

Mornington Peninsula Schools



Environment Week

Annual Report 2013



**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 2013



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA

The Gippsland Basin Joint Venture



**WESTERN
PORT**



**South East
Water**



Your **Community Bank®**



Nepean Waste
A Transpacific Industries Group Company

classfocus

**Driver
Coastal**



Woolworths
the fresh food people

**BUNNINGS
warehouse**

**Oceanview
Angus**



Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises

Oasis Horticulture

Merricks Nursery

Tall Trees

Mr Fothergills

Worm Affair P/L

Romantic Plants

Mornington Garden Supplies

Diggers Seeds

Tumbleweed

Progress Signs

President's Report

The Mornington Peninsula School's Environment Week (MPSEW) in 2013 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 moving beyond 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 and local culture: the importance of bio-diversity and its intrinsic influence on our health and wellbeing, as well as the cultural links associated with our local environment. Without a doubt, the enhanced environmental and cultural 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.

Our challenge remains in continuing a program that is responsive to the needs of schools on the Mornington Peninsula and maintain a link with schools through representation on the committee.

The MPSEW program was held at the Briars Historical Park from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March and involved 2400 students from various schools around the Mornington Peninsula who participated in the broad range of activities offered by our Indigenous, Woodlands/Wetlands, Hands in the Dirt and Green Living Programs. The programs continue to be fine-tuned with on-going improvements every year. Congratulations to the Briars team and presenters for providing a program of such high quality and, in particular, Jarrod Ruch for coordinating the various elements of the program.

Feedback comments were very positive. Most respondents just ticked the boxes and all gave at least 4 out of 5 score. A small selection of comments follows:

- Great organisation
- Thanks to committee for fantastic day and all the work you did.
- Roundhouse were an excellent young band

There was no result below a score of 4.

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 Rosebud, Dromana and Westernport Secondary Colleges. Thanks also the students from Chisholm Frankston, Dandenong and Rosebud who helped out in a number of ways.

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. 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.

We thank our affiliated schools for their on-going contribution and support.

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: Jennifer Selby, Jarrod Ruch, Nicci Tsernjavski, Garrique Pergl, Samantha Ackland, Michele McCready and Keith Lock, who took on the challenging role of facilities manager. Thanks also to committee member and treasurer, David Keystone who has actively sought further sponsorship support and ensured we remain financially healthy.

Congratulations and thanks to Heather Tytler for her amazing contribution as executive officer. Heather's tireless endeavours ensure the program is well-organised and faultlessly implemented.

We look forward to another successful MPSEW in 2014.

Silvio Vitale
President

Treasurer's Report 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

This is my second year of performing the duties of honorary Treasurer. I appreciate the support given by committee members, in particular, Heather Tytler (Executive Officer), Silvio Vitale (President) and Jarrod Ruch (Briars Ranger).

I am pleased to report that Mornington Peninsula Schools' Environment Week Committee was in a sound financial position for the financial year 2012-2013. Esso, Bluescope Steel, The Grand Hotel, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Bendigo Bank, Birdlife Mornington Peninsula and Bittern Market collectively contributed substantial funding that guaranteed the delivery of high quality environment and sustainability educational programs. Major funding sponsorship included Woolworths, Coulsons Tent Hire, Driver Coastal and Ben Hipkin of Oceanview Angus donated goods and 'in kind' donations for which the committee was most grateful. Students were charged at a rate of \$ 9 for their participation in 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 Frankston Police Band, Roundhouse and Marty Nelson-Williams, entertained Environment Week participants.

Numerous paid presenters and volunteer presenters showcased many rich and varied environmental activities for students. The services support provided by 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

Numbers of schools involved in Environment Week were down this year although numbers of students was only slightly down. This was mainly due to work bans placed on excursions by schools.

There were eighteen activities and displays on offer in the Expo Paddock this year.

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**

This year we had some changes with **Bunnings Sustainability** engaging children in potting up vegetable seedlings, and learning about worm farming and composting. These activities were excellent and very well received by students and teachers. Children also had the opportunity for propagating and potting activities in **the Red Hill Gardening Society Horticulture** activity. Samantha Blair from the Society did a fabulous job showing students varied propagation methods and organizing volunteers. I would also like to thank Bob Brady and Terry Langley once again for their great work organizing plants. The **Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne** was also popular with students making seed bombs.

Westernport Bluescope Steel gave children an insight into the water cycle and saving water as did the **South East Water** quiz.

CFA, Westernport Biosphere 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.

Friends of the Hooded Plover did an excellent job explaining the work they do to protect the endangered species. We also had a new activity with **Friends of Chinaman's Creek** explaining the work of friends groups and the ecology of the creek.

Another new activity was Sam Mitchell's **Crazy Bikes**. His contraptions peaked the curiosity of students.

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 and showing how the system works.

The **Schools Initiatives** marquee proved popular for the second year. Students from Red Hill CS, Osborne PS, St Macartan's and St Josephs Crib Point demonstrated the environmental initiatives at their schools.

Thanks to teachers, parents 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.

This year we had a separate **Human Powered Vehicle activity** with students and teachers from Mornington PS and Dromana SC showcasing their vehicles. For various reasons we were unable to get other schools involved.

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.

Cr Anne Shaw officially opened the week at lunchtime on the Monday. Lunchtime entertainment was then provided by **Mornington SC Concert Band**. **Marty Williams** were a great hit on the Tuesday as were the young group on Wednesday; **Roundhouse** from Rosebud SC. **Frankston Police Band 3199** performed over the lunch break on Thursday and had the children up dancing. The presenters and volunteers were well fed each day by Mt Martha Rotary with Woolworths and Oceanview Angus donating most of the food.

Evaluation by teachers indicated that they had an enjoyable day and were satisfied with all activities.

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 TAFEs 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)

Horticulture Report

With Red Hill Horticultural Society taking over the successful running of the Horticulture activities during E Week, my duties have involved sourcing and delivering the sands, pots, vegetable seedlings and trays of native seedlings. I have also been involved in setting up activities in the marquee on the Thursday, Friday and Monday.

Special thanks to Mornington Garden Supplies, Diggers Seeds, Oasis Horticulture, Mornington Youth Enterprises, Merricks Nursery and Tall Trees for providing all these materials and Debco for providing potting and seed raising mix

Bob Brady

Briars Report

This year's Briars program was again successful even though there were less school kids involved in the week overall. There were four aspects to the program again 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 again on the dynamic relationship between woodlands and wetlands and how flora and fauna live in and interact with these areas.

☐ Gidja Walker led the *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 in the Wildlife Sanctuary

☐ Birdlife Australia took the *Birds of the Wetlands* session in the second bird hide and talked about wetland birds and helped 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 led by local indigenous identities, Uncle Lionel and Adam Magennis

☐ Adam led the *Past, Present and Future – Reconciliation* section which was held in the theatrette and included bush food and damper tastings

☐ *Stories of cultural connection to our land* – which was held in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Adam 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 fibre* which was also held in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Lionel showed students through the range of foods, plants, fibre 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 highly processed foods as the staple of most children's diets and with the rise of supermarket shopping, the connection between the soil and local 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.

Free Trees Issue

Youth Enterprises have again done a wonderful job in growing on the 7,000 plants available to our community.

Inability to get coverage in Peninsula Wide and the very early date of the event had some impact with plant distribution down a little on last year, but general support is still strong.

We did get good promotion in various editions of The News, Peninsula Weekly, Coffee Club News and shop window signs all over the Peninsula.

This year concludes my 31st year with Schools E Week activities and my 18th year organising the Shire's Free Trees issue. It will be my last.

I have really enjoyed my involvement in both projects and hope they can continue successfully in the future. Good Luck.

Bob Brady.

Facilities Report

We were fortunate this year to have Keith Lock step into the role of Facilities manager to assist with setting up and maintaining facilities during the week. The special challenge this year was the sharing of facilities with the Sustainability Festival which was held on the Sunday before E Week. This meant that some activities couldn't set up until the Monday and others had to be set up before Sunday. With a great team of helpers the transition went smoothly.

The Briars staff again did an exceptional job preparing the Expo Paddock and mowing other areas for the Briars programs marquees. Coulsons set up early again this year as they had many commitments the week prior to E Week. I would like to thank them for their ongoing support of E Week. They are always very helpful and respond quickly to any problems such as wind damage later in the week.

This year the weather was mostly kind to us although it was very windy on the Thursday and we did have some rain on some days. This year we hired the Shire marquee as extra shelter for the children over the lunch break. Unfortunately this had to be dismantled early as it didn't withstand the wind. Our contingency plans for sheltering children over the lunch break worked well. The Bendigo Bank marquees also proved a hit, providing shelter for bags and children.

The Soundshell was erected in a different position this year to accommodate the Sustainability Festival. As it was closer to the trees it enabled the schools to find shade and shelter close to the stage. The lunchtime entertainment went smoothly with the sound system borrowed from Mornington PS being adequate for announcements and the hired sound system from Audio Spectrum PA used on Tuesday and Wednesday for Marty and Roundhouse. The Police Band provided a great system on Thursday.

The Community Caravan continues to be put to good use, especially with the bad weather on the Thursday and Friday. It was sited outside the Expo Paddock which is 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. The rubbish free lunch suggestion continues to produce a lot less rubbish and bins only needed emptying once during the week. This year we also provided bins for food scraps. These scraps were then added to the Briars compost. Thanks to the students who helped move the bins around. Paul Josephson (Coffee cart) again proved very popular with many adults requiring their caffeine fix to get through the day.

This year we again had the composting toilets supplied by Natural Event. There were some odour problems and children not using the sawdust correctly. Next year we need to site the Dunny Doors project next to the toilets and have a person supervising and explaining the process at all times. Thanks also to South East Water who provided the Hydration Station.

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

Heather Tytler

2012-2013 Committee

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

Vice President: Jenny Selby
Treasurer: David Keystone
Shire Rep: Garrique Pergl
Facilities: Keith Lock
Samantha Ackland/ Michelle McCready

Participating Schools

Primary Schools

Balcombe Grammar	Flinders College	Overport	Somerville Rise
Benton College	Kunying	Red Hill	St Josephs Crib Point
Boneo	Moorooduc	Somers	Tootgarook
Cranbourne	Mt Martha	Our Lady of Fatima	Tyabb
Dromana	Osborne	Peninsula School	Woodleigh

Pre Schools

Cricklewood	Mt Eliza	Mornington Park	Sorrento
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Special Development Schools

Mornington	Peninsula
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Affiliated Schools

Benton JC	Crib Point PS	Hastings PS	Kunying PS
Moorooduc PS	Mornington PS	Osborne PS	Peninsula SDS
Peninsula School	Red Hill CS	Rosebud PS	Somers PS
Tootgarook PS	Tyabb Railway PS	Mt Eliza SC	Rosebud SC

Catering Staff:

Thanks to Mt Martha Rotary for catering this year. They did a magnificent job and were very well organised. A special thanks to John Trevillian and Wally for organising the team. Thanks also to Carol Rayment for assisting with the salads.

Volunteer Organisations

Mt Martha CFA	Red Hill Gardening Society
Cranbourne Botanical Gardens	Fishcare
Friends of the Hooded Plover	Mornington Community Garden
Frankston Police Band 3199	Birdlife Australia
Friends of Chinaman's Creek	St Macartens PS
Red Hill CS	Mornington PS
Osborne PS	St Josephs Crib Point
Mornington SC Concert Band	Western Port SC
Dromana SC HPV and Green Team	Chisholm Rosebud
Rosebud SC Planet Pals	Shire Nursery Volunteers
Chisholm Frankston	Chisholm Dandenong
Briars Volunteers	Westernport Biosphere

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013

EXPENDITURE

	\$
Administration	\$ 339.02
Catering	\$ 2,140.53
Executive Officer	\$ 4,380.00
Facilities	\$ 17,101.76
Insurance	\$ 1,825.21
Plants & Materials	\$ 239.84
Presenters	\$ 15,976.90
Transport	\$ 145.00
Reimbursement	\$ 112.00
Bank Fees	\$ 1.40

Total \$ 42,261.66

INCOME

	\$
Plant Sales	23.00
School Fees 2012	1,936.00
School Affiliations 2013	1,650.00
School Fees 2013	14,272.00
School Deposits 2013	2,120.00
Insurance Reimbursement	414.58
Sponsors	22,200.00

Total 42,615.58

Bank Reconciliation of General Account

Cash Book Balance as at 1st July 2012	15368.81
Deposits	<u>42615.58</u>

Sub Total	57984.39
Less Expenditure	-42,261.66

Balance as per Bank statement of 30th June 2013	<u>\$15,722.73</u>
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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 all to be in order.

Byron Groves