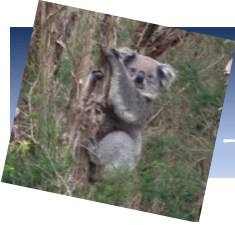


# CAPE CONVERSATIONS

Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association Newsletter – September 2023



## Biodiversity

— protecting and conserving our environment

### Hoodie Update

Following last season's successful result with four fledged juveniles, the Hooded Plover breeding season has begun again between Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven.

The Pea Creek breeding pair have started nest scrapes, one of which will be selected as the preferred site to lay eggs, and several other breeding pairs are guarding their territories in preparation for establishing nests.

This year, local Hoodie volunteers will be raising public awareness on the beaches with more monitoring, beach information sessions, and displays. New advisory signage will be erected soon at beach access points which will contain the latest news and status on nests and chicks, and tips regarding how beach users should behave near nesting sites.

The volunteering effort will be supported by patrols by Parks Victoria Rangers and the Office of the Conservation Regulator who will also be monitoring the beaches. Let's keep the fingers crossed for another successful breeding season.



Photo of Hooded Plover breeding pair recently at Pea Creek estuary

(Report and photo courtesy of David Hartney, photo August 2023, taken with a long-distance lens)

### Diary dates

#### Working Bees 2023

21 October  
11 November  
No December  
Working Bee

#### CPRRA Committee Meetings

21 October  
9 December

#### Parents' Group (see page 3 for details)

6 October  
3 November  
1 December  
No January Parents' Group

#### Beach Patrols Commence

11 November

#### Aquathon

21 January 2024

#### Next CPRRA newsletter

November



## Fire Season Approaching – El Nino is Back.

The CFA is holding its annual Cape Paterson briefing and barbeque on 4 November from 11.00 am at the Cape Tavern. El Nino is back and already parts of Gippsland are dry and looking as if they will be in for a hazardous fire season. As recommended in our last newsletter it's now time to get ready for the potential for fire by ensuring your important papers are backed up and that you have a "go bag" list prepared and the bag contents inventoried. Reduce flammable material in your yard and take advantage of the Council's free green waste disposal from 4-26 November.

Cape Paterson is considered a high-risk fire area with a bush fire management overlay (BMO) over much of the town.

Emergencies are becoming more frequent and are not limited to fire as we all know from our personal experience (Covid, flooding, heat waves etc). The Red Cross Get Prepared App will help you get ready for most emergencies and give you peace of mind that you've done what you can to keep you and your dear ones safe.

## Working Bees

For the last few months we've been working on an area in the coastal reserve west of the Cape Paterson Life Saving Club.

It's an area heavily infested with boneseed – a highly invasive South African ornamental plant. (See photo – pretty yellow flowers in spring but it unfortunately smothers all our local plant species.)

Hopefully we'll have this area completed by the end of the October working bee (21 October 2023 – meet at First Surf Beach car park at 9:00am).

Following this, it will require annual monitoring to ensure the seed load left over doesn't spring up again.

Mike Tesch has engaged with Bass Coast Shire Council to plant out the Boat Ramp slopes featuring the indigenous plants of the Bunurong Coast. Planting is scheduled for next year.



## Strategic Plan Review

CPRRA has commenced a review of the Association strategy. We have reviewed the previous plan from 2019 to 2023 inclusive, some of the trends that are currently and will likely impact us over the next five years.

We're taking into account the surveys that have taken place (including recent CPRRA, Bass Coast and DAL feedback) to inform the draft plan rather than expose the community to yet another survey.

However, we welcome any member comments preferably before our next meeting on 21 October ([secretary@capepaterson.asn.au](mailto:secretary@capepaterson.asn.au)) and will circulate the draft plan to CPRRA members in early December in advance of the CPRRA AGM in January.



## The Cape Estate (Eco-village) is a No Horse Zone ...

A reminder that the common property of Cape Estate (eco village) is private land and horses are not permitted to be ridden there. Some horse riders have assumed they have right of access – despite signage – and assert that the common land is public. It is not.

The eco village residents pay fees to maintain landscaping, play areas and other facilities and generously have permitted anyone to come to the area and enjoy it. Although rare, some visitors are not adhering to the rules which are clearly posted. This includes requiring dogs to be on leads. The vast majority of visitors are respectful, but a small minority have been aggressive and claim access is a right rather than a privilege. This is the Cape Estate residents' home and the common areas are their shared gardens.



## Wellness – enhancing our community



### Exciting News – Our Parents' Group has Grown and Moved

Due to high attendance the CPRRA Parents' Group has moved to the Cape Paterson Community Hall. It will continue to be held on the first Friday of each month from 9:15 to 11:00 AM.

Parents and children from newborn to preschool age are welcome. Coffee (good!) and tea are provided at no charge. Bring your own snacks if you wish.

An assortment of age-appropriate toys and books are available. CPRRA volunteers (who are happy to read, play or hold little ones) are not childcare workers so parents remain responsible for their kids.

New parents from Cape Paterson and nearby areas are welcome and can now be accommodated in this new spacious venue.

Big thanks to Diana and Celine at Zeal and Flow for providing the venue for us to establish the group for the first few months until we outgrew the space.

The idea came from a young member who found being at home with little ones could be isolating, especially in a village. It's a pleasure to see the young parents in our community and their kids enjoying the monthly sessions!

If you have young children's toys or books in excellent condition, we would love to hear from you ([secretary@capepaterson.asn.au](mailto:secretary@capepaterson.asn.au))!

This CPRRA initiative forms part of our mission to care for our community and the Cape Paterson environment.



## CPRRA Membership – Why Join ...

Because every member makes a difference and enables us to be more effective, as was seen in the DAL hearings when we were asked how many people we represent.

Every member connects us to our village and every member provides us with income that we can reinvest into Cape Paterson. And new or existing members who rejoin now will be credited for 2024.

How can a new member join? Email us or go to the website <https://cprra.webflow.io/join-us> (ignore the family membership bit).

How much? \$15 per member and of course multiple members from a household are even better. Payment is optional for those members over 70. Payable by direct deposit to our BSB 633 000 Account 130 956 113. All you need to do is include last name and street number in the reference section e.g. Barker 56.

Any questions? Contact us at [membership@capepaterson.asn.au](mailto:membership@capepaterson.asn.au).

## Short Stay Accommodation - New Requirements

As of 11 September, the **Short-term Stay Rental Accommodation Law** came into being:

<https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/communitiy-support-services/local-laws/short-stay-rental-accommodation-ssra>

If your neighbour puts their place up for short-term rental, they will need to comply with the law and provide a contact number should any issues arise.

Short term renters will not be permitted to erect tents or bring in caravans for additional accommodation and parking will be limited.

Excess rubbish needs to be removed within 24 hours.

In the event of loud parties or aggressive behaviour by the short-stay occupants continue to contact the Police on 000. Do not put yourself at risk.

## Did You Know ...

Cape Paterson is famous for its native orchids. Photos courtesy of Geoff Glare.



Eastern Spider-orchid  
*Caladenia orientalis*  
EPBC Listed EN FFG Listed EN  
Photo: Cape Paterson



Variable Spider-orchid  
*Caladenia X variabilis*  
FFG Listed EN in 2014, not listed 2022  
Photo: Scenic Road, Cape Paterson



Thick-lip Spider-orchid  
*Caladenia tessellata*  
EPBC Listed VU  
Photo: Ozone Court, Cape Paterson



## Planning and Infrastructure

- Improving liveability

### Local Area Traffic Management Plan Update

In August CPRRA members met with Leah Bellairs, Coordinator Sustainable Transport and Movement at BCSC regarding the status of the Local Area Traffic Management Plan (LATMP) for Cape Paterson. Leah advised that her team were in the process of developing a scope statement which would be used to tender for consultants in the next couple of months.

The purpose of the LATMP is to establish a strategic approach to the management of future transport needs in Cape Paterson and mitigating risk in the long term. The study involves the identification of areas of concern and development of solutions on issues relating to safety and amenity in relation to vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. The study would also include consideration of the safety of wildlife. The LATMP will develop short, medium and long-term recommendations with a priority rating and an indication of the costs associated with each recommendation.

At this stage funding has not been allocated for any major works arising from the LATMP but BCSC may be able to address low-cost fixes such as signage. There would need to be budget submissions developed for any recommendations agreed to by Council.

### Maintenance of Frequently Used Public Areas

In July CPRRA wrote to BCSC to draw Council's attention to areas which require maintenance work. Photographs were attached highlighting areas of concern.

Many of these areas have been problematic for some time and have been exacerbated by the inclement weather conditions.

Rectification of these problems would enhance their useability and appearance as well as alleviate safety concerns and improve the liveability for Cape Paterson residents, especially those with mobility challenges.

Areas highlighted were the cliff top walking tracks, lack of disability parking, car parks and picnic areas and beach access paths.

At time of publication BCSC has acknowledged receipt but no detailed response has been received.

### DAL SAC Update

CPRRA is aware that the Standing Advisory Committee presented its report on the Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscape to the Minister on 22 June but has no further information on when the report will be publicly released.

The Working Group continues to lobby relevant political contacts to reinforce the CPRRA case presented at the hearings.

CPRRA has also been advised that the Minister for Planning visited the Cape Paterson eco village on an unrelated matter in July.