

4<sup>th</sup> April, 2006

The Secretary,  
W R R A (inc.)  
325 Cape Liptrap Road  
Tarwin Lower Vic 3956

Attention : Julie McPhee

Re : Walkerville Progress Association

I am writing to your organization formally introducing ourselves, explaining what we see *as the way* ~~for~~ our existence and offering to work together with matters that we may have common in the future.

There are many stakeholders who use our beautiful coastal area at Walkerville –

- Residents and guests
- Fishermen
- Campers (Bear Gully & Walkerville)
- Day Trippers from local ~~tours~~ *towns* and regional areas
- Day trippers passing through Walkerville on their way to somewhere *else*,

We have no statistical evidence of the total number of visitors to Walkerville or what the breakup is between categories. A wild guess would suggest at least several thousand people visit the Walkerville foreshore each year. The landowners have representation with your WRRPA which is seemingly totally focused on environmental issues and perhaps unsupportive (to say the least) of any improvements whatsoever, to improve the general day to day amenities of the area.

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The fishermen and boaties are represented by WBWBAC whose efforts are obviously focused on fishing and boating activities.

The Friends of Walkerville (FOW) are an active group of environmentalists who promote tree planting and weed control and have no interest in the general day to day needs of the area.

The Walkerville Foreshore Committee (WFC) appointed by the DSE, who are responsible for the upkeep of the Caravan park and management of the foreshore - ~~•~~  
Looking at the standard of the facilities outside the camping ground, any outsider would think they are not doing their job properly or have a deliberate policy of running down facilities with the express purpose of turning people away.

Historic South Walkerville which is a feature of South Gippsland Tourism has no facilities whatsoever apart from ~~some~~ very substandard and grotty toilet block. No picnic tables, seats, BBQ's, Beach Showers, seating areas, covered areas or anything whatsoever that could be construed as a tourist facility. It's a disgrace and indicates people in this area have no pride. They too seem totally immersed in environmental considerations at the expense of almost anything else.

In summary it seems to us that the only people who have representation at Walkerville are :-

1. The landowners (100 homes or thereabouts)
2. The fishermen (100 plus Members)
3. The environmental lobby (50 individuals)

As a percentage of the stakeholders who visit Walkerville at least once a year, we believe 75% of these people have no vehicle by which they can express an opinion. The existing groups only represent their own interests and there is seemingly anecdotal evidence at least that there is a mood in the area to deliberately discourage people from coming to Walkerville less it be ruined.

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The Walkerville Progress Association believes there can be sensible, sensitive improvements for foreshore users that improve the general amenities and safety of Walkerville without ruining what we have got. We are fortunate that all freehold land there is ever going to be exists at present. We are surrounded by a State Park and there is no likelihood ever of Walkerville being developed into something like the commercial activity of Inverloch – it cant happen.

The Walkerville Progress Association was formed to give a voice to all visitors to Walkerville, whether they be guests of residents, campers or day trippers who have an interest in providing facilities that are for the betterment and enjoyment of all. We are against inappropriate and insensitive development as well as inappropriate and insensitive Restrictions we stand for transparency and openness on all matters regarding the future of Walkerville and will expose any issues involving fuscation hoodwinking or manipulation of issues that have a negative affect on the general amenity of Walkerville.

We anticipate fund raising and working bee activities to bring about improvements and hope that your organization will work with us on issues that we may occasionally agree on rather than remain permanent adversaries because of the issues we don't agree on.

Yours faithfully,

Steve Graham  
Interim Chairman