



Berg

Mt Martha

Caring for our local environment

THE BOARDWALK & BEYOND



AGENDA

- Welcome to The Boardwalk & Beyond
- President's Overview
- Brief reports:
 - Bushland activities – Liz Barraclough
 - Coastal activities – Suzanne Ryan
 - Water monitoring – Bruce Ferres
 - Schools program – Jenny Spiridis Mt Martha Primary School
- **Formal AGM (20 mins) – All welcome to attend**



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Presidents Update - 2021



Our Vision and Purpose

➤ Vision

- To preserve the Balcombe Estuary and surrounding natural environment through community engagement, passionate volunteerism and best practice habitat management

➤ Purpose

- **In recognizing the valuable asset presented by the Balcombe Estuary, to assist in:**
 - The rehabilitation of the Balcombe Creek, Bushland & Coastal Reserves and local environment
 - The regular update & application of the Balcombe Reserves Management Plan
 - The provision & planting of native flora to support a healthy habitat and public enjoyment
 - Provide necessary measures to maintain the quality of water and marine life in Balcombe Creek



■ Our Community

- ✓ 467 Members
- ✓ 105 Active Volunteers
- ✓ 4,850 Volunteer Hours (even under lockdowns)
- ✓ 24 Business partners
- ✓ \$67,000 Grant Income
- ✓ \$17,000 Donations
- ✓ 98% of Funds invested in on-ground Bushland & Coastal works

KEY POINTS



MEMBER DONATIONS & GRANTS at WORK

- **Coastcare Community Grant – Moving Forward Project (in progress)**
- **Environmental Significance Overlay - Community Engagement Support Project**
- **SE Water “Healthy Waterways” project (Commenced)**
- **Bushland Reserves Nesting Box Maintenance Program**
- **Hopetoun Flora Survey Report & Recommendations (in progress)**
- **Balcombe Creek – Swamp Scrub / Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement (complete)**
- **Hopetoun Creek – Riparian Biolink Restoration Project**
- **Community Action Volunteer Grant- Bushland Restoration (commence 2022)**
- **Bendigo Bank Bushland Restoration Project – COVID Support funding**
- **Biodiversity On-ground works – DELWP**
- **Campground & Boardwalk Audio Trail Upgrade (Complete)**
- **South Beach (Lower) – Banksia 100 Project**
- **Mt Martha Beach Vegetation Buffer Panels Project (support from Bunurong)**
- **Bunurong Engagement Video production (1 of 2 complete)**
- **Devilbend Reserve – Long Necked Turtle Habitat Preservation (Volunteer Support)**



THANKS!!

2021 – an Extraordinary Year

- BERG’s Committee & Support Team volunteers have been hard at work within the confines of the Victorian Government COVID health regulations



- Vice President – Bruce Ferres has taken the fight against Sedimentation to new levels
- Secretary – Di Lewis has kept us all current with changing regulations & is an expert in “Video Conferencing” ensuring we can communicate as a group effectively
- Treasurer – Julie Zammit continues to provide the organisation with comprehensive & accurate financial reports ensuring we have a complete financial picture monthly
- Waterwatch Co-Ordinator – Sue Milton has established a reputation within water authorities for excellence in estuarine waterways
- Field Officer – Liz Barraclough has managed through a couple of “false start activities” during the year while planning a return to the bush with enthusiastic volunteers
- Coastal Group Co-Ordinator – Suzanne Ryan has project managed the most constructive organisational “think tank” program in BERG’s history to ensure we are best prepared to achieve our Vision now & in the future.
- Newsletter Editor – Angela Kirsner has continued to keep the BERG community “up-to-date” with the most interesting & engaging news from the Bushland and along the boardwalk to the Coast.
- A very special thank you also goes to our fantastic support people – Tamara Keyte, Jan Jones, Cate Clark, Sue Betheras, Annie Dowd, Richard Kirsner, Debbie McMahon, Alison Hazeldene to name a few.

Our Community

▪ To all our Volunteers, Donors, Supporters & Business Partners

- Your ongoing support & dedication is greatly appreciated by the magnificent Flora, Fauna and Marine life of the Balcombe Estuary, Bushland & Coast Reserves.
- We look forward to getting together with you all as we get back in the field and give our Reserves the much needed TLC not available in recent times.

▪ **THANKS, BEST WISHES & Welcome to All in 2022**