



## **WALKERVILLE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

### **NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2006**

*GENERAL MEETING – EASTER SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2006*

*7pm at the Walkerville North Community Hall*

Sorry for the delay in feedback but the tyranny of distance has slowed us up a little. A lot has been going on – it's just that we haven't been able to put it all together until now.

Enclosed is a copy of the formation meeting minutes as well as a copy of the steering committee meetings. We have also written a submission to the foreshore committee and sent a letter of introduction to the rate payers association. A sub-committee have also met to draft a constitution (modified model rules of incorporation) for submissions to the General Meeting on Easter Sunday at the Hall at 7pm.

We hope to have a website in the not too distant future when we work out how to use them, so that we can post all correspondence and activities on all issues – we hope to be transparent as you can get.

#### Boat Ramp

The deadline for submissions has closed and I am reliably informed that there were 450 submissions for the Boat Club and others supporting Option 5 in front of the hall. There were 250 or so submissions received in a petition form from an alternate boating community supporting Option 3(a). The independent submissions against Option 5 I believe we were about 50.

I have been approached by a person representing alternative views to the BWAC (Boat Club). He demands our organization should retract comments in our background briefing that the BWAC represented the majority view of boating and fishermen was wrong and that they only have 100 members. Enquiries by our association indicates that the BWAC dues have more than 100 members and the alternate group has significantly less and has no formal structure as yet. The BWAC presented about 450 individual submissions to the Foreshore Committee and the alternate group a petition with 250 names on it. At this stage we still believe the BWAC represents the majority view of boaties at Walkerville but will happily print a retraction in our newsletter should there be factual evidence and not anecdotal evidence that we are wrong.

The current dilemma for the foreshore committee is that having called for submissions, how do they analyse the results and form a conclusion. There is talk of using either an independent consultant or the Erosion Study consultants to do the job.

We watch with great interest to see if the results of this survey are fiddled with or "interpreted" in an undemocratic fashion seemingly there is correspondence already from the D.S & E indirectly that the results should only be used as a 'guide' for the foreshore

committee who have already made a decision favouring Option (3a) (before calling for submission) and being told by D.S. & E that they support the Foreshore Committee's premature decision – (it doesn't look promising does it ?).

While not wanting to cast doubts about the validity of the outcome on this matter all players need to fully understand that any attempt to obfuscate, manipulate or hoodwink the local community will be widely publicized in the media, on the web and in the political arena. All we are after is honesty and objectivity and representation of views of all stakeholders – is this too much to ask ?

#### Next Steps

- General meeting at Walkerville on Easter Sunday to adopt the rules of the incorporation
- Write letters to Council, Marine Safety Vic. And DS & E introducing the WPA and advising them of our role as watchdogs of the democratic process
- Our Committee to meet the Foreshore Committee to discuss projects we can work together on to improve general amenities of the Walkerville Foreshore for both the residents and visitors to like the beautiful place
- Continue monitoring the outcomes between the DSE, the Foreshore Committee and the Boat Club
- Creating a website as a matter of importance to publicise matters of concern to all users of Walkerville
- Grow the Membership and advertise the organization as a voice for everyone who enjoys Walkerville
- Hold general meetings at least 3 times a year – in January, Easter and November to allow wider input to the direction of the association
- Send out electronic (and where necessary postal) newsletters at least 4 times a year keeping the membership informed of whats happening about the matters that concern them
- Building working relationships with other interest groups at Walkerville while focusing on the things we may have in common rather than those matters that may divide us
- Plan Working Bees to create physical improvements to amenities each side of the Caravan Park that desparately need upgrading.

Steve Graham  
Acting Chairperson