



## Coastcare Mentorship Program - Become a local Coastcarer!

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 'Coastcarer' 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 5 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 Queenscliffe, 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;
- Community 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 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)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question: How many times will the student be required to participate in an activity?**

Each student will be required to participate in 5 activities throughout the calendar. We will be aiming to conduct 1 activity per term with 2 activities occurring in 4<sup>th</sup> term.

**Question: How long will each activity take, when will they start and what day will they occur on?**

Each activity will take approximately 1.5 hours. Each activity will start at 4pm and finish at 5:30pm. The exact day will be determined once the candidates have been chosen, but they will always fall on the same day of the week, e.g. Wednesday.

**Question: Where will the locations be?**

The locations will vary across the Bellarine and at least one in Geelong. Maximum travel time will be ½ hr allowing enough time to arrive after school finish times. They will consist of; coastal foreshore, coastal dune, Ramsar wetlands, estuaries, one on water activity proposed for the end of the year and a graduation celebration where each candidate will receive their Certificate.

**Question: How will the students get to the activity?**

The onus will be on the parent/guardian or teacher for getting to and leaving the activity. The parent/guardian or teacher will be welcome to stay for the activity should they wish but there will be no requirement to.

**Question: Can home schooled children apply?**

Yes, as long as they are a Grade 4, 5 or 6 equivalents as long as they have permission from their parent/guardian.

**Question: What supervision will be in place for the student?**

The Bellarine Catchment Network will have at least two staff members available for each activity with Working With Children's Check, Occupational Health and Safety, Community Surf Life Saving Certificate and CPR training. We will work with relevant land managers and guest speakers/presenters to engage at a deeper level with the students and to grow their knowledge of the local environment.

**Question: How will COVID-19 impact on the program?**

The Bellarine Catchment Network responsible for running the Coastcare Mentorship Program will comply with all Government and policy advice as relevant to the program. Any activities that do not allow us to run it as a group, appropriate contingencies and/or alternatives will be put in place for the student to undertake them independently either at home or at a field site that we nominate.

The program has been developed to give the student the best possible chance of completing the Mentorship and receiving the Certificate on completion.

**Question: Are there any costs for the student?**

No, this program is fully provided by the Bellarine Catchment Network as part of the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program.

**Question: How will the privacy of each student be protected?**

We take privacy and security very seriously. Any information collected before or during the project will remain in confidence and not shared. Permission will be asked before any photographs will be taken and/or used on social media and in reports.

**Question: What amount of extra-curricular work is required by the student?**

The program is based around fun, interactive activities and learning in the field. Creating the next generation of environmental leaders for our region.

A work sheet will be required to be filled out for each activity by the students and submitted on completion. Each student will also have to deliver a small presentation at the Certificate Ceremony at the end of the Calendar year. This date along with other dates will be provided at the start of the program to all students, parents/guardians and teachers.