

Bellarine Catchment Network

2016/17 Annual Report

1. President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present this report outlining some of the important activities undertaken by the Network during the past year.

The Network continues to be well supported by environmental groups and develop partnerships with other land managers on the Bellarine. These lead to important programs and initiatives that provide greater environmental education and involvement.

The BCN sponsored new community group Friends of Yellow Gums Ocean Grove and continued to invest time and resources into all other community environment groups and land manager partners. These partnerships are extremely important to BCN.

Our Caring For Our Bays Program received new funding from the Port Phillip Bay Fund and continues to attract support from partner organization's and new businesses. We farewelled Jarrod Boord from this role and thank him for his significant support and achievements. We also welcomed Jane Shearer as the replacement in the role. Additionally, we welcomed Craig Billows to the new Biodiversity Officer role to assist with schools projects and partnerships with Geelong Cemeteries Trust, The Point and Corangamite CMA Coastal Small Grants projects.

Sadly, this year two long time network representatives passed away. Fred Cook and John O'Reilly who were Ocean Grove Coastcare and Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail representatives succumbed to long term illnesses. We acknowledge their commitment to their areas and local community groups and environmental initiatives. Steve, Matt and other BCN Representatives were able to attend their funerals.

Our partnerships with community groups and organization's remain strong and continue to grow. In doing so supporting local programs, communities and school in all town and areas of the Bellarine.

In conclusion I would like to thank the entire Network representatives, Staff and all delegates for their ongoing contribution and commitment to their particular group, organisation and to the Bellarine Catchment Network.



Point Lonsdale and St Mary's Primary School
Environment Days

2. Delivered Programs and Activities

The BCN is active in every year achieving numerous outcomes and projects on the Bellarine with various community groups, partners and agencies. This previous year, activities have continued and grow. This year the BCN Committee and Staff achieved the following new initiatives;

- ~ New BCN Marquee with branding and OHS Compliant
- ~ Major Community Environment trailer upgrade including tools, tool box, cargo top, new gas bottle holder etc.
- ~ New BCN On Ground Works Signs
- ~ Planning for BCN vehicle for On Ground Works
- ~ Assist in development of FOEP Brochure
- ~ Assist in short listing and interview process for Barwon Estuary Project
- ~ Development of New Group Friends of Yellow Gums Ocean Grove
- ~ Development of Clifton Springs Curlewis Coastcare Group
- ~ Commencement of BEC upgrade
- ~ Support Bellarine Bayside Frog Monitoring Project and signage
- ~ New partnerships with Mountain To Mouth, Geelong Cemeteries Trust, The Point and Fifteen Trees
- ~ Representation on Moolap / Limeburners Reference Group
- ~ Production of the Swan Bay Trail Brochure and re-design of marker poles
- ~ Supporting the SBEA Gardens for Wildlife Program
- ~ Hosting the Inaugural Yellow Gums Environment Day

Below is a summary of ongoing and new projects and partnerships for the year.

Bellarine Indian Myna Program – BIMP

- The BIMP has once again been reinvigorated. The project has had numerous of meetings and refining of the program and now was run in the Spring of 2016. This program was run in all towns of the Bellarine, which is a significant increase in the program and resources from the initial pilot. This program continues to receive great support with 5 local people volunteering as town coordinators for the program.
- Results were sent out to all participants and the St Leonards Men’s Shed, Bellarine Veterinary Clinic and Wallington Rural provided significant assistance

Caring For Our Bays Litter Hotspot Grant / Port Phillip Bay Fund

- The Caring For Our Bays Program continues to grow from strength to strength. With all key land managers and community groups involved over 10 Litter Hot Spots have been monitored and engagement and education programs built around these.
- The program was acknowledged locally through various partners and shortlisted for awards.
- Key note presentations were provided to G21, DELWP and MWRRG. This promoted our program locally and statewide
- A case study was developed for the program and we now embark on Phase 2 through the Port Phillip Bay Fund
- This new and exciting initiative has seen more investment for BCN and a new officer appointed. The project has identified litter hotspots on the Bellarine.

Bonnyvale Wetlands and Star of the Sea

- This year saw the 8 year of running this program. A successful day with 60 Grade 4 and 5 students conducting revegetation activity, flora and fauna walk and WaterWatch activities.

Queenscliffe Narrows Project & Coastal Moonah Woodland Restoration

- A partnership with the Borough of Queenscliffe, this program looks to engage the community in the protection and enhancement of CMW. Activities include 4 different schools, 2 tertiary institutions, 2 community days and 100’s of volunteers.
- This year has seen an increase in the amount of schools involved and community activities along with erosion monitoring continuing at Dog Beach.
- The 9th annual running of the event was help. Many volunteers have been to every one of these events. Next year will be a big celebration for the 10 Yr Anniversary
- Councillor Tony Francis, Mayor of the BoQ officiate at the event and re-iterated the support from the Borough for this ongoing project.

Bellarine Rail Trail Fellows Rd Revegetation Day

- This annual revegetation day is into its 8th year. Working with the SBEA, Queenscliffe PS, BoQ and GJGarner Homes allows this program to continue.
- Approx 300 plants are used in this revegetation day which is always a great result for the local nursery and community and continues to be supported
- This year the Queenscliff PS did not attend as their numbers have grown and they needed their own site further along the BRT
- Another fun day culminated with the annual BBQ at the Queenscliff Nursery

Bellarine Secondary College Year 8 Environment Day

- After 11 straight years – this year the event was held over.
- Workload pressure from BSC did not enable enough time to organise for this year.
- Maddie Glynn from Barwon Coast and BCN will work with the school next year to run the event again

Clifton Springs Coastcare Group Development

- Continuing on from previous Environment days with local Primary school Drysdale and Clifton Springs, the Booklet will be released in 2015. A collaboration with DCSCA and CoGG this project has increased awareness and understanding of the area, the values and threats.
- A number of community events were held and the Clifton Springs Primary School held their annual Environment day with staff from BCN

Coastcare Grant - Summer by the Sea and Surf Life Saving Club Nippers Program Nippers

- This year saw projects with Bellarine Bayside, Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Clubs. Approximately 90Nippers kids took part in environmental education
- Over 100 campers / holiday makers participated in activities in Portarlington, St Leonards and Indented Head.
- This is a wonderful partnership with Bellarine Bayside and supported by the DELWP Coastcare Program

Landholder Info, BLG Support Role and Staff Supervision

- Support and supervise of 1 BLG Landcare Staff with annual and weekly work plan and reviews. Attend BLG Meetings. Advise landholders on LC matters and facilitate the Bellarine Gorse program with outstanding sites and landholders.

Moolap Saltworks Site and Representation

- Work in collaboration with Birdlife Australia, Geelong Field Naturalists Club and Geelong Environment Council to lobby Government for protection of the site. Attend meeting and joint letter signatories with above groups to relevant authorities.

Ocean Grove Environment Booklet Development

- Develop a draft proposal with 4 local environment groups, 4 land managers and other supporters for protection of Ocean Grove significant trees after recent clearing of old growth trees.
- Further develop this into a whole Environment Booklet for OG.
- Numerous working group meetings were held and technical advisory group meetings. Booklet is due for launch in December 2017

Ocean Grove PS – Coastcare Environment Day

- Co run and organise with Barwon Coast and Ocean Grove Primary School Grade 4 Coastcare Day.
- Run activities for 70 students including Coastcare Challenge Course, tree planting and fauna interaction
- Re-activated this year another great collaboration with Barwon Coast and highly valued by the Primary School

Point Lonsdale PS Caring For Our Bays Environment Day

- Run earlier in the year with 3 rotating activities
- Focusing on Caring For Our bays and Coastal Moonah Woodland education
- Has now become an annual event for the school

St Ignatius and the Basin Enviro Day

- Run two field trips in The Basin for Yr 10 Environment Students. Look at biodiversity Values and the impact of Bridal Creeper.
- Release Rust Fungus for the Bridal Creeper in the Basin, approx 60 students engaged.

Clifton Springs PS – Clifton Springs Boat Ramp

- A change of location to the Boat Ramp. Working in collaboration with CoGG and DCSCA to drive this program
- 90 kids in attendance running 3 different activities throughout the day

St Leonards PS Caring For Our Bays Environment Day

- Run in conjunction with Bellarine Bayside. Approx 100 students who participated in the day
- A re-vamp of our previous projects with St Leonards PS and a great partnership with Bellarine Bayside.

Portarlinton PS Caring For Our Bays Environment Day

- Poor weather saw the day be altered to classroom activities. Supported and collaborated with Bellarine Bayside.
- A re-vamp of our previous projects with Portarlinton PS and a great partnership with Bellarine Bayside.

Geelong Cemeteries Trust - Point Lonsdale and Leopold Cemeteries Projects

- BCN secured a partnership with GCT to manage the environmental values of both the Leopold and Queenscliff cemeteries
- Both sites contain significant biodiversity values and opportunities to protect and enhance these
- Community events were held at both sites with much interest and follow up opportunities for involvement

The Point – EVC Management and Community Engagement program

- The Point partnership seeks to restore various EVC's within the Point / Moremac land parcel
- The project is limited to vegetation managements and does not contain water management responsibilities
- We conducted the second annual community day which was highly successful and the BCN and CoGG aim to develop a Friends group in time.



Caring for Our Bays

Bellarine Catchment Network

Diverse approach for healthy bays

Why?

Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula are renowned for beautiful beaches, wineries, gourmet food and other leisure activities. They're full of tourist hotspots, but they also have a number of litter hotspots that threaten marine environments.

The Bellarine Catchment Network received funding from the Victorian Government's Litter Hotspots Program with MWRRG to run 'Caring for Our Bays', a three-year program aimed at reducing litter at targeted hotspots through a multi-organisational campaign.

In the Caring for Our Bays program the Bellarine Catchment Network worked with groups as diverse as Corrections Victoria, Green Army, coast care groups, schools and divers to address what locals saw as the key issues affecting the bays: water quality and its effects on marine life, and the amount of waste present from fishing, cigarette butts and food packaging.

How?

Bellarine Catchment Network settled on monitoring eight litter hotspots at a range of locations around Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. In the project's second and third years, volunteer groups audited the hotspots, which included sites at Corio, Clifton Springs, Queenscliff, Portarlington and St Leonards.

As well as monitoring and auditing, the Caring for Our Bays project was a multi-stranded project that focused on education, promotional campaigns,

clean up activities and community events. All the activities strongly involved local communities (Clifton Springs Coastcare Group began as part of the project) and ensured Caring for Our Bays' message of environmental responsibility was widespread and highly visible.

Education was central to the project's success. 'Coastcare Game', a program that showed kids how long plastic bottles took to break down and their effect on the environment, had more than 1,000 eight to 13-year-olds learning and having fun. It was often part of schools' environment days and were co-run by Bellarine Bayside, Borough of Queenscliff, City of Greater Geelong and community groups.



Caring for Our Bays also ran 13 training events along with 'Summer By the Sea Holiday Program', held at caravan parks, beaches and rivers. In this program kids and adults went on rockpool rambles during which they were taught about marine habitats, and how litter, pollution and plastics impact them.

Strong use of traditional and social media were vital, along with a purpose-built website. Clean up and litter audit days engaged the community, with the region-first 'Dive Against Debris' a memorable one. Partnering with Dive Victoria, the Caring for Our Bays event saw 15 keen winter divers collect more than 80 kilograms of litter from under St Leonards Pier. Batteries, fishing line and other finds revealed the importance of educating fishers about the effect of litter on the marine environment. A mural was later painted at St Leonards to bring that message home via art.

The 'Be a Local Hero' campaign significantly boosted the Caring for Our Bays project's visibility. A colourful set of posters, stickers and cards from eco-advocates The Connies focused on the weedy seadragon, the Australian fur seal, the Australian gannet, the burrunan dolphin and the growling grass frog; five local species that litter negatively impacted.

Aimed at creating behavioural change, Be a Local Hero engaged a wide cross-section of the community and had bins and other collateral across 100 kilometres of coastline adorned with vibrant anti-litter messaging.

What was the result?

The three-year Caring for Our Bays project created a more than 80 per cent reduction in total litter at hotspot sites with more than 7,600 items collected. More than 1,200 people were involved in environment days and education games, while more than 100,000 people reported noticing the project's bin signage, stickers or posters.

Compared to areas at which the Be a Local Hero campaign was not present, areas with the signage were found to be cleaner. More than 95 per cent of survey respondents said the Be a Local Hero campaign had increased their awareness of how litter affects marine life, and 94 per cent agreed the signage encouraged people to use bins.

Caring for Our Bays was excited by the insights gained from the Dive for Debris event, the first time litter auditing had moved from land to an underwater setting. In addition, the project received from schools overwhelmingly positive feedback about the education games and environment day activities.

Caring for Our Bays is looking to the future. It is developing relationships with fast food outlets to install educational signage on premises and is hopeful of receiving Port Phillip Bay Fund support in order to continue the project at full steam. With every project stakeholder behind it continuing, it appears Caring for Our Bays will be a long-term voice for the anti-littering message in the Bellarine catchment.

4. Media Reports and Promotions.



Coastcare Enviro Challenge Course

BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK
Landcare and Coastcare

OCEAN GROVE COASTCARE
HEARING OUR BEACHES AND THE OCEAN'S VOICES

BARWON COAST

COASTCARE

YELLOW GUMS COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT DAY

Sunday 23 October 10.00am–1.30pm
Yellow Gums Reserve, off Yellow Gums Drive, Ocean Grove

KIDS BUSH DETECTIVES & WALK AND TALK
10.30AM–11.30AM

WILDLIFE GARDENING
11.30AM–12.30PM

FREE BBQ LUNCH
FROM 12.30PM

Various stalls to browse as well as hands on learning. Open to the whole Ocean Grove community!

Registrations nice but not necessary, to Rebecca Kootstra on 5272 4897 or rkootstra@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

FREE BBQ

COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

SUNDAY 28 MAY

10.30 TO 12.30 FOR ACTIVITIES. 12.30 – 1.30 FOR BBQ LUNCH

The City of Greater Geelong in partnership with Bellarine Catchment Network, Ocean Grove Coast Care Network and Barwon Coast are hosting a community planting day.

Local residents are invited to Governors Place for tree planting, a flora and fauna walk, a free BBQ, Coastcare and environmental activities.

Governors Place, off Presidents Ave, Ocean Grove
Contact: Ashley Filipovski on 5272 5431

5. Financial / Treasurer Report

Bellarine Catchment Network Profit & Loss July 2016 through June 2017

	Jul 16 - Jun 17
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grant Incomes	242,185.9€
Interest Income	1,090.9€
Total Income	243,276.94
Expense	
Monitoring & Evaluation/Survey	300.00
BEC	
Dropbox	139.00
Facebook	74.60
Cleaning	579.09
Email Services	566.89
Office Insurance	633.95
Electricity	1,136.42
Stationery	178.72
Postage	1.09
IT Support	3,150.50
Office Supplies	1,365.97
Internet	337.77
IT Software	101.72
Total BEC	8,265.72
PLANT, EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY	
Infrastructure/Repairs & Mainte	760.58
Infrastructure/Registrations	56.90
Purchase Installation	89.39
Trailer Rego	56.90
Total PLANT, EQUIPMENT & MACHINERY	963.77
ADMINISTRATION	
Staff Development	176.47
Motor Vehicle Parking	3.64
Admin/IT Software	4,674.55
Accounting	1,625.00
Advertising	225.00
Annual Fees/Memberships	50.73
Bank Fees	89.40
Bookkeeping	3,000.00
Gifts	76.36
Meeting Expenses	1,155.18
OHS	1,164.45
Organisation Insurance	398.55
Travel Expenses	219.82
Uniforms PPE	342.09
Telephone-Mobiles	1,975.51
Total ADMINISTRATION	15,176.75

CAPACITY BUILDING	
Litter Audit	300.00
Media	3,710.70
Printing, Signage, Brochure	18,956.47
Catering	296.22
Printing of Pamphlets(Videos)	245.00
Workshop Expenses	5.25
Total CAPACITY BUILDING	23,513.64
MOTOR VEHICLE	
Tolls	10.98
Parking	106.28
Fuel	3,641.33
Vehicle Rego	84.04
Vehicle Expenses / Service	4,861.71
Vehicle Lease	7,086.37
Total MOTOR VEHICLE	15,790.71
ON GROUND WORKS	
Guard & Stakes	1,031.00
Revegetation	556.32
Chemical Purchases	1,079.00
CO2	140.00
Contractors	10,000.01
Indian Myna	458.14
Pest, Plant & Animals	666.72
Repairs & Maintenance	2,354.15
Tools	20.90
ON GROUND WORKS - Other	252.14
Total ON GROUND WORKS	16,558.38
PAYROLL	
Salaries - Contract & Ongoing	130,326.45
Staff Training	415.06
Super	10,269.23
Workcover	1,525.46
PAYROLL - Other	-62.72
Total PAYROLL	142,473.48
Payroll Expenses	95.25
Total Expense	223,137.70
Net Ordinary Income	20,139.24
Net Income	20,139.24

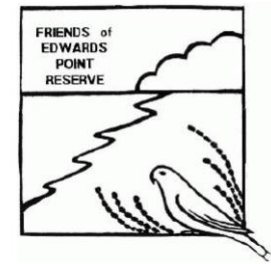
Bellarine Catchment Network
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2017

	Jun 30, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
NAB Business Card	10,428.11
NAB Cash Manager	140,184.54
Total Chequing/Savings	150,612.65
Total Current Assets	150,612.65
Fixed Assets	
Motor Vehicle.	
At Costs	20,100.53
Total Motor Vehicle.	20,100.53
Plant & Equipment	
At Cost	15,595.94
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-677.00
Plant & Equipment - Other	4,097.00
Total Plant & Equipment	19,015.94
Total Fixed Assets	39,116.47
TOTAL ASSETS	189,729.12

LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	-39.08
Total Accounts Payable	-39.08
Other Current Liabilities	
Triton Finance - Curr	7,167.72
Current Provisions	
Annual Leave	15,508.00
Long Service Leave	5,557.00
Total Current Provisions	21,065.00
Payroll Liabilities	
PAYG	6,166.26
Supannuation	3,147.11
Total Payroll Liabilities	9,313.37
Tax Payable	9,755.64
Total Other Current Liabilities	47,301.73
Total Current Liabilities	47,262.65
Long Term Liabilities	
Triton Finance - Non Curr	14,939.78
Provisions	
Long Service Leave	1,450.00
Total Provisions	1,450.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	16,389.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES	63,652.43
NET ASSETS	126,076.69
EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	146,679.33
Retained Earnings	-37,443.63
Suspense Account	-3,298.25
Net Income	20,139.24
TOTAL EQUITY	126,076.69

5. Acronyms and Terms

BA -	Birdlife Australia	FOBW -	Friends of Begola Wetlands
BB -	Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management	FOBP -	Friends of Buckley Park
BC -	Barwon Coast Committee of Management	FOEP -	Friends of Edwards Point
BCN -	Bellarine Catchment Network	FOHPB -	Friends of Hooded Plover Bellarine
BLG -	Bellarine Landcare Group	FOGNR -	Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
BoQ -	Borough of Queenscliffe	FOPR -	Friends of Point Richards
BRT -	Bellarine Rail Trail	GAV -	Greening Australia Victoria
BIMP -	Bellarine Indian Myna Program	GC -	Green Corp
BSC&BLN -	Bellarine Secondary College & Bellarine Landcare Nursery	GCT -	Geelong Cemeteries Trust
BPOBPWG -	Bellarine Peninsula Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Group	GFNC -	Geelong Field Naturalists Club
CCMA -	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	GT -	Gordon Tafe
CFOC -	Caring For our Country	GSPS -	Geelong Steam Preservation Society
CoGG -	City of Greater Geelong	GWGQ -	Global Warming Group Queenscliff
CVA -	Conservation Volunteers Australia	NAWC -	National Asparagus Weeds Committee
CVGT -	Central Victorian Group Training	OGCC -	Ocean Grove Coastcare
DCSCA -	Drysdale Clifton Springs Community Association	PPB -	Port Phillip Bay Fund
DEH -	Department of Environment & Heritage	PV -	Parks Victoria
DELWP -	Department of Environment Land Water and Planning	RCIP -	Regional Catchment Investment Plan
EVC -	Ecological Vegetation Class	RCW -	Regionally Controlled Weed
FOB -	Friends of the Bluff	SBEA -	Swan Bay Environment Association
FOBRT -	Friends of Bellarine Rail Trail	SBICMC -	Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee
		WoNS -	Weeds of National Significance



Geelong Environment Council Inc.

