

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SAVE OUR ESTUARY?

- **Become a member of BERG Mt Martha today or online** -www.berg.org.au (\$20 family; \$15 single)
Large membership shows that the community supports the work we do.
- **Provide BERG Mt Martha with any technical expertise you may have to ensure the community gets the best solutions to this complex problem.**
Engineering, environmental science, community engagement, marketing, lobbying AND legal are some of the skills we need to draw on. Just offering your name, skill and contact details might be crucial.
- **Lobby Briars Ward Councillors (Bev Colomb, Sam Hearn, Rosie Clark) to ensure the Shire takes actions that result in the estuary being preserved for the Mt Martha community.**
We need to make sure our Councillors are fully aware of the threat to our estuary.



**Balcombe Estuary Reserves
Group Mt Martha**

Caring for the Balcombe Estuary Reserves

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Save our Estuary!



- Unless major action is taken, the Balcombe Estuary will silt up in our children's lifetime.
- The major cause of this silt is runoff of gravel and sand from Mt Martha's unmade roads.
- BERG Mt Martha is working with the Shire on many projects to reduce this damaging runoff.



Join BERG Mt Martha to increase the power of our community representation to save our estuary.

WHAT HAS BERG MT MARTHA DONE?

For several years, BERG Mt Martha has worked with the Shire monthly, identifying particular sources of sediment (material held in flowing water) entering the creek and estuary.

Studies commissioned by the Shire as a result of these discussions showed in 2017:

- Sediment is mainly deposited in large rainfall/storm events, which are increasing.
- Sediment in the estuary has risen by 0.5m in the last 80 years, covering the sea grass meadow and reducing the birdlife and recreational use of the estuary
- The rate of sediment increase has risen in the last 40 years
- Major current sediment sources are Hopetoun Creek, Henley St drain and Augusta St drains
- BERG Mt Martha has also conducted its own sediment core sampling and has monitored the 15 drains flowing into the creek in the Reserves.



PROGRESS!

Since 2016, **BERG Mt Martha has convinced the Shire to:**

- Conduct critical research on sediment flows
- Contract erosion control works on upper Hopetoun Creek (near the Balcombe Pre-School)
- Improve unmade road runoff in Ailsa, Byron, Moore and Reeve Streets
- Improve erosion control on paths within the Reserve
- Improve unmade road grading and maintenance practices
- Provide revegetation funds for Hopetoun Creek erosion control
- Fix broken and inadequate drains on Hopetoun Creek near Bay Rd/Uralla Rd and below the Mt Martha Pre-School



Measuring water quality

MORE PROGRESS!

As a direct result of these monthly consultations with us, **the Shire has also agreed to:**

- Improve the monitoring of the maintenance of the Gross Pollutant Trap in Henley St



Aerial photo of sedimentation October 2018

- Consider sealing the Augusta St area roads
- Improve the runoff on Seppelt Ave
- Consider how to improve runoff management around and under the Ferrero Ovals area
- Consider unmade road runoff from St Ives Grove, Walpole St and Kia Ora Ave
- Report progress to BERG Mt Martha monthly