

Community Connection Session

Wednesday 14 November 2018

Old Post Office Building, Cnr McBride Ave & Watt St, Wonthaggi

3.00pm to 4.30pm

I. Presentation Topic: 3.00pm

Plans for improvements at the Wonthaggi Bowls Club

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Trevor Teer – President & Denis Stanes

Notes:

- Explained history of the Club, including a super club proposal many years ago with the Wonthaggi Club and the Golf Club which did not go ahead.
- Wonthaggi Bowls Club is in a great location but there are issues on weekdays with parking for members and issues with the greens.
- Would like to consider relocating but a Section 173 Agreement on the Bowls Club land means that the Club would get very little recompense for the sale of the land and would also require both State Government and Council approval for that sale.
- The Club has approximately \$600k it could put toward relocation.
- The Club disappointed it was not approached or considered in the Draft Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Plans
- Suggestion by Councillors that the Club could be considered in the development of the Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan
- Several options suggested

Actions:

- Cr Tessari offered to meet with representatives of the Club and Council Recreation Officers
- A meeting has been arranged by Council Officers.

2. Presentation Topic: 3.15pm

Intercultural Arts Program at the Phillip Island Whale Festival – good news story

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Dr Laura Brearley – Creative Research and Consultancy

Notes:

- Dr Brearley sang acknowledgement to Country
- A good news story thanking Bass Coast Shire Council for the providing the funding for the Making Connections Project enabling the development of an Intercultural Arts Program for two events; the Harmony Day in Wonthaggi, and the Island Whale Festival in Cowes. Funding was also provided by Destination Phillip Island and a Bass Coast Community Grant.
- The Project was designed to deepen the intercultural understanding and raise environmental awareness through the arts. To feel and hear the sound of the language through song.
- Artists document all they do through books, film and documentaries – Dr Brearley played a video produced from the Project.
- Particular thanks to former CEO, Allan Bawden and former Mayor, Veronica Dowman, and Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir who has been involved from the start.
- The Project has a strong focus on active involvement of First Nation peoples and culturally diverse community members and will form part of Biyadin: The Annual Shearwater Festival on Phillip Island on 23 November 2018.
- Dr Brearley has presented the Intercultural Arts Program to Council Arts Officers across Victoria and is involved with singing leaders across the state, both multicultural and Aboriginal.
- Poised to continue leadership through programs being run out of RMIT Monash and Federation University.

Actions:

Dr Brearley has given permission for the following video, coming out of the Making Connections Project <https://vimeo.com/288066243> to be placed on BCSC Website

3. Presentation Topic: 3.30pm

Ayr Creek Inverloch

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Richard Arnold, Gary Tayler and Steve Evans – Residents of Surf Pde, Inverloch

Notes:

- Councillors will be aware of issues with Ayr Creek from the discussions at the 19 September 2018 Ordinary Meeting.
- Ayr Creek is an Inverloch foreshore lagoon that, through lack of water flow, backs up at the inlet creating blue green algae bloom (BGA), only flushing at very high tide.
- It is well known BGA can create a community health issue.
- Alga around the shoreline is creating a slip hazard.
- The stench created has impacted on community amenity.
- These issues have the potential to impact on tourism and negative reviews have already been received on some websites – Inverloch Tourism Association has concerns.
- Councillors asked what are the presenters proposing, what is the approach.
- Originally a channel that ran out into the ocean – need to re-establish this flow.
- Engineers have suggested backfilling the low lying area with sand thus narrowing the entrance and digging a channel. This would remove the trapped water on the Inverloch foreshore. The sand would cover the BGA. This would eliminate all immediate concerns/issues.
- Estimated \$1000/day for earth moving equipment to move the sand.
- Cr Whelan asked was the engineer suitably qualified to make those recommendations given the environmental impacts on the shoreline.
- The presenters stated the engineer was not.

Actions:

- The Mayor advised that the Ayr Creek report was due back before Council at the 21 November 2018 Council Meeting

4. Presentation Topic: 3.45pm

Planning Application 180122 – 23 Dunvegan Cres, Surf Beach

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Michael & Jenny Ritterman - Applicants

Notes:

- Jenny Ritterman spoke to their presentation showing Councillors the proposed siting of the second dwelling on their land.
- The Ritterman's wish to have the right of response to the presentation from home owners Susan and Howard Young of 21 Dunvegan Cres at the 12 September 2018 Community Connections Meeting.
- The Young's had failed to advise Council that they had recently built their own home right against the fence line of the Ritterman's property obscuring all views the Ritterman's had had for 36 years looking out over Churchill Island.
- The Young's building also overlook the Ritterman's back balcony and into their living area and impacts on the Ritterman's privacy.
- The Young's reference to the Small Township Guidelines in Bass Coast, particularly generous setback, space between properties for garden, mindful of neighbours views and view sharing had not been respected when it came to building their own dwelling.
- The building is so close to the boundary fence that it cannot be screened by trees and shrubs and causes issues of overview and shadowing.
- The Ritterman's stated that their planning application has the support of local residents and has met all of the planning requirements as outlines by Planners.
- They hope that it would be considered in this light by Councillors.

Actions:

This application will be considered as part of the planning application process.

5. Presentation Topic: 4.00pm

Wonthaggi Cinema

Name of person/s and/or organisation presenting:

Anne Mennell – resident

Notes:

- Anne spoke to Councillors, stating that the nature of her topic is the lack of the Wonthaggi Theatre operations now that the renovations are complete.
- During renovations of the Theatre assurances were given that the cinema would resume operations once they were complete.
- Anne said that since the renovations films have been shown in the June and September school holidays, but nothing in between.
- Despite regular enquiries as to when regular programming would resume there has been no information on when films will resume.
- The return of the Wonthaggi International Film Festival appeared to be a Fine Film Group event rather than a Bass Coast Shire Council run event.
- Further, a 'Classic Movie Marathon' involved showing Back to the Future trilogy over one day on the 3 November – only catered to the Sci-Fi Geeks.
- No indication when general interest films will be programmed.
- In the absence of any general interest films being shown at the Theatre, the Library has been showing films once a month during the day. This has been so popular there are now two movie showings on the last Friday of each month with 80 attendees last month.
- No other options for the showing of movies in the area other than Leongatha – not good for waterline people, Cowes on the last Wednesday night of every months – not good for people who can't drive at night and limited numbers at Phillip Island Movie Club.
- It has been suggested that the mini-buses at the Corinella and Bass Community Centres could be used to bring people into Wonthaggi to the cinema. This would be a much more accessible option for older residents.
- Given Council's investment in both equipment - which is almost completely automated - and staff, I was expecting to see regular programming of general interest films during the week long before this.
- Does Council intend to offer a regular program of general interest films?
- Is there a Council policy on the operation of the cinema and programming guidelines, and if so, was it developed in consultation with the community?
- Is there any programming in place for the remainder of this year and early 2019?
- Does the Council intend to offer a regular program of general interest films?

Actions:

- Mayor advised that Councillors cannot answer those questions at the moment but will take them on notice.
- Council Officers have contacted Anne regarding her questions – 23 November 2018