

Swan Bay Environment Association Inc.



P.O. Box 143, Queenscliff 3225
Reg. No: A 00 1 7279 U
<http://sbea.webuda.com>

NEWSLETTER NO. 72 – April 2016

AGM President's Report (*Roel Wasterval*)

We held our annual general meeting on Friday 18th March and the President's Report for the past year is reprinted below:

Community Environment Alliance

Forty solar panels were installed in the first round. A second round is being considered.

Gardens for Wildlife

Bob Fuller and Rob Hurley worked together to put this project together. The application for a Community Grant from the Council was unsuccessful. The application for \$1000 grant from the Queenscliff Lonsdale Community Enterprise Grant was successful. The project was launched later at the AGM (*see later report in this newsletter*)

Moremac

Three members from the Committee had a meeting with Lisa Neville's advisor Lisa Dundas. Issues discussed were related to the lack of information on the monitoring of the waterways of the Point. The Federal Department of the Environment and City of Greater Geelong refused to send a copy to Council. Greg Perry, with Councillor Bob Merriman, is pursuing this matter.

Sting Ray Feeding

An objection was sent to BoQ. The main points were: heritage aspects, social aspects, health and wellbeing of Swan Bay and use of public funds. The project has been halted until a public meeting to

be organised by Queenscliff Harbour Pty. Ltd. has been held.

SBEA Environment Grants.

The Committee has decided to make grants up to \$1000 available for improvement to the environment of Swan Bay. The successful applicants were announced later at the AGM (*see details later in this newsletter*).

Meeting with Council

A meeting was held with Lenny Jenner, CEO, Borough of Queenscliffe, about: The Point and Moremac, specifically an update on monitoring and modelling of the water quality of their discharge and that of inputs to their development; and the Gardens for Wildlife project, specifically seeking support from Council, endorsement and promotion.

Management of Swan Bay shoreline

Clarification of responsibility for areas between the shoreline of Swan Bay and housing or road reserves. Aerial photographs with areas marked provided by Garry Purton (BoQ).

2016 Environment Grants

Request for publicity in Council's newsletter and website (*see below for award recipients*).

Buckley Park Bicycle Path

This project is only in the very early stages. It is a suggestion by Rotary Ocean Grove. No plans have been submitted to COGG. We are in contact with Peter Haffenden, President of the Friends of

Buckley Park, who will keep us informed if the project advances. BCN has put alternative options and an objection to the bicycle path.

AGM Guest Speaker (*Bob Fuller*)

Our guest speaker this year was Graeme Stockton, a local environmental activist, indigenous plant expert and surfer.

Graeme's talk was mainly about Surfcoast Nature Watch, a program to get people in touch with nature when they are walking along the coast.

Graeme demonstrated the program which can be found at:

<http://www.scnaturesearch.com.au/>

Graeme also spoke about the problems of population and consumption, which he sees as the two core issues that must be addressed if we are truly to embrace sustainability.

Queenscliffe Community Indigenous Plant Nursery Report (*Guy Werner*)

The Nursery had another great year of indigenous plant propagation and planting, thanks to Coordinator Jill Warneke, Deputy Coordinator Jacque Smith and their faithful band of volunteers.

Over 10,000 plants were sold during the year. Prices remain at the cheap price of \$1 per tube to encourage replanting with indigenous plants. Special sales included purchases by:

- The Geelong Cemeteries Trust for 1,650 plants for planting during November in the Queenscliff Cemetery (located in Point Lonsdale). The Trust also covered the cost of extra potting mix required for potting-on.

- The Borough of Queenscliffe for 250 Silky Guinea Flowers (*Hibbertia sericea*)

gifted to families attending the Australia Day ceremony.

- Telstra for 100 plants for its property in Bowen Road. Jill prepared a landscape plan and students from Pt Lonsdale Primary School did the planting in May.

An estimated 1800 plants were donated during the year to charities and special revegetation projects:

- Jacque planned a landscape for the Queenscliff Neighbourhood House and 78 plants were donated and planted during March by our volunteers.

- A selection of plants was donated to the Oxfam quiz night held in April.

- Six hundred excess tree seedlings were donated to the Farnham property beside the Bellarine Rail Trail (near Swan Bay). Margot Farnham has been revegetating there on a large scale for many years.

- One hundred and fifty Grass Trigger Plants (*Stylidium graminifolium*) were donated to Cottage by the Sea in October for the cottage's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Nursery volunteers attended two major revegetation projects during the year:

- Approximately 60 people revegetated a section of the Bellarine Rail Trail in September continuing and extending the work of previous years.

- Volunteers weeded and revegetated sections of the Narrows near the Dog Beach car park in October (organised by the Bellarine Catchment Network). Seedlings were donated by the nursery.

The important work of the nursery volunteers was recognised during the year. For example, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority awarded the nursery a LandCare Recognition Award at a special ceremony in June. Seven nursery volunteers and

SBEA President, Roel Wasterval, were also feted at the Borough of Queenscliffe's Volunteers' Celebration evening in May at the town hall as part of National Volunteer Week.

The nursery could not function without its generous volunteers. The efforts of Jill and Jacquie are particularly notable. Jill's delicious morning teas were possibly responsible for the over-supply of volunteers to the weekly Wednesday morning slot. As a consequence, numbers for this slot had to be restricted during the year.

Sadly, Jacquie Smith resigned her role over summer as Nursery Deputy Coordinator to move to Melbourne. We hope to see her again during her forays to Point Lonsdale. The SBEA committee sincerely thanks her for her wonderful work over many years. Jill has assumed Jacquie's role compiling the SBEA's historical records.

Volunteers completed a range of important maintenance tasks during the year. Thankyous go to:

- Roster volunteers who swept clean the groundsheets around and under the plant benches during the year
- Bruce Sherriff for maintaining the watering system
- Lindsay Chatterton for re-sealing the kitchen floor in March
- John Woods, Peter Irwin and Marg and Phil Barlow who took on the daily task of watering when Jill and Jacquie were unwell
- The Borough for pruning and mulching the overhanging gum trees before Christmas and mowing throughout the year
- Jim Strickland for replacing sections of ground sheet throughout the year.

Nineteen volunteers enjoyed a visit to Jock and Elizabeth Lee's property on Burnt Point in April. Many of the plants on their property were propagated at the nursery. Staff from the Point Lonsdale Childcare Centre visited the nursery with eight children in May where they enjoyed various fun activities prepared by Jill and Jacquie. Queenscliffe Artist-in-Residence, Kylie Stillman, gained inspiration from several hours at the nursery with volunteers in June. The day included walks to the Ward Road boardwalk and the Lovers Walk revegetation area.

Twenty eight volunteers attended the nursery Christmas luncheon to celebrate a successful 2015. Crenagh Kelly and Jenny Darling entertained guests, playing the harp and singing, respectively. Many thanks to them!

Gardens for Wildlife *(Bob Fuller)*

The program that we hope will encourage more people in the Borough to plant indigenous plants that will lead to habitat for indigenous wildlife is now up and running. People who attended the AGM saw the letterbox stickers, certificates and leaflets that we will use to promote the project. Discussions are underway with Council staff about the best way to promote the program. Four people signed up on the night to have their gardens assessed. We invite all SBEA members with gardens in the area to consider joining the scheme.



Nagoyan Students Visit *(Guy Werner)*

Lower secondary pupils from various schools in the city of Nagoya (west of Tokyo in Aichi Prefecture) visited Queenscliff recently to enhance their knowledge of tidal flat ecology. Buddying-up with Queenscliff Primary School students, the pairs used nets and strainers to capture and study fish, molluscs, algae, crabs, shrimps and smaller crustaceans from the thick seagrass along the southern shore of Swan Bay (part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park) (*see photo below*). Similar to Swan Bay, the Fujimae tidal flats around Nagoya host a variety of valued migratory wading birds. This is the seventh year Nagoyan students have visited. Earlier in the day, they made poster presentations (in English!) about Japanese culture and wildlife and were treated to a visit to the Marine & Freshwater Discovery Centre. All the animals were returned safely to the water.



SEANA Visit *(Guy Werner)*

Fourteen members of the South East Australian Naturalists Association (SEANA) visited the nursery 10th April. Jill led a tour of the nursery and explained its activities. After that, she provided a morning tea and led a tour along Murray Road where she identified the various plants for the visitors. Feedback has been very positive.



2016 Environment Grants *(Rob Hurley)*

Two SBEA grants have been approved for 2016 and they are:

- Bellarine Catchment Network – a revegetation and education project along the drainage line and creek line at King Street involving students from St Aloysius Primary School. \$950
- Queenscliff Golf Club – Course weed removal and indigenous plant revegetation in areas of Swan Island. \$1,000
- We are currently working through a third proposal on the survey of Japanese Kelp in the area of the boat harbour, boat ramp, bridge, creek and pole moorings.

Clean-Up Day *(Roel Wasterval)*

On the 6th March, 12 nursery volunteers and committee members participated in Australia Clean-Up Day. The areas covered were: the full length of Murray Road, Fellows Road from Bellarine Highway to McDonald's Road and Burnt Point. A dozen bags were collected. The major items were plastic bottles and cans. Some furniture was also collected and a lot of plastic bags. Gloves, bags (recycle and rubbish bags), as well as safety jackets, were ordered and supplied by Jacqueline Wilson, Sustainability Officer of the Borough of Queenscliff.