



Newsletter April/May 2020

It is certainly a different world we live in at the moment and our way of life is certainly different but many things are still ticking along. Even though there have been no working bees Coastcare is still ticking along and this newsletter is an opportunity to let our members know what has been happening over the last month.

Richard has kindly done a “Show and Tell” for us about Adriana, Coastal Bitter Bush, and has done a recap on watering bees.

Keep safe and well everyone.

Anita Leak

Publicity Officer, Victor Harbor Coastcare

Subscriptions

There has been a pleasing response to the early payment of the new \$10 subs before the end of April. As at 24th April, 69% of subs have been paid (including a few subs that were paid in advance). If you are one of the other 31% and you need a reminder of the bank transfer details, they are: Victor Harbor Coastcare BSB: 065511 Account: 10055812

Website

Andrew has been busy adding photos to the gallery section of the website. The Coastal Protection gallery has got a bit out of hand but it includes anything to do with beach poles and erosion as well as coastal protection works. Feel free to have a look at yhcoastcare.org.au and pass on any corrections or comments or even more photos to Andrew.

Beach poles

There have been some heavy seas in the last month and some of the wrack that was on the Esplanade beach is now east of the Causeway and wrack from Memorial Gardens beach is now around the Eastern Beach. Sand height at the Memorial Gardens pole is down 12 cm since March and the Yacht Club is up 9 cm. No change at the other poles.



Andrew weighs up the tide. Is it going to be wet feet?



Success! A bit of patience and courage gets the job done!

RAA Grant

Thanks to Richard House's initiative of applying to the RAA Grassroots Giving Program, Coastcare has received \$500.00. The money will enable the purchase of tool belts and tools such as secateurs, small trowels, foldable hand saws and poison dabbers.

The tool belt below is used by Scrub Savers volunteers and works well.



Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

A donation of \$250.00 to the Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on Kangaroo Island, as agreed to by the Coastcare group, has now been actioned.

Below is an update from HBWS Newsletter.

Much of the infrastructure at HBWS was destroyed including the visitors centre, all staff accommodation, the homestead and the cabins. The exact number of native animals lost is unknown. Although the vegetation has burnt much of it continues to grow. Only time will tell how many of the 55 year old trees on the Koala Walk will fully recover.

We are working hard on the bushfire recovery at the sanctuary and each day we make a little progress. Building debris removal was completed on April 3rd and fencing debris is expected to be gone by the end of May. The power was reconnected 3 weeks ago which was a great improvement. We will soon commence the first of 3 new revegetation areas planned for this year. We plan to plant 1500 seedlings this winter and hopefully 1500 more in the spring. We are also working with 2 teams of ecologists on various projects including feral animal control, camera trapping surveys and erosion. We look forward to updating you on our reopening date as soon as practical.



Robust regrowth boosted
by recent rains.



Since the fire we continue to make interesting discoveries. I estimate this yacka is over 300 years old.

Watering bees at the beach volleyball courts, Bridge Terrace

Many thanks to all those members who participated in watering bees near the beach volleyball courts during the warmer months. July 2019 was the third time we had planted in that spot because of the poor survival rate in previous years, so the watering project was almost in desperation in an attempt to get a better survival rate. It worked! We started at the end of October and the watering has been done once every two weeks since then. Many more plants have survived than before and many of those have grown to a very reasonable size. Consequently, most of them have now had their tree guards removed.

Twelve members were on the roster and all need to be thanked – Trevor Brand, Bill Eden, Murray and Janet Pettman, Andrew and Anita Leak, Bob Jeffery, Kevin Howard, Harry Rake, Nigel Ibbotson, Barb Francis and Richard House. Well done folk. Your work was worthwhile. Many thanks also to the Council staff for bringing down the 800 litre water tank. We had a few interesting experiences with it, such as when it sprung a leak and watered jetted out from a hose junction. On another occasion over-ambitious waterers managed to empty it before they had finished the watering.

Here are Murray and Janet doing the watering on Thursday 23rd April. Hopefully, that will be the last session for the season.



Adriana - the poor survivor

Over the many years that we have done planting in the dunes, there has always been one plant which has been the first not to survive. That is the Coastal Bitter Bush (*Adriana klotzschii*). Sometimes it has struggled through to the end of summer but then finally petered out. This year, with the regular watering, several have survived. They are not brilliant! But they are probably the best we have seen.

In Richard House's Dune Plants Guide it is described as "A small shrub with glossy green leaves. Basically, hardy but not always a good survivor when

transplanted as a seedling.” The illustration is one that did survive at Bridge Terrace because it was watered throughout the summer.

