

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 trialing 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 naturestrips through our offer of indigenous tubestock, available from the Shire nursery at The Briars.

Kate, Taznin 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. Melb 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 Melb 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 Melb Water grants (\$36,565.13)

(Feb 2020– June 2021)

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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 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 yrs) 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 Aust 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 Nats 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, Tanzin and Rachel are always cheerful, efficient and helpful. We preorder indigenous tubestock 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 Riccioardello, 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 marvelous 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 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 skillfully 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 councilors 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