

# Swan Bay Environment Association Inc.



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## NEWSLETTER NO. 67 – May 2014

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### **AGM President's Report** (*Roel Wasterval*)

We held our annual general meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March and the President's Report for the past year is reprinted below:

My report covers the following: 1) an update on water quality issues that impact on Swan Bay from the Moremac Estate; 2) an update on Moonah die back along Shell Road; 3) a summary of changes to Incorporated Associations (from Rob Hurley); 4) follow-up on burnt out area along Swan Bay; 5) ultra-lite aircraft flights over Swan Bay; and 6) the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SBEA.

1. Recently the Point Lonsdale Civic Association invited Moremac, who purchased Stockland, to report on their activities.
2. A visit organised by BCN to the dieback where questions were answered by the environment officer of Moremac.
3. Two aspects of the Associations Incorporation Act 2012 acted upon in November 2013 were:
  - removal of the title "Public Officer" replaced by the title "Secretary". Details submitted for Robert Hurley to be registered as Secretary. Under these provisions the Secretary must be one of the elected Committee members at the AGM, which is covered by our Rules.
  - assessment of our current Rules compared to the Model Rules.

All 23 required provisions of the Model Rules were covered by our current rules. Based on this, we requested no changes and the continuation of our Rules. This has been approved.

- In assessing our current Rules there are two areas which could be considered for proposals to the 2015 AGM:
  - review of the rights, obligations and liabilities of members.
  - inclusion of additional categories of membership:
    - life membership to be granted to some members for outstanding service to SBEA
    - long-term membership fees, including a payment for life membership.
- 4. Remedial action on this site is continuing.
- 5. SBEA, together with BCN, has put in a submission requiring the applicant to prove that ultra-lite flights do not disturb the roosting birds
- 6. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SBEA was a great success. 70 people attended and met founding members Dr Henry Hudson, Professor Dick Cotton and Colin Gibbs.

**AGM Speaker** (Bob Fuller)

The guest speaker at this year's AGM was Brian Bainbridge, the President of the Indigenous Fauna and Flora Association (IFFA). Brian's talk was entitled "Minibeasts and Microhabitats". Using his own house in Fawkner as an example, Brian showed how local plants can attract a myriad of indigenous insects (butterflies, beetles, bees) to come and live in your garden. Brian's knowledge and enthusiasm was warmly appreciated by over 30 SBEA members and guests and he received a small gift in appreciation of his presentation (see photo below). Members can read more about IFFA on <http://www.iffa.org.au/> A version of the talk is available here; <http://www.iffa.org.au/lizard-lounges-and-butterfly-bars>



**SBEA Plants thrive in Docklands**  
(text & photo courtesy of Fytogreen Australia Pty Ltd)

Last year the SBEA nursery supplied a number of *Muehlenbeckia adpressa* (Climbing Lignum) plants to Fytogreen Australia for a multi-level green facade on the Medibank Building in the Docklands. Last month, we received the good news from Erik van Zuilekom, the company's Designer and Maintenance Manager that the plants have taken a liking to their new home. Below is an edited version of Erik's email.

*"The plants you supplied have done exceptionally well. They survived complete defoliation from a storm event, and grew back wonderfully. They have provided the highest foliage coverage out of all the other species and have survived a couple of irrigation issues, even though in high wind exposures at higher elevation on the side of the building.*

*Thank you once again for the help you provided, in sharing your last few plants, last year. It's good to see an indigenous (local providence) species being used in a very contemporary manner, in the city. The containers and steel frames they are growing on, photographed below, in our nursery, were transported to Docklands, craned up individually to the 16th floor and installed within a larger planter. The trellis slotted into a larger trellis that the plants expanded out onto, to provide a larger growth area.*

*If you're ever in the Docklands area, directly next to the Etihad Stadium, you will be able to see this project from both the Bourke Street and Etihad Stadium sides. We should be installing 5 story, hydroponic, vertical gardens (non-climber species) in around 3 months time".*

