

Autumn



Reg'n No A0004521S
RMB 5090 Cowes Vic 3922
Email sba@motile.net
Phone 9889-1519
smithsbeachcomber.com

SBA AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter for 2016, the first of our seasonal issues for your bedtime reading. We've been busy sweeping up leaves all through the summer as the trees have been shedding their foliage urgently due to the hot, dry weather. Those warmer days are now numbered and there is a chill in the air. Is Autumn your favourite time of year?

LIFE

Our lives change from childhood to old age. **On any given day in Australia, 800 babies are born, while 400 people die.** Each of us is here for a limited time on this planet.

There is an organisation for members of the community in the third age of their life called the U3A. (The University of the Third Age). So, what are the other ages of our lives? Many authors have written about what they think are six or ten stages of the human life cycle. The U3A is concerned with just four. Our priorities will naturally be changing over those four stages. We have made our contribution to some of the stages already. What milestones have you passed? Where are you now? What's in your future?

The First age is from birth and infancy up to the age of early twenties. From the moment a child is born, we must teach it to be independent. It is the time to learn behaviours that are acceptable to society as we move into youth, adolescence and adulthood. It is a time of completing education or finding an occupation. Human traits in our upbringing are influenced by nature or nurture. 'Nature' refers to inherited (genetic) factors and 'Nurture' is determined by environmental aspects.

Our **Second age** is from the early twenties to the fifties and is the age of our achievements. It could be the time for beginning a career or the time of full-time employment and parental responsibility. There may be financial pressures and changes to our lifestyles. We learn to be more flexible and adaptable. We are consolidating our life towards being retirement ready. We are more conscious of looking after our health. We develop strategies for when we are older and life will change.

Third age is between the ages of 50 to 75 and perhaps we have retired. There may be grandchildren responsibilities or the empty nest when the children have moved on. We are coping with grieving processes and deaths. It is an age that is still rich in possibilities and potential. This is the Third Age that the U3A says "that you're never too old to learn, and as long as you're learning, you're not old." They conduct their excellent self-help programs for everybody.

Fourth age is the age of completion. Even though there is a physical decline and a reduced quality of life, we will now have longer life expectancies. There was a **Positive Aging Event** held recently on Phillip Island where the process of maintaining a positive attitude, feeling good about yourself, keeping fit and healthy and engaging fully in life as you age was emphasised. Those who take advantage of this time in their life are those who make the effort to stay connected with family and friends. The Latin expression "Carpe Diem" means to 'seize the day'/'enjoy the moment' (YOLO) There is that CORNER that "we never know what's around it".

In three words we can sum up everything that we've learned about life --- "It Goes On!"

Ian Shand. SBA Newsletter Editor



The SBA President's Annual Report

A copy of the 2015-16 President's Report as presented at the recent A.G.M. shows a summary of our activities over the past year and has been attached to this Newsletter.

Hooded Plovers

Smiths Beach has had some newcomers hatched on the sands near Express Point this year for the first time in 28 years. These small black capped Hooded Plover birds spend their entire life on the beach. The parent birds built their nest above the high tide mark and from the eggs, produced their two chicks. The area was identified by volunteers and roped off. Signs were erected requesting dog owners to be keep well away from their nests and the chicks managed to thrive. After thirty days, they fledged and were able to fly. We have a photograph of Chris Larsen and Irene Wright, two of the many Hooded Plover Watch volunteers, being shown weighing and banding our Smiths Beach birds.



They are threatened with extinction and it was remarkable that at other beaches on Phillip Island, 14 more Hooded Plover chicks have fledged from the 99 eggs recorded this season. (On the Mornington Peninsular however, there were just three hatchings out of 179 eggs laid. This extremely disappointing result has caused the government to step in to legislate for the banning of dogs along the entire Mornington Peninsular National Park coastline from November this year.)

Dogs and people have always been the main enemies identified but the crows/ravens were some of the natural predators sighted at Smiths Beach this year. Foxes may have also been a problem in the past but their gradual elimination may have assisted in the improved Phillip Island result.

The Explorer Bus

On Monday 4th January, four of us went to our nearest designated Explorer bus stop on the corner of Smiths Beach Road near our Store. At 10.40 am, the big bus arrived on time, Mark the driver welcomed us aboard and we were off for a two-hour **free** discovery tour of Phillip Island. Our first stop showed the bus passengers the site of the Koala Conservation Centre and Amaze'N Things. Driving along the Tourist Road, we turned off to visit as far as the Churchill Island car-park and then travel through San Remo to inspect and drive around the Silverwater Resort.



Our bus then took us back to Cowes passing the Trout Farm on the way. Off we went from the Cowes main bus stop in Chapel Street to visit the Penguin Parade area and the Nobbies. We drove via the Visitor Centre of the Grand Prix Circuit to arrive back at our Smiths Beach bus-stop. You could hop-off anywhere and hop-on again when the bus returns two hours later if you wish. The Explorer Bus does this circuit four times every day from the 28th December to 13th March.

This complimentary two-hour Loop was sponsored among others by the BCSC, the P.I. RSL, the PINP, the Bendigo Bank and Destination Phillip Island. (the industry body for tourism in the Phillip Island Region) This initiative will be evaluated to see how successful it has been and to see if it will be continued on a full-time or seasonal basis later in 2016. We all enjoyed being tourists once more.

Annual General Meeting

Our 40th AGM was held on the Labour Day Sunday 13th March. Once again it was held at the Phillip Island Coastal Discovery Camp in Marlin Street west (formerly the YCW Camp)
We appreciated the use of their excellent facilities for the meeting and refreshments.

Cr Phil Wright once again conducted the election of officebearers for the coming year.

They were	President	Phil Dressing
	Vice President	Douglas Cousins
	Secretary	Robyn Dale
	Treasurer	John Steward
	Committee	Jorge Krepelka / Karen Mugnier
		Heidi / Heinz Demsky
		John Graydon
		Carolyn Plummer
		Noel Halford
		Ian Shand

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2015.

Income	\$2215
Expenditure	\$1900
Excess Income for Period	\$315
Member's Funds at 31 st December 2015	\$7435

Information as shown on the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2015

A complete audited Financial Statement is available from the Treasurer.

The Auditor for the coming year was appointed.

The Annual Family Membership Fee will remain at \$20.00.

The Treasurer wishes to thank those members who gave generous donations over and above their annual subscription amount. It will be spent wisely.

Find Us On Facebook

Facebook Smiths Beachcomber Association

Odd Jottings

Our 40th birthday of the SBA is coming up on 11th June. You will be hearing from us.

At a certain point in your life you will stop getting older and start aging.

The shortest distance between two people is a smile.

Millenials??—are those born between the late 1980's to 2000.

Last year I joined a group called 'The Procrastinators'. We haven't met yet.

Anna and Felix were some of the team that did their bit for Smiths Beach on 'Clean Up Australia Day'

Their main concern was having to pick up cigarette butts emptied or thrown around our car-park.

Have you checked our website lately? Go to smithsbeachcomber.com

Smiths Beach Stone Cairns

Noel Halford wrote a letter to the 'Advertiser' about a man providing something different to our beachgoers at Smiths Beach. They then printed the story in an article on page 3 with a colour photograph in their January 13th 2016 edition. Noel wrote....

"This year I had the pleasure of observing a visitor, who on his own, built a small number of rock creations on our beach each day. People would comment and take pleasure in watching the scene unfold. In more recent times, they joined with him creating their own structures. I must say that it was wonderful to watch children using this form of creativity and be involved as well.

I eventually met the initiator of this informal community activity and congratulated him on his work and community spirit. His name is Peter Kay and he is a social worker involved with elderly citizens many of whom come from another culture and English is certainly their second language.

I asked Peter if he would mind me mentioning his rock sculpture creativity to the local media to which he had no objection. He believed that activities such as these are wholesome and bring a community together, albeit fleetingly over a holiday season. His work clearly provided additional pleasure to those who walk along our beautiful beach each day.

Eventually, Peter had to return home and left his work to be enjoyed by the many visitors to Smiths Beach who would follow.

Sadly, it only took a few days before some of the work was destroyed, not by natural elements which may have been expected, but by a Council employee who when questioned by a resident stated that he considered the structures to be unsafe and proceeded to demolish them. What a sad reflection on those who govern our community. It is a further example of unwarranted intrusion by authorities into our way of life.

There is however a happy conclusion in that many others are now creating their own structures on the beach despite bureaucratic interference."



Farewell for now to our Mutton Birds

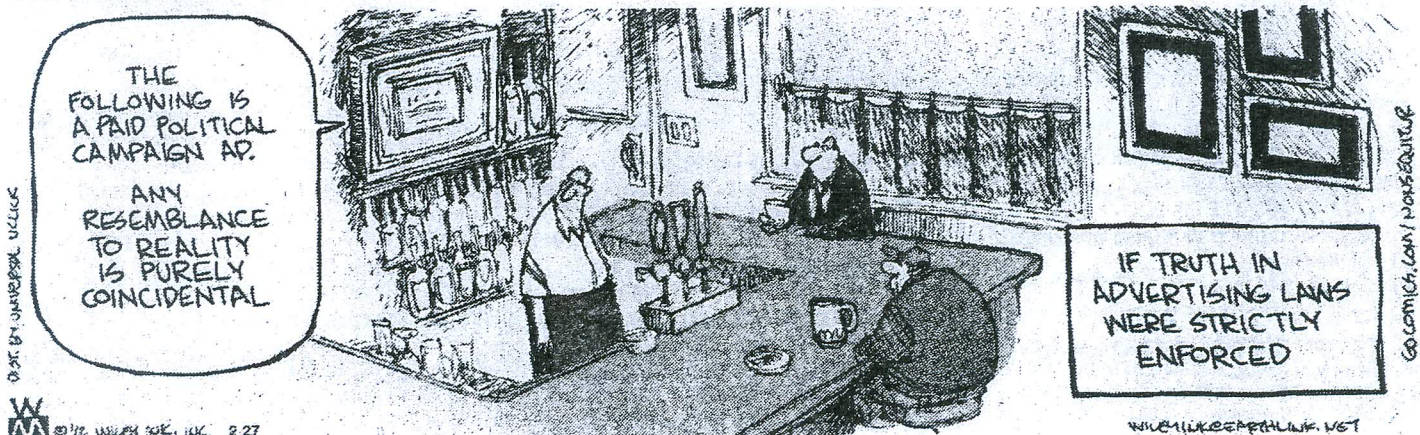
Those Short-tailed Shearwaters arrived on Phillip Island last September and spent the summer raising the single chick in their sand-dune burrows. They are about to undertake their annual migration flying 16,000km to feed near Alaska during our winter. Adults begin to fly out in mid-April and the chicks leave two weeks later with no guidance. Between April and May, many chicks are killed each year on the roads at night. **Cars are the biggest killers. We are to slow down and look out for birds sitting on the roads at night before they take to the sky for their first time.**



Please don't let it be their last.

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



Cr Phil Wright: "Why I Like to Pay Rates"

A strong community is inclusive and makes every effort to engage its less fortunate members. Australia has always excelled at caring and sharing and it makes us a strong and happy nation. This is the result of progressive tax schemes that supply health, education and major roads free. This enables all community members to participate.

Rates is a more targeted approach. Spent by small communities for small communities. It is charged against the property not on the amount of use. Large coastal houses at Smiths Beach pay 10 times as much rates as the small houses in Wonthaggi. This is good. Those who can pay help the others.

Rates deliver care from the cradle to the grave. Immunisation, kindergartens, lollipop ladies, libraries, sports grounds, beaches, roads, rubbish and meals for the aged.

It delivers great social outcomes and is also economically desirable. Increase spending on criminal justice is a failure of a society. The most effective way to keep people out of courts is to get them into education. TAFEs not jails. Our rates influence this process resulting in a big saving on police and punishment. **Rates are an investment in our future. For our children, grand-children and for us as we age.**

But we demand a lower and lower contribution. How did we get to be so unified? Demanding lower rates is the outcome of well marketed action groups who are not required to support their demands with a business case. We all want less rates, better services and no user pays. This is clearly unviable. No caring and sharing, less service levels for visitors and less employment opportunities. There is no justification of economic benefits of lower rates. The solution is clear – cut staff and wages.

What does success look like? How many staff need to be cut? What functions should Council cease to deliver? How do you measure peak efficiency? It is never acknowledged that Bass Coast is at the lower end of rates for similar councils. Is this arguable or deniable? A good starting point to study is the 'Know Your Council' webpage and identify Bass Coast performance.

A Wimbeldon Heights ratepayer recently took great effort to make the point that they get nothing from Council. What about town planning? Did anyone think the 400 lot residential estate at Cadogan west of Ventnor was a good idea? Years of our rates has paid council planners to put up the strong arguments that saw the State Government Minister of the day reverse his decision. There are numerous services provided to maintain the health and well-being of our community that go unnoticed.

The recent council decision to comply with the state government rate cap of 2.5% was difficult. The community has spoken. As a councillor, it is important to represent the majority view where possible. Now what? It is hard to believe that either state political party will go to future elections with a platform of increased rates. We now have a permanent situation. This is challenging and we must work together. There will be two main directions.

Firstly, the level of service delivery will drop as expenditure is reduced. An early example is closure of the Wonthaggi information centre for tourism use. However, what other uses can be considered of this central building? A bus interchange with toilets, shelter and a coffee shop?

Secondly, we will need alternative forms of revenue. Grants are the obvious choice. The natural assets of Bass Coast are treasured and appreciated by Melbourne people. The opportunity to define Bass Coast as more than a rural council was not fully grasped with the recent electoral review.

This is a failure and we must push harder in future.

User pays is an inevitability and the idea of a visitor charge is being discussed in the development of the Tourism Strategy. This is equitable and the Melbourne visitors will grasp the concept if it is matched with improved beach facilities and linked pathways.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Now that the entire community is on the low 2.5% rate increase page, we have an opportunity to move forward in unity and make our coast and community be even better.

Cr Phil Wright, Smiths Beach.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Publication No.
VBF 900597
Registered by
Australia Post.

editorial: advertiser@pisra.com.au

advertising: ads@pisra.com.au

sport: sport@pisra.com.au

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Displays and classifieds
3.30 p.m. Mondays

Suite 2, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes 3922

PO Box 667, Cowes 3922

Ph. (03) 5952 3201

Fax: (03) 5952 3024

Priceline Pharmacy Cowes

Present this voucher to receive

10% OFF

Storewide

Exclusive Priceline Pharmacy Cowes

Valid until 31st December 2015

Excludes gift vouchers & prescriptions

Priceline Pharmacy Cowes

24 Thompson Avenue, Cowes

Tel: 5952 2061

Trading Hours:

Mon - Fri: 8.30am-6.00pm

Sat: 8.30am-5.30pm

Sun: 9.00am-5.30pm



priceline
pharmacy



Friends of Smiths Beach Reserve

Bass Coast Shire Council has invited members of the Smiths Beach community to become involved in the management and enhancement of part of the Council-owned land that is known formally as Smiths Beach Drainage Reserve. It is the area to the east of the Smiths Beach car park, including the creek which runs down to the beach. In response to this invitation, approximately a dozen people have agreed to form the Friends of Smiths Beach Reserve group.

The possible objectives of the group are:

- A. To promote respect for the natural environment surrounding Smiths Beach, including the Smiths Beach Reserve, and to ensure that it is managed in accord with accepted sustainability principles;
- B. To work with Council on the design for public access to and through the Reserve, a valuable yet fragile public asset that provides many benefits to Bass Coast residents and visitors.
- C. To work with Council on the maintenance of the Reserve, including planting, weed eradication and other works as agreed.

Initially, Steve Demos is taking on the role of President and Bruce Wilson/Robyn Dale that of secretary for the time being. In the early conversations, it is apparent that many people are interested in the regrowth of healthy indigenous vegetation and the associated fauna, and public access for walking and enjoyment including clifftop paths.

All community people are welcome to join, and can do so by emailing Bruce Wilson at bruce.wilson@rmit.edu.au.