

LEADA's Monthly Newsletter - June 2019

Recapping

In February the new committee of LEADA set out to establish a strong voice for Lakes Entrance to advocate for a much needed facelift to the town. Despite its idyllic setting the town was languishing, little or no growth in population or tourist numbers, retail outlets vacant, key sites along the Esplanade vacant, reports saying the town looked tired and in need of improvements.

LEADA's initial goals were to increase its membership base, to listen to the priorities of the community and to establish constructive forward looking relationships with all tiers of government and relevant government authorities that were focussed on planning for and delivering town infrastructure improvements. LEADA believes these goals have been met illustrated by an increase in membership from 40 to over 430, a successful town meeting held with 320 residents attending plus frequent communication with the community via the press, letter drops and a monthly newsletter. In addition, regular meetings with the Shire, Darren Chester and Vic Roads and communication with other Government authorities are now well established.

LEADA believes it can now speak on behalf of Lakes Entrance businesses and the residents of the town. LEADA believes that it should be invited to take part in formal discussions and have access to relevant documentation that address development in the town.

Finally, we seek recognition that LEADA is an organisation, with a Committee elected by its members, to represent residential and business interests in Lakes Entrance. As such, we believe it is now appropriate that LEADA

LEADA's Priorities post Town Meeting

LEADA now intends to promote infrastructure development in Lakes Entrance on priorities established by feedback from questions and discussions at the town meeting, analysis of the survey circulated at the town meeting and available online (over 100 surveys completed) together with comments made via emails and membership application forms. These priorities with recommendations are set out in a paper titled *Setting the Agenda for new Infrastructure developments in Lakes Entrance*. The paper is available on LEADA's website. LEADA is keen for your feedback on the paper during the next month. Feedback can be given by emailing LEADA or at LEADA's AGM on the 2nd July. The paper will be revisited after the AGM to make further adjustments

We acknowledge that commitments have already been assured for the Jemmy's Point viewing platform and, therefore, that project is not included below.

In brief, our priorities are:

- Priority 1
 - Bullock Island
- Priority 2
 - The Town Foreshore and the Esplanade
 - Town Square
 - The Slipway
- Priority 3
 - Walking Trails
 - The Spit
 - 55 Palmers Road

- Priority 4
 - Rotary Park (further development)
 - Indoor Recreation
 - Marine Parade
 - Mechanics Hall
 - Industrial Areas
 - Dog Off-Leash Facilities

There were numerous valuable comments made on the surveys, via emails and on members' membership application forms. A list of these comments are available on LEADA's website. They need further analysis and will be incorporated in the next version of the Setting the Agenda paper.

June Presentations to the EGSC

This month LEADA will be involved with three meetings with the East Gippsland Shire Council.

The first meeting is at the next Council meeting which will be held in Lakes Entrance at 55 Palmers Road at 6pm on Tuesday the 4th JUNE. Council Meetings are open to the public. LEADA encourages members to attend. LEADA will be presenting for 15 minutes soon after the opening of the meeting. The address will be based on the *Setting the Agenda paper*.

The second presentation is on LEADA's budget submission. This presentation will be on the 11th June in the Council Chambers in Bairnsdale. LEADA's submission called for increased funding for improvements to Bullock Island, the Slipway, Lakes Entrance walks and further improvements to the foreshore including the town square. The Budget submission is also available on LEADA's website.

The third meeting is between EGSC CEO and Mayor and representatives of LEADA. This meeting has time for discussion. This is a follow up meeting to the 21ST June Council meeting and has more time to discuss and explore LEADA's recommendations in *the Setting the Agenda paper*. LEADA will persistently follow up on agreements made to ensure they are carried out. LEADA is determined to break the pattern of discussions going around in circles.

LEADA is hopeful that the new CEO Anthony Basford is establishing a more responsive and action orientated EGSC. Regular meetings with LEADA is a start.

Improvements to the foreshore are being made, a lookout is promised and improvements to Bullock Island and to Lake Entrance iconic walks, hopefully, are in the pipeline. So it is one step at a time to get through the log jam of plans and consultant's reports that outline improvements to the town

Help and AGM

We need your help. Whether it is swelling the support for LEADA and providing occasional feedback or becoming more actively involved. With your help we will soon reach our initial membership target of 500. Many people have come forward offering help and ideas. We do need people who are willing to be more actively involved to help build upon the ideas, join in future working bees, critique future directions, provide leadership and skills.

One starting point is the AGM which is on the 2nd July. Now is the time for a new committee to be elected at the AGM in accordance with LEADA's amended rules. So please consider standing for the committee. Information about the AGM including the Agenda and nomination forms will be forwarded to members at the end of this week. We would like a large turn up at the AGM. The important AGM formalities are intended to be dealt with effectively allowing time for members to discuss existing and future priorities.