

01 September 2016



**Beaumaris Conservation
Society Inc.**

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President's Report to the

64th Annual General Meeting

Our major campaign this past year was “*Saving Beaumaris Bay from a Huge Marina*”. That campaign was greatly advanced by a Consortium which naturally included BCS Inc, and which was initiated and led by [Associate Professor Vicki Kotsarilos AM](#). The Consortium lodged a substantial nomination seeking the listing of Beaumaris Bay on Australia’s National Heritage List. Pleasingly, that nomination has progressed to the [Australian Heritage Database](#), as shown on the website of the federal Department of the Environment and Energy.

Our campaign was further assisted by the Victorian National Parks Association publishing [an article](#) on the marina issue in their journal, “*Park Watch*”, and by publicity surrounding the discovery by Mr Murray Orr of a 300 mm long [tooth of an extinct whale](#) at the Beaumaris Fossil Site, subsequently lodged with Museum Victoria.

Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron Ltd. has announced that it *now* proposes substituting a re-inforced [concrete wave screen](#), like that [at Blairgowrie](#), for the 500-metre length of dumped rock sea wall it originally sought. The Greens MLC, Sue Pennicuik, [asked in Parliament](#) that the Minister not renew the motor squadron’s lease when it expires in 2018.

Another of our campaigns, [Reducing Beaumaris foreshore’s over-abundance of signs](#), has finally led Bayside City Council to propose some rationalization in its *Ricketts Point Signage Style Guide* upon which we provided comments and suggestions. The Council was to hold an on-site meeting with concerned parties this morning, but that has now been pushed forward to 15 September.

Our [Campaign 2002](#), *Keeping the Concourse Green and Concourse Bushland intact*, succeeded then, but new threats are posed by the Concourse Master Plan that Bayside City Council is now developing. Those threats were described in the [July 2016 issue](#) of the *BCS Inc. Bulletin*.

Our [Campaign 2014A](#), *Keeping more of our nature strips green*, after consultation meetings with other interest groups was furthered by BCS Inc. writing to Council summarizing its main points on the topic, and asking for as much support for those points as possible. I understand this achieved a degree of success.

BCS Inc. had concerns about a plan by the Beaumaris Anglican Church to [remove five live Coast Tea Trees](#) from the ancient sand dune between the church and Dalgetty Road to construct its federally-funded ANZAC memorial there. Fortunately, this was ultimately resolved by the Church deciding to build that memorial on the open gravelled area further north between this church hall and Dalgetty Road.

Late last year we [wrote to Bayside City Council](#) about the Council’s Holding Street Tree Space land, just east of High Street, asking why two large remnant Manna Gums there were sawn down. BCS Inc. had previously campaigned to save that land from being sold to an adjoining landowner [in 2004](#). Council’s response was that a Council arborist considered that their poor health justified their removal. In response we urged planting of replacement trees, but that has not yet happened.

Some 22 people, including BCS Inc. members and other Beaumaris residents, each spoke at a Special Meeting of Bayside City Council last year indicating their strong support for the Council's excellent proposed [Amendment C140](#), to amend the Bayside Planning Scheme to require a minimum area of 400 square metres for future subdivisions for residential lots, and other measures against overdevelopment.

There were also about 22 people speaking against C140. The Council, including both Southern Ward councillors, then voted 4-3 to support C140. In order that it could proceed to gazettal however, the proposal had to be considered by a Planning Panel, which was addressed by various BCS officers. Sadly the Panel recommended against C140, and Council has since decided not to proceed with it.

When BCS Inc. asked Cr Heather Stewart whether she would raise its concern about [four very large basalt boulders](#) that had appeared on the small beach just north of Table Rock, she quickly managed to arrange for a prompt removal of those unexplained intrusions on that beach.

Some of you may be aware of our long-standing BCS Inc. banner. It now appears on [our home page](#), with a link to a 1982 newspaper photograph of it being carried in the Franklin River protest march in Melbourne.

After first discussing the matter in our Management Committee, those BCS Inc. members of the committee who are also part of Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc. persuaded the April 2016 General Meeting of Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc. to defer a proposed replacement of its Constitution, to its AGM this coming October. This was because those members were neither satisfied with a proposal intended to reduce its quorum requirement, nor with the abandonment of certain other worthwhile aspects of the [existing Constitution](#). Unfortunately, the new draft Constitution that the Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc. committee is proposing still omits those aspects, and it specifies a quorum of 20%, with a minimum of 5 persons, but persons would seem to be counted in that quorum even if they were only participating by electronic means, or as proxies.

The BCS Inc. Management Committee has also considered the outcome that has emerged on the former [Beaumaris Hotel site](#), given that our [submissions to VCAT](#) supported Bayside City Council's refusal of a planning permit, expressing various significant concerns. The Committee unanimously formed the view that at least a reasonable *visual* result has been produced.

The Management Committee has had five quorate meetings since our 2015 Annual General Meeting, but has been set back by the ill health of both our President, Adrian Cerbasi, and our Senior Vice-President, Mr Chris Sutton. Adrian has nominated for a Zone Leader position for 2016-17, but Chris has decided that he will not re-nominate for a Committee position on this occasion.

Chris Sutton's contribution to your Committee's business deserves acknowledging. Chris joined the Committee in 2007, and quickly became the very highly-regarded drafter and presenter at VCAT of most of BCS's considerable activity there. He remained an officer of the Committee from that time, and was President in 2010-11. His illness certainly left the Society with much less drive and energy in dealing with Planning Applications, but he has kindly offered to provide help when he can, and that offer has been gratefully taken up. We wish Chris well in his continuing recuperation.

Lastly, thanks to the welcome interest of a new member, Mr Chris Costley, in nominating for the vital position of Secretary, our current Secretary, Andrew McDougall, has nominated for Chris's vacated position as Senior Vice-President.

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the President's Report on various events over the past year.

Presented by Gregory Mier, Junior Vice-President,
for Adrian Cerbasi,
President,
Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.