

Mornington Peninsula Schools



Environment Week

Annual Report 2017



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

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



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

**WESTERN
PORT**



An ExxonMobil Brand



class focus
WEBSITES FOR SCHOOLS



**Animalia
Fishcare
SPIFFA
Birdlife
Barista Bros
Tumbleweed**

**Save Tootgarook Swamp
Friends of the Hooded Plover
Scorpio Technology
Rotary Mt Martha
Mt Eliza Lions
Mr Fothergills**

**CFA Mt Martha
Replas
BERG MM
National Trust
Green Army
Worm Affair**

President's Report

In my new role of President, it gives me much pleasure to present an overview of the 2017 Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week (MPSEW). This year's event commemorated the 33rd staging of 'Environment Week', having been established in 1983 from humble beginnings.

We proudly report the outstanding success of this year's program conducted at The Briars Mt. Martha. It boasted the involvement of some 2000 students plus numerous other participant groups including exhibitors, volunteers and visitors. Survey feedback from all involved indicated ongoing support for all aspects of our activity program. Links to the school curriculum still appear to be strong and relevant, based upon our core theme of 'Connecting children to their environment and fostering a sustainable future'. This link is critical for future conduct of our program to both the schools and general community.

Success of our Environment Week model can again be attributed to the combined team support of all the following contributors:

- Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week Committee
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council sponsorship
- Shire staff participation with particular mention of The Briars and Natural Systems members
- Other major sponsors Bluescope Steel, Esso Australia & BHP Billiton (joint contribution), Mornington Peninsula Bendigo Banks, Grand Hotel Mornington and Hillview Quarries
- Local organisations and businesses as listed on our sponsorship page who contributed financially and in kind
- Exhibitors and presenters in our Expo Paddock and Briars programs
- All participating local schools at all levels and forms of involvement
- Other volunteers and supporters

Thank you all for that support and commitment.

A special acknowledgment must be provided to the outstanding contribution of our Committee. Of particular note, our Executive Officer Heather Tytler is applauded for her detailed organisation, commitment and oversight.

Continuous improvement will always be a healthy priority for this event. Any ideas for future growth and improvement in any aspect of the overall program are always welcomed. In the meantime, we look forward to a healthy 34th year event in 2018.

Ian Stevenson

President

Treasurer's Report

This is my first year as Treasurer and I thank the committee, Especially Heather, for the support provided. Total income for the financial year did not meet total expenditure.

This is not reflected in the annual financial report because three accounts, Rotary Club (\$300), Dolphin Research (\$660) and Swinburne University-Prime Science (\$2750), were paid after the end of the financial year.

Financial cost of 2016 - 2017 Event

Expenditure	\$45,455.88
Income	\$44,898.00
Loss	\$557.88

The numbers of participating students was less when compared with attendance in the previous financial year.

Year	Student income	Numbers attending
2016	\$21,622.00	2500
2017	\$16,748.00	1932

Our sponsors, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bluescope Steel, Esso BHP, Grand Hotel, Hillview Quarries local Bendigo Bank branches and Bittern Market collectively contributed \$28,150 that guaranteed the delivery of high quality educational programs.

Approximately 45% of expenditure is incurred by costs associated with facilities. Insurance costs were higher due to the added Voluntary Workers insurance. The Event Insurance paid for 2017 includes the 2018 event as it expires at the end of March 2018. Program presenters' fees, payment of Executive Officer and all other expenditure met budget expectations.

The event could not be held without the support of volunteers and voluntary clubs such Mt Eliza Lions Club, (Traffic Management) Green Army and Birdlife Mornington Peninsula.

The support provided by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Briar's staff during and leading up to Environment Week was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

The next financial year 2017-2018 commences with a healthy, but reducing bank balance. It is in the best interest of Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week committee that the 2018 program is actively promoted to schools. Increased student attendance, while maintaining our level of support from sponsors will ensure income meets and ideally exceeds expenditure in 2018.

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

Jennifer Selby
(Honorary Treasurer)
16th August 2017

Program Report

E Week programs ran from Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd March. We had two x two hour sessions per day with some schools opting for a full day and others for the half day. We had nearly 2000 students attend during the week from 25 different educational settings. Some schools sent multiple year levels and some only one. We had 4 Kindergartens, one Special School and 20 Primary schools involved. Feedback from all was very positive.

The programs for 2017 were the Expo Paddock with 18 different activities and 5 Briars programs which offer more in depth activities linked to particular areas of the curriculum.

Expo Paddock

The activities in this program were linked to the new Victorian Curriculum and were based around for themes.

Waste Not Want Not; Investigating sustainability issues, concepts and ideas.

Sustainable Fishing by Fishcare Mornington Peninsula which promoted responsible and sustainable attitudes and practices by recreational fishers to fish resources and the aquatic environment.

Natural Event Composting Poo which looked at the process used in their composting toilets

Recycling Soft Plastics with Replas Recycling Trailer This year they only had a static display but we hope to develop this in the future as their recycling of plastic bags into products is a great initiative.

Water for Our future by Local Secondary Colleges gave children an insight into the water cycle and saving water. Bluescope were unable to be involved this year so the local secondary colleges stepped in with Helen Smith from Western Port SC organizing the displays and program. Thanks to Western Port SC, Mt Eliza SC, Somerville SC and Balcombe GS for presenting in this marquee and teaching the students about water and water saving ideas.

Solar POWER by Scorpio Technology and Model Solar Victoria who joined forces to demonstrate solar power with their solar boat and house. This was a great activity that we had for 2 days of the program and proved very engaging and informative.

Get Waste Wise with Cleanaway was a new activity provided by Cleanaway. They demonstrated which items can be recycled and talked about waste management

Model Landscaping by Tony O'Connor was another new activity where students were able to make miniature landscapes and learn about erosion and topography.

Green Thumb Life cycles growth & change, agriculture & food

Bunnings Veggie Patch activities were excellent with Bunnings staff engaging children in potting up vegetable seedlings and seeds Jenny Mann organised the involvement of the Bunnings stores from Mornington, Hastings, Rosebud, Frankston and IPC. It is great to see the involvement and support from this company.

Bunnings Worm Farms had Bunnings staff demonstrating composting and worm farming to reduce landfill

New Plants for Old was run by the Green Army this year under the direction of ranger Gerard Cook. They focused on different ways of propagating flowers, plants and vegetables to live more sustainably.

Woollies Waste Warriors and Wonky Vegetables had staff from Woolworths stores from Hastings, Somerville, Baxter, Rosebud, Morning and Mornington East talking about their sustainability programs such as the Odd Bunch, recycling and sourcing food locally. Children were also able to sample produce.

Wildlife Wonders Living things and their environment

Andrew Wegener Wildlife continues to be a favourite activity with children learning about our wildlife through observing and handling live and preserved specimens.

Seaweed Sally from Southern Ocean Education provided high quality, educational marine experiences with the live animal 'touch tank' and preserved marine specimens.

Friends of the Hooded Plover gave students a background on these birds, their habitat and why their numbers have been declining.

Habitat Heroes; Communities caring for the environment

Mt Martha CFA ran a bush campfire activity to learn about fire safety and how to keep the bush safe. They have been stalwart supporters of E Week and their fire truck is always a big drawcard.

Caring for our Environment and Animals by Animalia/Tootgarook Swamp provided greater insight into our local environment and animal rescue on the Peninsula.

Wildlife Friendly Backyards by SPIFFA had a range of activities looking at habitat and providing wildlife friendly backyards.

The Landcare Puppet Show run by Jacqui Salter highlighted how to care for our native bushland animals by protecting them from predators and providing habitat

Schools Initiatives Marquee hosted a number of schools that looked at different environmental issues.

Osborne PS students and parents were again present for one day, championing the kitchen garden and planting seed with the children. Thanks to the team from **Mornington PS** who brought along their RACV Energy Breakthrough vehicles to show the students. We also had **Natured Kids Home School** with great displays and activities based around habitat and activities that they undertake.

Each year we have some groups and organisations unable to continue their commitment but we are also fortunate to have new groups step into the void. I would like to thank everybody for giving their time to

impart their expertise to the children. It is a big commitment for groups and organisations to be able to provide staff for the four days so we appreciate their involvement very much.

Briars Programs

These programs are designed to showcase the many aspects of The Briars so the programs are built around these resources. The five programs this year were linked to the new Victorian Curriculum. There were some challenges with the boardwalk in the middle of being replaced and also the entry road being upgraded but, by all pulling together and modifying some programs we were able to go ahead.

Indigenous Connection to Country

Thanks to Erin Pennett, ATSI Community development Officer and her team from the Warraginee Group for organising this fabulous program which was fully booked. They were set up in the Visitors Centre with Lionel exploring the Wetlands.

Indigenous Heritage:

Local leaders guide students through two activities; learning about Victorian Aboriginal Culture while tasting Australian bush tucker and exploring Aboriginal bush craft, language and community.

Traditional Harvest:

Peninsula local indigenous man Lionel Lauch shares his extensive knowledge of local food and fibre plants and wetlands flora

Briars Homestead Heritage

This was a new program with two activities organised by groups from the Briars and set in the Homestead and its gardens. It was a fabulous program but needs more promotion in the schools to ensure that it is fully booked.

In the Olden Days presented by the National Trust

Children explored the history of the homestead and its owners and compared of life in the period of the Briars Homestead and today – involving, food, recreation, schooling, transport and communication.

Heritage Supermarket presented by Homestead Gardens Volunteers

Students explored the heritage vegetable gardens and the produce growing there. They experienced the fun of planting and feeding the friendly farm animals.

Briars Woodlands Habitat Flora and Fauna

Flora Walk - Gidja Walker lead a walk through the woodlands with themes including: rocks and geology, habitat and biodiversity, parasitic plants and how plants get around.

Woodlands Minibeasts Jessica Lazarus from Dolphin Research Institute helped students explore the miniature world of insects and other bugs and their role in the Woodlands habitat

Briars Wetlands Healthy Habitat

Wetlands Health - Birdlife Australia did a great job in the small birdhide with children identifying wetlands birds, their characteristics and behaviours. They shared a session with BERG volunteers who assisted children to learn about macro invertebrates and the indicators of waterway health

Wetlands Features and Creatures:

Rangers Fi and Jono explored The Briars wetlands! Students observed the different types of wetlands at the Briars, how they formed and why they are really important. Students also discovered some of the aquatic residents and find out some of their interesting adaptations and surprising survival strategies

Sustainable Living @ the Eco Living Centre

Waste Warriors – Students learnt about separating waste, composting, reducing waste and becoming an eco shopper.

ReNEWable Energy: Monash Prime Science led students through a series of activities involving different types of renewable energy. This was a new and successful activity which was very hands on.

I would like to thank Sharon O'Neil, Simon Thorning and The Briars team for hosting the week and for their great support and hard work to help ensure the success of this event. I would also like to thank the Gerard Cook and the Green Army teams who helped with the Briars programs and organisation to ensure the smooth running of the event. Thanks also Mt Eliza Lions Club for their traffic management. Their assistance each morning and night was greatly appreciated.

Heather Tytler
(Executive Officer)

2016-2017 Committee

Thanks the MPSEW Committee for all their hard work. Thanks especially to our new president and treasurer who have been on a steep learning curve:

Ian Stevenson: President

Heather Tytler: Executive Officer/Secretary

Sharon O'Neil: Briars Rep

Kate Bastone

Jenny Selby: Treasurer

Simon Thorning: Natural Systems team Leader

Helen Smith

David Street

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balcombe Grammar

Eastbourne PS

Our Lady of Fatima

Rye PS

Balnarring PS

Kunyang PS

Penbank Woodleigh

Somers PS

Benton JC

Mornington Park PS

Peninsula SDS

St Brendans

Crib Point PS

Mt Eliza PS

Rosebud PS

Tootgarook PS

Dromana PS

Osborne PS

Pre Schools

Cricklewood

Mt Eliza

Sorrento

South Mornington

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. Thanks to Jenny Selby, Barb Martin, Jill Bonnington, Debbie McMahon, Suzanne Ryan and Heather Gerraty for making all the delicious salads and burgers.

We would also like to thank Woolworths and Peninsula Hydroponics for the salad ingredients and Linden's Fresh for providing the meat at reduced cost.

Traffic Management

Thanks also to Mt Eliza Lions Club for their traffic management this year. With all the roadworks on the entry road it was a more difficult task. Inclement weather on some days also made their job more difficult. A special thank you to Ian Davey for organising the team

Shire Assistance

Briars Rangers

Warringinee Group

Nicci Tsernjavski Climate Change Officer

Jacqui Salter Landcare Officer

Simon Thorning Natural Systems Team

Erin Pennett –ATSI Support Officer

Eco Living Display Centre staff

Shire Nursery

Volunteer s

Animalia

Balcombe Estuary Reserve Group Mt Martha

Balcombe Grammar Band

Balcombe Grammar secondary students

Birdlife Mornington Peninsula

Briars Heritage Garden Volunteers

Bunnings Mornington, Hastings, Rosebud & Frankston and IPC

Fishcare Mornington Peninsula & Westernport

Friends of the Hooded Plover

Friends of Tootgarook Swamp

Green Army teams

Mornington Secondary College Band

Mount Martha CFA

Mount Eliza Secondary College students

Western Port Secondary College students

Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Ass

Somerville Secondary College students

Woolworths Hastings, Mornington, Mornington

East, Somerville, Baxter, Mt Eliza

Replas

Scorpio Technology & Model Solar Victoria

National Trust Mornington Peninsula

Pam McKenzie – photography & buses

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Administration	\$ 268.91	Schools Fees	\$ 16,748.00
Catering	\$ 1,249.96	Sponsors	\$ 28,150.00
Executive Officer	\$ 4,619.00		
Facilities	\$ 18,117.79		
Insurance	\$ 2,464.00		
Materials	\$ 256.22		
Presenters	\$ 14,290.00		
Transport	\$ 480.00		
Total	\$ 41,745.88	Total	\$ 44,898.00

Bank Reconciliation of General Account

Cash Book Balance as at 1st July 2016	\$	12,337.28
Deposits	\$	<u>44,898.00</u>
Sub Total	\$	57,235.28
Less Expenditure	-\$	41,745.88
Balance as per Bank Statement at 30th June 2017	\$	15,489.40

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 Treasurer.

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



BYRON GROVES
1 Messmate Court
Mount Martha 3934
Tel. 0488 532 821