

The Major focus for BeCA in 2017 will be the ongoing battle to get a 'Permanent Helicopter Training Facility' established.
The current Interim agreement with Stockland is due to end in December 2017!
See Page 3.

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The Connector

February Volume 2017

for the Bellvista & Bells Reach Community Association

Issue 2



Join The Queue

The queue of motorists frustrated by the inappropriate phasing of the two sets of traffic lights in Baringa grows daily. It is not uncommon to be stopped at one set of lights for almost a minute as it goes through the various phases to allow all traffic to turn or cross safely, all without another vehicle in sight.

The current phasing of the lights is set to serve a community of 50,000 people, adjacent to a reasonably sized shopping centre and outside a 1200 student school. This isn't the current situation so motorists sit at a red light, often with no other vehicle in sight, quietly stewing away in frustration.

With comments abounding in the online community (BeCA has also received inquiries) Stockland has joined the frustration queue as well. They are fully aware of the situation and the adverse effect the lights have on everyone. Stockland are waiting patiently for a list of approvals to

be given by Council so they can reconfigure the lights to more appropriately serve road users. Road Safety issues require time, patience and care to be completed. The approval process has to pass through several levels and this takes time.

Once the approval process has been completed, expect the phasing of the Baringa Traffic lights to more effectively reflect the needs of the community.

Stockland said they are aware of the issue and the disruption it is currently causing and are working in conjunction with their traffic engineers and Council to have this resolved and ensure safe and timely travel along Baringa Drive.

Website March 2nd.

Stockland at the Recent Public Meeting

Stockland's Project Development Manager Adrian Allen provided an informative presentation at the recent BeCA Public Meeting.

Apart from the new primary school which is expected to open for the begin-

ning of the new 2018 school year, building sporting facilities will take on a major focus with 3 new soccer pitches (one lighted) and change rooms, all to be constructed prior to the end of 2017.

Another sporting/play area will be built with a focus on older children's cycling and basketball activities. Construction should begin around May 2017.

Planning is well underway for a Village Hub, an area where various services will be available on a shared basis between the community and schools.

Stockland expect to be able to announce the major tenants for the new Shopping Centre around May of this year with the Centre being open sometime mid 2018.

The new Secondary College may be up and running by 2020.

Mr Allen also announced that duplication of some northern sections of Bellvista Blvd should begin within 12 months.

Website March 7th.

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The New Veloways Up And Running

The temporary fencing was packed and carted away on a Friday early in March. At that early stage some cosmetic surgery was still required with some final cleaning up and landscaping to be completed.

A day or so later, the Caloundra 'lycra brigade' got wind of the news and cyclists from all over were out in force to enjoy the new cycleways as well.

Thanks Stockland, the new veloways will be an instant success for those wishing a safe ride around our burgeoning area.

Website March 5th.

Watch Your Step!

A record dry and the very hot summer has had its effect on trees and large shrubs as their roots grow bigger and longer to reach deeper and wider for moisture. Therefore some trees beside our many walkways create a safety hazard as tree roots force the nearby pavement to shift and rise creating dangerous conditions for walkers.

You will need to keep your eyes open as you travel the many walkways around the estates for situations such as this one.

Be on the lookout as a nasty fall awaits the unwary walker.

BeCA encourages residents to report such instances to Sunshine Coast Council for attention. You do this via the MyCoun-

cil website, create your account or login, click on "Access MyCouncil Services", click on "Submit a Request", click on "General Service Request" and complete the form. If you note the address (e.g. Opposite 23 Erica St) it makes completing the form much easier.

BeCA has forwarded a service request relating to a dangerous lifting section opposite a residence in Samson Cct.

Website March 1st.

Cr Baberowski's Report.

Cr Rick Baberowski provided an update on new happenings for Bellvista and Bells Reach at BeCA's recent Public Meeting.

Bollards could be installed to keep motorists off the park areas at Canavan Gracie Recreational Park. Council will investigate the best way to fence the area most likely with a combination of trees and bollards to form a boundary around the park. Using trees is a highly cost effective way of solving the problem.

Council has removed the concrete strips at the northern end of Bellvista Blvd following concerns from motorists.

Planning is all but complete and ready to go for quotes on the pathway linking Arbour and Crater Street. It should be completed mid year and provide the final all weather link between the two areas.

Some final planning is required for the

Crater Street end of the pathway. The photo below shows the Arbour end of the proposed new pathway.

Cr Baberowski spoke of his confidence in having a solution found regarding the reclaiming of their land space currently used as an interim helicopter touch 'n go facility by Stockland. Cr Baberowski believes either the State Government will come to the party, or another interim site will be found. He urged BeCA to be patient.

You can read an historical review of the situation regarding Helicopter Touch 'n Gos and our area on page 3.

Cr Baberowski does not believe the State Government will call for a new election in the near future. He believes there is ample time available for a team approach to finding a suitable solution.

Website March 7th.



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Helicopter Saga Drags On

Around 20 years ago, the original developer of the Bellvista Estate (Lensworth) sought approval from Caloundra Council to build Stage 1. Caloundra Council did not grant the approval because of the development's proximity to Caloundra Aerodrome. Lensworth then took the development application to the State Government on appeal which overturned Council's decision and approval was finally granted.

A major player in the early 2000's at the Caloundra Aerodrome was Chopperline, a helicopter pilot training company which won contracts worldwide to train overseas (and local) helicopter pilots. In those days there was 'we were here first' attitude from Chopperline who appeared to pay scant respect to the residents of the new estate and maintained numerous touch n go exercises day by day making life for the new residents less than ideal.

Eventually Chopperline was sold to the current owners, Airways Aviation. For the new owners, helicopter pilot training, though an important section of their services, the level of training activity did not at any stage reach the same level as that of the previous owner.

Another major helicopter pilot training company on the 'Coast' is Becker Helicopters who operate out of Maroochydore. They are a major worldwide player in the industry and at times win contracts over from such illustrious enterprises as the US Airforce.

For years Becker Helicopters has sought Sunshine Coast Council to provide a satellite helicopter training facility, a section of land away from all residential areas where they could safely go and carry out their touch n go training circuits. Becker Helicopters use airports all along the SE Queensland Coast to conduct their training. They stretch as far north as Hervey Bay and inland to Toowoomba.

When the new Noosa Council came into being, they immediately cancelled Becker

Helicopter's access to Teewah Aerodrome. This meant Becker Helicopters needed a new venue. Becker Helicopters chose to target Caloundra Aerodrome and the surrounding residential communities for ongoing touch n go's. This was a deliberate strategy to raise a public outcry and to pressure the authorities to act on a Satellite Training Facility. It worked!

Bellvista experienced up to 6 hours per day of mostly two helicopters continually overhead doing repeated touch n go's up to seven days per week. There was a public outcry and a 1000+% increase in complaints to Sunshine Coast Airport Management. Regulations favour aircraft companies and Becker helicopters were never contravening any laws with their actions.

Local MP Mark McArdle came to the rescue and was instrumental in arranging a government owned piece of land as an ongoing Satellite Helicopter Training Facility. It seemed the arrangement was about to be signed into legislation when an election was called and the government was forced into caretaker mode. This meant no new agreements could be signed.

In the interim Stockland came to the rescue with a temporary site to be used. Any agreement to use this site ends in December 2017 when Stockland require the land for the ongoing Caloundra South Development.

With an ensuing change of government it, was 'back to the drawing boards' to renegotiate a new agreement for a permanent helicopter training site with the new government. Following two years of negotiations, Sunshine Coast Airport Management has been unable to reach an agreement on a suitable piece of land. BeCA was actively discouraged by Sunshine Coast Airport Management from any involvement in negotiations.

Following two years of unsuccessful negotiations, the task of negotiating has now been handed over to another Sunshine Coast Airport Management member.

BeCA has offered its services to use some of its political contacts but this offer has been declined on procedural grounds.

With another State Government Election looming and with Stockland's needs to reclaim the current piece of land, BeCA has fears of a return to the 'old days' when once again our community was targeted by an unscrupulous operator, hell bent on getting their own way.

BeCA believes, that where possible, ALL helicopter training companies should use any new permanent facility.

Website March 5th.



Caloundra RSL To The Rescue

The Caloundra RSL will fund the cost of the A3 copy paper over 12 months for the production of "The Connector".

There has been a change in arrangements for producing "The Connector" with the inability of Mark McArdle's office to supply both the paper and printing at no charge to BeCA. The Association was required to fund the cost of around 40+ reams of A3 paper until the Caloundra RSL stepped into the breach with an offer to fund the paper's cost.

BeCA was delighted to accept the offer from the Caloundra RSL. Currently we print around 2,500 copies of each edition and we have 8 editions per year. We use around 5+ reams of paper per edition at a cost of about \$12 per ream.

To ensure we have ample paper we require a little over 40 reams for the year.

Thanks go to the Caloundra RSL for their generous offer. There will be a brief piece each edition providing an update on the upcoming RSL events included in our Newsletter. (See Page 4)

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Live music is one of life's great pleasures, however there's something to be said for the added combination of enjoying live music, in a relaxed environment with good friends and family accompanied with great food and service with a smile. This is the aim and new direction of the Caloundra RSL Services Club.

Now under new management with the expert direction from the highly regarded and experienced Acting Manager Kevin Deguara, the Caloundra RSL Services Club is heading into 2017 with the aim of providing members and guests with the ultimate hospitality experience.

With no shortage of exciting entertainers to choose from, the Caloundra RSL is embarking on the challenge to provide Caloundra and surrounding areas with the best live and free entertainment on the Sunshine Coast, 7 days a week.

The newly appointed team of chefs are forever looking at ways that the Club can provide the best quality dining options for a variety of budgets, the Club is proud of its four unique dining spaces available each day of the week dining early till late.

CALL (07) 54385800 FOR BOOKINGS

Traffic Issues

An issue was raised from the floor of the BeCA Public Meeting concerning traffic leaving carparks attached to Unity College and the two Child Care Centres.

He believes the situation could be made safer if all traffic (perhaps buses be excepted) leaving the school or Child Care Centre carparks face a left turn only sign.

In all cases it is short detour for traffic turning left and a roundabout where a safe turn can be completed. This would improve traffic movement as traffic turning right out of carparks can block "through traffic" as they 'jockey' to complete their turn.

The Unity College School Safety Crossing in Lomond Crescent may be a problem with traffic exiting Unity College, but probably no more of a problem than the disruption caused by right turning traffic exiting the College carparks.

A proposal from BeCA will be put forward to Cr Baberowski for consideration by Council.

Website March 7th.



Bellvista Lakes Cleanup

About this time each year, Council steps in to clean up the lakes. This usually means rowing around the two lakes in Bellvista and collecting any rubbish hidden away in plant growth. Then the lakes are 'mowed' and removing many of the water lilies.

Recently Council stepped in and completed its surface cleanup but the mowing of and removal of the lilies has been postponed because of the current warm weather conditions.

Council says with the current warm weather, they expect any cut lilies would regrow within just a few weeks.

The lilies will be mowed and removed when the weather cools off and any regrowth can be kept to a minimum.

Website March 7th.

Lock It Or Lose IT!

Police tell us that the vast majority of stolen cars are taken because the vehicle has been left unlocked and often with the keys still in the ignition.

Even here on our estates, thieves can wander from one car to the next until the find one which has been left unlocked (and often with the keys left in it) and then just drive it away.

Drivers can spare themselves the heart-ache of losing a car and all inside it by simply locking it and taking the keys inside with them!

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