

SWAN BAY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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P.O. Box 143, Queenscliff 3225

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<http://sbea.webuda.com>

NURSERY NEWS

Our new hothouse



The frame is up and...



...the plastic is on, so we're ready to propagate.

Propagation season has begun

The new hothouse is a big part of our propagation season. So too are seed collecting trips. In mid-November Sarah and seven volunteers ventured across to Swan island to collect seeds that will be potted and grown in the new hothouse.

Plantings in 2020

Be on the lookout for our nursery-grown plants appearing along the Bellarine Rail Trail, Nankervis Parade, The Narrows, Bonnyvale and some primary schools.

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Interested in getting involved?

Felicity Thyer, Coordinator of the Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) program, is on the lookout for more volunteers. Would you like to be involved as a Garden Guide?

We run training sessions in partnership with the Bellarine Catchment Network as well as providing 'on the job' training when you visit residents.

It is up to you how much you get involved in the program – you only do as many visits as suits you. Felicity will set the dates for the visits then ask for any volunteers who would like to help on those days. We usually visit 2-3 residents in a session (2-3 hours).



Sarah Roberts (far left) and part of her team of seed collectors on Swan Island. From R to L: Phil Barlow, James Tippett and Robyn Curtis.

NURSERY PLANTS FOR SALE

After some new plants to pop in your garden? Why not buy them from our nursery at 79 Nelson Road, Point Lonsdale for \$2 each? The nursery is open during working bees every Wednesday from 9am-12pm, and on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10am-12pm.

Enquiries: Sarah Roberts, Nursery Coordinator:
0401 281 448

You don't need to know all of the indigenous plants, although many of you would already know a fair few of these. Our role is to talk to residents about what their plans are (maybe planting out a new area or just enhancing the current habitat), discuss the current features of their garden that are attractive to wildlife and make suggestions for enhancing the habitat for local wildlife.

It is lovely seeing people's gardens and talking to them about their plans. Everyone has a different story – we have met some really enthusiastic people and seen some great gardens! This year we have been fortunate to visit some residents whose gardens we have visited previously. It is exciting to see the changes and to hear about the wildlife that has been seen in the garden since our last visit.

Please contact Felicity if you would like to get involved in the program. You can email fthyer@yahoo.com or call 0407 556 229.



Robyn Curtis (left) and Felicity Thyer (G4W) talk about the best plants to grow in the garden.

UPDATE ON 'THE POINT' WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Many of you will have noticed that extensive earthworks are proceeding where the Moremac housing development meets Swan Bay at Lakers Cutting. These earthworks will establish the input and discharge channels linking Swan Bay to the canal that runs through the development. There are several silt screens in place to minimise the spread of sediment disturbed by the earthworks from entering Swan Bay. My limited observations suggest these have been effective at preventing turbid water reaching Lakers Cutting.

My long-term concern remains the increased input of nutrients from the development as more houses are built. Reed beds are planned to trap some nutrients before they reach the canal, but we will not know how effective these are for many years. We have established a 12-month nutrient baseline for Lakers Cutting, which shows that the highest nutrients in Lakers Cutting occur during periods of spring tides over summer. Further nutrient measurements in Lakers Cutting next summer would improve our baseline and make it easier to identify any slow increase in nutrient inputs to Swan Bay, at the time of year when detrimental algal blooms are most likely. A decision to proceed with further summer monitoring will be made at the next SBEA committee meeting.



New works between the Bellarine Highway and Lakers Cutting that will link the canal estate to Swan Bay.

BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK

Appointment of new staff member

BCN recently welcomed a new staff member, Rebecca St Ledger. She will be acting as BCN's Environmental Project Facilitator helping with the Bellarine Catchment Network and Caring for Our Bays programs.

Coastal Activities and Training

During late October, 20 representatives from organisations, land managers and community groups attended a Coastal Activity Training session run by the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre. The day was focused on 'training the trainer' to improve coastal education across the region.



Talking seagrass during Coastal Activity Training.



Trainees check out a field of neptune's necklace at low tide in Point Lonsdale.

Weed and Walk sessions

The fabulous Bellarine Rail Trail Weed and Walk sessions are back! Learn identification of native and pasture grasses and spot some late wildflowers! Join Beth Ross, Lachie Forbes and Sophie Small for casual weed and walk on Tuesday 10 December or Wednesday 18 December from 5.00pm–6.00pm on the Rail Trail.

Meet on the Rail Trail at Swan Bay Rd (between Princess Street and Banks Rd). BYO gloves. Wear long pants, covered shoes, hats. BYO water bottles. For more information contact Sophie 0457 333 727 or Beth 0428 124 363.

Remembrance Day in an indigenous garden

Mannerim Memorial Indigenous Garden hosted its 3rd Remembrance Service on the 11th of November. Forty people, including a contingent from a Drysdale motorcycle club (making a dramatic late entrance to the tune of 'Big Love's' 'Green Fields of France'), came together to pause and reflect on the impact of war.

Ian and Janet Siemonek, ('Big Love') provided wonderful music, which intensified the mood of the Service. Peter Greaney, Superintendent of Victoria Police and a member of the 'Friends', shared a story of Charles Highland who served in WW1. Year 5 Drysdale Primary School student, Lucie Grace impressed us with her recitation of 'In Flanders Fields' and Colin Cairns from the Queenscliff RSL provided a moving 'Ode of Remembrance' and kept us more or less on track.



Remembrance Day Service at the Mannerim Memorial Indigenous Garden.

Well done to Kate Lockhart for her wonderful hosting, as well as to all the Friends who helped make the Service a special one with catering and community. And last but not least, a thank-you to the Friends of Mannerim Memorial who care for the Garden with their monthly weeding bees on the third Sunday morning of each month. If you would like to join them, please contact Sophie on 0457 333 727.



Colin Cairns, from the RSL Queenscliff branch, is a member of the Friends of Mannerim Memorial and has played an integral role in guiding the group in its Remembrance Services.

War against Waste at the QMF

With the help of B-Alternative and Caring For Our Bays, the Queenscliff Music Festival has made history in the sphere of music entertainment, being the first festival of its size to exclusively use reusables at each food vendor. These items were supplied by B-Alternative, an environmental solutions group providing compostable products and packaging to schools, social events and festivals. Each food vendor served their goods on reusable plates, bowls, cups and with sporks. Once used, the items were collected and washed by the QMF Green Team volunteers to ready for reuse. This avoided the use of single use plastics and drastically reduced the waste generation at the event.

Team members from Bellarine Catchment Network and Caring For Our Bays assisted with the grounds clean up each night. They found that litter collected consisted mainly of aluminium cans that will be recycled. Other litter items comprised food packaging and items that were brought in by patrons.

Bellarine Catchment Network and Barwon South West Waste Resource Recovery Centre also ran an education and craft activity tent and engaged with over 250 individuals. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to propagate native plant species, how to identify common intertidal species, such as Port Jackson shark eggs, and learn about Ramsar wetlands and the special wader birds that inhabit Swan Bay as part of their amazing annual migrations.



QMF Green Team volunteers with reusable items to be washed and reused.



Angie Poole beside the new Ramsar wetland banners.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT SBEA