



# Annual Report 2019



# President's Report 2019

October 2019

It is a great pleasure to submit my 6th – and final – report as President of BERG Mt Martha for the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of this wonderful organisation. In the second year of our second five-year strategic plan, our vision is:

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

## OVERVIEW

Once again, this has been a year of enormous activity on many fronts. Liz Barraclough OAM, our indefatigable Field Officer, will report on the detail of our on-ground operations – which remain at the heart of what we do.

The highlights of our year have been:

- Completing the website refresh and online membership system
- Agreeing with the Shire to spend \$150,000 on a Gross Pollutant Trap in Henley Avenue to reduce sediment coming into the estuary
- Working with Terry Denton as our first ever Patron, to help us promote our environmental work with the community and increase our membership
- Working with the Mt Martha village businesses to get a single use plastic bag-free Mt Martha
- Aligning our marketing and community engagement activities through development of a marketing group and changing our tagline
- Raising \$14,000 from our Philanthropy end of financial year donation request to members
- Increasing the number of Business Partners and systemising our partner relationships

I report here on the organisation as a whole. Some of the raw statistics for the financial year are shown in the table below:

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

Although there has been a decline from the last two years' extraordinary peak incomes, I'm delighted to report that levels of both grants and donations were well above our previous versions of 'normal'. I'm particularly pleased to report that our member numbers increased significantly, primarily due to the Terry Denton workshops we ran. Our decline in volunteer hours reflects the reduction in the extraordinary amount of work put in by our admin software team (particularly Suzanne Ryan, Peter McMahon, Julie Zammit and Bev Fryer) as we moved into the successful implementation of this project.

## OPERATIONS

Our main activities are centred on the on-ground operations of the organisation, in which we try to apply best practice habitat management. As usual, we ran our Friday (weekly), Tuesday (monthly), Wednesday (monthly) and Sunday (monthly) **Working Bees** under David Street, Jenny Selby, Suzanne Ryan and Liz Barraclough respectively.

We also trained Jan Jones and Franc Amendola through the SPIFFA Habitat Management course, to increase the number of our volunteers with best practice habitat knowledge.

It's worth noting that our on-ground volunteer numbers are again down this year. We are feeling the loss of many volunteers who now travel extensively during the winter months, which are precious planting months for us.

**Water Monitoring. Waterwatch** led by Sue Milton created a large team of volunteers this year. We are still working on putting our back records into the Melbourne Water databases so that the years of data collection can be effectively analysed for long term trends and we thank Helen Carroll for her work with inputting our data. **Estuary Watch** led by Bruce Ferres has been producing quite detailed reports, supplemented by drone picture-taking, done by George Murley, which gives us much better perspective on water movements as the berm opens and closes.

The **Sedimentation Action Group (SAG)**, under my leadership, decided not to meet monthly with the Shire, as an implementation program was agreed. Unfortunately, after the change in leadership at the Shire, we found progress and reporting slowed dramatically, despite the Shire committing a further \$150,000 to this project. The Shire failed to spend this money in the financial year. However, we are assured that it is committed to the project and a plan for a Gross Pollutant Trap in Henley Avenue has been agreed between the Shire and Melbourne Water, now due for completion by the end of the current financial year.

Carbon dating of the existing estuary sediment and clarification of the main sources of sediment entering the estuary has shown that the estuary will fill within 80 years, unless major preventative action is taken – a truly shocking possibility. We have debated how to engage the community better on this issue but deferred alternative approaches until agreements had been reached with the new Shire leadership. I have now passed leadership of SAG to Peter McMahon.

The **Philanthropy Group**, headed by Bronwyn Street, raised \$16,000 in donations, largely from members this financial year. Our number of member donors increased, with around 40% of members now being donors as well. We are very grateful for all donations – large and small – which enable us to undertake projects which are otherwise impossible. I would particularly like to thank Bronwyn, who is stepping down this year, for her personal leadership in the philanthropy area over the last few years.

Members might ask where do donations go? Major donations from two years ago went to fund the three-year north bank reserves Philanthropy Project, which would not have been done by the Shire, and this money will continue to be drawn down over the next year. Other major projects where we are using donor money include:

- Our IT upgrade, resulting in a refreshed and easier to manage website, a new member management system and improved on-line financial payment systems
- Fauna survey
- Flora survey
- Review, replacement and alignment of all signage in the Reserves

- Developing marketing and community engagement material for use at our events
- Paying for room hire, insurance and training of our volunteers

The environment surveys will be completed in the next year by external consultants. Signage reviews and complete replacement have begun and are expected to be completed this financial year, as the Shire has now committed funds to do this.

Perhaps our most important activity is managing and monitoring the Shire's support for our **Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) application** which it has included in a general planning review, currently under way. An ESO aims to protect the reserves into perpetuity. Vice President Peter McMahon is managing this process, which is supported by both Briars Ward Councillors and MPS officers. While we are confident that achieving an ESO is now feasible and realistic for us, we have very recently been given more assurance from MPS leadership about their commitment and expected progress this financial year.

As noted above, our **BERG Mt Martha Information Management System**, under the leadership of Suzanne Ryan, Julie Zammit and Peter McMahon, has been completed. This streamlines our membership and donation systems, integrates our grant management processes, streamlines our financial management systems and provides us with potential to improve the management of our Active Volunteer database.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The **Schools Program** under Jenny Selby and Debbie McMahon, helped by John Inchley, Liz Barraclough Sue Milton and several other volunteers, again ran a variety of programs for schools in the area, as well as an increasing number outside our area. We believe educating students and their parents is the best way to develop people with an appreciation, knowledge and skills for the environmental work we actually do in the reserves. This group also ran an activity for the **Environment Week for Schools** program at The Briars.

The **Community Awareness Group (CAG)**, under Barbara Thraves, was involved in a wide range of activities this year. As well as the regular talks program (which featured Jeff Weir from Dolphin Research Institute and Sharon Rogers on the Climate Reality Project), CAG was involved in the Terry Denton workshops, organising the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party, manning Clean Green Mt Martha stalls, organising a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, promoting the 2040 movie, supporting the Paint Out in the estuary and more! Barbara Thraves and Di Lewis have both decided to step down from CAG. They have done a wonderful job for several years and they will be sorely missed. Thanks Barbara and Di.

Angela Kirsner continued to do a great job producing informative and expanding editions of *The Creek*. Di Lewis produced periodic very effective eNews to supplement and provide rapid response for upcoming events, Anni Dowd maintained our impressive Information Board in the campground, Richard Kirsner maintained the new and improved website, Tamara Keyte improved our Facebook and Instagram pages, significantly increasing our followers, and Barry Morris achieved great success for us in publicising our work through local newspapers with a series of articles. Barry has had to step down and we thank him for his enthusiasm and efforts which brought us significant success. We welcome Patricia MacLeod who will carry on Barry's role.

We also held the annual Weedbusters education morning in the village, again contributed to Clean Up Australia Day and ran a village stall promoting a single plastic bag-free clean, green village.

Julie Zammit and I took charge of a revamped **Business Partners program**, as a way to engage our Mt Martha businesses and organisations in the work we do, and Julie has now taken that program over. We expect our members to support our Partners, as they are supporting us. So, if you have a chance, please support our Partners whenever you can and thank them for supporting us. They are:

**Major Partners:** Mount Martha Community Bank, Bonaccorde, Complete Colour and Rotary Club of Mt Martha.

**Partners:** Bells Meats, Terry Bateman Pharmacy, Mt Martha Veterinary Clinic, Mt Martha Village Clinic, Warlimont & Nutt, Mt Martha Optical, Mount Martha Gardening, Danckert Real Estate, Mt Martha Chiropractic and Sports Injury, Volpino, Sea-Side Shacks, Complete Step, Peninsula Travel and Mr Curtis.

During the year we set up an umbrella Marketing Group, headed by me in the absence of a willing volunteer skilled in marketing, to align and proactively develop stories and news for the various communications channels we have, particularly the social media channels.

### **TAKING ON WIDER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

By expanding our vision, we have opened ourselves to a wide range of issues that would not normally have been considered part of our remit. As well as heading the single use plastic bag-free village initiative, we proposed the Shire acquire a major property in Augusta St, investigated development proposals in the Osborne and green wedge areas, are consulting with Bayport Quarry's plan to channel 90GL of water into the upper reaches of the Creek, were involved in Shire and community plans for The Pillars, North Beach, The Briars, foreshore management, coastal management and wastewater management plans, conducted monthly plastic nurdle audits on South Beach for Port Philip Ecocentre and more.

We see this as making BERG MM more relevant to the community, using our skills and networks for community benefit and improving the overall natural environment of Mt Martha. These issues take volunteer time. However, we are very enthusiastic about embracing them. We work hard to find efficient and effective methods to handle enquiries and requests as they arise, confident that, if we can be successful, these efforts will add to the value of the Mt Martha community as a whole.

### **THANKS TO ALL**

After 22 years, and with the restoration of the Estuary Reserves completed, this remains a wonderful organisation to be involved in! The amount of effort involved is demonstrated in the physical changes we see in the estuary, reserves, coast and the town and in the volunteer hours we record.

A huge thanks to the Committee –our most passionate Active Volunteers – for the enormous amount of work they put in to make the organisation work so well: Liz Barraclough OAM, our wonderful Field Officer, Di Lewis, our incredibly competent Secretary, part-time grant sourcer, grant writer, general administrator and informal communications manager, Peter McMahon, our main Shire lobbyist and Vice President, Julie Zammit, our persistent, professional and insightful Treasurer, Suzanne Ryan, who ran our Membership Information System upgrade while also managing the Coastal working bees, Sue Milton and Bruce Ferres who ran our Water Monitoring activities with great enthusiasm, Barbara Thraves who ran our Community Awareness Group, Angela Kirsner, whose newsletter inspires many and Bronwyn Street, whose efforts have raised large sums of discretionary funds, making the Committee's decisionmaking much easier.

Members are very fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated volunteers on the Committee. Special thanks also to Bev Fryer, who is stepping down as Membership Secretary, now that the new membership system is installed and working.

Thanks also to:

- The leaders of the many activities we run during the year. Most of their names are mentioned in the report.
- All the Active Volunteers who contribute their time and skills in the many ways in which we need help.
- 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.
- To 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. On behalf of the Committee, we look forward to your continued support in this important work for Mt Martha.

From a personal perspective, after 7 years on the Committee, this has been one of the best 'jobs' of my life. I believe the organisation is well positioned to continue its successes, as it enters a new stage of working for the wider Mt Martha environment and community. Though a number of people are stepping down this year, new people are stepping up, new organisations are being engaged with, new approaches are being developed. I hate to step down but know personally that it is the right time for me to do so. While I will still be involved in the Marketing Group activities, I wish the new leadership team the same support which I have received over these 7 years.

Graham Hubbard

President

October 2019

## **Field Officer's Report**

Again, a busy BERG Mt Martha year. Full of activities, events and achievements, most of which Graham has outlined in his report. He has also highlighted that we now look beyond our immediate environment of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and its tributaries, to consider and act upon issues and activities that impact negatively on the area's ecology and that of the connecting environments.

This report goes into more detail on the on-ground activities - the usual weeding, planting, schools' programs, signage, but also the issues of pollution, waste and water health.

### **On-ground activities**

#### **Working-bees**

The one weekly and three regular monthly working-bees have continued throughout the year. As Graham mentions in his report, numbers are hard to maintain through the 'travelling' winter months, which unfortunately is the prime season for planting. Weed control is the main, on-going and essential activity which takes place throughout the year and will continue forever, though the emphasis will be more on monitoring and maintenance, with enhancement/diversity planting, only where required. Working bees have been held through 11 months of the year along the Mt Martha foreshore, in the Balcombe Estuary Reserves and the lower reaches of Hopetoun Creek.

#### **Friday Morning Group – weekly**

Works and projects in a variety of sites:

- i. Uralla Bridge area and Quarry - on-going weeding and enhancement planting is increasing the diversity of vegetation and fauna, especially small birds
- ii. Hyacinth Orchid Patch – occasional monitoring and maintenance as this area begins to regenerate.
- iii. Maude St burn site – now annual monitoring and surveying.
- iv. Philanthropic area ie along Maude St and down to the creek - weed control and enhancement planting.
- v. The Jaw - follow up weeding and monitoring.
- vi. Hopetoun Creek grant sites – follow up weeding and planting where and when necessary.
- vii. Old Campground and bird hide – requiring more occasional maintenance and monitoring.
- viii. Victoria Cres and easement to the Esplanade – mostly follow-up weeding.

#### **Coastal Group - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month**

This group under Suzanne Ryan's diligent direction, has weeded and planted along the Mt Martha foreshore, particularly round the Yacht and Lifesaving Clubs and down and in from a number access paths that extend from the Esplanade to the beach. In some areas it is steep and in others almost impenetrable due to the weeds and dense middle story. They have also replaced and mended fencing to help protect the dunes and its vegetation.

Suzanne has successfully increased the number of grants which apply over this area from Coolangatta Rd to the end of South Beach. This requires on-going and persistent maintenance. She has also found that occasional and ad-hoc working-bees can be as effective and rewarding for targeted jobs and in recruitment of volunteer help.

#### **Tuesday Group - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

Jenny Selby has continued to enthusiastically and ably run this group, although at times numbers have been low. This group extends, with weed control maintenance and enhancement planting, out from the kindergarten and the Bunyip, across La Trobe St, below Hilton Court and at times, tackles the Rock Rose on Kotor Hill.

### **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.

\*Thanks to Tamara Keyte, Pia Spreen and Tess Graham from Naturelinks (funded by the Shire), for all their invaluable monthly guidance and supervision of these groups and for their always obliging, cheerful and reliable help and support.

### **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 most likely the reduction in the future amount of rainfall. Plants need time to become established to last the hot, dry summer period.

This year in-fill and enhancement planting continued i) along Hopetoun Creek ie in those upstream erosion areas ie where there is greater stormwater run-off and in Melbourne Water's rock revetment site. ii) Lower Hopetoun Creek above Ferrero ovals, to increase the riparian zone for a more sustainable habitat corridor; iii) along and in from coastal access paths for erosion and weed control and habitat; iv) off Watson Rd, along Henley Ave drainage line, between the kindergarten and tennis courts and below in the rabbit-proof, mulched site. Further enhancement/diversity planting was in the Maude St Philanthropic site, Citation Hill, Old Campground, below and along Victoria Cres, below Hilton Crt, Quarry and Uralla Bridge., coastal planting from Coolangatta Rd to the end of South Beach. Planting was also a major component of the extensive schools' program.

### **Mature Tree loss**

We have continued to plant a number of overstorey species to help increase the canopy of large trees eg Manna and Swamp Gums, Sheoaks, Banksias and Blackwoods, as they are threatened, not only in the bushland areas of the Reserves by the relentless browsing by possums, but also along the adjoining roadsides and in the established gardens, now threatened by clearing and development.

The dieback of the Coastal Banksias has been noticeable for a number of years all along the foreshore. It is thought to be due to a number of factors eg changed drainage, changes in the foreshore indigenous vegetation diversity, competition from weeds, lack of predators to protect them from insect infestation, and an increase surfactants blowing in from across the Bay that compromises the waxy coating on the leaves that protects them from the salt.

We thought our on-going annual Banksia planting program was beginning to show success, as earlier plantings began to rise above the middle storey. However, lately we have noticed that even these are dying. Often, it appears, suddenly – reduced ground moisture?

As Mal Legg emphasises in his Balcombe Estuary Reserves Fauna Survey and Report, the large old trees are vital for the ecological integrity of the indigenous bushland, providing habitat and hollows which can take up to 100 years to develop. He recommends we increase our tree planting program throughout and recommends at least 1000 trees be planted. Hopefully, enough survive and thrive to protect and preserve the indigenous vegetation for the few remaining native fauna species and as well, restore the remnant landscape, as we once knew it.

### **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 and add them to a BERG MM account.

### **Grants**

There is usually a ready supply of available grants, however the funding bodies and their grants change regularly and so we are always on the lookout for new sources. Recently, Southeast Water launched a grant program to improve the long-term health and liveability of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port for communities that live, work and play in our region, to make our bays, beaches and waterways healthier for everyone. The grants are funded by a 5yr commitment to support local communities impacted by sewer spills. (In the last 12 months, beaches were closed in Mount Eliza, Mornington, Black Rock and Brighton due to sewer spills.)

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, recently we have also been tapping more into the philanthropic 'market'.

Grant Applications & Site assessments – BERG MM's On-ground Assessment Team (Sue Betheras, Liz Barraclough, Jenny Selby 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 are arduous, time consuming and a painful necessity. So, I would especially like to thank:

Suzanne Ryan for not only the coordination of the monthly Coastal Group, but also the application and success of all the relevant coastal grants.

Di Lewis also successfully applies for MPS community grants.

Angela Kirsner who tirelessly proof reads, edits/'tidies' them up, seemingly effortlessly.

**Grants operating in financial year - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 – 30th June 2019**

## 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.

### 2018 Melb Water grants (\$29,892.40)

(Jan 2018 – May 2019)

i) *Swamp Scrub/Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 11* (\$13,963)  
- riparian restoration, northern side of creek from Alice St to Augusta St Bridge. Weed control, project management, plants, materials.

ii) *Hopetoun Creek Riparian Biolink Restoration Project, Mt Martha 2018* (\$15,851)  
2 X sites - above Ferrero ovals; - above Uralla Rd to Hopetoun Rd with particular emphasis on planting for erosion control and consequent reduction of sediment entering the waterways. Follow up restoration of riparian vegetation – for weed control, project management, plants.

iii) *Support Grant*) (\$1,078) – for insurance and Family Day

### 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 - WW, SW treatment to complement existing works along creekline through MPS.

**Area 2.** (Follow-up) Woody weed and scrambler control through the designated polygon with an emphasis on restricting the dispersal of WONS. 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

### Port Phillip Bay Fund grants (\$31,385.18)

(May 2018 – April 2020)

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

Mt Martha foreshore from Balcombe headland to Coolangatta Rd

Year 1 - \$16,048.08 & Year 2 - \$15,347.10 - for weed control, plants, guards/stakes, fencer, materials (fencing), TMA

Coastcare Victoria Community Grant (\$7,490.70)

(July 2017 – Dec 2018) – ‘Mt Martha Foreshore Consolidation & Extension Restoration Project 2017/2018’.

Extend from South Beach BBQ area to Coolangatta Rd, northern beach. For weed control, plants, project management, signage upgrade, fencing and guarding materials.

Coastcare Victoria Community Grant (\$12,850)

(June 2018 – Dec 2020) - *Vegetation Survey & Assessment of Mount Martha Coastal Vegetation*

Mount Martha Foreshore Reserve - Section from Balcombe Headland to Coolangatta Road Beach Path Mount Martha. For coastal Vegetation Survey, Bunurong Field Assessment, Training: Advanced Habitat/GIS Workshop.

Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Authority Community Grant (\$17,611)

(Jan 2018 – Nov 2018) – ‘Balcombe Estuary Reserves, Citation Hill Restoration Extension Project, Mt Martha’ – for restoration of the western section of Grassy Woodland ie from north-south track from Uralla Bridge. west to north-south Augusta St/Citation fire track.

Weed control, project management, revegetation materials, on-ground training, newsletter X 2, update Bunurong signage.

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.

Sunshine Foundation Grant (\$15,080 over 3yrs) (1<sup>st</sup> year - \$5,355)

(Nov 2017 – Oct 2020) – ‘Protection, Preservation and Restoration of the Southern Mt Martha Foreshore and Headland, 2017’ - southern end of South Beach foreshore and slopes – from southern end of carpark to top of beach access path. For weed control (incl Pine Tree removal), project management, plants, signage, waste removal, fencing materials.

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, PHCM Course, 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 *other 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.

### **Other Grants**

#### Community Skills Development grant (\$2,350)

(April 2018 – April 2019)

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

(Nov 2017 – onwards). For War on Waste, plastic-free, sustainability projects and materials. Funds were used for the Clean Green Mt Martha banner, eco-friendly and compostable items for display outside Mt Martha IGA.

#### Port Phillip EcoCentre Clean Bays Blueprint Project (\$2,700)

(July 2017 - June 2017) 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)

(Oct 2018 - ) Received as a donation for environment works and Panel Artwork (plasma cut steel bird panels).

#### Mt Martha Primary School (\$985.10)

Grade 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)

(Feb 2019) – for 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.

### **Schools**

Balcombe Grammar – again in the second half of 2018 we had 50+ Grade 6 students, over 4 sessions for their MAD (Making a Difference) Community Service Program, who mulched riparian extension area in lower Hopetoun Ck above Ferrero Oval, planted above the banks of Hopetoun Creek, collected and surveyed rubbish from the eastern end of the Balcombe Estuary and participated in a Waterwatch session..

Padua College - 13 x Yr 11 students planted 250 indigenous plants in riparian area between Ferrero Oval 1 and Balcombe Ck.

Mt Martha Primary - 25 students mulched the Watson Rd site between the tennis courts and the kinder.

Special thanks to Jenny Selby who does a great job as the Schools and Kinder Coordinator and to the many Bergers who have helped and participated in the programs eg. John Inchley, Steve Walsh, Debbie McMahon, Lorraine Lamb, Barb Thraves and Flo Gason, Sue Milton, Marg Mackie, David

Street, Jenny Wood, Verity Mapp, David Glaspole and Annetre Klein.

University of Minnesota, USA – Suzanne and I assisted 3 students with their third-year unit entitled 'SLE 303 Managing Environmental Project'. Their assessment task was to find an organization or community-based industry partner, and then to form a management plan for an environmental or sustainability related project.

### Surveys

Flora Survey 2018/19 – is slowly underway, but due to Gidja's Buruli leg ulcer which severely limits her mobility, it will be extended into 2020.

Fauna Survey 18/19 – Mal Legg completed, submitted his extensive survey (undertaken every 10 yrs) and will give a presentation at BERG MM's AGM. It will be available on our website.

### 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 and surveys. On-going monitoring and recording are used as indicators to help determine the success of our on-ground work in improving and restoring local habitat.

Sue Brabender has also been regularly surveying the BOA17-20 grant/Watson Rd sites.

Nesting Boxes – the on-going mapping, monitoring and maintenance is included in the Shire's Bushland Management Program and is undertaken by Naturelinks. These boxes compensate for habitat loss and also provide a ready visual educational tool for schools and other interested groups.

Weedbuster – was not held in 2018.

Clean Up Australia Day – Mt Martha Yacht Club coordinated the *Mt Martha Village Site* (outside IGA) this year with 47 participants taking part. 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 usual 'offending' items were collected - glass bottles, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard and paper, large and miscellaneous items eg balls, thongs, metal, numerous bits of plastic, plastic bags, straws, lighters, bottle caps, small pieces of polystyrene etc

Clean Green Mt Martha is the new way!

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

- Clean Up Aust Day
- formation of Clean Green Mt Martha Group
- beginning of Mt Martha Beach Patrol
- grant applications for proposed projects
- litter collections and surveys organised and coordinated by Berg MM for the local schools
- waste displays & solutions outside the IGA with the support and involvement of the Boomerang Bag Project
- the involvement and support of projects by Tangaroa Blue eg Dromana's 'The Last Straw' which is tackling the plastic straw issue etc
- the Baykeeper Beach Litter Audit of micro plastics and small litter objects (thanks to Fran and Peter Dadricks)

- Shire's active support and involvement - Waste Forums, appointment of a Waste & Litter Officer, Amy Yang, commitment to reduce the use of single-use plastic throughout the shire
- showing of films – 'Plastic Oceans' and '2040'
- publicity in the local papers

Corporate Volunteers – for the second year, in June 2019 the corporate group, ADP (Auto Data Processing) helped BERG volunteers on the foreshore. They removed all the Buffalo grass from 3 paths at Lower South Beach and planted path edges.

Balcombe Estuary Reserves Signage Upgrade – is on-going and we are still working with the Shire to complete this project by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. to update and replace both interpretive ie fixed and audio trail and directional are being upgraded, making it more consistent, engaging and effective throughout the reserves from the coast to The Briars.

### **Training, Workshops, Forums**

Training and workshops for Flora and Fauna Surveys - Mapping using Google Maps; Mapping and Storage in Google Drive; GIS and Survey methods and storage. Training for BERG to move to cloud-based use/access/storage - GSuite for Nonprofits. Trainingworkshops Training and Workshop for Publicity and Communication - Facebook - Using for Best Results for Nonprofits; GiveNow- How to capture Audiences; MailChimp - How to Use; General Admin Training - Membership System - How to Use; Workshops and Forums - Coastcare/MPS/DELWP; On-ground workshops – Plant identification.

Peninsula Conservation & Habitat Management Course – was not run in 2019, but is planned for 2020. Past attendees have highlighted the high quality of the course presenters and found it highly beneficial – indeed, one described it as “life changing.” They gained a greater knowledge and skills base that has been invaluable to Berg MM and further encouraged their on-going contribution to our work. It is a comprehensive course over approx. 3 months (Aug – Nov) on a Thursday evening and a field trip every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. Please contact us if interested.

Mornington Peninsula Friends Network Day 2019 - was attended by a number of Bergers in March. A walk and talk session was held at Tootgarook Wetlands – a tour over Chinamans Creek to the Coast Moonah Wetland and round the wetland which hosts an array of wetland plants and birdlife.

### **Presentations**

Occasionally, we are is asked to give a presentation on BERG Mt Martha and to explain our environmental work and activities. In April I presented to the Australian Plant Society.

### **Speakers**

Jeff Weir, Executive Director of the Dolphin Research Institute spoke on the Institute's 25+ years of conservation of marine mammals, dolphin research and their new 'i sea, i care' COMMUNITY and the Ambassador programs in primary schools. He talked about the remarkable bays and the dolphins and whales in our region and concern over their environment and about their citizen science and education programs for the next generation and about Environmental Leadership – for the community.

### **Community Links**

Mornington Peninsula Shire Nursery team – the knowledgeable nursery staff, Kate, Tanzin, Tara and Rachel are always cheerful, efficient and helpful. We pre-order when possible, indigenous tubestock

to fill the requirements of our grants. They are propagated and 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 always enjoy a good and cooperative relationship with the Team, Beck Levy, manager and Jono Riccioardello, Tristan and Jo, Senior Rangers and Sharon, the Procurement & Safety Officer. We benefit from their help and expertise and BERG MM looks forward to an on-going and increased involvement in the future.

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. Jenny Selby has done a marvelous job in undertaking the schools' program over the years, 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. Debbie McMahon has offered to have greater involvement in the program in the future and her expertise will be very much utilized and greatly appreciated. Details above.

SAG – refer to Graham's report for sedimentation issues and projects.

### **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**, in her supervisory capacity at 2018/19 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.

Rotary Club of Mount Martha has assisted Berg MM at a number of working bees along the coast and throughout the Reserves. Under the leadership of Colin Stokes, they have helped repair and

replace dune protection fencing and help install 200+m of rabbit-proof fencing round the forest-mulched site. They have also planted, guarded and staked hundreds of indigenous coastal tubestock.

Broad Spectrum is contracted by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to carry out fire control works in and around the Reserve. **Dan Idczak** and now **Jarvis Toomey** and their 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**, as our main contact, happily and skilfully helps and produces any signage we require.

**Felicity Kaufman** has replaced Paul Hodgson as Melbourne Water's grant contact and assessor for BERG MM. Paul was always approachable and happy to help or advise on the management and coordination of Melbourne Water's grant sites in the catchment. We look forward to working with Felicity. Melbourne Water has become an indispensable partner in the rehabilitation of the Balcombe Creek and its environs.

**Phillip Wierzbowski** is the Coastcare coordinator for our region. We have been lucky to receive grants, relatively 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 join together and cooperate in activities whenever possible eg Weedbuster.

**Bev Colomb, Sam Hearn** and **Rosie Clark** as our local councillors, are most supportive, prepared to listen, and offer willing assistance wherever possible. We appreciate 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.

And many thanks to Alison Hazledine who has the **most** important role 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.

Liz Barraclough

## **BALCOMBE ESTUARY RESERVES GROUP**

### **MT MARTHA INC.**

ABN: 50 224 628 623

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Period: 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

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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 2018 to 30th June 2019**

		<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
		<b>\$</b>	<b>240,260.72</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>224,263.85</b>
<b>Opening Cash Balance</b>					
<b>Receipts for year</b>	<i>notes</i>				
Project Income – Grants & Sponsorships	<b>1</b>	84,253.46		134,354.38	
General Donations	<b>2</b>	15,448.00		22,192.78	
Memberships		4,330.00		4,040.00	
Trader donations / Business Partners (new)		1,650.00		800.00	
Fundraising Events & Other Income	<b>3</b>	4,027.00		1,469.60	
BERG History sales		-		35.00	
Bank Interest		3,776.34		2,927.05	
<b>Total Receipts for the year</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>113,484.80</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>165,818.81</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>353,745.52</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>390,082.66</b>
<b>Less expenses for year</b>					
Project Expenditure - Onground & Sponsorships		112,522.99		138,308.25	
General Donation expenditure	<b>4</b>	12,457.16		11,467.40	
BERG history expenses		-		-	
Bank, Merchant & GiveNow Fees & Charges	<b>5</b>	201.09		53.44	
Grant Acquittals - over/under reconciliations		55.82		-7.15	
<b>Total payments for the year</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>125,237.06</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>149,821.94</b>
<b>Cash at Bank &amp; On Hand at End of Year</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>228,508.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>240,260.72</b>

**Note 1:** Grant income reduced over the 2019 FY, from 2018 & 2017 (111k) levels primarily due to the focus of resources in the ongoing management/acquittal of significant donations & grants received in the previous 2 years.

**Note 2:** The 30 Jun19 Donations Balance does not include \$5,350 in Donations to BERG MM, received via Give Now in June but received in BERG MM accounts in early July 2019. This would make the adjusted Donation total for 18/19 to \$20,798

**Note 3:** A significant increase in donations/income from various Fundraising events over the last year, primarily from: Bunning's Sausage sizzle (Mar19), MM Primary School Saus Sizzle (Apr19) and Terry Denton Event Fees (Sep19).

**Note 4:** An increase to general expenses, primarily from: Marketing/Merchandise efforts to increase BERG MM Brand awareness, general training and IT maintenance & support.

**Note 5:** Increased Fees & Charges include \$110 in setup fees with Bendigo Bank Ecommerce/payment gateway

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

**ABN:50 224 628 623**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**for the period to 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Closing cash on hand	228,508.46	240,260.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 228,508.46</b>	<b>\$ 240,260.72</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Project Grants and On Ground donations unspent	146,634.66	174,904.19
	<b>\$ 146,634.66</b>	<b>\$ 174,904.19</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
	<b>\$ 81,873.80</b>	<b>\$ 65,356.53</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
	<b>\$ 81,873.80</b>	<b>\$ 65,356.53</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Westpac Operating Account (033243 - 131313)	-	635.74
Bendigo Holding Account (633000 - 159 806 140)	125,962.21	102,710.21
Bendigo Donations Account (633000 - 159 803 337)	37,644.42	88,274.67
Bendigo Operating Account (633000 - 159 803 402)	64,851.83	48,590.10
Cash	50.00	50.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>228,508.46</b>	<b>240,260.72</b>
Less Income received in advance of grants unspent:		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>146,634.66</b>	<b>174,904.19</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 81,873.80</b>	<b>\$ 65,356.53</b>

*Note 1: Westpac account closed 18 March 2019*

## BERG Treasurer's Report as at 30 June 2019

Grant Date	Title [Report by date]	Code	Grant (\$) - PTD		Remaining (\$)
July 2018 to June 2021	<b>1. Philanthropy Project</b> MATCHING DONOR & OTHER ONGROUND	PHILAN	\$72,650	-\$32,145	\$40,505
01 June 2018 - 31 Dec 2020	<b>2. Coast Care Victoria Community Grant</b> (total incl 10% deposit) \$12,850	CVCG18	\$12,850	-\$165	\$12,685
01 Nov 2017 to 30 Oct 2020	<b>3. Sunshine Foundation Grant</b> (\$15,080 over 3 years - 2017 \$5,355; Oct2018 \$4,925, Bal = 4,800 )	SFG17	\$10,280	-\$8,888	\$1,392
01 May 2018 to 30 Apr 2020	<b>4. Port Phillip Bay Fund - Round 2 (DELWP)</b>	PPBF18-20	\$16,048	-\$9,555	\$6,493
Sept 2017 TO March 2020	<b>5. DELWP: BIODIVERSITY ONGROUND ACTION</b> - Community & Volunteer Action	BOA17	\$45,763	-\$26,665	\$19,098
04 Jan 2018 to 31 May 2019 FINAL Acquittal Jun19	<b>6A. Melbourne Water SUPPORT Grant 2018 (MW18 S)</b>	MW18S	\$1,078	-\$1,078	\$0
	<b>6B MW HOPETOUN CREEK Grant 2018 (MW18 H)</b>	MW18H	\$15,851	-\$15,851	\$0
	<b>6C. MW BALCOMBE CREEK Grant 2018 (MW18 B)</b>	MW18B	\$13,963	-\$13,963	\$0
9 Apr 2018 - 8 Apr 2019	<b>7. CD COMMUNITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT GRANT (CD017)</b> FINAL Acquittal Jun18	CD0017	\$2,350	-\$2,350	\$0
July 2017 to 31 Dec 2018	<b>8. Coastcare Victoria Community Grant - ACQUITTAL DEC18</b>	CVCG17	\$7,491	-\$7,491	\$0
04 Jan to 30 Nov 2018 Ext to 31 Mar 19	9. PPWCMA 2018 - FINAL Acquittal at 31 March 2019 PART Acquittal Nov18, extension to 31 Mar19	PPWCMA18	\$17,611	-\$17,611	\$0
from Nov 2017	<b>10. Clean &amp; Green MM (Plastics) project</b>	CG MM	\$1,050	-\$380	\$670
July 17 to 30 June 2019	<b>11. Port Phillip EcoCentre - Clean Bay Blueprint Project</b> (\$300/qtr, \$1200 for FY expected)	PPECO	\$2,400	-\$374	\$2,026
Aug 18 to Nov 19	<b>12. PPWCMA 2018/19 LANDCARE</b> Victorian Landcare Grant Grassy Woodland Rest'n, Citation Hill, MM	PPWCMA LC 18/19	\$13,088	-\$10,756	\$2,332

**BERG Treasurer's Report  
as at 30 June 2019**

Grant Date	Title [Report by date]	Code	Grant (\$) - PTD		Remaining (\$)
Oct-18	<b>13. Peninsula School - Grant/Donation</b>		\$4,209	-\$1,080	\$3,129
Feb-19	<b>14. MM Community Bank - Sponsorship BERG MM Newsletters 2019</b>		\$2,500	-\$1,793	\$707
Feb 2019 to June 2020	<b>15A. Melbourne Water SUPPORT Grant 2019 (MW19S)</b>	MW19S	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,100
	<b>15B MW HOPETOUN CREEK Grant 2018 (MW19H)</b> - Hopetoun Creek Riparian Biolink Restoration Project, Mt Martha 2019	MW19H	\$21,665	\$0	\$21,665
	<b>15C. MW BALCOMBE CREEK Grant 2018 (MW19B)</b> - Swamp Scrub/ Grassy Woodland Ecotone Improvement, Balcombe Creek, Stage 12	MW19B	\$19,102	\$0	\$19,102
July 2019 to 30 June 2020	<b>16. Port Phillip Bay Fund - Round 2 (DELWP)</b>		\$15,730	\$0	\$15,730
<b>BALANCE UNSPENT FROM GRANTS</b>			<b>\$296,779</b>	<b>-\$150,144</b>	<b>\$146,635</b>
<b>OPERATING BALANCE UNSPENT - FROM MEMBERSHIP FEES and OTHER INCOME</b>					<b>\$81,874</b>
					<b><u>\$228,508</u></b>



15 March 2019

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 2019.

**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](mailto: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 2019

**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  
 19 August 2019

**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](mailto:mornington.ap@rocg.com)

**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)

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**The 2018/19 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 2019”

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

Date: 04 October 2019

Treasurer:



Julie Zammit

Date: 04 October 2019