

Mornington Peninsula Schools



Environment Week Annual Report 2018



**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

BHP



Bendigo Bank
Bigger than a bank.

class focus
WEBSITES FOR SCHOOLS



**Animalia
Fishcare
SPIFFA
Birdlife
Barista Bros
Zoos Victoria
Mornington SC
Tumbleweed**

**Save Tootgarook Swamp
Friends of the Hooded Plover
Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
Rotary Mt Martha
Holmesglen Institute
Red Hill District Lions
Balcombe Grammar
Beach Patrol Dromana
Worm Affair P/L**

**CFA Mt Martha
Replas
BERG MM
National Trust
Mt Eliza Lions
Western Port SC
Mt Eliza SC
Mr Fothergills**

President's Report

This year signified the 35th year of the Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week.

E Week continues to provide meaningful experiences to schools in our local region using a proven but dynamic model that links environmental themes to relevant curriculum priorities. The 2018 education experience attracted about 2000 school children over four days, based again at The Briars. Some 70 presenters kindly contributed to the experience plus at least 20 volunteers. Exhibitors and volunteers were ably supported by valued input from secondary schools, Holmesglen TAFE plus entertaining lunchtime musicians.

Once again, we acknowledge the Mornington Peninsula Shire for its major sponsorship, venue and staff assistance. The Briars team again excelled in site preparation, delivery, safety and logistics. Major 'gold' sponsors include Bluescope Steel, Esso Australia & BHP Billiton, Mornington Peninsula Bendigo Banks, and Grand Hotel with various financial and in-kind contributions from other 'silver' sponsors. The concerted input and extra monitoring by Coulsons marquee hire should also be acknowledged.

Feedback from schools was very positive, with particular compliment to the venue, organisation, and diversity of learning using themes spanning both natural and cultural environmental sustainability. Comments were productive with sentiments mentioning the experience as 'great organisation', 'excellent activities', 'valuable and inspiring' as well as 'fun'.

Special acknowledgment must be attributed to the hard-working E week Committee. In particular we pay tribute to Heather Tytler as Executive Officer who again provided tireless effort, organisation and detail to all aspects of the event. Jenny Selby as Treasurer is acknowledged for her commitment and monitoring of event finances, also oversight of catering.

We welcome any input pertaining to the event's current and future position. A particular invitation exists to further expand numbers of both schools plus presenters.

Thank you to all stakeholders within the E Week team for this year's success.

Ian Stevenson

President

Treasurer's Report

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Approximately 2000 students attended the 2018 Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week.

Thank you to the sponsors, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Esso, Bluescope Steel, The Grand Hotel, Hillview Quarries and local Bendigo Bank branches, who collectively contributed \$25,000. This guaranteed the delivery of high quality educational programs.

Thank you also to businesses, such as Natural Events and Driver Coastal, who provided partial sponsorship by offering discounted services, Class Focus Websites for Schools for sponsoring our website and South East Water that provided the hydration station at no cost.

The event could not be held without the support of volunteers and voluntary clubs such as Mt Eliza Lions Club (Traffic Management), BERG Mt Martha, SPIFFA, Friends of The Hooded Plover, CFA, Animalia, Landcare, Fishcare and Birdlife Mornington Peninsula.

The contribution provided by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and The Briars staff during and leading up to Environment Week was greatly appreciated.

This year the cost of providing Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment week increased compared to 2017, while income reduced.

Financial statement for 2017-2018 Financial Year

		2018	2017
Income	Sponsorship	\$25,000	\$27,400
	School Payments	\$16,755	\$17,489
Expenditure		\$50,585.79	\$41,745.88

The bank balance is down by \$8830.79 from June 30th 2017

Three payments totalling \$3,710 were debts applicable for the 2017 Event.

(Rotary Club, \$300, Dolphin Research, \$660 and Swinburne University-Prime Science, \$2750) which falsely impacted the 2017/2018 balances

Consequently the correct financial loss on 2018 event is \$5120.79.

No payments are outstanding.

Program presenters' fees, payment of Executive Officer and all other expenditure met or were below budget expectations.

Approximately 50% of expenditure is incurred by costs associated with facilities.

Payment of \$895 in 2018 for Public Liability Insurance costs were excess to the partial payment included in the 2016-2017 financial year. Consequently there will be an increased insurance expenditure of over \$1000 in 2019.

The next financial year 2017-2018 commences with a much reduced bank balance. Without a commitment to increase the sponsorship, reduce costs, and increase our student involvement, the 2019 event is at risk of a financial loss in excess of the ability to meet financial commitments. If an occurrence such as inclement weather causes schools to withdraw, income would be severely compromised.

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)
30th June 2018

Executive Officer Report

Schools Environment Week 2018 was held at The Briars from Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd March 2018. The event was attended by 29 groups from primary schools, kindergartens and childcare groups. There were 2005 students booked in and about 1930 who attended. Each day we had about

70 presenters and 20 volunteers providing the programs and assisting with the organisation of the event. We also had 25-30 students from local secondary schools assisting in the Expo Paddock and providing lunchtime entertainment.

Briars Programs

These programs are designed to showcase the many aspects of The Briars so the programs are built around its resources. We had four in depth programs operating this year which were again linked to the Victorian Curriculum:

Indigenous Connection to Country

Thanks to Erin Pennett, ATSI Community Development Officer and her team from the Warringinee Group for organising this fabulous program which was fully booked.

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

Cultured Kids: Peninsula local indigenous man Lionel Lauch shared his extensive knowledge of local food and fibre plants and woodlands wetlands flora as well as demonstrating aboriginal artefacts.

Briars Homestead Heritage

This was the second year of this program with two activities organised by groups from The Briars and set in the Homestead and its gardens

In the Olden Days presented by the National Trust: The Mornington Peninsula National Trust helped children understand the history of the homestead and its owners and compared of life in the period of The Briars Homestead and today. Children toured the homestead and took part in activities to find out more about life in the olden days.

Heritage Supermarket presented by Homestead Gardens Volunteers: Thanks to Cherie Leeden from The Briars Homestead Gardens volunteers for all her hard work in running this program. 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/Wetlands Habitat and Creatures

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

Birdlife@ The Briars: Birdlife Australia did a great job in the Checkingurk Birdhide with children identifying wetlands birds, their characteristics and behaviours.

Wetlands Health: Thanks to BERG volunteers who assisted children to learn about macro invertebrates and the indicators of waterway health

Sustainable Living @ the Eco Living Centre

Waste Warriors – Thanks to Michelle McReady Climate Change community Engagement Officer from the Shire for organising this program. 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.

Expo Paddock

There were twenty-two activities in the Expo Paddock this year with lots of choices for the students on many different environmental and sustainability subjects. Andrew Wegener's Australian Wildlife, Woollies Fruit and Veg, Dolphin Research and Bunnings Veggie Patch were the most attended and favoured activities but all activities received a satisfaction score average of 3.6 – 5. The new activities this year were When Balloons Fly Seabirds Die (Zoos Victoria), Environmental Games from Holmesglen TAFE, Beach Patrol Dromana and Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. All these fitted in well with the expectations of the Expo Paddock and provided interactive activities. With so many activities

to choose from there were very few queues and a number of activities adopted the practice of a sign saying come back in 5 minutes so they weren't inundated in the middle of a presentation.

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 the Holmesglen Students assisted by explaining how soft plastics can be recycled to make outdoor furniture, bollards and boardwalks.

Water for Our future by Local Secondary Colleges gave children an insight into the water cycle and saving water. Thanks to Helen Smith from Western Port SC for organizing the displays and program. Thanks also to Western Port SC, Mt Eliza SC, Mornington SC and Balcombe GS for presenting in this marquee and teaching the students about water and water saving ideas.

Waste Wise with Solo Thanks to Rebecca McKeown from Solo and Amy Yang the MPS Waste and Litter Education Officer for stepping in at the last minute. 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.

When Balloons Fly Seabirds Die This initiative by Zoos Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks is building awareness of what happens to balloons when they are released. When they are used outdoors they end up in waterways and oceans, harming precious wildlife. We highlight the dangers of balloons & the fun of alternatives, such as bubbles

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

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.

Plants of our Country - Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Students learnt about indigenous plants and bush foods and planted an indigenous, drought tolerant plant to take home. They also learnt about indigenous culture and artefacts.

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.

Frogs of Victoria: Thanks to Norman McKinlay for organising the display of frogs, Peninsula frog call audio and teaching the children about frogs of Mornington Peninsula and how frogs are an indicator of habitat health.

Dolphin Research Institute - I Sea I Care

Students participated in a dolphin fin ID activity and check out the bones and baleen. They also learnt about the I Sea I Care school ambassador program

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

Holmesglen Institute students conducted a variety of games & activities to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment. These could be used back at school.

Beach Patrol Initiative Dromana, Safety Beach, Rye & Tootgarook Beach Patrol groups, through the power of local resident members and community spirit, are helping to clean the beaches of Port Phillip Bay. The students had fun participating in a beach cleaning activity and learning about this local group.

Sponsorship

Schools Environment Week received great support from the Shire. It was the major sponsor. We also had a number of Gold Sponsors – Bendigo Bank, Bluescope, Esso BHP and the Grand Hotel. Hillview Quarries was a silver sponsor. Some sponsorship was allocated to specific programs or activities. However, Bluescope and Shire funds were used to pay for the facilities.

Many other groups and organisations sponsor the event through reducing their costs and providing staff for the activities. A special mention must be made of the Shire's Warringineer Group and Eco Living Centre team for their support in running programs. E Week also wouldn't survive without South East Water provision of the Hydration Station, Solo's last minute assistance with the recycling activities, Oasis Horticulture for their seedlings and Driver Coastal providing a shuttle bus and reduced cost to pick up the secondary helpers and bands.

Parking:

The new area for parking worked quite well. Thanks to Mount Eliza Lions for donating their time to ensure that the traffic flowed smoothly. Thanks also to the volunteers who assisted with bus arrivals and departures. Having three people on arrivals ensured that there was no problem with using the one narrow entrance bridge

Feedback:

This year we had more schools complete the evaluation than the past couple of years with 21 teachers responding. 14 presenters also took the time to respond. All evaluations and anecdotal feedback was positive and encouraging. Overall, this indicates that E Week 2018 was a great success.

Heather Tytler
(Executive Officer)

2017-2018 Committee

Thanks the MPSEW Committee for all their hard work.

Ian Stevenson: President

Heather Tytler: Executive Officer/Secretary

Sue Brabender: Briars Rep

Bo Bruce Ballam Park PS

Rebecca Levy: Manager The Briars

Jenny Selby: Treasurer

David Street Facilities Manager

Helen Smith: Western Port SC

Frankie Curtis: Mornington Park PS

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balcombe Grammar

Dromana PS

Mornington Park
PS

Osborne PS

Ballam Park

Eastbourne PS

Our Lady of Fatima

Somerville Rise PS

Balnarring PS

Frankston PS

Peninsula SDS

St Josephs Crib Point

Benton JC

Hastings PS

Rosebud PS

St Judes Langwarrin

Boneo PS

Kunyang PS

Rye PS

Tootgarook PS

Crib Point PS

Moorooduc PS

Somers PS

Pre Schools

Cricklewood

Mt Eliza

Sorrento

South Mornington

Little Gardeners

Catering

Thanks to Colin Stokes and the Mt Martha Rotary for cooking the barbecues for the presenters and volunteers. I would like to say a huge thank you to Jenny Selby and her team for organising the delicious lunches. Thanks also to Paul and Paula Josephson for bringing along their coffee cart.

Entertainment

Monday – Western Port SC band under the leadership of Stuart Miller

Tuesday – Balcombe Music Groups organised by Natalie Kurelja

Wednesday – Mornington SC Band under the leadership of Peter Southam

Thursday – Local entertainer Paul Dillon

Volunteers

Thank you to the following individuals and organisations for their assistance throughout the week. A special thank you to Allan Pullen and his students from Holmesglen TAFE who did a fantastic job throughout the week. It is wonderful to have so much support for the event:

Animalia

Balcombe Estuary Reserve Group Mt Martha

Balcombe Grammar

Birdlife Mornington Peninsula

Briars Heritage Garden Volunteer Cherie

Leeden

Bunnings Mornington, Hastings, Rosebud

Cranbourne Botanical Gardens

Fishcare Mornington Peninsula & Westernport

Friends of the Hooded Plover

Friends of Tootgarook Swamp

Holmesglen Institute students

Mornington Secondary College

Mount Martha CFA

Mount Eliza Secondary College

Western Port Secondary College

Replas

Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and
Fauna Ass

Beach Patrol Dromana

Woolworths

National Trust Mornington Peninsula

Pam McKenzie – photography & buses

Zoos Victoria

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

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Administration	\$ 210.89	Schools Fees	\$ 16,755.00
Catering	\$ 1,568.04	Sponsors	\$ 25,000.00
Executive Officer	\$ 4,650.00		
Facilities	\$ 24,725.00		
Insurance	\$ 895.00		
Plants & Materials	\$ 282.86		
Presenters	\$ 17,765.00		
Transport	\$ 489.00		
Total	\$ 50,585.79	Total	\$ 41,755.00

Bank Reconciliation of General Account

Cash Book & Bank Statement Balance as at 1st July 2017	\$ 15,489.40
Deposits	\$ 41,755.00
Sub Total	\$ 57,244.40
Less Expenditure	\$ 50,585.79
Balance as per Bank Statement at 30th June 2018	\$ 6,658.61

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
Mobile 0488 532 821

12/7/2018