

SILVERLEAVES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg.no 0015325J

NEWSLETTER

March 2018



President's Report

The SCA Committee held its first meeting of the year in January on Australia Day weekend at the Koala Centre. It was agreed the key SCA campaign for 2018 - 2020 be Silverleaves Conservation Association Against Inappropriate Development (SCAAID). The focus is on efforts to prevent any further removal of native vegetation in Silverleaves and to protect the area from overdevelopment. By that we mean buildings that don't fit the gentle beach house style neighbourhood character that the area is known for, that are too high (over 7 metres), too large in mass, and involve all or most of the vegetation.

We are working with the Small Towns Coastal Alliance joining with other 'villages' of Bass Coast Shire to lobby Council for these additional protections.

As part of SCAAID, our group has publicised recent examples of inappropriate vegetation removal in Silverleaves in the local paper. Three prominent stories have been published about these incidents and include some excellent commentary from Councillor Michael Whelan. We are grateful that Councillor Whelan has come out strongly, opposing the native vegetation and wholesale block clearing in Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser (PISRA). While this is encouraging, we will continue to monitor development proposals and liaise with Council, having pointed out that if everyone was able to clear their block, Silverleaves would cease to exist!

A very good editorial in PISRA published in January highlighted the protection being proposed by the Victorian State Government for what it has identified to be unique areas and towns including Mt Macedon and the Otway Ranges. We are hoping Silverleaves can be included as it was disappointing none of the towns or locations in Bass Coast Shire of significance have been identified.

No Unleashed Dogs

This summer has arguably been the worst ever for uncontrolled dogs on Silverleaves beach. By that we mean dogs on the beach outside the designated times and off leash dogs anytime.

A respectful reminder:

- No off-leash dogs on Silverleaves beach at any time, all year around.
- No dogs allowed on the beach between 10.00am and 5.00pm and 8.00pm and 7.00am from 1 December to 30 April.
- No dogs are allowed beyond the last track at the east end of Silverleaves Beach to Observation Point at any time of the year.

Here is a link to dog friendly beaches in the area:
<https://www.dogsonholidays.com.au/beaches/philipisland/>

Disappointingly, both visitors and locals continue to flout these rules at Silverleaves. One of our Committee members, who walks into Cowes along the beach each morning in Summer, reported seeing over 20 dogs on the beach after 10.00am both on and off leash every day.

Why is this an issue for the environment?

- Dogs are a threat to the fragile hooded plover communities and other seabirds on Silverleaves beach which nest and lay their eggs in Summer in the dunes. One dog is all it takes to destroy a nest.
- Dogs can pollute the beach – please make sure you take plastic bags with you and pick up after your dog.

We ask everyone to please help protect this unique area.

M.A. Johnston - SCA President

AGM Sunday 11 March 2018

11.00am at the Silverleaves Reserve

Please come to the meeting and hear more about SCA plans, propose ideas, and meet other residents of Silverleaves. SCA is a community group and we welcome newcomers and residents alike. We are keen to hear from you about any issues or concerns regarding the Silverleaves environment and we look forward to seeing you there.

Working Bee – Weed Mapping

Sunday 11 March 2018 9.00am, meet at the Silverleaves Reserve

March's Working Bee will be a weed mapping exercise along the foreshore. Please consider coming along to one (or many!) of the SCA working bees to help remove invasive weeds and plant indigenous plants. We are currently fighting agapanthus, cacti succulents and other exotic 'escapees' in the foreshore. All efforts to help the battle are most welcome! If you notice any large infestations, contact us at SCA and we will organise a working bee to remove them.

silverleavesconservation@outlook.com

The Plant Stall proposed for Saturday 10 March 2018 has been cancelled. The next Plant Stall will be held on Sunday 10 June 10.00am -2.00pm at the Silverleaves store.

Silverleaves January Nature Walk 2018



Photo Gillian Armstrong

The SCA's wonderful annual beach nature walk at Silverleaves was held in beautiful weather on January 14 this year, and enjoyed by all in attendance. Organised by Jarvis Weston, SCA Secretary and Phillip Island Nature Park Projects Coordinator, and Daniel Lees, PINP Ranger. Daniel's specialist field is the nesting shorebirds. We have the Hooded Plovers, Red Capped Plovers and Pied Oyster Catchers along the Silverleaves beach and to the Point. Daniel also organises the Hooded Plover Watch Program Island-wide where volunteers are rostered on to help educate and advise beach walkers about the nesting birds in the vicinity and to keep clear of the fenced off areas on the beaches. A big thank you to Jarvis and Daniel for their time and expertise.

Proposed Car Ferry at Cowes is back on the agenda

One of our few beautiful North facing Victorian beaches maybe destroyed by the addition of the Stony Point to Phillip Island car ferry. The council is currently in discussions to locate the terminal at or near the Cowes Yacht Club which will destroy the beach, and have a huge impact upon the locals and tourists who use this beach - swimmers, power boaters, sailors, kayakers and all water users! This development could also have an impact on Silverleaves beach with possible dredging and change to tidal currents which could cause further erosion to the foreshore.

This pristine Cowes beach will be cut in half by the proposed ferry terminal which comes with a 400m exclusion zone (200m either side of jetty) making a large area of this family friendly, safe swimming beach unusable! The proposed terminal is right in the middle of a quiet residential area adding traffic to an area where children ride bikes and walk.

Join the rally on 11 March at 12pm on Osbourne Beach, and sign the petition and find out more about the proposed car ferry here:

<http://savecowesosbournebeach.org/> Help save our beautiful safe family swimming beach!

Hooded Plovers

Sadly, this year there has been only one hooded Plovers nest at Silverleaves which failed to produce any chicks, but it has been a successful season so far on the Island overall with 38 nests, 15 of which have hatched producing 39 chicks, with one still active nest.

Currently there are 8 active chicks, and so far, 8 chicks have successfully fledged. These fledglings have come from: Smith's beach (1), Elizabeth Cove (2), Hutchison beach (1), Flynn's beach (2) and Woolshed Bight (2).

The active chicks are at: Red-rocks (1 left), Belavista Rd (1 left), Forrest Caves (3), Cleeland Bight (1 left) and Farm beach (2).

We also have 23 pairs breeding on the Island, the greatest number recorded to date! This due in part to the great efforts of the Hooded Plovers Watch Program island-wide, where volunteers are rostered on to help educate and advise beach walkers about the nesting birds in the vicinity and to keep clear of the fenced off areas on the beaches.

Silverleaves Boundaries

A SCA member recently inquired about the boundaries of the Silverleaves area. Silverleaves area is bordered by:

- Coghlan Rd (in the west)
- Settlement Rd (to the south)
- Bordered by the bay and Rhyll Inlet

There is very good map in the SCA Brochure which also gives information on what makes Silverleaves so special and how you can help to protect it. If you would like a copy or multiple copies to pass onto your neighbours or friends please contact SCA Secretary; silverleavesconservation@outlook.com

Coastal management

Bass Coast Shire manages the coastline up to the east end of Silverleaves Avenue, and Phillip Island Nature Park manages from there including Observation Point and Rhyll Inlet.

Silverleaves Birdlife

It's a busy time for the bird life with the Banksias coming into flower at the moment. Wattle birds and Rainbow Lorikeets in particular are attracted to the nectar and you often can hear them, especially at dawn with the cacophony of noisy squawkings - a lovely way to wake up unless you were planning a sleep in!

Rainbow Lorikeet



Image Source; <https://en.wikipedia.org>

The Rainbow Lorikeet is unmistakable with its bright red beak and colourful plumage. Both sexes look alike, with a blue (mauve) head and belly, green wings, tail and back, and an orange/yellow breast. They are often seen in loud and fast-moving flocks, or in communal roosts at dusk and dawn.

WEED OF THE MONTH



Photo Source: <https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org>

Sticky Weed

Cleavers (*Gallium aparine*) is regarded as an environmental weed in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales. This is an annual, sprawling weed that has small hooks along the stems, at the tip and along the edges of the leaves and on the fruit. These hooks will catch (cleave) onto clothes, fur and feathers helping this plant to spread to new locations.

If you see this weed or have it on your property, pull it out carefully and dispose of in the Organics (green lid) bin.

Planting in your garden in Silverleaves

The coming months are ideal to start planting in your garden, here are a few ideas of what grows well in Silverleaves:

Low Shrubs (up to 2 m)

Coastal Saltbush- *Atriplex Cinereal*
White Correa- *Correa Alba*
Cushion Bush- *Leacopogon Brownii*

Tall Shrubs 2-5 m

Coastal Wattle- *Acacia Sophorae*
Sweet Bursaria- *Bursaria Spinose*
Coast Tea Tree- *Leptospermum Laevigatum*

Grasses/Sedges

Knobby Club-sedge- *Ficina Nodose*
Spiny Headed Mat-rush- *Lomandra Longifolia*

Bass Coast Shire have produced a very helpful indigenous planting guide, available online <http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au>
The Indigenous Plants of Bass Coast Shire Brochure is also available in print form at any Bass Coast Shire office.

SUPPORT THE SCA

The SCA relies on membership subscriptions and donations to continue its vital work such as valuable weed clearing in the foreshore and revegetation projects amongst other activities. Due to rising costs of mail and printing, the SCA in the future will only be able to mail newsletters to current SCA members. We encourage you to receive the newsletter by email if possible.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2018

SCA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018

AGM Sunday 11 March 2018

11.00am at the Reserve

Saturday 9 June 2018

3.00pm Koala Conservation Centre,
Chisholm Room

Saturday 22 September 2018

3.00pm Koala Conservation Centre,
Chisholm Room

Sunday 18 November Sunday 2018

11.00am at the Reserve

SCA PLANT STALL 2018

Sunday 10 June 2018

10.00am – 2.00pm Silverleaves Store

SCA WORKING BEES 2018

Sunday 11 March – weed mapping exercise along the foreshore. Meet at Silverleaves Reserve at 9.00am

Sunday 17 June – weeding/planting along foreshore. Meet at Silverleaves Store at 10am

Sunday 15 July – weeding/planting along foreshore. Meet at Silverleaves Store at 10am

Sunday 19 August – tidy up of Silverleaves reserve. Meet at Silverleaves Reserve at 10am



Unusual sighting of a giant Koala in the Silverleaves Reserve over January!

SCA Membership - it's not too late to renew your SCA Subscription for 2018 and beyond.

- One Year \$20.00
- Two Years \$40.00
- Five Years \$100.00
- Seniors/Students \$15.00 p.a.

Membership includes four issues per annum of the SCA Newsletter and will help fund the important work of conservation, vegetation protection, weed control and replanting with indigenous species. We encourage you to join for the longer membership period, then you don't have to worry about keeping your membership up to date each year.

- One Year \$20.00
- Two Years \$40.00
- Five Years \$100.00
- Seniors/Students \$15.00 p.a.

Complete a membership form with your cheque and send to:

The Secretary Silverleaves Conservation Association Inc.P.O. Box 9037 Cowes, VIC 3922
OR make a direct deposit online:
Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000

Account 132 984 592.

OR make an online payment through the SCA website using your credit card.

<http://www.silverleavesca.org>

Please include your name on your transfer for our records, so we can easily identify payments made.

To request a membership form, or to let us know your email address, or if you have a query about your membership contact the SCA Secretary;
silverleavesconservation@outlook.com



Silverleaves Conservation Association has a Facebook page where members share photos and stories of Silverleaves. Become a part of our online community. We would love you to share your experiences of Silverleaves as well!

Please visit our wonderful new SCA webpage, which includes archived newsletters and membership forms. <http://www.silverleavesca.org>

If you have a story to tell about Silverleaves or would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please contact the SCA Newsletter Editor by email myra.holmes.000@gmail.com