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SBA NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017

The mercury keeps dropping and there's that chill in the air which brings on our love/hate relationship with Winter. We have moody skies and friends are flying north to the sunshine. The great indoors will have to keep us entertained this time of year. Maybe it could be an art gallery or catching up with friends or some DVD's. We really miss that open fire that we used to have.

Graffiti

It is an Italian word that is the plural of the word 'graffito'. It usually is in the form of drawings or words on a wall or other surface. It is usually anonymous and mainly done without permission. We have all seen it on sides of buildings, billboards and partitions in public toilets. Archaeologists keep finding examples of graffiti from the days of ancient China, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

Last Easter, visitors to the Smiths Beach General Store were very annoyed to see spray-painted 'tags' everywhere defacing our buildings and local area. Kally, the Store's manager says that it often happens around there. **Why do people do this vandalism?**

It seems to me that the person needs to mark their territory like the dogs having a pee. Our unwanted black spray painted scribbles were daubed on the INSIDE of the lift-up glass covering our useless noticeboard. It was said that a former local Councillor and his family did a great job in cleaning it and the surroundings. Hopefully, someone could recognise the anonymous tagger's tag and contact the relevant authorities. When notified, our BCSC has a clean-up squad available from the Council Depot. They will bring their appropriate solvent cleaning materials and techniques and will remove any ugly outdoor daubings.

Indoors, marker pens are the weapon of choice used for their slogans and scribbles.

The blots on our landscapes, particularly along trainlines and freeways, are mainly from spray cans. Legally, a person under 18 years of age buying a spray can must have proof that it is to be used for employment purposes.

We, too, as kids may have been known to scribe our initials in some wet cement or concrete.

Not all graffiti is obscene, offensive, racist or political and unlawful. To reduce vandalism of public and private property, cities throughout the world have designated walls or areas to be used by graffiti artists. Some thoughtful artwork may take 30 minutes or up to a month. Stencils are often used to speed up their paintings.

Some artists are famous. A homeless graffiti artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat sold one of his artworks in New York recently for \$148.9 million. Banksy from the U.K. is one of the most notorious yet faceless man and his graffiti as an art form may be found in cities throughout the world including Melbourne. Our city also is world famous for its unique attraction for local and overseas visitors.

Hosier Lane is one of the many of our venues and is famous for its murals. There you will see crowds flocking to take their selfies and providing the background for their wedding parties.

As we know, our common written graffiti could be in the in the form of witty quotations, slogans and jokes and are the expressions of ideas. We all have our favourites such as "I don't know what apathy is and I couldn't care less" or "in the beginning was the word, and the word was Aardvark" etc.

Wherever you go in the world, non-ugly graffiti provides superb free entertainment.



Ian Shand, SBA Newsletter Editor

Edwina May

As we travel past the Tooradin Airport down the South Gippsland Highway, we look across the runways to see a boat that appears to have ploughed into the shore. It's been there for years. How did it get there? Who owns it? By consulting the Australian National Shipwreck Database, we find that this motor vessel has the name of "Edwina May". Its owner and builder was William Maxwell (Max) Curtain. He and his son Ray built boats in their backyard in Dandenong. They bought this Edwina May with the intention of adding a six metre centre to her hull to make it longer. They moored it in the shallow water off Tooradin where they worked on the restoration.

They had also produced a 23metre steel frame ferry that was also launched at Tooradin. Son Ray was to take it up to Darwin where it was to be used for a variety of activities. It was given the name of the 'Darwin Princess.' It was licenced to carry 200 and transported Telecom employees working for Radio Australia. Unfortunately, Cyclone Tracy was to hit Darwin on Christmas Day 1974. Ray was alone on the ship that he was captaining and he attempted to battle the storm. Tragically, both he and the ship were considered to be lost at sea. The wreck of the 'Darwin Princess' was eventually found in May 2004. The Coroner's finding was that "Raymond John Curtain, aged 28 perished at sea when the vessel sank due to dangerous winds and high seas."



Max kept working on the Edwina May but could not find a deep enough berth and without the help of his son, he simply beached it at the airfield. It is now trapped in the mangroves and is just rotting away for us to see and wonder about it.

Long Term Road Reserve Management

At the BCSC May meeting Council voted to accept the officer's report which listed the actions of the PIITS (Phillip Island Integrated Transport Strategy) and its CRG (Community Reference Group). As a follow up action 5 members of the CRG met with Councillors on 31/5 to discuss the way forward to implement:

- Improved Public Transport
- PIITS Actions
- Cowes Activity Centre Plan (CACP)
- Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) – Action 18
- Aspirational Pathways Plan

Action 18 of VES requires BCSC, Vicroads and the CRG to develop a **Tourism Roads Master Plan**. This has commenced with state government funding of a new roundabout at Cape Woolamai turnoff. The Back Beach Rd and Boys Home Rd roundabouts were also nominated for funding but funds were not allocated.

VicRoads have a budget of \$3m to develop the master plan and have commenced with community input into a Corridor Strategy from San Remo to Cowes. The next step is feedback on all Back Beach Rd Intersections taking into account Smiths Beach access, Racetrack, Gap Rd, Pyramid Rock Rd, Berry's Beach, Kitty Miller and The Nobbies.

At the SBA AGM 2017, a motion was passed to develop a Master Plan for Smiths Beach which will inform long term traffic flow. The most difficult question in the discussion is what planning horizons to consider. Is 20, 50 or a 100 years appropriate? What will be the visitor demand at Smiths Beach in 2100? Where can the cars park? How can the Smiths Beach intersections be made safer for pedestrians?

All strategies have concluded that to ensure that the Island is enjoyed by all users, we must reduce the domination of private cars. To state the obvious – the enjoyment of the island is achieved when we step out of our cars.



Phil Wright

From President Phil Dressing's Desk

Community Strengthening.

Has not progressed as fast as I perhaps naively thought it might. It means that if our Association is to grow we must work very hard at recruiting new members. At our next social get together, it would be really good if each of us invited a neighbour or two. Perhaps at our next New Year function, we can entice non-member Smiths Beachcomber property owners to join us and hear of the good work we're doing.



Beachcomber – YCW Activity Area Master Plan 2014

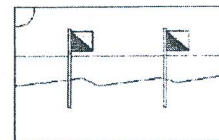
Members may recall that I had met with the new Council to determine their views on a "User Pays" principle to run a pilot program that might fund our Beachcomber – YCW Activity Area Master Plan endorsed by Council in 2014. The understandable view expressed at the time was that as the new Council had only been recently elected, it would like more time to research and formulate a view. I offered to do a bit of the "groundwork" with a view to putting a pilot program recommendation to Council at a later meeting. I commented to Council that I was not prepared to undertake this work if the Council failed to, in principle support "User Pays". I intend to take up the matter at the next most appropriate Council Community Session.

Smiths Beach Master Plan.

A couple of Smiths Beachcomber Association members met to scope the development of a Smiths Beach Master Plan. Discussions included the following issues:- A "Town Centre", storm water drainage, Smiths Beach Road car parking and walking paths included. Another approach will be made to Council at the same time as the above approach.

Our Tower

Mark Donaldson was the former club president of the Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (WBSLSC). He has been the driving force behind the project to build a Surf Life Saving Facility at Smiths Beach. He is extremely pleased to report that Bass Coast Shire Council has finally approved the planning permit for the building.. This paves the way for construction to commence once the lease agreement with Phillip Island Nature Parks has been signed. Kane Worthy Constructions won the contract to build the facility, which will be largely constructed off-site and installed in two sections onto pier footings that will be established onto the beach. This method minimises time on site and any impact on beach users and residents.



WBSLSC is extremely grateful for the sustained support it has received from a wide range of stakeholders, including our SBA and other local individuals and organisations. There are extensive planning hurdles involved in a project like this and while getting over these hurdles has required a sustained effort, the outcome is that the community will gain a really high quality facility that we hope will set a new standard in design quality and operational functionality for such buildings.

The WBSLSC expects to be running patrols from the new facility from the start of next summer and looks forward to being a regular part of the Smiths Beach community.

Have You Visited the "Speke" Lately?

An ideal adventure for taking family members, especially children, on a walk to see a real shipwreck. You need to park your car at the Kitty Miller Bay car park and be prepared for a walk along the shore in an easterly direction for twenty minutes or so. The wreck of the Speke which ran aground in 1906 and its metal structure has been rusting away since then. Your visit is better if it is at low tide and if you take your camera for some good photos. "Rockhounds say this beach was good for finding gemstones too.



SBA Facebook Page

We would like more people to be a friend of The Smiths Beachcomber Facebook page and post and read items of interest to our community.

You can access it at <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsBeachcomber2016>

Our Facebook ID is 1129303750428285

For more information, you may contact David Van Dort email on dav11car3@gmail.com



Good information is on our **SBA Website** smithsbeachcomber.com See our beautiful beach.

Odd Jottings

Vale John Clark – a great contributor to Phillip Island. “Thanks for your time!”

Don't forget to dead-head your agapanthus otherwise the seeds will drop and double the next crop.

Middle Age means that your clothes no longer fit you.

Don't tell people your dreams – Show them!

Some people dial 'triple letter 'O's, when in an emergency it is better to dial 'Triple Zeros.'

The signs of 'Birds on the road at night' have told us that our Shearwaters have flown to Alaska.

A life experience is the purest form of education. It will live forever in your memory.

Sport has more power to change attitudes than governments do. (Nelson Mandela)

More sayings my mother taught me

The following are a few more of those old expressions that flavoured her conversations.

What are some of the ones that you remember?

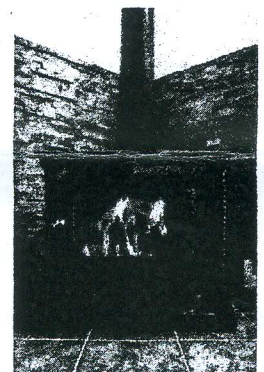
How about-- paint the town red, dice with death, true blue, set like a jelly, stick to your guns, as black as ink, game as Ned Kelly, like a fish out of water, make hay while the sun shines, put the cart before the horse, silly as a two-bob watch, as cool as a cucumber, not the full quid, as wise as an owl, spare the rod and spoil the child, know the ropes, set the world on fire, warm the cockles of your heart, as dead as a doornail, go like the wind, long in the tooth, another string to your bow, between the devil and the deep blue sea, like a bull at a gate and “I'm going to hit the hay.”



Check Your Heaters and Other Appliances

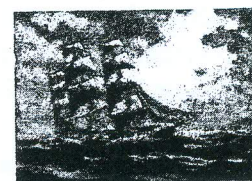
Are you prepared for the risk of a home fire this winter? As the weather gets colder, the use of heaters, electric blankets and other electrical equipment increases and there is always that increased risk of home fires at this time of year. Make sure that your chimneys and flues are clean as obstructions such as bird nests may block the flow of the smoke. As we all know, fire screens should be in front of open fires and heaters and items that could catch fire such as clothing and curtains should be at least one metre away from heaters.

We should also beware of Carbon Monoxide Gas which has been called “the silent killer” It may be produced by faulty gas heaters that have not been maintained with regular servicing Those flues should also be cleaned and room ventilation should be adequate. “Here ends your annual reminder.”



I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;
And the wheels kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking

'Sea Fever' – John Masefield.



Our Noticeboard (don't fix it – replace it)

The noticeboard outside the Smiths Beach General Store must surely be the worst design ever. The lock on the angled glass lift-up front has been broken for over a year now. Anyone that would pin their notices (including these SBA Newsletters) for passers-by to read will find them strewn up and down Smiths Beach Road. The wind has simply blown them all off when the glass panel cannot close properly. The BCSC has been notified about this major problem and we are yet to see it fixed.

More from the President's Desk

Aspirational Pathways. Your Association responded to the Bass Coast Shire in regard to their call for feedback on their Aspirational Pathway Plan. Our view was that we supported the continuation of the pathways provided environmental concerns were considered at all stages of the planning and implementation. Private ownership of land in places where a shared pathway could traverse remains an issue. Understandably, property owners must ask, what's in it for me?



Phillip Island Road Infrastructure Corridor Planning from San Remo to Cowes.

Your Association responded to a VicRoads request for feedback on their planning scheme in regard to the above. Our thrust was that VicRoads should consider a longer term view and plan for all roads on Phillip Island. The plan should include all relevant matters, including Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road and beyond that intersection. The intersection of Back Beach Road and Smiths Beach Road is one that is a priority. That is because resources are likely to be given to road sections and intersections where road deterioration or accident frequency and severity occur.

Coastcare at Smiths Beach. Following our AGM, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) was contacted with a view to forming a Coastcare Group. We were encouraged to apply for a 'Biodiversity On-ground Action – Community and Volunteer Action Grant.'

SBA member Phil Wright, applied on behalf of our Association. The Application was emailed to relevant parties, such as the Phillip Island Nature Park and Parks Victoria amongst others.

The project aims to co-ordinate the landowners to manage the vegetation as a single bio-link project highlighting the wildlife at the centre rather than the title boundaries. This will preserve and restore as a corridor built around existing native vegetation where regeneration can occur, movement of species is possible and ecosystem function is preserved. It will be a continuous linkage between the larger areas. It is important for the movement of birds and faunal species and floristic communities in regards to spread of genetic diversity. The outcome is awaited.

Phil Dressing

President

Immobilisers

Victoria apparently has the worst reputation for car thefts in Australia. Local auto electricians will supply and fit an immobiliser in your car if it does not have one when new. They are electronic security device fitted to your automobile that prevents the engine from running unless the appropriate key is used. It also prevents the car from being "hot-wired" after illegal entry has taken place and thus reduces motor vehicle theft. For further information, go to www.carsafe.com.au
Make enquiries too, about GPS car tracking devices if your vehicle has been stolen.



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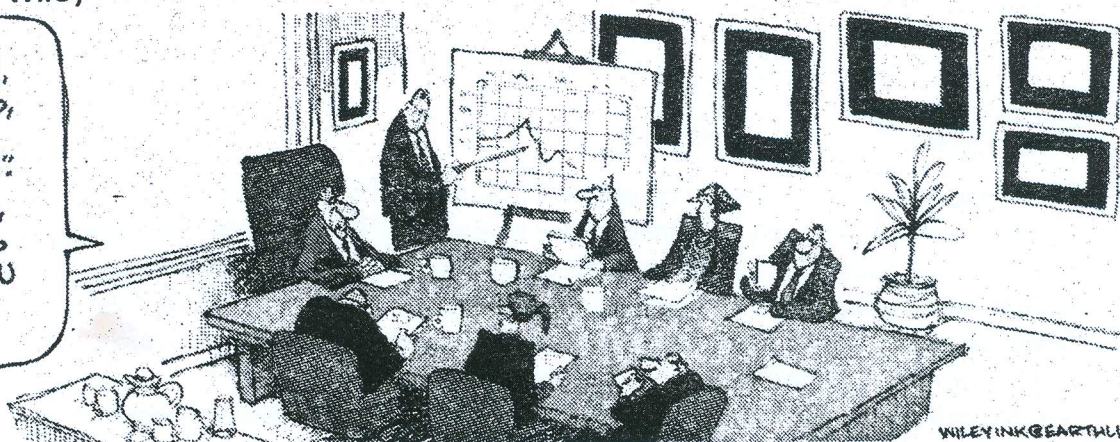
Smiths Beach General Store

Enjoy the taste of good coffee and great friendly service from Kally, Johan and staff. We serve the best burgers and nice food. Our focus on local produce includes Sourdough white and rye Bread delivered fresh every day. Buy your morning paper and stay for breakfast. Place your orders on 5952-2615. Don't forget to use your discount voucher for the Priceline Pharmacy and buy your regular copy of 'Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser' at our Store.



Non Sequitur by Wiley

AS YOU KNOW,
MY MOTTO IS,
"THE BUCK
STOPS HERE".
THE BLAME,
HOWEVER, IS
WHAT I PAY YOU
PEOPLE FOR



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