



# BULLETIN

December 07

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc

PO Box 7016 Beaumaris Victoria 3193 Association No. A0034887B Victoria

T 9589 5194 F 9589 1680 mailto:[info@beaumarisconservation.net](mailto:info@beaumarisconservation.net) [www.beaumarisconservation.net](http://www.beaumarisconservation.net)

The aim of the Society is to encourage, to the greatest degree possible, the conservation and restoration of the Indigenous flora and fauna, the treed character and the natural coastal landscape.

## President's Message

Dear members

This year, members of your Society have given freely of their time to achieve our aims. Governmental pressure to increase housing density means that many single dwellings are replaced with dual occupancy or even more horrendous, three 2- storey dwellings on a single block! This in turn results in the removal of many indigenous trees. If approval for tree removal is conditional on replanting to be of indigenous species, your Society endeavours to ensure that indigenous species *are* planted rather than exotic varieties .

Sadly, healthy trees are removed, often without Council approval. We draw Council's attention to such vandalism by sending photos and addresses.

We continue to oppose inappropriate development sometimes successfully but often, despite submissions by residents and Bayside Council, VCAT have given their approval.

Your Society will continue to do its utmost to retain the special nature of our suburb.

This year has seen a considerable increase in our membership. This has given your Society greater relevance when dealing with other bodies. Your help in securing new members would be very welcome. Application forms are available

on our website.

On behalf of the Society, we wish you a happy and safe Festive Season.

Adrian Cerbasi



## Death by Chainsaw

### Bicycle Road Threat to Foreshore Bushland

'Do Beaumaris residents really want the \$1.1M bicycle road extension from Cromer Road to Charman Road to take over 2,000 square metres of foreshore bushland?'

Bayside City Council says that if VicRoads will not agree to Council's first preference for the siting of the path on the road reservation, the alternative would be a 4 metre swathe, comprising a 2.5 metre wide concrete path plus a 0.75 metre of cleared buffer area on each side, partly on the verge, but

mostly cut from the bushland. This would mean felling ninety substantial indigenous trees on the bushland margin. Veering into the reserve to miss some trees is a much worse option because that would fragment, consume and alter much more of the reserve.

Siting the bicycle road entirely on the road reservation is feasible for most of the 850 metre length from Charman Road to Cromer Road, because the Safety Section, 500 metres from Charman Road to Deauville Street, is narrower than the 4 car lanes on Beach Road elsewhere.

Extending that Safety Section by 350 metres, from Deauville Street to Cromer Road, would give room for the 4 metre bicycle road swathe, gained from 3 metres of road surface freed and the 1 metre grass verge between Beach Road and Beach Park. More information at

[www.beaumarisconservation.net/m8\\_bicyc.htm](http://www.beaumarisconservation.net/m8_bicyc.htm)



**Part of the Safety Section of Beach Road,  
between Cliff Grove and Wells Road**

### **Council's Survey on Lighting in Parks and the Foreshore**

The BCS Inc. response stressed the asset of Bayside's foreshores and parks,

particularly in its south, which retains substantial indigenous bushland.

There is a stark contrast between the surviving character and ambience of our natural areas which are at risk of being extinguished by relentless urbanisation and the artificial, mechanised, and ever-changing residential and commercial areas.

A significant advantage of Port Phillip Bay is its non-contribution to urban light pollution, which still extends to its foreshore. Lighting is needed outside that, but much of our foreshore's distinctiveness and appeal is its relative naturalness and difference from more regimented areas.

The lighting of foreshores removes any opportunities to enjoy the subtleties of twilight, moonlight and starlight along with birdlife behaviour.

Enough general light pollution exists for sufficient stray light for night vision. People can carry torches but animals and birds are very dependent on and responsive to the natural diurnal cycle of light and dark.

Council should resolve to keep its reserves, foreshore and paths free of lighting, unless specific proposals for specified places are adequately justified and public opinion canvassed on such proposals well beforehand.

### **Vegetation Report**

BCS. Inc. is currently involved in numerous projects concerning our natural environment and indigenous vegetation, including the following:

**Long Hollow Heathland and Balcombe Park  
Recycling storm water.**

As parts of these reserves have vegetation communities that belong in

swampy ground, Bayside City Council was persuaded to do a strategy investigation. This has now been completed and will be studied to determine the most appropriate action. The study recommended that no further action be taken in Long Hollow Heathland and that Balcombe Park Oval be made into a wetland.

We await findings with interest.

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### **Council's vegetation removal permits**

#### **undermine Vegetation Overlay objectives VPO3**

The overlay objectives are—

- A. To prevent the loss of native and particularly indigenous vegetation incurred by development.
- B. To retain the amenity, aesthetic character and habitat value of native and indigenous vegetation of Beaumaris and Black Rock areas.
- C. To promote the regeneration and replanting of indigenous species in Beaumaris and Black Rock areas.

In summary, BCS Inc. found that out of a total of 65 individual planning applications lodged in Beaumaris for the removal of a total of 111 trees, 51 were granted (87% of all applications), and 11 were refused (3 applications, for the removal of 3 trees, were withdrawn). The 51 approved applications were for the removal of 94 trees an average of 1.8 trees per application. The 11 refused applications were for the removal of 14 trees an average of 1.3 trees per application.

BCS Inc. has requested that Council prepare a formal response to our review, the purpose of which is to respond to our concern that the rate of tree removal in Beaumaris is inconsistent with the major objectives prescribed in the Vegetation Protection Overlay document.

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### **Inappropriate Development**

The State Government recently released a report Making Local Policy stronger—which purports to ensure greater consideration of neighbourhood character in planning decisions, but in fact, the unique character of Beaumaris is gradually being lost through planning decisions at VCAT, directed by Melbourne 2030 and contrary to the wishes of Bayside City Council, planners and residents.

Recently we lost a battle to developers plans to erect a three storey dual occupancy with extra roof decks at 9 Olinda Avenue. This was despite neighbouring residents rallying, and producing a DVD outlining their concerns and despite it being made clear to VCAT and residents that the plans failed to meet Council planning controls or neighbourhood character!

In an ominous sign of things to come, an apartment building with 7 dwellings and little or no room for vegetation is being planned for 37-39 Cromer Rd. If approved, it could create a precedent, paving the way for more high density dwellings.

With the amount of high density developments being planned for Beaumaris, our suburb could soon resemble an inner city suburb with associated traffic and parking problems as well as noise pollution and lack of privacy.

One way residents can help prevent this bleak future is to become more active in joining local groups (such as BCS) fighting to save Beaumaris's neighbourhood character or writing to the Planning Minister to let him know Beaumaris is special and worth protecting. If the Minister's Planning report can turn the tide against such outrageous decisions it is to be welcomed and the sooner the better.

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### Social night sensation

July 26th was our inaugural social night. Members were entertained by a Power Point presentation by Senior VP Fiona Austin. Post WW II architecture in Beaumaris was the theme. This was followed by food and drinks and the opportunity for members to mingle, make new friends, or to renew older friendships. Many folk enjoyed a meal with friends before the evening got under way. Overall the night was very successful and the Society would like to thank all those who attended.

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### BCS Inc. "I ❤️ Trees" T-shirts

With a new logo and funky design the newly re-designed BCS. T-shirts are the latest fashion item for Beaumaris. At \$15 each, download an order form from our web site today at [www.beaumarisconservation.net](http://www.beaumarisconservation.net) or phone Heather on 0407821923.

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### New BCS Inc. Signage

The new fence signs read "We oppose inappropriate development" and include the BCS logo and details. Signs cost \$10 each. Call Ted on 9589 5020 or e-mail [info@beaumarisconservation.net](mailto:info@beaumarisconservation.net)

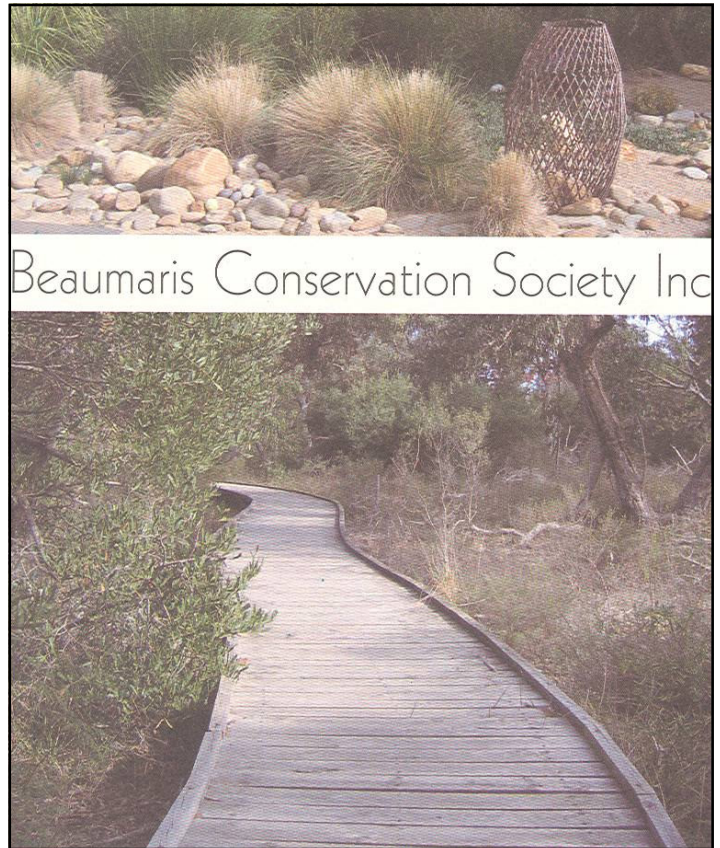
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### Help Needed!!!

Contribute to the continued survival of indigenous vegetation in Beaumaris and volunteer to letterbox drop a copy of our Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. Brochure which explains the why and wherefore of the Society. The idea is to keep the number of members growing and hopefully, many recipients will join BCS. Volunteers can visit as many or as few

houses as they wish. Doing as little as one street could make a world of difference. Please call

Heather Stewart on 0407821923 or e-mail [hstewart2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hstewart2@optusnet.com.au)



### The Brochure

### Our Web site and email addresses

If you have access to the Web, or email, there is very little about the people, structure and current concerns of BCS Inc. which cannot be found on the addresses shown on the cover of this Bulletin.

We have chosen to show the Zones, list the Office bearers for the 2007/2008 year and publish much more information on the Web site because of the limited space within our Bulletin and because we can keep the information up to date. However, if you cannot access these addresses, just phone or fax.

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