Groundswell – July 2016

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Budget for today and tomorrow

Council recently adopted its 2016-17 budget after considering 35 community submissions received during the public exhibition phase.

In this, the first budget to be prepared under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System, which caps rate rises at 2.5 per cent for 2016-17, Council has focused on managing the impacts of the rate cap while delivering vital community services.

This has involved incorporating \$400,000 in savings identified during 2015-16 via Council's new business improvement program, with work continuing towards finding additional savings. The 1.7 per cent budgeted increase in existing operational costs represents a key outcome from this work.

The budget provides an allocation of \$21 million for new capital works. This will fund 83 separate projects. An allocation of \$2.5 million has also been made for new operational projects and an additional \$1 million allocated to introducing new ways of working via digital technology, with an emphasis on improving the customer experience and making savings.

In line with Council's long-term renewal model, the asset renewal allocation increases 6.9 per cent, reflecting a strategic commitment to maintaining community infrastructure.

An additional \$1.6 million in Federal Government Roads to Recovery funding has been allocated to priority road upgrade projects.

The 2016-17 budget coincides with a general revaluation of property values. The revaluation does not result in a net gain to Council but is a redistribution of rates income according to updated property values across the shire.

Update to the draft budget

Following community submissions, Council added various community priorities to the adopted budget, including:

- retaining wall planting at Aireys Inlet
- installation of a Big Belly Bin in Winchelsea
- audio and projection equipment for Winchelsea's Globe Theatre
- shade sail at Winchelsea Occasional Care
- contribution to further development of the Lorne community aspiration plan
- free green waste drop-off prior to the fire season and additional operating hours at the Lorne Transfer Station, and
- contributions to court resurface at Torquay Tennis Club and to equipment for the Torquay Marine Rescue Service.

High commendation for reTHINK disABILITY

Surf Coast's reTHINK disABILITY campaign recently achieved state-wide recognition in this year's Victorian Disability Awards.

The campaign's high commendation in the Excellence in Advocacy and Promotion of Human Rights category acknowledges its contribution to empowering people with a disability.

Created and delivered by several Enabling Women Leadership Program graduates, the campaign promotes access, inclusion and equality for all by encouraging community members to rethink how they see people with disability.

The group developed a series of postcards promoting the reTHINK disABILITY message and launched the campaign at Torquay's Cowrie Market late last year.

Given its success in drawing attention to what people of all abilities can bring to their communities, the group is looking forward to meeting again soon to talk about expanding the program beyond Surf Coast Shire.

More information about reTHINK disABILITY is available at <u>www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au</u> or by contacting our Rural Access Officer on **5261 0600**.

Towards Environmental Leadership program lifts off

Council's Towards Environmental Leadership program is in full swing following the launch of a digital portal created collaboratively with the community.

As Surf Coast's first paper-free, interactive, digital program, it is a joint Council and community initiative, which aims to recognise and build on existing environmental achievements across the shire, and to set future directions.

The next 12 to 18 months sees the program focusing on three themes and four related projects. Under the Renewable Energy theme for example, the 25% By 2020 Renewable Energy Task Force is being established to drive the development of an action plan to enable Surf Coast Shire to achieve the State Government's renewable energy target.

The Local and Sustainable Food theme sees work continuing to develop a Local Food Strategy while the Land Use and Wildlife theme encompasses two projects: Rural Hinterland Futures and Permanent Town Boundaries.

Both will explore appropriate land use in the context of economic and environmental aspects, with the former relating to hinterland areas and the latter to Torquay-Jan Juc in the first instance.

The three themes directly align with the internationally respected One Planet Framework, which underpins the program. The framework will also enable the program's performance to be benchmarked against international standards.

For more information, visit the program portal at <u>www.scsenvironmentalleadership.com</u>

Arts Trail offers a feast of artistic talent

From coast to hinterland, art studios, galleries and venues across Surf Coast Shire will again open their doors for the 2016 Arts Trail weekend on 13 and 14 August.

Art lovers can feast on a smorgasbord of artistic talent spanning everything from abstract painting, jewellery and photography to sculpture and watercolours, with the trail wending its way from Aireys Inlet to Winchelsea – and everywhere in between.

With more than 40 venues to visit and over 100 artists to meet, the Arts Trail provides a unique opportunity to talk to artists in their studios about their work and inspiration. Entry is free and venues are easily identified by signs and coloured flags.

Arts Trail maps are available from all Surf Coast Visitor Information Centres or at <u>www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au</u> and updates will be posted on the Surf Coast Arts Trail Facebook page.

Thanks for your feedback

Thank you to the more than 670 people who responded to our recent Groundswell readership survey, which has now closed.

With the majority of responses submitted on paper, Council's Communications Team is in the process of collating and analysing the data. This will inform key findings and recommendations in relation to Groundswell's future in light of recent advances in digital communication. The survey has also helped identify potential opportunities for improving the way we communicate with you. More details will be provided next issue.

Early 40th anniversary present for Anglesea Kindergarten

The official opening earlier this year of Anglesea Kindergarten's upgraded facilities provided the ideal early 40th anniversary present.

The project has delivered much improved indoor and outdoor learning environments to provide quality educational experiences for all children attending the centre.

The building extension provides additional capacity for kindergarten programs for three and four-year-olds, and supports the delivery of a range of related services vital to children's development.

The kindergarten committee of management is to be congratulated for its hard work and effort in raising \$100,000 toward the project, with Council contributing \$328,000 and the Victorian Government \$350,000.

Vacation Care exceeds expectations

Council's Vacation Care program received the highest rating in a recent national audit of early years services.

Assessed against the National Quality Standards, the audit found the program exceeded the standards in all seven quality areas. This result acknowledges staff members' work and effort to put together and run an exciting, entertaining program for local primary school children during the school holidays.

The team sets a new theme for each holiday period as the focus for developing a program mixing arts and craft, sport, cooking, and excursions. The aim is to ensure something for everyone each day.

Vacation Care enables parents to work or attend appointments and other activities during school holidays. The latest audit affords them a level of assurance their children are receiving excellent care in a fun, engaging program, which exceeds the National Quality Standards.

Bookings for the September school holiday Vacation Care program open on 15 August.

More information can be found at Council's website in the *Children Services* section under *My Community*.

Lorne Men's Shed now open

Surf Coast's men's shed network recently welcomed a new addition with the official opening of the Lorne and District Men's Shed in June.

Council contributed \$60,000 towards the shed's design and construction costs in recognition of the significant contributions Surf Coast's men's sheds make to their communities and the vital role they play in improving men's health and wellbeing.

Since the opening, Lorne and District Men's Shed members have been working on several projects and keeping a lookout for others offering the potential to make a positive difference to the Lorne community.

This follows the example set by Surf Coast's existing men's sheds in Anglesea, Torquay and Winchelsea. All have already proven their mettle in benefiting their respective communities while providing a space for men to connect with each other in a safe, supportive environment.

The new shed is located at Stribling Reserve in Otway Street, Lorne.

In addition to Council's contribution, the project attracted generous funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Lorne and District Men's Shed, Lorne Opportunity Shop, Geelong Foundation and several private donors. Local businesses and tradespeople also provided in-kind support.

New look unveiled at Youth Awards

Council's Youth Development Team recently unveiled its new logo at this year's Surf Coast Awesome Youth Awards.

Designed by 17-year-old Jan Juc artist, Momoko Fergusson, the logo was one of 61 submitted by local young people. It features a bird of prey flying above the ocean, reflecting Surf Coast's geography and ecology, and the team's values.

These promote guardianship, leadership, perspective, creativity and initiative. The circular design also conveys unity and inclusiveness as key outcomes of the Youth Development Team's work.

Such principles were evident during the presentation of this year's Awesome Youth Awards, which followed the new logo's unveiling. Recognising the vital contribution young people make to the Surf Coast community, awards were presented to:

- Jack Yeo (Art), a 14-year-old artist who uses a range of artistic skills including drawing, painting and watercolour.
- Georgia Gordon (*Community Citizenship*), a 17-year-old member of Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club who has contributed countless hours serving her community as a volunteer.
- **Talia Klein (***Leadership***)** who, at 21, has started her own business to positively influence young women in schools.
- **Robert Voss (***Music***)**, a 17-year-old musician who is a member of four bands, a talented multi-instrumentalist and mentor for young aspiring musicians.
- **Phoebe Mitchell (Sport)**, a 24-year-old swimming champion who has broken 45 world records and currently holds 15, and has also raised more than \$4,000 for Down Syndrome Victoria.

Survey results paint a clearer picture of local youth issues

The Youth Development Team recently surveyed more than 650 young people to ascertain key concerns and issues. More than 140 adults were also surveyed to gauge their understanding of young people's issues and needs.

The findings are intended to help people better understand Surf Coast's young people. They will be presented to Council soon, with community presentations to follow.

Double good news in roundabout announcement

The recent announcement of Transport Accident Commission funding for a roundabout at the intersection of South Beach Road and Surf Coast Highway has enabled Council to reallocate \$600,000 towards traffic lights at the Beach Road/Surf Coast Highway intersection.

Both projects will substantially improve road safety at these intersections, which have attracted significant community concern in relation to the high number of accidents. The Beach Road project funding is part of Council's Torquay-Jan Juc Developer Contributions Plan.

In addition to improving safety, the South Beach Road roundabout will effectively bookend Torquay's northern entrance by matching its counterpart at Spring Creek.

The Beach Road/Surf Coast Highway traffic lights are scheduled for completion by 30 June 2017; the South Beach Road/Surf Coast Highway roundabout by 30 June 2018.

Artists shortlisted for Winchelsea Entrance Sculptures project

Since being shortlisted earlier this year, three artist teams have been working on concepts for major public art pieces to be installed on the Princes Highway at the Colac and Geelong ends of Winchelsea.

Clayton Thompson's work has featured in major exhibitions. In 2015 for example, he exhibited in Sculpture by the Sea, SWELL and Harbor Sculpture where he won the Kirk Family Stipend Prize. In transforming ordinary, everyday elements into contemporary, inspiring installations, his work shows a strong connection to the environment.

Artventure's **Paul Johnson** and **Gail Mason** have created landmark and entrance sculptures for towns throughout Australia (including Melbourne, Sydney and Darwin), which have been among the more than 44 public art commissions completed since 2002. Their work is shaped by each site's attributes and unique history with the result often speaking to the future.

Benjamin Storch and **Matthew Harding** boast between them many major public works in Australia, Europe and Asia. Bringing various creative approaches to sculpture, Matthew's extensive track record is in making iconic artworks for the public realm while Ben specialises in creating fluid, dynamic forms in sheet metal.

The artists are due to present their proposed concepts to the steering committee and Winchelsea community soon with a decision on the successful concept due in September.

Commemorating those who served in World War I

On a grey day in May, the Winchelsea community turned out in force for the official unveiling of an eye-catching tribute to Australia's World War I Victoria Cross (WWI VC) recipients and locals who served alongside them.

Families of those awarded WWI VCs were among the crowd, including the descendants of Albert Jacka, Australia's first VC recipient. Born and bred in the Winchelsea district, Albert features on one of the three panels making up the memorial cairn. The other panels honour his fellow WWI VC recipients from around Australia and Winchelsea district residents who served in World War I.

In bringing together the local community and all levels of government, the project was funded through the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs' ANZAC Centenary Local Grants program and the Victorian Department of

Premier and Cabinet (Veterans Branch) ANZAC Centenary Major Grants program.

Council also provided funding along with the Winchelsea and Anglesea Community Bank, which provided a Community Investment Support Grant, and the Winchelsea RSL, which provided in-kind support.

The result, designed by SMAQ Design Collaborations with local community input, offers a striking addition to the beautiful banks of the Barwon River while acknowledging local war veterans and the Winchelsea community's heritage.

Advocating for Surf Coast Shire and its communities

Council's coordinated advocacy program got a good work-out during the recent federal election campaign and yielded several funding announcements by local candidates.

Projects attracting election commitments included improving phone and internet coverage in major blackspots, upgrading facilities at Lorne's Stribling Reserve and Torquay's Spring Creek Reserve netball pavilion, and development of an indoor community and sports centre in Torquay North.

Both major parties committed to investing in mobile phone towers in Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Bellbrae, and to the Stribling Reserve and Spring Creek netball pavillion upgrades.

Other priority projects, which Council will also continue to pursue with the Federal and State Governments, include:

- fast tracking the conversion to energy efficient street lighting in collaboration with other councils in the region
- developing soccer facilities in Torquay North to cater for the rapidly growing Surf Coast Football Club and the Galaxy United women's national premier league club
- establishing a network of walking and bike paths as part of the Torquay Active Transport project to encourage the community to be more active
- boosting local tourism and recreational opportunities via the Surf Coast Adventure Trails from Torquay to Anglesea and down to Cumberland River
- making Winchelsea an even better place to live, work, visit and invest by continuing work to beautify the township, and
- supporting surf life saving clubs' efforts to secure funds to upgrade their club houses.

Their delivery will require extensive collaboration with neighbouring councils, State and Federal Governments, industry and other partners.

Keep your eye on local papers, *Groundswell* and our eNews for updates on each project's progress in the future.

Giving back to our wonderful volunteers

Surf Coast's volunteers were front and centre of a community celebration in May as part of National Volunteer Week 2016.

This year's theme, 'Give Happy, Live Happy' highlighted the emotional and physiological benefits of helping others. Our local celebration focused on thanking some of the more than 5,000 volunteers registered in the last census as living in Surf Coast Shire.

Those present enjoyed a light lunch before being invited to tour the Council office. Each guest also received a special botanical gift made by local kindergarten students, along with a thank you card and Surf Coast Shire pin.

A big shout-out to all our wonderful volunteers for your commitment, generosity and positive spirit. You rock!

Casuarina graduates tomorrow's environmental leaders

Council's Casuarina Leadership Program wrapped up at the end of June with this year's program focusing on environmental leadership.

Over four weeks, the 10-member group had the opportunity to learn from the best. On day one, guest speakers from social enterprise stars, Crumpler and Thank You, inspired with insightful case studies about their paths to success. This set the tone for the rest of the program over the ensuing weeks.

Expert presenters took the group through the various aspects involved in getting a business, community project or social enterprise off the ground, from business and strategic planning to compliance and legal issues to marketing, public speaking and social media.

Participants were also matched with mentors who coached them throughout the program. Since graduating, our newest Casuarina alumni have been kept busy putting everything they learned into practice. Council will follow their progress with interest.

Local events go plastic wise

Single use plastic bags, bottles and packaging will soon be a thing of the past at all events on Council land under Surf Coast's new Plastic Wise Events and Markets Policy.

Adopted in April, the policy requires event operators to provide waste management plans focusing on reducing, reusing and recycling products, leaving event sites litter-free and ensuring remediation or clean-up costs are covered. It also encourages organisers to reuse event materials and to promote the use of reusable bags and water bottles.

Council worked with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and local community groups to develop the policy. This builds on Council's ongoing support of community efforts to eliminate plastic use, such as the Boomerang Bags initiative developed by Plastic Bag Free Torquay.

As part of implementing the policy, sporting clubs will be given 12 months to transition to eliminating single use plastics.

Council is also continuing to advocate at the Victorian Government level for a state wide ban on single use plastic bags and a refund scheme for the return of plastic bottles.

Winter is here – stay informed about power outages

Winter brings with it some wild and woolly weather, which can sometimes cause temporary power outages. Keep up to date by downloading Powercor's Outages App (for smartphones and tablets) and sign up to SMS alerts and email notifications.

The Outages App includes:

- a map of current power outages
- option to search outages by current location or postcode
- updates on planned and unplanned outages
- cause of outage and estimated restoration times
- option to report streetlight faults
- a torch, and
- key contact information.

SMS alerts and email notifications

Powercor sends SMS alerts and email updates during major outages as well as reminders if power will be interrupted due to scheduled maintenance works. Once subscribed, customers can add additional properties, select quiet times and choose notifications via SMS, email or both.

Subscribe at <u>www.powercor.com.au/power-outages/power-outage-notifications/</u>

Steps to stay safe

Remember to always stay safe during a power outage and follow these steps:

- 1. Check the switchboard (fuse box) and look for any tripped circuit breakers or safety switches, which may need to be reset for the power to return.
- 2. If power is still out, check Powercor's Outages App or visit the outages page on the website for details of interruptions in the area. Information is updated every five minutes.
- 3. If the outage is not listed, call **13 24 12** for more information.
- 4. Keep clear of any fallen power lines as these should always be treated as live and dangerous.
- 5. Check in with neighbours, particularly those with special needs such as elderly and people with disabilities.

www.powercor.com.au

Winter warmer for latest small grants recipients

The second round of Council's 2015-16 Small Grants Program saw \$30,150 dispersed among 17 community projects across Surf Coast Shire.

Recipients included:

- **ANGAIR** for the purchase of a heated propagation bed with misting system \$1,000.
- **Deans Marsh Community Cottage** to deliver the 'Life Saving in Deans Marsh' first aid program \$1,000.
- Lorne Business and Tourism Association for the '2016 Model Boat Regatta' \$2,000.
- Lorne Historical Society for new display and storage facilities \$5,000.
- **Moriac Pre-School Centre** to purchase outdoor sandpit equipment as part of the sandpit rejuvenation project \$1,000.

- **Spring Creek Community House** for the 'Painting with Parkinsons' program \$2,000.
- Surf Coast Energy Group (SCEG) for the 'Encouraging Positive Environmental Action through Community Engagement and Capacity Building in Surf Coast' project – \$5,000.
- Surf Coast Longboard Club for the 'Wild Women on Water 2017' project \$2,000.
- **Surf Coast Suns Football Club** to assist with startup costs \$2,000.
- **Torquay and District Historical Society** for the 'Torquay Historic Photographic Exhibition' and to re-create the website \$2,000.

The first round of the 2016-17 Small Grants Program will open on 1 September and close 30 September. To find out how to apply, go to the *Grants* page in the *My Community* section of Council's website.

Planning update

Submissions on the Spring Creek Precinct Structure Plan closed in June following a month-long public exhibition period. Council officers are in the process of reviewing all submissions as the basis for preparing a report to Council recommending next steps.

Other recent planning scheme amendments include:

• Amendment C113, which proposes to allow for the consideration of a service station on the corner of Surf Coast Highway and Grossmans Road in Torquay.

While this amendment would allow Council to consider whether applications for a service station on this site should receive a planning permit, it does not mean a service station could be built as a right.

• Amendment C115, which would allow for the development of a supermarket in the West Coast Business Park in Torquay North.

A planning permit application for an ALDI supermarket was lodged with the proposed amendment. Ministerial approval needs to be given for the amendment to proceed.

More information is available at Council's website in the *Building and Planning* section under *My Property*.

Please keep an eye on local papers, *Groundswell* and our website for more information on these and other planning updates.

Save time and trees

Snail mail is slow and bad for the environment, which is why registering to receive your rates notice via email makes perfect sense. It's simple, secure and saves time – and trees!

You can register now by visiting <u>www.surfcoast.formsport.com.au</u> and completing the online registration form. Just remember to:

- 1. Enter your name exactly as it appears on your rates notice, including spaces and symbols
- 2. Enter your property assessment number, and
- 3. Create a username you can easily remember when you log in later.

You will receive a link in your inbox, which will provide access for the next 48 hours. Click this and choose a password. You will then be able to log on at any time, using your username and password, and will receive your next rates notice direct to your inbox.

This means you will get your rate notice early and will also cut down on paper use.

Tell us what you think - we're listening

Since launching earlier this year, Council's new online community engagement portal

<u>www.surfcoastconversations.com.au</u> has proven popular with many Surf Coast residents keen to have their say on various projects and issues.

To date, the portal has been used to seek community views on Council's 2016-17 draft budget, the new Road Safety Strategy, Spring Creek Precinct Structure Plan, Grass Tree Park Nature Reserve draft Master Plan, and proposed plans for the Torquay North Children's Centre and Bellbrae Hall extension.

Ideas and views are still being sought about Council's Towards Environmental Leadership program, particularly community projects underway or in the pipeline aligning with the One Planet Framework and Principles (see story on page 1 for more information).

Visit <u>www.surfcoastconversations.com.au</u> to join the conversation on this and other projects currently open for feedback. Your voice can help shape Surf Coast Shire's future.

Burning off: Know the rules

As an alternative to our green waste collection service, burning off is a disposal method for dried leaves, branches, weeds and other vegetation. Open air burning can however be dangerous. There are also strict rules and guidelines about when and what can be legally burned.

In all Surf Coast Shire township areas, burning off of dried vegetation is only permitted:

- on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10am and 3pm, and
- outside the Fire Danger Period.

Township boundaries generally extend to include one to five-acre properties around the towns.

For more information, including who you need to notify, call **5261 0600** or head to Council's website and click on the *My Community* tab to access the *Emergency and Safety* page.

What's on July - October 2016

JULY

- 1-31 Love Winter in Aireys www.aireysinlet.org.au
- 23 House concert at Cimarron, Aireys Inlet www.aireysinlet.org.au

AUGUST

- 1-31 Love Winter in Aireys www.aireysinlet.org.au
- 6 Ekiden Relay, Anglesea www.athsvic.org.au
- 13 Wintersong @ Aireys Pub www.aireyspub.com.au
- 13-14 Surf Coast Arts Trail www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 27 Winchelsea Spring Flower and Craft Show www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

27-28 Anglesea One Act Play Festival

www.angleseaperformers.org.au

SEPTEMBER

- 2-4 Festival of Performing Arts, Lorne www.lorneartsfestival.com.au
- 3-4 Toll Vic Open Series and Team Titles, Bells Beach www.surfingvic.com
- 3-4 Surf Coast Century, Anglesea www.rapidascent.com.au
- 4 Hoka One One Trail Running Series, Anglesea www.rapidascent.com.au
- 10-11 Amy's Gran Fondo Weekend of Cycling, Lorne <u>www.amygillett.org.au</u>
- 17-18 ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Show, Anglesea <u>www.angair.org.au</u>
- 18 Cowrie Market, Torquay www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 24 Surf Coast Hell Run, Lorne www.trailsplus.com.au/hellrun

OCTOBER

- 8 Torquay Boardriders Club Event www.torquayboardriders.com
- 8-9 DAFT (Drink Arts Food Torquay) weekend www.daftorquay.com
- 9 Aireys Inlet Market www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 15 Great Ocean Road Cycling Classic, Lorne www.cyclingtips.com
- 16 Cowrie Market, Torquay www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 16-23 Anglesea Golf Club 62nd Annual Open www.angleseagolfclub.com.au
- 22 Freshwater Creek Steiner School Fair www.fwcss.com.au

- 23 Trick or Treat Kidz Festival, Winchelsea www.trickortreatkidzfest.org.au
- 28-31 Winchelsea Uniting Church Art and Photography Show www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 29 Torquay Boardriders Club Event www.torquayboardriders.com
- 29 Lorne Foreshore Market www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 29 Aireys Inlet School Fair www.lornep12.vic.edu.au
- 29 Aireys Inlet Market www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 29-30 Toast to the Coast www.winegeelong.com.au
- 29-31 Art Spot, Aireys Inlet www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 30 Anglesea Riverbank Market www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au