

CAPE CONVERSATIONS

Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association Newsletter – February 2026



Annual General Meeting

Nearly 90 members attended our AGM at the Community Hall on 17 January. Zaki Harba, from the Community Safety Building Authority, provided an update on the Bay Beach Master Plan.

The formal proceedings followed with the meeting unanimously agreeing to a membership fee increase to \$25 for the 2027 calendar year. Members over 70 will continue to be non-obligatory with the option to donate. The 2026 Committee and Office Bearers were elected (see below) and it was great a new member nominated, Siobhan Hogan, as well as Dale Killen return.

John Coulter, now retired from the Committee, made what was hopefully his final power point presentation on the Northern Development. Rohan Brown, President, thanked John for the amazing contribution he has made to the Association and to village of Cape Paterson. In recognition of his contribution John was awarded Life Membership of the Association and presented with a 'Save Cape Paterson' corflute signed by members who attended the AGM. Members of the DAL/SAC working group and Letitia Lang and Jordon Crugnale were also recognised for their contributions. The celebrations began with a toast (non-alcoholic bubbles!) to recognise the finalisation of the Protected Settlement Boundary, a wonderful achievement by our community.



Rohan with Letitia and Cr Mat Morgan



Rohan and John Coulter

2026 Committee

President: Rohan Brown

Vice-president: Pete Muskens

Secretary (shared): Jill Maddock, Pete Muskens

Treasurer: Leone Thiele

General members: Paul Byrne, Geoff Glare, John Godfrey, Kathy Hill, Siobhan Hogan, Marci Katz, Dale Killen and Cathy Phillips

2026 Diary Dates

Committee Meetings

11 April
13 June
8 August
10 October
21 November

Working Bees

8 March (Sunday - see p. 2)

11 April
9 May
13 June
11 July
8 August
12 September
10 October
14 November

Parents' Group

6 March
10 April (changed to 2nd Friday due to Good Friday)

1 May
5 June
3 July
7 August
4 September
2 October
6 November
4 December

Clean up Australia Day

1 March 2026 (see p. 2)

Cape Acquathon

15 March

Membership

A fantastic response: we currently have 289 members. Data shows 174 households: 131 members are permanent ratepayers, 149 stay in holiday houses and five are connected to the community. Thanks for continuing to make us representative of our village.

Snippets ...

To be (social) or not to be, that is the question!

Recently, a 15-year-old told us that 'only old people use Facebook'. While the debate continues about the place of social media, many people commented that they saw our recent Rock Ramble on their feed. So, we are creating an Instagram account - for 'not so old people'.

What are the traffic counters and camera doing?

We don't know either, but a phone call to the Department of Transport and Planning suggests they are doing a routine assessment. They have created a case number and will let us know when they find a more specific answer.



Biodiversity

— protecting and conserving our environment

Rock Ramble

For our February working bee we designated our efforts to an 'education bee' where we enlisted the expertise of Professor Kevin Hill to guide us on the geology specific to Cape Paterson. We did a rock ramble from First Surf Beach to the Channel where Kevin pointed out how the features of our beachfront developed and were changed over many millions of years. We learned how to distinguish between younger and older rocks and what sort of geological forces created them. He also told us how we might find fossils in the different rocks present at Cape Paterson. Given the response from people who missed out, we hope to host a similar event again.

Please note that unlike most years, we **won't host a Clean Up Australia day event on 1 March**. It was decided that we have succeeded so well in cleaning up Cape Paterson (only one bag of rubbish collected last year!) that we'd hold over Clean Up Cape Paterson until next year.

For our March Working/Education Bee we have rescheduled to **Sunday March 8th**. On this occasion, we will meet at Alan Birt Reserve BBQ area (10 am), do a short (45 minute) refurbishment of our iconic viewpoint at Hut View Road (Boat Ramp area) and then proceed down to the beach to learn something of the history behind our rock pool made by the miners of Wonthaggi. We then go back to the Alan Birt Reserve at 11:30 am for an early BBQ lunch.



Professor Kevin Hill



Rock Ramble participants



Wellness

— enriching our community

Container Deposit Scheme

The money we receive from the CDS subsidises our Parents' Group. Last year we received \$183.30, and already this year we've collected \$80.50.

After sorting containers at Wonthaggi, simply tell the operator you want the money to come to CPRRA. Our card is on the wall under community groups.

The Container Deposit Scheme is a great initiative that increases recycling, reduces landfill and assists in supporting our community initiative.

Wonthaggi Container Deposit
36 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi

Hours: Sunday	10 am–2 pm
Monday	8:30 am–4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am–4:30 pm
Wednesday	8:30 am–4:30 pm
Thursday	8:30 am–4:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am–4:30 pm
Saturday	10 am–2 pm



New Cycling Group in Cape Paterson

Anne and David Meyers have initiated a recreational cycling group for Cape Paterson residents. Rides will be held on the first Sunday of each month, commencing on 1 March, with the option of potentially scaling up to more frequent rides if there is sufficient demand.

When: 1st Sunday of each Month

Where: Various locations throughout Gippsland, with routes announced via What'sApp Group and email the week prior

Route types: Rail trails, quiet roads and tracks

Ride Style: Recreational (averaging around 16-18km/hr), with a coffee stop around the mid-point and covering around 25-50 kms typically

Contacts: Dave: 0412 728 514 or Anne: 0412 728 693

Important Note: This is an informal ride group, without any fees, so by joining the rides you agree to ride at your own risk. (We do not plan to insure the group). Bicycle Network membership comes with personal insurance cover, so if you wish to insure yourself, check out the Bicycle Network website for details:

<https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/membership/#membership-pricing>.

This is an exciting initiative for local cycling enthusiasts, thanks to Anne and David, which will further enrich our community.

Breaking Hoodie News ...

- Three hoodie chicks have hatched at Pea Creek, which is fantastic news.
- Still one at Undertow Bay that hasn't fledged yet. VV near F-break has fledged.

