



# Coastcare Mentorship Program - Become a local Coastcarer!

## *Expression of Interest Form*

The Coastcare Mentorship Program is a new program aimed at primary school students in Geelong and the Bellarine. This program has been developed by the Bellarine Catchment Network, a non-government, incorporated organisation that supports over 32 environment groups, 'friends of' groups, land managers, Landcare and Coastcare groups in the region. This program aims to fill an essential role in providing pathways and mentorship to the youth of the region. This program is funded by the **Federal Government's Communities Environment Program**.

The aim of the Coastcare Mentorship Program is to provide crucial guidance and mentorship to up and coming nature enthusiasts on the Bellarine. The program is open to **Grade 4-6** students from public and private schools with a limit of **2 students per school**. Any Grade 4, 5 or 6 student can apply, however only 2 students per school will be shortlisted for participation in the program. Please view the key dates for the application process below.

Actions	Key Dates	Who
Application open date	Monday the 17 <sup>th</sup> of February 2020	All primary schools in the Bellarine region
Application close date	Friday the 20 <sup>th</sup> of March 2020	Grade 4, 5 and/or 6 students
Successful applicants announced	Thursday the 26 <sup>th</sup> of March 2020	Successful applicants, students, teachers

### What students should expect

Any Grade 4, 5 or 6 student interested in the program will need to fill out and return the expression of interest form (see page below). This will need to be submitted to the Bellarine Catchment Network before **Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at 5pm**. These applications will be reviewed and chosen candidates will be contacted about their success within the program on **Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**.

Once accepted, all students will be provided with a manual containing background information, activity dates, worksheets and resources. Each 'Coastcarers' will need to fill out sections of this manual for them to graduate successfully.

There are **5 core modules** that each student will work on. To complete a module, students will need to attend a practical excursion on the Bellarine, complete a worksheet and fill out a feedback form. Once students successful complete each module, they will receive a certificate at the Graduation Ceremony.

These 6 core modules are as follows:

1. **Ramsar Wetlands** – *Migratory birds and wetlands*
2. **Caring For Our Bays and Litter** – *Citizen science and where litter comes from*
3. **Biodiversity** – *Revegetation and flora and fauna*
4. **Coastcare** – *The intertidal zone and the ways we protect the beach*
5. **Community Engagement and Involvement** – *Engaging the community*

## **Credentials and privacy**

The Bellarine Catchment Network is an incorporated, non-government organisation who is overseen by a volunteer committee of management. For the past 7 years we have had strong strategic partnerships with the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliff, Bellarine Bayside and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

All of our staff are currently qualified in the following certifications:

- Level 2 First Aid and CPR;
- Working with Children's Check;
- Surf Life Saving Certificate; and
- Victorian Child Safety Standards.

All of our policies and procedures align with government authority standards and have recently undergone a strict review.

## **Privacy Statement**

Any private or personal information acquired throughout the duration of the Coastcare Mentorship will be kept confidential. This includes; names of students, demographic information (age, gender, residential location, etc) and any other personal information given.

Photographs may be taken of students during their mentorship; however, all students must return a signed media release form prior to any photographs being taken. Full consent from both the student and parent must be given to BCN before any photos are taken. If full consent is given, photographs may be used on social media (Facebook, Instagram) and within reports.

## **Contact Information**

***Naomi Wells, Communications and Engagement Coordinator***

Bellarine Catchment Network

**Email:** [naomi@bcn.org.au](mailto:naomi@bcn.org.au)    **Phone:** 0411 161 705    **Website:** [www.environmentbellarine.org.au](http://www.environmentbellarine.org.au)

*Matt Crawley, Program Manager*

Bellarine Catchment Network

Email: [matt@bcn.org.au](mailto:matt@bcn.org.au)



## Coastcare Mentorship Program

### *Expression of Interest Form*

Full Name	
Age	
Year level at school	
School (e.g. Leopold Primary School)	
Teacher Name	
Teacher's Email	
Teacher's Phone Number	

Residential Suburb (optional)	
Parent or Guardian Name	
Parent or Guardian Email	
Parent or Guardian Phone No	

Why do you want to be a Coastcarer?

Why do you want to protect our natural environment?

What do you currently do to protect your local environment? E.g. pick up litter, plant trees

What are you passionate about?

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please email this completed form to [naomi@bcn.org.au](mailto:naomi@bcn.org.au)  
Before Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at 5pm.



**Australian Government**  
Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science