

## VH Coastcare – Chairman’s Report for year ending 31 March 2021

This has been a tricky year because of the COVID-19 pandemic which has resulted in the cancelling of several working bees and some meetings. During the period of shutdown (March to June 2020) the operation of VHC, which included the conducting of the AGM in 2020, was conducted by the elected Executive. However whenever possible we have continued with our busy work in the dunes – mainly woody weeding but also some planting.

### **Work Area Activities**

We have worked in a number of different areas:

#### ***The Bluff***

Work Areas 1G and 1C We started a new project to remove casuarina glaucas from the slope behind the Whalers apartments. This will be an on-going project for some while. So far, the effect of our work has been encouraging after only four working bees. In March 2020 we also started eradication of the suckering sheoaks, on the slope below the first car park.

We also attacked the gazanias and polygalas on the slope at the immediate end of the car park behind the apartments.

#### ***Franklin Parade***

Work Area 3 to 8 We did weed control along the full length from the Bluff boat ramp up to Kent Reserve.

#### ***The Esplanade***

Work Area 11 Near the caravan park we did normal woody weed control in the winter, and hand-weeding to remove the bulblike plant lachenalia bulbifera for which we are also conducting a poisoning trial. Derek Conroy also did some olive control in the vicinity.

Near the market area and adjacent car park, we have had several working bees during the hotter months continuing with tamarisk control. We have reached as far as the children’s playground but didn’t get as far as the end of the playground which was our target. It is painstaking work often requiring repeat applications to kill these shrubs – but we are winning.

#### ***The Causeway***

Work Area 12 Construction of the new causeway resulted in the clearance of the dune next to the old causeway. We were offered the chance of collecting some of the plants which we then replanted at Bridge Point and on the bank near Bus Stop 3.

#### ***Bridge Point Garden***

Work Area 16. The severe pruning done a year ago has resulted in excellent regrowth and a much tidier effect. We also planted a few more of ground covers and spread bark chips that had been provided by the Council. Extra plants also came from the dune that was destroyed by the new causeway construction. Many thanks to Richard Edwards, Derek Conroy and Eric Everitt for having a regular roster of watering during the hotter months which has kept plants looking good.

## **Hindmarsh Estuary Area**

Work Area 20 Bus Stop 3. We planted natives which were provided by the Council on the bank next to the steps that go down to the boardwalk. These were watered during the hotter months and showed great progress. Extra plants also came from the dune that was destroyed by the new causeway. Many thanks to all members who were on the watering roster.

Work Area 21 Lagoon Embankment. We did work both sides of the railway line east along from Bus Stop 3, controlling African daisy, polygala and olives.

Work Area 26 and others We did pruning along the pathways around the lagoon and towards Port Elliott. We also sprayed some Livingston Daisy along the fence-line near the mouth of the river.

## **Hayborough East dunes**

Work Area 40 We planted 260 plants, which were provided by the NRM (Corey Jackson) in the dunes at the end of the Investigator car park.

## **Viewing Platform Nakurami Kondoli at King's Beach**

We participated in this Rotary project by planting native plants alongside the viewing platform. Richard and Peggy House were invited to the official dinner when it was handed over to the Council.

## **Other matters**

### **Grant applications**

We received a grant of \$500 from the RAA Community Sponsorships Program which enabled us to buy some more tools and equipment for some mini poisoning kits.

In consequence of the extent of the casuarina glauca on The Bluff, and with support from the Council, we applied in March 2021 for a *Coastal Community Participation* grant of \$5000 from the *Coast Protection Board* for support work from a contractor. We haven't heard the result of the application yet. This also requires a component of work from ourselves.

We have also applied in March 2021 for a grant of \$600 from Victor Harbor Rotary to enable us to buy some more electric drills and tools so that we can set up more full size poisoning kits. We have found that these are desirable to improve our productivity on the casuarina glauca project on The Bluff and the tamarisk project along The Esplanade.

### **Council Liaison**

Many thanks to Council staff for their co-operation, especially Brian Doman who has now regrettably retired, Andrew Comas and Lee Jeffery, all of whom have helped us with our work. Meetings have been held with Council staff to review projects and identify new projects. Council have also been very co-operative with the removal of piles of prunings, and the provision of mulch and weed killer.

Councillor Peter Charles has now been appointed our liaison Councillor.

We lodged strong objections to the Encounter Bikeway proposal for a bike/pathway to be built through the dunes between the River Hindmarsh estuary and the Investigator car park at Hayborough. Some members did an educational walk through this area.

We gave feedback on the Coastal Adaptation Study with extensive material relating to coastal erosion issues.

### **Web site**

Many thanks to Andrew Leak for maintaining this site which can be seen on [www.vhcoastcare.org.au](http://www.vhcoastcare.org.au).

### **Publicity**

Thanks to Anita Leak for getting some articles published in The Times, and to Andrew who has maintained the web site and Facebook pages.

### **Membership**

We welcome several new members this year, Loreto Cameron, Jim Tulloch and Sofi Ospina. Our headcount is 44 members.

### **Beach Pole Monitoring**

Thanks to Andrew Leak for doing the monthly beach pole readings and sending the figures to the *Coast and Marine Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage* for use by the *Coast Protection Board*. We have done this job, which started as a weekly reading, since inception in 2002.

### **Hooded Plovers**

Richard Edwards, and David and Sue Thorn must again be commended for their ongoing commitment to the preservation of the hooded plovers and the work they do with fencing, signage and recording when there are eggs in the dunes.

### **Project Monitoring**

Time Sheets for the year show

	This year 2020/21	Last year 2019/20	% change
Off-site activities	312 hours	453 hours	- 32%
On-site activities	470 hours	546 hours	- 14%
Totaling	782 hours	999 hours	- 22%
Hourly rate		@\$42.25	
Value	\$34,148	\$42, 229	- 20%

All hours and their value to the community have had a reduction which has been caused by the lack of work during the COVID-19 lockdowns. (Full details at end)

### **Clean up Australia Day**

We participated in this activity again and worked through the same stretch as last year between the River Hindmarsh and the River Inman. Twenty people participated. Seven bags of rubbish were collected plus three bags of recyclables worth \$5.70. Thanks to Nigel Ibbotson for taking it all away.

## **Social**

The Council very kindly awarded us with a \$100 grant to hold a *Volunteer Week* event to thank volunteers for their contribution to the community, but we were unable to hold it because of the Covid lockdown. At the end of the year the Council cancelled the annual thank you event for volunteers, because of the head count limitations imposed by the covid rulings, but instead offered us some money to hold a private function. Barb Francis kindly hosted the event in March and we await reimbursement.

## **Thanks**

So many of our group require thanks!

- Barb Francis for taking on the role of Secretary so adeptly and for another snake bite bandaging demo.
- Andrew Leak for doing the accounts and maintaining the web site and Facebook. Also for reading the beach poles monthly.
- Anita Leak for publicity activities and for providing morning tea for the Wednesday bees.
- Trevor for still being *Mr Trevorkill!*
- Richard Edwards for looking after the tools and bringing them to the working bees. Also for plant watering at Bridge Point and working on hooded plover protection.
- Eric Everitt for keeping our tools sharp and being a backup for the watering at Bridge Point.
- Nigel Ibbotson for his work with his chain saw. Also for the use of his trailer to remove rubbish after the Clean Up Australia Day working bee.
- Derek Conroy for watering at Bridge Point.
- Sam Blight, a professional environmentalist, for her helpful information and advice, and for preparing the grant application.
- All members who came to working bees and who volunteered to be on the watering roster.
- Richard Edwards, David and Sue Thorn for their work on the hooded plover protection.
- We now have a total of 44 members. Thanks also to members who don't come to any meetings but just support us by paying a sub.

And outside the group we have to thank

- Brian Doman who was our liaison in the Council staff.
- Andrew Comas from the Council for dealing with matters relating to our on-ground activities, such as advice and guidance. Also for providing plants and weed killer.
- Lee Jeffery who works for the Council, for her Bluff and Esplanade weed maps and general technical assistance.
- Corey Jackson our Landscape SA (formerly NRM) Coast, Estuarine and Marine Officer for the Fleurieu Peninsula.

## **Conclusion**

Once again I thank all members of the group for their support and involvement. All our work is based on the team working together and I am grateful to everyone for their participation.

And remember '*If you don't start somewhere you will never get anywhere*'

Richard House, OAM  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## Summary of hours worked for the year

	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>
<b>Off site and admin</b>				
Preparing for meetings. Work re agendas and minutes	64	49	71	37
Attending Victor Harbor Coastcare meetings	160	164	193	136
Attending workshops, studies, courses, presentations etc	90	53	33	7
Schools liaison	4	0	0	
Admin, Letters, emails, reporting etc. Grant applications and follow up	48	51	69	75
Lobbying	0	0	0	11
Publicity.	17	26	87	47
Total hours	383	343	453	312
Total value	\$17,235	\$14,470	\$19,139	\$13,638
<b>On site</b>				
Preparing for working bees. Collecting and returning equipment, plants etc.	26	19	43	54
Weeding, pruning, bonfires etc	252	288	351.5	233
Planting	44	43	34	64
Watering	13	14	71.5	60
Planning, construction or maintenance of infrastructure	5	2	0	10
Monitoring sites and follow up work	18	22	28	31
Beach poles	46	20	18.5	17
Total hours	404	408	546.5	470
Total value	\$15,390	\$17,235	\$17,217	\$20,511
<b>Year total hours</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>999.5</b>	<b>783</b>
<b>Hourly rate</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$42.25</b>	<b>\$42.25</b>	<b>\$43.64</b>
<b>Year total value</b>	<b>\$35,415</b>	<b>\$31,688</b>	<b>\$49,229</b>	<b>\$34,148</b>
No of members	40	41	45	44
Av hours per member	19.6	18.29	21.7	17.8
Av hours per month	65.58	62.5	83.3	65.3