

VH Coast Care – Chairman’s Report for year ending 31 March 2019

Once again we have had a very busy year and worked in several different parts of Victor Harbor. We have also celebrated our 20th anniversary - more of that later. Working from west to east:

The Bluff – Behind Whalers Inn

Work Area 1G. We have continued work in this area especially immediately behind Whalers Inn and we can now say that we have nearly finished our first pass of this work area.

In February 2019 there was a grass fire in the area where we have worked. Grass and some of the shrubs were totally burned, but most shrubs were only partly damaged. There is no evidence of regrowth yet so it will be interesting to see what recovery eventuates.

Franklin Parade and the Inman mouth

Roy Jones has done a great job on the control of fennel along the banks of the River Inman along Kent Drive. It still needs a lot of follow-up though.

The Esplanade

Work Area 10. The concrete block wall built at the head of the beach in March 2015 near King Street, and its extension in 2017, are still holding up strongly. A new dune is also forming on the top of the dumped sand near the beach pole. This work which was considered as a trial by the Dept for the Environment has been highly successful and hopefully more dune protection work can be done using the same designs. It is also much cheaper than the construction of solid concrete walling.

After consultation with the council we have started a new project to remove the tamarisk in the dunes west of the causeway. The first priority is to work through the dunes along the lawns by the Sunday market. This is proving to be challenging work but the results have shown evidence after a couple of months which is very encouraging.

Work Area 11. The revegetation of the dunes between the causeway and the boat ramp has been highly successful. The Council has been giving the new plants much more water in an attempt to re-grow and protect the new dune. We helped by removing the tree guards from many of the well developed plants.

Bridge Terrace

Work Area 13. For the third year we planted more dune plants (provided by the Council together with fertilizer Terra Cotten) in the vicinity of the beach volley ball courts. The survival rate has not been good, firstly because of the extremely hot summer, and secondly because the council has not been able to supply adequate watering.

Bridge Point Garden

Work Area 16. We planted a few groundcovers provided by the Council and in determination to get them to survive we established a weekly watering schedule. We have also introduced seaweed as mulch. Many thanks to Derek Conroy and Richard Edwards for bringing hoses to do this work which really is showing good results. That goes to reinforce the statement made earlier about the obvious benefits of more watering.

We have concerns about the state of the pathway between the road and boardwalk down to the river but have put this issue on the backburner in case the council decide to rebuild the changing rooms next financial year.

Hindmarsh Estuary

Work Areas 21 to 25 Lagoon and environment We pruned the paths around the lagoon area. We also did weed removal between Bus Stop 3 and the river bridge, and between Bus Stop 3 and the first house along the railway line. We also removed the old rusty wire netting fencing along the pathway to the beach and Richard Edwards did some maintenance on the path markers.

The Council has completed the construction of a new pathway over the channel. This has rot proof fibro concrete posts and fibro planks so is much more rugged. We were nearly involved in clearing up filings which had been left by the contractor.

The two interpretative signs designed by Barbary O'Brien a few years ago were replaced in October 2018. The old signs have been returned to Barbary as a souvenir for her. Many thanks to Murray Pettman and Julie Graham for work on the new design and wording. Many of the photos were taken by myself. We paid for the cost of the graphic artist (Dave Hayes of Red Skye Design) and manufacture, and the council paid for the installation.

Hayborough

Work Area 30 We hedge trimmed down the steps near Hayward Street/Alexander Street and also did weed control in the area to the right at the bottom of the steps. An unusual weed was found here which was identified as flax leaf broom.

We also asked the Council to employ a contractor to work on the bank between Rob Gilbert's house and the steps.

Work Area 31 We planted 200 plants (with Terra Cottom) which had been provided by the NRM in the area to the east of the Investigator car park. We have never worked in this area before.

20 Year Anniversary

We celebrated a 20 year anniversary from inception. Twenty seven members and partners enjoyed the Osacr W cruise from Goolwa to Clayton for lunch at the 'Sails' restaurant. Andrew Comas, Victor Harbor Council Supervisor Open Space, and his wife Jane also joined us as guests.

Well done to so many of you who have been with Victor Harbor Coastcare for many years.

Victor Harbor Coastcare Rules

In view of the many contentious issues and litigation cases that occur in modern society, we decided that we should establish a fixed set of rules. (If we were a registered incorporated society these would be called a Constitution, but we are not such a society). Many thanks to Roy Jones, and Andrew and Anita Leak, who worked with me on the development of these rules which were approved by the Council and then accepted by our members in November 2018.

Equipment

We had to replace a broken drill and fill bottle and bought a new implement called a carpenter's knife for frilling the tamarisk trunks on our new project. It was used for the first time at our February Wednesday bee and as a result of positive feedback decided to buy two more. Many thanks Richard and Rosene Edwards for equipment storage.

Our First Aid box had an update of contents but we still haven't finalised the preferred type of equipment holder.

Training and Education

Anita Leak and Derek Conroy attended a First Aid training course (\$85 p.p.) run by FirstAidPro at Morphett Vale and now have a certificate of qualification.

Richard Edwards attended a Hooded Plover workshop.

Bob Jeffery and Bill Eden have been put on a Council wait list for a chain saw training course.

We worked with the Council to install the two new educational panels at the Hindmarsh estuary.

Councillors' Tour

Following the Council Election, I took eight of the Councillors on a coastal tour. This tour had two purposes, namely: to show them areas where Victor Harbor Coastcare has worked, and to highlight areas of particular vulnerability. I have conducted five tours, each taking about 2½ hours. The following Councillors have participated: Brayden Mann, Tim Glazbrook (for a 2nd time), Nick Hayles (for a 2nd time), Marilyn Henderson, David Kemp, Brian Littley, Andrew Robertson and Carol Schofield. Mayor Moira Jenkins and Councillor Peter Charles have not done the tour.

Council Representatives

Many thanks to Bob Marshall for being our Council Representative for so many years and welcome to our new representative Councillor Nick Hayles.

Beach Pole Monitoring

Thanks to Andrew Leak for doing the 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 once a week since inception in 2002. After consultation with the Department it was agreed that once a month, and after extreme events, would be adequate.

Publicity

Julie Graham took on the role of Publicity Officer this year but is having to drop out now as she has a full time job in Goolwa. However she says that she will continue to put notices on Woolworths and Coles notice boards. Thank you Julie for your work.

Andrew Leak successfully established a Facebook page after a great deal of difficulty and help from Gayl Males the Coordinator of the South Coast Environment Centre (and now also member of Victor Harbor Coastcare). Well done and thank you Andrew.

Membership

During the year we welcomed new members Derek Sims, Ashley Picot, and Gayl and Brian Mayles. We now have forty one members.

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

| | <i>This year</i> | <i>Last year</i> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Off-site activities | 342 hours | 383 hours |
| On-site activities | 407 hours | 404 hours |
| Totaling | 750 hours | 787 hours |
| Value | @\$42.25 | @ \$45 hour |
| | \$31,687 | \$35,415 |

Hours have increased slightly for on-site work and down for off-site work since last year. Well done everyone! (Full details at end)

The reason for the hourly rate change is that for several years we have used a ball-park figure of \$45 but this year were advised by the NRM that we should use a figure of \$42.25 for establishing the value of our labour to the community..

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. Seventeen people participated, including a friend of Derek Sims and once again Roy Jones great grandson Oscar Lane. Seven bags of rubbish were plus two old tyres. There was one bag of recyclables worth \$6.70.

Community Involvement

In August and December 2018 we manned the sausage sizzle at the new Bunnings, raising money for the South Coast Environment Centre. We expect to continue this role of volunteering..

Social

The Council very kindly awarded us with a \$100 grant to hold a *Volunteer Week* event that would thank volunteers for their contribution to the community. We had a coffee morning at the Boulevard café.

We also had an end of year BBQ at my own house.

Thanks

So many of our group require thanks!

- Andrew Leak for doing the minutes and accounts, and for handling general secretarial work. Also for reading the beach poles monthly and keeping an eye on erosion situations.
- Julie Graham for publicity.

- Anita Leak for handling First Aid requirements and 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.
- Nigel Ibbotson for his useful work with his chain saw. Also for the use of his ute to remove rubbish after the Clean Up Australia Day working bee.
- Derek Conroy for watering at Bridge Point.
- Roy Jones for working on fennel control along the River Inman.
- Bill Eden for his special achievement in winning the plant identification challenge - Balga Grass (Xanthorrhoea).
- Bob Marshall for being our Council liaison representative for so many years and as a member.
- We now have a total of 41 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 is our liaison in the Council staff and is acknowledged as a great supporter.
- 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 but who also made the excellent weed map that we use on The Bluff.
- Corey Jackson our NRM Coast, Estuarine and Marine Officer for the Fleurieu Peninsula.
- The RAA for selling copies of the Entertainment book, bringing us \$252

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
17th April 2019

Summary of hours worked for the year

| | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Off site and admin | | | | |
| Preparing for meetings. Work re agendas and minutes | 56 | 72 | 64 | 49 |
| Attending Victor Harbor Coastcare meetings | 145.5 | 196 | 160 | 164 |
| Attending workshops, studies, courses, presentations etc | 20 | 60 | 90 | 53 |
| Schools liaison | 3 | 14 | 4 | 0 |
| Admin, Letters, emails, reporting etc. Grant applications and follow up | 51 | 44 | 48 | 51 |
| Lobbying | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Publicity. Preparing for and giving talks | 30 | 17 | 17 | 26 |
| Total hours | 314.5 | 402 | 383 | 343 |
| Total value | \$14,152.50 | \$18,113 | \$17,235 | \$14,470 |
| On site | | | | |
| Preparing for working bees. Collecting and returning equipment, plants etc. | 26 | 27 | 26 | 19 |
| Weeding, pruning, bonfires etc | 223 | 221 | 252 | 288 |
| Planting | 39 | 42 | 44 | 43 |
| Watering | 6 | 2 | 13 | 14 |
| Planning, construction or maintenance of infrastructure | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Monitoring sites and follow up work | 22 | 13 | 18 | 22 |
| Beach poles | 40 | 37 | 46 | 20 |
| Total hours | 356.0 | 342 | 404 | 408 |
| Total value | \$16,020.00 | \$15,390 | \$17,235 | \$17,217 |
| Year total hours | 670.5 | 744 | 787 | 750 |
| Hourly rate | \$45.00 | \$45 | \$45 | \$42.25 |
| Year total value | \$30,172.50 | \$33,503 | \$35,415 | #31,688 |
| No of members | 32 | 39 | 40 | 41 |
| Av hours per member | 20.95 | 19.07 | 19.6 | 18.29 |
| Av hours per month | 55.88 | 62.00 | 65.58 | 62.5 |