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Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee (SBICMC) is made up of Community Groups, local Committees of Management and Local and State Governments agency representatives.

This year the Committee member groups and their representatives were:

**SBICMC President**  
John Fyfe  
Bellarine Landcare Group

**SBICMC Vice-President**  
Jan Gillett  
Friends of Edwards Point

**Committee members**  
Fred Cook  
Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Friends of Buckley Park  
Michael Connell  
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve  
Karin Shepherd  
Friends of Edwards Point  
Steve Boothroyd  
Friends of Point Richards  
Beth Neyland  
Swan Bay Environment Association  
Michael Connell  
Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery  
Dianne Moore  
Coast Action Coastcare,  
Department of Sustainability & Environment  
Lachie Jackson  
Parks Victoria  
Bruce Humphries  
City of Greater Geelong  
Warren Chapman  
Barwon Coast Committee of Management  
Graeme McLean  
Friends of Begola Wetland  
Pat Semmens  
Borough of Queenscliffe

**Project Staff**  
Matt Crawley  
Bellarine Peninsula Landcare / Coastcare Coordinator  
Sue Longmore  
Secretary and Treasurer  
Coastal Officer

In 2007 the SBICMC acknowledged and celebrated 10 years of operation and achievements. This event recognised the service and role that the SBICMC has played in the Bellarine Peninsula and highlighted the achievements and outcomes during this time. Each representative group was acknowledged during the event and presented with a certificate and Australian Grass-tree as a token of appreciation.
PROJECT FOCUS

Swan Bay forms part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and along with Lake Connewarre is recognised as a wetland of world importance under the Ramsar Convention. Swan Bay is also protected under the Japan - Australia and China - Australia Migratory Bird Agreements.

Over the last year the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Project (SBICMP) has seen the continuation and expansion of the project to cover the Bellarine Peninsula.

Two more community groups joined the Committee. They are the Lake Connewarre Restoration Group and Clifton Springs Foreshore Committee.

Greening Australia Victoria (GAV) and Alcoa Point Henry also joined the Committee. GAV has taken management responsibility for Grassy Woodland EVC for which they have a management plan to protect and enhance with indigenous species. It is great to have GAV on the Committee with both groups planning on implementing combined projects into 2008.


These are:

1. Increasing community awareness and participation
2. Advance the protection, enhancement and linking of remnant vegetation
3. Improve stormwater quality
4. Improvement in in-stream water quality
5. Promote pest plant and animal control, and
6. Increase the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.

A highlight was receiving the Australian Government’s National Coastcare Award, Victorian section. The SBCIMC is in the running for the National Coastcare Award to be announced in 2008.

The Award reflects the integrated nature of the project and high level of community involvement.

Two personal highlights were the awards received by our President John Fyfe (City of Greater Geelong World Environment Day Rural Award) and Sue Longmore (City of Greater Geelong World Environment Day Individual Award).
1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS-RAISING

The process of engaging rural and urban community and land managers in the adoption of sustainable land management practices is at the heart of the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Project. Without community support the project would fail.

Community engagement and awareness aims to activate all sections of our local communities from local schools, businesses, land managers and residents, all of whom have an impact on the catchment.

This is facilitated through a combination of extension and education methods including: the media, leaflets, signs, the internet, websites, displays, talks, workshops, field days, school visits, one to one personalised extension, group extension, and an incentive scheme for priority on-ground works.

1.1 Media:

There have been many media releases which have been publicised on numerous local, regional and national publications. The full list is detailed below and for a selection of these see Appendix A

The following media were used:

- Geelong Advertiser
- Bellarine Echo
- Bellarine Herald
- Queenscliff Herald
- Springdale Messenger community newsletter
- Port Report community newsletter
- St Leonards community newsletter
- Rip Rumour community newsletter
- Talking Heads community newsletter
- St Leonards Primary School Newsletter
- Bellarine Secondary College Newsletter
- Queenscliffe and District Neighbourhood House Newsletter
- Swan Bay Environment Association newsletter
- Bellarine Landcare Group newsletter
- Down Under Quilts Magazine, and
- Corangamite Landcare Gateway website.

1.2 Website:

Our website within the Victorian Gateway Website, has been updated with a wide diversity of information and links to other sites relating to Natural Resource Management.
1.3 Educational and Information sessions:

Educational and information sessions are a large part of improving the capacity of the community to undertake environmental activities. A number of these activities were undertaken this year including:

- biological control of weeds,
- weed identification and control,
- natural regeneration
- seed collection and storage
- propagation of local native plants,
- identification of local indigenous plants
- indigenous vegetation communities
- regional wetlands
- water quality monitoring.
- Dung Beetle information day and night
- Wetland management

Some of these sessions included the following.

Coastal Car Safari

This is the second time it has been held and again it was a successful day. There were 8 car loads that registered on the day, in total 38 people registrations were taken and 3 cars that were registered did not turn up on the day.

We were treated to outstanding weather for the day with extremely high tides at numerous coastal sites. All cars registered had one or more children involved which was great to see. Each car had a different route as pre-planned. Reports back from the participants were that the sites were enjoyable and that they did not know that some of them existed or how valuable they were. They learnt a lot about the sites and the groups that helped to support the areas. Perhaps the only negative point was that some participants felt that it was too rushed. This was noted by the organizers; however a reply was that we felt it was better to show case more of the sites which could be later re-visited.

Greening Australia – Benefits of Native Vegetation on your Property

The fourth installment of the Benefits of Native Vegetation series was held on the 8th of March in Marcus Hill on the Bellarine Peninsula. There was a strong turn out of twenty four participants, both local and from further afield. Different methods for revegetation included direct seeding and use of hamiltons and potoputkis. Ripping and mounding were outlined with an emphasis on site preparation and weed control.

Jim Robinson’s enthusiasm and knowledge was well received and complemented by a tour of a local property. Landcare members, Jim and Lyn Mason generously outlined their methods, past and present, for revegetating their land with indigenous flora. Alistair McIntosh further contributed through sharing his Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail experience.

Greening Australia – Wetland Management on your Property

Another event jointly run by Greening Australia and SBICMC was held at the Marcus Hill Hall. Around 12 people were in attendance to learn about wetland species and management. This included flora, fauna, nutrients, sediments and other areas.
Narrows Dune & Woodland Restoration

The community’s response to our call for help in caring for the Narrows dune system at Queenscliff has been fantastic. During 2007 SBICMP facilitated a range of opportunities for people of all ages to become involved.

A mid winter community planting day was held to assist in the stabilization and revegetation of the ‘Lovers Walk’ dune blow out area in the Narrows Queenscliffe. Indigenous plants had been grown at the local Queenscliff Community Nursery by dedicated volunteers, who in turn were on hand to see the final stage of the planting in the Coastal Moonah Woodland. The sand smothered woodland had been jute matted by the Borough of Queenscliff previously to stabilize the sand, decrease the deterioration to existing plants and provide for suitable conditions for revegetation.

We were pleasantly surprised to see 32 local and broader community volunteers turn up on the day. The weather was kind with calm conditions after a wild week earlier. After some technical advice and OH&S instructions the volunteers set about their task and were soon into a rhythm. This meant that more plants were required to be ferried to the site to keep up with the rate of planting.

A field walk was taken by Sue Longmore, Coastal Officer with SBICMC into the Coastal Moonah Woodland. Many of the volunteers took the opportunity to learn more about the unique values and risks to the values of the area. Cultural heritage, flora and fauna were all discussed with timing of flowering of different species including lilies and orchids identified.

A total of 750 indigenous plants and guards were completed during the day. A further 895 indigenous plants were planted and guarded on the dune face during subsequent Saturday morning community working bees. These events highlighted how valuable community involvement is with these projects and also how the local community values this area. A great sense of satisfaction, knowledge and understanding was imparted to the community volunteers. It is hoped this information is shared throughout the community and greater understanding and appreciation results throughout the area.

During winter Geelong Field Naturalists carried out a small mammal survey at the SBICMP community involvement site in the Narrows Coastal Moonah Woodland. Further surveys will be carried out at six monthly intervals.

In September enthusiastic volunteers of all ages learnt to identify and remove key weed species from the Coastal Moonah Woodland at this site. Over a truck load of weeds was removed and the key question at the end of the day was “When is the next working bee?”

Screening of ‘An Inconvenient Truth’

The screening of this documentary was a joint project between Bellarine Landcare Group and SBICMC. Approximately 70 people were in attendance which was a great community turn out. It became a great opportunity for swapping ideas and general discussion about how this global issue is affecting us locally. Richard Grimmett from Bellarine Memories was instrumental in the technical side of the night and it made for a great visual and audio display.
Westpac Bank and Landcare Australia – Revegetation Project

The Westpac Bank jointly with Landcare Australia Limited and SBICMC provided a grant and volunteer staff to work on a local private land revegetation project. This was a great opportunity to assist our on ground works through staff assistance and financial contribution.

1.4 Displays

Static public displays are an important way of involving and educating the general community. We target populated high use areas such as shopping centres, hardware shops, petrol stations and libraries to place the displays where the community goes and facilitate community interaction with the displays.

Our displays were also used at special events including the Coastal Car Safari, Festival of the Sea, Breamlea Residents Association Environmental Weed Awareness Day and at a Climate Change event held by the Global Warming Group Queenscliffe.

Promotion of the Bellarine Peninsula’s natural communities continues through the Bellarine Biodiversity Quilts which were on display at the Marine Discovery Centre and Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre over the summer months. An article about The Bellarine Biodiversity Quilt Project was published in the national quilting magazine ‘Down Under Quilts’ and a visual display will feature on the Victorian Quilters Website.

1.5 Educational Information

Indigenous Fauna of the Bellarine Peninsula

These brochures were launched at the 10 year Celebration event held in November. Significant input was given by Barry Lingham who imparted his significant skills and knowledge in the development of the brochure. These brochures will be used in conjunction with the Bellarine Peninsula Flora Brochures and continue to build the information pack for the community. They have been sponsored by the Corangamite CMA and Coast Action Coastcare.

The brochures increase the information material available for the general public and can go towards a landholder information pack which will hopefully be developed into the future.

The Indigenous Flora of the Bellarine Peninsula booklets have been in circulation throughout the year. The Coastal and Inland booklets continue to be of great interest to the community. Promotion of the booklets continues in a number of local and state publications, including the Coastline Magazine and Land For Wildlife Magazine.

This year’s distribution has been to local schools, DSE, local and non local Councils, Estuary Watch and community groups. The booklets have been great for planning for revegetation projects whether on a house block or broad acre situation.
The interest in planting indigenous vegetation has increased and the booklets are assisting with the process.

Additionally the following educational materials were produced over the year.

- SBICMP Annual Report 2007
- Bellarine Landcare Group promotional leaflet
- SBICMC Community Groups Promotion Document – this provided a brief description of each group.
- ‘Caring for the Big Nature Strip in the Borough of Queenscliffe’, a powerpoint presentation about the natural assets of the Borough, threatening processes and community care of these areas.

SBICMP also contributed to the development of ‘The Good Things We Do’ DVD, produced by the Borough of Queenscliffe. Our contribution showcased environmental projects undertaken by SBICMP in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

1.6 Regional Landcare

The SBICMC attended and presented at the Corangamite 20 Year Landcare Celebration. As part of this the SBICMC presented a history and achievements of the the Committee to the delegation. Following on from this was a tour around the SBICMC project area. Sites included the Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery, Narrows revegetation project, past and present revegetation sites.

SBICMC and the Project staff have been working with our neighbouring networks and supporting the regional landcare team through the following:

- Active participation in the Corangamite Landcare Coordinators Working Group headed by Polly Hall /Lucas Oram, the CCMA’s Regional Landcare Officers.
- We have supported and promoted the Corangamite Landcare Gateway Website.
- SBICMP Coastal Officer is a community member on the CCMA Pest Plants and Animals Operational Portfolio
- Hosted Corangamite Landcare Coordinators and Facilitators meeting at Marine Discovery Centre, Queenscliff.

1.7 Conservation Teams

We were fortunate enough to utilise the services of two Green Corps teams on the Bellarine Peninsula. The Central Victorian Group Training (CVGT) team led by Sheryl Spencer assisted during four weeks and over six different sites. Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) Green Corps team assisted during two weeks and on three different sites. Both teams added significant value to our on-ground projects and allowed significantly more activities and achievements to be delivered.
Conservation Volunteers Australia crews, as part of the Community Involvement Program, assisted a number of our network volunteer groups in a program facilitated by SBICMP staff. A mix of BSC Landcare Nursery construction works, 3 private landholder revegetation projects, fence construction, seed collection and woody weed removal was undertaken by the crews. Groups helped were Friends of Edwards Point, Bellarine Landcare Group, Borough of Queenscliffe (Narrows Revegetation) and BSC Landcare Nursery.

A feature of the CIP program this year was to re-visit a number of historic project sites for follow up works. With the demands of on-ground works and new projects there is not always the opportunity to re-visit sites to maintain and enhance them. Through the CIP program we were able to start to address this. Activities included: gorse saplings weeding in remnant woodland, tree guard removal at three historic sites which were ten, five and three years old. This is an important part which will be implemented into future years.

1.8 School Involvement

The involvement of Bellarine Peninsula schools and tertiary institutions in SBICMP has once again been fantastic. Our main aims have been to link school communities into ‘hands-on’ projects that have practical outcomes that extend beyond school boundaries and to link tertiary institutions into environmental research or monitoring projects of mutual benefit. The main constraint to this program is SBICMP coordinator time, as the enthusiasm to link into local environment projects is very evident.

Participating this year were Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary, Queenscliff Primary, St. Aloysius Primary, St. Leonards Primary, Surfside Primary, Wallington Primary, Bellarine Secondary College (Drysdale and Ocean Grove Campuses), Christian College (Drysdale), Deakin University and Gordon TAFE. Approximately 82 sessions were facilitated through SBICMP with 1032 student contacts and 229 adult contacts.

‘Adopt a Dune/ Woodland/ Wetland’ Programs with Primary and Secondary students

Students engaged in a range of on-ground activities that focused on the protection and restoration of natural communities on the Bellarine Peninsula -Heathy Woodland, Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, Grassy Woodland, Coastal Alkaline Scrub (Calcarenite Dune Woodland), Coastal Dune Scrub/ Coastal Dune Grassland Mosaic and Freshwater and Coastal Saline Wetlands.

Approximately 2500 indigenous plants were planted along the Bellarine Rail Trail, in Heathy Woodland adjoining Drysdale Basin, in the Ocean Grove dunes and at Bonnyvale Wetland. Students brush-matted eroding coastal dunes at Ocean Grove (0.16 ha) and learnt to identify local dune flora. Propagation activities were undertaken at BSC Landcare Nursery during YouthFest. Stormwater awareness in schools and community was raised through the stencilling of 70 side-entry pits in eastern Ocean Grove with the words ‘Drains to the Bay’ and a symbol of a wetland animal.

Our thanks go to Barwon Coast, our partners in the Adopt a Dune Program at Ocean Grove and Corangamite Waterwatch who supported the Adopt a Wetland Day at Bonnyvale Wetland with Waterwatch activities.
Gordon TAFE – Conservation and Land Management Students

Conservation and Land Management students from Gordon TAFE undertook a detailed weed survey and mapping project at a community involvement site in Coastal Moonah Woodland at the ‘Narrows’ dunes Queenscliff. They produced a manual titled *The Narrows, Queenscliff Weed Mapping and Control Project* which they presented to SBICMP as a community reference to aid in the control of the weed species Bellarine Pea *Polygala myrtifoia*, Dolichos Pea *Dipogon lignosus*, Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum*, Italian Buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus* and Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*. Gordon TAFE intends to build on this baseline data each year, providing SBICMP with a valuable tool for gauging the effectiveness of community weed control over time at this site.

A natural regeneration woodland on Banks Rd was the subject of a study by two Conservation and Land Management students. This study highlighted the diversity of plant and animal life after a remnant Sheoak woodland regenerated after a series of treatments first planned to eradicate Gorse and then crop. Fortunately the cropping never occurred and thousands of seedlings from numerous species did. Not one tree was planted at this site, but the result is now a healthy, diverse woodland. This site provides a wonderful case site for future regeneration projects of this nature. The report is available from SBICMC.

SBICMP Weed Warriors Program

In 2007 three primary schools, three secondary schools and one tertiary group participated in the SBICMP Weed Warriors ‘leafhopper breed & release’ program. Schools involved were Bellarine Secondary College (Drysdale and Ocean Grove Campuses), Christian College Drysdale, Queenscliff PS, St. Aloysius PS, St Leonards PS, and Horticultural and NRM students at Gordon TAFE.

Eight biocontrol presentations were made to these groups and breeding cages were set up in their classrooms. The program enabled further distribution of rust fungus, leafhoppers, nymphs and eggs to Bridal Creeper infestations at Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve, Queenscliff Narrows dunes and dune woodland adjacent to Begola Wetland, Ocean Grove.

Queenscliff Community Nursery assisted with leafhopper breeding to supplement supplies for the schools program. Friends of Edwards Point assisted with leafhopper releases at Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve. DPI Frankston supplied ‘starter’ leafhopper and rust populations to the schools and attended three of the releases to present the primary children with Weed Warriors certificates. Altogether, approximately 165 people were involved in the Weed Warriors Program.
Bellarine Secondary College

A fun-filled one day Environment Festival ‘Our Communities - People, Plants and Animals of the Bellarine Peninsula’ was jointly coordinated by SBICMP and Barwon Coast for Year 8 Bellarine SC students. Twelve different workshops were repeated through the day by presenters from a variety of community and agency organisations. Workshops showcased cultural heritage, rural, coastal and marine ecosystems and highlighted catchment impacts and stewardship of these areas. The goodwill and support shown by the participating organisations, for this annual event, has been tremendous.

The planting day for the Bellarine Secondary College (BSC) and Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail (FOBRT) in June 2007 was a significant success. Students from the Agriculture and Horticulture classes attended over two sessions with teachers Leanne Hearn and Simon Lont. The weather was kind with showers in between each planting to help water them in.

Students were provided with an overview of the project site, the issues, values and advantages to the environment for the linear vegetation link. Discussion of these and other matters took place. Also OH&S and risk assessment was conducted. Students broke into teams and carried out plantings of indigenous grasses and ground covers, shrubs and understory, trees and over storey. Over .4ha of Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class was planted with 550 in total plantings. Students worked consistently well with 10 members of the FOBRT, learning about their role and dedication to the Bellarine Rail Trail.

Christian College Bellarine

Christian College Bellarine (CCB) students assisted with planting over two sessions at a revegetation project on private land. This site was 2ha in size and linked the Bellarine Rail Trail to Yarram Creek. This was a valuable project that without the help of the school would not have reached these outcomes. Deb Singleton and the CCB students also applied other learning activities including catchment awareness, water quality monitoring, vegetation and fauna monitoring.
2. Pest Plants and Animals

2.1 Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery (BSCLN) – Rabbit Eradication program

The BSCLN introduced the first stage of a program to address rabbit issues around the school and nursery. This involved the City of Greater Geelong who supplied the initial rabbit proof fencing to help protect the remnant woodland adjacent to the BSCLN. In turn this will protect the significant environmental, community and private land values of the target area.

The project has involved the Bellarine Secondary College, Bellarine Landcare Group, City of Greater Geelong and private landholders. This integrated project identified that all stakeholders need to play an active role in rabbit control. The first stages now complete, early 2008 will see the remainder of the remnant Heathy Woodland, Landcare Nursery and portion of the school protected from rabbits.

2.2 Rabbit and Harbour Control Projects

Funded through Second Generation Landcare Grants, the Wallington Rabbit Action Group and Bellarine Landcare Group undertook four projects on private land. These projects included; 25 acres of Gorse and harbour removal on Yarram Creek, 2.8ha of Boxthorn removal in Curlew, 2.6ha Boxthorn control in Bellarine and 0.3ha Melaleuca armillaris removal. All projects contributed to harbour and weed removal on the Bellarine Peninsula.

2.3 Spiny Rush Juncus acutus

The Spiny Rush project brought together a number of organisations on the Bellarine Peninsula including Parks Victoria, City of Greater Geelong, VicRoads, Borough of Queenscliff and the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee to continue the fight against the invasive weed Spiny Rush (Juncus acutus). A program set up last year to tackle the pest plant has led to significant results already, with $7000 spent tackling the weed.

The works continue this year in an ongoing effort to prevent further spread and to help protect sensitive areas. Spiny Rush threatens coastal areas including sensitive Coastal Saltmarsh vegetation which is the prime habitat for the Orange-bellied Parrot, a critically endangered species. It also threatens the native Sea Rush and all other salt marsh plant species. Private landholders have also been encouraged to do their bit to halt its spread.

2.4 Serrated Tussock Nassella trichotoma

The Serrated Tussock project this year centred on a newly discovered outbreak off Andersons Rd. The infestation noticed by an alert share farmer covered an area of 29ha in previously grazed paddocks. Much of the property is being returned to native vegetation through the grant incentive scheme.

Through the services of the Conservation Volunteers Australia CIP program a team spent two days walking the area and grubbing out individual plants. Some areas were quite thick whilst others had plants spread out. Burrows Rd bordering the property was also treated, with numerous plants removed. The landholders played their part by following up and eradicating any left over plants before seed set. This site will be monitored and further plants grubbed out as part of next years on-ground works projects. This project was submitted for the Weed Warrior awards in which it received runner up status.
2.5 Bridal Creeper Asparagus asparagoides

Bridal Creeper is a *Weed of National Significance* and a regionally restricted weed in Victoria. It is one of the most serious weeds in coastal dune systems on the Bellarine Peninsula.

The SBICMP Bridal Creeper Biocontrol Program commenced in 1999. Over this time biocontrol release sites have been established along the Bellarine Peninsula coast to Breamlea. The sites were established either directly through SBICMP or facilitated through SBICMP links or partnerships. Currently there are 72 release sites (35 leafhopper, 36 rust fungus and 1 leaf beetle).

In 2007 eight rust release sites /areas were established using rust fungus spore-water-distribution techniques (knap-sack/ bucket/ aerial spraying). The release locations were: private property between Bellarine Rail Trail and Yarram Creek; Yarram Creek Lane; Bellarine Rail Trail (southern end); Queenscliff-Portarlington Rd near Rail Trail; Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve; Ocean Grove Foreshore, Barwon Heads Foreshore; and Breamlea Foreshore. The latter four locations, an approximately 4.6 km strip in total, were aerial sprayed with rust fungus spore-water in a project coordinated by SBICMP’s Biocontrol Working Group (SBICMC, BC, CoGG, PV, FoBP, Breamlea Residents Assoc) with advice from Greg Lefoe at DPI Frankston.


2.6 Myrtle-leaf Milkwort / Bellarine Pea Polygala myrtifolia

This is a major environmental weed in coastal dune systems on the Bellarine Peninsula. It is also spreading inland along roadside reserves. SBICMC has supported City of Greater Geelong’s applications to secure funding to progress the research work of Robin Adair from DPI Frankston into establishing a biocontrol for *Polygala myrtifolia*.

2.7 Bellarine Rail Trail – Weed and Rabbit Harbour Removal Project

The Bellarine Landcare Group and SBICMC coordinated an involvement day on the Bellarine Rail Trail on the 28 September. On a wild and woolly day 13 Landcare members and community people attended to tackle weeds and rabbits on the Bellarine Rail Trail. The focus area was between Swan Bay Rd and Andersons Rd, which was the area targeted under the Commonwealth Governments Envirofund grant which the Bellarine Landcare Group successfully applied for.

This area had been addressed before primarily for woody weeds such as Gorse; however re-infestation had occurred so it was worthwhile to re-treat this area. Rabbit burrows had also re-opened so these burrows were poisoned and closed to keep rabbit numbers down on the rail trail and adjoining private land. The volunteer group continued to remove Gorse, Flax Leaf-broom and other woody weeds on the west side of the trail. In total an area of 0.5ha was treated which help to protect a range of indigenous flora. The area was followed up by a contractor to treat Watsonia over a greater area approximately 2ha, which has threatened the flora and fauna values of the site.
2.8 **Narrows Coastal Moonah Woodland -weed removal**

Community weeding was undertaken at an SBICMP community involvement site in Coastal Moonah Woodland at the Narrows dunes, Queenscliff. Coastal Moonah Woodland is designated under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act as a threatened community in Victoria. Threatening processes include weed invasion. Bellarine Pea *Polygala myrtifolia*, Italian Buckthorn *Rhamnus alaternus*, and Dolichos Pea *Dipogon lignosus* were removed from a 0.1ha area of woodland.

2.9 **Noxious Weeds Review**

SBICMC nominated twelve environmental weeds for consideration by Corangamite CMA in the Noxious Weeds Review. These were *Acacia longifolia* Sallow Wattle; *Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis* Agapanthus; *Coprosma repens* Mirror Bush; *Cortaderia selloana* Pampas Grass; *Delairea odorata* Cape Ivy; *Dipogon lignosus* Dolichos Pea; *Gazania linearis* Gazania; *Galenia pubescens* Galenia; *Lotus creticus* Cretan Trefoil; *Paraserianthes lophantha* Cape Wattle; *Polygala myrtifolia* Bellarine Pea; *Myrtle-leaf Milkwort*; *Rhamnus alaternus* Italian Buckthorn.

These weeds were ranked against other weed nominations received in the Corangamite region, with nine weed species then referred on by CCMA to DSE for their consideration. The nine weeds included five of our weed nominations *Polygala myrtifolia*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Cortaderia selloana*, *Galenia pubescens*, and *Lotus creticus*.

**Weed Committees**

The SBICMP Coastal Coordinator, Sue Longmore, is Victoria’s community representative on the National Asparagus Weeds Committee and a community representative on the CCMA Pest Plants and Animals Operational Portfolio.

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**3. Monitoring our Environment**

**Waterwatch:**

A small, but dedicated team of Waterwatch volunteers continue to monitor water quality at 7 sites along creek, wetland and stormwater drainage lines each month. Out of 84 monitoring sessions per year, samples could only be analysed for 45 of the sessions, due to continuing dry conditions for the most of the year. Waterwatch volunteers participated in two Quality Assurance /Quality Control Programs and a refresher training session organised through the Corangamite Waterwatch Program. Total Waterwatch volunteer time was approximately 95 hours.

**Bridal Creeper Bio-control:**

Monitoring occurs in October each year. Friends groups and land managers assist the Coastal Coordinator where possible. This year, as well as monitoring release sites, monitoring was also carried out along main foreshore tracks at approximately 10 metre intervals and to a depth of 30m from tracks, to better identify spread through the Reserves.
Spread of rust fungus has been fantastic with an almost continuous presence through the coastal dunes between Edwards Point and Barwon Heads. Moderate to high levels of rust fungus damage were noted. Rust damage was observed in all the 2006 and 2007 aerial sprayed locations, indicating that, given the right conditions of light wind and light rain, spore-water aerial spraying is an effective method for distributing rust through inaccessible coastal vegetation. Leafhopper activity was surprisingly low apart from a few small pockets in some of the Reserves. At many of our previous leafhopper release sites rust fungus now dominates.

Bridal Creeper outbreaks inland from the coastal foreshore reserves have been observed along several linear roadside verges. These areas will be targeted for rust and leafhopper releases in 2008.

**Swan Bay ICMC Collations Project and Catchment Activity Management System**

In 2007 through funding from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) the SBICMC received funding to record on ground works and activities over the past ten years as achieved by environmental groups on the Bellarine Peninsula that have received state and federal government funding.

This immense project was undertaken by Margaret Byrne from the Bellarine Landcare Group who did a fantastic job in collating all the projects that were recorded over the past ten years. This information is being compiled by the CCMA in the Catchment Activity Management System and will be available in 2008.

### 4. Vegetation Related On-ground Works.

On-ground works to protect and enhance the catchment's natural resources were facilitated and coordinated at 16 project sites in the Swan Bay catchment and on the Bellarine Peninsula.

These works continue with the financial input from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority through the Commonwealth Government's Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Funding programs and with local input from landowners, schools, environment groups, local government, Green Corp and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The project areas and details are;

**Bonnyvale Wetlands**

- Total area included 70 x 20m. intensive revegetation project involving Star of the Sea PS
- 536 indigenous plants, EVC 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub

**Ocean Grove Dunes**

- Total area included 0.16ha eroding dune. Restoration project involving Bellarine Secondary College (Ocean Grove).
- 0.16ha brushmatted; 413 indigenous plants; EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub
Narrows Dunes Queenscliff

- Total area included 0.4ha. Project included a number of community revegetation / involvement days, Green Corp teams over 2 weeks, CVA team.
- 4600 indigenous plants, EVC 1 Coastal Dune Scrub, 858 Coastal Alkaline Scrub

Portarlington Queenscliffe Rd

- Total area included 0.5ha. Volunteer assistance from CVGT Green Corp team
- 850 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland

Murradoc Rd

- Total area included 1.4ha. Volunteer assistance from CVA Community Involvement Program team
- 2100 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland

Manifold Rd

- Total area included .4ha. Volunteer assistance from CVA Community Involvement Program team
- 800 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland

Basin Rd - Drysdale

- Total area included .7ha.
- 1150 indigenous plants, EVC 48 Heathly Woodland

Bellarine Hwy - Wallington

- Total area included .3ha. Volunteer assistance from CVA Community Involvement Program team
- 600 indigenous plants, EVC 48 Heathly Woodland

Geelong - Portarlington Rd

- Total area included .3ha.
- 1000 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland
- 120m Electric fencing

Bellarine Hwy – Marcus Hill

- Total area revegetation included 6.6ha. Volunteer assistance from CVGT Green Corp, CVA Green Corp teams
- 12, 800 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland
- 780m of fencing constructed

Directing seeding

- Total area direct seeded included 2ha.
- 2kg of indigenous seed,
1113m of fencing constructed

**Murradoc Rd – St Leonards**
- Total area direct seeded included 3ha.
- 3kg of indigenous seed, EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland

**Banks Rd - Mannerim**
- Total area revegetation included 1.5ha. Volunteer assistance from CVGT Green Corp Green Corp team
- 2250 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland
- 50m of fencing constructed

**Knights Rd – Marcus Hill**
- Total area direct seeded included .3ha.
- 330g of indigenous seed, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland
- 76m of fence constructed

**Wallington Rd - Wallington**
- Total area revegetation included 1.1ha.
- 216 replacement indigenous plants, EVC 3 Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland, 175 Grassy Woodland

**Banks Rd - Mannerim**
- Total area revegetation included 2.3ha. Volunteer assistance from CVGT and CVA Green Corp Green, Christian College Bellarine, Westpac Bank
- 2100 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland
- 786m of fencing constructed

**Bellarine Rail Trail - Drysdale**
- Total area revegetation included .3ha. Volunteer assistance from Bellarine Secondary College and Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail
- 500 indigenous plants, EVC 175 Grassy Woodland

**Totals**
- Total Plants = 29,915
- Total Area = 21ha
- Total Fencing = 2925m
- Total Direct Seeding = 5.3kg

Landholders revegetated another section of Yarram Creek on their property.
5. The Strategic Approach

Our committee has maintained its commitment to ensuring the long-term environmental protection and sustainable management of the Swan Bay and Bellarine Peninsula region. We maintain our pro-active stance in promoting this at all levels of Government, business and community.

We strive for the continued protection of local natural resources and ecosystems in relation to adverse development projects and policies. As such representatives form part of various committees and provide submissions, comments or advice in relation to the following.

- Bellarine Rail Trail Advisory Committee, Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery Committee, CCMA Pest Plants & Animals Operational Portfolio, Central Coastal Board, National Bridal Creeper Management Committee
- Noxious Weeds Review
- Land and Biodiversity White Paper submissions by CCMA and Central Coastal Board
- Geelong Environment Council’s preparation of a submission to extend the boundaries of the Port Phillip Western Shoreline & Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Wetland Site
- PV and EPA Victoria’s ‘Water Quality and the Bays’ Review.
- Sea Breeze Estate development proposal
- Land clearing issues Ocean Grove

6. Project Funding

This year funding and in-kind support for the project came from:

- Natural Heritage Trust (NHT),
- National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP),
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Community Involvement Program)
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Regional Landcare Program)
- City of Greater Geelong
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- Barwon Coast COM
- Coast Action / Coastcare
- Parks Victoria
- Alcoa of Australia
- Mitre 10 Save our waterways program
- Mitre 10 Junior Landcare program
- Corangamite Waterwatch
- Marine Discovery Centre
- Westpac Bank
- Australian Government Community Water Grants
7. **Project Participants**

There are many participants who provide their time and effort to make the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Project successful.

The Project continues to receive strong support from all Catchment Stakeholders who include:

- Bellarine Secondary College (Drysdale and Ocean Grove Campuses)
- Clifton Springs Primary School
- Geelong Christian College
- Gordon TAFE
- Queenscliff Primary School
- Pt Lonsdale Primary School
- St Aloysius Primary School
- Star of the Sea Primary School
- St Leonards Primary School
- Surfside Primary School
- Nelson Park School
- Karingal Inc
- Local landholders
- Local businesses (Alcoa of Australia, Mitre 10)
- Bellarine Landcare Group
- Friends of Begola Wetlands
- Friends of Edwards Point
- Friends of Buckley Park
- Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
- Friends of Pt Richards Reserve
- Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail
- Swan Bay Environment Association
- Barwon Coast
- Bellarine Bayside
- City of Greater Geelong
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- Coast Action Coastcare
- Department of Primary Industries
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Parks Victoria
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Corangamite Waterwatch
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Commonwealth and State Governments
- Greening Australia
- Central Victorian Group Training

Volunteers have contributed significant hours volunteering in aspects of the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Project. This does not include the private landowners working on subsidised Landcare type projects under grant funding or the individual group activities organised independently of the SBICMP.
8. Volunteer Groups and Organisations

8.1 Volunteer Groups

All the groups within the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Project still operate independently and have their own regular working bees and meetings.

Bellarine Landcare Group covers the entire Bellarine Peninsula. Membership is open to urban and rural residents. General Landcare related activities are undertaken as needed. The group undertakes some community revegetation projects, has regular guest speakers at meetings and provides information and grants to assist landowners to undertake revegetation projects. Direct seeding, fox and rabbit control projects were completed.

The Bellarine Landcare Group (BLG) was successful in securing a $50,000 Community Water Grant from the Australian Government. This will further utilise water resources from the adjacent school captured from stadium roof and to be used directly on the nursery.

The BLG held a celebration dinner during 2007. This acknowledged the service that the group has provided for the Bellarine Peninsula over the past 14 years and the achievements and outcomes. The event was attended by over 70 people who were treated to numerous stories of land management and was hosted by Kate Lockhart and John Fyfe.

The BLG group jointly with DPI, City of Greater Geelong and Parks Victoria undertook the Fox program during 2007. The area roughly covered 6000 acres, included 20 landholders and covered areas from Portarlington to Drysdale tip, through to the Bellarine Highway. Baiting was undertaken during Autumn and Spring for one month periods.

This year fox numbers were lower than previous years. Spotlighting and shooting reported that numbers had dropped, fox drives reported less numbers and daylight sightings are considerably less. It was also the first time on some properties that no baits were being taken over a one month period. Reports came in of ducks and other species not being taken by foxes on farms and also of lizards returning to Point Edwards.

BSC Landcare Nursery is an original co-operative effort between Bellarine Landcare Group and Bellarine Secondary College, at Drysdale. The nursery facility enables local students, volunteers and volunteer groups to grow local indigenous plants, many of which are rare on the Bellarine Peninsula. It is a practical way of encouraging the re-establishment and enhancement of native vegetation on the Bellarine Peninsula and a great educational hub. A seed collection workshop was conducted this year, with 30 people registering. This also highlighted the dual use of the new propagation shed used for volunteers and for community education events.

Over 80,000 plants were sold for revegetation projects on the Bellarine Peninsula this year. Stronger sales were recorded in coastal vegetation, indicating increased interest from townships and as a direct result of the Indigenous Flora of the Bellarine Peninsula Booklets. New species have been successfully propagated and used for revegetation including Bulbine Lily, Chocolate Lily and Dwarf She-oak. The Nursery committee also reviewed the OH&S policy and developed a joint management agreement for the nursery.
Friends of Begola Wetland: Begola Wetland in eastern Ocean Grove was originally an ephemeral wetland that has been considerably altered to manage stormwater run-off from the surrounding urban areas. The wetland provides habitat for native water birds including the migratory Latham’s Snipe. Group activities include monthly Waterwatch monitoring for SBICMP and irregular activities as needed such as Clean up Australia Day. The Friends have worked with City of Greater Geelong to remove woody weeds from the adjoining woodland area.

Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail: The Bellarine Rail Trail extends from Geelong to Queenscliff passing through Leopold and Drysdale. It is a great recreational and environmental asset to the region. Significant remnant vegetation communities occur along the Bellarine Rail Trail. Group activities include general native vegetation and habitat protection works (weeding/revegetation) and plant propagation. Maintenance of sites including guard removal and general cleanup was also undertaken.

The Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail continued to meet on a monthly basis for formal meetings during 2007. The group held “working bees” throughout the year predominately on a Wednesday morning, with some Saturday work – to cater for our members who work full time. The running costs / Project Outcomes of the group were predominately financed from the Federal Government. Our “Envirofund Project” has just been completed, 5 months ahead of schedule - with all project goals achieved. Our volunteers are to be congratulated for the physical hard-work that they put in on this re-vegetation project. With predominately dry conditions continuing within 2007, watering and mulching of existing and new plantations has been essential and some working bees were dedicated to weed removal and general trail maintenance. Understory planting in existing beds was a major achievement this year. The group has achieved the following outcomes throughout the year:

- The group has approx. 2700 plants in credit at the Drysdale Landcare Nursery through its volunteer work
- 12,512 trees / shrubs / native grasses have been planted out on the trail this year
- Within that number, 1495 plants were propagated by the Friends Work Coordinator Fred Cook
- the number of volunteers hours spent on the trail was 1612 hrs in total
- The design / construction & installation of 6 red-gum seats at various locations along the trail

Friends of Buckley Park: Buckley Park Foreshore Reserve is a 5 km narrow strip of foreshore and coastal barrier dunes between Ocean Grove and Pt Lonsdale. Significant plant communities covering the dunes include Spinifex tussock grassland, Coast Tea-tree/ Coast Beard Heath Shrubland and Coastal Moonah Woodland. Coastal conservation works include Aboriginal heritage site protection, coastal and dune conservation works.

Friends of Buckley Park (FOBP) have also been part of the process for biological control of Polygala and hope to continue this into 2008. Monitoring of Bridal Creeper Rust Fungus and leafhopper infestations were conducted by the group. FOBP assisted with the Coastal Car Safari by staffing a check point and assisting volunteers who visited the site. A CVA Green Corp team was focused in Buckley Park with activities including revegetation, surveying and woody weed control.

Friends of Edwards Point: Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve fringes the southern edge of St Leonards. It is a narrow strip of land between Port Phillip and Swan Bay and is covered with a mosaic pattern of coastal woodland and salty wetlands. Coastal conservation works include weed removal, interpretive sign development, plant propagation, seed collection, revegetation, frog monitoring and Artists at Edwards Point events.

A direct seeding project was conducted this year jointly with Parks Victoria which concentrated on an area of approximately 1ha. Volunteers assisted with the Coastal Car Safari and monitoring of Bridal Creeper biological controls.
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve:

Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is one of the last remaining patches of native woodland on the Bellarine Peninsula. It includes Grassy Woodland and Heathy Woodland. Group activities include general native vegetation and habitat protection works (weeding/revegetation), information centre, flora and fauna walks and general participant awareness raising activities.

The Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve (FOOGNR) conducted a flora and fauna guided walk attended by 70 people. This highlighted the other work done by the group in protecting the Turpentine Bush and returning part of the Reserve to a Grassy Woodland EVC by the use of the forest mower. The FOOGNR has been instrumental in these initiatives. The group also received the Kookaburra award this year.

Friends of Point Richards Reserve:

Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve is located on the northern Bellarine Peninsula at Portarlington. The Reserve contains remnant woodland communities. Group activities include general native vegetation and habitat protection works (weeding/revegetation), and plant propagation.

This year focus shifted outside the nature reserve to work along side Bellarine Bayside along the coast between Pt Richards and St Leonards. Works included revegetation, weeding of Gorse and Flax-leaf Broom.

Swan Bay Environment Association is based in the Queenscliff and Pt Lonsdale areas. The group undertakes activities to protect Swan Bay, the adjoining vegetation on the southern shores of Swan Bay and the coastal foreshore. Group activities include general coastal conservation and protection, community education, weed control, revegetation and indigenous plant propagation. SBEA coordinates the Queenscliff Community Nursery.

This has been a very busy and productive year for the SBEA. In addition to the many volunteer hours devoted to the regular propagation work, the SBEA nursery has grown some thousands of plants for use in the revegetation work being carried out on the dunes near the Narrows (above the Dog Beach). Many members were also involved in the planting program and found it most rewarding to see the plants they had helped to grow, put to such good use.

The SBEA committee, with assistance from the Queenscliff Neighbourhood House, arranged a “Water Wise Tour”. Participants visited three homes in the Borough of Queenscliffe where they were able to view systems utilizing water harvesting and grey water recycling.

During 2007, members spent a considerable amount of time and creative energy on the production of a new Swan Bay Brochure. This attractive and informative brochure, designed to highlight the environmental value of Swan Bay, will be available at various venues such as the Queenscliff Information Bureau, the Borough Offices and the Community Nursery.
8.2 Organisations

Barwon Coast

Barwon Coast welcomed the opportunity to participate in education programs with Swan Bay ICMC involving Ocean Grove campus of Bellarine Secondary College, for year 7 students a practical experience in the sand dune brush mating, for year 8 students an environment festival at the school. Our partnership including City of Greater Geelong in Bridal Creeper control, through spore water program, is a great success for all to be proud of for its future long term benefits.

Barwon Coast is pleased to provide, at no cost, ongoing support to Swan Bay, administering payroll and facilitating investment banking opportunity, through staff Cynthia and Val.

Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria has been a long supporter of SBICMC. For this year and the past six years our meetings have been held at the Parks Victoria Queenscliff office. This provided a meeting point and use of office facilities including photocopying. Parks Victoria has also supported a number of projects this year including the Coastal Car Safari, Bridal Creeper biocontrol monitoring, field trip presentations, Bellarine Peninsula Fauna Brochure and Spiny Rush eradication project.

Coast Action Coastcare

The Coast Action Coastcare program continues to support the SBICMC in numerous ways. This year some initiatives included technical and strategic advice, Bellarine Peninsula Fauna Brochure, Coastal Car Safari, field trip presentations and SBICMC Coastcare Trailer.

Greening Australia Victoria (GAV) / Alcoa Point Henry

This year we welcomed GAV to the SBICMC. Greening Australia engages the community in vegetation management to protect and restore the health, diversity and productivity of our unique Australian landscapes.

GAV have attended meetings and are developing ways in which both organisations can work together in 2008 to jointly address environmental issues on the Bellarine Peninsula.
Bellarine Bayside COM

Bellarine Bayside have supported the Friends of Point Richards during 2008. They provided project assistance with the Coastal Car Safari and provided input into the SBICMC noxious weed review nominations.

City of Greater Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong has provided support in a number of ways. They have supported the Bridal Creeper biocontrol monitoring and spore-water distribution project, Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery rabbit fencing project, provided funding for administration support and assisted with the Bonnyvale Wetland revegetation project.

Borough of Queenscliffe

The Borough of Queenscliffe have partnered SBICMC in addressing and revegetating the dune blow out adjacent to Dog Beach, weeding and revegetation in the Narrows Coastal Moonah Woodland. The Borough of Queenscliffe has recently provided ongoing office space and materials for SBICMC staff and meeting facilities for the Committee. This arrangement will enhance and improve SBICMC operations.

Corangamite CMA (CCMA)

The Corangamite CMA provides support through the Regional Landcare Program. They facilitate quarterly meetings with the Regional Landcare Coordinator and other Network Coordinators around the region to workshop issues and discuss projects. The Corangamite CMA provided project funding for the Bellarine Peninsula Fauna Brochure and continued staff funding through the Regional Catchment Investment Plan.
It is all these people who make a difference across the Bellarine Peninsula. We would like to thank you all.

We would personally like to thank the Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee partners, volunteers and sponsors for their ongoing commitment and support to the protection and enhancement of our local natural assets.

Thank you

John Fyfe
President
Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee

Sue Longmore
Swan Bay Coastal Officer

Matt Crawley
Bellarine Peninsula
Landcare/ Coastcare Coordinator
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<td>Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee</td>
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Appendices

Appendix 1  Example Media Articles

South West Rural
Landcare lifts health of farm

Local Environment
Community planting day a big success

Identifying local native plants on the Bellarine peninsula

The beauty of the Bellarine Peninsula’s natural communities and the desire to protect them has recently inspired the creation of two local flora booklets. Rocky coast, 64 pages, full colour booklets titled “Coral Planting on the Bellarine Peninsula” and “Indigenous Plants on the Bellarine Peninsula” have been produced by Swan Bay Local Government Area’s Botanical Management Project.

Each booklet features a description of each plant, distribution map and photograph. The booklets are a valuable resource that will assist in local revegetation and restoration projects. The booklets will also help those working to establish new vegetation and indigenous gardens by identifying appropriate indigenous plants that will grow well in their area.

Community groups and local landowners have funded these booklets as a valuable resource that will assist in their local revegetation and restoration projects.

The booklets were funded through the Coastal Action Grants Program and CFA Regional Landscape Program.

Win approximately 5% of pre-identified local native vegetation remaining in the Bellarine Region. 5% of the proceeds will be used to protect and link up the little that remains.

Family day to explore wetlands

South Coast is ready to help us explore the wetlands.

Caring for the Big Nature Strip

To discover more about the fascinating coastal corridor called the Big Nature Strip look for an illustrated article, “Caring for the Big Nature Strip” to be given by Sue Langdon on Wednesday 13 July 2006 at 6:30pm in the Queenscliff Town Hall.

This program has been arranged through the Council’s sponsored Little House Community Planning Program.
Appendix 2  2007 On Ground Works Map

Please note this is a representation of on ground works achieved in 2007, it does not contain all on ground works achieved in 2007
Appendix 3   SBICMC Project Area