



Trees were recently felled around the historic homestead in Cuthbert Street, Corinella. Developers plan on turning the home into a café. G031616



Contractors clear vegetation from the 20 acre site last week. The land has been approved for 110 dwellings, marketed as 'Heritage Bay' estate. G041616

Land cleared for Corinella estate

WATERLINE residents are lamenting the loss of a large swathe of vegetation as developers make way for a 110-lot estate in Corinella.

But according to authorities, it's all above board.

The development at 58 Cuthbert Street, known locally as 'Hughes Estate', has been on the cards for years, with developer LandGipps expecting to issue titles for the first stage of the 'Heritage Bay' estate later this year.

Removal of vegetation across parts of the 20 acre site has been made more visible to the public due to the site's proximity to a well-used foreshore walking trail.

Coronet Bay resident Len Van Der Neut, who regularly walks along the track, says he was "gutted" when he first saw the "destruction" taking place a few weeks ago.

"It is beyond me why they are ripping everything out at once when they are only selling stage one out of four stages," Len said.

"What about the poor kangaroos hopping around the foreshore that have lost their home?"

After scouring real estate websites, Mr Van Der Neut estimates there are currently 120 vacant blocks for sale between Grantville and Coronet Bay.

"I don't understand why the council has given the ok for another estate when there's so much vacant land," he said.

Mr Van Der Neut also says he holds grave concerns for vegetation outside the development, along the foreshore cliffs, since the Heritage Bay advertising brochures show plans for proposed observation platforms.

"The Heritage Bay Facebook page says you will be able to sit on your new house deck and look out at the bay.

"The only way that'll happen is if they cut all the foreshore trees down!"

then," she said.

"We're hoping for a good outcome for the community and I believe the vegetation offsets from the developer will be significant."

Removed for bushfire safety

The council's development services manager, Jamie Thorley, confirmed several council officers, including managers and compliance officers, have checked in on the site regularly over the past month.

He also confirmed written requests regarding the development have been received from the community.

Photographs of the vegetation removal have spread through social media sites, most prominently on Coronet Bay's community Facebook page, eliciting passionate responses from locals.

Several people posted comments concerning the removal of one of the historic Moreton Bay fig trees at the site.

Mr Thorley said: "A total of five fig trees were identified in the approved arborist report, of which four have been retained and only the single fig tree removed due to poor health."

Mr Thorley also confirmed there were no Vegetation Protection Overlays on the site.

He said it was, however, impacted by a Bushfire Management Overlay.

"This allows the removal of vegetation that could potentially be used to fuel a bushfire," he explained.

"The application was referred to the Country Fire Authority (CFA), who conditioned the development to provide 10 metre buffers to all existing and future structures.

"This condition essentially required the removal of all vegetation across the site.

"The application was also re-

ferred to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), who reviewed the comments of the CFA and agreed with their recommendations to remove the vegetation across the site for fire defence purposes.

"This approval contained a condition to provide offsets for the removal of all native vegetation."

Community meeting

Project manager Mark Steggall from Sure Constructions organised a meeting with community members last Wednesday afternoon, delivering an overview of the project and answering questions.

He said around 60 people attended the site meeting.

"I called the construction meeting to introduce myself and put a face to the construction works," he said.

"I invited all via letterbox drop to contact me for a regular construction newsletter.

"The meeting went very well, with some passionate people who all had questions that I answered to the best of my ability.

"The main queries were about vegetation removal, and I explained it was in line with the vegetation removal permit," Mr Steggall said.

Regarding foreshore platforms, he said that any such works along the foreshore, including gravel tracks constructed to join up the existing walking trail with the estate, would need to be approved by DELWP.

Department finds no issues

Mick Dortmans, DELWP Manager Environmental Planning for the Gippsland Region, said he visited the site and walked around the perimeter of the development after the department received several calls from concerned residents last fortnight.

"A small amount of foreshore vegetation has been removed, but we understand that was done by the Corinella Foreshore Committee before Christmas," Mr Dortmans said.

"We understand the committee is planning on revegetating that area with appropriate species.

"The majority of vegetation removal sighted was within the boundaries of private land."

Mr Dortmans said there was no need for the department to investigate the area further.

Corinella Foreshore Committee president, Barb Oates, confirmed the committee worked in conjunction with a contractor employed by the developer, and she reiterated that affected areas would be revegetated.

She also made clear that the development "does not include foreshore redevelopment".

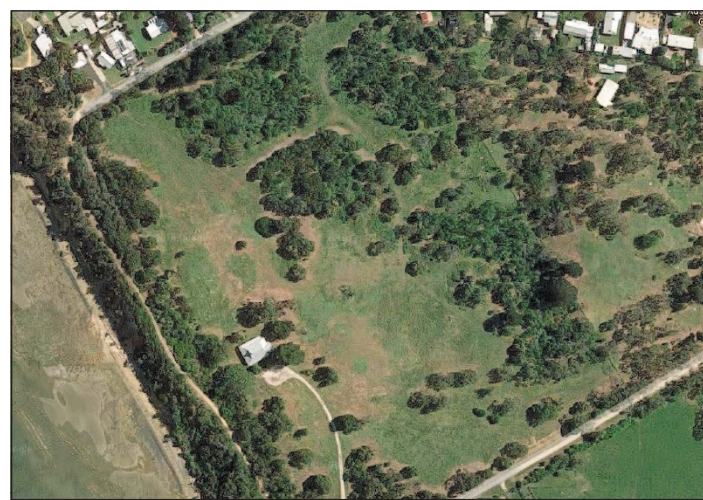
"The developer has presented the Corinella community with an artist's impression of what they would like to see developed on that foreshore reserve," Ms Oates said, referring to the viewing platforms and other works evident in advertising brochures.

Ms Oates said there had been some other foreshore vegetation illegally removed in the vicinity of the development, but the committee does not know who is responsible.

Works update

Sure Constructions project manager, Mark Steggall, has provided the Sentinel-Times with the following construction update.

- Permit request in place for café restaurant at the house. Signs are currently on the front gate of development and at the General Store for community consultation.
- Cleared some of the gully (end of Beach Street) on Thursday.
- Commenced drainage in the foreshore on Friday.
- Steps to the beach will be temporarily relocated to ensure drainage works can be completed. Full access to the beach will be maintained throughout these works and the steps will be repositioned next week.
- Will commence sewer (works) mid-week with a view to complete sewer/stormwater in the foreshore by the week ending April 22.
- Gully will be revegetated in consultation with the foreshore committee.
- Hope to complete stage one works by late July, with titles in August.



An aerial view of the site before vegetation was removed.

Le Serve 'horrified'

Cr Clare Le Serve admits she was shocked when she first saw the piles of trees building up within the development.

"I was a bit horrified to see so much remnant vegetation taken away, but I understand it has been permitted under bushfire reduction guidelines," she said.

"And I can understand the community angst, but it's within the town boundaries and (the land) is zoned residential."

Cr Le Serve said the planning application did not come before councillors for a decision because it had very few objections when advertised in 2014.

"The policy regarding applications like this has changed since

Car goes up in flames

A CAR fire was luckily contained before it spread to nearby homes at Silverleaves early last week.

Wonthaggi Senior Sergeant Steve Gibson said Dolphin Drive residents were woken by explosions at around 1.30am on Sunday, April 10.

A recent model Toyota was engulfed by flames and local CFA volunteers worked quickly to extinguish the blaze.

Another vehicle parked nearby, a BMW, also sustained substantial damage, with the total damage bill expected to exceed \$100,000.

Investigators are yet to determine the cause of the fire.

Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Wonthaggi Police on 5671 4100.

YOUR ONLY LOCAL DRYCLEANING AGENCY

Drop off before 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays for quick turn around

WONTHAGGI NEWSPAPER NEWSAGENCY

31 Murray St, WONTHAGGI 5672 1256

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Inverloch Community Farmers' Market

From the farms and homes of Gippsland authentic producers community owned and operated by Inverloch Lions

Visit the Glade on Inverloch's foreshore

Sunday, April 24 8am-1pm

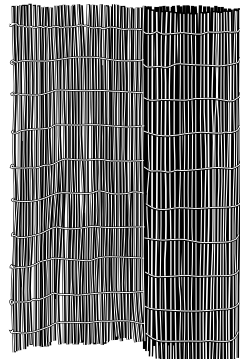
W: lionsclubinverlochfacebook
E: lionsinverloch@gmail.com

See you there on the last Sunday of every month

Other South Gippsland markets to visit:
Koonwarra Farmers' Market, 1st Saturday monthly
Coal Creek Farmers' Market, Korumburra, 2nd Saturday monthly
Prom Country Farmers' Market, Foster, 3rd Saturday monthly

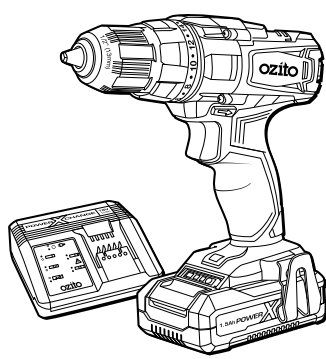
"Get stuck into some D.I.Y. for less"

PRICE GUARANTEE
If you happen to find a lower price on a stocked item, WE'LL BEAT IT BY **10%**
Excludes trade quotes, stock liquidations and commercial quantities.



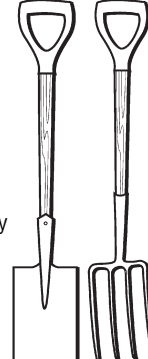
eden
Euro Reed Fencing Screen
1.8 x 3m.
3065784

\$16⁶⁹



ozito
18V Cordless Compact Drill Kit
Includes 1.5Ah battery & charger. 6290545

\$99



SAXON
Garden Spade or Fork
2970831/2970815

\$9⁹⁸ EACH

RENATA, TEAM MEMBER



Find your local store trading hours at bunnings.com.au

BUNNINGS

bunnings.com.au Not all services and products featured are available in all stores, but products may be ordered. Bunnings Group Limited

LOWEST PRICES EVERYDAY...

BVRG4222