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SBA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021

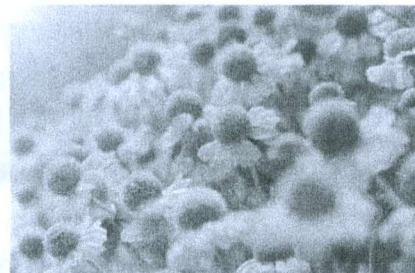
Once more our living with the Covid year has fled. It's time for the sunscreen and mangoes. There;s no more zoomings so let's have a lo-stress summer of BBQ's and mosquitos. We can look forward to the year ahead with confidence and maybe for a time of achievement as well.

That Lovely Gorse

The Shand's bought their Waikiki Crescent property in 1982. Our access to the beach was an extremely narrow track created by neighbour John Nelson. It found its way through the 2 to 3 metre tall dense, spiky, woody shrubbery of ***Gorse Bush***. It is one of Victoria's most invasive and destructive weeds and was introduced as a hedge plant in the 1800s. It grows in impenetrable thickets. With its spiny stems, it is next to impossible to grub it out and there were acres and acres of this horrible plant for us to try and minimise..

In our previous SBA Newsletter, we wrote of the passing of the late Professor Peter Fensham and how he and his son Rod were to construct their Beachcomber Avenue house. Roderick Fensham was also later to become a professor of botany. His recent title was Principal Botanist and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Geographical Science and Planning in the University of Queensland. His research related to the ecology and conservation of native vegetation.

Back in those early 1980's in his Smiths Beach days, Rod would lead teams of SBA members and friends to attack the noxious plants along our coastline. One warm, sunny day in January, he and a working bee set out with their secateurs, brushes for poisoning with herbicide and gardening tools. They managed to successfully remove some dreaded gorse and blackberries along the coastline to Express Point. At other times, Rod's working bees were at the YCW beach where they once again filled trailers to gratefully take their loads of gorse to the tip.



Despite the unpleasing nature of our gorse, in the spring time they produce crops of large areas of bright yellow flowers. The author was walking along YCW beach with a friend who was visiting from England. He was to look up and comment on the spectacularly beautiful and gorgeous yellow fields along the shoreline. "If only he knew!". Life's like that—it's a mixture the good and the bad..

The Smiths Beachcomber Association Committee take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, joyful and relaxing time for your Christmas season and a healthy and prosperous (2022) new year.

Ian Shand SBA Newsletter Editor

SBA ANNUAL SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER

10.30 am on Sunday 2nd January 2022

At the home of Robyn Dale and Bruce Wilson

220 Smiths Beach Road (opposite Store)

“What has your SBA been up to this Year?” Come and find out.

Bring a plate or drinks to share

All welcome. Bring one of your neighbours & your friends

We look forward to seeing you there

Recent AGM info

After those numerous Lockdowns, our 44th AGM was held in the magnificent buildings of the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. Phil Dressing welcomed everyone and chaired the meeting with active participation from the 19 or so members present. They accepted and passed the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 21st April 2019. Our Secretary, Robyn Dale read our current annual meeting Minutes which were also approved. Some meeting items were the Election of Officebearers for the coming year. Our current SBA Treasurer, John Steward stepped down from this position after several decades in that role. The meeting expressed their thanks with acclamation for his fine achievement. The new Treasurer, Peter Vaughan was to arrange a change in our bank and banking in the new year. Our Annual Membership and Subscription was to remain at \$20 for a family as from 1st January each year. A Form will be attached to this SBA Summer Newsletter

SBA Officebearers for 2022 are— President Phil Dressing, Secretary Robyn Dale, Treasurer Peter Vaughan and Committee , Phil Wright, Narelle Crothers and Noel Halford.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club

The following information relates to patrols for Smiths Beach for the season as follows:

Pre-season

Smiths Beach: 27/11/2021 – 24/12/2021 Mon-Sun- 10AM-6PM

Main Season

Smiths Beach: 26/12/2021 – 26/01/2022 Mon-Sun- 10AM-6PM

Post Season

Smiths Beach: 27/01/2022 – 23/02/2022 Mon-Sun- 10AM-6PM

Times may sometimes be based on volunteer ability and availability.



Snakes Alive

In August, residents of Newhaven reported seeing a snake near their walking track. It was thought to be a Copperhead by conservationists from the Phillip Island Nature Parks as they are the only variety to be found on Phillip Island. They cannot hear sounds as we can but they detect vibrations through the ground. They are a protected species and may be seen basking in the sun. Although venomous, they are not an aggressive reptile and usually slither away before you see them. With warmer weather on the way, be more cautious.

Non Sequitur by Wiley



I read somewhere of an old Cree Indian prophesy –
“Only when the last tree has been cut down
Only when the last river has been poisoned
Only when the last fish has been caught
Only then will we find that money cannot be eaten.”

Odd Jottings

Have you an emergency evacuation Plan?

The pen gives way to the keyboard

The tourists soon will outnumber the residents

Birthdays are good for your health. If you have more, you live longer

Paddy says to Mick "Christmas is on a Friday this Year" Mick says,

"Let's Hope it's not on the 13th."

Have you ever had an "out of money experience" lately?

Try to De-clutter and get rid of ten things in your life by New Year's Day

The Cowes carnival will return over the summer holidays, even though the property was sold last June

Achieved the target of more than 90% of double-doses. Now for the booster

Acupuncture is a job well done. That's the point of it.

This New Year 2022, why not:

- ☐ Mend a quarrel
- ☐ Seek out a forgotten friend
- ☐ Write a love letter
- ☐ Share some treasure
- ☐ Give a soft answer
- ☐ Encourage youth
- ☐ Keep a promise
- ☐ Find the time
- ☐ Forgive an enemy
- ☐ Listen
- ☐ Apologise if you were wrong
- ☐ Think first of someone else
- ☐ Be kind and gentle
- ☐ Laugh a little
- ☐ Laugh a little more
- ☐ Express your gratitude
- ☐ Gladden the heart of a child
- ☐ Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth
- ☐ Speak of your love
- ☐ Speak it again
- ☐ Speak it still once again

Have a happy new year.

User Pays:

We have pushed for adoption of a "User Pays" program whereby visitors, not ratepayers, to our township contribute in a financial sense, the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities used. Council have advised they're investigating a much broader "User Pays" program.

We also advocated adopting the vacant land opposite the shop as a community space.

Smiths Beach Shop Liquor Licence Application:

Most of you will be aware that the new tenants of the Smiths Beach Shop have applied for a Full Liquor Licence. Following receipt of a number of expressions of discontent from SBA Members in regard to the application, it was decided to lodge a formal objection to the application on behalf of your Association. Our full objection, including our names and addresses were provided to the applicant. Again I'd be happy to elaborate on the reasons for our objection if so desired. The tenants have lodged a Planning Application with the Bass Coast Shire. We are unaware as to whether the tenants have received their Liquor Licence.

Bass Coast Shire's Visitor Economy Strategy: Phil Wright and I both members of the Working Group. Not a great deal has been happening. Councillor David Rooks is now chairing the Working Group.

Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act: Council awaiting a Statement of Planning Policy before progressing any further.

Regional Roads Victoria Road speed limit investigation: Disappointingly Rural Roads Victoria has formally indicated that the speed limit on Smiths Beach Road north of Back Beach Road is now 80 kilometres an hour. Your Association responded to the request for speed limit input and we advocated for a 60 kilometres an hour speed limit along this piece of road. We'll be in contact with Phillip Island Adventure Resort to take up the challenge of having this silly speed limit reviewed.



Phillip Island Nature Park's Community Engagement Advisory Group: I have been recently re-appointed to the Group representing our Association.

Car Ferry: Council have applied for a grant to conduct another business case this time including the existing pier.

Regional Roads Planning: The roundabout at Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road intersection has now been completed and I must say, my earlier concerns about its impact have to some degree been allayed. I have not observed the impact on a really busy weekend as yet.

Newsletter: Many thanks to Ian Shand for his ongoing work.

Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy: Bass Coast Shire have recently released for public comment. The purpose of the project is to facilitate sustainable tourism development in appropriately located rural areas and assist with the ongoing COVID 19 recovery. Public submission deadline has been extended to the 17th December. Further consultation will be undertaken in February, 2022 when a draft strategy has been prepared. Six (6) rural areas have been identified, and include 'Five Ways' Racetrack Rural Activity Zone and Newhaven Rural Tourism Precinct.

I'll take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe 2022.

Phill Dressing

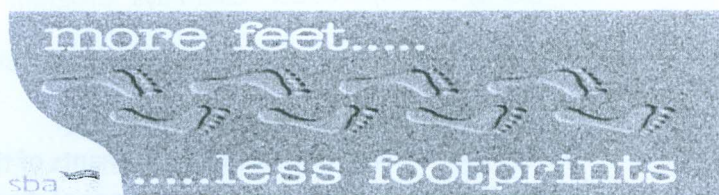
President

December 2021

From the President's Desk

44th Annual General Meeting:

Finally, our 44th Annual General Meeting was convened at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort on Sunday 21st November, 2021. Your Executive Committee was nominated and the following were elected: President – Phil Dressing. Secretary - Robin Dale; Treasurer – Peter Vaughan and Committee Members – Narelle Crothers, Phil Wright and Noel Halford.



If your Association is to remain a strong voice adequately representing Smiths Beach ratepayers, we must increase our membership base. This will be a Committee priority this year.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) impact:

I'm sure we all know someone dramatically impacted by Coronavirus (COVID 19). Whether knowing someone who has caught the virus or business retardation or worse. The fact that we have not convened an AGM for nearly two years, notwithstanding two previous meeting dates being postponed, is testament to the difficulties posed. An inability to convene face to face meetings impacted the administration of your Association for which, as President, I take full responsibility.

But on a positive note we have accomplished some pretty remarkable outcomes over the last two years.

Draft Smiths Beach Town Plan:

After protracted lobbying, we were successful in having a Draft Smiths Beach Town Plan tabled and adopted by the Bass Coast Shire. Suffice to say, at times, emotions ran high.

Your Executive submitted what I consider to be a very professional response. We provided views, perhaps not all in agreeance with all SBA Members nor for that matter the Bass Coast Shire.

I believe all Smiths Beach ratepayers have had access to our response both directly and through the Bass Coast Shire web site. I don't wish to replicate all our recommendations included in our response but it would be remiss of me not to raise a couple of issues that members expressed quite a deal of angst.

Firstly, the proposed walkway between Smiths Beach and YCW. The Draft Plan's narrative specifically mentioned walkways and pathways, including a ten metre wide easement along the southern side of Waikiki Crescent and Beach Court. Then a photo of a roadway was included within the Draft Plan. It presented a different perspective on what was being suggested.

Our response objected to the proposal as presented. In fact St. Bede's College and a number of ratepayers also objected. Your Executive is in discussion with Council regarding a number of options with this land. One option is to negotiate with St Bede's to donate part of their land, that which has no structures upon it, to the Phillip Island Nature Park, giving it back to the community. Some ratepayers are of the view that that portion of land is valueless on the basis little can be done with it. It cannot be subdivided, built upon in any form, may fall within the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act and subject to various inhibitive Council overlays. Council have not ruled out compulsory acquiring the land.



Reg: A0004521S

Smiths Beachcomber Association inc. SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Subscription is \$20 per household and is for 1 January to 31 December each year.

Membership details:

Name

Home Mailing Address

Property address

Phillip Island

Telephone Numbers Home Mobile

E-mail.

Would you like the quarterly bulletin also sent to you by e-mail?

Subscription of \$20.00 for the year

Voluntary Donation: ☒ ☐ \$10.00 ☐ \$20.00 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other

Payable to Smiths Beachcomber Association Inc National Bank (NAB)

BSB 083-088 Account Number 481570687 Date paid to bank.../.../...

Reference - Your Name

Please pay your subscription into the above bank account and send this form to:

The Treasurer, Smiths Beachcomber Association inc

P.O. Box 19 Cowes VIC 3922

Cash/cheque/money order can be sent to the above address with this form