

# Swan Bay Environment Association Inc.



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## **AGM** (*Bob Fuller*)

The 2017 SBEA Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. in the Bayview Room of the Uniting Church, Corner of Hesse and Stokes Streets, Queenscliff. The speaker will be Jennifer Dearnaley, PhD student from the School of Architecture and Built Environment at Deakin University. Jen's thesis is based on identifying how indigenous plants were used by the Wadawurrung tribe, synthesised from the work of Louis Lane, a local archaeologist and anthropologist. This will then provide us with additional insights into the importance of the vegetation growing in this region. We live in an area where urbanisation is rapidly expanding and vegetation is being removed to make way for new estates with little regard to understanding the value of the plants that are being eradicated. Jen was a prize winner of the 2015 Landscape Architecture Australia Student Prize for her project - the Restoration of Yollinko Park, Geelong, where the Balug clan of the Wadawurrung tribe lived for over 5,000 years. The speaker's research should be of particular interest to our many nursery volunteers who produce thousands of indigenous plants every year to support re-vegetation projects on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Nominations for Committee and the lodgement of items of Special Business close on March 3. Forms available from

Rob Hurley, 0407553394 or  
[hurley@eftel.net.au](mailto:hurley@eftel.net.au)

## **SBEA Secretary** (*Bob Fuller*)

After many years of hard work and service to the SBEA, our Secretary, Rob Hurley has resigned from the committee. Rob has made a fantastic contribution to the operation of our organisation and we thank him here and will do so also at the AGM. However, we are now without a Secretary and no-one has yet volunteered to take over this important job. We are therefore now urgently seeking a replacement. If you or anyone you know would be willing to serve on the Committee, please contact the President, Roel Wasterval on 0438582743.

## **Moremac Developments** (*Greg Parry*)

For over a year SBEA has been trying to access the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) produced by Moremac for "The Point" development. This document was required to comply with conditions placed on the development under the Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, before stages 4-14 could proceed. The earthworks beside the Bellarine Highway are proof these stages are now being developed, but we have had great trouble in accessing the WQMP. Queenscliffe Borough Council (QBC) obtained a copy of the WQMP, through the Freedom of Information (FOI) process a couple of months ago, but obtained legal advice

that, because of copyright on the report held by Moremac's consultant, they could not share this document with ratepayers. This created a unique position where copyright was being used to limit the intent of the FOI process. Whatever the legality of this use of copyright, it is now clear that anyone can obtain a copy of the WQMP. SBEA now finally has a copy! To obtain a copy yourself you need to contact Alan Hilvert-Bruce, Senior Legal Officer at Department of Environment. Contact [alan.hilvert-bruce@environment.gov.au](mailto:alan.hilvert-bruce@environment.gov.au)

The WQMP refers to four further reports, which all need to be read before the adequacy of the modelling and the proposed monitoring can be assessed. Both QBC and SBEA have recently applied for copies of these reports. Once we have (finally) obtained all these further documents we will be then in a position to argue the merits of the monitoring rather than the secrecy that has shrouded this aspect of the project for so long.

### **Nursery Report** (*Guy Werner*)

Geelong Cemeteries Trust won the 2016 Premier of Victoria's Sustainability Award in the category of Environmental Protection for Queenscliff Cemetery's Moonah Memorial Walk created with plants grown by the nursery.

Ten nursery volunteers trained in seed collection with botanist Beth Ross on 30 November. Held at the Bellarine Secondary College & Bellarine LandCare Group Nursery and organised by Sophie Small of Bellarine LandCare, the feedback from participants was excellent. Bellarine LandCare greatly appreciated the SBEA \$400 donation for the event.

Jill Warneke has spent much time in the field recently collecting seed with the help of some volunteers.

The nursery provided materials for the Bellarine Catchment Network stall at the Queenscliff Music Festival. Matt Crawley of BCN encouraged festival goers to pot up indigenous seeds and seedlings for future revegetation projects with the aim of fostering awareness and a sense of ownership of these projects, particularly among local residents. Matt plans to repeat this activity next year.

Jill has been checking and updating nursery documents for 2016 including:

- a memory stick with plant and seed-collection details, volunteer and e-mail lists etc. (located in the nursery workshed)
- The SBEA archive folders (located in the nursery kitchen)
- The nursery organisation electronic file (supplied to the committee)

The annual Christmas lunch was very successful and enjoyed by all (see photo below).

