

**Mornington Peninsula
Schools Environment Week
Annual Report
2009**



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

President's Report

It is with great disappointment that I report on the cancellation of the annual Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week (MPSEV) for 2009. This is the first time, to my knowledge, that the event has been cancelled. However, the extreme fire risk prevailing prior to the cancellation of the week's activities, scheduled from the 16th to 20th March, necessitated the unanimous decision by the committee to cancel the event. It has since been determined by the committee that the MPSEV is to be held towards the end of April – a time when the fire risk associated with the venue is likely to be significantly reduced. In 2010, MPSEV will be held from 19th to 23rd April.

In spite of this setback, the committee has undertaken a number of new initiatives to ensure the event remains relevant and caters for the needs of schools and students on the Mornington Peninsula. These include the development of a website and the inclusion of a renewable energy competition for primary and pre-school students. We have also been successful in recruiting a number of interested teachers who will hopefully join our team and instil more ideas to the already exciting program.

Congratulations to Bob Brady and Terry Langley for utilising the 'free tree' distribution for children in bushfire affected areas. This was a great initiative that undertaken on behalf of our committee.

This year we bid farewell to our long-serving executive officer, Robyn Tell. For many years Robyn has organised many of the details that make this event such a success. On behalf of the MPSEV Committee, I thank Robyn for her outstanding work over many years.

With Robyn's parting, we welcome Heather Tytler, to the Executive Officer position. Heather is a long-standing committee member who has a strong understanding of the Environment Week experience. As a retired teacher with excellent organisational skills, Heather brings a new, re-energised approach to the work of the MPSEV. Already, we have seen Heather's impact in a number of ways and I look forward to her continuing influence.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Wayne Whitworth, for his contribution to the MPSEV over a period of five years – three as President. I look forward to continuing his fine work.

I congratulate the members of the committee who have, over the years, been the backbone of the group. Their continued contribution ensures the ideals which influenced the initial environment week continue to be pursued.

Finally, I thank our sponsors who have continued to support the endeavours of the MPSEV. We look forward to Environment Week in 2010.

Silvio Vitale
President

Free Trees Report

This Year's Free Tree Issue was quite successful though not proving quite as popular as the past few years. Whilst mid-March is a little early for the event, two factors contributed greatly to the reduced resident response.

- The Shire twice delayed the issue of "Peninsula Wide" with details of the free tree issue until after the event. "Peninsula Wide" goes to every household in the Shire so we lost our major advertising component.
- Bluescope free trees signs were not erected due to communication issues.

We did get publicity in three local newspapers, Coffee Shop News, school newsletters, signs in shop windows, shopping centres etc.

Youth Enterprises once again provided a wide variety of native grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees, all of excellent quality. We contract Youth Enterprises to grow 10,000 plants but they actually grow 12,800. This year we had approximately 3,500 plants left over. Several schools and garden groups took up some of these, some went to children in the Gippsland Bushfire Areas and we also distributed 2000+ to communities in the Bushfire areas through Gippsland Rotary Clubs.

It is pleasing to note the 2010 event will be held in mid-April.

Bob Brady
(Coordinator)

Treasurer's Report

Due to the cancellation of the event, expenditure was largely confined to meeting costs, the free tree issue and necessary administrative requirements. Some sponsorship monies were returned as a demonstration of good faith and in the expectation that we will enjoy ongoing support from the Mornington Shire and Bluescope Steel. Hillview Quarries has been a regular donor and we appreciate its contribution over the years. Following on the excellent work of Robyn Tell, our new Executive Officer Heather Tytler is vigorously pursuing other sources of financial support. Keeping school contributions to a minimum but also providing exciting and relevant programs will be a continuing challenge.

John Pearson

Treasurer

2008-2009 Committee Report

The 2008-2009 Committee worked very hard planning a great week of activities for 2009 Environment Week.

Julia Pickwick did a great job organising the Briars programs. The three programs were fully booked:

Woodlands: Woodlands Walk, Water Watch and Environmental Games

Wetlands: Murrindindi, Visitors Centre and Dolphin Research Institute

Sustainability: Waste Activities, Tree Planting and Envirocom Energy Activities

Robyn Tell skillfully coordinated the many activities in the Expo Paddock. Activities that were set to run were: Rain Haine and Shine Animal Farm, Andrew Wegener Wildlife, Bluescope Steel Display, Bunnings Recycle Art, CFA, Pure Peninsula Honey, Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, Safeway Fruit Tasting, Horticultural Tent, Go for your Life, Reverse Art, Wildlife Awareness and Mornington Environment Group Solar Display. Our Planet Enterprises were booked to do their Cloudia Raindrop show over the lunch break.

After much thought and debate we regretfully cancelled Environment Week two weeks before the event. Robyn Tell and the committee contacted all presenters and schools to inform them of our decision. All presenters and schools were very understanding and we were not charged for the cancellations. All Expo Paddock presenters from 2009 have committed to presenting in 2010 and we have a number of new presenters that will come on board for 2010 as well.

As the 2009 Environment Week was cancelled we have returned funds to most sponsors. We thank them for their support and hope that they will continue to support us in the future.

Thank you to our major sponsor Mornington Peninsula Shire which has supported us for many years both financially and with venue and personnel. Although some of their funds for the week were returned, they still sponsored Free Trees.

I would like to thank the 2008 – 2009 Committee for their hard work and dedication and their support of the very difficult decision to postpone, and then cancel 2009 Environment Week. I would especially like to thank Robyn Tell for her many years of service to Environment Week. I know I have big shoes to fill and I wish her well in her new venture.

Heather Tytler

Executive Officer

Executive:

Silvio Vitale

Claire Nagengast

John Pearson

Wayne Whitworth

Heather Tytler

Robyn Tell

President/Public Officer

Vice President

Treasurer/Secretary

Immediate Past President

Executive Officer

Executive Officer until March 2009

Committee Members:

Heather Tytler

Terry Langley

Julia Pickwick

Bruce Rayment

Suzanne Litchfield

Jenny Selby

Lynne Dickens

Auditor:

Byron Groves