

BeCA Public Meeting
Monday June 7th
Bellvista Meeting Place at 6:45pm.
All Welcome



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The Connector



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for the Bellvista & Bells Reach Community Association

Issue 2

Proposed Baringa Mobile Phone Tower Update

Residents continue to wait for the Baringa Phone Tower to be commissioned and remove a major headache for many home owners in our area.

Initially it was suggested that Christmas 2020 should see the tower operational.

And then in February 2021 we finally saw the new tower peep above the trees just north of the Baringa State Primary School. Regretfully a problem with getting the tower powered required more unanticipated work to get the tower up and running.

The latest prediction is it should be operational around mid May.

Many locals with a Telstra NBN connection check their modem/router frequently to see if the 4G Internet backup service indicator light has changed color. An orange indicator light means a poor to medium 4G wireless connection is available, green means that all is working as it should with a good strong backup service available.

But orange has been the go to indicator color for most users.

Roll on mid May when we are hopeful the improved service will be available. However if history is any

indicator, the mid May date may just come and go with yet another hold up occurring.

A comment lodged on the BeCA website suggested a number of towers in the Sunshine Coast area are being upgraded so it may be they will all become active when switched on together.

Improved Police Presence

Local Parliamentary MP Jason Hunt has announced a new 'mobile police station' is to be provided prior to the construction of a new Police Station in Caloundra South. This is an interim measure and comes as concern across many areas of Queensland see a rise in criminal and offensive behaviour.

Incidents of inappropriate youth behaviour continues to be of concern and the hope is the introduction of a Mobile Police Station will make police presence in the community more obvious and provide a greater deterrent for any inappropriate behaviour.

The unit will be placed at Baringa Shopping Centre on a regular basis for one day per week at this stage. It is currently situated near the Baringa shops and provides a much needed visible police presence for the community.

Residents will be encouraged to

drop in and air any concerns with the duty police stationed there.

Construction of the new Caloundra South Police station is still some years away.

BeCA Public Meeting, June 7th Bellvista Meeting Place.

Plans are falling into place for the upcoming Public Meeting. However there can be late minute changes as speakers suddenly become unavailable as other duties arise.

At this stage we have Cr Baberwoski attending with news of Public Consultation on the proposed Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project. This will be a major focus for Council and public comment is essential to guide Council on any upcoming commitments.

Local MP Jason Hunt will be in attendance and provide an update on projects affecting our community. A representative of Sunshine Coast Council's Management Disaster Team will provide an update on their plans with advice for the community.

There will be our regular report on activity around the area from local policeman Snr Constable Peter and an opportunity for residents to ask questions from the floor.

All residents and interested people are welcome to attend.



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Veloway Update

During 2020, BeCA expressed its concern over the narrow dividing strip between the veloway and the footpath along Bellvista Blvd from Dumbarton Drive all the way to Baringa. Originally Stockland planted a grass plant along this strip to divide the two areas.

Hot weather didn't help the plant life in the dividing strip, eventually the elements took their toll and over a period of time the grass plants died leaving a bare dividing strip along much of the pathway/veloway.

BeCA sought Council's help to improve the look of the strip. Just before Christmas, Council filled the strip with wood chips, a purely a cosmetic quick fix.

In a trial Council replaced the wood chips and had them removed from a section of the dividing strip. A section of the strip was dug out and the soil replaced with a hardwearing turf strip. The strip has been laid as a trial for possible future replacement along the full length of Bellvista Blvd.

Concern has also been raised with Council regarding the condition of one of the major waterways passing through Bellvista. The major waterway has become choked with plant growth and now requires a clean out. Council has inspected the areas of concern and a clean out was to be completed

by the end of March.

During March BeCA approached council regarding the condition of the lakes at Bellvista in Canavan Gracie Recreational Park. Council has had the lakes cleaned by a contractor and his mowing machine. See page 3 for more information.

BeCA continues to await further advice from Council on how it plans to deal long term with the Salvinia weed which abounds in the lakes. Also we await news from Council on the fish pest tilapia, an introduced species also found in our lakes. Council is

considering the best method to tackle the tilapia problem.

From previous experience any problems with lakes or waterways are not restricted to our local waterways here, but are repeated in waterways all across the Sunshine Coast.

We look forward to Council's response to the pest fish problem but thank Council for their response to our concerns regarding local waterways choked with plant growth.

The photo below shows how overgrown with lilies and weeds the lake had been prior to the cleanup.



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March Storm Damage

From time to time the sails covering playgrounds across our area require repair or replacement. Savage storms, falling limbs or incorrect usage can rip the sails. They are then removed, repaired and eventually returned to their original condition.

Council does attempt to get the sails back and installed as quickly as possible.

Cleaning up following storms continues. BeCA continues to lodge "Service Requests" to have further clean-up work done.

Council contractors removed debris and many low hanging branches from the footpath along the western side of Bellvista Blvd between Stornaway and Dumbarton during March following storms.

We had expected our Bellvista Gardening team to do this work but it was completed by Council contractors.

This is perhaps a 'sign of the times' as our own assigned gardening team is seen much less frequently around our area. BeCA has been assured the 'Gardening team' remains in place.

Bellvista Lake Clean-up

The condition of the lower lake continued to deteriorate across the summer. It seems that what happened at our local lakes also tended to happen in many waterways across the Sunshine Coast.

To help solve the problem, BeCA was informed by Council the Lake Mowing machine would return in March to physically clean the lake of unwanted plant growth. (Photo Below)

The lower lake appeared to be the one more affected.

However a drenching of the area by

rain delayed any anticipated work and made it impossible for the truck which transports the mower to get anywhere near the lake to unload its heavy bulky load.

A few days of SE Queensland sunshine has fixed that and the mowing eventually got underway.

The machine had to physically remove much of the weed and lilies leaving the lake in a much healthier condition.

Following Council's action, both lakes now appear to be in a much healthier condition.

Dog Droppings.

The instances of owners not cleaning up their dog's droppings seems to have increased again with the return of sunny weather and with residents again getting out and about.

We hesitate to write about this in the newsletter as it seems those who allow this to happen most likely don't even read this newsletter.

But ah well, let's give it one more try and hopefully those pet owners will collect their dog's droppings and make this a safer and cleaner environment for everyone.





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Caloundra Aerodrome

Over time, our community has received growing support from Council and its management of Caloundra Aerodrome. When the "Caloundra Aerodrome Community and Aviation Forum" first met around 10 years ago BeCA felt it was attending under sufferance and was the butt of many comments regarding complaints raised along the lines of "you built near an airport, you put up with the noise".

Nowadays there has been a stark change in attitude to where now Council and Airport Industries understand the need to work co-operatively with local communities. As the number of residences (and voters) surrounding the airport grows, a new era of working co-operatively has emerged as well. An example of this level of cooperation appears below:

In April, BeCA received the

information from the Sunshine Coast Council, Property Management Branch regarding night flights and the final installation and commissioning flight checks of the Caloundra Aerodrome Runway Lighting Upgrade.

The announcement was made to ensure residents were aware of the required night time flights as new runway lighting was installed and tested in line with CASA requirements.

Youth Behaviour Management Forum Update

The first meeting of this group for 2021 was held recently.

A pamphlet which illustrates which emergency contact number to call for which type of emergency is in the pipeline for distribution across Bellvista, Bells Reach, Arbour and Baringa. Originally a major local company was going to fund and distribute the pamphlet. However it has been difficult in reaching an agreement on just what would be included and what wouldn't.

There is already a similar pamphlet available and it has been agreed this one would be used to inform our

public.

It is planned the Baringa Community Centre would soon be providing a newsletter for distribution across Caloundra South to promote its programs and services.

It is planned the pamphlet will be distributed via this newsletter.

The Baringa IGA will also drop a pamphlet into customer's shopping bags to further increase the pamphlet's distribution.

It seems the Baringa Shopping centre has been a major focus of some inappropriate youth behaviour. This now appears to be well in hand following action from police with incidents now all but disappearing.

It shows what can be achieved when Council, local police and the community work together.

The placement of the new Mobile Police Station for certain days of the week at Baringa will bring further calmness to this area.

The Youth Behaviour Management Forum has provided a perfect opportunity for all groups to work hand in hand and create a safer environment for all.




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