



Town Meeting May 2nd 2019

LEADA Monthly Newsletter May

It has been a busy three months and LEADA has been receiving great support from residents and businesses. Thank you. LEADA will continue to advocate strongly for the many improvements that the town urgently needs

Town Meeting

A very successful town meeting called by LEADA with over 300 people attending was held on the 2nd May at the Mechanics Hall. A panel consisting of Anthony Basford CEO East Gippsland Shire Council(EGSC), Darren Chester local Federal member for Gippsland, Chris Waites CEO Gippsland Ports and Darrin McKenzie Acting Regional Director Department of Environment, Water and Planning outlined plans to improve Lakes Entrance in the near future and to hear comments and answer questions from the floor. It was reported to be the largest town meeting ever held in Lakes Entrance. Vic Roads was unable to attend because of the Federal election.

Continuing improvements to the Esplanade and foreshore and the construction of a Jemmy's Point viewing platform were outlined. Questions asked, highlighting the need for improvements, included ones on Bullock Island, Slipway, an off leash dog area, Kalimna intersection near the lookout, Lakes Entrance walks, plans for Myer St to Carpenter St, use of 55 Palmers Road and landscaping.

The results of the survey re established the following priorities Bullock Island, Improvements to the CBD and foreshore, establishing a town square, the Slipway and improvements to Lakes Entrance walks. There have also been strong cases put to LEADA for improving the indoor recreational facilities and a productive use for 55 Palmers Road. The next newsletter will provide more detail on priority projects after all the surveys and feedback have been analysed. Remember for the next week you still will be able to fill out a survey on line on LEADA's website.

Budget Submission

A budget submission to the EGSC in response to their draft budget has been made. On the 11th June LEADA will speak to a Council meeting highlighting our requests. Our requests will draw upon the analysis of the Town Meeting survey and other community consultation sources. 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 available on LEADA's website.



Membership

By now many members would have noticed our membership thermometer has been erected near the Information Centre. We have now exceeded 350 members on our way to 500. As at 8th May we have 366 members.

As our hard working group of membership chasers will soon be heading north, we are asking our current members for help. We can't afford to let the groundswell of enthusiasm ease up, so our request to you our members is to please try to sign up one member, or couple, or family to help us exceed our 500 target. The more members we have the stronger our voice will be.

Simply get your friends to log into LEADA on the internet and complete the form online. If this is difficult for them they could contact secretary Alison Brewer on 0418 550 626 who will arrange a form for them to fill out.

Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) Submission

LEADA has submitted in the second round of submissions to the VEC that its second option a 3 ward system with 9 Councillors for East Gippsland was the best option provided. The three wards are "Mitchell ward" consisting of Bairnsdale and neighbouring areas with 4 councillors, "Lakes Ward" including Metung, Lakes Entrance and other areas bordering the Lakes with 3 Councillors and a "Snowy Ward" covering the more remote areas of East Gippsland with 2 Councillors. The preferred option of the Shire and the VEC has been the current arrangement which is 9 councillors without wards despite in the first round of submissions 19 of the 21 submissions from local residents or residents' associations, including LEADA, opted for a ward system.

LEADA argued that

- Councillors should be accountable to a locality (a ward) and to East Gippsland as a whole
- East Gippsland was a large and diverse area with different local issues
- it was essential that Councillors had an in depth knowledge of their area and this was not possible if they had to represent all of East Gippsland on local issues
- Lakes Entrance as had other areas suffered under an amalgamated Council without a ward structure.

Next General Meeting

The next General meeting of LEADA members will be its AGM on the 2nd July. We urge all members to attend the AGM to hear and discuss an update of LEADA's actions and plans for 2019-20. We urge members to consider standing for the committee which will be elected at the AGM. There will be more details on the AGM including how to nominate for the committee in the June newsletter.