

BeCA Management Committee expects to have received a draft copy of the proposed new dedicated bus route by mid to late July.

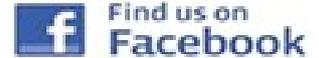


The Connector

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June Volume 2019

for the Bellvista & Bells Reach Community Association

Issue 3

Closed Bus Stops To Be Reopened

The task of re opening the 6 bus stops recently closed in Bells Reach and Bellvista was always going to be a difficult battle to win. It required a loud public protest, it required petitions and Public Forums, it required a rebuff from Council and it required the support of our local MP Mark McArdle.

The best chance BeCA and this community had to reopening the closed bus stops issue was to involve the Transportation and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey. Jason Hunt local ALP Branch President and the Caloundra ALP Candidate was best positioned to contact and negotiate with the 'powers that be' and attempt to influence a positive outcome for residents on the issue.

Jason Hunt spent much of his recent time on the phone to his State Government colleagues discussing the unpopular decision to close 6 local bus stops and to have the decision overturned. Jason Hunt arranged for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey to meet with BeCA representatives in Bellvista to thrash out a proposal which could satisfy all parties.

TMR Minister Mark Bailey believes there was some departmental misreading of the situation for local residents and the disadvantages many could have suffered.

The Minister presented a proposal to BeCA to provide a new dedicated bus route servicing Bellvista and Bells Reach.

After considering the Minister's

proposal BeCA is delighted to report the previously closed 6 local bus stops will be reopened as the major feature of a new dedicated bus route. It will be a new basic service operating 3 or 4 times daily for 5 days a week. The new bus route may still be weeks away before it is operational as discussion is required with the Contractor to ensure the required resources are available.

The BeCA Public Meeting at Bellvista Meeting Place was held shortly after the resumption plan was announced. It was a well attended meeting with almost 80 there. Translink representatives were present and there was a lively discussion on why the decision to close 6 bus stops had been made in the first place but also

an admission the whole process had not been well handled. Read more on page 4.

BeCA thanks ALP Candidate Jason Hunt and others for all of the outstanding work to achieve this outcome. Elderly residents will no longer have to trudge long distances to a bus stop with shopping trolleys. Doctor's appointments and the like can now be managed around the new timetable removing physical and financial stress for many Bellvista and Bells Reach residents.

It is a team win for this community and the efforts of many people. We thank Jason Hunt for bringing the situation to a positive conclusion for Bellvista and Bells Reach residents.

Website June 17



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BeCA June Public Meeting

Around 30 residents and guests attended the BeCA June Public Meeting. There were many apologies reflecting a very cool night in the midst of the colds and flu season.

Councillor Rick Baberowski attended and provided a report to the meeting on recent Council and Division 1 issues. Rick noted that Neighbourhood Watch was to be an issue for the meeting and suggested forming a sub-branch of a nearby Neighbourhood Watch group would be the best and most efficient way to enter the program.

The new City Hall to be constructed in Maroochydore would become the central hub of the Sunshine Coast Council into the future, an exciting time for all involved.

The State Government has provided funding for Council to create an Integrated Transport Plan for the Coast as the population here continues to grow. The plan would provide a template for the integration of rail, bus, road and light rail planning into the future. By being formally planned this should ensure the best and most efficient planning and funding for transport needs into the future.

Cr Baberowski addressed the recent closure of bus stops here and in Little Mountain. Rick cited convenience, reliability and frequency as major factors in any transport service. It seems that convenience and consideration for the public was not an important consideration with the recent closure of convenient bus stops. Several tales of 30 minute bus service delays and poor information to the public were related by residents who were at the meeting.

BeCA continues to wait for a response to its acceptance to host a meeting with Translink and BeCA Members as outlined by Minister Bailey in recent correspondence via Mark McArdle's office regarding recent Bus Stop closures. BeCA has not been contacted directly by either the minister or Translink.

It seems the trampolines in the park in Violet Street Bells Reach are no longer compliant with safety regulations. Council will ascertain how popular this equipment was with residents and either upgrade them to meet with recent safety requirements or find more suitable equipment to replace them.

Snr Constable Peter reported on crime issues for our area. The Sunshine Coast is being targeted by a North Brisbane Crime Gang which drive to the Sunshine Coast to commit

car and other thefts. Stealing number plates is another common crime. These vehicles are then driven to Brisbane where they are involved with break ins and other crime related incidents.

A car load of prospective thieves drive from Brisbane to areas such as ours. Then street by street and house by house the thieves try to find any unlocked vehicle, usually with the keys left inside. When one such vehicle is found it is driven off into the night much to the owner's distress.

The simple lesson is to lock your car and ensure the keys are put into a safe place inside your locked home. 2 such car theft incidents have occurred locally over the last month or so.

It appears telephone scammers are now able to hide their true phone number and pretend to be from Telstra, Police, the Tax office and others and seek cash from unsuspecting residents. You should be especially concerned if a scammer seeks your bank details or asks you to pay into a suspicious service to transfer funds. Be aware!

BeCA had been requested to provide information on the formation of a local Neighbourhood Watch group from a resident indicating an interest from people in Bells Reach. BeCA had urged these interested residents to attend this Public meeting. Regretfully, none were in attendance. Snr Const Peter made the point it would be a time

consuming role for any group and would require quite a level of commitment to see a group formed.

Janet Scott (photo below) from Caloundra SES outlined many of the services supplied by Caloundra SES volunteers to assist locally and across the State in times of emergency. They are often the first line of help during a disaster and can provide a basic first response service following a serious storm or weather event.

Volunteers are trained to cover various events with the Glasshouse volunteers specializing in mountain rescues. Call 07 5420 7524 if you would like more information about being an SES Volunteer.

Janet mentioned the SES phone app now available for your phone. It was the perfect first port of call to keep up with SES services and upcoming weather events. She also mentioned the Sunshine Coast Council's Disaster Hub website as a wonderful tool for public information on a whole range of possible emergency and day to day information.

During General business a resident told the meeting that she had missed the daily mail box pick up from the box outside Bellvista Market Place. At that time there wasn't any notice as to when the post box was cleared each day. It now seems the post box is cleared most days just before midday.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm

Website June 4



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Our thanks to Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra for facilitating the printing of BeCA's Newsletter.

Baringa Community Centre Building, Official Opening.

BeCA attended the opening of the Baringa Community Centre Building in early June. There was a 'Welcome to Country', and opening speeches from Mayor Jamieson, Cr Baberowski and Stockland's Adrian Allen. The almost \$3m building is a joint venture between Education Queensland, Stockland and the Sunshine Coast Council

The building consists of a large open area with a serving counter, a smaller conference room kitchen area and several office spaces. A group has been given the management rights to the building and plan a variety of parenting and advisory/support programs to serve the needs of the local residents. These will take on both an educative role and a support role for residents.

BeCA representatives had a lengthy discussion with one of the management team and discussed a range of programs which could be available. They would be programs aimed to support such groups as new mothers, parenting classes, new arrivals to the area and a variety of other programs. The management group already has a centre in Caloundra and run many successful programs there to provide activities and support for the community. The new building is situated

right beside the Baringa State Primary School and will liaise closely with them on programs to provide support for the whole community. **Website June 5**

Sunshine Coast Council Parks & Gardens.

BeCA continues to liaise closely with Sunshine Coast Council Parks and Gardens regarding Rain Gardens. BeCA was always encouraged to maintain contact with them to ensure service requests were completed properly and to BeCA's satisfaction.

In May BeCA lodged Service Requests to clear plant growth from encroaching and blocking free access for cyclists and walkers along local pathways. Extensive work was completed on the pathway around Bells Reach, the pathway around Arbour and the Bellvista pathways along Bellvista Blvd and along the Bellvista western boundary.

BeCA regularly lodges Service Requests to have any spike in the amount of graffiti around the area attended to by Council.

BeCA uses the MyCouncil online service to lodge its service requests. All landowner residents are encouraged to create their own MyCouncil Account via the link above.

During a phone conversation with Council Parks and Gardens, BeCA was

informed that Council now has a range of new suitable plants which could vastly improve the look of any rain garden.

Call Council on 07 5420 8200 and request to be put through to Parks and Gardens and ask for a Council Representative to visit your home and discuss how a rain garden near your home can be replanted with more attractive plants. **Website May 30**



Caloundra West Lions Club News

Lions Club of Caloundra West are now preparing for their Handover Dinner on 29th June where the Officers and Board will be officially inducted into their new positions for the year 2019/20. Pictures in the next issue!

The Club's Dinner Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Birdcage, Parklands Tavern, Meridan Plains Qld 4551 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Dinner (not obligatory) needs to be ordered on arrival ready for a prompt 7pm start. Most meetings have a guest speaker, usually from the community, to address the club.

Everyone is welcome to join with the Caloundra West Lions as it is an opportunity to see who they are and what they do locally (Lions is not just about sausage sizzles!) but nationally and internationally as well.

Please contact Chris Pentecost our Club Secretary on 0431 971 849 for further information or to let her know you will be attending so Caloundra West Lions Club can welcome you.



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Translink Public Meeting

Almost 80 residents were in attendance at the Public Meeting arranged by BeCA at the request of Mark Bailey, the Minister for Transportation and Main Roads, to provide feedback to Translink on how bus services could be returned for Bells Reach and Bellvista, including the re servicing of the 6 recently closed bus stops.

TransLink staff outlined planning to extend the former 603 bus route to service Baringa. The new route had to balance total journey times against residential coverage to ensure operational efficiency and deliver the maximum number of daily services.

Additionally, in order to improve the on-time running of the former lengthy 603 route (which had centred on Caloundra but ended at one end at Caloundra Race Course with Baringa at the other), the



TRANSLink

route was split into 2 separate new bus routes, with Route 606 serving Caloundra West and Baringa.

The new 606 route runs from Caloundra to Baringa but includes servicing the Caloundra Industrial area.

Regretfully for local residents, to improve total journey times and because of patronage levels, Translink decided that the Bells Reach/Bellvista stops were to be closed.

BeCA believes this was an error of judgement by Translink and this incorrect decision could have been dealt with much more successfully if there had been consultation with this community.

Upon Minister Bailey's advice to improve access to Bells Reach and Bellvista residents, consideration is now being given as to how services can be reintroduced to Bells Reach/Bellvista.

TransLink are currently investigating providing services to the recently closed bus stops in Bells Reach and Bellvista along with stops at Caloundra Hospital, Stockland Shopping Centre and Caloundra Bus station.

Some residents were keen for as many daily services as possible to allow residents to use the new service to get to and from work.

Others were keen to see some of the current services to Baringa diverted back through Bells Reach and Bellvista as a cheaper alternative.

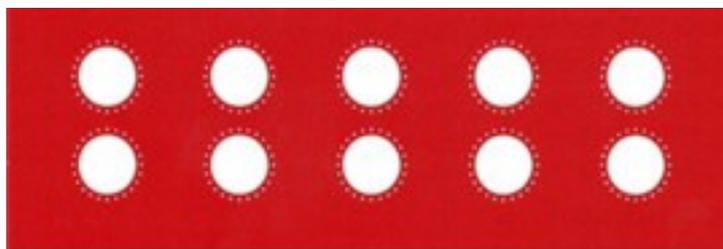
A variety of views and needs were raised from the floor. There needed to be connecting services to Landsborough Station as well as Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

It was obvious not everyone's needs would be served as the budget strings were fairly tight.

TransLink committed to come up with a suitable outcome within the costing constraints to satisfy as many concerns and requests as possible. Regretfully not everyone's needs will be satisfied.

The final route, timing and service frequency of the service are currently under investigation by TransLink and further details will be provided to BeCA and the community when available.

Website June 18



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