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SBA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

Spring has sprightly sprung with daffodils and wattle blossoms blooming and the birds are singing sweetly. That touch of warmth in the mild sunny days brings nature to life. Hope your footy team did well. Spare a thought for those suffering from hay fever and other allergies.

Three Cheers For Our Life Savers - Rescue Statistics

We need a suitable patrol tower at Smiths Beach. According to Life Saving Victoria's historical data over the last fifteen years, there have been on average approximately 69,000 visitors to Smiths Beach each season (2,300 visitors per day). This was during the hours that the Life Guards were on patrol. This number will be increasing on our beach as the population of Phillip Island is now growing to be more than 9,500 people. More domestic and international visitors are arriving and wishing to see us too. The following lifeguard statistics were gathered at the end of the summer season and archived at Life Saving Victoria in the period from 1993-94 to the present day. There have been performed 28,787 preventative actions at Smiths Beach, an average of 1,515 per year by the lifeguard service. (Preventive actions by lifeguards allow for the avoidance of drowning deaths, permanent incapacitations and minor injuries. Most preventative actions are minor and serve as a method of instruction to enhance the awareness of safety concerns to the beach-going public.)



To date, lifeguards at Smiths Beach have performed on average seventeen rescues per year of which an average of two were performed unaided (i.e. without any equipment), seven were performed with a rescue tube and eight were performed with a rescue board.

First aid cases are significantly more common at Smiths Beach than at Woolamai Beach due to the high beach population, the rocky environment and the varied activities of the beach public. They may be from surfer/surfboard injuries, rockfishing, swimmers sharing confined spaces and beach games. Life guards and lifesavers have also been called upon numerous times over the years to respond to first aid incidents at our neighbouring YCW Beach.

The rationale for providing lifesaving services at Smiths Beach is clear. It is the most popular and busy family surf beach on Phillip Island and beyond but it also has a permanent rip at each end.

Be aware of this. Swim between the flags.

**Kind regards,
Ian Shand**

Greg Hunt's 500 km Walk For Autism

Congratulations to our Federal Member of Parliament Greg Hunt MP for achieving the magnificent feat of walking all around his Flinders electorate. He began this heroic achievement on Monday 20th July up at Arthurs Seat and concluded it via our Smiths Beach Store and beach four weeks later. He finished at the Cowes Primary School and the Cowes Jetty on Friday 7th August. Greg's inspiring footslogging covered 500-plus kilometres and his supporters were still finalising donations with a total raised to be over \$67,000.

Why did he do it? The journey was a great chance to raise awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and the challenges that children with autism face. He was able to explain this as he talked to others on his way. The money that was raised mainly from donations and will go to two not-for-profit organisations, the Abacus Learning Centre and Amaze (Autism Victoria). They both work tirelessly to support autistic children and their families by providing the therapy and the early intervention to help children reach their goals.

All of the constituents of his Flinders electorate were invited to join with Greg to stroll any of the distances with him on his walk and maybe to also discuss local issues of concern. Visiting the many townships along the way, Greg managed to call on every one of the 58 schools to explain his mission. It is estimated that more than 55,000 Victorians are living with autism. You can still give your own donation to Amaze (Autism Victoria) on 1300 308 699 or to www.greghunt.com.au



Did You Know?

How big is Phillip Island? From the tip of Cape Woolamai to the Nobbies, the distance is 26 kilometres. The greatest width of the Island is 8.5 kilometres on the Pyramid Rock Road. The Island's area is 24,320 acres (985 hectares) and there are 100 kilometres of coastline.

Put On Your Walking Shoes

Following on from our last SBA Newsletter recommendation for a walk in the lovely Oswin Roberts Reserve, why not enjoy the Spring sunshine and fresh air to stroll to some of our other Phillip Island attractions. A highlight would be to drive to the Cape Woolamai car-park to begin your choice of three well-signposted walking tracks of 2 hrs, 3 hrs or 3.5 hrs. There is an information shelter to describe what there is to see on the way. The longest Cape Woolamai Beacon Walk of approximately 6.6 km takes you to the highest point on our Island and the historic beacon. On the way you will view the magnificent panorama of coastline and walk through our largest Short Tailed Shearwater/Mutton Bird rookeries, (try not to step on their burrows). You could see some other amazing wildlife ranging from wedge-tailed eagles to bluetongue lizards on your travels. Taking some water or food is a good idea. "Enjoy!" The Phillip Island Nature Parks are planning to further improve your walking there this year.

The Smith Brothers of Smiths Beach

The story has its roots in 19th century Scotland where a David and Margaret Smith lived with their two sons James and Henry. They were in a small village near Dundee where David was a stonemason. The two boys learnt the trade from their father. Records of their family history show that James and Henry arrived at Port Phillip in December 1852. They found work as stonemasons in the town of Kyneton the next year. Further Smith family members were to arrive later and live at Kyneton.

With the opening of Phillip Island for selection in 1868, the brothers James and Henry Smith selected land. Henry selected allotments 128 and 129 of 251 acres, 1 rood 31 perches (102 hectares) on the **south coast of the Island, after which Smiths Beach was named.** James selected allotment 103 of 78 acres 16 perches (32 hectares) in the centre of the Island around Coghlan's Road. James and Henry had a sister, Charlotte Smith, who married Matthew Forrest and they settled on allotment 151 at Newhaven. (Forrest Caves area). There were 132 lots of rural land sold by ballot at that time. An average price paid per acre was eight pounds (\$16 / acre, 0.405 hectares). An acre was the amount of land that a man could plough with a horse in one day.

Why they chose to select on Phillip Island, so far from Kyneton, is still a mystery. Henry built a house on his selection, somewhere towards the beach from what we know as the Back Beach Road. We don't know how long he remained or whether his family joined him there. We do know he returned to his property at Kyneton, and eventually died there in 1908. He is buried in the Kyneton cemetery. His wife, Elizabeth, eventually moved to Sydney to live with her daughter and died there at the age of 99 in 1920. She is also buried with her husband at Kyneton.

James is somewhat of a mystery. It is not known how long he remained on the Island either, as he died in 1878 and is buried at Kyneton. His block ended up the property of his nephew, James, who in due course sold it to Robert Forrest in 1908. Robert was the youngest son of Charlotte Forrest (nee Smith), the sister of James and Henry.

It is unknown exactly how long they remained on Phillip Island and there is much more research to be done on the family. However, they certainly put their footprint on the Island and have left their legacy by having the privilege of having one of the loveliest ocean beaches and holiday spots named after them - "Smith's Beach".

Thanks to Marge Wild and Bev Forrest.

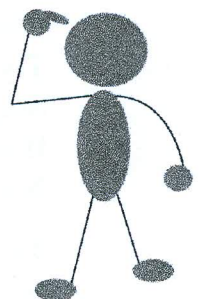


Father William

"You are old, Father William" the young man said, "And your hair has become very white; And yet you incessantly stand on your head - Do you think, at your age it is right?"

"In my youth," Father William replied to his son, "I feared it might injure the brain; But, now that I'm perfectly sure I have none, Why, I do it again and again."

(Lewis Carroll.)



Watch Out for the Plovers

It's nesting time (from July to December) and the Masked Lapwing Plovers are pairing off to build their nests. These are the birds that lay their eggs on a few scraps of grass in the middle of sports grounds or other flat cleared ground. When disturbed, they will run quickly in short bursts and then stand perfectly still to steer you away from their eggs. They also can be ferocious in protecting their young by screaming abuse as they 'Dive-bomb' you as a potential predator.



Do You Know When to Call Triple Zero?

Triple Zero (000) is intended for genuine emergency calls only. This ensures that the lines are kept free and that emergency resources are available to respond as quickly as possible.

You should only call Triple Zero if

- Someone is seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help.
- Your life or property is being seriously threatened.
- You just witnessed a serious accident or crime



St. John Ambulance

Callers who are deaf or have a speech or hearing impediment can call **One Zero Six (106)** text-based emergency call service using a textphone.

Call **Crime Stoppers** on **1800 333 000** to provide crime information. Your call can be anonymous.

Friends

As you may know, I am not on Facebook. Hence I try to make friends without using Facebook. I walk around the streets every day telling random people how well I slept last night, what I ate, how I feel, what I am doing and what I will do. I also listen to their conversations and tell them each time that I Like it. Result: I already have three followers, two police officers and one psychiatrist.

Odd Jottings

Welcome Home to the Short Tailed Shearwaters/Mutton Birds after their holiday in Alaska.

Try again, Fail again, Fail better. Failure is feedback.

Stupid things happen to smart phones

If today is the worst day of your life, - then you know that tomorrow will be better.

No WiFi? Try talking to each other. Call your Mother. Pretend it's 1997.

Tick the Organ Donation box that comes with your Drivers Licence renewal application.

Notify your family about this too.

Letters to the Editor

Think about it and write your response to any of the following topics

- How does a person grow older gracefully?
- How can we better care for the earth?
- Should we eliminate the mirror bush as an invasive noxious weed in Smiths Beach?
- If you were to write a letter to your grandchildren, what would you say to them?
- Why do I live where I live at Smiths Beach?
- What do you enjoy most about this time of the year?



Send it to The Editor, SBA Newsletter, RMB 5090, Cowes, Victoria, 3922.

KooWeeRup Bypass

It was built to remove a significant proportion of passing traffic and heavy vehicles from the Koo Wee Rup township for which their community are now most grateful. Work on this 3.4 km bypass started in late 2013 and was open for traffic in May this year. It will improve traffic flow and safety by providing a further entry to the Monash Freeway to Melbourne. A question! "What do you think about the new traffic-slowing roundabout at the intersection on the South Gippsland Highway?"

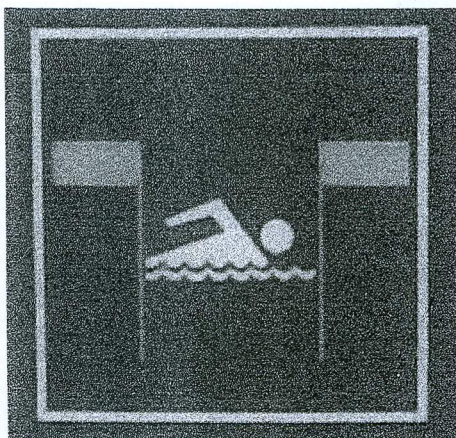


Selling on eBay?

Read recently about a lady who advertised an iPhone for sale on **Gumtree**. When the purchaser arrived to pay for it, she grabbed the phone, ran to her car and drove off without paying. This, we found out from **Gumtree** is not unusual.

Smiths Beach Rescue Base Project

The proposed Patrol Tower, as pictured in our previous SBA Newsletter, and being planned by the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, continues to progress. This has involved completing a geotechnical investigation and a community consultation process. The club intends to construct the base as a prefabricated unit (or units) that can be trucked to the site and lifted in by a crane. This approach will minimise time required on site. Tenders have been sought for the project on a design and construct basis. More details of potential timelines will be known once these tenders are returned in late September. The appointment of a preferred construction partner to undertake detailed design work will also confirm the likely costs of the project and thus initiate a fundraising effort. The detailed design will also enable the final approvals to be sought from relevant parties.



"Keep up the good work!"

'Showrooming' Is A Fact Of Life Now

This is the practice of visiting a shop or shops in order to examine a product before buying it online at a lower price. Online stores here and overseas often offer lower prices because they do not have the same overhead costs. It is easier these days with a smartphone camera to take a photo and walk out without a trip to the cash register. Expensive items such as clothing or whitegoods are also regular products being price-matched.

It is a commonplace happening in bookshops losing business to the likes of Amazon in the USA. It takes some effort to do it after you take your photograph of a title page or barcode and place the order. If things are expedited smoothly, there is a waiting time and you still have to pay for the freight. With a book you could buy it over the counter and read it today. There is no substitute for the actual touch, feel, fit or even the smell of your selection.

There is a problem when ordering your clothing sizes as Asian measurements are usually smaller. (as many of you may have found out). How do retailers deal with these new-age purchasings? They may have tried promotions, discounts, coupons and spot-promotions but to improve customer loyalty, there has to be ways to meet the customer's needs. Some stores have tried posters that try to 'shame' the sneaky buyer in a similar way to those ads that 'shame' you for not buying a ticket on public transport. Some successful retailer have found that there is no substitute for providing amazing customer service from knowledgeable, friendly staff.

THE VIEW FROM HERE – Cr Phil Wright

Numerically Speaking

Council has released the latest Bass Coast Shire Update. It does not include holiday home owners. It can be found on the BCSC web page – 'Home'. No real surprises here:

1. The over 65s (24%) is 9th highest in Victoria. Vic average is 14%
2. Low average income (\$855) but high property ownership.
3. 2% annual growth – Wonthaggi - young families, PI and Inverloch – Retirees.
4. Construction industry is the major industry (17%) - highest in the state.
5. Growth on PI comes from Melb migration (mainly Casey) on improved highways.
6. There is high but declining vacancy rates
7. In 20 years, the population of the Shire will increase by 50% to 46,000.
8. An increase in school age children with two new schools in the Island.

Tourism Plan Intended Outcomes

Council have appointed EarthWatch as consultants to develop a Tourism Strategy, (after 150 years without one.) Early signs are good, community consultation will be conducted over summer. Some points that may be featured in strategy:

1. Concentrate on off-season visitors, the summers months have enough visitors
2. Identify the economic value and long term demand for the natural assets
3. Separate various market uses and develop clear strategies for each one
4. Develop better paths and other coastal infrastructure for holiday-home owners and other repeat visitors from Melbourne
5. Develop a strategy for traffic management on extremely busy days which may include mini buses.



Continued next page

The View From Here (continued)

Tourism Plan – What Does Success Look Like ?

There is an assumption that investment on the island is needed for development and the creation of jobs. This is not my belief in the best way forward. Development that supports and enhances the enjoyment of the natural assets is welcome as long as it is done with subtlety and does not impact on the coastscapes. Look at the failure of Council Planners in permitting the new 8 bedroom residence on the east of Smiths Beach. Every new building out of residential areas reduces the enjoyment of the coast. Added together you end up with a Torquay style of suburbia.

There is a bigger risk with major investments. If some large developments were completed (eg Isle of Wight) they would create jobs and the word would spread through the edges of Melbourne that work is available on the island. There is already strong migration from Casey which is likely to increase. Working families need houses and there will be a push to extend town boundaries. The solution to both these problems is to use all parts of the shire for what they can offer. Wonthaggi has unlimited potential for growth in residential, industrial, health and education. In San Remo excellent views can be achieved with low rise developments.

The strength of the regional shire rests in the wide range of opportunities for growth which delivers the Island and other coastal areas as low development high quality recreation areas. The sum of the parts can deliver the end result of “An Oasis on a Crowded Planet”

- Airport has closed down and owners want to redevelop with a mixture of commercial, residential and public open space.
- The Hot Spa is trying to settle with neighbours to avoid VCAT.
- Caravan Park at Forrest Caves is progressing with 53 sites.
- Clifftop B+B is applying for a restaurant licence.
- Isle of Wight is rumoured to have new owners – again.
- Kernot dairy license application was rejected by council and is now tangled up in China Free Trade Agreement discussions.
- The Scenic Estate now has a ‘Friends of’ Group and the world class tracks are now open for walking – to enter and exit is difficult.
- Smiths Beach SE Drainage Reserve now needs a ‘Friends of’ Group.

Aboriginal Heritage Tour - Runs Daily

Take a cultural journey along the boardwalks of the Penguin Parade where numerous archaeological sites hint at the rich Aboriginal heritage of the area, and their connection to the land.

Discover how the Boonwurrung used seasonal plants and animals for their everyday needs, and the impacts of European arrival and settlement on Boonwurrung people and culture. Take up your reserved front row seats to enjoy some close viewing of the penguins as they begin their nightly crossing of the beach.

Cost: \$60.00 per person (12yrs+) For PINP ticketing, phone 5951-2800.

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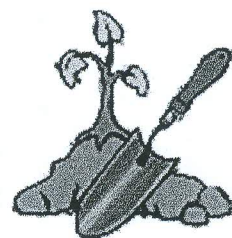
SBA Working Bee

Members, family and friends are invited to meet at the YCW Car-park to do some revegetation planting in the topmost area next to the St Bede's fence. The BCSC has already removed some surplus untidy woody trees and shrubs and poisoned some gorse bushes.

It is now ready for us to plant the indigenous tube stock and make the area beautiful.

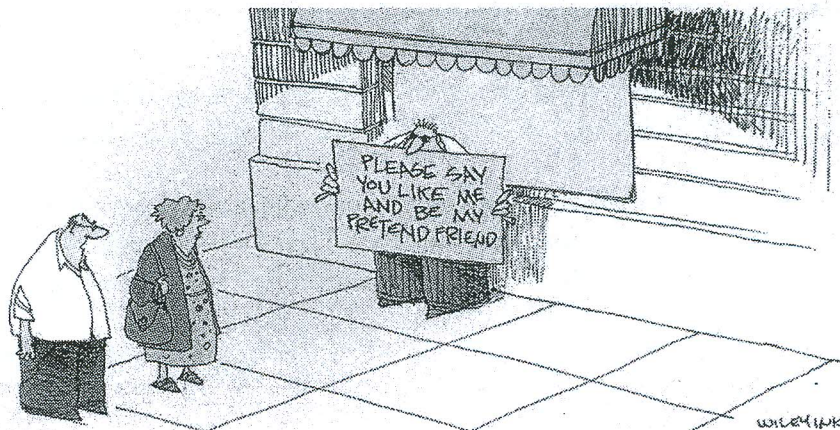
The invitation is for you to be there on **Sunday 20th September @ 10.00 am.**

You can bring your gardening gloves but all tools and plants will be supplied.



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