

## WALKERVILLE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER \_ FEBRUARY 2009



January has finished and the weather has been kind except for a couple of days of record heat, 43 degrees at Walkerville and 46 degrees at Tarwin. Lots of families and individuals have enjoyed Walkerville at its best, the fishing has been good and the caravan park has been full all January. It's great to hear the sounds of children and adults playing cricket on the beach, swimming, sunbaking, bikeriding or walking and just reading. It's what summer in Australia is all about.

The WPA keeps plodding along writing letters to the foreshore committee or government departments etc in its endeavour to make small but meaningful improvements for all users of Walkerville. Our list of achievements may be small but if we weren't around at all then facilities outside the camping ground would undoubtedly deteriorate even further. Our website contains the correspondence that has been sent to the foreshore custodians [WFCM] in the last 12 months. The two replies we received did not address many of the issues we raised, we keep nagging them about even minor issues such as signage on the toilets at "South" but it seems to

be a task beyond their reach so they don't reply. We have also attended WFCM open forums prior to the start of their meetings to make further representations. The WFCM are a voluntary group appointed by the DS&E in Traralgon and we don't seem to be able to convince them of the need to improve the experience of families at Walkerville. Their main preoccupation is still with environmental issues [most of which we agree with] at the expense of PEOPLE ISSUES. Although its like pushing a piece of string to get simple things done such as toilet signage we have to keep slugging away in the benign hope that one day "common sense will break out"

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## UPDATES

### **.Beach Access For Cars and Boats**

Good news, as most of you are aware the WFCM initiated beach access improvements at Walkerville North. A very sensitive and cost effective solution resulted in greatly improved access conditions, the boat club contributed \$1500 towards the concrete blocks at the WFCMs suggestion, this proves cooperation between various stakeholders is still possible

### **Boat Launching**

Having arrived successfully onto the beach the same old problems with launch and retrieval at both high and low tide still exist. VRFish representatives have met at Walkerville [we believe] with WFCM representatives and Coastal Board people to discuss the possibility of rock removal in the channel at the 'Bluff' at low tide, as well as rock removal and concreting to provide safer boat access in front of 'Gairs' motel. Whilst not providing an all weather solution it would reduce boat damage significantly. The WFCM formally adopted 'option 3a' of their very expensive erosion study which specifically describes significant rock removal at the beach access ramp-- the WFCM have reinterpreted the as two handfuls of rock which they have already done which has made no difference at all.

The WFCM must stick to its own recommendations if it is to maintain credibility.

### **WFCM Newsletter**

The WFCM are to be congratulated on their first edition of Walkerville News in December 2008 which contained a lot of interesting information for all visitors to Walkerville-----this and future copies will be posted on our website. We note with interest the following matters [a] signage along the foreshore will be reviewed and up graded in the next year or two.

[b] the possibility of making a pedestrian path along bayside drive will also be considered.

[c] the WFCM management plan '2001' will be reviewed during the year [this plan was only ever partially implemented]

[d]Improvements to the playground in the caravan park will proceed at last whether a grant is received or not, it will be completed by mid 2009

[f] the arborists recommendations for tree removal in the caravan park have been completed.

This newsletter was a very good communication and we hope it continues into the future.

## **WALKERVILLE BLUEWATER BOAT CLUB**

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The club has had an active season so far with two fishing competitions and generally good fishing conditions and results for most participants, a day spent fishing will beat any day at work. We didn't cop any of those horrible long term easterlies and the mild southerly conditions were very enjoyable, it was good to see beach access conditions improve and were happy to contribute \$1500 of club funds towards the project, we would love to see the rock clearing specified in the erosion study eventuate....we live in hope

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**Comments to WFCM 27<sup>th</sup> june 2008**

### **Landscaping Proposals at Walkerville North**

The Walkerville Progress Association agrees with all the comments made at the F.C. meeting at Walkerville on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2008. We do however, have a few "as well as" people oriented issues in addition to the environmental issues.

#### **General:**

Long time residents and visitors to Walkerville have come to know from experience how best to enjoy the place. Short term visitors and day-trippers however, invariably arrive at the round-a-bout at Holt Street and wonder what on earth people do have apart from looking at the view over to the "prom".

As Australia becomes more cosmopolitan so is the nature of day trippers to Walkerville. Many of these visitors don't know where to swim with their children, or the consequences of a high tide leaving them stranded; where to picnic; where toilet facilities are; where the kiosk is or when it is open.

In an ideal world, green groups think it would be nice if everybody was fit, robust and self-sufficient and just went bush-walking. Many of our newer Australian friends (and some older groups) are city bound folks who are not well versed with bushcraft and practical skills, but never-the-less bring their families for a nice day out at the beach.

We are very good at Walkerville with our signage telling people what they can't do:

- . no fires
- . no dogs on beach
- . no cars on beach
- . no parking
- . no this and no that

These things are out of balance, but what is the balance?

How about some large brown tourist signs at Walkerville South, the camping ground entrance and Walkerville North. These could say something along the lines of "Tips on how you and your family and friends can best enjoy your Walkerville experience".

- . Swimming - best at : Walkerville South (all tides)  
Waratah Street (high and mid tide)  
Camping Ground (high and mid tide)
- . Picnic Facilities and BBQs : Walkerville North Hall  
Waratah Street  
Camping Ground
- . Toilet Facilities/Change Rooms: Walkerville South  
Walkerville North Hall  
Camping Ground
- . Kiosk: Groceries; Coffee; Takeaway food etc  
Hours: Mid/week and Weekend  
plus both High and Low Season
- . Camping Ground: Location/Phone No/Manager/No of sites

Things to do:

- . Camping at BearGully
- . Fishing off the rocks
- . Swimming in warm weather
- . Walking tracks to lime kilns – 30 minutes
- . Walking tracks to bird rock – 1 hour
- . Walkerville cemetery – 30 minutes
- . Play cricket on hard sand at the bluff and south etc
- . Walk your dog on a lead etc
- . Fishing suggestions for boaters and non-boaters  
(provided by the fishing club)
- . Drive at sunset to Cape Liptrap
- . How to drive and what distance it is from north to south etc etc.
- . Nearest DOCTOR.....
- . Nearest HOSPITAL.....
- . Nearest POLICE .....

“Thank you for coming to Walkerville – Please leave it as you found it and COME AGAIN”

The first reaction is to say this is too much information to put on signs. A lot of the issues could be covered in brochures supplied in a waterproof box at the bottom of the sign as they do in National Parks.

I think we have a duty to look after our visitors and make sure they have a safe and happy time at Walkerville. To watch families swimming in amongst the rocks in front of the hall at high tide is not a pleasant experience.

We are happy to be involved and maybe sponsor some brochures if this matter goes any further.

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## **FIRE RISKS**

The WFCM is looking at running a fire risk meeting at Easter in the wake of the devastating conditions that have recently hit other parts of Victoria, could a disaster of this magnitude hit us at Walkerville and how vulnerable are we in this dense coastal bushland. It is probably time we all took another cold hard look at our fire preparation plans, pumps etc and possibly the need for bunkers.

We will keep all members informed of any proposed meeting.

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