



Eastern Curlew by Georgina Steytler

Our AGM is on 1 April 2022. All members welcome

You are invited to our Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 1 April at 7:30 at the Queenscliff Uniting Church at the corner of Hesse Street and Stokes Street. Our guest speaker this year will be Dr Danny Rogers, who will speak about ‘Shorebirds of Swan Bay’.

Danny is one of Australia’s best known shorebird ecologists with an unsurpassed knowledge of birds of Swan Bay. He is a research biologist at Arthur Rylah Institute (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) and is a co-author of the recently published ‘Australian Bird Guide’.

Time to update our rules

Our committee has decided that it is time to update the rules of our organisation.

There are several changes to our rules that are required. The Committee determined that rather than alter our existing rules, we would be best to adopt the “model rules” that Consumer Affairs Victoria has developed for incorporated organisations like ours.

The model rules are more flexible and explicitly include reference to Zoom and other modern communication methods. All organisations that adopt the model rules have essentially the same rules except for their statement of purpose, and the end date of their financial year.

The updating of our rules enables us to include our new statement of purpose, which was developed by the Committee during planning meetings held between major Covid lockdowns and finalised last May. The proposed statement of purpose is:

‘To conserve the ecology of Swan Bay and its environs and to mitigate the impacts of climate change, catchment development, weeds, loss of vegetation and litter, assisted by an active and engaged community.’

At the AGM the following motion will be put:

‘That this AGM supports the adoption of the model rules of incorporation, distributed to members on 10 March 2022 and which includes a new Statement of Purpose and 31 December as the end of the financial year, to replace the existing rules of the Swan Bay Environment Association.’

Please join us at the AGM at 7.30pm on 1 April in the Queenscliff Uniting Church. You will need to sign in with the QR code and show proof of vaccination.

Nominations for SBEA Committee members

We’re on the lookout for new Committee members. Nominations are now open for people to be elected on to the Committee at the AGM for the next 12 months. If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, please complete the form at the end of the Newsletter and send it to our Secretary, Eva Mutton at P.O. Box 143 Queenscliff VIC 3225.

Welcome to new members

The Committee welcomes new members Susan Weymouth and Tracy Trehwella. Susan lives in St Leonards and is an active member of the Friends of Edwards Point Reserve, while Tracy is a new volunteer in our nursery.

We appreciate the support and the contribution that our members make to protect Swan Bay.

Membership fees due after AGM

Membership fees are Individual \$20, Concession \$10 and Family \$30.

Gardens for Wildlife news

G4W garden visits restarting

After our summer recess, Gardens for Wildlife volunteers were keen to join our first promotional activity of the season at the busy Point Lonsdale markets. It was a great day.

Gardens are one of Tom McNair’s favourite topics and he has contributed to all our promotional initiatives during this past year. ‘The Point Lonsdale market seems to be an excellent way to engage with our local garden lovers,’ he observed. ‘We had a good mix of folk establishing new gardens, redeveloping existing ones and seeking advice on how to attract small birds.’

Robyn Curtis enjoyed seeing the young children hover around the nature table display – it included several found nests – and talking to them about the creatures they have in their gardens. ‘I was really touched by the small children, their interest in nature and animals,’ Robyn said.

Evie Leslie enjoyed the conversations too. She had an interesting interaction with a family talking about the bird nest they had in their grapevine. ‘Both the little girls and their parents were very chuffed about this,’ Evie commented.

It is so heartening to have this kind of interest to build our environmental education messages around.



Left: The nature display table.
Right: Volunteers were busy at the Gardens for Wildlife 4W stall at the Point Lonsdale markets.

Out-of-towners had various questions and enjoyed sharing information on their garden initiatives too. Tom had an interesting conversation with a gardener from Drysdale who was dismayed at the displacement of small birds from his garden by the Common Myna bird. He had turned to the internet for solutions to this bird, which is one of the world's most invasive species (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufrqv1-KhWU>).

'The stall is an excellent way to spread the word about Gardens for Wildlife home visits and the availability of online resources,' Evie said. 'The Gardens for Wildlife section on the SBEA website showing the range of plants was a revelation to many and was very valued.'

Many thanks to volunteers Tom McNair, Robyn Curtis, Evie Leslie and Jay Epstein, and to Point Lonsdale Primary school for the wonderful site support.

Nursery News

Repairing the damage from the storm

With the trees and their shade gone due to the storm last year, and plants exposed to the summer heat, the nursery plants have needed more monitoring, extra watering and additional fertilising. However, with the extra monitoring, the plants have been growing well with minor losses. The storm damage also required some change in the layout of the plant benches, the replacement of the weed mat and plans for irrigation adjustments and a new shade structure.



Over summer, while growing conditions were good, nursery activity focussed on doing as much propagation as possible to fill the large plant orders for the year. The Thursday volunteer group has also been collecting seed.

Volunteer numbers are growing quickly! Two volunteer inductions were held in December and early January and the Thursday group has significantly expanded. A third induction for those that missed out will occur on Wed 23rd at 2-3pm. With some volunteer spots still available for our Sunday Working Bees.

In January we were successful in receiving funding through the Libby Coker 2021 Volunteer Grants for a set of new propagation benches. This will create more propagation space and opportunity for our growing pool of volunteers.

'COVID-normal' operations

The nursery is now close to 'normal' operations. Restrictions on numbers have eased and working bees are back.

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 5 April at 10.00am, while the next Rip View weeding is on Tuesday 12 April at 10.00am. If you are planning to attend for the first time, please email Lachlan Forbes (lachlan@bcn.org.au). BYO gloves and glasses.

Are you interested in supporting our weeding subcommittee?

The weeding subcommittee, which currently has 5 members (Marvyn Brown, Jim Caldwell, Lisa Powell, Greg Parry and Christine Rees), could use a couple of additional members. We have almost completed mapping of weeds in the Borough and hope to start an active SBEA weeding group shortly. Although this will build on the BCN weeding, we hope to operate weekly and periodically on weekends to engage more people to take an interest in weeds in their local coastal patch. If interested, call Greg on 0400 455 009.

Swan Bay Wetland Restoration Citizen Science Day



The Swan Bay saltmarsh restoration project is a collaboration between Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab, Bellarine Catchment Network and the Bellarine Landcare Group. The project is supported by the Victorian Government, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and The Intrepid Foundation and is a part of the 2020-21 Port Philip Bay Fund.

Project staff are working with private landholders to install low-cost fencing to restore coastal wetlands, and to better understand the accumulation and storage of Blue Carbon beneath saltmarsh ecosystems. You can join them for a day workshop to learn about restoring and monitoring coastal wetlands, the importance of blue carbon in mitigating climate change, and participate in survey techniques that will help develop a remote-sensing method for the region. The workshops will demonstrate restored saltmarsh habitat around Swan Bay and projects currently in-progress, demonstrating the potential co-benefits for landholders, the community and the environment, as well as how landholders can get involved.

The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners will conduct a Welcome to Country ceremony, including cultural significance talks. Participants will then be guided through citizen-science sampling techniques such as soil coring, vegetation surveys and more.

Further information about the project can be found on [the Blue Carbon Website](#).

When? Either one of 22nd, 23rd and 24th of March from 10.00am to 2.00pm

Where? Swan Bay Jetty, 1235 Swan Bay Rd

BYO? Water, sunscreen, enclosed shoes/booties

To register? Email Noyan at noyan.yilmaz@deakin.edu.au

Clean Up Australia Day in the Borough

A dedicated group of local volunteers joined the Borough Mayor and Councillors to collect a total of 440kg worth of waste and recycling from areas along Point Lonsdale's Ocean Road and Back Beach pathways. That's more than 20 full bags of litter and 9 bags of recycling!

Pocket Park Project

There are 10 Pocket Parks scattered around the Borough of Queenscliffe and, as a result of general attrition and the storms over the summer, some of them are looking very depleted and miserable. A plan needs to be developed to undertake a replanting program, and the Swan Bay Environment Association is spearheading this in collaboration with the Borough of Queenscliffe. The project is in its early stages and we will be encouraging local community members to be involved in both the project's planning and subsequent planting activities. The Swan Bay Environment Association's indigenous nursery will be providing the trees and shrubs to be planted and we are looking to extend the idea of our Gardens for Wildlife program into the Pocket Parks while maintaining their attraction as public parks and open space.

LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOR SALE

Where? 79 Nelson Road, Queenscliff **How much?** Only \$2.50 each **Opening times** Wednesday from 9.00am-12noon and 10.00am-12noon 3rd Sunday each month **Enquiries** Sarah Roberts, Nursery Manager: 0401 281 448



In our last newsletter we promoted the new Zoos Victoria and RSPCA program to reduce the impact of domestic cats on native animals. We had raised the issue with the Borough of Queenscliffe regarding its current restrictions for cats in October last year and followed that up in February with information about the Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife program.

In earlier correspondence the Borough's CEO, Martin Gill, indicated that an education program to promote responsible cat ownership would be conducted by the Borough. Although welcome, an education program is an inadequate approach to reduce the impact of domestic cats.

However, our most recent correspondence from the Borough's CEO is even less encouraging. In his email of 22 February 2022, Mr Gill writes: 'Thank you for your email and the link. Council will continue to assess the effectiveness of its current curfew and management approach.'

Clearly, we will need to continue advocating for significantly improved management of domestic cats in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

Train-the-Trainer 2022: Dune Systems



The Bellarine Catchment Network is inviting you to attend this year's Train-the-Trainer Event: Dune Systems. You will tour the significant dune systems of the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast led by a team of specialist demonstrators. On the tour you will take part in five mini workshops designed to increase your knowledge of the ecology and conservation of sensitive dune systems:

Mini-workshop 1. Lachlan Forbes and Greg Parry (BCN & SBEA) along Lovers Walk, The Narrows. 'Volunteer involvement with restoration.'

Mini-workshop 2. Lachlan Forbes and Brett Diehm (BCN & Barwon Coast C of M) at Rip View. 'Restoration, reinstatement and fencing demonstration.'

Mini-workshop 3. Darren Bird (CoGG) at Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve. 'Natural Regeneration Techniques demonstration site.'

Mini-workshop 4. Brett Diehm (BCCM) Barwon Heads Bluff. 'Dune EVC identification, landscape & cultural values.'

Mini-workshop 5. Hilary Bouma & Great Ocean Road Authority Conservation team member, Whites Gap. 'Program demonstration: 6 years of community rehabilitation, erosion control AND Dune ecology and Education.'

Lunch will be provided (Venue TBC)

The event is funded by the Victorian Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Capital Grants Program.

When? Wednesday 27 April 2022 from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Where? The Narrows/Dog Beach Carpark, Carpark opposite number 6, Bellarine Highway, Queenscliff

BYO? This is a Covid Safe event. Please come prepared with a mask and evidence of vaccination. Also bring water, sunscreen, enclosed shoes/booties.

Swan Bay Environment Association Inc.



P.O. Box 143, Queenscliff 3225

Reg. No: A 00 1 7279 U
ABN 12847527692

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

NOMINATION FORM - 2022

We, being members of the Association nominate

(Name of nominee)

Name of Proposer

Signature of Proposer

Name of Seconder

Signature of Seconder

I, the above named nominee consent to the above nomination: -

Signature of Nominee

Date_____

*Must be received by March 25, 2022

Eva Mutton
Secretary
Swan Bay Environment Association
PO Box 143
QUEENSCLIFF 3225

evamutton@bigpond.com