



- The Council newsletter that was sent out with the latest rates gave Coastcare a pat on the back for our contribution to the Coastsnap project. This really should be Geoff Cope.
- b) *Facebook* Andrew Leak  
Facebook posts - 7 posts mostly working bees.
- c) *Web site* Jen Priddle  
Jen has entered Richard House's Dune Plants Guide on the website. Jen has indicated that she will attend to the website and update it sometime in March.
- d) *Instagram* Geoff Cope.  
Posts on recent working bees

**7. Membership Report** Loreto Cameron

Nothing to report – we will continue with our volunteer drive after the AGM

**8. Beach Pole Report** Geoff Cope

*Loreto Cameron informed the members present that Victor Harbor Coastcare had received a letter from the Coast Protection Board thanking Geoff Cope and Victor Harbor Coastcare for our willingness to contribute to the coastal monitoring, education and awareness raising, for better management of SA's coastal environments. After all these years, it was great to get such a positive acknowledgement.*

Beach pole measurements as follows:-

Yacht Club - increase 10mm

Memorial Park - no change

Wills St – no change

King St – increase 10mm

Esplanade - increase 20mm

Seagrass level on the beach remains relatively low at around 10%. The exception was at Wills Street in February which was about 60%.

Although there have been monthly variations, the net change to the dune level has been relatively small over the past 3 months.

*Geoff Cope also is investigating the possibility of having a local First Nations art group assist with getting the poles painted in traditional designs.*

**9. Working bees**

a) **Work done.**

i) **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November WA 1C The Bluff**

Worked on the removal of emerging Casuarina Glauca suckers and Coastal Tea Trees in a large patch in front of the first carpark picnic area. A large area of Euphorbia was also removed as well as a couple of olive trees/acacia cyclops and boxthorn.

We also continued work on the previous year's patch of Casuarina Glauca done by a contractor and treating those plants that were showing regrowth.

It was also noted by Trevor Brand that there were some 'good sheoaks' planted by Council that still had the plastic protector (which would have been installed at the time of planting and had not broken down), wrapped tightly around their base, and as a result of this, showing signs of rot. Loreto Cameron informed Council of this issue and that Coastcare had removed the plastic and suggested Council check the whole area.

Tina and Janine worked on the Council garden at the end of the Inman River estuary walking bridge.

ii) **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December WA Kings Beach Lookout garden**

The general garden area was weeded and pruned. Harry Rake went around the seating area with his whipper snipper cutting back large patches of grassy weeds making it look much tidier.

Removal of some African Daisies, a buckthorn and an olive on Franklin Parade on the way home by a few of our volunteers.

Bruce Lindqvist also worked on the foreshore in front of the Memorial Gardens before the end of the year giving that area a general weed and tidy. Thank you, Bruce for looking after this patch.

iii) **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 WA 11 Causeway Dunes**

Weeding around the new plantings and treating the Tamarisks.

Trevor Brand noted the plants that were treated successfully from last year's working bees were done using the same method as we do the large suckering sheoaks on the Bluff which involved finding the base of the plant, cutting it and drilling and filling. We continued along these same lines again.

Boobialla that had strayed across the walking path was cut back, the new planting areas were weeded and the dripper system was checked.

iv) **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 WA 11 Causeway Dunes**

Focussing on continuation of the treatment of the Tamarisks. There were some considerably large bases on several of the trees in this area, a little too large to try to cut through with a saw. Loreto

Cameron will contact Council to see if these can be cut with a chainsaw and make sure a couple of VHCC volunteers are there on the day ready to treat the stump immediately.

b) **Work planned.**

*These next two working bees will include a demo/exercise by Geoff Cope at the Coastsnaps site on how to download the app and use it. We need to encourage more use of both these sites. Loreto has asked all volunteers who are in these areas on the watering roster to quickly visit the Coastsnap cradle nearby and take a photo as part of the routine. The continuous feedback of these photos is important to the overall future management of our coastline.*

i) **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February**                      **WA 14 Sea Rescue Squadron**

Removal of tree guards, weeding around plantings and continuation of euphorbia, gazania and scabiosa (atropurpurea) removal. We will make a pile that is easily accessible to Council for removal by them the following day. There is a patch of Tamarisk that has appeared next to the walking path in front of the Sailing Club that would be good to remove also. If the Hooded Plovers breeding season has finished in this area, we will continue weed control throughout the dunes up to the skateboard rink, once again making a single pile if possible. If the birds are still in the vicinity, we will continue the weed control towards Bridge Point from where we finished off last year. Loreto will bring a few old CUA day bags for transporting the weeds back to the drop-off area.

ii) **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**                      **WA 11 Causeway Dunes**

Tamarisk control once more and also clearing of the branches/stumps and piling them in an accessible area for Council to collect, in preparation for winter planting throughout this new area. We will let Council know the pilings are ready for collection.

**10. Other Business**

a) **Clean Up Australia Day – March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

There are around 20 volunteers currently for the morning, if you haven't let Loreto Cameron know you are attending, please inform her asap. An invitation was issued to the Mayor Dr Moira Jenkins who has notified VHCC that she will be attending the day. Derek Conroy has indicated that he and his trailer will once again be available, which in view of his recent loss, is most kind of him.

b) **Biodiversity Victor Harbor.**

There were several of VHCC members who attended the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group Nursery on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. This was a most informative and enjoyable day. Richard House and Loreto Cameron met with Richard Owen again on the 28<sup>th</sup> November when they were taken on a personal and enlightening tour. The areas where the natural bio-diversity has been encouraged is flourishing and particularly beautiful to see.

At this point in time, Council are currently seeking a site for the Community nursery, and the group are looking to invite Professor Hugh Possingham to be a sponsor as he is taking a very keen personal interest in this project. He is Chief Councillor of the newly created Australian Biodiversity Council (which involves 11 major Australian Universities) and is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow. Hugh will be addressing a forum at the Victor Harbor Council Chambers regarding our local Bio-Diversity on 8<sup>th</sup> April from 5.30pm to 7pm, and all community groups such as ours are invited to attend. Further information regarding this will be forthcoming, such as registering your attendance with the Council organisers.

Loreto Cameron encouraged all VHCC members if they are able, to represent Victor Harbor Coastcare and attend this most interesting forum.

c) **Bridge Point signage maintenance and update.**

Bronson Symmonds is liaising with Richard House regarding this replacement signage. Council are yet to affirm they will cover the cost of this which is approximately \$1200. Richard House announced that an extra plant for this informative garden will be the leucopogon which will also be added to the large sign. We await Council on this matter.

d) **Work on the Suckering Sheoaks on The Bluff.**

Bronson Symmonds has had the two large patches mapped out and will be arranging for a contractor to begin work on these areas as soon as he is able. Once a large area has been worked, Victor Harbor Coastcare will move in and do 'mop up' treatment on those plants that are still showing signs of life. If it is a Wednesday working bee, we can cut down the couple of Coastal Tea-trees that Trevor Brand noticed on the slope down from the picnic/lookout area and Bronson will arrange for Council to remove the trees immediately.

Loreto Cameron has arranged with Council for more work to be done on the old copse again for the Wednesday working bee on April 10<sup>th</sup>. On this occasion they plan to have a machine to macerate the trees as they are taken down.

e) **Equipment purchase – New Kits.**

Loreto Cameron suggested that we make up the planned 3 new toolkits now and replace our funds when and if the grant money comes through which won't be until May. Bruce Lindqvist advised the

stipulation generally with grant money, is that proof of expenditure must be shown after the funds are received. Geoff Cope is going to investigate this stipulation.

The decision was made to wait until then before beginning the construction of the 3 new tool kits.

***Loreto Cameron expressed the gratitude of all volunteers to Margie Fredberg's husband Brent, for sharpening our tools, it was most kind of him to assist the group in this.***

f) **Seeds for Snapper – re-seeding our seagrass beds**

Update – Rachel Williams from Ozfish sent a message through to all volunteers that the seagrass fruit did not make an appearance on the Fleurieu beaches this year, they appeared along the Adelaide coastline, but not the Fleurieu area. They are unsure why at this point in time, and think it may be due to the cooler summer we have had here or part of a cycle which was disrupted by the flooded river last year. They have taken the Big Duck out to see if there was fruit present on the grasses, but the seagrass seeds had not even formed on the plant. The storage tanks have now been removed. It was decided to go ahead and place about 50 unseeded sandbags in strategic spots around the wreck of the 'South Australian' which will help to protect the wooden hull and also give coastal protection information about how well the sandbags perform in high wave action conditions. Although the bags are not seeded, they will still provide favourable substrate for seagrass to grow.

Jen Priddle and Loreto Cameron represented Victor Harbor Coastcare in assistance with the movement of the sandbags to the boat ramp where they were then taken out to the wreck.

g) **Hooded Plovers (and others)**

South Coast Hoodies – of 57 nests 140 eggs, 2 fledglings

Victor Council area – 4 Hoodie territories – 19 nests, 52 eggs and 1 fledgling

There are still incubating nests and chicks on the ground which have not contributed as yet to these numbers.

The little Terns have returned to Encounter Bay again this year after last year's Murray River flood event affected their numbers. Currently there would be approximately 600 with a lot of chick feeding activity.

Loreto Cameron advised that she witnessed a large dog take down a pelican at the back of the Encounter Bay reef last week. The owner chose to stand and watch, the pelican was slightly injured but managed to eventually get away.

h) **Citizen Science project**

Friends of Hindmarsh River are joining with Birdlife Australia in the installation and monitoring of Song Meter Micro Bird and wildlife audio recorders to collect additional data to support the current Bird Trail Citizen Science Bird Survey program.

They are looking for volunteers to assist in collecting the micro-chips from the recorders once or twice over the period of several weeks later in the year. If any members are interested in helping them in this interesting project, please let Loreto Cameron know and she will contact Mark Richards.

i) **Junior Coastcarers**

Geoff Cope, Jen Priddle and Janine Hurley have all applied for and received their police clearances for this project. Thank you for committing your time to this great activity which will be done sometime around the end of April. Geoff will let Anita know the date for a mention in the media. Richard House is supplying pigface he has propagated for this exercise, which are to be planted in the vicinity of the mouth of the Inman River.

j) **Media Release from Council – re Toc-H remnant bushland**

Loreto Cameron has sent a letter to Council on behalf of VHCC commending them on their actions in purchasing this parcel of land to preserve such an environmentally valuable asset for the community of Victor Harbor. It will also be particularly beneficial as a seed bank of rare and local plants for propagation for the proposed new Biodiversity Nursery.

There are currently discussions underway regarding the renaming of this site.

Council will be checking and renovating sections of the boardwalk for public safety, once this has been completed the aim is to join it to the Hindmarsh River Walk.

k) **Steps to Lagoon area removal**

The steps further down from the ones near Bus stop 3 (the ones that are almost hidden) are going to be made inaccessible by Council immediately due to the most recent unfortunate incidents with Steam Ranger. The Council have visited and reviewed all pedestrian and car crossings within their boundary and have ruled that this particular set of steps are not within the safety regulations for pedestrians.

l) **Causeway dripper system**

If this can be extended for future revegetation, the Council will install a PVC pipe under the boardwalk nearby allowing the main line to be fed through. At our next working bee there and once we have removed all the branches etc, consideration will have to be given as to whether this is an option. The placement of the revegetation will need to be planned to ascertain our steps regarding the reticulation system. If it doesn't look possible it may be simpler to use the water cart.

m) **Pathways through Dunes near Kent Reserve**

This area has been of some concern for some time now, and over the summer period there have been several paths made through the dunes by the public due to the collapse of the front of the dunes in this area. One section is particularly bad, at least a dozen steps from the beach through the remaining vegetation and you are on the path. Loreto Cameron has informed Council of this problem and Bronson has now arranged a beach access inspection schedule and, will continue to inspect all of our beach accesses regularly. The site near Kent reserve is on his radar and he will keep it monitored. He has requested that we keep him updated with any further movement at this site and he will action accordingly. Council may need to look at erosion control if the sand accretion cycle doesn't build this site up in the near future.

n) **Coastsnap cradles (Citizen Science Project)**

Rust is already attacking the metal due to inferior steel casing being used, photos sent by Geoff Cope to Council alerted them of this problem. Bronson is chasing up the supplier and requesting that they remove what is there and install higher quality materials to withstand the coastal conditions.

o) **Planned working sites areas for consideration by VHCC sent by Bronson Symmonds**

Bronson has sent through a detailed report which has mapped out areas of concern where Victor Harbor Coastcare can assist with future working bees. Loreto Cameron will work through this over the next 12 months.

**11. Correspondence**

- a) Letter received from Landscape SA Hills and Fleurieu regarding the new 'Stewardship Program'
- b) Letter received from Landscape SA Hills and Fleurieu regarding research on the positive impact of participation in coastal conservation and restoration on individuals and communities.
- c) Emails received from Bio-Diversity Victor Harbor
- d) Email received from Rachel Williams re Seeds for Snapper in the Fleurieu this year.
- e) Letter from Coast Protection Board re our grant approval for the beach poles.

**12. Hours worked** – Loreto Cameron 40; Geoff Cope 14; Christina Michell 13; Andrew Leak 15; Anita Leak 12; Sally St George 4; Eric Everitt 7; Derek Conroy 4; Bill Eden 4; Jen Priddle 11 ; Margie Fredberg 8; Richard Edwards 13; Barb Francis 2; Trevor Brand 15; Harry Rake 9 ; Janine Hurley 11; Richard House 17; Kevin Howard 5; Gavin Dally 6; Jenny Dally 4; Lara Geach 2; Tom Griffiths 2; Sue Robertson 2; Bruce Lindqvist 8; Rosene Edwards 1; Charlotte Leak 1 = **230 Hours**

**13. Next Meeting**      Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Bronson Symmonds attending