

BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



Bellarine Catchment Network

865 Swan Bay Road, Mannerim, Victoria, 3222
www.environmentbellarine.org.au

Front cover image: Launch of the Friends of Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk in June 2023. Image by Barwon Water.

officeworks

Printed and supported by Officeworks Geelong.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.



ABOUT BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK

Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN) is a non-government, incorporated body that is governed by a volunteer committee of management. The network is made up representatives from key catchment and coastal organisations (both government and non-government) with an integrated catchment management focus. This includes environment groups, 'Friends of' groups, land managers, Landcare and Coastcare. Three staff members currently deliver various programs and projects across the Geelong and Bellarine region.

We offer a variety of services to educational institutions, the wider community, other environmental organisations, businesses and government bodies. We also run a number of programs and projects in Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula including citizen science, on ground works and the facilitation of environment focused events and activities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Graeme O'Leary

VICE PRESIDENT Beth Ross

SECRETARY Margot Busch

TREASURER Michael Skinner

GENERAL MEMBER Geoffrey Waite

GENERAL MEMBER Andrea Dennett





TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT BCN.....	4
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....	4
NETWORK MEMBERS.....	5
PRESIDENTS REPORT.....	6-7
PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT.....	8
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - SCHOOL EDUCATION.....	9
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - INCLUSIVE VOLUNTEERING GUIDE	10
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - COMMUNITY SUPPORT	11
OUTCOMES.....	12
BALANCE SHEET.....	13-14
PROFIT AND LOSS.....	15-16
AUDIT REPORT.....	17
NETWORK MEMBERS.....	18
COLLABORATORS.....	19
CREDITS.....	20

NETWORK MEMBERS

Australian Parents 4 Climate Action
Barwon Coast Committee of Management
Barwon Estuary Project
Barwon Heads Association
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
Bellarine Landcare Group
Bellarine Peninsula Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Group
BirdLife Bellarine
Borough of Queenscliffe
Breamlea Coastcare
City of Greater Geelong
Clifton Springs Curlewis Coastcare
Coastcare Victoria
Conservation Volunteers Australia
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Drysdale Clifton Springs Curlewis Association
Festival of the Sea Barwon Heads
Friends of the Barwon
Friends of Begola Wetlands

Friends of the Bluff
Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail
Friends of Buckley Park
Friends of Edwards Point
Friends of Hooded Plover Bellarine
Friends of Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
Friends of Point Richards
Friends of Ramblers Road
Friends of Yellow Gums
Geelong Environment Council
Geelong Field Naturalists Club
Geelong Sustainability
Greening Australia
Ocean Grove Coastcare
Parks Victoria
Queenscliff Environment Forum
Southern Ocean Environment Link
SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre
Swan Bay Environment Association

Libby Coker, Member for Corangamite speaking to the network at the launch of BCN's 5-year Strategic Plan



PRESIDENTS REPORT



Graeme O'Leary

2022/23 has been a very successful year for the Bellarine Catchment Network; continuing to expand our environmental and educational services to the Bellarine and Geelong communities, focusing on, and providing meaningful support to our members, and deepening our relationships with our partners. The 2022/23 Annual Report summarises the Network's esteemed and extensive programs and services. It is a testament to BCN's environmental expertise, innovation, and commitment to support our members and community.

We gratefully acknowledge our partners, Barwon Water, City of Greater Geelong, Borough of Queenscliffe, Corangamite CMA, the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Coastcare Victoria, Bellarine Bayside CoM, Barwon Coast CoM, Geelong Ports, Landcare Victoria and the Victorian Government whose support and funding has enabled BCN to develop, implement and deliver joint educational services, waste management, and bush regeneration projects. Funding also enabled BCN to publish several Bellarine and community wide environmental and volunteer resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight just a few of those important and impressive environmental programs, services, and resources. An outstanding highlight has been the burgeoning partnership with Barwon Water and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation focusing on the rehabilitation of Murrk Ngubitj Yarram Yaluk. BCN is privileged to have been invited to assist in the remediation of the nature reserve and to be given the opportunity to organise and nurture a dedicated Friends Group to help manage the reserve in conjunction with the Healthy Country Team.

An excellent example of BCN's contribution to our members and community is the Environmental Volunteering Toolkit. Produced by Naomi, our Coastal and Education Program Leader in 2022, with support from Coastcare Victoria and the Victorian Government, the Kit aims to promote and increase environmental volunteering in the Geelong and Bellarine region. It incorporates both practical information about volunteering, including case studies as well as an organisational synopsis and contact information for over 50 environmental volunteer groups, organisations, or programs. We also consulted with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to integrate Wadawurrung language, images, and meaningful statements to help build connections to Country that we volunteer to protect and preserve.

Another important and highly successful resource developed by Naomi is the Inclusive Volunteering Guide. This in-depth and practical guide was produced in 2023 with support from the Victorian Government's 'Emerging Stronger' grants program. It aims to provide community and environment groups with a framework to make environmental volunteering inclusive. The guide focuses on First Nations and Wadawurrung, people from diverse multicultural backgrounds, people with disabilities and people who are LGBTIQ+ and provides educational information as well as practical tips and ideas to foster active inclusivity. Workshops held in conjunction with representative agencies were conducted throughout 2022 and early 2023, focusing on connecting and providing practical guidance to managers and volunteers in the BCN network. The guide has been promoted throughout volunteering networks in the region, and presentations on the guide have been delivered at events including the 'Engaging diverse groups in Environmental Volunteering' webinar facilitated by DEECA, and the 'Environmental Volunteer Managers' forum at Melbourne Zoo.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

During the summer of 2023, BCN, in partnership with Borough of Queenscliffe, Barwon Coast, Bellarine Bayside, City of Greater Geelong and Coastcare Victoria, participated in a record number of events and activities across Geelong and the Bellarine. Working with four surf clubs from Breamlea to Point Lonsdale, holding environmental stalls at towns including Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove and Indented Head, having a zero waste and environmental education presence at sporting events and music festivals, meant that 1000's of residents and tourist had both formal and informal environmental education.

Matt and our Biodiversity Field Officer Daniel Morrison, continued working in conjunction with our partners Geelong Cemeteries Trust, CFA, VicTrack, Moremac, Bellarine Railway and Barwon Water rehabilitating and maintaining important public spaces and reserves. Daniel's knowledge, skills, and commitment, to protect and enhance the indigenous biodiversity values of our region, has been pivotal to the success of our bush rehabilitation and regeneration projects across the Bellarine. In addition to this, Sophie continues to expertly lead the Bellarine Landcare Group projects and deliver private landholder biodiversity and pest plant and animal projects.

An excellent example of the biodiversity team's highly successful partnerships is the 'Borough Coastcarers' program supported by the Borough of Queenscliffe. Now in its third year, the initiative continues to successfully restore habitat and remove invasive weeds at locations across Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. The initiative has given volunteers the opportunity to learn about bush regeneration techniques and connect with their local environment.

BCN made a net loss for the financial year 2022/23 of \$56,910. The loss was a result of rising costs and tightening income streams. As a result of the loss, the Finance Sub-committee has met and identified expenditure reductions and is confident that this, along with repricing of services and the continued development of partnerships, will result in a net profit for the financial year 23-24. We also obtained Charity status from ACNC which allows us to seek targeted funding from philanthropic organisations which was not previously available to us.

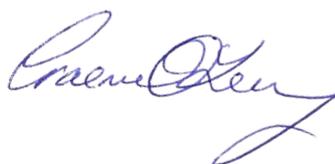
I want to thank and acknowledge our dedicated committee, Beth, our Vice President, Margot, our Secretary, Michael, our Treasurer, and committee members, Geoffrey, and Andrea, for their much valued and astute contributions and oversight of our organisation. I especially want to thank Michael, our retiring Treasurer for his wise counsel and financial insight. Michael has been an indispensable member of our team over the last 5 years.

I would also like to thank our devoted, passionate, and professional team, Naomi, Daniel, and Bellarine Landcare Group's Landcare Coordinator, Sophie, for their enduring contributions to the conservation of our local environment. Their dynamic engagement with our members and community in innovative and practical ways has exemplified our vision and mission.

I especially want to acknowledge and thank Matt, our Program Manager for his unwavering commitment, professionalism, enthusiasm, and outstanding leadership of BCN. Matt has very successfully initiated and overseen the evolution of BCN and ensured that our organisation continues to be relevant and focused on supporting our members, community, and the Bellarine environment.

Finally, I want to thank our members, partners and community for their much-appreciated support, notable and discerning contributions, and engagement with BCN. I particularly want to acknowledge and thank member organisations who joined our network this year, Australian Parents 4 Climate Action, BirdLife Bellarine Peninsula, Breamlea Coastcare, Clifton Springs Curlew Coastcare, Friends of the Bluff, Friends of Ramblers Road, Queenscliff Environment Forum, and Southern Ocean Environment Link. We look forward to working cooperatively with you and supporting your endeavours to conserve and enhance our local environment.

GRAEME O'LEARY, PRESIDENT



PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

The BCN staff continue to deliver programs across all areas of our organisation. This year we have aligned delivery against our newly launched Strategic Plan with projects aligning to the our goals to Activate, Engage and Empower. Our talented and dedicated team members deliver our projects in a timely and professional manner. This builds confidence with the stakeholders that we support. Schools, community groups, surf clubs and corporate organisations have come to rely on BCN to provide environmental educational and on ground works across the Bellarine and bay area of Geelong. BCN resources including the on ground works trailer, coastal educational trailer, environmental volunteering calendar, zero waste event kit, hero species posters and the bird identification bino kit continue to be utilised by the network groups and organisation's.

The network also supported a number of auspice projects for member and aligned groups, whilst staff members are represented on numerous committee's, reference groups and conference presentations. There are examples of how the team implement core project areas, whilst continuing to reach outwardly and support the community in diverse ways.

Finally, I want to thank our departing team members Lachlan Forbes and Rebecca St Ledger for their commitment and support of numerous projects and programs during their time with BCN. We wish them well in their careers.



MATT CRAWLEY
Program Manager



NAOMI WELLS
Coastal and Education
Program Leader



LACHLAN FORBES
Biodiversity Program
Leader



DANIEL MORRISON
Biodiversity Field
Officer



SOPHIE SMALL
Bellarine Landcare
Group, Landcare
Facilitator



REBECCA ST LEDGER
Sustainability and
Circular Economy
Coordinator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

School Education

Over the last year, Bellarine Catchment Network engaged with many schools thanks to programs including Dunecare and Coastcare, as well as support from our project partners Bellarine Bayside, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the City of Greater Geelong. Our educational activities either revolve around place-based learning; at a local wetland, beach or nature reserve, or involve hands-on learning; from revegetation, weeding, recycling and via games. Below are just some of the schools that we engaged with for the 2022-2023 financial year.

Clifton Springs Primary School
Bellarine Secondary College x 2
Christian College x 3
Drysdale Primary School
Geelong High School
Geelong Lutheran College x 2
Leopold Primary School
Northern Bay College
North Geelong Secondary College
Oberon High School
Ocean Grove Primary School
Portarlington Primary School
Queenscliff Primary School
Star of the Sea Primary School x 2
St Ignatius College x 4
St Josephs Flexible Learning College x 2
St Leonards Primary School

995
STUDENTS
ENGAGED

31
SCHOOL
EVENTS

1500+
RESOURCES
DISTRIBUTED

Oberon High School and Leopold Primary School



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Inclusive Volunteering Guide

With funding from the Victorian Government's 'Emerging Stronger' grant, Bellarine Catchment Network collaborated with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, GenU, Cultura and Geelong Rainbow to produce a practical guide to inclusive environmental volunteering. The guide brings background information and perspectives from each organisation and the people that they support, represent or work with, and how any group can be more inclusive. Part of this project involved workshops and incursions to help build the network's knowledge of diverse communities and we thank all of those who attended.

The Inclusive Volunteering Guide focuses on:

- Why should we be inclusive and how to handle discrimination
- First Nations and the Wadawurrung
- People with disabilities
- People from diverse multicultural backgrounds
- People in the LGBTIQ+ community
- Practical tips and ideas to help you plan, promote and facilitate volunteering
- Helpful resources, links and appendices.

The guide is available as a Word document and PDF on our website at:

https://www.environmentbellarine.org.au/cb_pages/resources_and_guides.php

The Inclusive Volunteering Guide, Cultura participants and the Geelong Rainbow workshop

Inclusive Volunteering Guide:
a practical resource for
inclusive environmental
volunteering



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Community support and representation

Auspice

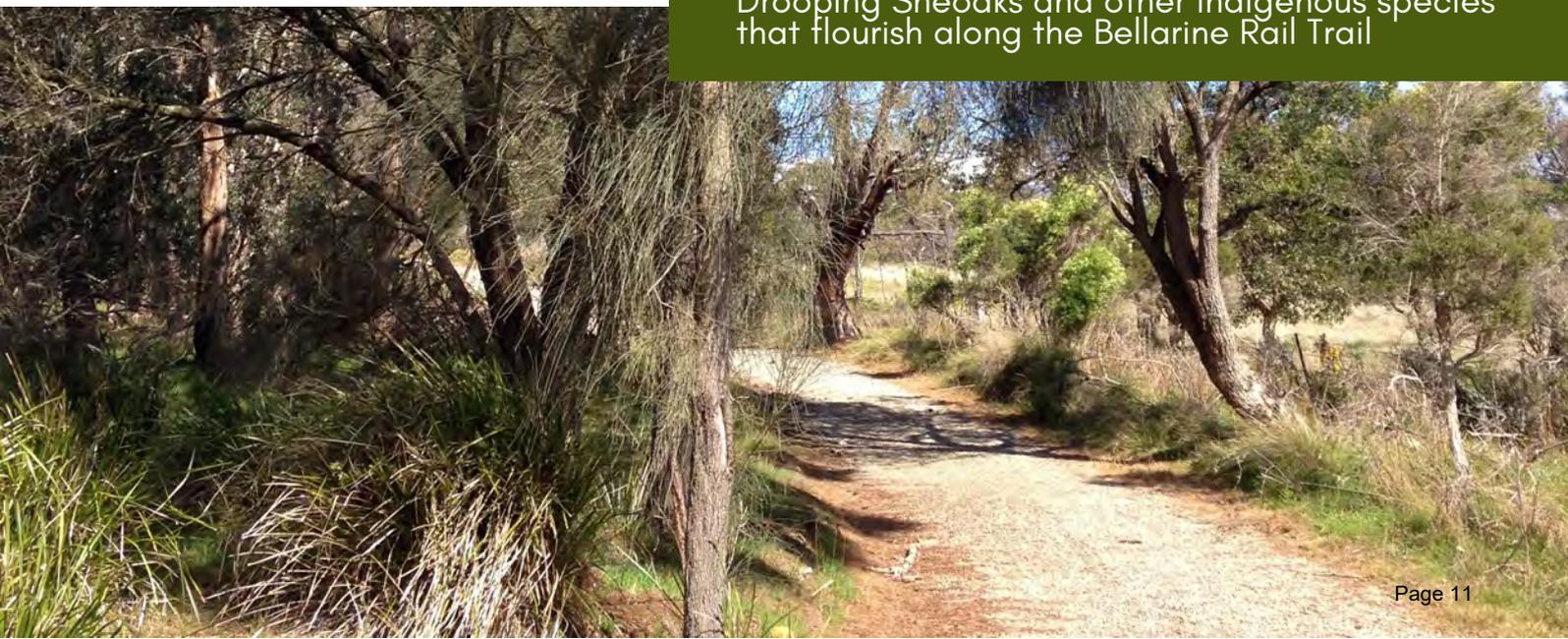
BCN supports a number of community groups and on occasion organisations by acting as an auspice for grants and other arrangements. This year saw the following:

- **Barwon Estuary Project** - Barwon Heads Community Bank Legacy Fund
- **Breamlea Coastcare** - Coastcare Grant
- **Clifton Springs Curlewis Coastcare** - Coastcare Grant
- **Friends of Edwards Point** - Coastcare Grant
- **Friends of Edwards Point** - CCMA Landcare Support Grant
- **Friends of Ramblers Road** - City of Greater Geelong Community Environment Grant
- **Bellarine Bicycle Users Group** - City of Greater Geelong Health Connected Communities Grant

Representative Committee and Reference Groups

BCN is represented on a number of committee and reference groups and presented at the following forums and conferences. This year saw the following representations:

- Barwon Water Environmental Advisory Committee
- City of Greater Geelong + Bellarine Rail Trail Stakeholder Group
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Community Engagement Network
- Geelong Port Community Liaison Group
- Give Where You Live Loaned Executive Program
- State Landcare Conference - presentation on BCN delivery and governance model



Drooping Sheoaks and other indigenous species that flourish along the Bellarine Rail Trail

OUTCOMES

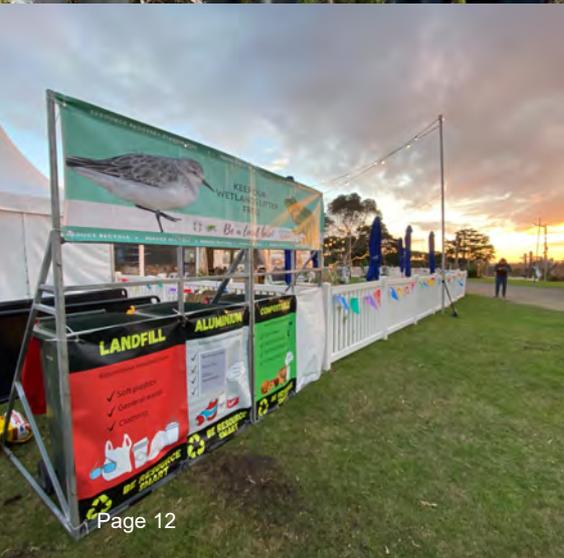
The below outcomes reflect the broad reach that Bellarine Catchment Network has, from engagement at festivals and school environment days, to resources provided to partners, and grant outcomes. We would like to thank our network members, partners, funders, volunteers and supporters for helping us achieve these outstanding outcomes.

11,917
people engaged

100+
community events

31
school events

6,100
resources distributed



Balance Sheet

Bellarine Catchment Network Inc As at 30 June 2023

	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets		
Bank		
BBL - Card 1.	575.00	864.21
BBL - Card 2.	1,282.91	23.28
BBL - Card 4.	971.68	900.76
BBL - Card 5.	0.01	686.56
BBL - Main Account	182,800.54	203,087.58
BBL - Payroll Account	27,155.51	23,777.73
CoGG Infrastructure Grant	8,864.37	-
Total Bank	221,650.02	229,340.12
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	8,914.60	82,842.82
Total Current Assets	8,914.60	82,842.82
Fixed Assets		
IT Equipment: At Cost	7,915.49	8,324.58
Motor Vehicle:At Cost	146,311.79	146,311.79
Plant & Equipment:At Cost	65,673.23	65,679.60
Plant & Equipment:Less Accumulated Depreciation	(677.00)	(677.00)
Total Fixed Assets	219,223.51	219,638.97
Total Assets	449,788.13	531,821.91
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	57.33	936.19
Current Provisions:Annual Leave	30,486.00	30,486.00
Current Provisions:Long Service Leave	30,748.00	30,748.00
GST	19,048.31	23,058.10
Integrated Client Account Balance	(6,710.00)	-
Payroll Liabilities:PAYG	11,787.49	6,329.49
Payroll Liabilities:Superannuation	6,773.00	8,517.34
Rounding	0.01	0.06
Triton (1SE7UB) - Finance	6,095.16	6,095.16
Triton (1SK1AD) - Finance	3,860.53	5,607.46
Triton (1UY4OL) - Finance	238.14	238.14
Total Current Liabilities	102,383.97	112,015.94
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions:Long Service Leave	5,272.00	5,272.00
Triton 1SE7UB - Finance	19,245.48	26,745.84
Triton 1SK1AD - Finance	20,354.04	25,594.83
Triton 1UY4OL - Finance	16,650.98	19,374.18

	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Wages Payable - Payroll	(26.89)	-
Total Non-current Liabilities	61,495.61	76,986.85
Total Liabilities	163,879.58	189,002.79
Net Assets	285,908.55	342,819.12
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(56,910.57)	(113,421.61)
Retained Earnings	342,819.12	456,240.73
Total Equity	285,908.55	342,819.12

Profit and Loss

Bellarine Catchment Network Inc For the month ended 30 June 2023

	JUN 2023	YEAR TO DATE
Trading Income		
Donations Income	-	1,500.00
Grant and Incomes	45,670.92	514,340.53
Income Reimbursement	-	521.89
Interest Income	0.75	17.71
Total Trading Income	45,671.67	516,380.13
Gross Profit	45,671.67	516,380.13
Operating Expenses		
ADMINISTRATION : Executive Expenses	-	9.09
ADMINISTRATION:Accounting	-	525.55
ADMINISTRATION:Advertising	-	525.00
ADMINISTRATION:Annual Fees/Memberships	15,516.35	17,614.25
ADMINISTRATION:Audit Fees	-	500.00
ADMINISTRATION:Bank Fees	21.00	707.13
ADMINISTRATION:Bookkeeping	1,273.20	16,083.56
ADMINISTRATION:First Aid	-	60.00
ADMINISTRATION:Gifts	-	160.67
ADMINISTRATION:Meeting Expenses	10.00	451.17
ADMINISTRATION:OHS	-	607.82
ADMINISTRATION:Organisation Insurance	-	(389.09)
ADMINISTRATION:Professional Development	-	1,409.00
ADMINISTRATION:Telephone-Mobiles	187.01	4,288.15
ADMINISTRATION:Travel Expenses	-	279.54
ADMINISTRATION:Uniforms PPE	62.73	2,763.19
Auspice - Friends of Edwards Point - Crawley 22-23	-	500.50
Auspice Grant	360.00	40,550.23
BEC: Printer Services	-	716.79
BEC: Waste & Landfill	-	842.95
BEC:Cleaning	-	227.99
BEC:Electricity	71.83	951.16
BEC:Equipment Purchases(Office)	-	143.27
BEC:Internet	-	626.35
BEC:IT Software	-	1,992.09
BEC:IT Support	-	5,672.24
BEC:Office Infrastructure	-	15,461.77
BEC:Office Insurance	-	924.00
BEC:Postage	-	3.81
BEC:Staff Amenities	-	177.91
BEC:Stationery	-	338.93
CAPACITY BUILDING: Education & Community Engagement	-	31,530.26

	JUN 2023	YEAR TO DATE
CAPACITY BUILDING:Catering	-	1,602.95
CAPACITY BUILDING:Media	-	13,444.07
CAPACITY BUILDING:Printing, Signage, Brochure	495.00	18,647.78
CAPACITY BUILDING:Workshop Expenses	-	7,556.55
Interest Expense	-	0.04
MOTOR VEHICLE:Fuel	677.10	8,597.85
MOTOR VEHICLE:Parking	5.86	112.20
MOTOR VEHICLE:Vehicle Insurance	-	3,131.62
MOTOR VEHICLE:Vehicle Maintenance	-	3,324.67
MOTOR VEHICLE:Vehicle Registration	-	1,705.02
ON GROUND WORKS: Guards & Stakes	-	69.09
ON GROUND WORKS:Chemical Purchases	-	3,060.30
ON GROUND WORKS:Contractors	-	1,320.00
ON GROUND WORKS:Pest, Plant & Animals	-	7,344.82
ON GROUND WORKS:Repairs & Maintenance	-	160.00
ON GROUND WORKS:Revegetation	-	12,738.98
ON GROUND WORKS:Tools	98.63	2,038.48
PAYROLL:Casual Wages	-	2,012.15
PAYROLL:Salaries - Contract & Ongoing	20,148.19	297,206.17
PAYROLL:Super	2,264.99	31,921.83
PAYROLL:Workcover	-	3,531.99
PPBF R4 21/22 : Contractors	-	3,492.00
TRAILER & MACHINERY ASSETS	-	3,797.01
TRAILER & MACHINERY ASSETS : Maintenance	32.65	32.65
TRAILER & MACHINERY ASSETS : Registration	-	187.20
Total Operating Expenses	41,224.54	573,290.70
Net Profit	4,447.13	(56,910.57)

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK INCORPORATED

Scope

The Financial Report and Committee's Responsibility

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the Bellarine Catchment Network Incorporated, being the Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the 12 months period ending 30 June 2023.

The Committee of the incorporated entity is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting requirements. I disclaim any responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Approach

I have conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the entity on its preparation and presentation. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of the audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, and inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

I performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, including compliance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the entity's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the result of its operations.

I formed an audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report.

While I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraphs not existed, the financial report is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Bellarine Catchment Network Incorporated as at the 30 June 2023 and the results of its operations for the 12 months then ended and complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

Signed at Geelong this 31st day of October 2023



Mark SP Wilkinson

ASIC Registered Company Auditor 4485

6 Kintyre Crescent (PO Box 235), Leopold, Victoria, 3224

T: 0418 772212

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

NETWORK MEMBERS

Thank you to the representatives of all our member groups and organisations who have been part of the network during the 2022-2023 financial year.



Bellarine Peninsula Orange-bellied Parrot Regional Group



Friends of Begola Wetlands



Friends of Buckley Park



Friends of Indented Head Woodland Nature Reserve



Queenscliff Environment Forum



COLLABORATORS

Thank you to all our funders, project partners and supporters for helping us achieve such great outcomes in the 2022-2023 financial year. We could not exist or continue to preserve and protect our environment without your support.





@bellarinecatchmentnetwork

MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.environmentbellarine.org.au

info@bcn.org.au

