

Mornington Peninsula Schools



Environment Week

Annual Report 2015



**Connecting our children to their environment and
creating a sustainable future**

Thank you to the following organisations for their generous support and sponsorship of Environment Week 2015



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA

**WESTERN
PORT**



The Gippsland Basin Joint Venture



Bendigo Bank
Bigger than a bank.

classfocus



**South East
Water**



Woolworths
the fresh food people



**BUNNINGS
warehouse**

Nepean Waste

A Transpacific Industries Group Company

NATURAL EVENT
changing the world from the bottom up



**Mornington Garden Supplies
Mr Fothergills
Progress Signs**

**Tumbleweed
Worm Affair P/L
Chisholm & Gamon**

President's Report

The Mornington Peninsula School's Environment Week (MPSEW) continues to be a great success in providing opportunities for the children of the Mornington Peninsula to access an outstanding range of experiences related to the environment and local aboriginal culture.

Our vision of, *'Connecting our children to their environment and creating a sustainable future'* is at the core of our beliefs. It is through programs such as MPSEW and the fabulous work in local schools that we are contributing to the environmental awareness of our children – the decision-makers of the future. Our role continues to be one of supporting schools in their endeavours to help children develop a greater understanding of the environment and local culture: the importance of bio-diversity and its intrinsic influence on our health and wellbeing, as well as the cultural links associated with our local environment. Without a doubt, the enhanced environmental and cultural awareness in our community is partly due to the important role schools have played, over many years, in preparing our children for a responsible adult life that includes consideration and care for the environment.

Our challenge remains in continuing a program that is responsive to the needs of schools on the Mornington Peninsula and maintains a link with schools through representation on the committee.

This year the MPSEW program, once again held at 'The Briars' historical park, also included the Family Festival. The festival was held on Sunday 15th March whilst the regular E Week program for schools was conducted from Monday 16th to Thursday 19th March.

The Family Festival was a 'joint venture' by the MPSEW committee and the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Whilst attendance for the Family Festival did not meet our expectations, the program of events on the day, including the entertainment was a complete success. The attraction of 'dirtgirl' encouraged many young children and their families to attend the event and our feedback from people who attended was overwhelmingly positive. It may be the type of event that could attract greater patronage as a regular fixer. However, the resources needed to implement this event annually would need to increase substantially, and it is perhaps better suited to being implemented by the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The E Week program was attended by around 2000 students from various schools and pre-schools around the Mornington Peninsula. They participated in a broad range of activities offered by our Indigenous, Woodlands – Flora and Fauna, Wetland Birds and Minibeasts, Hands in the Dirt and Green Living Programs. The programs continue to be fine-tuned with on-going improvement each year. Congratulations to the Briars team and presenters for providing a program of such high quality and, in particular, Jarrod Ruch for coordinating the various elements of the program.

Feedback comments from the schools/pre-schools attending were very positive and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program. Of course we will consider all suggestions for improvements, as we believe that this has enabled us to make changes to improve the program each year.

Feedback:

- *Thank you to everyone involved in the Environment week, it is most worthwhile with lots of learning activities for children and even the adults learnt things.*
- *This year's students can't stop raving about their excursion to The Briars. Everyone had a great time and they all enjoyed their little seedlings and other bits and pieces they got to take home afterwards. The range of activities at the expo paddock was fantastic.*
- *The groups that attended the Indigenous activities thought these were just fabulous and fitted right in with our Integrated Topic for this term. Thank you again for another excellent environment week excursion for us we will certainly be back again next year!!*

The sum of these programs gives children a greater understanding of their local environment and ways to live a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle – precisely the purpose of our event.

The Expo Paddock program offered many opportunities for children to 'connect' with a range of mainly hands-on activities. Thanks to the many organisations that made this aspect of the program such a great success, including the students from various secondary colleges.

Our sponsors are to be congratulated for their support of this event. Some have a long involvement with 'Environment Week' and their continued support is greatly appreciated. A full list of sponsors is tabled in this annual report. I thank all supporters of the program for their contributions in the form of direct funding, personnel and materials.

We thank our school groups for their on-going support of the program and their commitment to environmental awareness.

Thanks to all who contributed to making the week such a great success. In particular, I would like to recognise the outstanding contribution made by the members of the committee: Jennifer Selby, Jarrod Ruch, Paul Tuchtan, Helen Smith and Maree Schumann. Our gratitude is also extended to 'The Briars' team for their amazing preparation for the staging of the event. Thanks also to committee member and treasurer, David Keystone who continues to ensure we obtain on-going sponsorship and remain financially healthy. Congratulations and thanks to Heather Tytler for her amazing contribution as executive officer. Heather's tireless endeavours ensure the program is well-organised and faultlessly implemented.

It is a great privilege to be involved in an event such as this – an event that has been going for over 30 years. We look forward to another successful MPSEW in 2016.

Silvio Vitale

President

Treasurer's Report

This is my fourth year of performing the duties of honorary Treasurer for Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week Committee. I appreciate the support given by committee members, in particular, Heather Tytler (Executive Officer), Silvio Vitale (President) and Jarrod Ruch (Briars Ranger).

I am pleased to report that Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week Committee was in a sound financial position for the financial year 2014-2015. Bittern Market, Esso, Bluescope Steel, The Grand Hotel, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bendigo Bank branches (Rye Dromana, Rosebud, Hastings, Balnarring, Mornington, Mt Eliza, Pearcedale, Mount Martha), Birdlife Mornington Peninsula, Bittern Market and Hillview Quarry collectively contributed substantial funding that guaranteed the delivery of high quality environment and sustainability educational programs. Direct funding grants increased. Mornington Peninsula Shire granted \$ 20,000 to sponsor the Family Festival held on Sunday 15 March 2015. Other major funding sponsorship included Mornington Peninsula Shire, Nepean Waste, South East Water, Progress Signs, Chisholm and Gamon Real Estate, Class Focus, Oasis Horticulture, Debco, Woolworths and Driver Coastal through 'in kind' donations for which the committee was most grateful.

The committee agreed on raising the entry fee to \$ 10 per student per day and \$ 7 per half day for Schools Environment Week program. Numbers of participating students declined when compared with attendances in 2013-2014 financial year.

Total income met total expenditure. Expenditure on facilities to conduct both the Family Festival and Environment Week program rose significantly. In light of these costs, and the need to meet future program needs and budgets the committee is recommended to review and monitor all facilities hire arrangements. The workload and payment of the Executive Officer increased significantly as the Family Festival demanded additional management, organisation and time. Program presenters' fees and all other expenditure met budget expectations.

Numerous paid presenters and volunteer presenters showcased many rich and varied environmental activities for students. Performers entertained audiences for the lunchtime break. The services support

provided by the Briar's staff during Environment Week and the weeks prior was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

The next financial year 2015-2016 commences with a credit. It is in the best interests of sustaining Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week that the committee is both vigilant, active and committed to securing sufficient funds to support its initiatives and endeavours.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank Byron Groves who audited the accounts on an honorary basis as part of his Mount Martha Rotary Club community commitments.

David Keystone
(Treasurer)
18 July 2015

Expo Paddock Report

This year we had the E Week Festival on the preceding Sunday where we had varied activities as well as food stalls and entertainment to attract families. Attendances were not up to expectations although publicised widely but the event was very well received by the people who attended.

Special activities in the Expo Paddock on the Sunday only were:

Apple Slinkies organised by Gillian Stewart from Shire Rural Business, Dromana, Rosebud and Mornington Community Gardens, Home Harvest Exchange, Pitchingga Ridge Alpacas, Face Painting, Mornington Peninsula Shire Free Trees and Friends of Tootgarook Swamp. A great variety of healthy food was available from vendors. Most vendors reported poor sales but were very understanding.

This year the Expo Paddock only ran for four full days during the week. The numbers were down by about 500 this year so some sessions were very busy and others quiet. All participants had plenty of choice with 18 activities available:

At **Andrew Wegener Wildlife** children learnt about our wildlife through observing and handling live and preserved specimens. **Rain Hayne and Shine** farm had a variety of farm animals.

Bunnings Sustainability activity was excellent with Bunnings staff engaging children in potting up vegetable seedlings, and learning about worm farming and composting. In the **Sustainable Gardening** marquee children learnt different ways of growing vegetables and herbs to live sustainably. **Natural Event** composting toilets also taught children about the composting of organic materials including our own 'POO'!

Westernport Bluescope Steel gave children an insight into the water cycle and saving water and at the **South East Water** activity children could learn about saving water through fun games. Unfortunately South East Water staff members were only available on Wednesday. **Mt Martha CFA** encouraged the children to be fire safe and **Fishcare** developed awareness of our fish species and responsible fishing. I would especially like to thank Jeff and Jenni Green from Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Fishcare who are scaling back on their involvement. This year **Woolworths** changed their activity, talking about the things they have in place to be more sustainable and assist farmers. Hopefully this activity can continue to be improved as it was a great insight into such a big organisation.

Volunteers from **Friends of Chinaman's Creek** and **Animalia** provided greater insight into our local environment and awareness of local fauna. Matt Stahmer from the Shire joined the group this year and helped coordinate activities in the double marquee with Norm Mckinlay. **SPIFFA and Friends of the Hooded Plover** both provided great activities that provided information on saving our local flora and fauna.

A team from **Balnarring PS** was present at the Festival and one school day to talk about Nocturnal Animals.

Osborne PS students and parents were again present for one day, championing the kitchen garden and showing what can be achieved in schools. Thanks to teachers, parents for all their hard work and to the

students who proved to be excellent presenters, able to get their environmental message across to other students.

In the **Caring for the Environment** marquee we had Jacqui Salter and friends presenting a puppet show about **Landcare** Sunday – Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday we welcomed a new group – **Habitat Restoration Fund** who talked about good vs bad plants.

Other new activities we welcomed this year were **Seaweed Sally** who provided high quality, educational, ‘hands on’ marine experiences with the live animal ‘touch tank’ and preserved marine specimens. **The Connies** interacted with small groups of children distributing swap cards about local fauna and encouraging discussion about the cards. **Recycling activities** were provided by **Chooktopia** on Sunday – Tuesday and the **Solo Recycling** on Wednesday and Thursday.

I would like to thank everybody for giving their time to impart their expertise to the children. It is becoming increasingly difficult for groups and organisations to commit to the week. The past few years have seen a number of groups unable to maintain their involvement.

Heather Tytler
(Executive Officer)

Briars Report

Briars programs this year consisted of 10 successful activities, all of which were appreciated by both teachers and students. They were:

Indigenous Program	Traditional Harvest with Lionel Lauch was held in the Wildlife Sanctuary and was fully booked. Children were shown the plants that are used for food and utensils. Culture and Traditions with Adam Magennis and Djarrin Blow looking at local history, culture and traditions. Beryl and her team also prepared some bush tucker.
Hands in the Dirt	Soils Alive with David Keystone in the Barn where children used microscopes to closely examine compost organisms and the role they play. Gardens of Food with Maree Schurmann and various garden volunteers who encouraged children to grow their own food at home and examined the Homestead Gardens and a range of seeds
Woodlands	Flora Walk – Gidja Walker lead a walk through the woodlands with themes including rocks, geology, habitat and biodiversity, parasitic plants and how plants get around Fauna Walk was led by Fiona Stevens where children learnt about fauna interacting with the local bush; birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Students looked at the signs and traces of fauna in the bush, threats and habitats.
Wetlands	Birds of the Wetlands led by Birdlife Australia in the Checkingurk Hide with children identifying wetland birds, their characteristics and behaviours. Waterwatch was led by BERG assisting children to learn about macro-invertebrates and the indicators of waterway health.
Green Living	Eco Living was coordinated by Nicci Tsernjavski with children exploring the Eco House to find out how to reduce energy consumption in the home. Reduce Reuse Recycle by Westernport SC and their teacher Helen Smith looked at the 3R's and how materials break down.

This year a whole team approach (Natural Systems MP Shire) was adopted to assist with smooth running of many of the aspects of both the E Week Festival and Schools Environment Week. Tasks included managing parking and traffic, managing bus and student movement, safety, first aid, set up and pack up, bins and rubbish and stage and sound set up and pack up. Natural Systems staff also coordinated a large number of FS Learning Students studying conservation and Land Management and Chisholm Rosebud students who assisted with many aspects of the week.

This will be the last Environment Week that I will be coordinating the Briars/Shire involvement after four years. Thank you for all the assistance and encouragement from the Environment Week committee while in my role. Whilst it has been demanding I have immensely enjoyed the opportunity to represent the Shire and the Briars.

Jarrold Ruch
Briars Ranger

2014-2015 Committee

Silvio Vitale: President
Heather Tytler: Executive Officer/Secretary
Jarrod Ruch: Briars Rep
Paul Tuchtan
Maree Schurmann

Jenny Selby: Vice President
David Keystone: Treasurer
Garrique Pergl: Shire Liaison
Helen Smith

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balcombe Grammar	Dromana PS	Osborne PS	Somerville Rise PS
Balnarring PS	Kunyang PS	Our Lady of Fatima	St Macartens
Boneo PS	Langwarrin Park PS	Overport PS	The Peninsula School
Crib Point PS	Moorooduc PS	Rye PS	Tootgarook PS
Derinya PS	Mt Eliza PS	Somers PS	Wallaroo PS

Pre Schools

Cricklewood	Mt Eliza	Sorrento	Toorak College
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Special Development Schools

Mornington SDS	Peninsula SDS
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Catering :

Thanks to Mt Martha Rotary for catering again this year. They did a magnificent job and were very well organised. A special thanks to Colin Stokes for organising the team and Jenny Selby for organising the food. We would also like to thank Woolworths for the salad ingredients and Bell's Gourmet Meats for providing the meat at reduced cost. Thanks also to Carol Rayment for organising the salads each day.

Facilities:

The Briars team again did a magnificent job in preparing the various activity sites and the Expo Paddock. We are fortunate to be able to have this venue and make use of the different areas including the Visitors Centre, Homestead, Barn and Eco House as well as the woodlands and wetlands. Thanks to all the Briars team for all their work, especially the extra work involved in the Festival.

Volunteer Organisations

Animalia	Homestead Woolspinners
Balcombe Estuary Reserve Group	Mornington Community Garden
Balcombe Grammar	MPS Aboriginal Support & Development Team
Balnarring Primary School	Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society
Birdlife Australia	Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network
Bluescope Steel	Mornington Primary School Choir
Briars Staff & Volunteers	Mount Eliza Secondary College
Dromana SC Green Team	Mount Martha CFA
Dromana Community Garden	Mount Martha Rotary
Eco House Volunteers	Osborne Primary School
Fishcare Mornington Peninsula & Westernport	Peninsula Woodturners Guild
Franklyn Scholar students	Pitchingga Ridge Alpacas
Frankston Police Band 3199	Rosebud SC Planet Pals

Friends of Chinaman's Creek
Friends of the Hooded Plover
Friends of Tootgarook Swamp
Habitat Restoration Fund
Headmasters Apprentices

Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Assoc
South East Water
Western Port Secondary College
Woolworths

**MORNINGTON PENINSULA SCHOOLS
ENVIRONMENT WEEK COMMITTEE INC.**

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015

EXPENDITURE

Administration	\$	176.50
Advertising	\$	5,830.00
Bank Fees	\$	10.85
Catering	\$	1,644.56
Executive Officer	\$	6,395.00
Facilities	\$	28,953.16
Festival Float	\$	500.00
Insurance	\$	1,727.00
OH&S	\$	300.00
Plants & Materials	\$	110.61
Presenters	\$	21,991.06
Transport	\$	610.00

Total \$ 68,248.74

INCOME

Carpark Fees	\$	3,386.00
Drink Sales	\$	45.00
Schools Deposits	\$	2,440.00
Schools Fees	\$	15,318.00
Sponsors	\$	45,750.00
Vendor Fees	\$	980.00

Total \$ 67,919.00

Bank Reconciliation of General Account

Cash Book Balance as at 1st July 2014	\$	11,516.68
Deposits	\$	67,919.00
Sub Total	\$	79,435.68
Less Expenditure	-\$	68,248.74
Balance as per Bank Statement at 30th June 2015	\$	11,186.94

I confirm that this Income and Expenditure Statement and Bank Reconciliation has been prepared from the books of the Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week Committee Incorporated as presented to me by the Committee.

I have checked the books and accounts and found them all to be in order.


Byron Groves
1 Messmate Court
MOUNT MARTHA Vic 3934
Mobiler 0488 532 821

12/7/2015

