



Autumn



Reg'n No: A00045218
PO Box 19 Cowes, VIC 3922
President: Phil Dressing
Mob: 0423 058 510
Secretary: Robyn Dale
Mob: 0408 765 365
E: smithsbeachcomber.com

SBA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2019

Hello Autumn! Welcome to the first edition of our 2019 SBA Newsletter. for your bedtime reading. According to official statistics, we have experienced the hottest and driest Australian summer on record. Those warmer days are now numbered and those clothes are back in the wardrobe. Put on your milder weather jumper and go out and kick some leaves.

Coding in the Classroom

The computer must be rated as one of the world's most important inventions. As we know, it can be defined as an electronic device that allows the operator to access the internet, do research, create and complete work. It has now become an essential part of every student's education in a world that is growing to be increasingly digital. Advanced computer skills are in demand by employers and the workforce. Many out there have expressed concerns that students are not being equipped to face the challenges of the future. Students now need, they say, to develop better creative problem solving skills using our computers.

First of all, to make a computer do anything, we have to write a computer program.

There is this brand new subject that is being taught in the school curriculum of all Australian schools in their K-12 classrooms. It's called 'Coding.' It's where students have to learn how a computer thinks. Then they have to program it in a language that the computer will understand.

To write the computer program, you have to tell it in words the set of steps **exactly** what you want it to do to get the job done.

Coding in the classroom teaches computational thinking skills to solve problems.

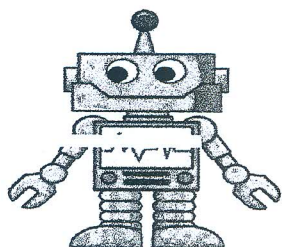
It may be taught as a separate subject with dedicated technology teachers or as part of the everyday classroom subjects. To be able to teach coding, teachers themselves have had to be fast-tracked with professional development programs and to learn how to use special equipment and software. It is possible that private schools may have more specialist teachers and equipment availability. All teachers may have a need to keep up with some of their enthusiastic students.

Once the students begin successfully using their lines of code, they can have fun creating their own apps, computer games, puzzles and play games to solve problems. Programmable robots are designed to nurture student interest in technology and coding. They are used to help the user to think logically and analytically for problem solving. It may lead to further applications in countless areas such as principles of engineering and electronics, computer aided design, healthy living, virtual reality, 3D Printing etc, Our local high school is giving classes in Robotics & 3D Printing.

The benefits of computer assisted coding in the classroom are endless.

Because of advances in technology and education, we are developing the skills of creative problem solving that fits us for any role in any industry in our ever growing digital universe..

With this new way of learning, we can ask our grandchildren for even more help.



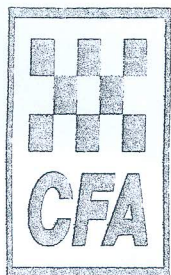
That Grantville Blaze

Some of us that were travelling to and from Phillip Island on the Bass Highway from the 1st to the 6th February found the road closed between The Gurdies and the Corinella Road. Firefighters were battling the flames of this major bushfire around Grantville. According to the PI & SR Advertiser, about 270 hectares of bushland in this area was burnt out..

Local firefighters reported that the blaze started south of the



township of Glen Forbes and it was most likely caused by a lightning strike. The Phillip Island CFA had up to 30 volunteers as part of a 300 strong team of firefighters who came from other CFA brigades from around the state. Wildlife officers were also busy rescuing injured animals. Thankfully, the work of the volunteers was largely tackled from the air, due to the limited access available for the fire trucks. Even so, it took six days for the Forest Fire Management Victoria to finally bring the fierce fire under control. The Highway was reopened with a reduced speed limit of 60km/hr. Community members were expressing their gratitude to all of the volunteers who had battled this blaze..



Amanda's Fundraiture

In our Autumn 2005 edition of this SBA Newsletter, we congratulated a local Paralympian, Amanda

Drennan, for swimming all the way around the 66km coastline of Phillip Island. She did it in five days in a specially built shark-proof cage. Her amazing swim was to promote the worthy cause of establishing a 24-hour medical facility on Phillip Island. Our Warley Hospital had recently been closed down and she wanted to raise some funds to replace it. In the SBA article, Amanda paid a tribute to her family, friends and support team and the boat owner that helped

her to achieve such an inspirational and magnificent effort.

She had previously won a bronze medal at the 2004 Paralympics in Greece and now as a 22-year old was to become the first person to swim around our Phillip Island. Amanda's goal was to raise \$50,000 and through her effort, the community managed \$43,350. This was invested in the Bendigo Bank for seven years awaiting the Phillip Island Health Hub to recently open its 24/7 doors on the 21st December 2018.

At long last, Amanda's donation was to contribute to the funding of our one-stop-shop for our medical and community health services. She is hoping that her donation will be spent on some piece of appropriate medical equipment necessary for our needs.



This Photo by

Pass On This Newsletter

When you have finished reading these pages, we would be pleased if you could give someone else your old copy. Better still, if they are not SBA members, you could suggest that they join us and add to our voice in the community affairs that affect Smiths Beach.

An Application for Membership form can be from our website. The great value annual subscription of \$20.00 can be sent to the Treasurer, P.O Box 94, Caulfield East, 3145



It seems the visitor numbers to our little patch of paradise at Smiths Beach have increased. No doubt it is due to the extended summer period. If the last long weekend was any indication, we're in for a busy few months up to at least Easter. We were invited to provide Bass Coast Shire with a proposal to obtain

funding and development of a Smiths Beach Master Plan. We came up with the above "brand" to put a name to our endeavour. We know that visitor numbers are going to increase (more feet) it's a matter of managing that increase to minimise the impact on our environment (less footprints).

Phil Wright and I attended Bass Coast Shire's Community Connections Session on Wednesday 13th March and presented "More feet ... Less footprints". Suffice to say the presentation was well received. However, there is a need to lobby Councillors to obtain the commitment to forge ahead with funding a Master Plan. Should any member like a copy of the presentation, email me at pwdressing@gmail.com and I'll provide an electronic copy.

We're very optimistic that our presentation will receive wide media coverage via local newspapers. Council continues to pursue an endeavour to have Bass Coast Shire declared under the 'Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act'. As previously mentioned, one of the outcomes of being declared a distinctive area is that town boundaries are set in legislation and altering town boundaries requires acquiescence from both sides of Parliament. I understand that it is an expensive and time consuming exercise. I also understand it also takes the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) out of the equation in such matters. Land banking may not be so attractive and rural land to the east and west of Smiths Beach, beyond our town boundary will be protected from urban development.

I'm pleased to announce that the first stage, albeit a small bit, of our **Beachcomber/YCW Activity Master Plan** is about to come to fruition. I met with a Council representative and discussed the location of the public BBQ and shade. This facility, identified on the Master Plan is the start of our Master Plan Project. I understand recurrent Council funding will be included in future Council budgets. One downside is that our proposed pilot 'user pays' model to further fund the Beachcomber/YCW Activity Master Plan has not gained traction. It appears Council is looking at a far broader application rather than at Beachcomber Estate alone. We'll continue to push the concept.

I have emailed Councillor Michael Whelan and Catherine Basterfield, CEO of Phillip Island Nature Parks, suggesting an Advisory Group be formed. Part of that email follows. VicRoads plan to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road. The smart drivers exiting Cowes may take advantage of accessing Phillip Island Road via Smiths Beach thus gaining "right of way" at the roundabout. I'd suggest Council and others have not considered the impact this will have on Smiths Beach.



I note that the Phillip Island Progress Association (PIPA) have also facilitated a meeting of interested groups and whilst our Association supported the need, was not represented at their initial discussion meeting convened last week. Our intent was to have an advisory group comprising senior representatives from the Shire, Phillip Island Nature Parks, VicRoads, local businesses and various community groups that could meet on a regular, say, quarterly basis.

From the President's Desk (Continued)

It would be to collaboratively work toward local problem solving and improve communication pathways. Our intent was to conjure support and if positive, convene a meeting to get things moving. The appointment of Ali Wastie could be a catalyst for this project. I suggest a primary meeting with Ali, Catherine, Michael and other Phillip Island Councillors, Regional Roads Victoria, Eastern Regional Manager, Destination Phillip Island, David Bennett and Fergus, Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group, Phillip Island Conservation Society, Totally Renewable Phillip Island and any other key people who could constructively add value. Happy to discuss further.



For those of you unaware, Ali Wastie has been appointed to the position of CEO, Bass Coast Shire, replacing Paul Buckley. I took the opportunity of, on behalf of our Association, welcoming Ali to our piece of paradise. I hope to meet with Ali again in the near future to present our credentials and discuss the above.

Aspirational Pathways continues to be high on our Agenda. The biggest challenge is convincing local landowners that a pathway would enhance their land value not detract from it. St.Bedes and Pacific Developments to our western boundary, present the biggest challenges.

We have heard no more from Council in regard to a special charge street scheme for our roads. Works have yet to commence in Surf Beach or Sunderland Bay. As previously mentioned, Smiths Beach is third in line.

I recently met with Jordan Crugnale, the new state Member for Bass. Jordan seems to be very conscious of local matters. I believe Council will commence re-negotiating with the State Government to obtain additional funding for another Business Case for the Car Ferry linking French Island, Cowes and Stony Point.

Contrary to previous advice, our new Smiths Beach noticeboard was installed on Wednesday 14/3. It has been a long drawn out affair but we've finally received a BCSC Permit to go ahead.

Our Association continues to be represented on PINP's Community and Environment Advisory Committee, Phillip Island's Totally Renewable Group and your President is also a Member of Council's Visitor Economy Strategy, Community Tourism Reference Group.

"Totally Renewable Phillip Island" continues to gain considerable traction on our Island. The Group's Chair Moragh Mackay hosted a public forum with Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Mark Butler. The forum was held at the Wonthaggi Coal Mine where a large array of solar panels has been erected. A \$5 million Grant Application has been made by the Group to fund further progress of Totally Renewable Phillip Island. An element discussed is to have solar power and batteries installed on Smiths Beach houses enabling the landowner to sell excess power requirements to the local community through a local, not for profit energy retailer. The aim is to become carbon neutral by 2035.

Phil

See You at the Smiths Beach General Store

Kally, Johan and staff welcome you and provide us with our daily milk, bread and newspapers to start your day. They have built a fine reputation for serving quality coffee, food and great friendly service. Come there for breakfast or any other meal or snack.

SBA Facebook Page

The Smiths Beachcomber Facebook page is now up and running.

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

It has been set up as a page as opposed to a profile.

The Facebook ID is 1129303750428285

It is set to accept posts from anyone.

Your comments and suggestions are most welcome.



Find us on
Facebook

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club

WBSLSC has been patrolling Smiths Beach this summer using our new lifesaving tower.

These patrols have included professional lifeguards who patrolled from 26th December to 3rd of Feb, including a week-long extension given the good weather and high numbers of beach goers. Professional lifeguards are typically volunteer members at WBSLSC (or sometimes neighbouring clubs) who have attained a high level of specialist qualification and have been through a rigorous and selective application process, to then act as paid life savers during the peak summer weeks. This service is paid for by Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council.

On weekends and public holidays throughout the rest of the summer, Smiths Beach, like Woolamai, is patrolled by a squad of 4-5 volunteer lifesavers. These patrols run from the last weekend in November until Easter Monday each season.

The Club reports that our new facility at Smiths Beach has substantially improved the effectiveness of patrols and cemented the sustainability of volunteers providing a service on the beach throughout the season.



Campbell Smart - one of WBSLSC's patrol captains commented "The shelter has enabled volunteers and paid lifeguards to patrol more effectively through its raised position and ability to provide first aid treatment facilities and a shelter - particularly during the more extreme weather that Phillip Island can experience. We're pleased to report that so far there have been no major incidents and all the patrolling members are looking forward to patrols at Smiths being a permanent feature of the WBSLSC services to residents and visitors to the island".

Mark Donaldson (Former WBSLSC President)

Odd Jottings

Our Warley Hospital closed in 2008 and the Phillip Island community has fought hard to have urgent health care reinstated. At long last, in December 2018, we now have our Health Hub in Church Street, Cowes to provide our 24/7 medical service. **Three Cheers!**

A most enjoyable Social Get together for all was held at the President's house on 27th January -

We now have a lovely green Notice Board outside the Smiths Beach Store. Thanks, BCSC!

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

The poison of a Blue-ringed octopus can kill a human in a matter of minutes. There is no known antidote.

Several were netted by some fishermen at the Cowes Pier recently. Swimmers beware

Personal fulfilment is often through human relationships that make us happy.

At least the war on the environment is going well.

Explore and enjoy the glorious Autumn in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne.