



WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER info.cwra@gmail.com

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. Membership is growing, but please encourage friends & neighbours to join, and help grow our community voice. Ratepayers and residents of the Town of Cambridge Coast Ward are eligible to join. Membership is only \$10 per year. A Membership form is in this Newsletter or is available from The Boulevard Dry Cleaners (City Beach), Floreat Forum Dry Cleaners and JJ Kings (Birkdale St, Floreat). **Rob Walker, President, Coast Ward Ratepayers Association.**

Amendment 31 (A31):

A Scheme Amendment allowing duplex, triplex and apartment developments in City Beach, Floreat and Mt Claremont. In April 2016 the Planning Minister **rejected** the Town's version of A31 but substituted it with a new version (version 2) which increases the R code density within 400-500 metres around three local shops, allowing for duplex and triplex strata developments and battleaxe blocks. Corner lots throughout the Town (over 900sqm) could be duplexed and strata titled with a reduced 4m setback from the road. Version 2 (V2) of A31 is before the TOC for their consideration.

CWRA: Coast Ward Ratepayers Association
SOCBOF: Save Our City Beach Our Floreat
DOP: Department of Planning

TOC: Town of Cambridge
SPC: Statutory Planning Committee
SAT: State Administrative Tribunal



Q: Is it true that no matter how TOC Councillors vote on A31 (version 2), it still has to go to the Minister for Planning and she makes the final decision (irrespective of what the TOC say)?

A: Yes, this proposal will follow the same process as the original so making a submission during advertising (if and when that occurs) will be important. The Town will comment on the submissions. The DOP will review those submissions as well for the SPC. The SPC then make a recommendation to the Minister. (Last time the recommendation was for refusal). The Minister will make a fresh decision on this new scheme amendment proposal in version 2.

Q: Are Form 4s (completed by residents with their feedback & comments) read and considered by the TOC and DOP when they decide A31 (version 2)? If not, what's the point of completing one?

A: At this stage we understand both the TOC and DOP will read and consider all Form 4s. While we understand ratepayers felt frustrated that it seemed no one listened to them last time, in fact the DOP and SPC did listen and seriously considered your comments. It is imperative you have your say on the new proposal and we all continue to stand together and voice our concerns, even those people not directly impacted, as this still affects all of our suburbs one way or another.

Q: What are the grounds of the Court Case initiated by the CWRA against the TOC? If the CWRA win, will A31 (version 2) go away?

A: In August 2015 the CWRA brought an application for judicial review of A31 before the Supreme Court – simply asking a Judge to review the TOC's decision making process on A31 to determine whether it was done validly having regard to current laws. Developers frequently do the same on planning matters by appealing to the SAT regarding their planning approvals – questioning a decision made by a local government. The TOC however is continuing to oppose the CWRA's application – arguing the CWRA don't have 'sufficient standing' or any 'special interest' in having the TOC's decision on A31 reviewed – an absolutely absurd and confrontational position to take. In effect Council is saying a group of ratepayers have no interest in any scheme amendment that might affect the land they own and the suburbs in which they reside. Yes, if the CWRA's application is successful (and if the TOC do not appeal that decision) **every** version of A31 will disappear as though never initiated.

Q: If yes, why don't the TOC wait for the judge's decision before embarking on unnecessary (and expensive) advertising and consultation again?

A: Good question! In fact we raised the same issue with Minister Day and suggested he wait on making a decision until the outcome of the application for judicial review was known. However on 7 April he notified the TOC of his decision for a new scheme amendment – Version 2 of A31. On 24 May the TOC resolved to obtain legal advice from Senior Counsel on the Minister's power to modify A31. TOC also resolved that advertising of the Minister's A31 Version 2 be postponed until the

outcome of the legal advice is obtained and any suggested action from that advice is determined. So currently no dates are set for advertising.

Q: Why is the decision on the Court Case taking so long? A TOC Councillor told me the action had been thrown out!

A: We understand the Courts are very busy and stretched for resources. At the time of print no Judge has made any decision to 'throw out' any grounds of the CWRA's application for judicial review. The TOC are challenging 3 grounds raised in the CWRA's application for judicial review (as well as ratepayers' rights to have a Council decision reviewed at all). The CWRA's grounds are about whether the Town followed due process. The CWRA believes the TOC did not refer the amendment to the heritage council for advice when by law it ought to and therefore it did not have regard to or the benefit of the heritage council advice when it made its decisions. The CWRA also is querying whether the TOC correctly executed the statutory advertising process and whether the meetings had a sufficient quorum due to financial interest issues.

As at February 2016, \$132,611 of ratepayers' money has been used by TOC to fund TOC's challenge against its ratepayers' request for a review of its decision. In April 2016, a motion was put at Council that no further money be spent opposing the CWRA's application and McLeods be instructed to discontinue all work. Coast Ward Councillor Pauline O'Connor and the Wembley Ward Councillors refused to support that motion and it was lost. We await the Judge's decision. In May the TOC committed a further \$30,000 to legal costs with a view to reviewing the validity of the Minister for Planning's decision on their scheme amendment. Remember it was 4 Elected Members that started this expensive scheme amendment fiasco!

Please contact the CWRA if you are able to assist us financially in any way (great or small) - it all helps! All contributions will be gratefully received to help us stand up for the 82% of ratepayers who did not want this scheme amendment and for those now affected by the Minister's new scheme amendment who do not want it because it will impact on the character and amenity of our suburbs. There are better ways to do infill which is sensitive, gentle and hidden for our historic garden suburbs.

Q: How does joining the CWRA help anything? What is the difference between Save Our City Beach Our Floreat (SOCBOF) and CWRA?

A: CWRA was established in 1980 and has long played a role in representing ratepayers on major issues in the district such as the Perry Lakes Redevelopment, Endowment Lands Act, Bold Park and, now, Amendment 31 (initiated by the TOC). CWRA's objectives are to keep the community informed and connected with major issues to protect the values, traditions and lifestyles of the Coast Ward Community. CWRA is totally not for profit and relies on membership fees from residents to maintain its voice (and donations to fund the legal cost for the judicial review of A31).

SOCBOF comprises a group of residents who are concerned about A31 and getting the information out to residents using social and print media. The majority of members of SOCBOF are members of CWRA. SOCBOF and CWRA continue to work together.



Mayor's Corner

Mayor Keri Shannon's mayoral blog used to be accessible from the Town of Cambridge website. However, some Councillors complained and the link was removed.

As our elected Mayor we believe it's important she has the opportunity to discharge her statutory duties to provide leadership and guidance to the community and speak on behalf of the local government. The direct link to Mayor Shannon's blog is <https://tocambridge.wordpress.com/>

COMING SOON

Opportunity for Business Membership to Coast Ward Ratepayers Association

STAY TUNED

August Event

Venue: City of Perth Surf Life Saving Club.

~ **Amendment 31 update to members.**

~ **Tour the new Clubrooms & facilities.**

More information emailed to members in coming weeks.



A Life in Service

An afternoon spent at Ocean Gardens Village might be one of the most interesting afternoons spent in a while. A treasure trove hidden in the middle of our community, it's residents represent all aspects of our community. Stories of achievements in education, medicine and law sit alongside stories of hardship, adversity and, above all, service to community. The delightful Olwen Spiers has shared her story with us, which encapsulates it all.

Born in Manchester, Olwen was only seven when the Second World War broke out. Evacuated from London with her sister to an unknown location, "talk costs lives" was the slogan of the day. This nearly proved tragic when a bomb was dropped next to their foster house and the girls were placed in a Children's Home. Rescue came only when they scraped up enough money for a stamp to write home!

Olwen trained as a speech therapist and worked evenings at Wakefield Prison with younger prisoners on life sentences. Many had severe stammers and other speech impediments. She recalls helping them become more able to communicate and turn their lives around as a driving motivator in her life. As her talents became obvious Olwen began working with handicapped children and young adults at the local hospital and she also trained in the prison system. Her first official posting was Holloway Prison. She was given the "throw-outs" wing, hard to manage prisoners that no-one wanted. The staff in the wing also felt rejected and Olwen proceeded to turn around both staff and prisoner attitudes with new ground breaking initiatives such as small group sessions and creative activities that are now considered standard in prison systems.

During her career Olwen campaigned for married women to be allowed to remain employed by the prison, noting young offenders often required the skills of staff that had raised children of their own and had more understanding of the difficult lives some of the prisoners had suffered. "The difference this made to the young offenders was a joy and the single staff also appreciated the experience brought by the older women."

She instigated new programs such as forming links with local residents and encouraging them to visit those prisoners who had no visitors of their own, her focus always being on "trying to create a happier future". As well as a stint as Assistant Governor at the Risley Remand Centre, which housed notorious high profile cases such as the infamous Moors Murderer, Myra Hindley, Olwen assisted with the establishment of a pre-release hostel, allowing ex-prisoners to hold down jobs while living under limited supervision. Whilst Olwen remembers the prison hours being long, from 6am to 10pm, often with night visits required in between, she remembers it as a period that was "encouraging beyond belief". Looking back Olwen recalls her working life as "an addition to my own development, a reaction to dealing with problems, recognizing what unhappy, disruptive lives other people were living, and how lucky I have been to work with wonderful, co-operative and helpful people".

Now a resident at Ocean Gardens, Olwen is dismayed that the village atmosphere promoted by the shared community areas will be greatly impacted by development plans for the village. As someone who campaigned hard for those less fortunate all her life, she has been disheartened that the petitions and the wishes of elderly residents (that the high rise be built at an alternative site within the village) have fallen on deaf ears. She also feels extremely disappointed that moves were made to remove the residents' ability to appoint board members and they now have no representation on their own board. Olwen's hope in sharing this story is to bring awareness that amongst our elderly there are many, many active intelligent people who have worked tirelessly for their communities. They have a wealth of experience to share with us and should be allowed to retain their role as active community members with a voice in their own community. *(Other stories from Ocean Garden's Village residents will follow in future Newsletters. Year 6 students at City Beach Primary School have been interviewing residents and we hope to publish some of their interviews).*

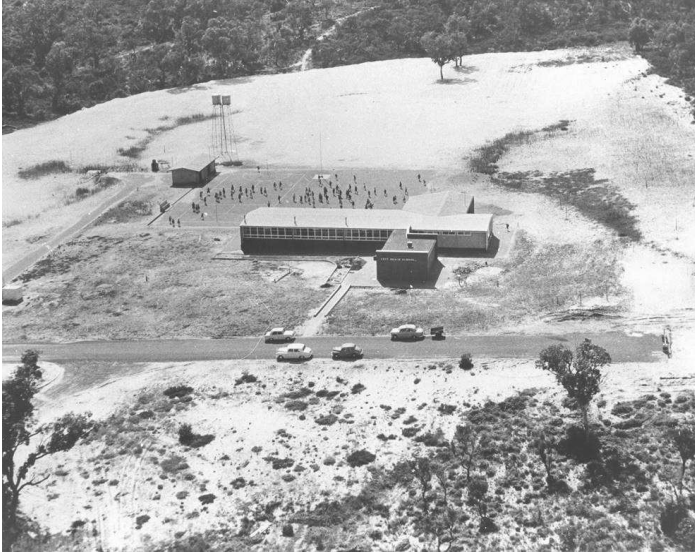
Empire Village, City Beach

The Boulevard Shopping Centre has been renamed Empire Village to preserve the heritage of the site which was used for the 1962 Empire (Commonwealth) Games. Re-development will soon be completed. In May we welcomed the return of Pizza Pasta Boulevard (now **Boulevard Pizzeria**), open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. **Park and Vine** has opened – breakfast to dinner – Tuesday to Sunday (licensed, relaxed style dining). **Vintage Cellars** and **Georges** (under the shady trees near the car park) continue trading. In the next few weeks **The Groper and His Wife** will return.

Jim Tsagalis from Lease Equity said, "We are very pleased with the mix of tenants at Empire Village and only one shop remains available for lease. In the next few weeks we will formally announce the tenants and details of a grand opening. Empire Village will be very well received by the community."

City Beach Primary School is turning 60

A range of fantastic events are planned to recognise the milestone. There is a Celebration Dinner on Saturday August 6 at Wembley Golf Club, with past and present students and teachers attending. This is set to be a great night with guest speakers and recollections from past and current students and staff. Celebrations continue into October with a fun filled Market Day on school grounds on Saturday October 29th. This will be a festive family atmosphere for everyone - former and current students and teachers plus the wider community – to enjoy, reflecting the fabulous atmosphere that exists in the school.



There will be fresh food and drinks as well as live entertainment and music. We will also be attempting a world record on the day - the most people colouring in at one time! If you have always wanted a world record - this is the one! The attempt will be compered by aspiring commentator, Year 5 student Jack Barrett, who will also be continuing his work raising money for Telethon.

More information is available from the City Beach Primary School 60th Anniversary Facebook page or email 60yearsofCBPS@gmail.com

Photo: City Beach Primary School circa. 1956. Source: Town of Cambridge Library.



APPLICATION FOR 2016 MEMBERSHIP



Name
of (address)
Suburb Post Code
Phone Mobile Email

Annual Association Membership for the 2016 calendar year is \$10 per member.

Any additional support would also be appreciated.

(Please tick box, GST inclusive)

\$10 Annual Membership Fees New Member/ Renewal (please circle)

Additional Funding Support \$50 \$100 Other \$.....

Total Payment \$ Date Paid

Payment can be made by EFT (or deposit at any Commonwealth Bank) to;

Account Name: Coast Ward Ratepayers Association Inc., BSB: 066 129, Acc No: 0090 2416

Please complete this membership form and return via;

Email: info.cwra@gmail.com

Fax: 9385 7304

Post: 14 Palana Rd., City Beach WA 6015

Please indicate (tick the box) how you have paid your membership

I have paid my membership via EFT

I have made a deposit at the bank (CBA)

I have enclosed a cheque

Office Use: Proposer:Date:Seconder: