



Annual Report 2020



President's Report

It is a great pleasure to submit my 1st AGM report as President of BERG MT Martha as the committee, dedicated support team, volunteers & supporters of our organisation continued to progress our vision for the Balcombe Estuary Bushland & Coastal Reserves..

Vision:

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

Statement of Purpose (as expressed in BERG's application for Inc. – updated 2020)

Recognising the valuable asset presented by the Balcombe Estuary Reserves, to assist in.

- The rehabilitation of the Balcombe Creek & Reserves and local environs.*
- The regular update & application of the Balcombe Reserves Management Plan.*
- The provision & planting of flora Inc. passive areas to improve the health & public enjoyment of the area.*
- Providing such measures as may be necessary to maintain the quality of water and marine life in Balcombe Creek.*

OVERVIEW

What a year we have all had with the COVID-19 pandemic seriously disrupting our lives in the 2nd half of the year and seriously interrupting many of the daily activities that we all enjoy.

I am pleased to report that BERG Mt Martha having implemented all necessary health advice and safety initiatives, in conjunction with the Mornington Peninsula Shire, have still managed to progress the majority of our strategic plan initiatives and commence new projects to ensure we are ready to move ahead safely in all areas operational areas in line with our vision to protect & preserve the Balcombe Estuary Reserves for future generations.

Despite the health emergency that has interrupted our most important estuary, bushland & coastal on-ground activities including our regular working bee program there has been much happening behind the scenes.

Since March 2020, the committee have continued to meet monthly via video conferencing ensuring that we are fully compliant with all statutory obligations relative to our “not for profit” organisation status.

Furthermore, the committee and our terrific team of support volunteers have been in constant contact with our partners including the Mornington Peninsula Shire, Naturelinks, Melbourne Water, DELP and other environmental organisations also via video conferencing.

Sadly, in February 2020 our organisation lost one of our most valued, convivial, hard-working & generous volunteer supporters, David Street after a short illness. A seat, in memory of David and in recognition of his enormous contribution to the protection of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves has been placed in the old quarry site which was one of David's favourite parts of the reserve. It was in this area that Liz Barraclough & Sue Betheras held our first MPS approved working bee in June before increased Covid-19 restrictions were imposed again in July.

As mentioned, despite the health restrictions imposed on our community in the latter half of the year it has been a year of intense activity for the committee & various support team volunteers.

The highlights of our year have been:

- Advancing our Environmental Significance Overlay proposal to the consultant report & documentation stage in preparation for submission to Mornington Peninsula Shire (MPS) councillors.
- Fauna Survey report – Thanks to Mal Legg
- Flora Survey, Vegetation Mapping & Management Guidelines report
 - o Thanks to Gidga Walker, Katherine Smedley & Greg James (Practical Ecology)
- Bird Survey & Monitoring – Thanks to Pam Hearn
- Audio Trail Upgrade Project
 - o Funded by a Greg Hunt – Stronger Communities Program Grant
- Campground & Boardwalk Signage Upgrade – (in progress)
- Completing the website system upgrade & refresh project
 - o Professionally maintained by our skilled web support volunteer Richard Kirsner
- Completing the online membership database system
 - o Thanks to Suzanne Ryan & Julie Zammit
- Advancing the MPS / Melbourne Water (MW) Balcombe Estuary “Long Term Sedimentation Action” plan urgently required to “Save the Estuary” from destructive sediment inflows.
- Negotiating agreement with the MPS & MW to collectively approve expenditure on a ~\$300k project to install a sediment reduction Gross Pollutant Trap at Henley Avenue.
- Successfully applying to MPS for office accommodation to support our activities in Mt Martha house.
 - o Thanks to Di Lewis for lobbying the shire on our behalf
- Achieving a single use plastic bag-free Mt Martha shopping centre.
- Further development of our important Business Partners program

Key Statistics – F2020 Financial Reports

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020	2019-20 % Change
No. Members	503	468	461	534	491	+16%
No. Active Volunteers	109	104	111	109	112	-2%
Volunteer Hrs	4,300	3,300	4,900	4,300	5,450	-10%
No. Business Partners			15	18	20	+20%
Total Income	\$104,000	\$200,000	\$165,000	\$113,000	\$107,000	-32%
Donations	\$11,000	\$83,000	\$22,000	\$16,000	\$15,000	-27%

Note: Please refer to our Treasurers report and the complete set of audited Financial statements expertly prepared, as always, by Julie Zammit which are included in the AGM documents pack.

OPERATIONS

Our main activities are centred on the on-ground operations of the organisation which represent the most important work regularly undertaken by BERG Mt Martha.

Working Bees

Bushland Reserves – Balcombe Creek & Hopetoun Reserves

As usual, until restrictions prevented, we successfully held our regular Friday (weekly) and Sunday (monthly) working bees organised by our amazing Field Officer, Liz Barraclough, with great support from Sue Betheras, Tamara Keyte (Naturelinks) & the MPS Natural Systems team.. Thanks also to Alison Hazeldene for organising the traditional, all important, tasty morning teas (when allowed).

Coastal Area(s)

Again, until restrictions prevented, we successfully held our regular Wednesday (fortnightly) working bee organised by our fantastic Coastal Group coordinator, Suzanne Ryan with great support from Cate Clark, Tamara Keyte & the MPS Natural Systems team.

Working bee activities

Regular working bee activities include...

- **Weeding** – a forever on-going process, but essential to retain, maintain and improve the native local vegetation and habitat.
- **Planting** – concentration on enhancement (**1,500+**) to improve the diversity of the indigenous vegetation with particular emphasis on increasing the depleted overstorey/tree species (**300+**) for long-term fauna habitat.

We are very fortunate to have a highly skilled team of people who are constantly identifying and preparing professional **grant applications** to provide the funding to implement the necessary works to maintain the ecological integrity of the Balcombe Reserves Bushland and Coastal area.

Special thanks go to this exceptional team which includes Suzanne Ryan, Liz Barraclough, Cate Clark, Tamara Keyte & Angela Kirsner.

Unfortunately, we were unable to sponsor our usual selected volunteer attendance at the SPIFFA Habitat Management course which is an important part of training our volunteers with best practice habitat knowledge, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Note: Please refer to our Field Officer's report for full details of all our on-ground activities

Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) – Application Progress

It is pleasing to report that that our 2017 re-zoning proposal and application for an Environmental Significance Overlay to be applied to the 73ha Balcombe Estuary Reserves has now progressed to the consultant's research & documentation stage. Submission to councillors for approval to proceed with public notice due in December 2020.

Specific information can be obtained by contacting election.information@mornpen.vic.gov.au

We are grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement we have received for our ESO application from the Briars Ward councillors namely... Cr. Sam Hearn, Cr. Bev Columb & Cr. Rosie Clark.

Special thanks also to Katanya Barlow, Manager-Strategic Planning, Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Sedimentation Action Group (SAG) – “Save the Estuary” Activities

Sedimentation Reduction Planning

Bruce Ferrer our Vice-President has been very active in preparing a case for urgent action to initially reduce the inflows of sediment and gross pollutants into the estuary whilst demanding urgent completion of a Long Term Sedimentation Action plan to apply to the creek & estuary system. We are pleased to report that we have received a draft plan to review & have submitted our preferred recommendations for action.

Bruce has held several meetings between BERG MM representatives and MPS Water Infrastructure team members, both at the Shire office and on-site at Balcombe Estuary, reinvigorated attempts to get Melbourne Water to accept responsibility for, and take action to address, the delivery of sediment and gross pollutants which have been identified by numerous specialist consultants studies & reports as a serious threat to the long term health and existence of the estuary.

BERG MM increased the pressure on Melbourne Water by arranging for an article featuring drone footage of the Henley Avenue outfall sediment delta. The article highlighted Melbourne Water inaction and apparent lack of interest in working with MPS to achieve effective outcomes.

As a result of lobbying by BERG MM in support of MPS initiatives to address the Henley Avenue outfall problem Melbourne Water agreed to a meeting of all interested parties. The subsequent online meeting of all stakeholders agreed to consider 12 options with a view to reaching a consensus on the best way forward.

After feedback from stakeholders it was agreed that Option 3 (an offline GPT at Watson Rd with additional roadside treatment in Henley Avenue and extra catch pits on two other contributing streets) should be actioned as soon as possible.

Note: We would like to thank our business partner, Mr George Murley of Complete Step Podiatry, Mt Martha for providing exceptional drone footage & images of the estuary. Current video footage and images can be viewed on our website at www.berg.org.au.

Water Monitoring

The health of the water is the primary & most important guide to the ability of any Estuarine system to support the Flora, Fauna, ecology & amenity which depends on it.

Our ongoing water monitoring programs which have been providing important information to the Shire & Water authorities on the health of the Balcombe Estuary & Creek waterway has also been disrupted by restrictions since March 2020. However, we are grateful to our members & supporters for contacting us with any irregularities they notice as they exercise walking the reserves.

Berg Mt Martha actively manage two particularly important water monitoring programs on a monthly (or as needs) basis, namely...

The **Waterwatch** program is led by Sue Milton who has engaged a dedicated team of volunteers to carry out the testing program and record/post the results in comparison database(s) for comparison & review. Sue has also established important relationships with relevant Melbourne Water departments important to our ongoing relationship.

The **Estuary Watch program** led by Bruce Ferres has been producing detailed water quality reports which have been supplemented by Mr Murley's drone video footage & images which assists with our understanding of the effects on the estuary following significant rain events & the opening / closing of the berm. Information gathered by Bruce & his support team have significantly supported Bruce's negotiations with MPS & MW with sedimentation reduction planning.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The **Schools Program** is coordinated by Debbie McMahon who is greatly assisted in running our approved environmental programs by a highly knowledgeable group of volunteers.

Prior to COVID-19 restrictions being placed on these programs the Schools program conducted individual learning activity sessions for students from Balcombe Preschool, Balcombe Grammar and Osborne Primary school.

Unfortunately, a planned day with student groups from Mt Martha Primary School had to be deferred however our Schools program team are looking forward to the opportunity to run this program in 2021.

NEWSLETTERS, PRINT & SOCIAL MEDIA

Angela Kirsner continues to produce our highly informative & appealing bi-monthly newsletter, "*The Creek*" which is widely distributed. Angela is always on the look-out for new informative stories and images to include in this newsletter. Current and past copies of *The Creek* are available on our website & make great reading.

Di Lewis also distributes our "eNews" on a periodic basis to keep our members informed of important current news, activities and events.

Tamara Keyte has greatly assisted the committee in reaching out to a wider audience using her terrific skills in promoting awareness of our organisation through Facebook & Instagram social media channels. The response to her work has been exceptional, reaching audiences that we could not have considered possible in the past.

Anni Dowd continues to maintain and upgrade our impressive Information Board in the campground as well as assisting with signage upgrades within the reserves.

Patricia MacLeod & Barry Morris are continually looking for interesting newsworthy stories to recommend to local newspapers which they professionally prepare for submission.

Business Partners program

Our **Business Partner** program continues to develop with Julie Zammit providing a highly professional collaborative approach to engage with many Mt Martha businesses and organisations raising awareness of our work & offering our support for their businesses in return.

Our business partners are listed below & your support for them would be greatly appreciated.

Major Partners:

Bendigo Bank Mt Martha, Bonaccorde, Complete Colour and Rotary Club of Mt Martha.

Partners:

Bells Meats, Terry Bateman Pharmacy, Mt Martha Veterinary Clinic, Mt Martha Village Clinic, Mt Martha Yacht Club, Warlimont & Nutt, Mt Martha Optical, Danckert Real Estate, Mt Martha Chiropractic and Sports Injury, Volpino, Sea-Side Shacks, Complete Step, Roberts Beckwith Partners, Mr Curtis Wine Bar, Boomerang Bags and Bunnings.

MANY THANKS

A huge thanks to our dedicated Committee and all our support team members who are our most passionate Active Volunteers. As you will see from the various AGM reports they continue to make enormous contributions to achieving great environmental outcomes for the Balcombe Estuary, Coast & surrounds.

Special thanks must go to Di Lewis, our secretary who continues to provide exceptional administrative support to the committee in the most professional manner. Once again it is Di who has so efficiently put together this event. Di is also a great contributor on matters pertaining to many of our activities.

Special thanks also to Graham Hubbard, who is stepping down from his Marketing Coordinator role after 8 years on the committee which included 6 important development & growth years as President. We wish Graham well and look forward to his continued friendship and attendance as an active volunteer at working bees in the future.

There is much still to do, but we are making great strides towards achieving our vision. On behalf of the Committee, we look forward to your continued support and involvement, to protect and preserve the Balcombe Estuary Reserves, Coast and surrounds for future generations to appreciate and enjoy as we all do.

Best Wishes to all.

Peter McMahon

President

October 2020

Field Officer's Report

Well, what a year - June 2019 to June 2020! The first half was full of BERG Mt Martha's life 'as usual', but the 2nd half, dominated by COVID-19 and our adaptive measures to ensure the work in the Reserves and allied projects continued and we did not take a step backwards.

This report gives an outline of the on-ground activities – working bees, weeding, planting, schools' programs, signage, surveys, and also related activities and issues eg feral animal control, waste and pollution, bike tracks etc, but does not include others such as Waterwatch, Estuary Watch, Sedimentation issues etc.

ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES

Working-bees

The one weekly (Friday morning) and one monthly working-bees (2nd Sunday) run throughout the year, breaking for Christmas and whenever the summer conditions were not suitable for on-ground work. Weed control is the main, forever on-going and essential activity, determined by regular monitoring, with resulting maintenance and enhancement/diversity planting, where required. We concentrate our activities on the Balcombe Estuary Reserves, from the Nepean Hwy to the coast and the lower reaches of Hopetoun Creek.

Tuesday Group - is no longer held and a number of its volunteers are participating in the coastal or at Friday working bees.

Friday Morning Group - weekly

Over the last year, works and projects have tended to concentrate on targeted areas, to ensure adequate follow-up and maintenance and to give a sense of achievement and feeling of ownership for all the work put in:

- Uralla Bridge area and Quarry - on-going weeding and enhancement planting is to improve the diversity of vegetation and fauna, especially small birds.
- Hyacinth Orchid Patch – occasional monitoring and maintenance as this area begins to regenerate
- Maude St burn site – more like biannual monitoring and surveying.
- The Jaw – occasional follow up weeding and monitoring.
- Old Campground and bird hide – occasional maintenance and monitoring.

July 2019 – 30th June 2020: Working bees – 43; Average Friday volunteers – 7; Total volunteer hours – 590.

COVID halted working bees in mid-March. They resumed in the beginning of June for 4 weeks with bumper turnouts with average of 10 – 11 volunteers, as the usual winter holiday retirees were unable to head off. However, these were unfortunately short-lived and we were shut down again.

*Many thanks to Sue Betheras for helping share the coordinating of this very successful group and its activities.

*In February this year, **David Street**, one of our much-loved Friday coordinators, died after a relatively short illness. He has been sorely missed, as not only was he a great support to Sue and I, taking responsibility for the tools and helping in the running of working bees, but he contributed so much to the enjoyment of our on-ground work with his thoughtfulness and his ever-present, quirky

sense of humour. He was also like a caretaker of the Reserves and related areas. On his regular walks, he constantly monitored and then quietly fixed any problems eg removing fallen trees from paths, repairing damaged items etc.

Sunday working-bee – 2nd Sunday of the month

These working-bees have averaged a healthy 6 –10, not always the same volunteers, mainly working in the grant sites from the Maude St Philanthropic area, riparian weeding along Balcombe Creek to weeding and planting along the major tributary of Hopetoun Creek.

Coastal working bee – fortnightly on Wednesday morning

The coastal group expanded their on-ground works in the 19/20 year to cover the coastal area from Balcombe Hedland in the south, opposite Lempriere Ave, up to Alice Street in the north.

They continued on groundworks via funding from the grants (see below) and the help of a fantastic team of volunteers, supported by numerous people, including the Bushland Management Team which is made up of the Shire's Natural Systems Team (Simon Thorning and Hannah Brown - our main contacts) and the Management contractor, Naturelinks, (Sally McLeod, Tamara Keyte, Danielle Suffern - and team)

*Working bee thanks to members of the Naturelinks team, Tamara Keyte, Pia Spreen, Emily Sharp and Tess Graham for all their invaluable monthly guidance and supervision of these groups and for their always obliging, cheerful and reliable help and support. Thanks also to the Shire who provided and funded these supervision roles.

*And special thanks to Alison Hazledine who has one of the **most** important and essential roles of all, as coordinator of the Catering Team. The delicious and bountiful morning-teas are the highlight of our Sunday working-bees and other designated events.

Weed Control

As noted above, weed control is an on-going process, but absolutely essential if we are to retain, maintain and improve the native local vegetation that supports the remaining and most resilient of our native animals and birds. A number of methods are used to selectively and specifically target different weed species and we are constantly learning and trailing the most effective, but least harmful to all, but the weeds. The use of chemicals has been reduced, used sparingly and as a last resort and is constantly monitored and assessed. We rely heavily on the knowledge and skills of our bushland contractors and the advice and guidance of the Shire's Conservation Officers. Grants are our main source of funding for this activity, enabling us to employ contractors. Without them, we would have to rely on donations, our own relatively limited labour and even more support from the Shire, who already contribute a major amount per year ie approximately \$200,000/financial year for their Bushland Management Program, Corridors of Green grants, Fire Management, working bee support and extra plants from the Shire nursery.

Planting

We now have to take into account the relatively recent reduction in the length of this planting season and the most likely rainfall reduction in the future. Plants need time to become established to last the hot, dry summer period.

This year, COVID-19 has changed our planting regime, as we have had to rely heavily on the Shire-supported extra funding diverted from the working bee supervisor program, to ensure many of our orders were planted in i) Hopetoun Creek; ii) along Henley Ave drainage line; iii) the Orchid area. Planning for the long term, we also managed to get another 500+ trees and shrubs planted

throughout the Reserves. This was in response to the highlighting, particularly by Mal Legg in his Fauna Survey and Report, of the lack of old trees, the mature overstorey that provides essential habitat and hollows that can take up to 100 years to develop.

Free Indigenous Plant Offer.

We continue to encourage residents to restore the habitat in their gardens and on their nature strips through our offer of indigenous tube-stock, available from the Shire nursery at The Briars. Kate, Tanzin and Rachel are always happy to advise and help select the appropriate plants for members and add them to a BERG MM account.

GRANTS

We had a good number of grants extending throughout the Reserves and the coastal foreshore throughout this period. Melbourne Water's grants have been a constant over a number of years and are the backbone of our funding. They allow us to plan and provide project continuity. However, even though the name of the grants and the funding bodies tend to change regularly, luckily for BERG MM and our environment, the supply has not diminished. Hopefully, this continues. We are also fortunate to have a backup of funds from membership and donations to undertake extra or fill-in projects.

Grant Applications & Site assessments – BERG MM's On-ground Assessment Team (Sue Betheras, Liz Barraclough, Cate Clarke and Suzanne Ryan – depending on sites) work together with Hannah Brown (MPS Natural Systems Team) and Tamara Keyte, Naturelinks (contractor) on project determination, grant assessment and reporting. For each project/grant a detailed project works plan, map and costing, is undertaken and approved by BERG MM, the contractor and the Shire.

Grant applications and reports take time, research and consultation and so, I would like to thank the above team, but also especially Angela Kirsner who tirelessly proof reads, edits/'tidies up' our efforts.

Grants operating 1st July 2019 – 30th June 2020, Balcombe Reserves & Hopetoun Ck

Melbourne Water Grants

Melbourne Water grants extend over an 18 month period which means projects can overlap. However, for our accounting and practical convenience, we try to finalise all major works and spending in the financial year and use the final six months to complete the necessary assessments and reports.

2019 Melbourne Water grants (\$29,892.40)

(Feb 2019 – June 2020)

i) Swamp Scrub/Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 12 (\$19,901.50)

3 Sites - Area 1. Between Latrobe Drive and Orchid Zone – woody weed (WW) and scrambling weed (SW) treatment to complement existing works along creek-line through MPS.

Area 2. (Follow-up) Woody weed and scrambler control through the designated polygon with an emphasis on restricting the dispersal of WONS (Weeds Of National Significance). Follow up on extensive Forget -Me-Not colonies.

Area 3. Between Nepean Hwy and Uralla Rd Footbridge - WW, SW treatment to reduce spread of seed from mature woody weeds and scramblers into COG areas.

ii) Hopetoun Creek Riparian Biolink Restoration Project, Mt Martha 2019 (\$21,664.50)

2 Sites - Area 1 - south ie above Ferrero ovals

Area 2a) - above Uralla Rd to Hopetoun Rd, east and west banks ie weed control and planting, particularly for erosion control and consequent reduction of sediment entering the waterways.

Area 2b) - Hopetoun Ave – Greenfield Way - cut and paint woody weeds, and spray scramblers and Arum Lilies in drier months. Patch spraying creeping buttercup to encourage spread of planted indigenous species from previous year's grant.

iii) Support Grant) (\$1,100) - for insurance and education ie. upgrade, redesign and installation of 2 X interpretive signage ie Bats and Short-finned Eels.

2020 Melbourne Water grants (\$36,565.13)

(Feb 2020– June 2021)

i) Swamp Scrub/Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 12 (\$19,901.50)

3 Sites - Area 1. Between Latrobe Drive and Orchid Zone – WW, SW treatment to complement existing works along creek-line through MPS.

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iii) Support Grant) (\$1,100) - for insurance and education ie. upgrade, redesign and installation of 2 X interpretive signage ie Bats and Short-finned Eels.

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Victorian Landcare Grant (\$13,088)

(August 2018 – Nov 2019) - 'Grassy Woodland Restoration, Citation Hill, Mt Martha, 2018' - for restoration of the endangered Grassy Woodland (EVC 175) south-facing slopes above Balcombe Creek on north side of creek, below Citation Oval from N/S track east to above Pistol Club.

Biodiversity On-ground Action, Community Volunteer Action grant (\$48,962.90)

(Sept 2017 – March 2020) - Biodiversity and Ecology Restoration Project, Mt Martha - for weed control, pest animal control, project management etc, plants, capital items & equipment, training X 2, workshops X 2, Peninsula Habitat Management Course (PHMC), educational/interpretive signage.

Sites

- A – severely degraded, but patches of good indigenous vegetation; bordering Watson Rd, kindergarten, tennis-courts; impacted by trampling, trail bikes.
- B – control-burnt 2004, indigenous species regenerated, but diversity plummeted over time. Few weeds.
- C – tea-tree felled 2013 for an aborted control-burn. Deep mulching and rabbits stunted regeneration. Some grassy weeds.
- D – Henley Ave Drainage line, Swamp-Scrub with dense woody and scrambling weeds.

Philanthropy Project (\$72,650)

(July 2018 – June 2021) – matching donor and general donations – to complement projects and programs for weed removal, fauna survey, flora survey, signage upgrade, bush/indigenous sculptures, Peninsula Conservation Habitat Management Course training, project office supplies and equipment, on-ground equipment.

Coastal Grants & related reports

(As all current grant monies will run out this year, 2020, we are looking for further funding opportunities for the future to continue our work.)

Port Phillip Bay Grant Round 3: 2019 - 2020 (July 2019 - December 2020) \$15,730

Mt Martha North Coastal Headland Restoration 2019-20

Area: Mt Martha Coastal Reserve between Coolangatta Road to Alice Street.

Commenced weed removal to allow natural regeneration and where required planted in the area from Coolangatta Rd to Alice street. Focus on weed and erosion control.

Port Phillip Bay Grant Round 2: 2018 - 2020 (May 2018 – Dec 2020) \$31,396

Community & Berg Mt Martha Together - Protection, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Coastal Habitat

Area: Mt Martha Coastal Reserve from Balcombe headland to Coolangatta Rd.

Year 1 - \$16,048.08. Finalised /Year 2 - \$15,347.10

Final Year - Planted over 1500 plants along the coast, prepared vegetation protection fencing for installation and continued weed removal. South Beach to North Beach bushland.

Coastcare Vegetation Survey Grant 2018 -2020 (June 2018 – Dec 2020) \$12,850

Vegetation Survey & Assessment of Mount Martha Coastal Vegetation

Area: Mt Martha Coastal Reserve - From Balcombe Headland to Coolangatta Road Mt Martha.

Final Year: Coastal Vegetation Survey, Bunurong Field Assessment, Training: Advanced Habitat/GIS Workshop. Survey still in progress to collect baseline data of vegetation quality within the coastal bushland over 2 years.

Sunshine Foundation Grant 2017-2020 (Nov 2017 – Oct 2020) \$15,080

Protection, Preservation and Restoration of the Southern Mt Martha Foreshore and Headland.

Area: Southern end of South Beach foreshore and slopes – from southern end of carpark to top of beach access path.

Final Year - Weed control & planting from lower south beach to Lempriere Ave beach path.

Corporate Volunteers – Due to COVID 19 we could not host our annual corporate group, ADP (Auto Data Processing) which helps BERG volunteers on the foreshore.

Mornington Peninsula Shire - Mt Martha Coastal Advisory Group has recently been reinstated and Suzanne Ryan the BERG MM Coastal Coordinator is a community representative on this committee.

Key Partnerships - During 2019/20 key partnerships have been formed with the Bunurong Land Council and Dolphin Research Institution. Mount Martha Yacht Club continued to be a strong partner and supporter of BERG Mt Martha.

*Many thanks to **Suzanne Ryan** not only because our local coast is so fortunate to have her as their caretaker and provider of restoration works, but also because she has been a great support to me personally and helped shoulder many of the field officer responsibilities. She has been incredibly successful with coastal grants, has organised and directed numerous working bees, coordinated

programs with Naturelinks, the Shire and the Yacht Club of which, being a member herself, is most fortuitous and beneficial to BERG MM, as she has an almost continuous eye on the foreshore.

**Grants Extended due to COVID-19:*

- BOA-CVA17-20 grant - 31st Dec 2020
- PPWCMALC20 – 31st May 2021
- PPBF – 30th Nov 2020
- Stronger Communities Grant – 1st Nov 2020

Additional Grants/funding

Clean Green Mt Martha Project (\$1,000)

(Nov 2017 – onwards). For War on Waste, plastic-free, sustainability and Waste Wise projects and materials.

Port Phillip EcoCentre Clean Bays Blueprint Project (\$4,500)

(July 2017 - June 2020) Received as a donation from the EcoCentre in return for BERG MM volunteers collecting and surveying from a selected area of the Mt Martha beach or microplastics. (Many thanks for Fran and Peter Dedricks for initiating and taking on this project.)

Peninsula Grammar School (\$4,209.46)

Received as a donation for environment works and Panel Artwork (plasma cut steel bird panels).

Mt Martha Primary (\$985.10)

Gr 6 chose BERG MM as their local charity, to donate the funds raised from their after-school sausage sizzle part of their Local Community Program.

Mt Martha Community Bank ie Bendigo Bank (\$2,500)

funds the BERG MM Newsletter printing, postage and labels.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/TASKS

All BERG Mt Martha's on-ground works aim to directly improve the health of the waterway, while our community awareness activities contribute indirectly through education, encouraging involvement and raising the profile of BERG MM and the local environment and its precious ecology.

Balcombe Estuary Reserves Signage Upgrade – the updating, upgrading and replacement of the Reserves signage should hopefully be completed by the end of 2020 and prove more consistent, engaging and effective as it extends through the Reserves from the coast to The Briars.

- i) the 2 new Balcombe Estuary Reserves plank signs have been installed in the Old Campground carpark and at the corner of Uralla Rd-Nepean Hwy.
- ii) bollard (Reserves introduction) signs have been installed at minor entrances eg end of Wattle Ave.
- iii) Reserve Entrance signs with map, installed at all main entrances
- iv) Directional and interpretive signage – delayed due to COVID-19, but hopefully finalized and installed by the beginning of 2021.

v) Audio Trail – upgraded plaques to be installed when COVI-19 restriction permit. Thanks to Peter for undertaking this project.

Feral Animal Control - Paul Bertuch, Eco-agri completed the cat, rat and rabbit control works in June 2020. 7 rabbit warrens were fumigated, 5 rat traps (10 caught) and 5 cat traps 0 caught) laid. BERG MM will work with the Shire to ensure on-going follow-up to ensure control of these pests.

Rusted Metal Bird Sculptures – the sculptures were offered to us by sculptor, David Doyle at a reduced cost and purchased with funds from the Peninsula School. The Shire installed them for us in heavy cement blocks, placed at regular intervals along the track from the Old Campground to the beginning of the boardwalk. The painting of the large cement blocks and the planting of grasses and sedges round the bases should help them to settle more into the landscape.

*Thank you to Anni Dowd for her creative input and painting and planting help.

Twilight Market –BERG MM participated in the 3 Summer Twilight Markets held at Mt Martha House with a display/table next to Boomerang Bags to highlight BERG MM's and the Clean Green MM activities.

EDUCATION PROGRAM - preschools, primary and secondary schools and universities

*Many thanks to Deb McMahon for her great job in organizing and overseeing of this large program.

Balcombe Preschool – over 2 planting sessions, they planted approx. 50 sedges and shrubs in an area where we have extended the protective fence to increase the narrow width of the riparian zone.

Balcombe Grammar - i) MAD (Making a Difference) Community Service Program – 50+ Grade 6 students over 4 sessions weeded, planted, collected and surveyed waste from the edges of the estuary and participated in a Waterwatch session.

ii) 90 students in Nov took part in a Waterwatch session.

iii) in November, 50 Grade 4 students took part in a Waterwatch program in which they enjoyed discovering the creepy crawlies in the healthy estuary waters and even a turtle.

Thanks to John Inchley, Bruce Ferres and Jan Jones it was a very successful morning.

iv) due to COVID, the 2020 MAD program had to be suspended and so we were asked for ideas and suggestions for their home-schooling environmental program.

Osborne Primary School – in November, 92 Gr 5 students participated in and rotated through a morning session of environmental activities –ie Water watch, a bird hide walk, litter examination and a treasure hunt for matching items within the camping ground.

Mt Martha Primary School – cancelled due to COVID.

SURVEYS

Both of the recent flora and fauna surveys are available on BERG MM's website. These 'working' documents will provide guidance and direction for future programs and projects and regular progress reports will be documented and made available.

Flora Survey 2019 – was delayed due to Gidja’s ill-health, but it was finally submitted to BERG MM in July 2020. A follow-up Zoom meeting was held with Gidja and Katherine Smedley, to discuss the recommendations listed in the report and the comments and issues it raised.

Fauna Survey 18/19– Mal Legg completed, submitted his extensive survey (undertaken every 10 years) and gave a presentation to BERG MM’s 2019 AGM. A follow-up meeting with Gidja is proposed to discuss the related issues in the two reports.

Bird Surveys

These are still carried out by Peninsula Birdlife a number of times a year. Pam Hearn, although she has moved from Mt Martha to Safety Beach, still plays an important role in all the bird watching activities and surveys and sends us their reports.

On-going monitoring and recording can be effective indicators for determining the success of our on-ground works to improve and restore the local habitat.

Nesting Boxes – the funding of this on-going program is to be shared by BERG MM (installation of new or damaged boxes, maintenance and mapping) and the Shire (monitoring - to be done by Naturelinks under the Bushland Management Program). These boxes are to primarily compensate for habitat loss, but they also provide a ready, visual educational tool for schools and other interested groups.

Weedbuster – washed out!

Clean Up Australia Day – 1st March – BERG MM coordinated the event from the Mt Martha Village Site (outside IGA) this year with 49 participants collecting rubbish from the local streets, reserves and foreshore. As well, 14 Yacht Club members in their kayaks, cleaned up round the edges of the estuary and the adjoining stretches of the creek.

Again, there were a number of clean-up sites along the Mt Martha stretch of the Esplanade – from Coral Beach, Fossil Beach, Bird Rock, Mt Martha Village, Sea Shepherd at South Beach to Hearn Rd/The Pillars. The amount of collected rubbish was well down compared with other years – 9 x 20 – 25 kg bags of landfill rubbish, 3 bags of recyclables and some wooden planks, an esky and a deck chair.

This may have been due to a number of factors – the monthly Beach Patrols, more local walkers regularly and conscientiously picking up rubbish, the regular Shire cleaning pick-up man, and maybe even, people being more aware and less inclined to litter.

Waste & Pollution

Clean Green Mt Martha has morphed into a number of different interest subgroups with a range of policies and projects, but all with the same overarching aim of reducing waste and pollution and improving the local and wider environment.

Actions & activities raising the profile of the waste and pollution issue affecting our waterways and environment:

- Clean Up Australia Day
- Engagement Boomerang Alliance program to undertake the Clean Green Mt Martha project.
- Mt Martha Beach Patrol
- Local school litter collections and surveys organised and coordinated by Berg MM

- Periodic waste displays & solutions in the local Mt Martha shopping centre with the support and involvement of the Boomerang Bag Project
- Involvement of and support for Tangaroa Blue projects eg Dromana's 'The Last Straw' - tackling the plastic straw issue etc
- Baykeeper Beach Litter Audit of micro plastics and small litter objects (thanks to Fran and Peter Dedricks)
- Litter Trackers Program.
- Shire's active support and involvement projects - Waste Forums, appointment of a Waste & Litter Officer, Amy Yang, commitment to reduce the use of single-use plastic throughout the shire etc.
- Publicity in the local papers

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, FORUMS

Peninsula Conservation & Habitat Management Course – as the course was cancelled this year due to COVID19, we are planning a program, using grant Training funding, to engage a number of the PHCM course presenters to run relevant training sessions for targeted BERG MM volunteers, especially those who were planning to do the 2020 course.

Mornington Peninsula Friends Network Day 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19.

PRESENTATIONS

Peninsula Field Naturalists - In September, I spoke to the Field Naturalists on the environmental work and activities of BERG Mt Martha.

Indigenous Interpretation Guided 'Walk, Talk & Gawk' for BOA17-20 grant – on 10th November, Lionel Lauch gave an on-ground presentation on the aboriginal perspective and management of the vegetation and local environment and led a guided walk through the relevant areas of the Reserves.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Mornington Peninsula Shire Nursery team – the knowledgeable nursery staff, Kate, Taznin and Rachel are always cheerful, efficient and helpful. We pre-order indigenous tube-stock to meet our grant commitments and enhance our bushland restoration projects. Once propagated, they are grown on until ready to be planted in the appropriate season.

The Briars ranger team. We share a common and precious bio-link with our close neighbours across the highway and we each benefit from our shared interests. We enjoy a good and cooperative relationship with Beck Levy, manager and Jono Ricciardello, Conservation Team Leader and their team, Tristan, Jo, Tara, Sharon and Brandon and we benefit from their help and expertise.

Mt Martha Yacht Club and Mt Martha Lifesaving Club have a good relationship with BERG MM and we contribute to each other's activities whenever possible. We have a common interest in the preservation and improvement of the foreshore and its environment and cooperate in activities such as Clean Up Australia Day, the Foreshore Advisory Committee, coastal working bees etc.

*Mt Martha Foreshore Advisory Group has recently been reinstated and has two BERG MM members on its committee.

Local Schools – their involvement is mutually beneficial, with BERG MM contributing to their environmental and sustainability programs and the schools helping us with our on-ground projects. Deb Mc Mahon has done a marvellous job in taking on the schools' program and her greater involvement and expertise are very much appreciated and valued. Thanks also to the other BERG MM volunteers for the extra hours they contributed, on top of their normal working bees.

ISSUES

COVID-19 – has provided a number of both and negative changes to BERG MM and also within the Reserves and has highlighted and exaggerated existing limitations.

First the **positives**:

- in spite of COVID, we have been able to adapt and ensure our essential programs and projects continued and did not go backwards.
- *Working bees* before Stage 3 enjoyed even higher numbers at working bees, as our travelling retirees could not do a Winter Holiday Escape!
- *Weeding* became a great form of 1 hour and later 2 hour's exercise, as well the *planting of 500+* trees and shrubs throughout the Reserves.
- *MPS Natural Systems support* directed the working bee supervision funds to Naturelinks, so they could continue our on-ground works projects.

Negatives:

- *Suspension of group and working bee programs.*
- *Proliferation of BMX tracks and jumps* throughout the Reserves, roadsides and open areas. These have unfortunately destroyed the natural bushland and significant species. We recognize the need for these, mainly boys, for outdoor active exercise, especially at this time and we even admire their construction and engineering skills. However, our need to protect these precious natural areas is foremost a priority. We are working with the Shire to address and solve this problem and encouraging the involvement of the boys in the solutions.
- *Bikes on the boardwalk* have proved a major danger for walkers. With the incredible increase in bike riders, the boardwalk has become the best shortcut route from the north to south side of the creek and Mt Martha. Signage requesting riders to dismount on the boardwalk has been removed. Again, the Shire is aware of the problem and realizes that a long-term solution eg system of bike trails, needs to be planned and provided.

THANKS TO:

Mornington Peninsula Shire's Natural Systems Team is always supportive, not just financially, but through their ready guidance, advice and unreserved assistance with all our projects. They are our first port of call when a problem arises or help is needed and they always respond cheerfully and without hesitation. **Simon Thorning**, as head of the Team, **Clayton Fenech**, Land Protection Officer and especially, **Hannah Brown**, as the Conservation Officer in charge of BERG MM. They manage to manage us with great humour and tolerance and we appreciate the effort and time they give to BERG MM.

Naturelinks as our contractor, plays a valuable role in the management of the Reserves. Not only their on-ground service, but also their input in determining priorities, management strategies and grant applications. **Tamara Keyte** who is the HSEQ Coordinator and Project Manager for the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and BERG MM – a job requiring the utmost patience, tolerance and sense of humour. She really does a wonderful job and she is highly valued by all our volunteers, but especially Suzanne and me, who she patiently aids and supports.

Sally Mcleod as Business Unit Manager and **Danielle Suffern**, Friends Group coordinator are also always helpful and willing to share their expertise. We also appreciate and have enjoyed the input and assistance of **Tess Graham, Emily Sharp and Pia Spreen** in their supervisory capacities at 2019/20 Sunday working-bees. The Team is always most helpful and cooperative regarding all our activities and their in-depth knowledge of the Reserves is greatly valued.

Broad Spectrum is contracted by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to carry out fire control works in and around the Reserve. **Jarvis Toomey** and his teams have also been most obliging with supplying us with mulch for our revegetation works, as well as keeping us up to date with their works.

Progress Signs have always supported and advised us, and creatively and clearly designed and printed our interpretive signs. **Hayley Robinson** has skilfully helped to edit and draft any signage we require.

Melbourne Water has become an indispensable partner in the rehabilitation of the Balcombe Creek and its environs. **Patrick McClusky** is now MW's grant contact and assessor for BERG MM. He is always approachable and prompt to help or advise on the management and coordination of Melb Water's grant program and any related works or problems eg water leaks and pollution etc. We look forward to an on-going and productive relationship.

Sunshine Reserve Conservation & Fireguard Group - We enjoy a close and cooperative relationship with this hard working and dedicated group of Mt Martha volunteers. Although their reserve offers a different local environment and ecology, we share a common interest in a very vulnerable coastline, as well as a number of other shared local environmental concerns. We join together and cooperate in activities whenever possible eg Weedbuster, Clean Up Aust.

Bev Colomb, Sam Hearne and Rosie Clark are all stepping down this year as our local councillors and we wish them well and would particularly like to thank them for all support they have extended to us over their terms. They have always been willing to listen and to offer assistance, wherever possible. We have appreciated their on-going interest and involvement in BERG MM.

David Morris, the State Member for Mornington, is always interested in our activities and issues, and if able, is happy to help and support us. He takes a keen interest in BERG MM and very kindly contributes to the printing of our information material etc.

Of course, special thanks to all the **BERG MM members and supporters**. We couldn't do a quarter of what we do without their support, diverse expertise and enthusiastic involvement.

Liz Barraclough

BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP

MT MARTHA INC.

ABN: 50 224 628 623

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Period: 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc. (BERG MM)

ABN:50 224 628 623

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

for the period to 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020

		2020	2019
		\$ 228,508.46	\$ 240,260.72
Opening Cash Balance			
Receipts for year	<i>notes</i>		
Project Income – Grants & Sponsorships		86,294.13	84,253.46
Memberships		3,610.00	4,330.00
Business Partners	1	1,200.00	1,650.00
General Donations		12,719.88	15,448.00
Other Donations & Fundraising Event Income	2	1,992.70	4,027.00
Bank Interest		1,392.31	3,776.34
Total Receipts for the year		\$ 107,209.02	\$ 113,484.80
		\$ 335,717.48	\$ 353,745.52
Less expenses for year			
Project Expenditure - Onground & Sponsorships		134,265.66	112,522.99
General Donation expenditure		11,045.12	12,457.16
Bank, Merchant & GiveNow Fees & Charges		135.33	201.09
Grant Acquittals - over/under reconciliations		12.99	55.82
Total payments for the year		\$ 145,459.10	\$ 125,237.06
Cash at Bank & On Hand at End of Year		\$ 190,258.38	\$ 228,508.46

Note 1: Due to COVID-19 Business Partners whose fees became due between April and 1 November have been provided with one year free ongoing membership.

Note 2: No major events held during 2019/20, partially due to COVID-19. The largest donation in this category was \$1,800 from the MP Schools Environment Week Committee, upon winding up - in thanks for BERG Mt Martha's support over the years.

Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc. (BERG MM)

ABN:50 224 628 623

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the period to 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS		
Closing cash on hand	190,258.38	228,508.46
Total	\$ 190,258.38	\$ 228,508.46
LIABILITIES		
Project Grants and On Ground donations unspent	98,663.13	146,634.66
	\$ 98,663.13	\$ 146,634.66
NET ASSETS/ MEMBERS' FUNDS	\$ 91,595.25	\$ 81,873.80
Represented by:	\$	\$
Bendigo Holding Account (633000 - 159 806 140)	127,241.21	125,962.21
Bendigo Donations Account (633000 - 159 803 337)	57,144.98	37,644.42
Bendigo Operating Account (633000 - 159 803 402)	5,822.19	64,851.83
Cash	50.00	50.00
Total Assets	190,258.38	228,508.46
Less Income received in advance of grants unspent:		
Total Liabilities	98,663.13	146,634.66
NET ASSETS	\$ 91,595.25	\$ 81,873.80

BERG Mt Martha Grants & Projects Report
as at 30 June 2020

GRANTS BALANCE - New or in progress from 01 July 2019

Grant Date	Title [Report by date]	Code	Grant (\$) - PTD		Remaining (\$)
July 2018 to June 2021	1. Philanthropy Project MATCHING DONOR & OTHER ONGROUND	PHILAN	\$72,650	-\$57,906	\$14,744
01 June 2018 to 31 Dec 2020	2. Coast Care Victoria Community Grant <i>(total incl 10% deposit) \$12,850</i>	CVCG18	\$12,850	-\$5,165	\$7,685
01 Nov 2017 to 30 Oct 2020	3. Sunshine Foundation Grant <i>(\$15,080 over 3 years - 2017 \$5,355; Oct2018 \$4,925, Bal Sep19 4,800)</i>	SFG17	\$15,080	-\$13,765	\$1,315
01 May 2018 to 30 Nov 2019	4. Port Phillip Bay Fund - YEAR 1 (DELWP) Original Project end 30 Apr19 EXTENDED to 30 Nov20 Final Report EXTENDED to 15 Dec20	PPBF18-20	\$16,048	-\$14,675	\$1,373
Sept 2017 to 31 Dec20	5. DELWP: BIODIVERSITY ONGROUND ACTION - Community & Volunteer Action Original Project end 31Mar20 EXTENDED to 31 Dec20	BOA17/ BOA18/BOA19	\$45,763	-\$38,803	\$6,960
from Nov 2017	6. Clean & Green / Waste Wise MM project <i>(\$2996.38 total @ 9Nov19)</i>	CG MM	\$1,050	-\$380	\$670
July18 to 30 June 2019	7. Port Phillip EcoCentre - Clean Bay Blueprint Project <i>(\$300/qtr, \$1200 for FY expected)</i>	PPECO	\$4,500	-\$374	\$4,126
Aug18 to Nov19	8. PPWCMA 2018/19 LANDCARE - <i>Acquitted 30 Nov19</i> Victorian Landcare Grant Grassy Woodland Rest'n, Citation Hill, MM	PPWCMA LC 18/19	\$13,088	-\$13,088	\$0
Oct18 to Dec20	9. Peninsula School - Grant/Donation - Completion by Dec20 <i>(Coastal Signage in progress / COVID-19 delays)</i>		\$4,209	-\$1,080	\$3,129
Received Feb19	10. MM Community bank - Sponsorship BERG MM Newsletters 2019 <i>Fully Acquitted, 6 Editions to Oct 2019</i>		\$2,500	-\$2,500	\$0
Feb 2019 to June 2020	11A. Melbourne Water Grant 2019	MW19S	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,100
	11B MW HOPETOUN CREEK Grant 2019 (MW19 H) - Hopetoun Creek Riparian Biolink Restoration Project, Mt Martha 2019	MW19H	\$21,665	-\$19,952	\$1,713
	11C. MW BALCOMBE CREEK Grant 2019 (MW19 B) - Swamp Scrub/Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 12	MW19B	\$19,102	-\$18,887	\$214

BERG Mt Martha Grants & Projects Report
as at 30 June 2020

GRANTS BALANCE - New or in progress from 01 July 2019

Grant Date	Title [Report by date]	Code	Grant (\$) - PTD		Remaining (\$)
11 Jul19 to 30 Nov 2020	12. Port Phillip Bay Fund - Round 3 (DELWP) Original Project end 30 Jun20, EXTENDED to 30 Nov20 Final Report EXTENDED to 15 Dec20	PPBR3-20	\$15,730	-\$11,771	\$3,959
July 2019 to 30 Nov 2020	13. Port Phillip Bay Fund - YEAR 2 (DELWP) Original Project end 14 May20, EXTENDED to 30 Nov20 Final Report EXTENDED to 15 Dec20	PPBF19-20	\$15,348	-\$14,404	\$944
31 Oct 2019 to 31 May 2021	14. PPWCMA 2019/20 (Landcare Grant Program) Original Project end 30 Nov20, EXTENDED to 31 May21	PPWCMALC 20	\$19,981	-\$10,811	\$9,170
By 1 Nov20	15. Dept Infracst & Transport - Stronger Communities Program: Refurbish audio trails - Original Project end 30 Jun20, EXTENDED to 01Nov20 [Final Report due by 1 Dec20]		\$5,000	-\$899	\$4,101
Received Feb20	16. MM Community bank - Sponsorship BERG MM Newsletters 2020		\$2,500	-\$998	\$1,502
Feb 2020 to June 2021	17A. Melbourne Water Grant 2020	MW20S	\$1,023	-\$460	\$563
	17B MW HOPETOON CREEK Grant 2020 (MW20 H)	MW20H	\$18,275	-\$148	\$18,127
	17C. MW BALCOMBE CREEK Grant 2020 (MW20 B)	MW20B	\$17,268	\$0	\$17,268

BALANCE of Funds Unspent from Grants & Allocated Projects	\$383,073	-\$284,410	\$98,663
BALANCE of Funds Unspent from Member Fees & Other Income			\$91,595
			<u>\$190,258</u>



28 July 2020

The Committee and Members
Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc
Mirang Avenue
MOUNT MARTHA VIC 3934

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Engagement as Independent Examiner

The purpose of this letter is to set out the basis on which I am prepared to act as independent examiner to prepare a report in respect of the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Responsibilities of members of the committee

As committee members you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for preparing the annual financial report.

You are also responsible for providing me with information and explanations required for my examination.

Responsibilities of the independent examiner

I shall plan my work on the basis that an independent examiner's report is required for the year, unless you inform me in writing to the contrary. As an independent examiner I have a duty to state in my report whether any matter has come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in all material respect:

- a. accounting records have not been properly kept; or
- b. the financial report does not accord with the accounting records.

I also have a duty to disclose in my report matters coming to my attention in connection with the examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial report to be reached.

Scope of the independent examiner's work

My work as an independent examiner will be less onerous form of scrutiny than an audit of the financial report in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My examination will include a review of the accounting records kept, and a comparison of the financial report presented with those records. It will also include a review of the financial report and consideration of any unusual items or disclosures identified. In such cases where I identify an unusual item, I will seek explanations from you, and may carry out verification and vouching procedures where I require further clarification.

Yours sincerely


Ian E Davey FCA
REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITOR

ROCG Mornington
 ABN 68 797 131 747
 Office 2, 26-28 Carbine Way
 Mornington VIC 3931
 PO Box 524
 Mornington VIC 3931
 P +61 (3) 5975 3122
 F +61 (3) 5975 8983
 E mornington.ap@rocg.com



BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC.

Independent examiner’s report to the members

This report on the financial report for the year ended 30 June 2020

Respective responsibilities of the members and the examiner

The Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report. It is my responsibility to issue this report on the financial report in accordance with the terms of my appointment as an independent examiner.

Basis of this report

My examination includes a review of the accounting records that are kept, and a comparison of those records with the financial report. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial report and seeking explanations from the members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a statutory audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion, or a review opinion, on the financial report.

Independent examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep proper accounting records; and
 - To prepare a financial report, which accords with the accounting records of Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc. has not been complied with; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial report to be reached.

Ian E Davey FCA
REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITOR
 Office 2 26-28 Carbine Way
 MORNINGTON VIC 3931
 (03) 5975 3122
 18 September 2020

ROCG Mornington
 ABN 68 797 131 747
 Office 2, 26-28 Carbine Way
 Mornington VIC 3931
 PO Box 524
 Mornington VIC 3931
 P +61 (3) 5975 3122
 F +61 (3) 5975 8983
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**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA
INC.**

ABN 50 224 628 623

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Schedule 1, Regulation 15, Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)

**The 2019/20 Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance
and position of the BERG Mt Martha incorporated association**

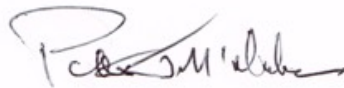
We the President and Treasurer, being members of the **BERG Mt Martha
incorporated** committee, certify that –

“The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial
performance and position of the above named association during and at the end of
the financial year of the association ending 30 June 2020”

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee
and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

President:

Date: 19 October 2020



Peter McMahon

Treasurer:

Date: 19 October 2020



Julie Zammit