

Victor Harbor Coastcare

Chair Report for year ending 31 March 2024

The past 12 months have been all about keeping up and maintaining the excellent reputation Victor Harbor Coastcare has developed over the past 25 years. My main objective as Chair has been to continue the steady pace and consistency that this group is well known for.

On site Work Area Activities

The Bluff

We have had three working bees here, mainly continuation of treating the suckering sheoaks (*casuarina glauca*) in the two copses on the slope behind the Whalers apartments.

Work Area 1G

The large trees, in the copse higher up the slope, which we have continued to remove in conjunction with Council, have been felled by Council staff and then vertically drilled and filled by us. We will be repeating the method on more trees once again in April 2024.

Removal of immature *Melaleucas* in two areas, where larger ones have previously been cut down by Council and mulched on site, resulting in dropped seeds propagating and creating a large area of immature *Melaleucas*. We pulled out many hundreds of these and will need to revisit this site again this coming July to remove re-emerging seedlings. Olives, coastal T-trees, buckthorn and horehound were all taken from this general area.

Work Area 1C

The continuation of treating regrowth of the suckering sheoaks that had been done by a contractor on the slope below the first car park. This area is now under a planned schedule by Council to be worked on by a contractor and VHCC will assist with follow-up treatment.

Removal of *casuarina glauca* suckers and coastal tea trees emerging within the area directly in front of the 1st car park. A large patch of *euphorbia* was removed along with olives, *acacia cyclops* and boxthorn.

Kent Reserve

Work Area 8

The Council have a small native garden either side of the walking bridge over the Inman River on the Kent Reserve end. This was cleared of weeds. 30 plants supplied by Council installed by us and a later visit included weeding and checking progress.

The Esplanade

Work Area 9

In the Inman Lagoon dune strip, northern end in front of the caravan park – Hooded Plover restoration project. Planted *spinifex*, knobby club rush and other small shrubs.

Work Areas 10 and 11

Opposite no. 50 The Esplanade, we again removed by hand the *lachenalia bulbifera*. This is the fifth year we have worked here on this weed. A large amount of *gazanias* were removed at the same time. We are watching out for 'wild gladi' which seems to be showing up here. It was noted that *euphorbia* is beginning to make its way through these dunes.

Tamarisk control was continued in the area in front of the Hotel Victor. We discovered that using the same method as the suckering sheoaks on the Bluff was most effective, so we have continued doing this. The last section to the causeway is quite dense with this woody weed, and will take continued enthusiasm on our part to see this through to the finish line. Old areas have to be re-visited for follow-up treatment at the beginning of the next summer season before continuing on though. These are going to be marked out clearly by Trevor over the next few weeks. The watering dripper system was extended and is working well, thanks to Richard House and his continued vigilance.

Bridge Terrace

Work Area 14

There were three working bees in this area. The removal of 'bad' pigface and euphorbia. 'Wild Gladi' noted and identified in this location. Revegetation was done on this site with a variety of plants. Gazanias, olives and coastal tea-trees continue to be removed from here. We will continue with weed control heading towards Bridge Point over the coming year.

Bridge Point

Work Area 16

There were four working bees in this work area. 50 plants were installed over this period. General weeding and removal of boxthorns, olive, African daisy and coastal tea-tree. Two loads of mulch were spread before summer and a general prune and tidy up was achieved before the warmer months started.

Richard House has been instigating the installation of new signage as there were many damaged and missing throughout this garden, coordinating with Bronson Symmonds of VHC. The new signage will include leucopogon parviflorus, so there will now be 13 plants identified here.

Thanks must go to Richard for replacing those missing plants and organizing this much needed revamp. I would like to mention and thank those Coastcare members who have their own watering roster for this garden, and, who keep a keen eye on it. This pretty spot continues to look good because of their dedication.

Hindmarsh Estuary Area

Work Area 20

Bus stop 3 embankment – there were two working bees in this location. The main task was to remove acacia cyclops along the railway track. This was done in conjunction with Monarto Zoo. Our thanks to Cris Katona of Monarto Zoo for his enthusiasm in collecting these woody weeds. Sea Lavender was also located down near the lagoon and removed by volunteers during these working bees.

Work Area 26

There were 2 working bees here. The removal of Cape Ivy within a large boobialla and 3 good size patches of livingstone daisy. This has to be monitored for future outbreaks.

Tom Stephens Reserve

Work Area 39

We accomplished a joint project with Friends of Hindmarsh River. 420 plants were installed. 120 of these for the yellowish Sedge Skipper butterfly recovery program. A most successful day. The problem with youths cutting down trees and building bike ramps and camps continues to be an issue here.

Hayborough East dunes

Work Area 40 – Investigator Car Park area

Installed 100 seedlings supplied by Greening Australia. Euphorbia and gazania control is needed continuously in this location. As the cooler months advance, we will be revisiting and working here again.

Viewing Platform Nakurami Kondoli at King's Beach

Work area 58

A general tidy up at the end of the year before summer. Including weed removal and some grass slashing. We need to keep this area on our work schedule.

Other matters

Grant applications

The application for a Community Participation Grant from the Coast and Marine Branch of DEW for implementing CoastSnaps which is a system for recording coastal movements by use of fixed point time lapse photographs was successful and two posts have been installed, one on the old Causeway and the other in front of the Victor Sailing Club. VHCC volunteers are encouraged to take photos from both these stations whilst on watering roster. We have also been successful in the grant application

from the Coast Protection Board for replacement beach poles. The pole in front of the Memorial Gardens will be permanently removed. Thanks to Geoff Cope for putting in many hours on both of these projects together with Council staff member Bronson Symmonds.

Membership

Seven new volunteers joined during the year and our total is now 53 members.

Publicity

As always, Anita Leak has had great success in getting our message out to The Times and The Fleurieu Sun, and, has been a great support to me personally during my first year as Chair of Victor Harbor Coastcare. Thank you, Anita.

Web site, Facebook and Instagram

Thank you to Andrew Leak and Jen Priddle for maintaining the website and Facebook, and also to Geoff Cope for looking after Instagram throughout the year, all ensuring our activities are relayed to the general public in a positive way.

Beach Pole Monitoring

Thanks once again to Geoff Cope for doing the monthly beach pole readings and sending the figures to the Coast and Marine Branch of DEW for use by the Coast Protection Board. We have done this job which started as a weekly reading since inception in 2002, and finally, this year received acknowledgement and thanks for our efforts which was well received indeed. Jen Priddle is now learning the ropes for this activity, as a support for Geoff.

Hooded Plovers and Penguins

Richard Edwards, and David and Sue Thorn continue their ongoing commitment to the preservation of the Hooded Plovers and the work they do during nesting season by way of fencing, signage, observation and protection is enormous. Unfortunately, these little birds face a grim future on our coastline.

Other members - Anita and Andrew Leak, Jen Priddle, Christina Michell, Sue Robertson and myself are also among the volunteers counting and monitoring the penguins on Granite Island. It was a successful season as there were 25-27 chicks fledged and off to sea for a year or so before returning to nest.

Seeds for Snapper

The Ozfish project for re-establishing seagrasses in deprived parts of the seabed did not occur this year. The tanks and sandbags were prepared and on standby but due to the cooler summer on the Fleurieu this season, or perhaps the nutrient rich waters from last years flood having an effect, the seeds did not appear on shore. A boat was sent out to the bay to investigate and it was noted that seeds had not even formed on the plants. 50 of the sandbags were taken out to be placed strategically around the wooden hull of the shipwreck "The South Australian" which has recently become exposed, in an effort to save it from further deterioration.

Clean up Australia Day

Once again, a busy day. We had a good turnout. There were more recyclables this year and noticeably more cigarette butts, vapes seem to be going out of favour. Thanks to Derek Conroy for taking all the rubbish up to the Council collection point, particularly helping out so soon after losing his best friend and wife Tamara. What can I say.....the world is made up of wonderful people.

Education and Training

Our Secretary Barb Francis has kindly repeated her training session on what to do in the event of a snake bite, or serious wound a couple of times over the past 12 months. Barb, myself and Anita Leak updated our St Johns First Aid course once again. I would like to see more members taking advantage of this annual opportunity of free training in First Aid, you just never know when it may come in handy.

A number of our members attended a propagation workshop held at the Hindmarsh Island Nursery and then a walkabout behind the nursery to recently revegetated land. Richard House and myself

were also invited and taken by Richard Owen on a tour of their recent work locations on the island. An impressive effort by an impressive man.

Council Liaison

Many thanks to Council staff for their co-operation, especially Andrew Comas and Bronson Symmonds. A new member of staff Sophie Rawson has been a welcome addition to their team, we look forward to working more with Sophie over the coming year. Jodi Roberts has recently replaced Kathy Hayter, and Jodi has kindly agreed to attend a meeting towards the end of the year. Mayor Moira Jenkins continues to be a strong supporter of VHCC for which we are always grateful. Council have continued to be most cooperative in meeting us for on-site meetings when there are any issues. In addition, they have helped with the removal of piles of weeds, prunings, provision of the water cart, irrigation supplies, the provision of weed killer, and of course, always advice and guidance.

The Mark Taplin marina proposal

This continued to plague the community before finally being put to rest by a Council vote. The Encounter Bay reef may continue undisturbed.

Social

Barb Francis and husband Colin once more generously let us have a Christmas break-up party at their house. It is always a great day of friendship and food in a beautiful setting.

Friends of the Hindmarsh River and Inman River and Biodiversity Victor Harbor

We have worked again with the Friends of the Hindmarsh River, weeding and planting on the Tom Stephens Reserve. The two groups have formed a great bond over the past few years.

Friends of the Inman River is now up and running successfully. It is good to see another environmental group in Victor Harbor.

Biodiversity Victor Harbor is a fledgling group looking to begin a community nursery, propagating indigenous plants for our area. All going well, they are hoping to begin in a small way before the end of the year.

Project Monitoring

Time Sheets for the year show

	This year 2023/24	Last year 2022/23	% change	Previous year 2021/22
Off-site activities	480.5 hours	592 hours	-18.83%	332 hours
On-site activities	817 hours	578 hours	+41.35%	540 hours
Totalling	1297.5 hours	1170 hours	+10.90%	872 hours
Hourly rate	\$46.62	\$46.62		\$43.64
Value	\$60,489	\$54,545	+10.08%	\$38,076

The figures once again show an increase on previous years. The on-site hours reflect the hands-on work which has increased by 41.35%.

Thanks

To Barb Francis, who after 4 years, is hanging up her secretarial hat, thank you for staying on as Secretary for my first year as Chair, your support has been truly appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge and thank again Andrew Leak, who after 13 years as our Treasurer has also decided to call it a day and hand the reins over to Geoff Cope. Thanks to Christina Michell who has been 'stand in' on occasion for Barb this year, and to Jen Priddle for her unflappable assistance in whatever is asked of her.

Of course, thanks must go to Richard House for continuing to help me by maintaining our dripper system on the foreshore and re-charging batteries and supplies for our working bee kits. His support in

this has been invaluable. Richard Edwards for his 'walkabouts' checking the coastline and reserves, and Trevor Brand for his advice and care about what we do, particularly on the Bluff.

All the volunteers on the watering rosters, members who don't come to meetings but still support us by paying a sub, in particular the lovely couple Gavin and Josie Irvine who donate \$500 each year just to keep us in good supply of refreshments for our morning teas. What a lovely thing to do.

Those of our members who are experiencing traumatic and difficult times in their lives and yet still they arrive to 'do their bit'.

I would like to take the opportunity here to thank each and every one of you for all the special little things you do throughout the year. They are always appreciated and certainly not forgotten. Each one of you are so special in your own individual way, and, play an important part in making Victor Harbor Coastcare what it is today, you may not think that you make much of a difference, but let me tell you.....you do!

Conclusion

It has been an interesting and varied year, and I look forward to the next 12 months with Victor Harbor Coastcare.

Loreto Cameron
31st March 2024

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Off site and admin				
Preparing for meetings. Work re agendas and minutes	37	45	58.5	56.5
Attending Victor Harbor Coastcare meetings	136	188	218	155
Attending workshops, studies, courses, presentations etc	7	18	158.5	86
Schools liaison		1	0	9
Admin, Letters, emails, reporting etc. Grant applications and follow up	75	54	91	102
Lobbying	11	8	0	17
Publicity.	47	19	66	55
Total hours	312	332	592	480.5
Total value	\$13,638	\$14,488	\$27,599	22,401
On site				
Preparing for working bees. Collecting and returning equipment, plants etc.	54	50	59	83
Weeding, pruning, bonfires etc	233	314	327	370.5
Planting	64	75	83	165
Watering	60	62	77	130
Planning, construction or maintenance of infrastructure	10	0	0	2
Monitoring sites and follow up work	31	26	22.5	19
Beach poles	17	14	10	8
CUA day				39.5
Total hours	470	541	578	817
Total value	\$20,511	\$23,587	\$26,946	37,156
Year total hours	783	873	1170	1297.5
Hourly rate	\$43.64	\$43.64	\$46.62	46.62
Year total value	\$34,148	\$38,076	\$54,545	60,489
No of members	44	44	46	53
Av hours per member	17.8	19.8	25.4	24.4
Av hours per month	65.3	72.7	97.5	108