

Cape Conversations

Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association Newsletter – July 2026



Bird Flu Watch

The highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza has now been detected in a wild migratory seabird in Western Australia, marking a significant development for wildlife conservation nationwide. The arrival of the virus on Australian shores has heightened concern for important bird habitats across the country. See below for information relating to Bird Flu.



Help spot H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu
is the most serious type of bird flu and has killed millions of birds and mammals worldwide.

Avoid
Don't touch sick or dead animals
Keep pets away

Record
Photos or video
Date, time and location
What you've seen

Report
Call the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline
1800 675 888

Find out more at birdflu.gov.au or scan the QR code.

2026 Diary Dates

Committee Meetings

8 August

10 October

21 November

Working Bees

16 August (Sunday)

12 September

10 October

14 November

Playgroup

7 August

4 September

2 October

6 November

4 December

Buon Ferragosto



Come and celebrate our local culture and community resources with an Italian-themed night of food, music and dance in the Cape Paterson Community Hall on **Saturday 22 August, 6 – 8 p.m.** Music by Canti Popolari (no togas) **BYO food, drink and old coin.**

A New Look and Enhanced Communication from CPRRA

CPRRA has been using two domains (the name after '@' in the internet and email addresses) - @capepaterson.asn.au and @cprra.org for a number of years. This has led to increased work, double handling, and errors.

The 'asn' domain was shared by several associations since the early 2000's and is now out of date as well as having security issues. Also, the current CPRRA logo is due for a refresh, and the email system does not easily support its use.

Finally - the website is being moved to a new provider as the current one is now focussing on commercial for-profit clients. In response CPRRA is consolidating into one domain - @cprra.org.au for its electronic communications and updating the way we present our Association to members and the broader community.

We are also consolidating our records to assist with compliance, efficiency, accuracy and ease of 'handing over the reins' to future committees.

We have the able assistance of Cape Paterson's own Blue Vapours Creative Studios who have done work for councils, the Cape Community Garden and CPRRA's website among others in the past.

They will help us with enhancing the look of the website and other media. Much of this work will be done by volunteers not highly skilled in IT - so we ask for your patience.

The result over the next few months will be a more coherent and robust presence and communication to our members and the broader community.

Cape Snippets ...

OAM for Brendan Condon

CPRRA congratulates Brendan Condon, developer of the Cape Paterson eco village, Australia's first zero carbon housing project.

Brendan was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for services to conservation and the environment in the recent Kings Birthday Honours List.

Vale Les Legge

Sadly, Cape Paterson has lost a true local and much-loved member of our community.

Les was one of the founding members and a life member of the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club. In 1960, he was among the small group who made Cape Paterson SLSC happen, attending the first meeting at the Wonthaggi RSL, helping build the original clubhouse and taking on the roles of both our first Boat Captain and first Club Captain.

An extraordinary legacy for a club that started with just five members and a tiny fibro shed.

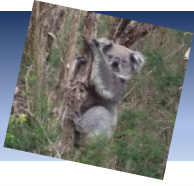
The Legg family's connection to the club has continued ever since, and Les's contribution to both Cape Paterson and lifesaving will always be remembered.

Membership Update

Currently we have 326 members, co-incidentally the same number as last year. There are still 22 members who haven't renewed their membership for this year.

And it's never too late! As the newsletter is only sent to our current members, you can rest assured that you are not one of them!

But feel free to pass this onto anyone you think may have forgotten to renew or expresses an interest in joining. If they have a query, email membership@capepaterson.asn.au.



Biodiversity

— protecting and conserving our environment

Activity at Harmer's Haven

Our friends at Harmer's Haven have been busy purging the dreaded sea spurge as well as other undesirable plants.

On a two-hectare site southeast of Harmer's recently cleared of boneseed only one new boneseed plant was found.

A localised clump of six larger bushes of Sweet Pittosporum was also found and uprooted or cut off. Interestingly, this clump was immediately adjacent to the single boneseed.



Boneseed



Sweet Pittosporum

A two-kilometre section of coastal strip southeast of Harmer's Haven was also inspected and sea spurge [*Euphorbia paralias*] was discovered. Several smaller clumps were cleared, including quite a few with larger flower/seed heads. Pulled plants were left on the beach as these do not regrow.



A sea spurge plant

The Planting Season is Upon Us!

There was a pause in our working bees for two months due to organisers being away but in the meantime our seedling trays are now mature enough to plant.

The working bee on 11 July will focus on planting in the area west of the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club (CPSLC). This area has been cleared of significant stands of boneseed and has already shown signs of growth from both last year's plantings and natural regeneration.

We may schedule some extra ad hoc planting working bees to supplement our monthly working bees. This will ensure our plant stock gets in the ground while conditions are still moist and the weather is cool.

Cassia St Reserve

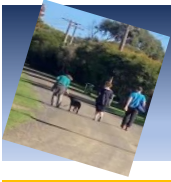
Residents may have noticed that Ausnet replaced an electricity pole recently which necessitated some wholesale habitat destruction.

We discovered that in fact only a small proportion of this land is nature reserve, with the rest being unused road reserve.

CPRRA is keen to see that this area is retained as nature reserve and are coordinating with BCSC to have the destroyed area replanted.



Habitat destruction - Cassia Street Reserve



Planning and Infrastructure

– enhancing liveability

Improving V-line Bus Stops

Following the announcement from Jordan Crugnale MP that the State Government is increasing the number of bus services to our region, CPRRA wrote to BCSC regarding the shortcomings of the bus stops on Cape Paterson Road. Suggested improvements which could be implemented to enhance safety and accessibility and encourage more users include:

- an accessible footpath to both bus stops
- formal parking or safe space for cars for drop off and pick up
- lighting
- a shelter on the Inverloch bound stop
- an accessible footpath into the village – along Seaward Drive and Cape Paterson Road.

An accessible shared path from the bus stops back into the village would facilitate people walking to and from the bus (reducing car reliance) and provide a circuit loop of the village for exercise.

A footpath along Seaward Drive would be a logical extension of this current proposal and would link into the village circuit trail proposed in the Local Area Traffic Management Plan.

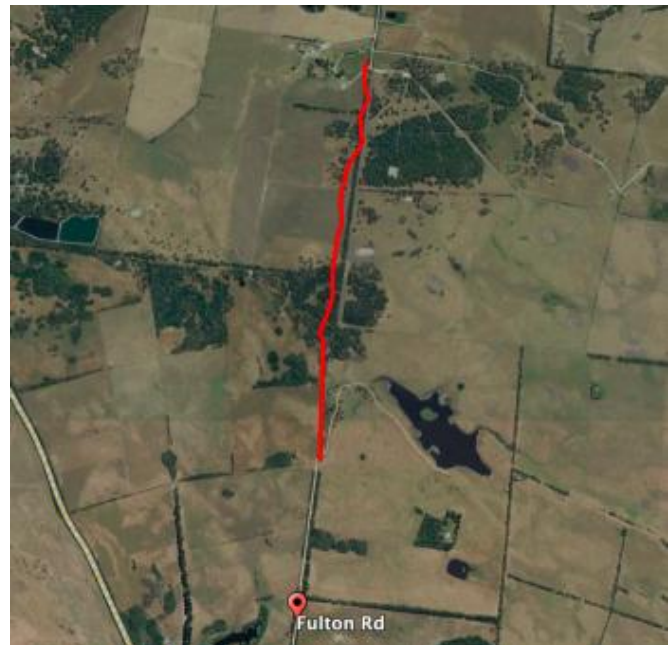
BCSC have advised they will ensure these proposed path connections are considered on their gaps program of footpaths, but sadly funding limitations mean they will not occur in the short term.

CPRRA will continue to advocate for these enhancements to be implemented,

Inverloch Wonthaggi Trail – The Missing Link

A strong turnout of around 600 cyclists commemorated the long-awaited opening of the Trail. Sadly, accessing the bike path from Cape Paterson means traversing to Wonthaggi via the potholed and exposed Cape Paterson-Wonthaggi Road.

CPRRA have been liaising with Council to create a pedestrian and bike friendly link to the Trail along a little used missing link. The missing link is a section of road reserve that goes from Fulton Road in the south to Boundary Road in the north which would connect to the new trail. See below.



An aerial view – the Missing Link is in red

The path is currently marked as a public road (i.e. crown land) and we are not aware of the existence of a farm lease. Council has not allocated funding, but CPRRA will continue to lobby to ensure inclusion in future budgets.

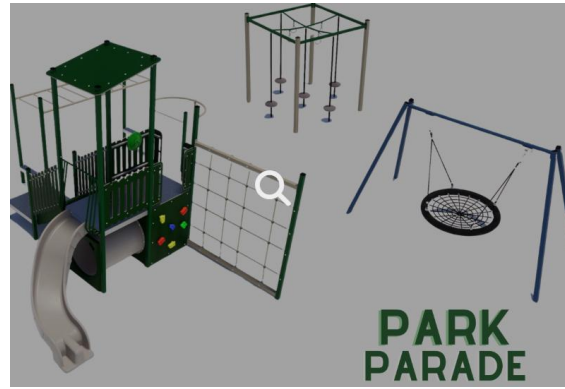
There is also an opportunity to strengthen the north-south bio links to adjacent habitat areas especially along Fulton Road.

Updated Play Space in Park Parade Reserve

Following a community consultation process BCSC commenced work on replacing the existing play equipment in the Park Parade Reserve. There will also be improvements to the landscaping. Completion was anticipated in late June, but the project appears to have stalled, and a revised completion date is not shown on BCSC's website.



Old equipment has been removed



Proposed new equipment



Wellness

— enriching our community

Cape Paterson Community Playgroup

Our Parents' Group has joined the Victorian Playgroups Association and consequently been renamed Cape Paterson Community Playgroup (CPCP) to focus on play rather than parents. Recently we received a small grant from BCSC to recognise volunteers, and our wonderful playgroup volunteers were treated to lunch at the Coal Mine.

Pelting rain didn't deter our hardy families from attending the July playgroup. While parents from Inverloch to Kilcunda caught up over a cuppa, the kids enjoyed the space of the Hall to play. Toddlers ran, infants crawled and lucky volunteers got a cuddle from babies.

Many of our families don't live in Cape Paterson, but our reputation has grown. Our volunteers provide such a wonderful service - one that is fast becoming a local institution.

With nine parents, 12 children and two grandparents in attendance, time got away - and it was 11.00 before anyone noticed that we hadn't got out the parachute. The parachute is waved above the children's heads at the end of the session.

Ah well - there's always next month.

CAPE PATERSON
Community Playgroup

When: First Friday of the month
9.15am - 11am

Where: Cape Paterson Community Hall

We welcome pre-school aged children and their carers to join us for informal sessions including toys, books, musical instruments, and tea/coffee.

These free gatherings are facilitated by the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association. We always welcome new members to join us in caring for our local environment and those who live in it:

<https://www.cprra.org>
membership@capepaterson.asn.au

CPRRA Inc *A member of Playgroup Victoria*

Our new CPCP Poster