

**sba**

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## **SBA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019**

Welcome to our Spring edition with the worst of winter behind us. There's a touch of warmth, and the gardens are bursting into bloom. There are blossoms everywhere and glorious wattle trees. The birds are singing sweetly. At last, Sprightly Spring is here. We now prepare for the warmer months with a spot of spring cleaning, mowing and weeding. Spare a thought for those suffering from hay fever or other allergies.

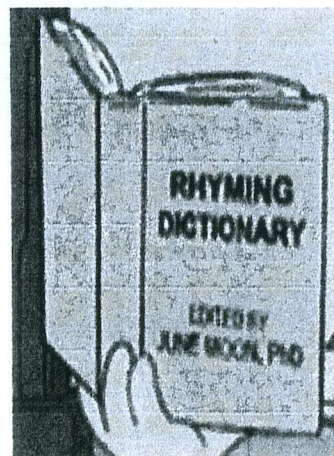
### **Poetic Rhyming**

Where did you first learn words that rhymed? Was it from your mother singing a lullaby to you or someone taught you to recite nursery rhymes? Could it have been when someone sang "Good old Collingwood Forever" to you or "We're from Tiger land" while you were sitting on someone's knee. We were to learn jingles such "happy little Vegemites,, about Weetbix Kids and aeroplane jelly" from the radio or TV. In our kindergarten years we would sing, dance and clap to a rhythm with others joining in. Church hymns were learnt and and maybe at Sunday-school to sing "All things bright and beautiful."

Skipping was a favourite way to learn rhymes as you twirled the rope around.to "Cinderella dressed in yella went downstairs to meet her fella," It was a typical chant as you counted the number of turns before you missed a skip.

Primary school was where we first sang the words of the National Anthem and had to learn to recite poetry from the 'Readers' that came with each year level. We had to learn poems 'by heart' and had to recite them compulsorily in front of the class. Memorising facts could also be achieved with rhyme such as "thirty days hath September, April, June and November etc."

More poems were also learnt outside the schoolroom door. Playground jokes, anti-teacher rhymes, hand-clapping, hopscotch, counting-out rhymes in hide-and-seek. There were rituals to determine who would be 'He' or 'Out'. ("one potato, two potato, three potato, four") or passed on naughty rhymes such as "ask your mother for sixpence to see the new giraffe etc.". Boring trips were made more enjoyable passing the time with rhyming songs. Teams learn co-operation to become better team players and would bond more by the singing or chanting their club theme song. Poetry like this has been handed down over the years. All through the centuries people have socialised and amused themselves this way with poetic rhyming. Do you remember when you first started with Rhyming Poems?



This Photo by Unknown

**We've included a Member's Poem for your enjoyment.**

**Ian Shand SBA Newsletter Editor**



## THE NORTH WEST

"Beer's run out too bloody soon" said the old man looking bereft,  
"it's just three in the afternoon, swear I'd half a glass left  
I waved to the girl behind the bar and pointed to his empty pot,  
he turned to me, smiled and said "you're a gent, lad, thanks a lot".

We talked about the cricket and sneered at the latest follies  
of our current batch of useless State and Federal 'pollies',  
how no horse could ever match Phar Lap in a two mile race;  
then he began to reminisce with an faraway look on his face.

"Tell me, son, have you ever been to the great North-West?  
Of all the places on this God's earth it's the bloody best.  
Did many a cattle drive there on the old Canning tracks  
where it reaches fifty in the shade, fair scorches horses' backs."

He described the orange glow of fires when nights were cold,  
seeing in crackling Brigalow ghostly faces, red and gold,  
how the barren rocky sand changed when, across the plain,  
gales from a summer cyclone dumped more than a foot of rain.

The water soaked away and left an unforgettable scene,  
square miles of Desert Peas, red and black on rosettes green.  
Told of ochre river gorges and the red Pindan soils of Broome  
where the love of his life now lay in a rocky Kimberley tomb.

How the North-West sunsets were the best he'd ever seen,  
crimson, orange, pink and gold with a final flash of green,  
shell-strewn beaches, shining white, half a mile wide  
and the incredibly swift advance of a thirty three foot tide.

"What I'd give for one more look' he muttered, wiping a tear,  
'but doc says I'm too crook, will 'kark' it in less than a year."  
I felt my life incomplete, how little I had done 'til then  
As I watched him shuffle back to the "Salvos" home for men.

"DRVD"

## Bandicoot Island

The mainland Eastern Barred Bandicoot is extinct due to predation by foxes, domestic animals and loss of their habitat. An Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) Recovery Team has managed to build three reserves in Victoria with fox-free fencing to try to save them from extinction. A fox-free island would be the most satisfactory environment and so Phillip Island would be ideal. A trial release of 20 EBBs was carried out on Churchill Island in 2015 by researchers from the Phillip Island Nature Park, Zoos Victoria and the EBB Recovery Team. The program proved successful and a further 44 EBBs were released In October 2017 on the Summerland Peninsular. The success of these captive breeding programs makes the EBB Team hopeful that the wild population can increase beyond the fox-free fenced reserves on the mainland. Recent sightings of some escaped EBBs have caused concern. Wildlife volunteers are worried that there is the danger of them becoming road-kill. For their preservation, it is suggested that we drive slower at night in the above areas of release. Cats and dogs are also potential enemies. We must protect our breeding population of these beautiful endangered animals..





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Victorian State Government Regional

#### Tourism Review:

The Victorian State Government released their Regional Tourism Review Discussion Paper in July, 2019 and followed that with a number of workshops held throughout the State. A Workshop was held on Phillip Island on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019 at which our Association was represented. A really great question was tabled early in the session. "What is the greatest retardant to significant regional tourist expansion on Phillip Island?" There is no question visitor numbers are going to increase. Managing same is going to be the game.



**Smiths Beach Master Plan:** Following numerous presentations to the Bass Coast Shire Councillors and at various meetings, I'm proud to announce that the Shire has allocated \$150,000 toward development of a Smiths Beach Master Plan. Phil Wright and I met with Bass Coast Planning Manager, Donna Taylor and Project Manager, Chris Pecket, and discussed a number of aspects that we would like to see addressed in the draft plan. I understand the process from here is that Donna and Chris will present a briefing to Councillors and that Council will appoint a consultant to draft a plan. There will be plenty of opportunities for Smiths Beach ratepayers to have input into the draft. It is an exciting time for ratepayers to have a say in what they'd like their community to look like.

**Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act:** Bass Coast Shire Council are very keen to have our Shire declared under the **Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act**. If successful, an outcome will be the formal recognition of town boundaries within legislation. I understand the existing Smiths Beach town boundary is bordered by Dolphin Drive to our East, Beachcomber Avenue to our West, Bass Straight to our South and Back Beach Road to our North. If this township boundary is legislated, residential growth beyond these boundaries will be extremely difficult to accomplish and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal will have no jurisdiction to change those boundaries.

**Smiths Beach General Store/Shop:** Johann and Kally have hung up their aprons and will not be renewing their lease on the Smiths Beach Shop. A gathering of ratepayers and friends met together at the shop to wish Johann and Kelly the very best for their future. I understand they will remain on the Island. Sarah and Chris have taken up the lease on the shop. The coffee is as good as it was. I commend you to support our little meeting place.



**Smiths Beachcomber Social:** To formally introduce Chris and Sarah to our community and to enable Smiths Beach Ratepayers to meet and greet each other, we've arranged to have a **social get together** at the shop on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm**. Those of you with a horse racing bent will realize that Melbourne Cup Day falls on the following Tuesday and likely the preceding Monday with be a "rostered day off". **Put the date in your diary**. Finger food will be provided. Bring a bottle of your finest red or, if you prefer, a soft drink, a beer or a white wine, Take a glass, meet Chris and Sarah and enjoy the friendship.

**Aspirational Pathways:** Part of the Visitor Economy Strategy is the development of an Aspirational Pathway around Phillip Island. To that end, a couple of us together with representatives from Phillip island Nature Parks and the Shire will be undertaking a walk from Sunderland Bay to Smiths Beach. The endeavour will be to explore a possible formal pathway but the challenge will be private landowners allowing access to their properties.

**Beachcomber YCW Activity Master Plan:** Discussions with Bass Coast Shire Planning staff indicated that the BBQ detailed in the Master Plan will be constructed before the end of the year. It is to be located on the south eastern aspect of the first car park. This facility is identified on the Smiths Beachcomber Activity Master Plan as "F"



## From the President's Desk (Continued)

**Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI):** Your Association is represented on this group. An open day was held at the Cultural Centre on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. Various presenters delivered information on many aspects of the desire for **Phillip Island to be carbon free by 2030**. Included were sessions on Electric Vehicles, Renewable Energy, Carbon Farming and many others.

The first Australian Carbon auction was conducted thanks to the generosity of Bob and Anne Davey from "Bimbadeen" farm. Bob and Anne are the first carbon farmers on Phillip Island and donated tonnes of carbon for auction. The first tonne sold for \$800.00. Some would say carbon farming on Phillip Island is the future. There may be some opportunities for Smiths Beach ratepayers to benefit from installation of solar systems on their roofs. As a preliminary step, I'd suggest you access <https://eico-op.org.au/event-totally-renewable-phillip-island-open-day/>



**Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study (PIITS):** Phil Wright, the previous Chair of PIITS delivered a personal presentation to the Bass Coast Shire Community Connections Session a couple of weeks ago. That presentation centred upon access to and from East Cowes. There is a PIITS Community Reference Group meeting planned for Monday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Your President has been invited to attend as an observer. There is concern about the outcomes of a roundabout being constructed at the corner of Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road. Depending upon the design, the dynamic of the intersection may change where traffic heading east along Phillip Island Road may have to give way to traffic entering the roundabout from Back Beach Road. The reverse of the current situation. Ramifications may include traffic using Gap Road, Smiths Beach Road or even Bermagui Crescent, Sunset Strip to access the right of way from Back Beach Road.

**Phillip Island Nature Park's Community and Environment Advisory Group:** Our Association continues to participate on this Group.

**Smiths Beach Special Charge Scheme:** As previously reported, we've heard no more from Council regarding a special charge street scheme for making our roads.. Works have yet to commence in Surf Beach or Sunderland Bay. Smiths Beach is third in line. Undoubtedly, this aspect will be included in the Smiths Beach Master Plan.

Phil

## Police Keeping in Touch / Always on the Job

Theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles are a major issue particularly at Smiths Beach according to recent police reports. They can only repeat their warnings to you to make sure you lock your car and don't leave valuables visible in it. If this can't be avoided, lock them in the boot. It has been a time-honoured practice particularly among surfers to hide their car keys somewhere on or about their car (e.g. on the top of a tyre) It has then been the common practice for clever thieves to check well-known likely spots to have access to your valuables inside the car.

By the way, all Victorians are now encouraged to use the 24-hour police assistance phone line and online reporting service for the community to connect with to contact them about non-urgent crimes and events. (instead of using 000)

The new **Police Phone Number for Non-emergency Calls is 131 444**





### Spring is the breeding season for birds

It's magpie swooping season. Magpies have had a bad press at this time of year as they do their best to build their nests, protect their eggs and feed their young. Their dive-bombing can be quite frightening and have been known to cause serious accidents. If you must travel in their territory, for protection wear a hat, carry an umbrella or wear sunglasses. As they tend to attack your eyes, one solution was to wear a bike helmet and paint a pair of eyes on the back of it.

It's nesting time from July to December for the Masked Lapwing Plovers too. They are those birds that lay their eggs on a few scraps of grass in the middle of sports grounds or other flat cleared land. When disturbed, they will run quickly in a short burst and then stand perfectly still to steer you away from their eggs. They can also be ferocious when protecting their young by screaming abuse as they go on the attack on you as a potential predator.

Try and keep away from their homes at this time of year

Our Short-tailed Shearwaters or Mutton Birds will have returned from their round-trip to Alaska towards the end of September. You may welcome them home.



### Our New Car-Park in Cowes

Our new Car Park and Transit Centre between Chapel and Church Streets behind the Cowes Cultural Centre is now open for business. It has sheltered bus bays with seating, public toilets, vehicle parking spaces, two electric vehicle charging bays, bicycle storage racks and a taxi zone..

### New Roundabout on its Way

Works on a \$7 million dual-lane roundabout are underway at the intersection of the Phillip Island Tourist Road and the Woolamai Beach Road. Preliminary work has to be done re-locating water mains, sewer mains, telecommunications infrastructure prior to excavation work. Hopefully all of these requirements should be completed by Christmas to begin actual construction early in the new Year. It has been the site of frequent accidents and long periods of vehicle delay. The program is funded by grants from the State and Federal governments and constructed by Regional Roads Victoria.

### Pass It On

When you are finished with this Newsletter, pass it on to a friend or neighbour or better still, get them to join the SBA, It's great value and only costs \$20 a year. An Application for Membership Form can be downloaded from our website...Send your subscription to-  
The Treasurer, SBA, P.O. Box 19, Cowes VIC 3922

### Odd Jottings

Our Noticeboard outside our Store has been replaced.

Three Phillip Island Bulldogs Football teams won their Grand Finals. Both netball teams competed in Grand Finals and came away as runners-up for the 2019 season

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Be yourself because everyone else is taken

Save timber. Buy antiques

They say the healthy have many wishes. The sick have only one.

Be with the people who bring out the best in you, not the stress in you.



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### The Smith's Beach General Store is Back in Business

- Owner of the business is Donna Newton who also owns Businesses The Jolly Lolly Trolley and Phillip Island Coffee & Co in Cowes
- Managing is Donna's Son Chris Hayward and his partner Sarah Francis
- Theme behind new business is a General Store with necessities available as well as good simple, wholesome, hearty foods and drinks for locals and tourists to enjoy taking down to the beach or having in. Also introducing an ice cream parlour soon
- Smiths Beach Opening Hours Thursday to Monday 7.30am to 5pm closed Tuesday Wednesday (this will change around school holidays until after summer to open 7 days) and also later opening hours coming up
- Herald Sun, The Age, The Australian, The Advertiser and Sentinel Times Newspapers are available, if locals are wanting on regular basis we have ordering system available, so please let us know and we can put your name down for one.
- Phone Number 5952 2574
- Food available: Fresh Rolls/Wraps/ Croissants/ Homemade Spicy and Plain Sausage Rolls/ Pies/ Homemade Cakes biscuits as well as Fried Food
- Phillip Island Coffee & Co supply our coffee which is roasted in house in Cowes
- Specialty hot chocolate, wet chai and Turmeric lattes available as well as Milkshakes for the big and little kids

Kind regards

Sarah Francis