

# Cape Conversations

Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association Newsletter – June 2025



## Cr Mat Morgan Meets with CPRRA Committee

Mat Morgan, recently elected as a Bunurong Ward councillor, attended the CPRRA committee meeting on June 14 at the Wonthaggi Lifesaving Club (thanks WLSC!). Mat is familiar with Cape as he rented in the eco village prior to purchasing a property in Inverloch.

Matters discussed included the BCSC budget and Mat agreed that putting submissions into the budget consultation process was a good way of elevating the priorities and level of attention to local needs for future budgets. CPRRA President Rohan Brown had put in a submission focussing on the need for additional work on the Bay Beach Master Plan (2014) and requesting funds be allocated toward implementation of recommendations on local area traffic management.

The recommendations from the draft Local Area Traffic Management Plan (LATMP) were discussed and community concerns clarified, with the submission from CPRRA supplied directly to Cr Morgan. Major concerns related to ensuring inclusion of the eco village within the plan as well as the proposed traffic calming mechanisms (proposed speed humps were raised as a concern by residents) and the need for a greater focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The Ingenia lease for the three campgrounds was raised as the Committee would like to see sections included in the lease relevant to vegetation management, path access and parking policies.

## Committee Meetings

August 9  
October 11  
November 29

## Working Bees

July 12  
August 9  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8

## Parents' Group

July 4  
August 1  
September 5  
October 3  
November 7  
December 5

## We Have Over 300 Members!

Currently our membership has grown to 301 members - but the question remains who are the last two mystery members who joined to take us over 300? Membership was paid for "Heath 11" but that's all we know. So, if you know a Heath family who live at 11 - please ask them to email us at [membership@capepaterson.asn.au](mailto:membership@capepaterson.asn.au).

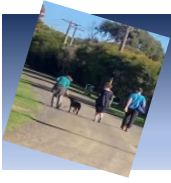
Our records are incomplete - but we have at least 173 households. Of our members 133 are permanent ratepayers and 159 are non-permanent ratepayers. We also have one couple who have an annual caravan.

If you need to check if you've paid this year, please email us at the above address. Or if you'd like to join the webpage link has all the information:

<https://cprra.webflow.io/join-us>.

If you have suggestions for inclusions in our bi-monthly newsletter we'd love to hear from you. Email [secretary@capepaterson.asn.au](mailto:secretary@capepaterson.asn.au)

Next Edition of *Cape Conversations* will be emailed in August



## Planning and Infrastructure

– enhancing liveability



### Restoring our Town Boundary Nearing Finalisation

The recent release of the Final draft Statement of Planning Policy will ensure that the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes within Bass Coast are protected into the future. It will direct future housing growth away from the coastal villages and hamlets and towards the larger established towns with infrastructure and services.

Since 2011 (when the western boundary was extended for a 230-lot housing development) the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association has argued that the Northern boundary must be reduced to protect the regionally significant landscapes, existing bio-links and the adjoining Marine National Park.

Following the 2019 declaration of Bass Coast as a Distinctive Area and Landscape, there has been an open and transparent process in which all parties had an opportunity to participate. Across Bass Coast some landowners, hoping to have their land included in the settlement boundaries, engaged barristers and consultants to represent their interests. The Cape Paterson community represented themselves. When a reduced town boundary was placed on public exhibition in December 2024 over a thousand submissions were lodged of which 90% supported the revised boundary.

CPRRA welcomes recent comments by the Bass Coast Mayor (4th June. BCSC Website) "once endorsed, the SPP (Statement of Planning Policy) will provide clear direction and greater certainty for the future of planning and development in Bass Coast." CPRRA will also welcome the introduction of height controls and building guidelines recommended from the Neighbourhood Character Study and Housing Strategy which will help preserve our unique villages and hamlets – the reason many choose to live in and visit Bass Coast.

This "win" was not easy. It required many hours of research, submission writing, community surveys and presentations. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Cape Paterson community, local Councillors and the State Government for declaring Bass Coast as a Distinctive Area and Landscape. Councillors will be voting on endorsing the Final Draft SPP at their July meeting after which Governor-in-Council sign off is required prior to gazettal.

### New Safety Rail at First Surf

CPRRA is delighted to advise that a new safety rail has been installed at First Surf beach walkway.

We have been liaising with BCSC officers for some time to have the previous post and wire fence replaced with a solid handrail to improve safety and accessibility for beach users.

The old fence was removed as part of the asset evaluation process and the new fence has been welcomed by beach users. Thanks to BCSC officers for the new installation.

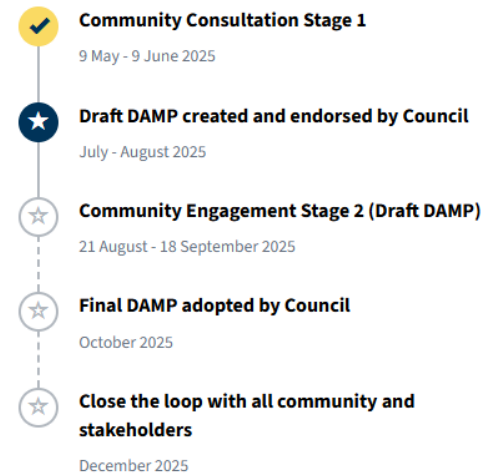


## Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)

Every four years, under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Victorian local councils must prepare a plan outlining how they will manage dogs, cats and other domestic animals within their shire. Currently BCSC is renewing its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for 2026-2029. CPRRA has participated in the Stage 1 community consultation phase through representation at a public meeting as well as a written submission.

CPRRA's submission focused on improving access to the seasonally restricted off-leash beach from 1 December to 14 April as well as consistent signage on the beaches and walkways. CPRRA has also suggested permitting dogs on leash along the cliff top walkway between the boat ramp and First Surf car parks all year round.

## Timeline



## Local Area Traffic Management Plan (LATMP)

Feedback from the community on the Stage 1 Community Consultation phase included:

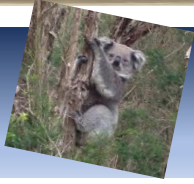
- Walking and cycling are a strong focus. There is a desire for safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to encourage walking and cycling within the township
- Traffic and road safety issues were also identified. There is community concern about speeds in local streets, safety at a number of intersections, and vehicles using lower volume streets during the summer months
- Parking concerns were raised, particularly the high parking demand during the summer months.

Stage 2 Community Consultation on the Draft LATMP prepared by O'Brien Traffic Consultants concluded in early June. Two public information sessions were conducted, one in-person at the Community Hall which was well attended by interested residents as well as an on-line session.

CPRRA made a written submission focusing on parking, pedestrian improvements, traffic calming and improved traffic flow, dangerous intersections and roads experiencing major traffic concerns including Seaward Drive, Surf Beach Road and Park Parade Road. CPRRA also expressed that the exclusion of the eco village from the Study Area was inappropriate and the entire village should have been included in the study.

Following input from the community, the draft LATM Plan will be finalised and distributed to the community. At this stage no timeline has been given for when the final LATM Plan will be presented to Council in 2025.





## Biodiversity

— protecting and conserving our environment

### May and June Working Bees

For the last three Cape Paterson working we have been concentrating on removing three thickets of *Tecoma capensis* or Cape Honeysuckle at Cassia Street.

Like so many of our weeds, this persistent weed is from Southern Africa where it occurs naturally and is restricted from spreading by other vegetation and animal browsing. This outbreak was most likely started by someone dumping domestic garden cuttings on fallen tree branches on the roadside in Cassia Street.

It formed such a dense hedge that it was likely a fox's refuge. There is still the remainder of a patch to do along with an outbreak of Cape Ivy (another destructive Southern Africa weed), but that will be subject to one of our working bees next year.

The next two CPRRA working bees are scheduled for July and August - see website:

<https://cprra.webflow.io/working-bees>).

The working bee scheduled for 12 July will be a walk-through of the dunes from Cape Paterson to F Break to identify any other spots missed by the Birdlife working bee (see right) due to take place on 8 July.

The 10 August working bee will do more planting on the boat ramp slope and perhaps some of the area where we've cleared boneseed west of the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club



### Birdlife Australia Working Bees

Last year we joined with Birdlife Victoria and South Gippsland Conservation Society to continue our work to limit the spread of sea spurge. This year we are doing the same in June and July. The June working bee was at Twin Reefs and The Oaks (see pic).



Sea spurge (*Euphorbia aralias*) is native to the Mediterranean coast and likely arrived in Australia as part of the ballast water of cargo ships. It was first detected in Western Australia in the early 2000s and has since spread to most of the Southern Australian coastline.

Sea spurge out-competes Australia's typical dune vegetation (*Spinifex*) and changes the beach foredune from gently sloping to steep (making it harder for hooded plover chicks to go from the shore break back to their nesting site). It also has a highly toxic sap which can blind any native wildlife that goes through an infestation of spurge.

The next two Birdlife working bees will be:

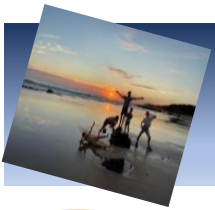
- **Tuesday July 8** 9:30 - 12:30 Wilsons Road/F Break car park and
- **Tuesday July 22** 9:30 - 12:30 Coal Creek Estuary Mouth Harmers Haven Car Park.

RSVP directly to [finn.saurine@birdlife.org.au](mailto:finn.saurine@birdlife.org.au)

CPRRA will be providing lunch for participants at the conclusion of both these working bees at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club.

## Weed Watch – Cape Ivy (*Delairea Odorata*)

This is an invasive weed not only in Australia but worldwide. It spreads through seeds or stems forming a carpet that smothers native flora like pig face and poa and it is toxic to mammals and many of our insect species. This weed is present in the Cassia Street reserve and likely grown from a pile of dumped garden waste.



## Wellness

— enriching our community

### Emergency Resilience Workshop and Back-up Source of Electricity

Cape Paterson residents are acutely aware of our tenuous links to the power grid. Outages are frequent and sometimes prolonged. Weather-based emergencies also seem to be increasing sometimes literally leaving us in the dark. Bass Coast Council has started a program of preparing communities for emergencies as the "first responders" are often the residents.

About 25 people, some of whom were local emergency services volunteers from CFA, SES and Red Cross, met on June 18 in the Community Hall to start the path to improving the community's resilience. Anne Leadbeater AOM, a nationally respected and published emergency response expert, spoke, then led a workshop with plenty of input using local knowledge. A report from Anne will be released.

BCSC has just installed almost 20 kW of solar panels and a 14 kWh battery at the Community Hall to provide the community with backup power during power outages. When sunny, the battery can recharge during an outage. After its commissioning in July there will be more information - it will be a place to charge phones and get updates during emergencies.

For many reasons those of you who can afford it may be considering installing your own solar panels, heater and battery but may be overwhelmed by the information and concerned about the independence of advice. BCSC has provided links below to assist:

- Solar Savers - council backed initiative for residents to access reliable advice and get quotes/install solar, batteries, heat pump hot water systems and more (<https://solarsavers.org.au/>).
- Living Lightly - Bass Coast's workshop program where there are upcoming in person sessions on solar and home battery storage. There are also recordings of recent webinars on those topics and many more (<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-listing/learn-to-live-lightly>).

