

Mornington Peninsula Schools



Environment Week

Annual Report

2012



**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 2012



The Gippsland Basin Joint Venture



Mornington Flinders Meats **Guardian Pest Control**
Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises
Oasis Horticulture **Romantic Plants**
Merricks Nursery **Mornington Garden Supplies**
S-P Tubes Pty Ltd **Diggers Club**
Tall Trees **Progress Signs**

President's Report

The Mornington Peninsula School's Environment Week (MPSEW) in 2012 was, once again, an outstanding success. It is a great privilege to be involved in an event such as this – an event that commenced in 1983 and is now in its 30th year.

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: the importance of bio-diversity and its intrinsic influence on our health and wellbeing. Without a doubt, the enhanced environmental 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.

The MPSEW program was held at the Briars Historical Park from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd March involving almost 2500 students from various schools around the Mornington Peninsula. They participated in the broad range of activities offered by our Indigenous, Woodlands/Wetlands, Hands in the Dirt and Green Living Programs. The programs were honed further this year and were a great success. Congratulations to the Briars team and presenters for providing a program of such a high quality and, in particular, Jarrod Ruch for coordinating the various elements of the program.

The feedback comments were very positive. A small selection follows:

- It was excellent.
- The organisation of this event is outstanding. From the moment we get off the bus there is someone looking out for us to ensure the day runs smoothly.
- The indigenous program was especially good and we are most grateful to all the people who put so much effort into their presentations
- Hands in the Dirt program (was) relevant and presenters did a fantastic job
- I believe you are becoming more and more efficient
- Should be commended for excellent expo

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 Chisholm who helped out in many of the activities.

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. Thanks to the Mornington Peninsula Shire for their continued and substantial support. Other major sponsors include Esso BHP Billiton, Bluescope, Grand Hotel and Natural events. 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.

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: Bruce Rayment, Jennifer Selby, Jarrod Ruch, Nicci Tsernjavski, Garrique Pergl, Samantha Ackland, and Terry Langley. Thanks also to committee member and treasurer, David Keystone who has ensured we remain financially healthy and our executive officer, Heather Tytler, whose tireless efforts ensure the program is well-organised and faultlessly implemented. I thank the 28 schools that took out affiliation with the MPSEW – some of these schools, particularly the secondary colleges, have little to do with this event but recognise its importance to the children of the Mornington Peninsula.

Our continued endeavours to ensure local schools are 'connected' to the work of the MPSEW Committee should continue into the future.

Silvio Vitale (President)

Treasurer's Report

I assumed the role of Treasurer as of 25 August 2011. My personal thanks go to Heather Tytler, Executive Officer, and John Pearson, former Treasurer, for their assistance in making it as smooth a handover as possible.

I am pleased to report that Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week Committee was in a sound financial position for the financial year 2011-2012. Significant sponsorship funding was secured through the efforts of Heather Tytler. Major funding sponsors included Esso, Bluescope Steel, The Grand Hotel, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bendigo Bank, Birdlife Mornington, Guardian Pest Control, Driver Coastal and Bittern Market. Woolworths, Natural Events (composting toilet facilities) and Mornington Peninsula Meats donated goods and 'in kind' donations for which the committee was most grateful. 28 schools and educational institutions supported the committee's finances by contributing an affiliation fee. Students were charged at a rate of \$ 9 for a full day program and \$ 6 for a half day.

Lunchtime entertainment was a mix of paid and unpaid entertainers. The Mornington Secondary College Concert Band, the Police Band and an environmental band, Zucchini entertained participants.

An army of paid presenters and volunteer presenters showcased many rich and varied environmental activities for students. The Shire made a significant financial commitment by funding CERES. The services support of the Briar's staff during Environment Week and the weeks prior was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

The Schools Environmental Initiatives marquis proved popular and offered participating schools a unique opportunity for students to showcase their environmental and sustainable initiatives.

The next financial year commences with a healthy and robust credit. It is in the best interests of sustaining Mornington Peninsula Schools Environment Week that the committee is both vigilant 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 Rotary community commitments.

David Keystone (Treasurer)

Expo Paddock Report

There were many varied activities and displays on offer in the Expo Paddock this year. Many of our popular activities returned and some new ones were added. Our numbers were down on last year which meant that most days it was easier to get into popular activities. There were only 125 students on the Friday morning. If numbers are still down we may need to consider reducing the program to four days.

Andrew Wegener Wildlife was very well received with children having the opportunity to learn more about our native animals and handle some of the reptiles Andrew brought along. Children were also keen to learn more about the animals from the Rain Hayne and Shine farm and Deep Blue Sea Marine. Unfortunately the Mornington Alpacas were unable to join us this year due to Red Hill Show commitments.

Children were engaged in propagating and potting activities in the Horticulture and Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne marquee. I would like to thank Bob Brady and Terry Langley for their great work organizing the horticulture tent.

Bunnings again did their recycled art activity also adding a lucky dip activity which informed the children about the benefits of water crystals in saving water. Westernport Bluescope Steel gave children an insight into the water cycle and saving water as did the South East Water quiz.

Parks Victoria, CFA and Fishcare provided a better understanding of these organizations, how they help the environment and what each individual can do to make a difference.

Children also enjoyed the Woolworths marquee where they were given the opportunity to try many types of fruit and encouraged to eat fruit as part of a healthy diet. Busy Bees Honey showed their bee keeping skills and the honey making process.

Friends of the Hooded Plover returned for the second year, with more activities they required a larger marquee. The activities were provided by this group in conjunction with Birdlife Australia.

We were pleased to welcome some new activities this year. The Dunny Door project was part of the Natural Event composting toilets project with Frances assisting the children with designing and painting new “Dunny Doors” for the toilets. Denis Cox from Coastcare did a great job teaching the children about crabs and looking after our coasts. The Schools Initiatives marquee was also a new addition to the program. Students from Mornington, Mount Martha, St Macartan’s and Balnarring primary schools demonstrated the environmental initiatives at their schools. Thanks to teachers Lindsay Lockhart, Jenny Spiridis, Carmela Theobald and David Keystone 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.

Western Port Secondary College has provided great support to the program over many years. This year they brought 40 students per day on Monday, Thursday and Friday who assisted with activities in the Expo Paddock and some of the Briars programs. This was the second year that Rosebud Secondary College has assisted by bringing their Planet Pals to assist on Tuesday and Wednesday. We were also fortunate to have Frankston Chisholm students for the first time, assisting me with logistics and stepping in to assist with activities if needed.

Mayor Frank Martin officially opened the week at lunchtime on the Monday and then presented the Mayoral Awards to local schools for their environmental projects. Lunchtime entertainment was then provided by Mornington SC Concert Band. Zucchini were a great hit on the Tuesday but, unfortunately were unable to perform on Wednesday due to the inclement weather. Frankston Police Band 3199 performed over the lunch break on Thursday and had the children up dancing.

Evaluation by teachers and students indicated that they had an enjoyable day and were satisfied with all activities. Weather was an issue this year. After beautiful sunny weather on Monday and Tuesday it rained all day Wednesday. Most schools braved the weather and still had a great time at activities. Many students were ill prepared for the change of weather so some schools elected to leave at lunchtime. Next year we need to have a couple of spare marquees to shelter the children comfortably over the lunch break and students need to have raincoats on their list.

Thanks to the Mornington Peninsula Shire and all the other organizations, presenters and volunteers who helped to make the week a success. Without the financial and in kind support from the many businesses, community groups, schools and TAFE’s we would not be able to stage this event. Thanks especially to Jarrod Ruch and the Briars staff for all their hard work.

Heather Tytler (Executive Officer)

Briars Report

This year's Briars program had many changes which were successful in various ways. There were four aspects to the program this year; Woodland/ Wetlands – Our Catchment; Indigenous; Hands in the Dirt and Green Living.

Woodlands / Wetlands – Our catchment incorporated various sections with helpers mentioned. This year's focus was on the dynamic relationship between woodlands and wetlands and how flora and fauna live in and interact with these areas.

- Gidja Walker led the *Interactions in the Bush - woodland walk* talking about interactions in the bush, flora and fauna and how movement of water through the landscape affects all life in the bush. This took place on the woodland walk
- Birdlife Australia took the *Birds of the Wetlands* session in the second bird hide and talked about wetland birds and helping students to observe and identify species
- Melbourne Water took the *Water watch* session on the edge of the wetlands leading the students through identification of invertebrates in the wetlands waters and talking about the importance of keeping our waterways healthy

Indigenous This was a new expanded inclusion into the program which was very popular. It was led by local indigenous identities, Glenys Watts, Beryl Wilson, Uncle Lionel and Adam Magennis

- Glenys and Beryl led the *Past, Present and Future – Reconciliation* section which was held in the theaterette and included bush food tasting
- Adam led the *Stories of cultural connection to our land* – which was held in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Adam also called in other members of the indigenous community to take part in aspects of delivery of this program. Tool making and story telling with an emphasis on cultural connection.
- Uncle Lionel led *Traditional Harvest- food and fiber* which was also held in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Lionel showed students through the range of foods, plants, fiber and uses of local produce and how they are harvested.

Green Living – Our Sustainable Future was held up at the Eco Display Centre and ideas and solutions were presented for our transition to a cleaner, low energy future. Alternative energy, recycling, water saving, and housing initiatives. Nicci Tsernjavski and CERES led the programs.

- *Eco Living Display house* – Led by Nicci students were shown through the house and given alternatives to running a home showing technologies to save the planet at home.
- *Alternative Energy* – Led by CERES staff, students were shown technologies such as wind and solar energy and how they work
- *Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle* – CERES led this section and explained ideas around reducing consumption and choosing more sustainable options than our current modern throw away society has adopted

Hands in the Dirt – The concept of Hands in the Dirt is to give primary aged students a chance to get their hands dirty, plant local indigenous plants and gain an understanding of habitat restoration, see what lives in healthy organic soils, and to help students gain a better understanding of how food was grown in the past on a small scale, organically and primarily in the home garden, small plot. With massive overseas owned Agri-business dominating food production today, highly processed foods are the staple of most children's diets and with the rise of supermarket shopping, the connection between the soil and food is at an all time low. Many children are unaware of how food is grown, how to save seeds or even what truly fresh food tastes like. Seed to soil to plate.

- *Gardens of Food* – a wide range of community members helped with this program teaching kids in the Homestead Gardens about seeds and seed saving, and giving kids a chance at planting seeds and seedlings in the kitchen garden
- *Soils Alive* – David Keystone led this aspect in the Barn looking at compost under microscopes discovering how many creatures live in organic soils
- *Revegetation* – Led by Laura and Tara from the Nursery, students were given the chance to head out into the paddocks and wide open space to plant local provenance indigenous seedlings and making a connection between native plants and how this encourages local birds and animals.

This year TAFE students (40 in total) from both Rosebud (Conservation and Land Management) and Frankston (Event Management) were an enormous help in organizing groups of kids to move through from one Briars program to another. Clean Ocean Foundation also assisted with Briars programs helping facilitators with on the job chores. The help from these older TAFE students was a major reason for the smooth running of the Briars program, so they were very much appreciated.

Briars staff Josh Gunn helped with daily movement, organisation and assisting TAFE student with their work locations, Gerard Cook helped with movement of students from Busses and assisting with general running about, filling gaps etc. Again their help was extremely valuable and their time taken out of their normal duties at Warrengine was appreciated.

Jarrold Ruch (Briars Senior Ranger)

Facilities Report

We really missed our former facilities manager John Pearson this year. Jarrold and I shared the job and the week went smoothly except for some minor hiccups with the rain on Wednesday.

The Expo Paddock was well prepared and we only required a few patches of mulch to keep down the mud. The Briars staff again did an exceptional job preparing the Expo Paddock and mowing other areas for the Briars programs marquees. Coulsons set up earlier this year as they had many commitments the week prior to E Week. The only problem was that I should have been there to check positioning of some marquees as some were obscured by the large Hooded Plover marquee. Although all schools were given maps to distribute to their parents and staff it seemed that many groups didn't have them.. A couple of larger laminated maps placed strategically could remedy this next year. However, Coulsons did a great job erecting the marquees and providing all the chairs and trestles etc.

The Soundshell was erected in a much better position this year, closer to the entrance to the Expo Paddock. The lunchtime entertainment went smoothly except for the lack of clarity of the microphones for announcements. We need a bigger system next year. Audio Spectrum PA was hired for 2 days but perhaps we need to look at a system for the four days.

The Community Caravan was a blessing this year, especially with the bad weather on the Wednesday. It was sited outside the Expo Paddock which was a better option as the groups had to come past it on the way from the buses.

Rubbish bins, provided gratis by Nepean Waste, were well utilised and the grounds were generally litter free at the end of each day. With the rubbish free lunch suggestion there was a lot less rubbish and bins only needed emptying once during the week.

Paul Josephson (Coffee cart) again proved very popular with many adults requiring their caffeine fix to get through the day.

This year we had the composting toilets supplied by Natural Event. The company provided these at a below cost rate. Although some expressed initial trepidation at using dry composting toilets there were no problems (or odours) and were easy for the children to access and adults to supervise. Thanks also to South

East Water who provided the Hydration Station. We had some leakage issues with this but luckily the South East Water team were on hand to contact somebody to fix them.

Thanks to the Frankston Chisholm students, Jarrod and the Briars Staff and volunteers who helped the week run smoothly

Heather Tytler

Horticulture Report

We had seven potting activities available for school groups – flower seedlings, Vegetable seedlings, native seedlings, bean seed experiment, penstemon cuttings, bulbs and cottage plants. The children certainly seemed to enjoy these hands on activities carried out by community volunteers and students from Western Port and Rosebud secondary colleges.

Special thanks to the following for providing all the materials for these activities:

Oasis Horticulture P/L, Merricks Nursery, Tall Trees Nursery, S-P Tubes, Romantic Plants, Heather Tytler, Diggers Seeds, Mornington Garden Supplies, Mornington Youth Enterprises nursery and Debco (via Bunnings)

Bob Brady Coordinator

Free Trees Report

Mornington Youth Enterprises again provided very good quality plants for this year's event and they were distributed in Mornington, Hastings and Rosebud.

A wide variety of native trees, shrubs, ground covers and reeds/grasses were available for Shire residents. Each resident was able to choose two plants.

We did have one early setback to the event when Peninsula Wide printed the wrong dates for the event.

We tried to counter this with articles in local papers and notices in shops, tips, Shire offices etc but we were only partly successful.

The Peninsula Wide error did have a negative impact on take up.

We did, however, maintain quite good results with Mornington 90%, Hastings 70% and Rosebud 80% still distributing a large number of plants

Bob Brady Coordinator

2010-2011 Committee

President: Silvio Vitale
Executive Officer/Secretary: Heather Tytler
Briars Rep: Jarrod Ruch
Nicci Tsernjavski
Bruce Rayment

Vice President: Jenny Selby
Treasurer: David Keystone
Shire Rep: Garrique Pergl
Terry Langley
Samantha Ackland

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balnarring	Karingal Heights	Osborne	Sorrento
Baxter	Kunyang	Overport	Somerville
Benton College	Mt Eliza	Red Hill	Somerville Rise
Boneo	Mt Martha	Rosebud	Tootgarook
Dromana	Our Lady of Fatima	Somers	Tyabb
Frankston East			

Pre Schools

Beleura Hill	Mt Eliza	Mornington Park	Sorrento
Cricklewood			

Independent & Catholic

Woodleigh	Home School Group	The Peninsula School
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Special Development Schools

Mornington	Peninsula
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Affiliated Schools

Balnarring PS	Boneo PS	Carrum Downs SC	Crib Point PS
Derinya PS	Dromana SC	Eastbourne PS	Elizabeth Murdoch SC
Karingal Heights PS	Moorooduc PS	Mornington PS	Mornington SDS
Mornington SC	Mornington Park PS	Mt Eliza SC	Mt Eliza SC
Mount Erin SC	Mount Martha PS	Pearcedale PS	Peninsula SDS
Red Hill CS	Rye PS	Somers PS	Somers Camp
Tootgarook PS	Tyabb PS	Tyabb Railway PS	Western Port SC

Catering Staff:

Carol Rayment	Ann Daunton	Lorraine Hutsby
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Volunteer Organisations

Mt Martha & Mt Eliza CFA	Coastcare
Cranbourne Botanical Gardens	Fishcare
Friends of the Hooded Plover	Mornington Community Garden
Frankston Police Band 3199	Birdlife Australia
Balnarring PS	St Macartens PS
Mt Martha PS	Mornington PS
Mornington SC Concert Band	Western Port SC
Rosebud SC Planet Pals	Green Jobs
Chisholm Frankston	Chisholm Rosebud
Briars Volunteers	Shire Nursery Volunteers

Appendix Financial Statement 2012

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	\$		\$
Administration	437.95	Plant & Drink Sales	149.00
Catering	2,923.53	School Affiliations	3,150.00
Executive Officer	3,680.00	School Fees 2012	17,149.09
Facilities	14,830.00	School Fees 2011	1,130.00
Insurance	894.73	Shire reimbursement	3,910.00
Plants & Materials	253.21	Sponsors	25,750.00
Presenters	12,960.96		
Transport	705.00		
Total	36,685.38	Total	51,238.09

Bank Reconciliation of General Account	\$
Cash Book Balance as at 1st July 2011	816.10
Deposits	<u>51,238.09</u>
Sub Total	52,054.19
Less Expenditure	<u>- 36,685.38</u>
Balance as per Bank statement of 30th June 2012	<u><u>15,368.81</u></u>

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 Inc as presented to me by the Committee.

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

Byron Groves