



Autumn



Reg'n No A0004521S
RMB 5090. Cowes Vic 3922
President: Phil Dressing
0423 058 510
Secretary: Robyn Dale
0414 706 148
Email
smithsbeachcomber.com

SBA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

Welcome back to our first seasonal edition for the year 2022. "Let's hope it's a good one without any fear," sang John Lennon. Our steady decline in Coronavirus (COVID 19) has us dusting off those shelved travel plans. With all our recent experiences, perhaps some 'flu' injections won't be a bother to us. With our summer seasons getting longer with our winters in retreat, maybe this could be a factor that has caused both male and female team sports to be on the increase. Now it will be good walking weather, so go out and kick some leaves.

Vale John Steward

Members of the Smiths Beachcomber Association were deeply saddened with the loss of our beloved Treasurer, John Steward. He passed away aged 87 on New Years Day 2022 following a fall and a stroke. He was born in 1934 in Glenhuntly and spent his early years living there. He went to Melbourne Grammar School and later studied accountancy and was employed in this field for all his working life. He married in 1962 and they had a son, Duncan in 1965. Unfortunately, he and his father John, were to lose their wife and mother through illness in 1974.

John was to later meet a fellow accountant, Joy Fowler, who was in the process of building a house at Smiths Beach. She was very active in local affairs and soon John was to join her in them. They were both to be Founding Members of our Smiths Beachcomber Association (the SBA) as they attended the very first meeting held on 27th June 1976. After many further activities within our organisation later, they were to marry in March 1977. They lived in their home in Queens Avenue, Caulfield opposite the racecourse. They sold their other holiday house in Somers to keep their Waikiki Crescent Smiths Beach home. John's son, Duncan says that he was able to convince them of this as the surf was better on Phillip Island.

Both John and Joy became our

Treasurers for long and at different times of our SBA's history. John's accounting friends provided an Auditor for our finances every year at our AGMs. John and Joy were married for 41 years and were to travel widely with Duncan in Australia and overseas. John's other interests were his vast collection of coins, stamps and postcards. He also would get into trouble with some neighbours because he would make up balls of meat to feed his flocks of magpies each night. John's health had its ups and downs but he always remained cheerful particularly when the Richmond Tigers were doing well. Here we celebrate the memories of a valued and hard-working member of our Association. Our SBA sends their sincere condolences to Duncan and Wendy.

Ian Shand SBA Newsletter Editor

Annual Subscriptions

At this time of year the SBA has to remind you that our Annual Subs are due and payable from the 1st January each year. It's a great value at \$20 per family each year. Our SBA Subscription Form can be obtained from our SBA Website at smithsbeachcomber.com. Please email our Treasurer, Peter Vaughan at pva78816@bigpond.net.au with your completed form without any of the NAB banking information.

The SBA is currently replacing our banking details since the last Treasurer passed away. Payment details will eventually be detailed on our SBA website at smithsbeachcomber.com The new bank details, when available, will be Bendigo Community Bank @ Cowes. We are waiting on their bank account number, which will be available on the web site as soon as possible, and in our next newsletter.

This is what your \$20 Annual Subs pay for

Keeping contact with the members

Printing and postage of the SBA Newsletter four times each year

Other mailouts for the AGM and special events during the year

Insurance premiums for Public Liability, working bees etc (currently \$766.56)

Informing politicians, local organisations, newspapers etc of our activities

SBA Publications e.g. our Plants for Smiths Beach Brochure, SBA History Notes

Tubes of Plants given out to encourage local residents to 'green' our gardens.

SBA Annual Social Get-Together

Once again it was held at the home of Robyn Dale & Bruce Wilson. We met at 10.30am or so on Sunday 2nd January in our new year of 2022. It was a fine sunny day and members enjoyed their social chats. Over our snacks with our coffees and cool drinks we discussed items that we heard about that the SBA had been doing this year, and what future plans may be in store. We all thanked Robyn and Bruce for their kind hospitality.

Your Fire Hydrant

One of our SBA members at a Country Fire Authority information table was asked to see if they had checked the condition of the nearest fire hydrant to their property.

To find it, they were told they had to look for blue reflective markers in the middle of roads. Then on the nearby nature strip there should be a small white post with a red top. It will indicate the location of a metal or plastic cover housing your hydrant for your local brigade to access. Sometimes the post could be missing or vandalised or there could be overgrown foliage covering it. If there is any problem, contact the CFA on 1300 226 2 What is the condition of your fire hydrant? Have a look to see that it is OK

From the President's Desk

Coronavirus (COVID 19) Impact

In our Summer edition I mentioned the impacts Coronavirus (COVID 19) was having on our local economy. Our family fell foul of the virus in early February but our symptoms were quite mild compared to some others. All our family had received two doses of vaccination and were due for the booster when the virus hit. No sore throat but general aches and pains, lethargy and a chesty cough. The isolation was probably the most difficult part of the virus. We self-reported to Services Victoria following positive Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) outcome and to their credit, we were receiving daily telephone calls checking on our symptoms and progress. Some five weeks later a mild cough is the only remaining symptom.

From a local economic point of view, many businesses continue to struggle. Staff availability seems to be the main problem and I fear this may be with us for some time.

Smiths Beach House and Land Values:

Arguably, good news is the fact that house and land prices in Smiths Beach have gone ballistic. I am aware of a block of land with a holiday house thereon was sold recently for just over two million dollars. The Real Estate Agent advised me they were expecting a lot less. And this is certainly not an isolated instance. The median house price for Smiths Beach at the end of February 2022 stands very close to \$900,000. Anecdotally, the demand for houses in Smiths Beach is significantly higher than the State Average.¹

Federal Election:

Stating from the outset that our Association is apolitical, 2022 sees both a Federal and a State election in the same year. The Federal election is scheduled for late May 2022. The current incumbent, local Federal Member for the seat of Monash (changed from the previous seat of Flinders) is Liberal, Russell Broadbent. Federal Labour candidate is Jess O'Donnell. Greens candidate is Mat Morgan and Christine McShane is the United Australia Party candidate.² We wish all the candidates the very best of luck. Irrespective of who wins the seat, they will have their work cut out.

State Election:

Is scheduled for November 2022. Further news will be included in our next Newsletter.

Surfing for the Disabled:

An event was scheduled last Saturday at Smiths Beach. Notwithstanding late notice, Your Association advertised the event, sought volunteers to assist and committed to sponsoring. Unfortunately other events such as the Cowes Classic and other events were also scheduled for the same day.

Draft Smiths Beach Town Plan:

I recently contacted Bass Coast Shire Plan Coordinator to get an update as to where the Plan sits. Following receipt of substantial community feedback, it has been modified slightly (to what extent, we're not entirely sure) and redirected to appropriate Council Officers for further comment before being formally presented to Councillors for adoption. There is no mention of the Plan on this month's Council Meeting Agenda.

P.T.O.

From the President's Desk Continued

Bass Coast Council Meetings:

Are being live streamed to any interested party. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th March. Those interested can access via this link.

<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings>

User Pays:

Your Association continues to push for a system whereby non-Bass Coast Ratepayers contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of public areas and perhaps to fund the implementation of the Smiths Beach Town Plan. Bass Coast Shire are testing a car parking monitoring system.

Distinctive Area and Landscape Act:

Part of the process of Bass Coast Shire being declared a distinctive area was the need to produce a Statement of Planning Policy. This has recently been released for public feedback. Access can be achieved via this link. <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/bass-coast>

Smiths Beach Shop Liquor Licence Application:

No decision has been made by the Victorian liquor licencing and gaming regulator in respect of a Liquor Licence application. The tenants have lodged a Planning Application with the Bass Coast Shire. A Council decision will be made shortly.

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.

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

Car Ferry: No further news on this front at this time.

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

Phil Dressing

President March 2022

Odd Jottings

What has four letters, sometimes has nine but never has 5.

Camping is where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person
Be with the people who bring out the best in you not the stress in you
Ever stop to think and forget to start again.

A sign 'birds on the roads at night' says that our Shearwaters are on their way to Alaska.
Have you swept your chimney for the winter.

Joni Mitchell sang in 'The Big Yellow Taxi' that "you don't know what you've got until it's gone." Toilet rolls are also a good example.

Firestorm

I've read a book called "Firestorm" recently. It was written by a Greg Mullins. He's a person who knows what he is talking about when it comes to bushfires and other natural disasters. He has spent some thirty-nine years on that front line. It culminated in him being Commissioner of one of the world's largest fire services in NSW for nearly fourteen years. He has served as President of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and other significant roles for our country and overseas. He organised a coalition of thirty-four other top fire and service chiefs in Australia. From April 2019, they were calling for urgent action to all levels of government about climate change. They explained how it is super-changing our extreme weather. Their lack of assistance from the MPs was followed by the raging, deadly bushfires of that Black Summer in 2019-20.

What is climate? One definition said 'It is the average weather in a given area over a longish stretch of time. Our ocean temperatures have a large influence over weather systems affecting Australia and in particular on our rainfall.

Our weather patterns El Niño and La Niña events are a natural part of the global climate system. They occur when the Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere above it changes from their neutral ('normal') state for several seasons. El Niño events are associated with a warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. La Niña events are the reverse, typically cooler, wetter and more likely to produce tropical cyclones in these same areas.

In January 2022 this year, scientists had warned that La Niña events would bring unprecedented rainfall. We had two of them back to back where the sea temperatures rose close to Australia. In February, our Federal MPs were saying that there was no way that we would predict the floodings that came later. "They now only occur in every 100 years." was said as they ignored a history of flood warnings. We are now aware that there will be more and more frequent disasters. The author of our "Firestorm" book says, "Our fires will be bigger, hotter and more destructive." Our man-made climate changing and the challenges that it brings is caused by us burning coal, oil and gas.. The solution is to transition away from these polluting energy sources as quickly as possible and leave the fossil fuels in the ground. More renewable energy, please.

The science is clear. We must understand the realities of human induced climate change.



Our Bass Coast Shire Council has a Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030. It can provide an online climate change community portal that contains locally relevant climate change information to the community. Contact can be made via telephone, email and online workshops.

Finally, If we don't drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees Centigrade as soon as 2030.

Seen at the Races

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The Gateway To Our Island

How do you get to Phillip Island from the mainland of Australia? We cross the bridge that connects San Remo to Newhaven. To do that we had another earlier necessary suspension swing bridge that was opened in 1940. It had its limitations such as a maximum five tonne weight limit. Passengers on buses had to get out and walk across this earlier swing bridge to be picked up by a bus on the other side. Goods and livestock carted on and off the island had similar loadings and reloadings on the other side. Even so, it changed the direction of Phillip Island by opening it up to tourism and development that previously had not happened.



We needed to build a better one. The new good-looking bridge was designed by the Country Roads Board and this new iconic concrete bridge was opened in 1969. We have just celebrated its 50th birthday on 21st November. Our bridges have served our communities and visitors well for all reasons as an integral part of Island life. Perhaps we need it duplicated. Be thankful for it being there, the next time you cross it.

Sayings My Mother Taught Me

The following are a few of the sayings that we may have picked up as children. You may remember some of them :- e.g.

a watched pot never boils / blowing your own trumpet / burning the candle at both ends / marry in haste, repent at leisure / as full as a boot / as warm as toast / as hard as nails / running around like a chook with its head chopped off / you make your bed and you lie in it / as blind as a bat / raining cats and dogs / as nutty as a fruitcake / as flat as a pancake / as scarce as hen's teeth / don't cross your bridges before you come to them / more front than Myers / kick the bucket / another string to your bow / a stitch in time saves nine / hit the hay / as brown as a berry / don't put all your eggs in the one basket / don't cry over spilt milk / a cock and bull story / acting the fool / people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones / bald as a badger / cunning as a fox / a wild goose chase / lead someone up the garden path / tie the knot - ----plus many more. (you will remember some of your own, when and where you used them.)



These are just a few of the expressions that may bring back some memories.

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley

