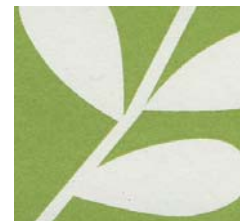


14th July 2008

Parks Section
Attention: Mr David Williams
Bayside City Council
P O Box 27
SANDRINGHAM VIC 3191

Dear Mr Williams,



**Beaumaris Conservation
Society Inc.**

Association Number A00348878

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Beaumaris Victoria 3193

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Beach Park area near the Ricketts Point Tea House

The President of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc, Mr Adrian Cerbasi, has asked me to reply to your letter to him on the above subject dated 18th June 2008.

Officers of BCS Inc, including myself, had discussions on this matter with the Council's Environment Research Officer, Ms Amy Weir (now Mrs Amy Hough), on 29th May 2008. We agreed with the proposals that were explained to us about extending low growing areas of indigenous coastal plantings on what are presently areas of mown grass directly underneath the various projecting limbs of large *Banksia integrifolia* trees in the above area for safety reasons.

We recognized that those proposals would decrease the available area of mown grass for certain recreational purposes, but did not see that as being unreasonable in the circumstances. We did suggest that the extent of that decrease could be helpfully minimized if the recently deposited group of six large basalt boulders could be relocated so that they occupied some of the existing mown grass area directly underneath the Banksia limbs of concern, and thus provided an area of usable mown grass to offset some of the area to be lost by the planting proposals.

BCS Inc. was pleased to be told of proposals to install exclusion fencing, with four defined access corridors through it, around the strip of foredune vegetation in this area, which is becoming increasingly fragmented and is rapidly diminishing in area, quality and viability owing to excessive random walking traffic across it. The resulting problem of sand drift onto the path and into the reserve has been increasing. We were told that the fencing arrangements might not be permanent, but we consider that anything other than a permanent barrier to such random walking traffic in such an intensively used area will lead to the eventual loss of the foredune vegetation, and the worsening of the sand drift now evident.

BCS Inc. did note that your letter and the accompanying plan referred to the area in question as the "Ricketts Point Teahouse Reserve". It is our understanding that the area is part of a Permanent Public Recreation Reserve established by an Order-in-Council and gazetted under the name of "Beach Park", which is the terminology that we consider Council should use on such documents. A subsidiary reference to this area as a particular part of Beach Park could help, but the title used recently can all too readily give the impression that the tea house is the primary significance and purpose of the reserve, which is by no means the case.

That established title for the reserve, Beach Park, is a far better and more enduring description of the long-term purpose of the reserve than having its title linked to a relatively ephemeral commercial operation. The tea house might well cease to exist in the future, with surprisingly little regret at its passing, but it is hard to imagine that the loss of the much-longer-established connection between the reserve and the adjoining beach, which is an intrinsic part of the reserve's geology, botany and ambience, would be taken lightly by many.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Morris
Secretary
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.