

# Swan Bay Environment Association Inc.



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## NEWSLETTER NO. 63 - April 2013

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### AGM President's Report

*(Roel Wasterval)*

This report covers the following:

1. Water quality issues that impact on Swan Bay from the Stockland Estate
2. Point Lonsdale Golf Course extension
3. Ferry car park extension
4. Swan Bay foreshore fire
5. Moonah die back along Shell Road
6. SBEA letter to Minister Tony Burke and Minister Ryan Smith re Alcoa Mining Lease
7. Summary of changes to incorporated associations

1. See this newsletter and No 62.

2. SBEA put in a submission to the Planning Panel. The extension of the Point Lonsdale Golf Course has been approved by the City of Greater Geelong but still needs approval by the State Minister for Planning.

3. Queenscliffe Planning Scheme Amendment C23: "Queenscliffe Ferry Terminal Extensions". The Queenscliff Ferry operator has requested planning permission to extend its car park into the dunes (Crown Land). The Queenscliffe Council established an independent panel to consider extensions requested by the Ferry Terminal operator. In its report back to Council the Panel recommended amongst other things that the issue of car parking overflow from

Ferry operations would not be solved by extending the car park into the dunal area as the need for car parking space will continue to increase over time. Consequently the Ferry operator should not encroach on Crown Land but find another solution for the parking of cars.

The panel report was discussed at a Council meeting and the three councillors who were able to vote, voted against the panel ruling and agreed that the operator could use Crown Land. The Council decision was passed on to Minister Guy Matthews for final consideration. SBEA sent an email to Bellarine Catchment Network with the request to send a letter under their letterhead to the Minister.

4. A fire burned out a large area on the shore of Swan Bay near the kindergarten BOQ and BCN have met with the following issues discussed:

- fencing of the area (this has been completed)
- the importance of keeping people away while Council awaits autumn regeneration
- the need to remove any weed regrowth
- the need for a request to go to the railway to clear their rubbish away
- the immediate need for stabilisation of the cliff area.

5. A large stand of Moonah trees died along Shell Road. When contact was

made with Barwon Water we were referred to the Barwon Water Alliance who is constructing a new sewerage pump station west of Point Lonsdale. Work started in January 2012 and was completed in December 2012. In July 2012 it was noticed that an area of Moonah trees had turned brown and seemed to be dying. The monitoring was increased from monthly to weekly. Recently some regrowth and germination has been noticed. Monitoring is continuing to the end of summer. Long term rehabilitation plan using local species will be developed. SBEA and other stake holders will be kept informed.

6. A letter was sent to Ministers Tony Burke and Ryan Smith strongly urging that the area of unique Anglesea Heathland which is not required by Alcoa, over 6500ha, be protected for all time by its inclusion into the Great Otway National Park.

7. A summary of changes was provided to members.

#### **AGM Speaker's Report** (*Alan Jenkins*)

At the Annual General Meeting of the Swan Bay Environment Association recently, Alan Jenkins, a volunteer nurseryman at the Queenscliffe Community Indigenous Plant Nursery, (QCIPN) gave a talk on Biodiversity and its origins at the Earth Summit in 1992. He described the talk as a scant survey armed with research triggers. He spoke of how Australia's adoption of a convention on Biological Diversity defined as 'the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms', and how that action led to Local Government revegetation programs and the

development of Community Indigenous [local, native] plant nurseries.

While the talk aimed to raise the profile of the QCIPN in Point Lonsdale, it also aimed to explain revegetation and the many justifications for its use. Accepting that evidence supports the claim that extensive revegetation is needed in Australia to counter environmental problems such as the loss of native vegetation through agriculture, mining, forestry, and urban development; and describing revegetation as the deliberate planting or regeneration of trees, shrubs and other plants, and as an element of ecological sustainability; a series of motivations for revegetation was outlined. These included soil stabilisation, understorey restoration; carbon sequestration; fire abatement and fire risk minimisation; wildlife corridors; and the role of EVCs in guiding revegetation programs.

For further insights into these topics you can access a more detailed outline on Powerpoint at the SBEA website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sbea/>

#### **Status of Stockland's development**

(*Greg Parry*)

On 13 August 2009 the Federal Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts approved the construction of part of Stockland's "The Point" residential waterway development near Point Lonsdale. This approval allowed stages 1-3 (approx 120 houses) to proceed, but most of the development (stages 4-14, 400+ houses) was subject to further stringent controls. Approval to proceed with the remainder of the development is dependent on further monitoring and modelling, which are intended to

maintain high water quality in the Swan Bay Marine Reserve.

While 13 months of monitoring was completed in December 2010, this monitoring was inadequate for the complex modelling of the effects of nitrogen on Swan Bay. The Department of Environment has now accepted a revised system for developing the necessary model proposed by Stockland. It involves 4 stages:

- approval of a new monitoring plan,
- conduct of the monitoring,
- approval of a modelling plan and then
- conduct of the modelling.

This process appears reasonable, but there is still no timetable for this work to be undertaken. The urgency is probably low from Stockland's viewpoint as most of the 120 house blocks in the approved part of the development remain unsold. Advice from the Department of Environment indicates they will follow up the timing of the monitoring and modelling when they meet with Stockland concerning approval of their Conservation Plan in about two weeks time. We continue to push the Department to fix some timelines as the modelling is difficult and we would like to see the proposed monitoring commence. We would also like to see what monitoring is proposed as the Swan Bay Environment Association may be in a position to undertake some complementary monitoring.

### **2012 Nursery Report** (*Jill Warneke*)

The Nursery continues to be very successful. Thanks to the involvement of so many keen and regular volunteers the Nursery and the plants are kept looking

healthy, attractive and well weeded. It has also meant an increase in the amount of time that can be spent in attempting to grow more of the rarer and more difficult species.

We have installed a display area where we are growing a larger version of each species stocked in the Nursery so buyers can get a better image of the mature plants. A display board advertising the Nursery was made for the notice boards at the entrance to the Borough at Shell Rd and on the Highway. Greeting cards with photos of native plants are made by Eiril Deighton and sold for \$2 each of which 50cents is donated to SBEA.

We continue to supply plants to the Council for revegetation projects, in particular for the sand dunes in the Narrows/Lovers Walk areas. Other organisations such as Parks Victoria, Bellarine Catchment Network, and Bellarine Rail Trail purchase plants for their revegetation projects, for example, South Channel Fort.

Individuals also frequently purchase plants for \$1 per plant. A list of plants classified by type has been prepared for the public to use. A database of local species is being prepared so that the knowledge the Nursery has gained over the years has been documented. Information includes description, photos of the seeds and plants, locations and propagation methods. To date 134 species have been documented.

### **The new 2013 SBEA committee is:**

President: Roel Wasterval

Secretary: Rob Hurley

Treasurer: Greg Parry

Committee members: Mia Cooke, Alan Jenkins and Bob Fuller