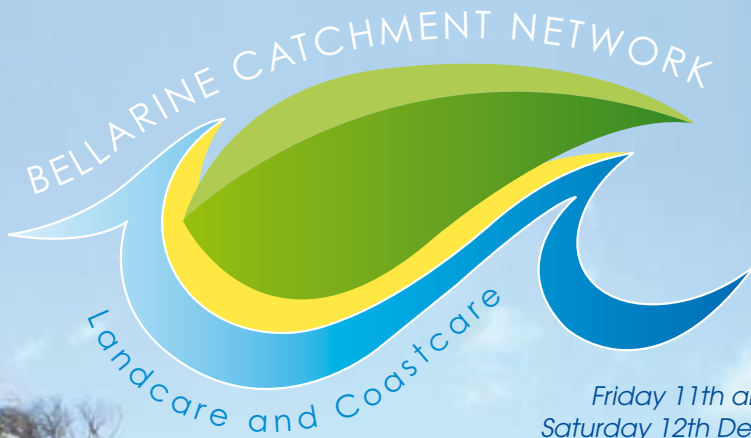




Bellarine Catchment Network – Coastal Forum

CATCHMENT 4 COASTS

*Celebrating our volunteers
'15 years of CoastAction'*



Friday 11th and
Saturday 12th Dec 2009

Camp Wyuna
71 Flinders St, Queenscliff



Bellarine Catchment Network – Coastal Forum

Catchment 4 Coasts

Celebrating our volunteers ‘15 years of CoastAction’

Location: Camp Wyuna, 71 Flinders St Queenscliff. Ph: 5258 1656

Date: Friday 11th and Saturday 12th Dec

PROGRAM TIMES

Friday

- 9.00 - 9.30 am: Registration
- 9.30 – 10.00: Welcome to the Forum
Welcome to Country
- 10.00 – 10.30: Morning Tea
- 10.45 – 12.15: Theme 1. Kids, Communities and Coasts
- 12.15 – 1.15: Lunch
- 1.30 – 5.00: Field Trips
- 6.30 – 9.30: Evening Meal, key note speaker and entertainment

Saturday

- 9.15 – 10.45: Theme 2. Catchment Connections
- 10.45 – 11.15: Morning tea
- 11.15 – 12.45: Theme 3 Wetlands, Waders – Birds and Beaches
- 12.45 – 1.45: Lunch
- 2.00 – 3.30: Theme 4 Arts, Culture and the Environment

Key Note Speakers: Friday Night Dinner

Rebecca Phyland

Ms Phyland was invited to join this conference following her recent training as a presenter with The Climate Project – Australia. Ms Phyland is a Conservationist and Permaculturist with a background in teaching secondary school Geography and Outdoor & Environmental Education and has developed and leads the extension education and consultancy business, Thornbill Eco Education.

Reg Lipson

Reg is a renowned educator, a noted after-dinner speaker, underwater photo-journalist, author and TV presenter; an extraordinary populariser of sciences. Reg has been interested in marine creatures since he was four years old and commenced diving in 1959. Since then he has spent just over 10,100 hours (approximately six ‘working years’) beneath the sea in many different Pacific Ocean localities observing and photographing the fascinating and bizarre lives of marine creatures. His interest in animals has made him an equally keen man and woman watcher and his zoologist’s view of human behaviour is incisive, illuminating - and often very humorous.

Field Trips: Friday 1.30 – 5.00pm

1. Swan Bay, Coastal Saltmarsh, Sea Grass and Coastal Moonah Woodlands –

Sue Longmore, Bellarine Catchment Network – Coastal Coordinator

Maddie Glynn, Barwon Coast COM, Community Liaison/NRM Education Officer

Take a walk on the wild side through the Narrows Coastal Moonah Woodlands that fringe Swan Bay and discover how local community are involved in the protection of this 'threatened' woodland community. Have a 'cuppa' at the Queenscliff Community Nursery where thousands of coastal plants are propagated enthusiastically by community volunteers; and stroll along the saltmarsh boardwalk and mudflats at southern Swan Bay, a Ramsar wetland of world significance. (Field trip involves a mix of walking –approx 2 km and bussing between sites)

2. Catchment and Connewarre

Matt Crawley Bellarine Catchment Network, Bellarine Landcare Group, Friends of Bellarine Rail Trail, Swan Bay Environment Association and Parks Victoria

Matt Crawley Bellarine Landcare and Coastcare Coordinator and members of local community groups will be taking you on a tour to highlight catchment works on the Bellarine. These will include priority remnant habitat protection works, revegetation, pest plant and animal control.

3. Wader and Shore birds Monitoring

Ash Herrod Birds Australia, Port Phillip Bay Shorebird Monitoring

Field trip, Lake Victoria, Point Lonsdale, 13th Beach

Lake Victoria is a shallow natural saline lake, less than a kilometre from the coastline at the south of the Bellarine Peninsula. It is below sea level and approximately 1.4km² in area. It receives water primarily from run-off, and rain fall. Although the amount of water it holds during summer is diminished, it rarely dries completely, and the exposed muddy area along the perimeter of the lake provides foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds during their visit to the Swan Bay and Mud Islands Shorebird Area.

During December to March, Lake Victoria is habitat for over 2000 shorebirds, of species including migratory Red-necked Stints, Curlew Sandpipers and Common Greenshanks as well as resident species such as the Red-capped Plover, Masked Lapwing and on occasion the Hooded Plover. These and other birds such as Terns and Waterfowl, are most likely be seen during the field trip.

Participants should be reasonably fit, and bring along a hat, sunscreen, water and sensible walking shoes. Binoculars are highly recommended but not essential.

4. MDC - Marine Biology Field Trip

Marine Discovery Centre

Marine Biology Cruise

Discover the incredible diversity of marine life that lives in Port Phillip Bay. Sampling equipment will collect marine life from the bay and you may be able to closely observe animals such as seahorses, seastars, pill bugs and wandering anemones, who knows what we will find?. You may also get the chance to meet some of the Bay's larger inhabitants including Australian fur seals and Australasian Gannets.

- BYO warm jacket.
- Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

5. Celebrating our Southern Bay Volunteers

Parks Victoria and Pelican Expeditions

Located in southern Port Phillip the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park covers a diverse range of locations including the reefs at Point Lonsdale and Point Nepean, deep water areas of Portsea Hole, the astounding Mud Islands with its sensational bird life, one of Australia's first MPAs at Popes Eye , and the vitally important Swan Bay. Important cultural sites including the Caisson (and the seals its supports) and the South Channel Fort are also significant features of the southern bay. The management of these important reserves is supported by many volunteers that contribute to site protection activities, monitor values, and participate in raising awareness of the contribution these areas make to our natural and cultural heritage. This field trip to visit the southern bay aboard the magnificent Pelican 1 will be both a celebration of these places and the various groups involved in caring for them.

Themes and Sessions:

Theme 1. Kids, Communities and Coasts. Friday 10.45am - 12.15pm

Delegates are to choose to attend either block 1 or block 2 for each theme.

Each theme lasts for 1:30 minutes.

Block 1

Session 1. Showcasing local school project - Bellarine Secondary College and Wallington PS

Wallington Primary School and Bellarine Secondary College

The Wallington PS has been involved in environmental education and restoration works over the over many years with a renewed vigor over recent years. The school has an environmental program that combines Estuary watch, Adopt a waterway, revegetation and Bridal Creeper control. This is carried out throughout the year and during a focused environment day. Come and learn about this program and why it works for the Wallington PS.

The Bellarine Secondary College Year 8 students Environment Festival "Connecting Communities on the Bellarine"

This event organized jointly by BC, BCN & BSC was held on May 8th 2009. The day was highly successful with 49 workshops scheduled over the day. Presenters from BC, BCN, BSC, CCMA, Dolphin Research Institute, Friends of the Bluff, Marine Discovery Centre, Parks Victoria & Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative offered 13 different workshops themes throughout the day. Community representatives from BC CoM, BLG, SBEA, Drysdale/Clifton Springs Community Assoc. & Friends of Point Richards supported the event with their presence. Approx 275 students attended, plus BSC staff. This presentation will focus on how the program was put together and why it is so successful.

Session 2. Schools of the Bellarine - Future directions - Youth Coastal and Catchment Network Ambassadors

Jo Ludbrook, DSE, Senior CoastAction Coastcare Facilitator

Matt Crawley, Bellarine Catchment Network Landcare and Coastcare Coordinator

This session will focus on establishing a schools of the Bellarine Youth Network. It will actively engage primary and secondary schools in the region to workshop how to best establish this network and what outcomes could be achieved form this.

Block 2

Session 3. Marine monitoring and habitat mapping.

Mark Rodrigue, Program Leader - Marine and Coasts, Parks Victoria

Victoria's marine environment is one of the world's great underwater environments with a spectacular features, a rich diversity of habitats, and many unique species along its coast. In recent years there has been extensive exploration and use of new technology to map many areas of our coast, especially within our important Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. This work has provided for the first time imagery and detailed maps of what is found within these areas. This presentation will provide an overview of the habitat mapping project, share some of the imagery, look at the various communication tools being developed at present, and provide some insights in to how community members can contribute to building and sharing knowledge of Victoria's underwater environment.

Session 4. Changing climate - changing coasts - changing communities

Liz Patterson, ,DSE

Growing up in Ocean Grove Liz developed a passion for the coast at an early age. She went on to complete a Bachelor of Biological Science and a Masters of Coastal Resource Management. Liz has 12 years experience in both the public and private sector working as a coastal planner, strategic planner and policy officer. She has also worked overseas in the Pacific and Sri Lanka advising governments on coastal planning and management issues. Liz is currently working at the Department of Sustainability and Environment leading the development of a policy paper on the impacts and responses to climate change on the coast.

Global climate change projections indicate that sea levels will continue to rise over the coming centuries and the frequency and intensity of storms is likely to increase. As the interface between land and sea, the coast is particularly vulnerable to the physical impacts of climate change such as erosion and inundation. How do we as a community, provide space for the coast to adapt to these changes, while continuing to use the coast for the things that we value.

Block 1

Session 1. Investment Forum - learn how to write grants and more importantly get funded

*Polly Matthews, Marine & Coastal Biodiversity Coordinator,
Corangamite CMA*

Matt Fox and State CoastAction Coastcare Coordinator

Jo Ludbrook, DSE Senior CoastAction Coastcare Facilitator

Community Grants - Looking to protect our precious coastal ecosystems natural and / or cultural assets. This is an opportunity for Community groups and Land Manager to find out more about current and upcoming project funding opportunities through the Australian Government's Caring for Country 2009-2010 Business Plan.

Session 2. EstuaryWatch Program with a focus for the Barwon River Estuary

*Matt Khoury, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority,
EstuaryWatch Coordinator*

EstuaryWatch is a community based estuary monitoring program, aimed at raising awareness and providing educational opportunities to the community in estuarine environments, whilst also enabling communities and stakeholders to better inform decision making on estuarine health. It was initiated by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Corangamite CMA) and the Western Coastal Board in 2006 to address the growing interest and need for local communities in the Corangamite region to learn more about their local estuary and contribute positively to its management. Over the past few years the program has continued to expanded across the Corangamite region, with a total of twelve estuaries now being monitored. Please come along to find out more

Block 2

Session 3. Biodiversity on Private Land - 1 acre block or 1000 acres we can all play a role

Donna Burns, DSE Senior Natural Resource Management Officer

Donna will be presenting on what private landholders can do in a practical way to add and enhance biodiversity values to their properties. This will include EVC's of the Bellarine, their structure, distribution and conditions.

Session 4. Bellarine Ark - Integrated Pest Animal Control on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Stephen Tuohy, Parks Victoria, PPBBP Ramsar Project Officer

The Bellarine Ark Pest Animal Control Program aims to promote integrated approaches to managing introduced predators across the Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site to minimize their impact on migratory Shorebirds and Orange-bellied parrots. While the focus for the overall program will primarily be the Fox, community engagement programs that promote responsible pet ownership and responsible management of domestic pets including cats and dogs will also be included within the project.

The project will continue to control foxes using a range of approaches to suit different landscapes, undertake monitoring of predator activity, build community and organisational capacity to manage predators, and enhance community awareness of the impact of predators on Ramsar values.

Theme 3. Waders, Wetlands - Birds and Beaches. Saturday 11.15am - 12.45pm

Block 1

Session 1. Ramsar wetlands, what are they why are they so important?

Jennifer Hale, - Aquatic Ecologist

Wetlands continue to be among the world's most threatened ecosystems, owing mainly to ongoing drainage, conversion, pollution, and over-use of their resources. To combat this loss the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention, was developed to provide direction on preparing national policies and tools for managing wetlands. The Port Phillip Bay (Western Foreshore) & Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site is one of eleven sites in Victoria, and it is one of the most interesting with its wide variety of wetland ecosystems and the extensive birdlife they support.

Session 2. Woodland Birds of the Bellarine

Barry Lingham, Bird Group Leader, Geelong Field Naturalist , Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and BELLBOCA, and Go Birding Tour Guide

In the past 150 years, the majority of the Bellarine Peninsula has been cleared of native bushland. The remaining bush areas are critical to these birds. Some bush birds

have declined or become extinct, others have been able to adapt to the changes. Barry will explore these issues.

Block 2

Session 3. Team OBP: working together for the Orange-bellied Parrot

Rachel Sims, DSE, Biodiversity Officer

The Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) is critically endangered, with less than 150 birds remaining in the wild. OBPs migrate annually from breeding grounds in south west Tasmania to over-winter on the south eastern coast of the mainland. Once a favourite winter playground, fewer than 10 individuals have been found in the Bellarine Peninsula area in recent years. Despite these sobering statistics, efforts to save these beautiful birds continue:

Volunteers scour the southern coast each winter for signs of the small green birds. Government agencies work with volunteers to restore lost habitats. In the past two years, hundreds of volunteers have helped to plant thousands of habitat plants into degraded dunes and old grazing paddocks in south west Victoria. Come along to find out what's being done to help one of the world's rarest birds, and how communities can help restore their coastal habitats.

Session 4. Hooded Plover & other beach-nesting birds.

Grainne Maguire, Birds Australia

Dr Grainne Maguire works at Birds Australia as project manager for the 'Beach-nesting birds' project. She has worked on this project for the past four years, working to improve community involvement in monitoring and conservation management of hooded plovers on the Victorian coast.

Shorebirds that nest on beaches are unsurprisingly, highly threatened by human recreation and consequently, struggle to produce young. In a five-year project, Birds Australia has been working with communities, schools, dedicated volunteers and land managers to reverse these human impacts. Today you will hear about the plight of the most threatened beach-nesting bird, the hooded plover, and the renewed hope for the species due to community support.

Block 1

Session 1. Aboriginal Storytelling

David Tournier, Education Officer Wathaurong Cooperative

David will be taking us through Aboriginal stories and themes that help to explore the connection between Aboriginal traditional and contemporary culture and connections to the environment.

Session 2. Creative Writing for Environmental Education

Fiona Olsson, Childrens Environmental Author, eKidna Book Club

Fiona Olsson is the creator and author of the successful children's environmental education storybook series, 'eKidna Club.' The eKidna Club adventures were designed to help children explore key attitudes, beliefs and values central to a positive self esteem and the motivation to care for the environment. The engaging 3D characters that form the eKidna Club are based on an echidna, blue-tongue lizard, numbat, platypus, orange-bellied parrot, spotted cuscus and a red-eyed tree frog. Fiona is currently working on a new series of children's storybooks. This time round, the characters are action heroes with a vital mission to help children understand the importance of water and ways they can conserve this precious resource.

Block 2

Session 3. Photography for the environment

Trevor Pescott, Geelong Field Naturalists,

Trevor will be talking about photographing wildlife and plants, particularly the methods I have used and the things I have looked out for when taking photographs. While nature photography is essentially the same as any other form, there are a few things that make a good photograph better - put another way, there are a few things that can ruin a good picture! Lighting, focus, foregrounds and more importantly backgrounds, all need to be taken carefully handled.

I have been taking wildlife photographs for a very long time, starting with a primitive black-and-white camera and eventually becoming a digital enthusiast. My main interest is in birds, but other fauna is equally attractive. I have published about six books on local wildlife and contributed photographs to various other publications. A life member of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club and the Field Naturalists Club of

Victoria. I have been a nature section judge in various local and other photographic competitions.

Session 4. Drawing, painting and connecting with the environment.

Deb Brearley, Local Environmental Artist

Deborah works and lives in Point Lonsdale and in a career covering 30 years has had her paintings, drawings and textile works exhibited locally, interstate and overseas. She is represented in the National Gallery of Australia Canberra, has had numerous books published by Penguin and Lothian and her fabric design work has been commercially produced by a textile manufacturer

Since childhood she has been a keen observer of Nature. As an adult she observed how the destructive aspects and pressures of our society impacted on the places where she had grown up. This has led to a lifetime pre-occupation with efforts to preserve, regenerate and protect the natural environment. Much of her personal artwork is inspired the natural world and often presents an environmental message. In her teaching of drawing and painting skills she regards that good observational skills, a keen awareness and appreciation of ones surrounds are the primary steps in an ability to draw.

Supporting Groups and Organisations that make up the Bellarine Catchment Network:

Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail

City of Greater Geelong

Borough of Queenscliffe

Coast Action / Coastcare

Parks Victoria

Barwon Coast COM

Bellarine Bayside COM

Greening Australia - Alcoa Partnership

Friends of Edwards Point

Bellarine Landcare Group

(Bellarine Secondary College and Landcare Nursery)

Friends of Buckley Park

Swan Bay Environment Association
(Queenscliffe Community Nursery)

Friends of Begola Wetlands

Friends of Point Richards

Friends of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

Wallington Rabbit Action Group

Lake Connewarre Restoration Group

Clifton Springs Foreshore Committee

We wish to recognize and thank the following Organisations in funding this Forum.

DSE Coast action Coastcare Program

Federal Government Caring For our Country

Barwon Coast Committee of Management

Parks Victoria

DSE Orange -bellied Parrot Project

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority -

Sue Hickey Memorial Grant

Citipower Powercor



Swan Bay
Environment Association Inc.



Australian Government



communities caring for our coast

