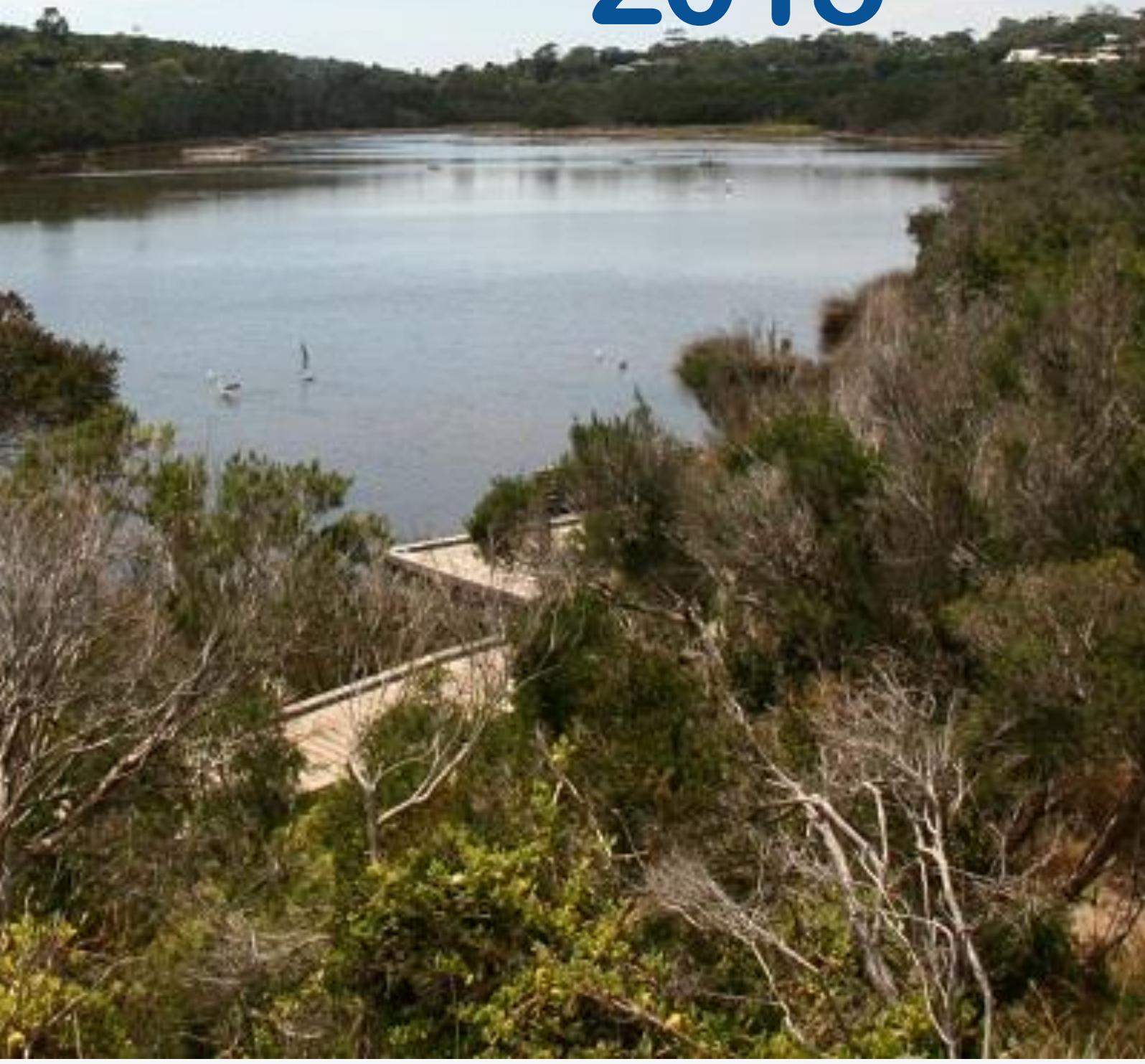




**Berg**  
Mt Martha

# Annual Report 2015



## President's Report

It is a great pleasure to submit my 2<sup>nd</sup> report as President of BERG Mt Martha in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of this wonderful organisation. In launching the history of our organisation this year, it made me realise how important it is to record the events of each year, so that others may understand, both now and later, what we did and why.

Our vision remains the same:

*To preserve and restore the precious ecology of the Balcombe Estuary and Reserves through our technical expertise, passionate volunteerism and community involvement.*

Everything we do is dedicated to achieving this vision, with the end aim of bringing the estuary and reserves to a steady state which has only to be maintained!

This year has been another year of enormous activity on many fronts. Liz Barraclough will report on the detail of the operations – which are the heart of what we do. I report here on the organisation as a whole. The raw statistics of the year are shown in the table below:

Year	2014-15	2013-14	Change
<b>No. members</b>	485	470	+3%
<b>No. Active Volunteers</b>	85	70	+21%
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	4,100	3,600	+14%
<b>Total Income</b>	60,000	67,000	-10%
<b>Donations</b>	7,000	4,500	+55%

Overall this year, our performance has been outstanding. We have expanded our on-ground activities, our school education and community awareness activities, increased membership, increased Active Volunteers and volunteer hours. Grant income has declined, reflecting government budget tightening, but we have had a substantial increase in donations. For future reports, we are hoping to develop measures that can demonstrate our on-ground progress, as this is, after all, what we are here to achieve.

Undoubtedly the highlights of our year have been:

- the Order of Australia Medal awarded to our long-serving and inspiring Field Officer, Liz Barraclough
- the involvement of the Green Army in on-ground operations
- restarting the Tuesday working bee group
- the launch of the Dragonfly Trail
- starting the Traders and Community Supporters program and
- the launch of *Up the Creek*, the history of the organisation

but, as you will read, there are many, many more activities which we undertook this year.

I will report under the headings from our vision – technical expertise, community awareness and passionate volunteers – as these are the ways in which we get things done.

### Operations: Technical Expertise

As usual, we ran our Friday (weekly) and Sunday (monthly) **working bees** under Sue Betheras and Liz Barraclough respectively. We had an increase in average attendances this year as our Active Volunteer program takes hold. In addition, we re-started the Tuesday (monthly) working bee under Jenny Selby, with a new group of workers, focussing on the Bunyip area.



Liz being presented with her OAM from Her Excellency Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria.

A key part of this year has been the **Green Army program**, which MPS has involved us in. This has given us access to a great deal of effectively free labour to undertake tasks we could not or would not be able to do ourselves or get other contracts to do. In total, the Green Army have put in more hours than the total of all our working bee hours, so we have more than doubled the amount of time spent on the on-ground activities. The impact on tradescantia and on clearing Citation Hill of woody weeds is the most obvious effect of this Federal Government-funded program.

**Waterwatch** developed dramatically under John Inchley this year, with a roster of 12 people being involved in the monthly measurement activity. We now possess extensive records of water quality in the Creek and are coordinating this information with that of Melbourne Water and the Shire to determine how to manage water quality and flows in the future.

The **Sedimentation Action Group**, under my leadership, finally achieved some significant results this year. Tom le Cerf and Graeme McMillan sampled the estuary sediment which the Shire paid to have analysed. This showed that there are limited chemical pollutants in the estuary sediment and our main issues are gravel and sand sediment runoff from local roads. Melbourne Water provided us with a wealth of information and an aligned management program for bed and banks. The Shire provided monitoring and analysis of some of the main drains and we are close to developing a comprehensive action plan.

The **Schools Program** expanded under Jenny Selby this year. We ran programs for all schools in the area as well as some outside our area. We believe educating students and their parents is the best way to develop people with an appreciation, knowledge and skills for what we actually do in the reserves.

A **Little Bergers** group began for the first time, under the guidance of Zoe Boehnke. This is a group of young mothers who are BERG MM members, meeting in the campground on Thursdays, which we hope will evolve into a working group over time.

During the year we again paid for two people to do the **SPIFFA Conservation Management** training and another two have begun training, thus increasing the number of our volunteers who have high levels of technical expertise and are able to contribute significantly to, or lead, our on-ground operations.

Seeking funding from different sources, we decided on a large project to be taken by our newly-formed Philanthropy Group, headed by Bronwyn Street, to potential donors, seeking large scale financing. We are seeking to use this approach to finance work outside of what the MPS will address in its normal course of operations.

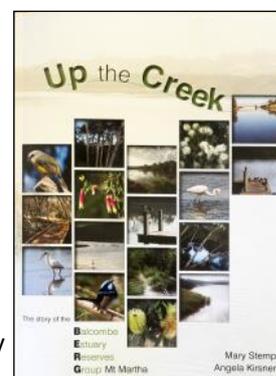
We also started work on an Environmental Significance Overlay application aimed to protect the reserves into perpetuity. This would also be an end aim for the group. The Save Tootgarook Swamp group presented to us on this issue during the year and gave us a feasible template to achieve this, as they are attempting to do.

Finally and importantly for our culture, Trish Reilly undertook the task of catering coordinator, organising morning teas for working bees and other functions during the year.

### Community Awareness

This is another part of the way we try to achieve our vision. This year under Barbara Thraves, the **Community Awareness Group** undertook numerous activities to get us better known. Perhaps the highlight was the launch of *Up the Creek*, our history, written by Angela Kirsner and the late Mary Stemp, our former Secretary. Sponsored anonymously, *Up The Creek* documents for the community, for new members, for visitors and for history, the work which BERG Mt Martha has done over its 18 years to preserve and restore the estuary and reserves.

The group also produced a new bird brochure, a new general brochure (sponsored by Bonaccorde Property Services), undertook a visit to Tony O'Connor's wonderful environmental home and property on Century Drive, launched the Dragonfly Audio Trail for children (partly financed by winning a grant from The Leader newspaper and support from Melbourne Water and the Shire), gained a grant for and organised new murals for the campground buildings, installed a new seat in the Bunyip to commemorate Mary Stemp, and organised speakers for events during the year.



We also produced a 7 minute DVD on the work which BERG MM does, to be used in presentations we make. It is also on the website for everyone to see. Thanks to Roger Threlfall for the enormous amount of work he put in to produce this for us.

Thanks also to Richard Kirsner for his work in organising the update of our website. We hope that the new layout and design makes it easier for members and the community to access the wealth of information there.

In addition, during the year Jenny Selby and John Inchley organised our contribution to School Environment Week with water watch activities, Anglea Kirsner produced informative editions of *The Creek*, John Trevillian organised the annual sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Ros Crompton maintained our impressive information board in the campground, we held the annual Weedbusters education morning in the village and contributed to Clean Up Australia Day.

We were also represented on the **Foreshore Advisory Group** by Liz and myself and have a wide range of good connections to many other environmental groups on the Peninsula.

Under John Stirling, we started a **Traders and Community Sponsors and Supporters program** this year. We see our relationship with our sponsors as a partnership. That means we expect our members to support our sponsors as they are supporting us. So, if you have a chance, please support our sponsors whenever you can and thank them for sponsoring us.

We now have 11 paying sponsors, with more promising to join. They are:

**Major sponsors:** Bonaccorde Property Services, Mt Martha Community Bank/Bendigo Bank, Bunnings Mornington

**Supporters:** IGA Supermarket, Mr Curtis, Mt Martha Post Office, Mt Martha Medical Centre, Terry Bateman Pharmacy, Higher Ground Coffee, Rumours, Farrell's Bookshop, Mt Martha Newsagency and Bells Gourmet Meats.

Bells Meats also provide us with significant discounts on our meat purchases for organisation functions and the benefit we gain from this effectively counts as sponsorship.

### Passionate Volunteerism

This is the third element of how we do our work. All our Active Volunteers are passionate about what they do and what we do. The undoubted highlight this year was the awarding of the Order of Australia Medal to our no. 1 passionate volunteer for 18 years – the indefatigable and true leader of our organisation, Liz Barraclough. This award was richly deserved and recognises an outstanding person, our outstanding person and someone who is a role model, inspiring us all to bigger and better outcomes. Liz's award brings recognition and credibility too to the work which we do as an organisation. Congratulations Liz and thank you for everything you have done for us and for our environment over the whole history of BERG Mt Martha.



Through our Active Volunteers program and database, we actively sourced many members who have key skills, particularly in engineering, soil testing, marketing, IT, teaching, Facebook and photography, all of which add to the stock of technical skills we need to operate professionally. This database is invaluable for us when we need to source expertise for new projects.

### Thanks

This is a wonderful organisation to be involved in! The amount of effort involved is demonstrated in the physical changes we see in the estuary and reserves and in the volunteer hours we record to measure our contributions.

Thanks to the Committee for the work they put in to make the organisation work so well, particularly Di Lewis, our incredibly competent Secretary and part-time grant sourcer and grant writer. Thanks to the many leaders of the many activities we run during the year. Most of their names are mentioned in the report. Thanks to all the Active Volunteers who contribute their time and skills in the many ways we need help. Thanks to those who have donated financially to us, as your contributions enable us to do things we would simply not be able to undertake without money. Thanks to the members for supporting us financially and in spirit, particularly those more experienced members who used to be the physically active leaders of this organisation but who can no longer contribute in this way.

There is much still to do, but we are making great strides towards achieving our vision. I look forward to your continued support.

Graham Hubbard  
President  
November 2015

## Field Officer's Report

BERG Mt Martha has had a great year of achievements, most of which are outlined in Graham's report. I intend just to present a little more detail on the on-ground projects, programs and related activities. I feel we really have made a difference this year and with the increase in active on-ground members, we have been able to concentrate on and follow up more closely key areas, restoring their ecological integrity to a higher level.



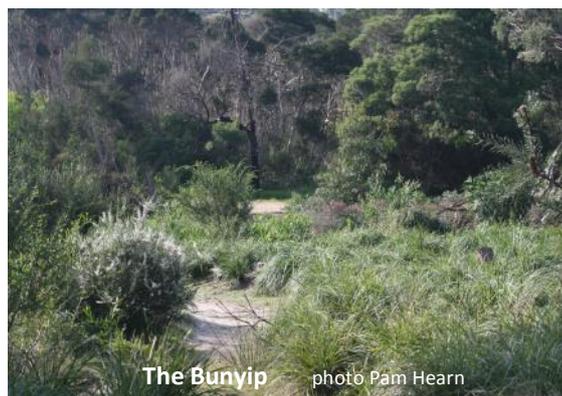
### On-ground activities

#### Working-bees

We now have one weekly and two regular monthly working-bees held throughout the year, to maintain and monitor the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and related areas ie the foreshore and the lower reaches of Hopetoun Creek. Weed control is the primary, on-going and probably the most important on-ground activity undertaken in the Reserves. However planting of indigenous species is perhaps the most enjoyable, popular and particularly in the long term, rewarding.

#### Tuesday Group

Jenny Selby has done a wonderful job, attracting and enlisting a great and enthusiastic group of helpers to take over the stewardship of the Bunyip. Their main aim is to maintain the integrity of the area and to gradually extend its footprint to reduce the threat, primarily of weed invasion, from adjoining degraded sites. Pia Spreen from Naturelinks, funded by the Shire, has given invaluable guidance, assistance and support.



#### Friday Morning Group

Under Sue Betheras's coordination and management this group has continued its valuable work in targeted and sensitive areas.

- i) Uralla Bridge area and Quarry - the on-going weed maintenance and enhancement planting are transforming the areas and the increase in the numbers and species of, particularly small birds, has been a delight to the 'workers'.
- ii) Hyacinth Orchid Patch – is carefully and slowly being extended and the regeneration and increase in diversity of indigenous species encouraged
- iii) Maude St burn site – this year the spring display was even richer in diversity of species and colour. The regeneration continues to amaze and excite us, as we monitor and maintain the area. It exemplifies the benefits of fire and control burning – a welcome change from the recent disasters. In the 'mosaic' of regeneration, it is interesting to note that the upper storey of trees is under represented, with only a few Black Wattles and particularly no Manna Gums. This is apparently due to the short lifespan or viability of the seed of these species which were not present in the long period of the previous vegetation cover. Therefore planting of these trees is being considered to improve the diversity of the area
- iv) 'Garden beds' opposite the Mt Martha IGA and in the Old Campground - required little input
- v) Other targeted sites – follow up weeding and planting in the Green Army's Tradescantia sites on both the south and north banks



#### Sunday working-bees

These working-bees mainly concentrate on work required in the grant sites - ranging from the foreshore to the riparian and woodland areas of Balcombe Creek and its tributaries (mainly Hopetoun Creek), weeding, mulching and planting. This year on the foreshore, we have removed 99.9% of the existing woody weeds – a great achievement and we have replaced them with indigenous middle and over-storey plants in an attempt to out-compete and prevent the regeneration of weed species

and to return the vegetation, as near as possible, to its original diversity. Follow up monitoring and maintenance will be vitally important.

### **Weed Control**

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.

We use a number of methods 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. We rely heavily on the knowledge and skills of our bushland contractors and the advice and guidance of the Shire's conservation officer(s). 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 support from the Shire.

### **Planting**

This year most of our plants went into the site below Hopetoun Creek below the kindergarten. It was a degraded area of low habitat value, dominated by an over-storey of Pittosporum and an under-storey of woody weeds and scramblers eg Blackberries, with bare banks, susceptible to erosion. We have selectively and gradually removed the Pittosporum or pruned them to permit the access of light and water to help establish the newly planted indigenous species. We have begun the dense planting of the banks with mainly grasses and sedges, a middle story for habitat and an over storey of Swamp Scrub and Blackwoods. This will be an on-going project for the next few years.

We continue to encourage residents to restore the habitat in their gardens and on their nature strips through our Free Indigenous Plant Offer. Tube stock is available from the Shire nursery at The Briars. Kate, Tara and Tracy are always happy to advise and help select the appropriate plants and add them to a BERG MM account.

### **Grants**

Grants (and their funding) are not always reliable. However, Melbourne Water's grants have been a constant over a number of years. They allow us to plan and provide project continuity. They also help provide support and funding for a number of our CAG (BERG Mt Martha's Community Awareness Group) programs.

**Grant Applications & Site assessments** – BERG MM's On-site Assessment Team (Sue Betheras, John Inchley and I) work together with Matt Stahmer (the designated Shire Conservation Officer) and Naturelinks on project determination, grant assessment and reporting. For each project/grant an MOU with detailed project works plans and costing, is drawn up and signed by BERG MM, the contractor and the Shire.

**MOU MPS** – a separate Memorandum of Understanding with the Mornington Peninsula Shire was discontinued in 2014 for individual groups and instead the funds and projects were given directly to the contractors. However, this has been reinstated for 2015/16, as it became apparent that the groups required more flexibility and accessibility to funds for small projects/activities unfunded through grants.

### **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.

In February 2014 Melbourne Water returned to a more generous funding model and we received \$36,173.50 for:

- i) *Swamp Scrub/Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 8 (\$19,107)*** – for woody and scrambling weed control on the north bank, now referred to as 'The Jaw', west of Uralla Rd pedestrian bridge, plants, materials, workshops and environmental related excursions.
- ii) *Riparian Biolink Restoration Project, Mt Martha (Hopetoun Creek) (\$15,966.50)*** – woody and scrambling weed control Site 1, below the Balcombe kindergarten; Site 2, upstream of Ferrero Recreation Reserve, parallel and below residencies in Balcombe Cres, plants, materials, newsletter and Family Estuary Day.
- iii) *Support Grant (\$1100)*** – for training, insurance and community awareness materials.

**Coastcare Victoria Community Small Grant** – It became Coastcare’s turn to cut back and we only received **\$6,830** for the **Mt Martha Foreshore Biodiversity and Biolink Restoration Follow-Up Project** in Oct 2014 – for primary works along the sea side of the Esplanade from Bay Rd to South Beach and follow-up of the foreshore from Watson Rd to South Beach.



**Communities for Nature Grant (\$11,174.20) - Upper Citation Woodland Restoration (Zone 12A), Mt Martha** – for woody and scrambling weed control to help restore the Grassy Woodland in a section of Citation Reserve, materials, workshops and communication materials

**Green Army** – not really a grant as such, but it has been one of the reasons why we have been able to achieve so much on-ground restoration, tackling projects we did not have the funds, time or manpower to take on. We have been lucky to have 3 groups contributing 4 – 12 days to a variety of projects. However, we have not just regarded these young people as work ‘fodder’, but have tried to provide them with a range of environmental activities and training in different

ecological settings. eg weeding, planting and mulching in riparian, bushland and coastal areas; preparation, installation and participation in the launch of the Dragonfly Audio Trail; workshops at the Briars nursery with seed collection and propagation; visit to and information session at the Naturelinks depot to learn about the functions and input of contractors.

They have also participated in our experiment to reduce and avoid the use of chemicals by using a different control technique for the different weed species eg raking, piling and covering Tradescantia with black plastic to solarize or compost it.

### Other Activities/Tasks

All our on-ground works aim to directly improve the health of the waterway, with all the community awareness activities contributing indirectly by providing education, increasing involvement in and raising the profile of not only BERG MM, but of the local environment and its precious ecology.

### Bird Surveys

These are still carried out by Mornington Peninsula Birdlife a number of times a year. Pam Hearn, our own bird expert plays an important role in all the bird watching activities, surveys and education workshops offered to members and local residents. We are now exploring the best method for using the information as a monitoring tool to determine the health of the Reserves’ habitat.



**Nesting Boxes** – the on-going mapping, monitoring and maintenance has been included in the Shire’s Bushland Management Program and is being undertaken by Naturelinks. It is thanks to Paul Bertuch, local fauna ecologist, that we have such an extensive and ‘productive’ nesting box program through our reserves and it is greatly beneficial that he will still be involved in the future. BERG MM members also assist in the process.

### Training, Workshops

**Peninsula Habitat Management course** – coordinated and managed by SPIFFA and completed by 3 BERG MM members in 2014.

**Estuary Ecology Workshop** - Gidja Walker, local ecologist instructed 12 members on the specialised ecology of the Balcombe Estuary.



**Monitoring and Mapping Workshop** – Phillip Jenson and Gidja Walker endeavored to train and teach a group of BERG MM members how to use electronic methods for on-site monitoring, assessment and reporting.

**Propagation workshops** - the Friday Group attended 2 workshops at the MPS nursery at the Briars where they propagated over 1000 plants which were recently planted, mainly into the Hopetoun Creek site, but also in the Balcombe Creek Tradescantia control areas.

### Presentations

Again this year **Deakin University** undergraduate students from the Faculty of Environment and Life Sciences visited us as part of their round-the-bay excursion to examine catchment management, coastal systems and developments. This involved a guid-

ed walk and talk to present an overview of the Balcombe Estuary, relevant local issues and BERG MM's role in the reserve and the catchment as a whole.

The **Bentons Square Senior Citizens** also asked us to give a presentation on the work of BERG MM, and so Jenny Selby accompanied me with all our new PR material, to help spread the message.

## Community Links

**Mornington Peninsula Shire Nursery team** – the nursery staff, Kate, Tara and Tracy are always cheerful, efficient and most obliging. They propagate and supply us with all our indigenous tube stock and recently, trays of cells that are cheaper, quicker and easier to plant. Their stock is always of a high quality and whenever possible they prepare and fill our orders on time. We have also appreciated Kate undertaking a number of training sessions for our Green Army groups who were so pleased to be offered the chance to learn a new skill and gain an insight into the nursery trade.

**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 cooperative and easy relationship with Jarrod, Dave, Gerard, Sue and Steve, and BERG MM is lucky to be able to draw on their expertise and experience. BERG MM and the Balcombe Estuary Reserves are so fortunate to have such a valuable resource and ecological extension and protection adjoining and upstream.



**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 we all have a member on the Mt Martha Foreshore Advisory Committee. This year both clubs

shared the task of the coordination and registration of Clean Up Australia Day, fulfilling BERG MM's aim of spreading the load and encouraging and enlisting more involvement by the Mt Martha community.

The **Balcombe Moorooduc Landcare Group and Mt Martha Foreshore Advisory Group** have BERG MM representatives on their committees, as we share a common catchment and a common interest in its environmental health and management.

**Southeast Water** keeps us up-to-date with their up-grading and works programs and any issues that might impact on the creek and the downstream community and its assets. They hold regular meetings to inform and consult the local residents and stakeholders.

**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.

Jenny Selby has done a marvelous job in extending the schools program, but thanks are also due to other BERG MM volunteers for the extra hours they have put in above and beyond the call of duty ie the normal working bees.



Balcombe Grammar Year 6 students, under their MAD (Making a Difference) Community Service Program, and the Balcombe preschoolers helped us plant hundreds of plants into the area below the kindergarten on Hopetoun Creek. When they return to the area in a few years, it will hopefully be transformed into a riparian bushland and a habitat full of the small native birds similar to those in the earlier revegetated areas upstream. They also contributed to the nesting box program under the supervision Paul Bertuch

## Issues

### Peninsula Link Service Station development on Balcombe Creek.

BERG MM was most surprised and alarmed at the development of two service stations adjacent to one of the primary sources of Balcombe Creek. It is unfathomable how this was even contemplated, yet alone went ahead on one of the most extensive, intact and significant waterways and catchments on the Mornington Peninsula. It is also in a Green Wedge and the waterway is habitat for a number of threatened species. We see this as a major threat to the future of the health of the creek and so have made our concerns known to the Shire, the state government and AA Holdings, the primary stakeholder. As the development

was a fait accompli, we could only seek assurances that the most stringent measures be put in place to protect the creek and that there be more extensive revegetation and habitat restoration of the site.

**Sedimentation of the estuary** – the threat to the ecological integrity of the estuary has been of great concern to BERG MM since we began, but now, with Graham's excellent skills and persistence, we are at last making headway to address the situation – refer to President's report.

#### 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. **Matt Stahmer**, the conservation officer in charge of BERG MM – what a job, which I'm sure he only survives because of his great sense of humour! We really appreciate it and his help, tolerance and support. **Garrique Pergyl**, the Environmental Planner for the Shire has initiated, encouraged and supported a number of our water related projects.

**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, is a great help to us. We also appreciate their assistance and expertise at working-bees - **Sally Mcleod** as Team Leader, **Vyv Styrder** as leader of on-ground works, **Danielle Suffern**, Friends Group coordinator and recently **Jason Gura**, as working-bee supervisor. They are always most helpful and cooperative with all our activities and have an in-depth knowledge of the Reserves.

**Transfield Services** are contracted by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to carry out fire control works in and around the Reserve. As well as weed control, they provide a mulching and weed removal service. **Dan Idczak** and his team have also been most obliging with supplying us with mulch for our revegetation works and undertaking extra jobs like constructing the new path and fence for the bird hide.

**Progress Signs** have always supported and advised us, and creatively and clearly designed and printed our interpretive signs. **Nadine Weir** is our main contact and happily and skillfully produces any signage at our request.

**Paul Hodgson** is Melbourne Water's grant contact and assessor for BERG MM. He is great to work with, approachable and always happy to help or give advice. Melbourne Water has become an indispensable partner in the rehabilitation of the Balcombe Creek and its environs. It contributes mainly through grants, but provides support for some extra contractor works.

**Phillip Wierzbowski** is the Coastcare coordinator for our region. We have been lucky to receive grants regularly for the restoration of our narrow and vulnerable strip of foreshore and he has been always ready and willing to help us where and whenever he can.

**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 jointly run the annual Weedbuster activity outside the local IGA.

**Anne Shaw and Bev Colomb** as our local councilors, are always most supportive, prepared to listen, and offer willing assistance wherever possible. We really appreciate their on-going and enthusiastic interest in BERG MM and consider ourselves lucky to have such involved and considerate local members.

**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 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 OAM

Field Officer

7 November 2015



# Appendix 1

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA IN**  
**ABN 50 224 628 623**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2015**

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**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC**

ABN 50 224 628 623

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2015**

	Notes	2015	2014
<b>Cash at bank &amp; on hand at 30 June, 2014</b>		67287.51	37236.31
<b>Plus receipts for year</b>			
Interest received		1127.53	697.61
Donations & Fundraising		7159.65	4535.30
Trader donations		100.00	0.00
Giving Cards		656.00	0.00
Membership subscriptions		3720.00	2505.00
Project income	1	47507.95	59265.50
<b>Total Receipts for year</b>		60271.13	67003.41
		127558.64	104,239.72
<b>Less payments for year</b>			
Donation Funded expenditure		8776.35	7565.63
Bank charges		12.15	12.30
Project Expenditure	1	55024.68	29374.28
<b>Total Payments for year</b>		63813.18	36,952.21
<b>Cash at bank &amp; on hand at 30 June, 2015</b>	2	<b>\$63,745.46</b>	<b>\$67,287.51</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC**  
 ABN 50 224 628 623

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AT 30TH JUNE, 2015**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank and on hand	2	63745.46	67287.51
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>63745.46</b>	<b>67287.51</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Project Grants unspent	1	37660.41	45177.14
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>37660.41</b>	<b>45177.14</b>
Net Assets		26085.05	22110.37
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<b>\$26085.05</b>	<b>\$22110.37</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC**

ABN 50 224 628 623

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2015****Note 1.****Project Income, Expenditure & Unspent**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Balance B/ Forward</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Unspent at 30/6/15</b>
MW13	770.00		770.00	<b>0.00</b>
MW14	34403.20		34403.20	<b>0.00</b>
FED14	261.70		261.70	0.00
CFN13	9742.00		9771.24	-29.24
MOU14	0.24		0.24	0.00
CFN14		11174.20	1161.00	10013.20
CACC14		6830.00	6830.00	0.00
LNG14		1000.00	1000.00	0.00
BB1		100.00	100.00	0.00
BAL001		1000.00	0.00	1000.00
MW15		27403.75	727.30	26676.45
	<b>45177.14</b>	<b>47507.95</b>	<b>55024.68</b>	<b>37660.41</b>

**Note 2. Cash at Bank and on Hand****2015****2014**

Movement for year

Balance at beginning of year

67287.51 37236.31

Net receipts (payments) for year

-3542.05 30051.20

**Balance at end of year****\$63745.46 \$67287.51**

Westpac Current Account

27267.46 45460.52

Bendigo Bank Public Gift Fund

5121.78 6356.91

Bendigo Bank Term Deposit

31306.22 15420.08

Cash on Hand

50.00 50.00

**\$63745.46 \$67287.51**

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC.**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

In the opinion of the committee, the Financial Report, comprising the Statement of Receipts and Payments, Statement of Financial Position and Notes thereto:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc at 30th June, 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

**President:**



**Graham Hubbard**

**Hon Treasurer:**



**Richard Kirsner**

Dated this 29th day of October, 2015

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC**  
ABN 50 224 628 623

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc (the association) which comprises the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June, 2015, the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended, notes to the accounts and the Statement by Members of the Committee.

*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal controls as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion

*Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc at 30 June, 2015 and its financial performance for the year then ended and in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Susan L Milton, FCA

*Auditor's Signature:*



*Auditor's address:* 326 Main Street, Mornington, Vic 3931

*Dated this 29th day of October, 2015*

**BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP MT MARTHA INC.**

ABN: 50 224 628 623

**PUBLIC GIFT FUND****STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS****FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2015**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Cash at Bank at 1 July, 2014</b>	6356.91	10178.60
<b>Plus receipts for year</b>		
Interest received	137.77	209.44
Donations	7159.65	3535.30
<b>Total receipts for year</b>	<u>7297.42</u>	<u>3744.74</u>
	<u>13654.33</u>	<u>13923.34</u>
<b>Less payments for year</b>		
Donation funded equipment	8532.15	7565.63
Bank fees	0.40	0.80
Total I payments for year	<u>8532.55</u>	<u>7566.43</u>
<b>Cash at bank at 30 June, 2014</b>	<b><u>\$5121.78</u></b>	<b><u>\$6356.91</u></b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Bendigo Bank account	\$5121.78	\$6356.91

**Auditor's Report**

I have audited the accounts of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Martha Inc Public Gift Fund for the year ended 30th June, 2015 and in my opinion such accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Gift Fund at that date.

Signed



Susan L Milton FCA 326  
Main Street  
Mornington

Dated this 29th day of October, 2015