

BCAS Newsletter

December 2023

Thank you

The Committee of Management wish to thank all the Members of BCAS for their support in 2023, and wish them all a happy safe festive season.

An especial thanks is extended to the Activities Co-ordinators without whom the activities of the Society would be very difficult, if not impossible. They have done a great job and we hope that they can continue in 2024. A small (edible) gift was delivered to these four members recently as a token of our appreciation. Thank you Jan, Sue, David and Carol.

Thank you also to the activities members who have already and who will carry out the cleaning roster the COM has instigated so that we don't have to pay a cleaner. And thank you to all the activities members who do a quick clean after each of your sessions so that the next users have a clean start.

Financials of the Society

Since the current COM took over in July BCAS has had \$1,719.30 income from activities and membership and \$2,508.78 in expenditure. The whole year bank balances tell a tale that while still not good, isn't quite so scary. On the 1st of January the balance was \$5,408.37, with the balance on 14th December \$5,319.26, leaving BCAS with a debit for the year 2023 of \$86.11, which is much better than was expected at the AGM. BUT to quote Charles Dickens' Mr. Pickwick :

"Income one pound, expenditure 19 shillings and 11 pence halfpenny- happiness. Income one pound and expenditure one pound and one halfpenny – despair and destitution."

(for those of you born well after 1966, the metric conversion is - income \$2 ,spend \$1.99= happiness but income \$2 and spend \$2.01= despair)

So we need continue to keep control on the expenditure and generate more income. The new proposed activities should help by attracting new members, keeping old members and covering costs.

Activities

I have attached flyers to this newsletter of some of the new activities for 2024 and it would be great if you as members could get them out there to your friends, colleagues and members of other groups you belong to. I have also attached a general flyer detailing ongoing activities.

Membership Subscriptions for 2024

As was noted at the AGM the membership year needs to run with the BCAS year which happens to be the same as the financial year – July to June – not the calendar January to December year so for this year members need to pay a \$20 now to take them to June when they will pay \$40 for the 2024-25 membership year. The COM decided that there would no longer be family memberships. Each member will pay \$20 now in January and \$40 in June . Please pay eft or cash into the treasurers' letter box. No cheques please.

There is a membership form attached for you to fill in details so that the Secretary can complete and check the records.

Autumn General Meeting

It is intended to hold a General Meeting before Easter 2024. More details later, but look out for an email in the New Year

Regards,

Glenda Minty Secretary BCAS

An Update from the President Ted Minty

The BCAS president met with representatives of Bass Coast Shire Council [BCSC] on 14th September and on 30th October to discuss Goods Shed Maintenance; prior BCSC grant acquittals from 2021/22; as well as a joint proposal from Wonthaggi & District Historical Society [WDHS] and BCAS to install solar panels on the Goods Shed Roof in order to minimise ongoing running costs to both societies, as discussed at the BCAS General Meeting on November 5th, 2023.

At time of writing I can confirm that I was given verbal satisfaction from BCSC representative Shirley Egan on 30th October meeting with respect to the acquittal of the two outstanding grants to BCAS from 2021/22. Failure to acquit prior grants obtained by the previous Committee of Management would have excluded BCAS from any ongoing support from Council.

BCSC as our landlord have sent several work parties to undertake maintenance works on the Goods Shed including installation of LED lighting in Foyer, kitchen and toilet; replacement of faulty electrical switches; re-stretching of carpet; testing, maintenance and cleaning of our air-conditioning system to retain its efficacy; and removal of bird debris in our ceiling and hopefully blocking out further ingress by birds.

I thank our coordinators of activities for leading their groups in the cleaning schedule now in operation. This new cleaning schedule shares the cleaning task and saves our BCAS funds approximately \$1000 per year.

On 27th November, 2023 the representatives of BCAS and WDHS signed a joint proposal to BCSC to share the renewable energy from the Goods Shed Roof assuming that we were successful in obtaining a capital grant from BCSC for \$10,000 in March next year. That Joint Proposal has been forwarded to BCSC [our joint landlord] who are now investigating the feasibility of this proposed installation of PV modules on the Goods Shed Roof in the context of our location within the Historical Railway Precinct which is managed by Heritage Victoria.

We have obtained quotes for installation of the PV modules, one of which seems capable of supplying the combined electricity demand from both WDHS and BCAS during July. This would cover most of the electrical operating costs in winter as well as summer, and export surplus power in summer. The residual cost of installing a shared PV system on the Goods Shed Roof [assuming we obtain a \$10,000 grant from BCSC] would be about \$5,000 and this would need to be shared jointly by the members of WDHS and BCAS. At present, this seems doable. The long-term benefits would mean a minimization of electrical running costs which at present are approx. \$1500 (for BCAS in 2023, alone) and are expected to rise significantly in coming years.

I ask the membership to communicate directly with the president, secretary or other committee members of BCAS directly on any issue, via

: bcartistsociety@gmail.com

I also ask the membership to work respectfully with the people coordinating specific activities at the Goods Shed on behalf of our BCAS.

Ted Minty