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## **SBA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022**

We are forever searching for some positives to emerge from the pandemic. It's Springtime. Let's use our imagination by thinking of different shapes and colours in nature. Spring is about new and uncertain beginnings. Spring in the garden brings excitement and anticipation. Make time to do something active every day to improve your mood and energy. It will help manage a range of health concerns.

*It's time to focus on your health and well-being*

## **The Past, Present and Future of Rising Sea Levels**

We have always been aware of the problems of low-lying areas such as the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Venice and their coastal cities. As our globe continues to warm up, there are islands such as Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Maldives that are awash because climate change causes our sea-levels to rise. What are Three Causes of this change?

First, glaciers and ice sheets worldwide are melting and adding water to the ocean. Second, the volume of the ocean is expanding as the water warms. A third, much smaller contributor to sea level rise is a decline in the amount of liquid water on land, e.g. aquifers, lakes and reservoirs, rivers, etc. Countries have always been under threat of inundation where millions of people were likely to be displaced. Storm surges are becoming more frequent and spring tides more forceful causing erosion and washing away our sea walls and sandbags. Extreme storms are devastating human communities. Groundwater for drinking and farming is becoming contaminated by sea water ruining food crops. Some villagers are told that all they can do is relocate and may have to move inland. They were now called "climate refugees." With more aid is expected from all those countries that are held responsible for Climate Change, some resettlement programs to them are planned.

There is a world-wide need to accelerate the development and transfer of Climate Change Technologies to developing countries.

We don't need reminding about our own low-lying and tidal areas that are vulnerable to flooding and our soaring summer temperatures.

Significant changes are occurring to our coastline in Victoria. A Government report found that our coastline sea levels are likely to be about 15cm higher in 2030 than they are today. Already, storm surges have wiped out some of our popular beaches and jetties.

Did you know that our Phillip Island consists of three former islands linked together by sand deposits. Summerland Peninsula is connected by an isthmus of dunes between Cat Bay and Summerland Bay. Cape Woolamai is by a similar isthmus. Our southern coast receives the full force of south-westerly swells that will cause flooding, loss of coastline and damage to infrastructure and property,

What if rising sea levels and storm surges were to cut our island into three again?

**Ian Shand. SBA Newsletter Editor**



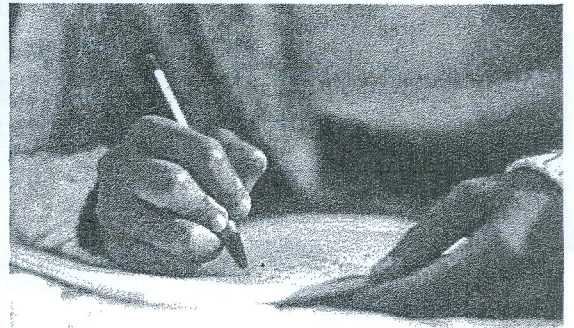
## Handwriting

A common question asked of authors is: "do you handwrite or type?" Is our computer keyboard bringing about the decline of handwriting? These days the two reasons we handwrite are impersonal and personal. One is for filling in forms and the other could be where we could write a long letter or perhaps a personal heartfelt message for funerals or birthdays.

Where did we first learn to put letters together to form words?

In my primary school, we started to form our letters with a slate and a slate pencil. We were taught to use your lead pencil with your restricted left or common right hand. We were to copy various different styles of handwriting. It progressed to an exercise book using three straight lines and eventually to use our pen with ink and paper materials. We could eventually be awarded with a certificate for their successful use. One of the best and neatest writing styles was called "copperplate." Good handwriting may have been expected but sometimes we needed it to be quicker. In exams, you were to make sure you speedily write clearly. If an assessors can't read your writing, they can't mark you. Hopefully your hand didn't stop nervously working. Our lives are now well and truly into Fonts and typefaces and we need to carefully select them for important work. Emojis may sometimes lead us further away from the printed page as a form of visual language. We may have loved or hated using our handwriting, but technology keeps changing us.

Will our grandchildren in the future be taught handwriting?



## Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Since the introduction of Eastern Barred Bandicoots to Phillip Island, they have spread across the Summerland Peninsula and beyond, with sightings as far as Wimbledon Heights, Pyramid Rock and Surf Beach. You may be lucky enough to spot one in your very own backyard!

This nocturnal marsupial is small brown-grey with distinctive pale bars or stripes across its back, pointed ears and hind legs that look similar to a kangaroo's. Grasslands and grassy woodlands provide the complex habitat preferred by these shy animals. They use their clawed forepaws to scrape out a depression which they line with grass. These nests tucked under tussocks of grass protect the bandicoots during the day while they sleep. While they are solitary creatures, mother bandicoots will share their nests with their young.

## Odd Jottings

Be the change that you want to see in this world  
Refilling your glass- One of life's greatest pleasures  
An early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese,  
I thought growing old would take longer.  
To me," Drink responsibly" means don't spill it.  
My wife says I only have two faults. "I don't listen and something else."  
The new restaurant is called Karma. There's no menu. You get what you deserve  
Seen an inflatable dartboard or an underground revolving restaurant that has waterproof tea bags?  
Can I eat those mushrooms growing in our nature strip? The simple answer is---if you don't know what the fungus is, you shouldn't be eating it.



## From the President's Desk

### Coronavirus (COVID 19) impact:

The picture of post COVID is becoming clearer by the day and in some cases the vision is not very good at all. COVID cases continue to be recorded although I suspect not all. Children's mental health, children's education, general health and wellbeing of the population all seem to have worsened. Businesses are desperate for staff, a number forced to close on some days as a result. On top of this is increasing interest rates, cost of living increasing dramatically and many more. I'm sure there are positives arising out of COVID, if only a preparedness plan should a similar virus strike us in the future.

### State Election:

Is scheduled for the 26th November 2022. In addition to Aaron Brown (Liberal) and Brett Tessari (National Party) Greens have nominated Callum Bugbird as their candidate and Jenni Jobe is contesting the seat as an independent. They will contest the seat currently held by Labour's Jordan Crugnale. The seat of Bass is considered one of the most marginal seats in Victoria.

### Smiths Beach Town Plan:

As mentioned in my last missive, Phil Wright and I met recently with Council Strategic Planners, Austin Cram and Rewa Smith suggesting our Association facilitate the formation of a Reference Group recommended in the Town Plan. We embarked upon this action to maintain momentum and continuity. Council have approved our proposal and invitations have been sent to stakeholders listed in the Town Plan along with specific Smiths Beach businesses. The inaugural meeting has been arranged to take place on Saturday 22nd October 2022 at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort's Lakeside Café, commencing at 10.30am. If any member of the Smiths Beach community would like to attend, they are asked to ring or email me (h) 59525443 or (m) 0423058510 or [pwdressing@gmail.com](mailto:pwdressing@gmail.com).

### User Pays:

Remains on SBA's Agenda. Bass Coast Shire Council are looking at a "Tourism Levy" aimed at generating funds from tourists visiting Phillip Island but the matter is a very complex one. Anecdotally, we've seen dramatic increases in visitor numbers to the Island. The weekend of the AFL Grand Final saw unprecedented numbers of visitors. Jan and I went over to Leongatha on the Thursday morning. It took us one hour to get from the Anderson roundabout to Smiths, a trip that would normally take around 15 minutes.

### Moto GP:

Returns to the Island after a three year hiatus. No races were conducted on the Island in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the COVID Pandemic. A huge number of GP followers are expected. The 2022 naming rights sponsor of our event is Animoca Brands. A Hong Kong based game software company and venture capital founded in 2014. In July 2022, Animoca Brands hit \$5.9 billion valuation.

### Smiths Beach Shop Liquor Licence Application: Recapping.

Council voted to provide the Smiths Beach General Store with a limited liquor licence. Some SBA Members are unhappy with the decision and formally appealed to VCAT for a review. That review has taken place and Council's decision upheld with a number of conditions applied. News of the decision appeared in the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser's September 21st edition. In essence, VCAT ruled that the sale of liquor should be limited between 5.00pm to 9.00pm Wednesday to Sunday. The shop tenants advise they are to spend \$30,000 on shop improvements.



### **Building Heights in Smiths Beach:**

In the residential area between the coast and land south of Marlin Street, Design and Development Overlay 1 (DDO1) "Residential Areas near the Coast" applies. The objectives of development in this area is to protect views from the coast to adjacent residential areas, minimise the impact of development along the coastline, protect and enhance the visual amenity and landscape of the coastal area and respond to the potential coastal impacts of climate change. DDO1 triggers a planning permit for buildings and works that exceed a height of 7 metres above ground level and the primary focus is to ensure that development does not impact on the coastal landscape. The emergence of "rooftop BBQ" areas is testing the status quo. I understand aided by Council not being required to advertise renovation permits on their web site unless objections to the development are received. We are taking the matter up with Council's planning department.

We were somewhat alarmed at an architect's letter to an SBA Member whose neighbour obtained a permit to renovate including a rooftop BBQ area. The following was contained in their letter, " ....a discussion was had with the Planning Department and the general consensus is that building to a height of 7.5m is generally acceptable. This is quite evident in the surrounding area and we've kept this in mind as we worked through the design." This is the crux of the matter we're discussing with Council.

### **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:**

Phil Wright and I continue to I serve on the Advisory Group.

### **Destination Phillip Island:**

I recently received a telephone call from Phillip Island Nature Park's CEO, Catherine Basterfield, who had recently returned from Long Service Leave. Catherine is also Chair, Destination Phillip Island. <https://www.facebook.com/destinationphillipislandindustry/> Destination Phillip Island is the Regional Tourism Board for the Phillip Island surrounds region. They support the important visitor economy in the region and provide information and opportunities to the local tourism industry and stakeholders. **They are looking for new Board Members to support the continuing development of the visitor economy in the region. Please see the link for more details. Applications close 30 October 2022.**

**Phil Dressing**

**President**                      October 2022

### **Funny Family Sayings**

What are some of your favourite family sayings? Here are some of ours. .

"Great day for it" "The freeloaders have come to dinner." "If it is to be, it is up to me."  
"It's like magic snake oil." "Off like a dirty shirt." "You're doing a great job."  
"Never better!"

What are the common sayings at your House?

## Spring News from your Nature Parks

### Hooded Plover

The Hooded Plovers of Phillip Island are heralding the start of Spring. Fledglings from last season abound and are seeking a foothold anywhere the territorial adults will tolerate them! Fledglings are, at least for the near future, easily distinguishable from their adult conspecifics by a head of mottled grey plumage (see photo). Otherwise, mature birds around the Island have formed their mating pairs, with some returning to old partners and others forming new relationships. Each pair will work tirelessly from now on to defend their lot until Autumn next year. Be mindful to give these threatened birds plenty of space during this time, as life on the edge of the land is stressful at the best of times!

### Short-tailed Shearwaters

The Short-tailed Shearwater breeding season on Phillip Island is about to begin with their imminent arrival to our shores from waters around Alaska. About 1.4 million birds are expected to arrive on their breeding grounds after spending the last five months around the Bering Sea near Alaska. Their epic, annual trans-equatorial migration is truly one of the natural wonders of the world. This summer, Nature Parks researchers will monitor the return of birds to nest boxes and hope to recover tiny tracking devices fitted to some individuals. Our research aims to understand their breeding and foraging success, and how that is affected by climatic and environmental changes around the world.

So, keep an eye on the sky at sunset along the coast to see these incredible birds returning home after a day's fishing. Please also care for their homes by keeping to tracks in the dunes so you don't accidentally trample their sand dune burrows.

### Other Bird Life

Pacific Gulls bring their chicks from the islands off Wilsons Promontory to feed. These large gulls reach maturity at approximately four years of age and are listed as significant fauna in the Nature Parks because of their colonial nesting habits.

Migratory birds arrive on our shores including sandpipers, curlews, godwits, plovers, knots and stints.

Grey Butcherbirds, Grey Fantails and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes are nesting.

Raptors (birds of prey) actively hunt mice and insects and can be seen on power poles surveying their hunting grounds. **Ravens and magpies** make large, stick nests.



## Another famous Poem from DVD, our Smiths Beach Poet Lauriate.

(The Kunwinjku clans of the Gagudju people, whose homeland we call the Kakadu National Park, revere the White-breasted Sea Eagle. They believe these birds capture their souls immediately after death and carry them to the 'Star River' we call the Milky Way.)

### WHITE-BREASTED SEA EAGLE

A belief system old as the earth,  
those who made this land their own  
bestowed identity, purpose, worth  
to each creature, waterhole, stone.  
Asked by dreamtime creator-beings  
to seize our spirit the moment we die,  
transport it aloft on your strong wings  
to the star-river in the night sky.

Seen through clear desert night air,  
countless stars are always in view.  
Each the soul of a specific forebear,  
the essence of someone they knew.  
Piercing eyes and noble stance  
indicate you are well aware  
of this role which you enhance  
with grace and speed in the air.

Powered by snowy muscled chest,  
wide-spread wings lift you high  
above us earthbound, you rest  
watching with keen amber eye.  
Suspended, a speck in the sky,  
you search for silvery prey  
swiftly swooping from high  
to carry wriggling fish away.

To billabong's edge, high in a tree,  
you take your catch, gliding slow,  
feeding down-covered progeny  
then back to aerial hover you go.

### Flora

There are wildflowers starting to come out everywhere. Along the coast, the Coast beard-heath are covered in tiny white flowers and the dunes are full of yellow Coast wattle. On the ground level, groundcovers in flower such as Coast groundsel and Coast Swainson-pea may be found.

In the woodland reserves the Blackwoods are starting to flower along with some of the smaller wattles such as Prickly Moses and Hedge wattles. The bell flowers of the Wonga vines and star-shaped flowers of the Clematis can be seen draping over canopy branches. The ground is covered in the yellow flowers of the Hop goodenia and in some of the damper areas there are patches of White Elderberry flowering.

Sarah Hain      P.I. Nature Parks Community Engagement Officer