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## SBA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2022

As the essential vitamin D weather warms up, the talk around the BBQ has turned to cricket and world-cup socceros. It's also the time of year season for al-fresco dining with some aeroguard for the mozzies, eating too much and spending too much. Vaccines have assisted us to cope with our COVID-19 virus so far. Don't forget the sunscreen. Hello Santa!

### Can We Age Gracefully?

It is a common complaint that life seems to speed up as we get older. The pace of life is faster than ever. Days that seemed to last forever when we were young now feel like we blink and another week is over. Once we spent countless hours looking up at the clouds or the stars in the sky. We now tend to spend more time looking down at computer screens on our smart devices.

I'm not sure why I seem to be so busy these days. Perhaps it is because I'm just slowing down and it's seeming longer to get the simplest things done. We have all this technology to make life easier, yet there's no invention to slow down time. Ferris Bueller said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." What can we do to create more satisfaction in our days and be more thankful for life itself? Trying something that you have never done before could be one key to ageing well.

From a wide range of your interests, why not try ballroom dancing or some different sports? We remember learning some skills and activities when we were young that were to stimulate the health of our brains. Wisdom makes the best of situations. To become more involved in life, young people may often have used their term called FOMA which stands for (Fear Of Missing Out). As we age, older people may use "Carpe Diem" It was the Latin term for "seize the day" or "enjoy the moment." They abbreviate it to YOLO (You Only Live Once). We could be more positive and not be overcome with negative feelings. Don't dwell in the past.

Genetic factors and lifestyle choices are the greatest predictors of a long and healthy life. Use your mind and keep the brain active by more social activities. The feeling that you're needed and have something to give others will help you to age well. Life's basic divisions are education, employment and then retirement..

As you reach this closing time of living means you must try to stay well and healthy,

It will help if you have developed your strength and self confidence. Hopefully you will have sufficient ability to maintain good balance to later prevent falls. Good health should include a wide range of interests for your future. Those later needs may be for home help or in Aged Care. A global study identified money as a major factor for staying healthy and staying alive to age well. Brains and body need exercise and it's important to have access to good medical advice. Most of our spending will be on health. ("I don't want to get older.")

"Age is irrelevant – it's just a state of mind" It is really just a unit of measurement that reflects our stage in life or expectations. We were all shaped by family and culture.

By having the right attitude coupled with willingness to adapt, it is possible for you to age gracefully.

At the end of life, it's important to have friends, family, a secure restful environment and lack of physical pain. But the most important asset anyone can have is friends.

Ian Shand SBA Newsletter Editor

The Smiths Beachcomber Association Committee takes this opportunity to wish you all a happy, joyful and relaxing time for your Christmas season and a healthy and prosperous (2023) New Year.



### Annual Subscriptions

At this time of year the SBA has to remind you that our Annual Subs are due and payable from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each year. Attached is your subscription form for you to complete and to then forward your reasonably priced membership application to our hard-working Treasurer. You will then be "financial". Send it off this week. **This is what your \$20.00 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.

### Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club

#### Beach Patrols are back.

The following information relates to patrols for Smiths Beach for the season 2022-23

29 November=Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Dec      Saturdays--10am=6pm

Sundays & Public Hols--10am-8pm

27 January- Sunday 19 Feb      Saturdays=10am=6pm

Sundays & Public Hols=10am=6pm

20 February—Sunday 30 April      Saturdays=1pm=5pm

Sundays & Public Holidays=10am =4pm

Changes to Patrol Times will be shared on Facebook or WBSLSC

### Odd Jottings

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday

Things will only get worse before they get worse

What memories do you have of your first car?

Today's senior generation is the first to hand on to our children a planet worse than we have enjoyed. We urgently need to re-think our values and the way we live

Vacation is a strong word. For me, it's an email with a view

Gaia is the Greek goddess of life that posits the earth's ability to heal itself.

What's new in the world of your computers?

By your name you are identified, but by your deeds you are known .

## **From the President's Desk**

### **Road fatality:**

A 63 year old Wonthaggi resident died as a result of a three-car collision on Phillip Island Tourist Road immediately to the west of the Back Beach Road roundabout a number of weeks ago. A nine-year-old boy, a passenger in the woman's vehicle, was airlifted to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

A very stark reminder that we need to be so very careful on our roads. I implore everyone to be vigilant, patient and courteous on our roads. A tragic lead up to Christmas.

Our condolences are extended to the woman's family and friends.

### **Coronavirus: COVID 19) impact**

It appears we've entered another phase of COVID with more variants occurring and an increase in case numbers. More cruise ship cases and an expected significant increase in cost of living expenses, including petrol price hikes may have an impact on the additional visitors to Phillip Island and Smiths Beach in particular

### **Smiths Beach Town Plan Implementation Reference Group (SBTPIRG)**

Recognising the Smiths Beach Town Plan presented Smiths Beach Ratepayers with a generational opportunity, many individuals and groups participated in the development of the Plan, providing feedback to the consultants developing the draft and providing commentary on the initial draft.

Bass Coast Shire Council adopted the Plan at its April, 2022 Meeting. We are indebted to the work undertaken by Council Officers, Donna Taylor, Austin Cram, Rewa Smith and others.

Now the work begins to implement the Plan.

Your Association was tasked by Bass Coast Shire to facilitate formation of an Implementation Reference Group as recommended in the Plan. Council is very comfortable with the reference group leading the process. Two meetings have been convened to date with Terms of Reference taking up most of the discussion time.

The Group's roles and responsibilities were clearly defined as follows

1. Develop the governance structure to collaboratively implement the Town Plan.
2. In the absence of any activity to initiate forming the governance structure SBA assumed the responsibility with the imprimatur of Council.
- 3 The intent was to invite representatives of the key stakeholders identified in the Plan including some Smiths Beach Community Members, not all.
- 4 All Smiths Beach Ratepayers will have the opportunity for input into the Town Plan actions before an options suite recommendation is made to Council.
- 5 It is acknowledged that some elements within the Town Plan are not agreeable to everyone.
- 6 Once the SBTPIRG is in place, it will collaboratively prioritise Town Plan actions, develop recommended solutions, and then seek ratepayer input before conveyance to Council.

Cr David Rooks was appointed Chair and I volunteered to provide a secretariat service to the Group.

### **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.

### **Destination Phillip Island:**

A new Board has been appointed to promote Phillip Island. Group Chair is Phillip Island Nature Park CEO, Catherine Basterfield, Deputy Chair is John Dickie, Secretary and Public Officer is Kimberley Brown. Brad Phillips, Ali Wastie, Chris Kearney, David Bennet, Jeff Webb, Tina Orr and Steve Morris are appointed Group Members.

### **Phillip Island Nature Park's Community Engagement Advisory Group:**

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



### **Phillip Island Nature Park's (PINP'S)**

**Geomorphic Study South Coast Cliffs:** PINP recently undertook a geomorphic study into the Phillip Island South Coast Cliff tops and found many instances of potential instability. It was recommended that beachgoers to areas on the south coast ensure they stay at least ten (10) metres from rock cliff faces.

### **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:**

Returned 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. Our wet weather provided the Council, GP organisers and the racetrack with many challenges. The event was considered a success. The 2022 naming rights sponsor of our event was 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:**

Was heard by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) earlier this year. An appeal against Bass Coast Shire Council's decision to grant a permit to the business managers was initiated by a Smiths Beach ratepayer. VCAT upheld Council's decision with a number of conditions included.

### **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.

### **Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Special Charge Scheme:**

Bass Coast Shire Council released concept design options for the proposed Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay Special Charge Scheme aimed at enabling residents to visualise what the potential road and drainage upgrades would look like. Unfortunately the process has polarised Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay ratepayers with regular articles, both for and against the program appearing in the local newspaper. There are lessons to be learned from the process as Smiths Beach is the next township to be considered for a roads and drainage special charge scheme. In my view, Council must bite the bullet and create a communications strategy that reaches each and every ratepayer rather than leaving commentary to those who have an active interest in the project.



### **Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Act:**

In October 2019 Bass Coast region was declared as a distinctive area and landscape under Part 3AAB of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This declaration requires the preparation of a Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) in partnership with local government and Traditional Owners. Written submissions to the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy and proposed Landscape Planning Controls have been referred to the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Standing Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) prepared the draft SPP in collaboration with the Traditional Owners, the Bunurong, the Bass Coast Shire Council, relevant government agencies and authorities, with significant community input. Further updates and information will be provided by the Committee, including the timing of its Directions Hearing and Public Hearing, the timetable and other matters from late 2022.

For further information and to peruse the SPP refer to the following:-

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/bass-coast>

### **State Election:**

Took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with Labour winning with an additional seat. Labour's Jordan Crugnale has been announced the successful Bass Candidate. The seat of Bass remains as one of the most marginal seats in Victoria. A congratulatory letter will be forwarded to Jordan in the fullness of time

### **SBA 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting:**

Was convened on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Your Executive Committee comprises Phil Dressing, President; Robyn Dale, Secretary; Phil Wright, Vice President; Peter Vaughn, Treasurer and Committee Members Narelle Crothers; Noel Halford and Ingrid Markovsky. Meeting Minutes will be emailed in the fullness of time.

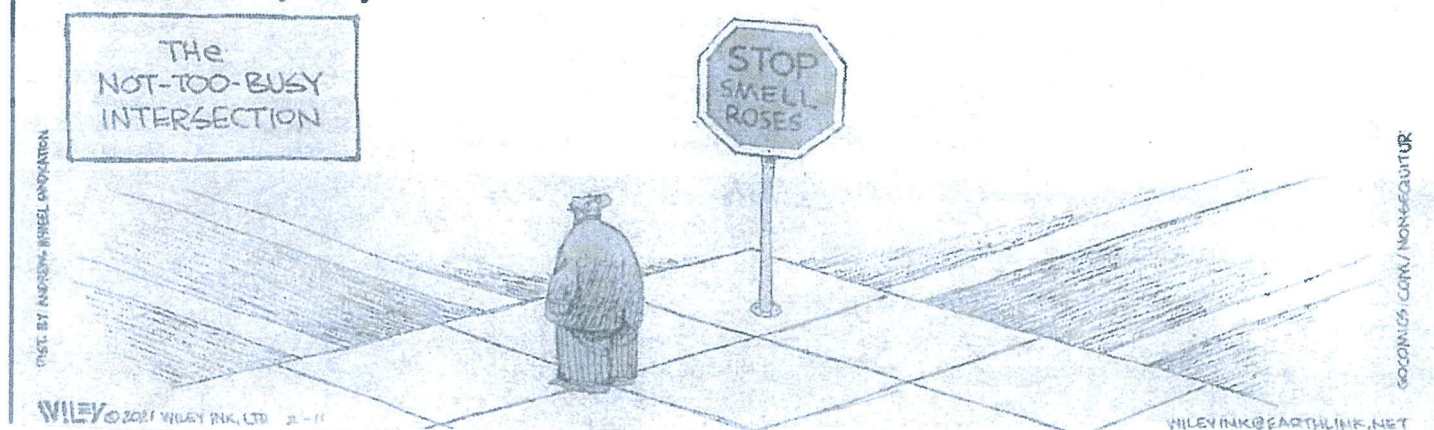
### **Newsletter:**

SBA Life Member, Ian Shand, has advised he is finally ceasing his Newsletter authorship. He has been putting pen to paper since 2005 writing our news and information. It is certainly a long time and he has done an amazing job. His research and articles have been brilliant. On behalf of your Association, I express our heartfelt thanks to Ian and wife, Lyn for their untiring efforts and support.

We are now in need of a replacement Newsletter editor. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Phil Dressing  
President  
December 2022

### **Non Sequitur by Wiley**



### Christmas Leunig Pictorial in "The Age."

Three Wise Men were there with camels.

One of them was tapping into his mobile phone,

"There's no stable or manger on Google maps.

I think we should call an Uber."

### Heard of Home Invasions Lately?

Do you hide a spare key to your house somewhere outside?

Perhaps inside the mailbox, beneath a plant pot, in one of those fake rocks or under the doormat? Any place you have thought of to hide a key, a thief has probably thought of too.

Almost a third of house burglaries involve no sign of forced entry, and 19% of people whose homes had been burgled confirmed offenders entered via an unlocked door or window.

Don't make robbing your house easier for a thief. Keep your doors and windows locked at all times, even if you are inside.

If you need to leave a key somewhere in case of emergencies, give one to a trusted relative, friend or neighbour or invest in a secure, coded lock box.

While it won't eliminate the possibility of your home being burgled, this simple crime prevention tip, will help to lower the risk

Remember, if it's easy for you, it's easy for the thief.

### Our Shy Snake

Copperhead Snakes are the only species of snake to be found on Phillip Island. As long as they are not prodded or provoked, they will leave people alone.. The local "Advertiser" newspaper has reported that 'the snake season has started earlier this year' So, learn some first aid give our Copperheads a wide berth.

### Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas wrote

"Do not go gentle into that good night

Old age should burn and rave at the close of day,

Rage, rage against the dying of the light."