

Welcoming back old members

The Committee would like to welcome back old members Vicki and Tim Green who have recently re-joined. We appreciate your support and the contribution you make to protect Swan Bay.

Membership fees are Individual \$20, Concession \$10 and Family \$30 and will be due after our 2022 AGM in March.

Gardens for Wildlife news

Two new Gardens for Wildlife features on our website

We have just launched two new features on our website's Gardens for Wildlife pages, both compiled by Sandra Nowland-Foreman, our Gardens for Wildlife Coordinator. Great job, Sandra!

The first feature is a revamp of the 'A Recipe for wildlife-friendly gardens' page. It now includes a photo for each of the recipe's eight ingredients, and each has a link to a story about a gardener who has successfully added that ingredient to their garden. Here are extracts from two of the eight success stories.



3 A clump of dense shrubs where birds can shelter
When Tom found a home in Queenscliff just over 25 years ago, the garden consisted of an Italian Buckthorn hedge, a cypress tree, and a large expanse of rampant Kikuyu grass. After much effort, he established a welcoming and tiered shrub garden that enhances the view towards Swan Bay.



8 Local plants for butterflies and other pollinators
When planting a new garden on a rental property in Queenscliff, Eva had in mind not only the low-maintenance features of local indigenous plants but also a desire to support local pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Among her plant selection she chose hardy shrubs such as White Correa, Common Correa and Twiggy Daisy-bush, and grasses such as Kangaroo Grass.

The second new feature is the 'Animal attractions' galleries. The galleries contain photos and information on 62 local native animals that might be attracted to your garden if you add some of the eight recipe ingredients. On the next page is the main gallery for the six animal groups covered: large birds, small birds, mammals, frogs, reptiles and butterflies. To the right of the gallery is an example of the entries for each of the 62 animals.

Animal attractions

What animals might come to your wildlife-friendly garden?



Large birds

[View Gallery](#)



Small birds

[View Gallery](#)



Mammals

[View Gallery](#)



Frogs

[View Gallery](#)



Reptiles

[View Gallery](#)



Butterflies

[View Gallery](#)

Eastern Rosella

Scientific Name	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Size	29-34cm
Diet	Seeds, fruits, buds, flowers, nectar and insects.
Habitat	Open woodlands, grasslands, farmlands, remnant bushland and suburban areas.



Nursery News

Nursery damaged by severe October storm

During the severe storm that battered Victoria in late October, two large limbs and a tree came down in our nursery. The limbs fell on the sales area (shrubs and ground covers), the pathway and the fence. About 500 plants were damaged, along with numerous racks, four nursery tables, one irrigation riser and one fitting connected to the underground pipework. The retractable hose holder was snapped off the post, the weed matt was ruined, parts of the front and side fences were damaged, and there was one small hole in the side of the hothouse.



The severe storm in late October toppled trees in our Nursery and caused some damage.

The nursery was closed and working bees put on hold during the clean-up over the following fortnight. We are very grateful for the efforts of the Borough's Shane Poulter, and Digby Moran and his work crew, during the clean-up.

'COVID-normal' operations

The nursery was closed during the most recent COVID lockdown but is now close to 'normal' operations. Restrictions on numbers have eased and working bees are back. However, proof of double vaccination is still required. The Thursday volunteer group recently visited a local farm next to Lake Victoria to collect seeds.

Are you interested in supporting the work of our Nursery Subcommittee?

The Queenscliffe Indigenous Nursery Subcommittee is looking for new volunteer members to help with the coordination of nursery operations, including research into and buying of new products, organisation of events, assisting with such things as working bees, and support of volunteers. If you are interested, give Sarah Roberts, our Nursery Manager, a call on 0401 281 448.

Weeding at The Narrows and the Rip View car park

SBEA Members are regularly participating in the Bellarine Catchment Network's monthly weeding activities. There are two sessions, both from 10.00am–12noon:

The first Tuesday of the month: along Lover's Walk at The Narrows. Meet at the Dog Beach car park.

The second Tuesday of the month: in Moonah woodland adjacent to the Rip View car park in Point Lonsdale.

The groups are mainly removing Polygala (Bellarine Pea), which is easily pulled out by hand.

The next Lover's Walk at The Narrows weeding is on Tuesday 7 December at 10.00am, meeting at the Dog Beach car park.

The next Rip View weeding is on Tuesday 14 December at 10.00am, meeting at the western side opposite the Point Lonsdale Guest House.

If you are planning to attend for the first time, please email Lachlan Forbes (lachlan@bcn.org.au). BYO gloves and glasses.

Friends of Edwards Point 2022 Calendar

The Friends of Edwards Point 2022 Calendar features beautiful photographs of plants and wildlife in the Edwards Point Reserve and the Western block/Charlie's Hole taken by Judy Sault.

The calendars are now available at the St Leonards Newsagents for \$25.00. To purchase by mail, you can email Judy at swanbays@bigpond.net.au. With postage, the cost is \$28.30. The Calendars will also be available at the Friends of Edwards Point stall at the St Leonards markets over January.

All proceeds go to the Friends of Edwards Point volunteer group for conserving these rare and beautiful pieces of land, which are becoming fewer and fewer in our communities.



The cover and a monthly page in the 2022 calendar from the Friends of Edwards Point. Great as a Christmas gift.

Casual carer position available

One of our nursery volunteers is requiring carer support for transport to and from the nursery most Wednesday mornings. Applicants should have their own vehicle and be physically able to fold and lift a wheelchair. The successful applicant would be paid \$40/hour. All inquiries to Sarah Roberts, our Nursery Manager, on 0401 281 448.

Open Gardens Day Saturday 4 December

Five gardens in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 4 December 2021. The Open Gardens Day is organised by the Queenscliff Uniting Church. The ticket price is \$8 per garden or \$30 for all five gardens. Below is a brief description of each garden.

Katsawinya – Sculpture Garden, 1A Henry Street, Queenscliff

Plant stall and Devonshire tea available

Katsawinya is the name that was given to the garden's custodian by a Sapara shaman of the Amazon rainforest. It refers to a sacred bird with tall plumage that only lives in pure air. Tucked in behind a heritage cottage, this modern garden pays homage to this legacy with mature and bountiful fruit trees, while embracing the present and future of its environment via selected plantings, productive vegetable beds and sculptural works. There are touches of Japanese influences cleverly intertwined with the local environment. This small gem embraces contemplation and creativity, begging you to take a seat.

Rose and PJ's Garden, 5 Stevens Street, Queenscliff

Glass of wine available after 1.00pm

The house was built over 150 years ago, and the garden setting has been evolving ever since. The plantings and landscaping capture and enhance the elevated views of Swan Bay. A central garden path bordered with rosemary and lavender leads the eye, while the huge Norfolk pine from the Victorian era frames the view. The Mediterranean climate and lifestyle are embraced with fig and olive trees, and a large walnut tree shading the brick paved rear courtyard. Nothing is perfect, but the sun-drenched garden, enclosed by hedges, provides a calm private paradise. Have a drink on the verandah and enjoy!

Billabong Garden, 90 Glanuse Road, Point Lonsdale

Coffee/tea and slices available

This large, five-year-old garden was landscaped by designer Phillip Johnson and has developed beautifully since its inclusion in our previous Open Gardens Day over two years ago. The garden features creeks and bridges and a billabong with a stunning waterfall. There's also a fire pit and sitting area, as well as a meditation platform, all curated using large rocks. Meandering pathways lead you through garden beds filled with Australian native and indigenous plantings, fruit trees and raised vegetable beds.

Wirilda by the Lake, 592-670 Shell Road, Point Lonsdale

Bird watching available

Wirilda by the Lake is a small tree farm near Point Lonsdale on the edge of Lake Victoria. The property was purchased 18 months ago with a view to rehabilitating it. Most of it was previously mined for shell grit and then became a repository for builders' rubbish. We are working hard to remove all the rubbish, and deal with invasive weeds such as Boxthorn, Spiny Rush and Broom. There are many indigenous plants and trees that need protecting, including ancient Moonahs, native wattles, glassworts, saltbush and a vast saw-sedge field. Hundreds of trees have been planted and a fascinating and rabbit-proof, Hugel Kultur vegetable garden established that is now into its second productive season.

Birds and Bush, 6 Pelham Court, Point Lonsdale

Indigenous plant stall. This is a Swan Bay Environment Association Garden for Wildlife

If you wish to encourage a habitat for local birds, insects and other animals through the selection of a variety of indigenous and native vegetation, but don't think you have enough space, think again. This garden showcases what can be done in a small area by using both indigenous and native vegetation. It presents an example of the beauty and ease of growing plants in alkaline soil and low rainfall – once established plants need very little water. It is important to provide some bushy shrubs as a refuge for the smaller birds, and we have ensured that a safe water feature is available and there are a few logs for lizards.

Geelong's Climate Choir needs YOU!

The Geelong Climate Choir is currently seeking new members. The choir was formed in early 2020 to support climate action groups in the region and to publicly advocate for change. It rehearses on a Monday evening from 7.00pm–8.30pm at Geelong Trades Hall during the school term. Performances are at various organised community events.

The choir is an independent group led by Genevieve Newton, an experienced music teacher and conductor, and members are residents from Geelong and district. Previous experience is not necessary, just a love of music and a willingness to commit to regular rehearsals. There is no joining or membership fee, however we encourage a gold coin donation at each rehearsal to help cover the cost of music and other expenses. To enquire about joining, please send an email to geelongclimatechoir@gmail.com or contact Genevieve Newton on 0408 770 376.



Geelong's Climate Choir in full song with Genevieve Newton conducting.

Safe cats are wildlife-friendly cats

The Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife website, a project of Zoos Victoria and the RSPCA, has many helpful ideas on how to keep your cat wildlife safe.



'Whatever stage of life your cat is at, with the proper care and attention they can thrive when kept safe at home. An added bonus is that when cats aren't roaming, the local wildlife around you is free to flourish. Protecting these amazing native species also helps preserve the important ecological roles they play, for example, as seed dispersers. This helps maintain the health of our ecosystems and the native plants and animals within them, as well as retain vital carbon storage. We're here to provide you with the latest advice, tips, and tools to help you transition your cat to a safer and happier life at home. Become part of the community that loves their cat and local wildlife.'

As noted in our October newsletter, we have written to the Borough of Queenscliff regarding its current restrictions for cats. The curfew currently in place, where cats are permitted to roam freely from sunrise to sunset, is insufficient to prevent the negative impact they have on our local wildlife.

Review of the Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site to recommence

After a long recess due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) is recommencing stakeholder engagement for the Port Phillip & Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site review.

The review will recommence in February 2022, with a series of drop-in sessions being planned. Between now and then the CCMA will be updating the information sheets and planning of the sessions for community and stakeholder participation.

To facilitate this, the CCMA is consolidating a list of key stakeholders who they will inform about the opportunity to participate. If you or your organisation is interested in being engaged in the review process, you should contact Leigh Dennis, Manager – Strategy, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority on 0437 902 814 or at leigh.dennis@ccma.vic.gov.au.

LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOR SALE

If you are after some new indigenous plants to pop in your garden, why not buy them from our nursery.

Where?

79 Nelson Road, Queenscliff

How much?

Only \$2.00 each

Opening times

Wednesday from 9.00am-12noon and the 3rd Sunday of each month from 10.00am-12noon.

Enquiries

Sarah Roberts, Nursery Manager: 0401 281 448



**Everyone at the
Swan Bay Environment Association
wishes you a Happy Christmas and a
very safe New Year**