

## **Members Meetings**

Because of Covid 19 restrictions LEADA has not been able to hold a member's meeting since March. LEADA had intended holding meetings about every 4 months. As this has not been able to occur this month's newsletter is a little longer and will restate LEADA's priorities and give a progress report on the main priorities. We welcome feedback.

LEADA is planning to hold its AGM in late November as hopefully by that time large public meetings will be allowed and we will be able to hear firsthand from our members. If we cannot we plan to hold the largest ever zoom meeting in East Gippsland! The committee for next year will be elected at the AGM. Please consider standing for election. To maintain momentum LEADA needs some new committee members to build upon what has been achieved in the last two years.

## **LEADA's Priorities**

To assist with the recovery LEADA has been focusing on advocating for infrastructure projects that enhance and highlight the town's setting so that it becomes more attractive to both tourists and residents. It is LEADA's belief that this will increase confidence in the town, bring an increase in visitor numbers once the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted and create the environment for new business opportunities.

Our priorities, in priority order, based on previous feedback from members remain

- Completion of the Esplanade and foreshore upgrade including the slipway and foreshore park
- Improvements to Bullock Island including the Spit area
- Construction of Jemmy Point lookouts lower and upper
- Walks and trails including the Entrance and Krauatungalong walk (Cunningham Arms all abilities circuit)

So that LEADA's strong advocacy for these projects is effective a priority has been given to developing constructive relationships with the three tiers of government and

funding authorities.

In seeking funding a degree of flexibility is required so as to match priorities with funding opportunities.

There are other projects recommended by members that LEADA promotes when the opportunity arises. These include

- Indoor recreation centre and improvements to sporting facilities
- Upgrade of Mechanics Hall,
- Landscaping of Marine Parade
- A more productive use for Palmers Road
- Museum / information centre
- Opportunities for private investment including Bullock island, Jemmy's Point, the paddle boat site
- Support for art and cultural projects

### **Esplanade and Foreshore**

It is hoped that the Esplanade upgrade will be completed by the Christmas holidays from Carstairs St to Myer St. The main work to be completed is between Carpenter and Myer St. This includes realigning of the highway to allow for angle parking on both sides of the highway, an expanded foreshore park area, a new and wider footpath on the town side with street trees, improvements to the Myer St corner and the completion of the lakeside dual walk / bike boardwalk. These works will be in accordance with plans for this area previously publicised by Regional Roads Victoria.

LEADA is also advocating for the footpath from Myer St to Stock St to be replaced as part of this project. If unforeseen delays occur LEADA has been given a guarantee that no disruptive work will occur during the peak holiday season.

A focus for LEADA during the next few months is the planning of what is now referred to as the foreshore park, the area from the Slipway to the Rotunda. LEADA has been highlighting the need to plan for this area that is central to both residents and tourists for the last four years. It is Lakes Entrance and East Gippsland's Federation Square. Once in a lifetime chance exists to create a town square that

rivals other coastal town developments. Ad hoc planning of the past needs to be avoided.

Elements of this square are the Slipway development at the western end, the proposed children's play ground at the eastern end including water play areas, landscaping and features associated with the Krautungalung walk on the CBD and surf side of the footbridge, the call for Expressions of Interest to have water recreation activities from the existing paddle boat site and the improvements to the Myer St corner.

This area will, if plans come to fruition, provide ready access to cafes, lakes, the beach, iconic walks along both sides of the lake, water recreation activities, state of the art playground, outdoor picnic, BBQs and eating areas and a culinary and artistic outlet featuring local products on the Slipway.

The EGSC has recently appointed a project manager for this work with the intention to come up with schematic sketches of this area by the end of the year and with construction commencing in 2021. Over a million dollars in funding has already been committed and more is being sought. Darren Chester and Tim Bull are actively pursuing Federal and State funds. The Shire has allocated approximately \$500,000. Recently, as LEADA President I had discussions with senior officers of Bushfire Recovery Victoria and Regional Development Victoria to highlight the importance of providing funding for this location to aid the recovery and development of tourism in East Gippsland.

A reference group for this area will be established during October by the Council with LEADA representation and will meet as soon as the Council elections are completed in late October. Likely LEADA representatives on this reference group will be Lauren Barlow and Bruce Hurley from the committee and LEADA members Ann Barker from the gardening club and Shayne McCormick. Input from the community will be sought as soon as preliminary plans become available.

The Slipway has been vacated for close to 20 years. Finally it looks like the boat sheds renovation will be completed, a wooden deck will be built over the ramp, the

jail like fences removed and the area landscaped and an exciting use of the slipway established. A group of local enterprising businesses Expression of Interest to establish an outlet for local food, beverages and artistic endeavours on the slipway was accepted late last year. Interestingly many similar projects have been set up in regional Victoria and are proving to be successful for local businesses and in attracting tourists. Mike Anketell is the LEADA rep for this project

### **Bullock Island and Spit**

The updated Bullock Island masterplan is being implemented and includes extension of the road into a natural picnic area with BBQs and toilet block, a walk and bike path around the island, seafood café and viewing platform at the fishing coop, repair and extension of jetty on the south west corner, repairs to the sea wall and a new bridge with pedestrian path. Most of this work is due to take place in 2021.

LEADA's rep on the Bullock Island Reference Committee is Arthur Allen. As most would know Arthur has a detailed knowledge of Bullock Island and has long advocated for improvements to the Island and the Fishing Co op's facilities.

Discussions have commenced to improve the Spit area which is adjacent to Bullock Island to have weed removal, walking tracks with views to the island and a picnic area near the lake beach.

### **Lookouts**

The lower Jemmys Point (Hotel Road) lookout now been completed and was opened last Friday. The Project took longer than planned, from conception to completion, and lessons will be learned from this venture. Even so, the final result has seen a remarkable transition from an old elevated deck to a modern all abilities viewing platform that provides much improved viewing of the entrance and the lakes system.

Plans for the upper lookout are still under consideration by Council after wide ranging comments and suggestions were sought, and received, from the community. LEADA has been supportive of the updated plan for an expansive viewing deck to be

built as stage one of this project, with options to undertake further work during Stage 2.

Peter Sindrey LEADA's vice president is LEADA's representative on the project group for Jemmy Point lookouts.

## **Walks and Trails**

A focus has been on upgrading the Entrance walk and establishing the Krauatungalung walk. LEADA has attracted funding for upgrading the Entrance walk. This project is being managed by EGSC. Work has commenced and is due to be completed by July 2021. LEADA reps on this project are Bruce Hurley and Katie Zagami.

The Krauatungalung walk is an all abilities circuit around the lake from the footbridge to Eastern Beach. This is an important project as it will highlight stories and art work from the Lakes Entrance Aboriginal community, be accessible to all and provide the missing links between existing infrastructure. The walk can be staged. LEADA is promoting early completion of the stage that will provide features and landscaping for the foreshore park on the town side of the footbridge as well as the area in front of the surf club on the beach side of the footbridge. LEADA reps on this project are Katie Zagami, Jeff Wilson and Bruce Hurley.

LEADA members were asked to provide feedback before the end of September on the Krauatungalung walk plans. You can do this by going to LEADA's web site and clicking on news and updates.

There are many great walks and trails in Lakes Entrance and surrounds. Discussions with Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, Skipper Pete, Sarah Carlisle and Katie Zagami from Darren Chester's Office has started to work towards getting an audit of the trails and to establish a priority for upgrading some of the trails as well as creating links between the trails.

## **Lessons Learned from last summer's bushfires**

LEADA has been working for some months to develop details of the lessons to be learned from the bushfires last summer, and what action needs to be taken to ensure that challenges emerging in Lakes Entrance can be addressed.

As part of this process we have lodged submissions to the Federal Royal Commission and the Victoria State Inquiry into the fires.

One issue identified is the adequacy of the Mechanics Hall to cope as an emergency relief / evacuation centre during major disasters. We have been raising these issues with EGSC and reviewing alternatives, including the potential use of other facilities in Lakes.

In addition, we are also pushing EGSC to review a Local Incident Management Plan (& Information Booklet) for Lakes Entrance – for distribution throughout the community.

## **Events**

The organisation of events aimed at attracting tourists back to Lakes Entrance once restrictions are lifted is an important part of the recovery. Unfortunately with the demands arising out of the bushfires and Covid 19 the organisation known as Lakes Entrance events has not been active of late. The committee has approached LEADA to become a part of LEADA as one way to reactivate the committee. LEADA has agreed to do this but needs residents interested in assisting with events to join the events committee. There is funding available, if applied for, to assist the organisation of events but preparation needs to start now.

## **Help with business grants**

There are a number of organisations that can help navigate your way through receiving the grants, exemptions and assistance available. Locally LEBTA is doing this. Contact LEBTA President Shane Kidd email: [shane@lakesentrance.com](mailto:shane@lakesentrance.com) and mobile: 0435 504 239

Expert advisors are also available. Two local advisors are: Michael Anderson,

Small Business Financial Counsellor from Bairnsdale email:

[michaela@rfcsvg.com.au](mailto:michaela@rfcsvg.com.au) and mobile: 0447 035 835 and Trevor Patten from Lakes

Entrance email: [trev.patten53@gmail.com](mailto:trev.patten53@gmail.com) and mobile: 0419768883

### **Ways you can help**

There are several ways you can help LEADA and in turn Lakes Entrance. Some are:

- Working bees are planned for Bullock Island, Entrance walk and the Spit area mainly in 2021 possibly some before the end of the year.
- Friends of Bullock Island is being formed again and if you would like to be involved please email [admin@leada.com.au](mailto:admin@leada.com.au).
- Helping recruit members to LEADA by encouraging friends to join helps grow our membership and influence
- Stand for the committee. There will be details on how to do this in the October monthly newsletter
- Contribute your ideas via surveys and by attending members meetings and by contacting LEADA reps on the various project reference groups.
- Join the events committee to help organise events
- Support local businesses by shopping locally

If you would like to help in any way including contacting a representative on a project reference group please email [admin@leada.com.au](mailto:admin@leada.com.au) or give me a call.

**If you haven't already PLEASE MAKE A 2020 -21 DONATION to LEADA. LEADA asks members to donate \$10 each year. However more or less is welcomed. Your membership will not lapse if no donation is made. Easiest way to make a donation is to follow this link**

<http://www.leada.com.au>

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