

It's a busy time in Vincenia and your Community Consultative body (CCB), the VRRA has been working hard to bring you the best outcome.

With the success of the new shopping complex, Vincenia Marketplace, focus now turns to the Vincenia Shopping Village in Burton Street. Long before Vincenia Marketplace opened, the Village was showing its age and in need of a facelift. Being an important and central part of Vincenia, the VRRA believes that it needs the support of Council and the community.

It was a surprise when we received communication from our members that the garbage bins between Church Street and Illfracombe along the Around the Bay Walk had been removed.

Our cycleways are a feature and an attraction of Vincenia, but they need upkeep. One particular problem is the pathway along Wool Road. Heavy growth, leaf clutter and debris are reducing access and during wet weather, run-off over the pathway can make it slippery and unusable.

Holiday periods bring their own problems. The tourist influx places increased demand on resources. Residents in Sutton street are now facing the prospect of No Stopping signs being erected in their street.

VRRA committee members attended the Delivery Program and Operational Plan talk (DPOP) given by Council. It's not good news! Our residential rates are going up. The VRRA now wants to make sure that benefits will flow back to Vincenia.

The Collingwood Beach Preservation Group met with the Minister for Planning the Hon Rob Stokes. The meeting was reported as being enlightening and productive.

The new Orion Beach Pathway is finally here.

Vincenia Village

It's pleasing to note the success of the new shopping complex, Vincenia Marketplace. However spare a thought for Vincenia Village in Burton Street. For years it provided much needed shopping facilities and still continues to do so. However whilst it could use some freshening up, Vincenia Village is now in need of your support. Old shops have moved out, but new ones are moving in and they are bringing with them fresh ideas and impetus. Patrick Mahedy who is also a Town Planner and Architect is leading the revival and at our last general meeting gave us an update on some exciting new developments. Council are also coming to the party with a small grant and although more is needed, it will help towards beautifying some sections of the Village. Some VRRA members, one with development expertise and experience have even sketched out a simple modernising plan which would go a long way to rejuvenating and revitalising the village. In the meantime please provide your support and watch this space.



Sutton Street No Stopping Signs

When Council sent notice to the Sutton Street residents that it intended to install No Stopping signs, 5 out of 8 residents responded as being opposed to the signs. Sutton Street provides the only street access to Greenfields Beach which is very popular during the holiday season. As a consequence the street quickly fills with parked cars on both sides reducing a 2 way street to a single lane function. Council's argument is that the resultant single lane function presents a safety hazard preventing 2 way traffic flow when most needed. Also because of the parked cars blocking the road shoulders, pedestrians walking to the beach find themselves at times needing to walk on the road. At the last general meeting, a resident explained that the situation is only an issue for a few weeks each year. Whilst safety should not be compromised, the residents are asking why they are being inconvenienced and disadvantaged for 52 weeks of the year when the problem only exists for some 5 to 6 weeks. Perhaps the No Stopping signs could indicate that they are applicable for the months of say December and January?



DPOP Submissions

Following a general invitation from Council, the VRRRA made a number of DPOP submissions for the new financial year budget.

- **Bayswood Maintenance:** This attractive new estate, through lack of maintenance, is fast becoming overgrown and unsightly.
- **Coastal Planing:** Coastal hazard lines developed from very conservative values and very generous safety margins have resulted in an unnecessary and unfair burden to coastal property owners. Funding or a grant for more sound and robust engineering studies is required.
- **Cycle Way over Moona Moona Creek:** This is a much needed facility as the current access is inadequate.
- **General Cycle Ways:** These are a major attraction in Vincentia but upkeep and repairs are required.
- **Plantation Point Reserve:** Facilities at Plantation Point Reserve are too limited for the visitors that now come over the holiday period.
- **Vincentia Village:** This is now in need of attention from Council.

Bicycle Path

Our non stop President, Peter Gaffey' met with Phil Critchley from Council and together they reviewed the Wool Road Path and Cycleway. The problems of water run-off, slippage, and brown slime along with vegetation overgrowth that impeded the pathway were evident.

Peter reported afterwards that it was a very productive and satisfying meeting. A solution however, does not readily present itself. One challenge is where or how to effectively drain the water run-off during wet periods. A side drain presents problems because of proximity to fibre optic cables, water mains and other services. A solution however needs to be found, not least because of safety and usability.



The VRRRA will continue to monitor and lobby on this issue.

Where Will All The Garbage Go?

This title brings to mind that popular folk song of the 50's by Pete Seeger. The answer is "dumped on the ground everywhere". For some reason Council has decided to remove the garbage bins between Church and Illfracombe Street. An enquiry provided the response that it was done as a cost saving measure as usage during winter is considered low. Council also added that they will be monitoring the situation.



Meanwhile a member has come up with a solution that leaves all the garbage bins in place and still achieves the same cost savings. She simply asks; on each day why not alternate which bins are collected. It would be the same outcome as what is happening now, that is, the same bins but only half in number are collected daily.

In the meantime what we are doing, as shown in this picture, is not the answer! Let's respect our environment and surely we can walk a few extra metres to the next available garbage bin.

The Camping Problem

It's well known that parts of Jervis Bay are popular for that quick overnight camp. One resident however was very upset when on an early morning walk through Blenheim Beach she noticed a strewn of garbage next to an overflowing garbage bin and a solitary Camper Van which had the appearance of having camped overnight. Whilst a connection should not be made with respect to the garbage and the Van, the same resident later in the day on returning, noticed that the same Camper Van had spread itself over car spaces with table and chairs thus denying the use of a car space.

Council have stated that they are aware of the problems that camping bring. They have agreed to install a more prominent No Camping sign at Blenheim Beach and over summer will increase Ranger Patrols.



Collingwood Beach

On the 24th May, following a request from the Hon Rob Stokes, The Collingwood Beach Preservation Group (CBPG) met with the Honourable Minister for Planning to discuss Coastal Reforms and Dune Vegetation. The visit, which lasted over an hour, included sighting of the evidence of Collingwood Beach being an accreting beach, discussion of Coastal Reforms with 12 Members of the CBPG and a walk of the pathway from Illfracombe Avenue to Susan Street to discuss and review dune vegetation. CBPG reports that it was a very meaningful sharing of experiences and understanding between the Minister and the CBPG.



Following a resolution of the ordinary council meeting on the 24th May, CBPG will be displaying their "Proposed Amendment to the Collingwood Beach Draft Dune Vegetation Management Plan". This is a simple 11 point plan which has been prepared after much study and research and will be displayed alongside the plan prepared by the consultants NGH. The plans will be on public exhibition in the very near future.

Almost There!

The fences are down, the barriers are gone and people are already using it. We understand that the official opening is only days away. The Orion Beach Pathway began in controversy but we hope it ends in harmony and proves to be a great asset to the community. One thing is clear, Council have made the effort to alleviate some of the privacy mistakes that were made with the pathway at Collingwood Beach. Where it has been possible to do so, the Orion Beach Pathway has been offset from residents' backyards and in some parts, drops in level so that further privacy is afforded. This should prove to be a beneficial outcome and experience to most residents and path users. With space, vegetation and clear and filtered views out over Orion Beach and the Bay, the VRRRA hopes that the pathway is a hit.
Well done Council!



What The.....?

It's not a competition and there are no prizes, but can anyone guess where this very recent photo was taken?

Hint: It's a beach.

Clue: It's talked about on this page.

Answer: Below.



Our Next Meeting and Guests

Our next meeting is on June 19th at 7:30pm at the Vincentia Community Hall in the Coles car park. We have sent invitations to the Federal candidates and at the time of going to press, we are pleased to say that **Fiona Phillips**, the Labour candidate, will be attending for a quick Q & A.

Not a member? It doesn't matter, everyone is welcomed and if you are a Ratepayer or Resident of Vincentia, come and have your say.

Why not join? It's only \$5 per person for the year. Membership application is quick and easy it can be done on the night or online by going to our website www.vrra.org.au.