAHOBIT is our opportunity to show our pride and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. It is also an opportunity to keep the lived experience of the LGBTQIA+ community in the public eye.

This is achieved by creating an environment where people feel comfortable and safe to be themselves.

As a leader, I think about the culture I am creating in the workplace and community. I reflect on how I can lead by example and champion inclusivity.

For me this takes many forms – formal workplace policies, calling out discrimination when I see it or hear it, and requesting through the Mayor and Councillors to fly the Rainbow Flag at Council Offices not only on IDAHOBIT day but other days of the year. Having the word "Ally" in rainbow dotted throughout our Council offices generates conversation.

I no longer have an office as I prefer to sit amongst my colleagues. When I did the CEO office door had a large "Ally" sticker on it. Some people remarked "I thought Ali spelled her name 'Ali' not 'Ally'". I used this confusion as an ice breaker and engaged in conversation about why I consider myself an Ally.

I am mindful that as an Ally it is important I don't speak for the people I am standing up for. My role is to create opportunities for people's own voices to be heard and to step aside for the LGBTQIA+ voices to be heard.

On May 17 we will be lighting up Council offices in rainbow and the lights in the trees in McBride Avenue Wonthaggi will be turned to rainbow. It's going to be a day where we celebrate and acknowledge LGBTQIA+ people.

We also acknowledge that homophobia, biphobia and transphobia still exist. It is our opportunity to publicly stand up against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

I love how each year we are becoming more visual in our support the LGBTQIA+ community.

I would love to hear from Waterline readers if there are other actions that Council could be taking to create a more inclusive community. Please feel free to drop me a line at ali.wastie@basscoast.vic.gov.au



The Bright Lights of Tenby Point

By Jeannie Haughton

Originally published 5/7/2018

THE weather deities were smiling on us. After lashings of stormy winds that gusted for days and strangled the plastic-filled fish at Coronet Bay in May, the longest nights of the year could have been foul: instead the tangy winter air was perfect for tramping round atmospheric Tenby Point then settling with soup in front of roaring fires. It doesn't get better.

Lisa Burrell's sublime "chimneys" stood like sentinels along Marine Road, blending past with present, complementing the natural background while adding contemporary flair and purpose. We swore we could see herds of animals, swans at sea, trees on a horizon as we stared into the backlit, abstract and earthy toned lights.

The tiny community of Tenby Point, led by David Pearce and Jean Coffey with around 40 volunteers, stretched their muscles and rallied to produce a wonderful event .

In the course of a few weeks they created art together at the local picnic table, recruited new and long-term families to help – all meeting each other and chatting away ... then managed the event itself, cooking soup and biscuits and cakes, installing and demounting artwork, lighting up a boat and raft at sea.

What a tremendous effort for a tiny hamlet of around 100 houses! And only half of those are permanently occupied and many residents had travelled north for the sun.

Some of my own favourite moments were watching the children play in the stacks of coloured boxes, such simple fun; watching the greeting of friends and neighbours and their DOGS – there were well behaved dogs everywhere on Saturday night; staring into Lisa Burrell's artworks; the track to the sea; admiring the artworks created by local people along Bayview Avenue; listening to the soundscape; most of all, being lured outside to glory in the stunning environment and waterline of Tenby Point. And the fires. And my friends. And Lynda's biscuits and David's banana cake.



John Page and Jeannie Haughton on the waterfront at Tenby Point for the opening night . Photo: Claire Stribbles



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The Waterline News



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2. Amsterdam.
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4. 4000 miles.
5. Enzo Ferrari.
6. Cain.
7. In the year 1997.
8. Jack the Ripper.
9. Golgotha or Calvary.
10. 99999
11. Clavicle.
12. Sorbonne.
13. Lion.
14. Ganges.
15. Venezuela.
16. Four stars
17. Pink.
18. Cadillac
19. Dardanelles.
20. Torricelli.
21. Box Brownie
22. Bass.
23. Landcare
24. Wonthaggi



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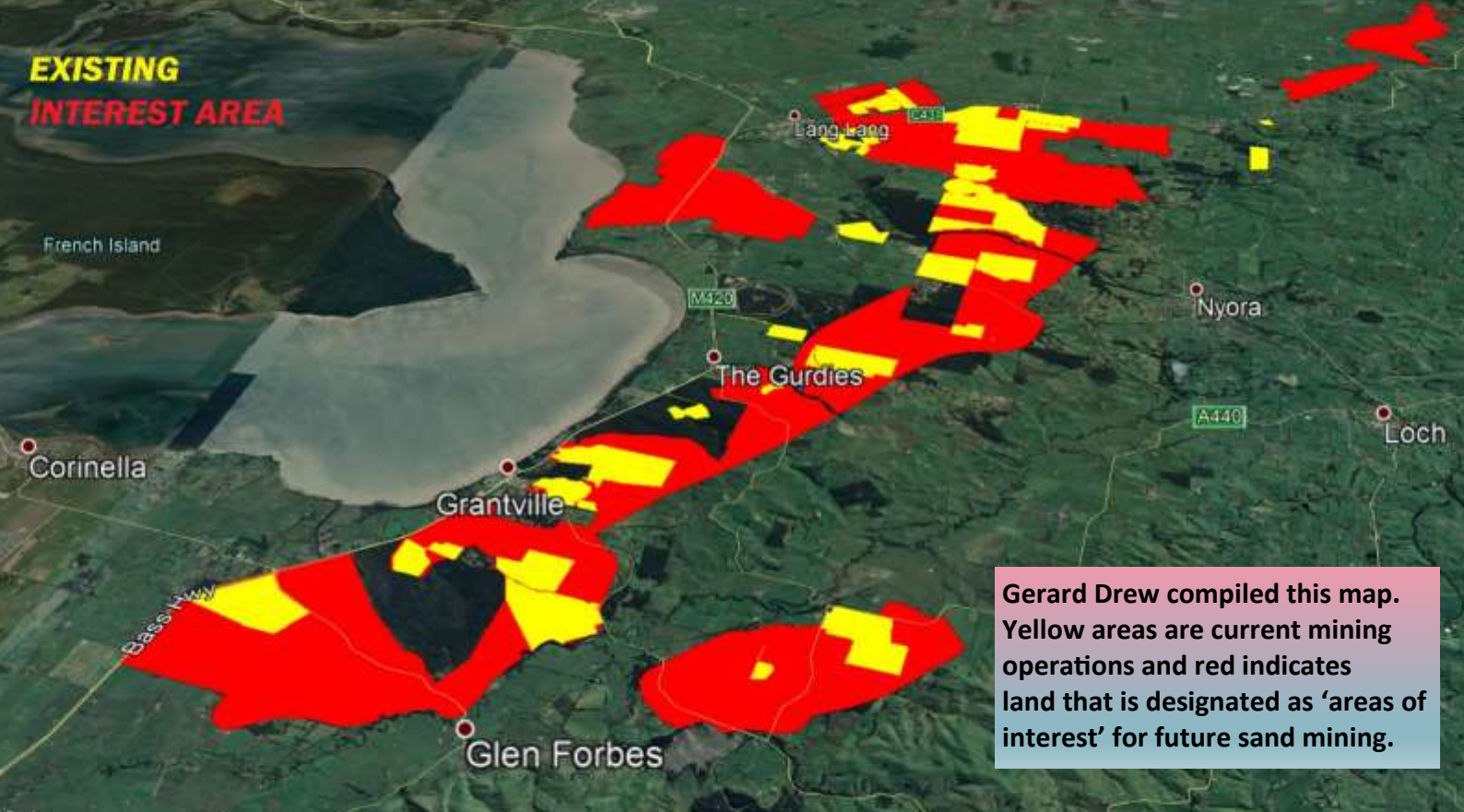


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Gerard Drew compiled this map. Yellow areas are current mining operations and red indicates land that is designated as 'areas of interest' for future sand mining.

THE LAST WORD with MERYL TOBIN BROWN

David Attenborough says the world is at a turning point. He, along with hundreds of top scientists, makes this unequivocally clear in 'Extinction and Climate Change with David Attenborough'. As the program illustrates, if we want something left for our children and future generations in perpetuity, we have to act now. He says, "We can safeguard our planet's diversity but ... what happens next is up to every one of us."

This includes ALL the people who live in Bass Coast Shire. It is time to act now, not wring our hands when our biodiversity is so severely compromised it can no longer support flora or fauna, including human life and it is too late to save it from catastrophe.

Former Corinella resident, the late Tim Ealey, an internationally acclaimed scientist known locally as Dr Mangrove, was another scientist who warned what we have ahead of us.

Tim believed humans were going to 'stuff up' the world.

Another Bass Coast local, Dick Wettenhall, (former Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Melbourne University and inaugural Director of the University's Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute), warns about the dangers sandmining poses to the environment.

In March, when DEWLP released its long-awaited Draft Statement of Planning Policy Consultation for Bass Coast, locals thought it would include the value of the important biolink which is the last significant stand of remnant pre-European native bush on the eastern shore of Western Port, stretching from Nyora-Lang Lang to Grantville.

Given that West Gippsland has been cleared of 95% of its natural bush since European colonisation, how lucky are we to live in the area containing most of the 5% of bush that is left! As it is also part of the Gippsland Plains bioregion, one of the most cleared in the state, it is also in need of protection on that score alone.

But the biolink is hardly mentioned at all, and then only to say the sand resource under it needs protection from 'encroachment by incompatible land uses'!

Of course, sand is an issue. It's been an issue for many years. Currently 10 mines are operating in the forest corridor between Lang Lang and Bass. Five of these are in nature conservation reserves. Another nine work authorities for sand mining have been issued but still to be activated. **Another seven work authorities have been applied for.**

Who speaks for the forest? You have until 5pm Friday to make your submission to the DAL.