

BCNT NEWS



Woolamai House | Australian Heritage Festival | Tree Register | Advocacy

Dates for your Calendar!

This year, as well as the AGM which is always open to all, we will hold three general meetings which will be open to all members and friends of the Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust. Our small committee needs some fresh ideas on promoting and celebrating heritage in all its aspects across Bass Coast Shire and Phillip Island. We will also benefit from your input on the advocacy issues which arise throughout the year. The Heritage Festival event brings many of us together once a year and it would be lovely to see people more often.

General Meetings

Sunday February 23 2pm

Rhyll Mechanics Institute
Hall, Lock Road Rhyll

Sunday May 3rd 2pm

Sunday August 2nd 2pm

Annual General Meeting

**Sunday November 8th
2pm**

Rhyll Heritage Festival Walk

**Saturday April 18th
10am-3pm**



WOOLAMAI HOUSE

One of the largest and possibly oldest houses on Phillip Island changed hands again this January. It was impossible to fulfil the dream of securing it for public use, perhaps as a Maritime Museum. However the house is protected by its National Trust listing and that of the Victorian Heritage Register which describes it as “. . . a rare survivor of the substantial homestead complexes built for Gippsland Pastoralists during the last century”.

It was built in 1876 by John Cleeland, one of Phillip Island's most colourful characters. He had sailed the South Pacific as Captain of his own schooner, been Melbourne's Albion Hotel licensee and was the owner of racehorse, Wollomai, who won the 1875 Melbourne Cup. He engaged in pastoral pursuits and horse breeding on Phillip Island until his death in 1914.

The original house was a simple structure which grew as new sections were added over the years. One of its features is the two storey tower affording magnificent views. We can imagine Captain Cleeland sitting there with his telescope looking out to sea and keeping an eye on the latest shipping movements.

Bass Coast Branch will work to see that this important part of our regional history survives.

Advocacy

Bass Coast Heritage Gap Study

Greg Buchanan, BCNT President, met with members of BCSC Strategic Planning Department in December. They advise that a Heritage Consultant will be appointed early in the New Year to undertake a heritage gap study in 2020. Council officers have been reviewing the original heritage studies.

Stage 1 identified approximately 600 properties for assessment. Stage 2 resulted in 200 of these properties being covered by a Heritage Overlay.

The review has involved looking at 417 properties from Stage 1 which did not get protection, to discover which are still intact. This will provide an audit and solid background work for use by the newly appointed Consultant.

The Department has promised to keep us informed.



8 Underdown Court Rhyll

(Former Strawberry Farm): Two years ago, BCNT raised the issue that this property, then for sale, lacked any heritage protection. BCSC then appointed a heritage consultant who identified its heritage significance. The property will now be included in the 2020 Heritage Gap Study.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

“OUR HERITAGE FOR THE FUTURE”

Between April 18th and May 19th 2020 there will be events all over Victoria celebrating heritage and expressing aspects of this years theme.

We are delighted to have local author, Linda Cuttriss as guide for our Bass Coast Branch event on **April 18th**, a heritage walk which we've called **“On Sheltered Shores - at Rhyll”**.

You might have enjoyed some of Linda's articles in the Bass Coast Post and many of us have learnt so much from the book she wrote with Eric Bird "500 Million Years on Phillip Island", still available from West Gippsland Libraries.

Linda will take us on two leisurely strolls which will help us see with fresh eyes, the picturesque fishing village of Rhyll, its environmental wonders and beautiful landscapes. The guided walks will also reveal the many ways people have worked, and are still working, to protect Rhyll's rich heritage as an inheritance for future generations.

It wouldn't be a BCNT tour without a delicious lunch which we'll enjoy between the walks at the Rhyll Mechanics Institute where a heritage exhibition and photo display is also planned. Last but not least, there will be a visit to a pioneer's cottage.



Full details will follow soon via email. You will also see our event advertised in the National Trust Victorian Heritage Festival Program booklet and on the Heritage page of their website.

Significant Trees & Vegetation Register

You will remember that this is a combined National Trust & Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) project. The process is on track with a well attended public forum held in October 2019. Nominations for significant trees/vegetation were submitted until the end of



January with 60 nominations received. The Panel is now undertaking the assessment process.

Jeff Nottle and Jane Jobe of PICS and Greg Buchanan are meeting BCSC CEO Ali Wastie and other senior staff to discuss our project this month. A report, together with the pilot Tree Register, will be presented to BCSC by the end of March 2020.



Advocacy

92 Norsemans Road, Coronet Bay (Planning Permit Application 170123):

Proposed Hotel (192 rooms), Restaurant (300 seats) and Function Room (500 seats)

On 25 November 2019 we lodged an objection raising our concerns about the size and intensity of the use/development. Our objection states that the site is outside the township boundary and that the proposal clearly departs from Bass Coast Shire Council's (BCSC) strategic planning policy that seeks only small scale tourist uses in smaller settlements such as Coronet Bay. We expect this matter to go to a Council meeting this month.



Cape Paterson North Bass Coast Planning Scheme Amendment C136

This amendment is presently on public exhibition until 27 February 2020 and proposes the rezoning of approximately 53 hectares of farming land on the north side of Cape Paterson - north of Seaward Drive and west of Cape Paterson Road.

The land is located within the proposed urban boundary of Cape Paterson - being designated for "Short Term (Change from FZ to R1Z)" under the Strategic Framework Plan that sits in Clause 21.09 of the planning scheme.

The amendment is to be discussed at our next BCNT General Meeting on 23 February. Come and take part in the discussion if this issue is of importance to you!

Distinctive Areas & Landscapes

Latest news!

BCSC has advised us that an 'Issues Paper' will be released early this year for further public input. This responds to public submissions and is the next step in consultation before a draft Statement of Planning Policy is prepared.

Cowes Primary School

We wrote to the Mayor seeking Council engagement with the school and education department regarding gymnasium plans that may impact on the nature reserve and mature trees located within the school site. Awaiting a reply.

2019/2020 BCNT Committee

President: Greg Buchanan
 Vice President: Margaret Hancock
 Secretary: MaryLu Burt
 Treasurer: Eric Burt
 Committee Members:
 Julie Box
 Gaye Cleeland
 John Jansson
 John Laing
 Ross Lloyd
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Advocacy

Rhyll Boat Ramp Project

We made a submission to Better Boating Victoria on 27 November 2019 raising concerns about the adverse impact new boating facilities (ramp expansion, increased car parking and new vehicle access points) could potentially have on existing public facilities (playground, walking paths, vegetation etc). We also expressed concern about the limited public consultation period (of one week) and the fact Council (as the land manager) should be doing the overall plan for the Rhyll foreshore, not Better Boating Victoria. Other individual submissions have been made, including one by John Jansson, local historian, citing the maritime history and the fact that a shipwreck lies close to the surface beneath the proposed major new works.. Our submission (copied to the Mayor) has been acknowledged by Better Boating Victoria and they have now invited us to meet with them and a Council officer in Cowes later this month to discuss their proposed response to the public submissions.



Bass Coast Planning Scheme Amendment C149: 1-5 & 2 Settlement Road, Silverleaves

This was a new amendment on the agenda for the BCSC December meeting. It involved land at the eastern end of Settlement Road, Silverleaves and combined the gifting of land to the Crown for conservation purposes (and management by Phillip Island Nature Parks) and the rezoning of some smaller parcels to allow for private subdivision and development. The land is located at the western end of the National Trust Classified Landscape covering the Nits area abutting Rhyll. Council decided at the meeting on 11 December 2019 not to proceed with this planning scheme amendment - due mainly to the flooding risk and environmental sensitivity in this low lying coastal area - a good outcome for our classified landscape!