

Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week Annual Report 2010



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

Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week Committee

Wish to gratefully acknowledge the generous support and sponsorship of the following organisations:



Bunnings Mornington



MORNINGTON PENINSULA ALPACA BREEDERS



Renewable Future

- Oasis Seedlings
- Merricks Native Nursery
- S-P Tubes Pty Ltd
- Diggers Club
- Hermitage Nursery
- Bangalay Tube Stock

Desalination Project

- Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises
- Tall Trees Nursery
- Mornington Garden Supplies
- Romantic Plants
- Austplant Native Nursery

MPWP Biosphere

President's Report

Following the cancellation of the Mornington Peninsula School's Environment Week (MPSEW) in 2009 due to extreme weather, it was very satisfying to successfully implement the program in 2010. Our vision of, *'Connecting our children to their environment and creating a sustainable future'* encapsulates our belief that schools play an important role in preparing our children for a responsible adult life that includes consideration and care of the environment. MPSEW has been supporting schools in their endeavours since 1983, when the first Environment Week was held.

This year, MPSEW was held at the Briars Historical Park from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd April – a later date to minimise the potential of cancellation due to extreme weather. Approximately 3000 students from thirty-five schools and pre-schools took part in a broad range of activities as part of the four programs offered: Wetlands, Woodlands, Sustainability and the Expo Paddock.

The Briars team: Julia Pickwick, Gary Fox and Steve Yorke, are to be congratulated for their excellent work with the Wetlands, Woodlands and Sustainability Programs. These programs catered for 467, 545 and 550 students respectively and constitute the core elements of the program offered throughout the week. Students learned to identify local plants and birds; gain a better understanding of Aboriginal Culture and appreciate the importance of the water health of the Balcombe Estuary. Thanks also to the organisations that supported this component of the program: Dolphin Research Institute; Gidja Walker from SPIFFA; Bea Edwards – local elder from Bunurong / Boon wurrung people; Rosebud TAFE students and Envirocom. These programs were ably supported by volunteers from Chisholm Institute Rosebud and Green Jobs. In particular, I take this opportunity to thank Julia Pickwick for her outstanding work as a member of the MPSEW Committee and key organiser of the Briars Program. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the environmental cause provides a great role model for all. We wish Julia well as she leaves to take on a new role as Education Officer at Wilson's Promontory.

The Expo Paddock program offered many opportunities for children to 'connect' with a range of mainly hands-on activities. The activities included Horticulture; Environmental Craft using recycled materials; Gumnut Art and much more. Thanks to the many organisations that made this aspect of the program such a great success, including the students from Westernport Secondary College who helped out in many of the activities.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire and Bluescope Steel continue to be major sponsors for the program. Other valued supporters include Woolworths, Bunnings and Coulson Party Hire. I thank all supporters of the program for their contributions in the form of direct funding, personnel and materials.

Thanks to all who contributed to making it a success throughout the week. In particular, Heather Tytler, Bruce Rayment, Terry Langley, Bob Brady, Chris Hackett and John Pearson, who controlled operations for the week.

The shire-sponsored Free Trees program was well supported by our sponsors and managed by Terry Langley and Bob Brady. Through their efforts this was once again a successful part of the MPSEW event.

This year has also seen the development of our website www.morningtoneweek.com.au. This has been a wonderful initiative that will provide a portal for schools and other organisation to access

information about MPSEW. Congratulations to Heather Tytler for her work in getting this initiative off the ground and also to Class Media for their development and sponsorship of the site.

As well as the development of a 'vision' of *'Connecting our children to their environment and creating a sustainable future'*, the committee also developed a set of 'guiding principles' that will ensure MPSEW continues to reflect its true purpose over the years. Both the 'vision' and 'guiding principles' are available from the website.

Finally, I would like to thank the MPSEW Committee for their terrific work in bringing to fruition the stated vision and giving the children of the Mornington Peninsula the opportunity to learn more about their local environment and culture. Whilst the committee involves many people from various organisations, it's important to recognise the work of a number of key members. As Executive Officer, Heather has undertaken the main coordinating role for the program. Her organisational and communication skills have been crucial to the on-going development and implementation of MPSEW in 2010. John Pearson, as treasurer, has ensured all financial matters were dealt with expeditiously and the committee was in a sound financial position.

As the MPSEW continues to evolve, I believe further efforts need to be made to ensure local schools are 'connected' to the work of the MPSEW Committee. Many schools on the Mornington Peninsula have established 'Sustainability' teams and a 'Sustainability Network' has emerged from schools' endeavours to become 'five star' schools. It's important to utilise these networks to ensure MPSEW remains relevant to the needs of local schools and their students.

Silvio Vitale
President

Executive Officer Report

Environment Week was expanded this year with more activities in the Environment Program now referred to as the Expo Paddock. There were 23 activities set up in the bull paddock providing a broad range of activities to engage, inform and inspire students and promote active dialogue about sustainable practices in the environment. Mornington Peninsula Alpaca Association, Rain Hayne and Shine Animal Farm, Bluescope Steel, Bunnings, Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, CFA, horticulture activities, Woolworths fruit tasting, Pure Peninsula Honey and Fishcare have been involved in E Week for a number of years and continue to provide stimulating activities that are always popular with the students. This year also saw the return of Melbourne Water's Baan Education Trailer and Parks Victoria. New activities this year were WHOMP Wildlife Rescue display, Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere, South East Water Quiz, Clean Ocean Foundation, Renewable Future Solar display and Aquasure Desalination Project. The last two caused some lively debate as they have such opposing views. Many of the Expo Paddock programs had assistance from Western Port Secondary College students. There were approximately 40 students each day with two teachers supervising. There were wonderful comments about their assistance and behaviour from both teachers and presenters. Thanks to Tanya Blanch and the other teachers for their organisation. Thanks also to the students for their invaluable assistance.

This year we also trialled some timetabled activities in the Expo Paddock with Bureau of Meteorology, CERES Energy Trailer, Deep Blue Sea Marine education and the Port of Melbourne Authority. These activities were well received although the Bureau of Meteorology needs to be timetabled on a day when older students are more prevalent. Some teachers missed out on their timetabled sessions because they didn't read their booking form fully and there were a number of gaps in the timetable which were just filled on the day. This needs further thought by the committee.

The Briars Programs were excellent this year with Julia Pickwick doing a great job in her first and only year as coordinator. Most programs were fully booked with an average of 65 students in each session. Approximately 1560 students participated in the three programs over the four days and feedback from presenters and students was very positive. Chisholm students and Green Jobs who assisted with these programs received high praise from all quarters. There were 20 Chisholm and 15 Green Jobs volunteers each day and we thank them and their supervisors for their involvement. Briars staff members continue to be a great support to these programs so many thanks to them all, especially Julia, Gary Fox, Steve Yorke and Matt Patterson for coordinating.

Lunchtime Entertainment had a new look this year due to the increased costs of employing professional shows. On Monday we had the Official Opening by Rob Gell, Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony performed by Bea Edwards followed by Didgeridoo Performance and Dancing. This was well received by the students and teachers but was shortened due to the Mayoral Awards. Recommendation would be to put the awards on another day so that the Opening Day would have more performance time. Other performances during the week were Taiko Drums from Western Port SC, Mornington SC Concert Band and Frankston Police Band 3199. Most performances had the children up dancing, especially the 3199 Band. Thank you too all performers and organisations who assisted with the entertainment.

Evaluation by teachers was mostly very positive. Only 18 out of 36 participating schools returned their evaluations. I hope we can work out a way to get a better response next year. Comments will be used to guide our planning for 2011. All presenter evaluation was very positive. Feedback from parents and teachers during the week indicated that 2010 Environment Week was very successful. I would like to thank the committee, especially John Pearson for their guidance and support during my first year in this role

Heather Tytler
Executive Officer

Treasurer's Report

As at 20th July as I write this report, I am still awaiting payments from 2 schools. Despite the best efforts of our executive officer, invoices have somehow been 'swallowed up' in many school's e-mail systems. Honouring our financial commitments is obviously essential and it is embarrassing to have to go 'into the red' because of tardy payments from educational institutions. We will endeavour to correct this situation next year by sending invoices directly to the bursar/business manager of the school.

As we have expanded the program this year, presenter's costs have increased significantly as have marquee hire expenses thus stretching finances to the limit. Numbers attending also dropped slightly from previous years. Therefore, as we proceed to plan for 2011, the program's viability will depend upon pursuing all financial options available to us. Sponsorship - in dollars and in kind - has remained stable over the years and we sincerely thank all the organizations and individuals who have supported the Committee in presenting Environment Week, especially the recent support of the Bittern Sunday Market and our continuing long term major sponsors, Mornington Shire and Bluescope Steel.

Congratulations to Heather Tytler for her proactive work in establishing our web site and for her faultless organizational skills. Under Silvio Vitale's leadership the committee has revitalised the program and I am sure that Environment Week 2011 will be just as successful. My personal thanks to Byron Groves, our Honorary Auditor, who as a Mt Martha Rotarian, donates his services.

John Pearson (Treasurer)

Facilities Report

1. A thank you letter to Peter Barker (the farmer who uses the bull paddock) would be a good gesture from the Committee.
2. It was good luck that the Briars had so much mulch on hand and were willing to have it used for Environment Week. It was also most fortunate that Kevin Gibson was willing and able to use the Briar's tractor, with the front-end loader, to help distribute the material. There is no guarantee that next year the Briars will have enough material on hand or that they will have a person/s to distribute the material.
3. The contractor who pumped out the toilets backed into one of the Briars young elm trees. Steve Yorke has examined the tree and found that the roots have been damaged and that it would never be a strong tree. Therefore he will have to replace the tree which is most unfortunate since it is about 7 years old and had just started to establish itself, the replacement will now be that much further behind the other new trees in that area. I think that the Committee should at least pay for the replacement tree.
4. Coulsons supply of marquees was really tested this year. They no longer have enough 'small' marquees as per the presenters' requests; in several cases larger marquees were provided. This was somewhat of a problem in the Woodlands and Wetlands areas as there was not really the room to place the larger marquees. Next year closer communications with Coulsons should identify the places where 'small' marquees are really needed and where marquees larger than the presenters requests will have to be provided. This may be an issue for spacing of the marquees within the paddock.
5. The supply and emptying of the rubbish and recycle bins went well this year.
6. Tony Manfre from Coulsons pointed out that the placement of the stage/soundshell was probably the best place in that area since it was the most level space.
7. Parking in general went well with the exception of the Visitors Centre area where several presenters, parents and Chisholm students felt that they were special circumstances and would have left no room for the Briar's visitors.
8. Some more imagination should go into the location of the coffee cart and the alpacas next year so that neither is disadvantaged or exposed to the elements too much.
9. About 6 rolls of the red and white flagging tape should be on hand for wrapping the marquee guy ropes and other situations which may arise.
10. Several of the picnic tables used in the dining tent have boards which need replacement, it would be a nice gesture if the Committee were to offer to pay for the timber to repair the tables.
11. Cleaning of the toilets – there seemed to be some communication problem between the contracting company and the people who actually do the cleaning. Greater effort needs to be expended to identify what hand towels and what toilet paper is used in the toilets far enough ahead so the cleaners can get in supplies. We have had several variations in the last few times.
12. Toilets – The arrival and installation of the toilets went well this year. The pumping out of the toilets went well except for the damaged tree. There was an issue with the water which collected just in front of the 'Ladies', this was rectified by the quick addition of more mulch (this could be reduced by having a longer drain hose to the drinking cart). Unfortunately the removal of the toilet

block was a real shambles because of the wet conditions. Fortunately Gary Fox was on hand when they came to remove the toilets and was able to use the tractor to help extract them. I have spoken with Steve Yorke and he may be agreeable to installing a gravel track from the Visitor Centre car-park up beside the toilets with a suitable removable bollard to be used by the delivery truck and the pumping truck. There would have to be a thin layer of grass grown over the gravel because it is in the heritage area of the Park.

13. The horticultural sand pile was placed behind the marquee. This was awkward to access and did not leave room for fire vehicles to pass behind the marquee. The marquee placements next year should leave room for the sand pile between the marquees, for easier access and so as not to obstruct the space behind the marquees.

14. Coulsons again went out of their way to provide a quality service. We should try a little harder next year to identify when presenters want access to their marquees and communicated this to Coulsons. We should also identify when Coulsons want to remove which marquees and ensure that the presenters have removed all their material. There was a problem with the Bluescope marquee this year.

15. Julia Pickwick and the staff and volunteers at the Briars all went out of their way to ensure that everything went well. The willing assistance of Terry Langley and John Pearson was invaluable during the week.

16. There were some issues with the BBQ trailer which were at odds with promises.

Thank you again for the opportunity to come and play this year. Watching the drivers on the wet grass was very entertaining.

Chris Hackett

Free Tree Issue Report

This was our most successful plant issue for many years with over 90% clearance rate at each venue.

Once again Youth Enterprises provided a good variety of native plants, all of very good quality.

Key factors in the success of this year's Free Tree Issue:

- the time of year - being a month later than last year was a winner and this was further helped by good autumn rains.
- better publicity - a good article in the Shire newsletter and public notices and news articles in The Mail and The Independent spread the news far and wide.

The only change I would suggest for 2011 would be a change of venue for Western Port distribution. Mitre 10 in Main Street of Hastings would be my choice.

Bob Brady (coordinator)

Briars Report

The Wildlife Reserve and Kern Macarthur Wetlands of the Briars Park provided a wonderful natural setting for the Woodland, Wetland and Sustainability programs for Environment Week 2010. Each program consisted of three separate 40 minute activities and primary aged school groups rotated through the activities within an allotted time.

In the Wetland Program, students were treated to an overview of freshwater and marine ecosystems in workshops presented by educators from the Dolphin Research Institute and the Melbourne Water Waterwatch program while Briars staff oversaw Conservation and Land Management students from Chisholm TAFE presenting educational activities in the Briars Visitor Centre.

The TAFE students also devised and presented environmental games as part of the Woodland program. This program also featured SPIFFA president Gidja Walker and honorary Bunurong elder Bea Edwards who presented workshops on the natural and indigenous cultural values of the Mornington Peninsula.

Representatives from Envirocom ran activities on waste and energy in the Sustainability program and staff from the Shire Nursery helped participants plant a record 1700 shrubs, grasses and herbaceous species along Stockleys Creek in the planting activity. Participants from the Clean Ocean Foundation's National Green Jobs Corps ably assisted nursery staff with this activity.

All programs were extremely successful with excellent feedback received from teachers, parents, presenters and most importantly – the students with many going so far as to describe the event as the best Environment Week ever!

Julia Pickwick

2009-2010 Committee

Silvio Vitale, President
Heather Tytler, Executive Officer/Secretary
Julia Pickwick, Briars Rep
Jenny Selby
Heather Pulling
Bruce Rayment
Jenny Spiridis

Claire Nagengast, Vice President
John Pearson, Treasurer
Garrigue Pergl, Shire Rep
David Keystone
Terry Langley
Suzanne Litchfield
Laura Quigley

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balnarring	Frankston Heights	Mt Martha	Somerville Rise
Benton	Hastings	Osborne	Sorrento
Boneo	Karingal Heights	Red Hill	Tootgarook
Crib Point	Kunyang	Rye	Tyabb
Derinya	Mornington	Somers	Tyabb Railway
Dromana	Mt Eliza	Somerville	

Pre Schools

Beleura Hill	Mt Eliza	Mornington Park	Mt Martha
Padua	Sorrento		

Independent & Catholic

St Brendans	Woodleigh	Home School Group	
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Special Development Schools

Mornington	Naranga	Nepean	
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Volunteers

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped this year so successful

Western Port Secondary College Students

Adam Galvin	Dayna Carey	Justin Bourke	Nicole Pearce
Aimee Rietschel	Emily Monck	Justin Rowley	Pia Wadda-Francis
Alex Cooke	Erin Hurst	Katelyn Alkemade	Rachael Potter
Amanda Gardner	Georgia Cox	Kathleen Kelly	Rachel Long
Amy Street	Hannah Herbert	Katrina Neary	Rebecca Kelb
Angus Fowler	Hannah Swinnerton	Kaylah Abercrombie	Reilly Follett
Ashley Knowles	Haydn Rodd	Keisha Densley	Remi Harvey
Ashley Knowles	Hayley Whyte	Kellie Potter	Renee Owen
Ben Davis	Hayley Wright	Kelsey Johns	Rhiana Omond
Bethany Martyn	Jackson Cox	Kenny San	Robert Kupsch
Bianca Gibson	Jacob Coombe	Kieran Rogers	Robert Lucas
Bianca Gillon	Jacob Hogan	Kimberley Roberts	Ryan Parkinson
Bill Lemon	Jacob King	Kirstyn Kelly	Sam Grimme
Billy Kirkham	Jaimee Faithful	Kitlyn Bourke	Sam McDonnell
Bradley Henry	Jake Bromley	Kym Massari	Sam Wood
Brandon Dodd.	Jake Cornford	Lachlan Seymour	Samantha McCamish
Brendan Brown	James Holland-Burch	Lauren Walker	Samuel Evans
Brendan Reilly	James McCallum-	Lawton Sims	Samuel Hodic
Byron Vinson	Wilson	Liam O'Connor	Shae Soden
Cameron Lee-Archer	James Potter	Lisa Slivarich	Shannon Carton
Candice Horan	James Stanford	Mary-Ann Potter	Simon Perrot
Casey McDonnell	Janica Dillimore-	Matt Mitchell-Lacey	Stephen Williams
Catherine Runting	Knelange	Maxine Gigliotti	Tamara Reid
Catriona Shaw	Jarryd Lymer	Melissa Clarke	Tamina Zolj
Clare Casey	Jaryd Wetzel	Michael Colautti	Tayla Goold
Codey Palmer	Jayden Deas	Michael Easy	Teagan Ainslie
Connor Govan	Jaysen Bradshaw	Michael Knowles	Teile King
Connor Larter	Jesse Williams	Miranda Worcester	Tim Truong
Craig Dunn	Jessica Bourke	Mitchell Bell	Tom Sonneveld
Dane Anderson	Jessica O'Gradey	Molly Fergus	Tyler Winkler
Daniel Briggs	Jessica Runting	Monique Freeman-	Wade Delahaye
Daniel Grant	Jessie Lehmann	Wright	William Bricknall
Danielle Forbes	Jessie Reid	Nathen Smith	Zane Cargill
David McIntyre	Joseph Brady	Nicholas Lowe	Zed Gibson
	Joshua Wilkie		

Chisholm Conservation and Land Management Students and Teachers

Melanie Attard	Samuel Graham	Bradley Sutcliffe	Raymond Whitehead
Jessica Brain	Jessica Jones	Dean Vertigan	Billy Young
Christine Dempsey	Sarah Maclagan	Derek Walters	Barry Fraser
Beau Found	Simon Mulvany	Elyse White	Allan Pullen
Mark Gallienne	Jai Robertson	Joel White	

Green Jobs Volunteers

Anton Vigenser	Jack Martin	Jacinta Brown	Matt Walker
Cath Uto	Rebecca McEwan	Emilia Reed	Tamara Siddel
Pete Beddows	Bonnie Greenwood	Dylan Roughan	Mick Lever
Heidi Duell	Robert Lewis	Riki Stothfield	Shannon Ditchburn
Josh Hugget	Sem Alcoba		

Briars Programs

Julia Pickwick	Steve Yorke	Gary Fox	Gidja Walker
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Balcombe Estuary Regeneration Group (BERG) Volunteers

Jenny Rolleston	Barbara Thraves	Gayle O'Connor	Roo Rawlins
Hazel Athey	Harry Harris	Pam Heam	

Shire Nursery

Laura Crilly	Matthew Patterson	Tracey Lyon	Brandon Wasley
Sue Burrows	Tara Guddat	Phillip Tranter	Harley Was
David Cheyne	Rory McGonigle	Luke Dillon	Erryn McClintock
Kerry Eckenroth	Jane Knight	Jaala Purdie	Emily Sharp

Catering Staff

Carol Rayment	Ann Billington	Lorraine Stewart
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Expo Paddock Volunteers**Cranbourne Gardens**

Mick Robertson
Helen Matyr-Gogerley
David Lumb
Jacqui Winstanley
John Vince

Fishcare

Jeff Green
John Ridley
Wayne Taylor
Jenni Green

Desalination

Rosemary Swart
Karen Lee
Sian Conn
Ella Godbold
Alex Johnston
Sandra Del Monaco
Nicola Farrell

Mornington**Peninsula Alpaca Breeders**

Kathleen Hodgkin
Jonathan Hodgkin
Robyn Collett
Jean Daddo
David Daddo

Woolworths

Len Leaney
Bill Hughes
Bruce Rayment

Biosphere

Cecelia Witton
Janet Borley

Renewable Future

Dr Mark Fleming

Bunnings

Jenny Mann
Aaron Hunt
Tash Siemensma
Leanne Newman
Bluescope
Claire Nagengast
Kristy Beaglehole
& staff

Port of Melbourne

Lauren Lewis

South East Water

Penelope Lynch
Karen Borton

WHOMP

John Merrick
Belinda Grey
Erin Stidson

Parks Victoria

Julie Lieshout

Melbourne Water

Amy Weir

Horticulture Tent Volunteers

Bob Brady	Jan Griffiths
Terry Langley	Janet Groves
Heather Tytler	John Flack
Andrea Troutbeck	Kerri Lawry
Elaine Taylor	Les Brain

Lyn Prossor
Lyn Rawlings
Marita McKinnon
Morea Tessieri
Sue Darby

Sue Gibson
Jenny Selby
Phil Warwick
Tammy Windebank
(Bunnings)

Facilities

John Pearson	Chris Hackett	Kevin Gibson
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