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**Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.**

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**President's Report to the**

**63rd Annual General Meeting**

Our [Campaign 2008](#), *Saving Beaumaris Bay from a Huge Marina*, began soon after Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Ltd applied for a permit for a marina in Beaumaris Bay. BCS Inc. has continued to completely oppose such a degradation of Beaumaris Bay, its Fossil Site and Cliff, and alert Beaumaris residents to the loss that would result. This year, our Beaumaris Bay Subcommittee Convenor, Dr Shirley Prager, worked with Dr Vicki Karalis of the Sandringham Foreshore Association to organize February's Fossil Event at Ricketts Point, which over 1,000 people attended. Professor Tim Flannery's talk was a highlight of that event.

Further activity occurred with our [Campaign 2013A](#), *Rectifying Major Anomalies in Ricketts Point Landside Reserve*, when operations started on a work site crossing the Landside Reserve that Bayside City Council narrowly granted a permit for, despite the obvious conflict with the purpose and function of the Reserve. Both Southern Ward councillors and Cr James Long opposed it. BCS Inc. has not yet determined whether written Ministerial consent for that work, required by [Section 37](#) of Victoria's *Coastal Management Act 1995*, has been obtained.

BCS Inc's [Campaign 2014A](#), *Keeping more of our nature strips green*, has been furthered by listing on our website the 31 streets throughout Beaumaris where unnecessary concrete footpaths have not been inflicted on both sides of some or all of a street or road, leaving much larger nature strips than would otherwise be there. The Deauville Estate is the area that is most free of such concrete. The campaign also points to the need for new dual occupancies to be limited to a single, shared driveway, and for redundant concrete vehicle crossings to be required to be removed. BCS Inc. officers recently participated in a Council discussion on this matter.

BCS Inc. has not opposed this year's re-alignment of the walking path through the significantly narrowed strip of foreshore bushland reserve that has been an outcome of our very lengthy, but ultimately failed, [Campaign 2001](#), *Avoiding a concrete bicycle road replacing 0.24 hectares of foreshore bushland*. The new path is now further from the Beaumaris Cliff, and it has been generally improved. The crass damage that has begun, and will soon extend further, to the foreshore reserve in the north of Mentone, sadly sees Kingston City Council adding to the damage that was done in Bayside by the bicycle road not sharing space on Beach Road.

Our newest campaign is our [Campaign 2014B](#), *Save the RSL Parkland Campaign*, ably led by Greg Mier. Bayside City Council voted unanimously against the proposed subdivision of that land into 21 residential lots, but VCAT ultimately permitted 20 such lots. The RSL has vacated the site in Balcombe Road, and developers are preparing to implement the new development.

BCS Inc. has provided its comments to improve the final version of Bayside City Council's [draft Coastal Management Plan](#) and its [draft Walking Strategy](#).

Our Senior Vice-President, Chris Sutton, has been a mainstay of BCS Inc's challenges to various planning applications. Early this year, BCS Inc. supported at VCAT Bayside City Council's refusal of an excessive development for [1 Nautilus Street, Beaumaris](#). VCAT had refused a permit for a very similar overdevelopment proposal for that site, by the same developer, in 2013, that BCS Inc. and Council had also successfully challenged at VCAT then.

The Society objected, along with ten others, to the Beaumaris Anglican Church's application to [remove five live Coast Tea Trees](#) from near its western frontage with Dalgetty Road. Two BCS Inc. officers and six other objectors attended a Mediation Meeting at Bayside City Council offices last week where the two of the three churchwardens that support the proposed removal put the Church's case. The objectors made their case against the removal. The mediator said the Council arborist's report recommends against the removal. It seemed the tree removal proposal was really motivated by a plan to also remove the remaining sand dune bank and pave the ground there for a proposed ANZAC memorial.

The Church originally envisaged a more open site to the north. The Church might withdraw its application and use that originally-proposed site. Sue Raverty pointed out that the tea tree habitat and tree roots damaged by the Church's over-hasty removal of a truck load of soil from the sandy bank needs interim protection, and restoration to a defined boundary. Council earlier stated that if the state of the tea trees declines to a point where they are considered to have been destroyed without planning permission, the matter will be re-assessed and appropriate enforcement action will be undertaken.

BCS Inc. has emailed its members asking them to email Bayside City Council with a succinct statement of their strong support for the Council's admirable proposed [Amendment C140](#), which would amend the Bayside Planning Scheme to require future proposals for residential lots to involve noticeably less overdevelopment than is presently lawful, thus limiting VCAT's ability to require permits be granted to many excessively large and environmentally damaging structures.

Developers and real estate companies have been emailing and letterboxing residents exhorting them to oppose Amendment C140, and have managed to encourage hundreds of messages of objection. Today was Council's deadline for comments, so it is hoped that BCS Inc. members rallied to the Committee's call for support for Amendment C140. It needs agreement of Council and the Planning Minister before it can be gazetted and thus become law. It would be a most powerful instrument for democratically placing more reasonable limits on what VCAT can order.

The BCS Inc. Management Committee has written to all BCS Inc. members along with the notice of this Annual General Meeting [reminding them](#) that the success and future of the Committee is utterly dependent on enough interested members choosing to offer themselves as part of the Committee.

Adrian Cerbasi  
President  
Beaumaris Conservation Society