



# Barwon Coast Bulletin

2015/ 2016 Summer Season

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Barwon Heads  
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Jon Paskas &  
Trina Kerans

Caretakers:  
Glen Ryan &  
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Riverview Family  
Caravan Park  
Barwon Heads Rd  
Ocean Grove  
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Managers:  
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Both parks are  
now on Facebook

All of us at Barwon Coast wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

#### **A NEW GENERAL MANAGER FOR BARWON COAST:**

After 15 years of dedicated service to Barwon Coast, Bob Jordan retired as General Manager in March 2015. The Committee of Management acknowledged Bob's huge contribution to coastal Crown land management at a function earlier in the year and welcomed on board Gary McPike as his replacement. Gary comes to Barwon Coast from 12+ years as Executive Officer for Otway Coast and extensive involvement in his local community around Apollo Bay.

#### **BARWON HEADS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

##### **HOWARD HARMER OVAL PRECINCT MASTER PLAN:**

Barwon Coast has engaged Thompson Berrill Landscape Design to develop a Master Plan for the sporting club precinct of the Caravan Park. Working in partnership with the Football Netball Club, Barwon Coast is pleased to make the draft plan available for public comment until February 6th 2016.

To obtain a copy of the Draft Master Plan please contact Barwon Coast by phone on 5254-1118; by email at [office@barwoncoast.com.au](mailto:office@barwoncoast.com.au); hard & digital copies are available. Alternately the draft plan can be downloaded from [www.barwoncoast.com.au](http://www.barwoncoast.com.au)

A 'drop in' information session will be held at the Multi Purpose Facility (Pavilion) in the Barwon Heads Caravan Park on Tuesday 5th of January from 10am till Noon and again on Tuesday 12th January between 4 pm & 6 pm. Barwon Coast staff will be on hand to answer any questions.

##### **OCEAN GROVE BEACH SAND DUNES:**

The dunes east of the Main Beach ramp were battered by winter storms and substantial erosion followed. Barwon Coast recently constructed a 50m long geo-fabric bag wall at the toe of the dunes to help protect the dune face in front of the main toilet block. To ensure it works at its best **PLEASE KEEP OFF** the area behind the fence.

##### **BARWON HEADS SEAWALL & PROMENADE:**

In mid 2015 the Barwon Heads Seawall sustained significant damage resulting in it being closed due to concerns for public safety.

Rebuilding of the seawall commenced on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September and was completed by the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2015.

The construction of a new concrete promenade, including a handrail will begin after Australia Day 2016.

The promenade walk was re-opened the week before Christmas, with a gravel surface; please watch your step.

In the interest of public safety, all visitors to the area are asked to take note of the site signage and only walk as directed. The edge of the newly constructed wall will be protected by water filled barriers.

##### **NEW BEACH TOILETS:**

Barwon Coast constructed two new 'micro flush' public toilets that were opened for public use in Mid-December. The 'all access' facilities are located at the Bridge Car Park on the Ocean Grove Spit, immediately east to the Barwon Heads bridge and the other on 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Road at the Beacon Car Park. The environmentally friendly facilities should be a welcome addition to the public infrastructure available to the local community and visitors alike. They come at a total investment cost of \$200k by Barwon Coast.

##### **FIREWORKS—NEW YEARS EVE:**

The Barwon Coast NYE fireworks display is scheduled to be held depending on weather conditions and CFA approval.

## **YOUR SAFETY:**

### **ON THE BEACH:**

This summer Barwon Coast is continuing to fund the **life guard patrol** on the **Ocean Grove Spit Beach at 18W** (near 19W RAAF's) **daily** from 26th of December to 26th of January; 7 days a week to improve beach safety for our campers, day visitors and locals alike.

Always swim between the flags. Never swim on your own. Never turn your back whilst your child is in the water.

The Aquatic safety signs at all major beach access points provide appropriate warnings in respect to hazards to swimmers or board riders in the sea, and direction to patrolled beaches.

Each beach access point has its own unique number as displayed on the yellow pyramids e.g. 28W and these are good reference points should you need to call emergency service personnel.

### **THE LOCAL PORT OF BARWON HEADS & BARWON ESTUARY:**

**The estuary is tidal, meaning the water level drops twice a day. Shallow water and the increase in sand movement can lead to significant harm to those considering jumping off the jetties and bridge.**

#### **DO NOT JUMP OR DIVE OFF THE BARWON HEADS JETTY OR THE BRIDGE**

The speed limit on the river and 200 metres from the beach is 5 knots, i.e. about fast walking pace.

On entering the Port from the ocean, the Green channel markers are starboard - i.e. Keep them to the right and the Red channel markers are port - i.e. Keep them to the left. Approaching the port from open water has been made easier with the recent installation of a 'sector' light on the spit day marker. A white light defines the lead with red light either side.

No Jet skis launching or landing on the river beaches. Beware of shallow water at low tide.

Remember boating safety rules requiring the mandatory wearing of personal flotation devices

Please take care if swimming in the river and please do not climb onto any boats moored in the River.

### **THE BARWON HEADS BLUFF CLIFF FACE:**

Please note the signs advising you to keep away from the rock face of the Bluff. Under no circumstances should you climb on the Bluff face; it is unstable & dangerous. Also be very aware of tidal movements before walking around the base of the Bluff.

### **CYCLING:**

Please ensure children always wear helmets and are made aware of the extreme danger in cycling behind the waste removal / recycling trucks that often stop and reverse. The 5 Kph speed limit also applies to bikes. Bikes, scooters, skateboards etc are not to be ridden after dark. All forms of motorised scooters (excluding disabled transport) and mini bikes are prohibited

### **FIRE:**

Fire is an ever present danger and it is essential that everyone understands that **on total fire ban days, no gas appliances including BBQs are to be operated in the open. Neither can gas BBQ's be used in tents or canvas annexes as these are not recognised as dwellings.** You are required to have fire fighting equipment at your site. The Ocean Grove Fire Brigade sells a campers kit including extinguisher and blanket and these are available in our office. We require that you disconnect the power supply to your caravan if it will be vacant for more than 2 days. To assist with fire and safety issues, all caravans are to be sited with draw bar facing the road.

At Riverside entrance roads have been numbered and signposted to assist emergency vehicles.

### **FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES:**

All caravan parks and camping grounds now have full fire hose reel coverage. Please take a moment to locate your nearest hose reel so you are prepared for any emergency. Maps with the locations of these services are available from the caravan park offices.

### **EMERGENCIES:**

**If need police, ambulance or fire emergency: Ring 112 from mobile phones or 000 from land lines.**

**Park security is available every night through the summer season and are contactable on the phone numbers on the front of the bulletin.** The park managers are available during the day.

Should an emergency evacuation be required public announcements will be made throughout our parks.

**Emergency evacuation procedures** are provided to you on page 3 of your rules sheet at check in; please keep in an accessible place. Know where your nearest evacuation assembly area is. Copies are available at the Caravan Park offices and are displayed within the amenity blocks.

#### **Other useful phone numbers:**

Ocean Grove Medical Clinic 5255 1022

Barwon Heads Medical Clinic 5254 2727

Epic Health Ocean Grove 5256 2500

Peninsula Family Medical Clinic 5256 2001

Geelong Hospital Emergency 4215 0100

Poisons Information 13 11 26

Nurse on Call 1300 60 60 24

### **PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DEFIBRILLATORS (PAD):**

Barwon Coast has installed defibrillators in the offices of both caravan parks. A defibrillator delivers an electric charge to the heart in the event of a cardiac arrest and can be used by members of the public without any medical training. Many of our staff have completed Level 2 First Aid which includes the use of defibrillators.

**BARWON HEADS CARAVAN PARK:**

Completed in time for Christmas and the summer holidays is an extension to the camp kitchen at the front of the park. The BBQs have been relocated to the extension, which also includes a dishwashing sink, picnic tables and seating. New joinery has also been installed in the kitchen area.

Toilet Block 4 has had the shower walls & floor retiled with Toilet Block 6 also having floor tiles laid.

Toilet Block 5 has been rendered inside & has been painted internally & externally.

Toilet Block 6 has a new wave roofed BBQ shelter with new double electric BBQ's.

**RIVERVIEW FAMILY CARAVAN PARK:**

Major improvements have been underway at Riverview. The Kiosk has been shifted to a new larger purpose built building near the southern end of the park. A new Duplex Cabin, catering for couples, has been installed and is proving very popular. The pedestrian access from the Parks 1st Avenue to the beach has been improved. Finally a major redevelopment of the main office is underway with completion expected during 2016.

**RIVERSIDE CAMPING GROUND:**

Volunteer friends of Riverside completed a valuable working bee in October this year, planting indigenous species to bolster biodiversity on the Ocean Grove spit. The group are already planning a similar activity in October 2016 and everyone is welcome to attend; Just leave your name, phone number and email address at any Barwon Coast office.

**ALL PARKS:****SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS / ASSOCIATIONS / VOLUNTEERS:**

During the summer a number of local groups i.e. Surf Life Saving, Service Clubs, Football Clubs, Scouts etc have been given permission to sell raffle tickets within the caravan parks.

**BEHAVIOUR:**

Please respect others quiet enjoyment of the caravan park. If you have a behaviour concern, please contact park managers or security services **immediately** at any hour, day or night. **Phone 5254 1115 for Barwon Heads Caravan Park and 5256 1600 for Riverview Family Caravan Park & Riverside Camping Ground.**

**Please secure your valuables and ensure eskys and bikes are put away each night.**

**Wi-Fi SERVICES:**

Wi-Fi Services available at both parks. The first 100MB of download is free with access available to Net 4 to purchase further allowances.

**TREE SAFETY:**

Across our 2 caravan parks and Riverside we continue to undertake a major tree safety program in accord with arborist recommendations. You will note many large gum trees have been pruned and a tree planting program will follow.

**PERMANENT WATER SAVING PLAN:**

Please ensure when using washing machines to wash a full load. A hand held trigger hose can be used to suppress dust but cars and boats should not be washed by hose, a bucket is acceptable.

**VEHICLE SPEED WITHIN PARKS & CAMPING GROUNDS:**

The 5 Kph vehicle speed (walking pace) will be strictly enforced for the safety of all campers.

**FEELING HUNGRY OR THIRSTY:**

Following feedback from campers the new and improved Kiosk at Riverview will open in its new location from Boxing Day through January from 8am to 9pm with a wide range of products both hot and cold including bread and cakes. In the Barwon Heads Caravan Park and Riverside Camping area bread and cakes will be delivered.

Dine with a great ocean view at the "At The Heads" restaurant / cafe at the former Fisherman's Co-op (Diver Dan's) on the water at Barwon Heads. New management "At The Heads" have advised they will be having a Steak Night on Wednesday's. The kiosk will also be open for ice creams etc.

"The Dunes" Café at the Ocean Grove Main Beach offers both great views and a great range of meals and coffee plus a kiosk for drinks, ice creams and chips etc.

Approved vendors will sell hot potatoes & soft drinks from late afternoon to early evening at the centre of the Ocean Grove Spit, plus a mobile ice cream van will travel through in Riverside. There will also a Vegan van on some nights near the bridge. A new vendor 'Ninja Balls' will be operating in the Barwon Heads Caravan Park.

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS:**

Barwon Coast in partnership with Gold Sponsors, City of Greater Geelong and Barwon Heads Community Bank® and The Echo are again running the Free Shuttle Bus.

Leave your car at your caravan park and catch the free shuttle bus.

The bus is operating from 27<sup>th</sup> December until 26<sup>th</sup> January commencing at 10am thru to 6pm with an hourly lap of Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads starting at the Ocean Grove Post Office. The bus will stop at the Ocean Grove Main Beach and the Spit. Note the bus does not go down 13th Beach Road. The Shuttle Bus tows a trailer to carry beach gear including surf boards.

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

### MARINE SANCTUARY:

The Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary is part of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries system. The Barwon Bluff Sanctuary extends seaward from the high tide mark around the Bluff including the rock platforms. The sanctuary is a 'No Take Zone' and therefore fishing is NOT allowed within the sanctuary boundaries including off the rocks. Brochures are available at the Caravan Park offices.

### ROCK PLATFORMS:

When enjoying the rockpools near the Bluff at Barwon Heads and at Ocean Grove below Grants Lookout please look and enjoy but do not touch. Please leave the shellfish, starfish (seastars) and crabs in their own environment. The extremely poisonous Blue Ringed Octopus live in the rockpools so keep your hands out.

### SAND DUNES – NO PEOPLE OR DOGS IN THE DUNES:

Barwon Coast maintains a large number of beach access tracks through the sand dunes. When using the beach please stay on the numbered access tracks to prevent damage to plants and the subsequent erosion.

Tunneling or digging deep holes in the sand is **extremely dangerous** as the risk of collapse is high.

Much of the coastline suffered extensive erosion over winter leaving steep drop offs in some places. These may collapse if jumped onto or from so keep off.

### TREES:

Pruning, trimming or removal of any tree on your site or within the coastal reserves is prohibited.

### WILDLIFE HEALTH:

Please do not feed our wildlife. This can lead to nuisance wildlife, aggressive behavior, spread disease, upset the natural populations, and be harmful to their general health.

### RECYCLE RIGHT – ITS VITAL:

Your assistance is requested in sorting your recycling (Bottles, aluminium, steel cans, rigid plastic containers and newspapers) and placing them (**not in a plastic bag**) in the clearly marked recycling wheelie bins with the yellow lid. Plastic bags, food waste and nappies contaminate the bins ending up in landfill. **Please read the new bin header boards** to assist with your recycling efforts.

**Please do not put recyclables in plastic bags or wrap them in anything.**

Cardboard can be left neatly beside the wheelie bins racks. Please crush cardboard boxes to assist our recycling program.

### LET OUR SEA BE PLASTIC BAG FREE

Please consider shopping with reusable bags to minimize plastics entering our oceans. You can purchase a reusable shopping bag designed by local students for \$3 from either caravan park. Alternatively the Barwon Heads Park is trialling a Borrow and Bring Back reusable bag scheme. This scheme can only work if you return the bag for others to use. The bags have been made free for your use by the local community.

### ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS:

The children's Summer Holiday Program is on again this year. These activities will be run generally from 10am to 12pm at River-view, and from 2pm to 3.30pm at Barwon Heads. Times change for some activities. Look out for the chalk board notices and get your program from the caravan park offices.

There will also be the usual SUFM morning activities in late Dec / early January for children at Barwon Heads and the teen group from 3.00pm out on Lahey Square.

The **Annual Rip to River Fun Run** on **Saturday 2nd January** will be held by the Ocean Grove SLSC.

Surfboard tuition will be provided at Ocean Grove Main Beach by both Go Ride A Wave and Westcoast Adventure Surf Schools ; by Great Ocean Road Surf Schools at 19W and Surf Sessions at 20W. Sea Kayaks hire possibly on the River and surf gear hire at the main beach. Stand Up Paddle hire and schools will also be available on the river.

Yoga classes are planned at the Ocean Grove Main Beach at 8am and 7.30pm and on the Barwon Heads foreshore.

### BARWON ESTUARY HERITAGE CENTRE:

The "Lobster Pot" on Jetty Road, Barwon Heads provides an opportunity to view an excellent display of our cultural and natural history. Proposed opening hours are from 27th December to 26th January being 1pm to 4pm daily, manned by volunteers from the 'Friends of the Lobster Pot'.

### RE-BOOKING AS YOU LEAVE:

If you wish to re-book the same site for the same time next year you must complete an application form and pay a deposit prior to departure. Please do this during your stay and not on departure as office staff are usually very busy with arrivals.

Gary McPike, **General Manager**

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