

**MINUTES for the meeting of Victor Harbor Coastcare
held in the Old School Building on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.00 pm**

1. Welcome and Present

Loreto Cameron (Chair), Harry Rake, Derek Conroy, Tina Michell, Lara Geach, Rosene and Richard Edwards, Richard House, Geoff Cope, Jen Priddle, Trevor Brand, Bill Eden, Barb Francis, Bruce Lindqvist, Anita and Andrew Leak, Sue Robertson, Sally St George, David Thorn, Bronson Symmonds.

Special welcome to Bronson Symmonds – Victor Harbor Council – Environment and Sustainability

Update

- Rabbit Control was completed in February, with great uptake of the K5 treated carrots along Oliver's Parade, G.S Read and at the Bluff.
- Ongoing weekly litter pick up in the dunes at the Youth Park, left of the causeway cafe, Soldiers Memorial reserve and around the car parks at the Bluff Reserve.
- Ongoing watering of last season's plants at the Youth Park dunes, G.S Read Reserve, Kent Reserve dunes, Franklin Parade dunes and in the Bluff Reserve.
- Temporary fence put up at Kent reserve to stop cars accessing the beach through the dunes. Fencing along GS- Recycle plastic post and galvanized rail- extension – no time frame.
- Investigator Toilet block project is still ongoing.
- Yandra storm water outlet was upgraded and revegetated. A storm eroded parts of this project. New fence installed.
- Council staff had its first Clean Up Australia day at the oval.
- New plant identification signage ordered for Bridge Tce garden

Weed Control

- Feathertop grass control (*sprayed & seed head removed*) along the Jetty Rd at the Bluff.
- Several Gazania and Boneseed plants removed from Hindmarsh River Estuary.
- Young Olives basal sprayed at the Bluff Reserve, on the left just before the first carpark.
- Small coastal tea-trees removed from G.S Read reserve.
- Actively removing Scabiosa from Kent Reserve dunes around last season's plantings.
- Aloes have been popping up along Franklin Parade and removed when observed.
- Large shrubs of Dolichos pea have been removed along Oliver's Parade (near Yandra).
- Oliver's Parade- weed control program for this financial year completed. Contractor weed control this financial year along this stretch
- Seeds for Snapper program wrapped up this year with no seed washing up through the period.
- Coastal monitoring program- will be completed in June 30th with assessment of the coast PhD student- "Coastal Dynamics" focuses on Victor Harbor's reefs and interaction with the coast 3.5 year. Currently looking for a PhD student.
Looking for a Biodiversity and conservation school-based student. 3 year one day a week
- Investigator Stair Installation - 2 x staircases to commence works. Commence prior to Easter.
- Alexandra Street. We have purchased materials for the project and are finalizing the contract to deliver the works.
- Bluff Masterplan Project -stage one detailed design is at about 70% completion and looking to start on ground works prior to June 30th. This includes car park upgrades, signage upgrades and path closures, seating, lookout etc. and also revegetation which VHCC will be approached to assist with.

Questions

- Loreto enquired about the poor state of the council's water cart.
- Richard Edwards asked about control of Wright Island. Victor Harbor Council has control. Trevor Brand will resubmit a report from 10 years ago concerning work done on the island then, to Bronson Symmonds.

- Richard Edwards will liaise with Bronson re the dismantling of the Hindmarsh Valley ‘campsite’. General discussion about illegal camping especially after hours in public areas. Council are considering increasing free camping areas to address this issue.
- Trevor Brand complimented the Council on the proposed walking trail plan around the cemetery area.
- David Thorn queried the possibility of more permanent fencing for Hooded Plover protection near the Croquet Club. Andrew Comas to be contacted concerning this.

Thanks Bronson for your report and enthusiasm and making time VHCC.

2. Apologies

Jeff McEvoy, Di Sinclair-Warren, John Ray, Nigel Ibbotson, Eric Everitt, Janine Hurley, Jenny and Bob Jeffries.

Loreto Cameron saw Eric Everitt Monday afternoon and was informed that Sarah is now in Palliative Care. She asked if we could help him in any way, but, he said everything is being taken care of, and that he was very humbled by the concern of so many people.

Another member of our group Janine Hurley is also going through the sad process of losing a much loved brother, Robert.

Our thoughts are with both Eric and Sarah and Janine during this difficult time.

3. Minutes of previous meeting 21st February 2024

Motion The minutes of the meeting held 21.02.2024 is an accurate record.

Proposed Anita Leak *Seconded* Jen Priddle *Carried*

4. Business arising from the minutes (not covered by other items on the agenda).

- Watering Roster** - Thank you to everyone who is involved with this summer task. The hose attachment for the dripper system on the causeway has been stolen. Richard House very kindly purchased and set up another hose, but was concerned if we put another one in place it would be stolen also. With this in mind, we will now be continuing with our roster, but instead of leaving the hose under the bushes, it will be rolled up and dropped off to the next volunteer on the watering roster. Loreto will endeavour to let each volunteer know the address of the following person and if there are any issues, please let Loreto know as soon as possible.
- Signage – Bridge Point**-Richard House has ordered new signs plus an extra for a new plant (Leucopogon). Loreto to purchase 3 of these plants. Thanks Richard for your efforts.

5. Financial Report Andrew Leak

AFTER 13 YEARS this will be Andrew’s last ‘front of meeting’ report, as he will not be here for our AGM next month and is relinquishing the Treasurer’s position. On behalf of everyone Andrew, a very warm ‘thank you’ for your steady hand and guidance not just with the finances, but also as an integral part of the decision making for our group. Andrew was presented with a gift on behalf of all members of Victor Harbor Coastcare.

- Balance \$1,575.72 = last meeting balance
 - expenses previously approved last meeting
 + \$10.80 CUA recyclables (thanks to Derek)
 Term deposit with Beyond Bank:
 \$7,500 @ 4.95% maturing 4/10/2024

- Expenses Andrew Leak
 PO Box renewal \$49.00
 Hose bag \$8.91
 Anita Leak
 Morning tea supplies \$10.60
 Richard House
 Replacement hose \$24.00

Motion: that the above expenses of \$92.51 be approved.

Moved Andrew Leak *Seconded* Derek Conroy *Carried*

Andrew spoke about the requirements of a Volunteer Week Small Grant from Council.

6. Publicity Reports

- Publicity. Anita Leak

An article ‘Mixed news on Clean Up Australia Day’ appeared in the Fleurieu Sun on 7th March.

Anita outlined the suggestion of a morning tea to be held at the Anchorage on Wednesday 29 May, which received general agreement. Details to follow.

- b) Facebook Andrew Leak
Facebook posts - 2 working bee posts and Clean Up Australia Day post.
- c) Web site. Jen Priddle
Current information added and photos modified.
- d) Instagram Geoff Cope
2 Working bees and Clean Up Australia Day added.

7. Membership Report Loreto Cameron
An enquiry by Des Stanley who has been invited to one of our meetings.

8. Beach Pole Report Geoff Cope
Yacht Club-no change
Memorial Park-no change
Willis Street-increase 20mm
King St-increase 10mm
Esplanade-increase 10mm
Weed levels at all locations are less than recent average with very low levels on the Yacht Club site.
CoastSnap- 15 photos have been uploaded from the Yacht Club site and 100 uploaded from the causeway site so far.

9. Working bees

a) **Work done.**

i) **Sunday 25th February 2024 – WA 14 - Sea Rescue Squadron**

A very productive day. Continuation of the removal of euphorbia following on from the area we were previously in, heading towards Bridge Point. This was a good morning's work; also, we located an olive, coastal tea-tree and the 'wild gladi' area which has been marked for later in the year.

ii) **Wednesday 13th March 2024 - WA 11 Causeway Dunes**

Visit to the CoastSnap site with demonstration by Geoff Cope and *Leucopogon parviflorus* identified by Richard House.

Tamarisk control once more, as well as clearing the area ready for some re-vegetation in the winter months.

Richard House presented a photo of a recent tree stump with drill holes to demonstrate how the holes need to be drilled closer to the bark area in the 'cambium' layer to be more effective. Also 360 degrees of drilling needs to be done to prevent shooting in any undrilled area.

b) **Work planned.** -

i) **Sunday 24th March 2024 – WA 10 – Causeway Dunes**

From King Street towards Inman River mouth – weed removal – beginning at the dripper tap location and heading towards the Inman removal of gazanias, euphorbia, scabiosa and anything else that crops up along this stretch.

Loreto will be unavailable for this working bee, Jen Priddle and Richard Edwards will lead the team that day.

ii) **Wednesday 10th April 2024 – WA1G - The Bluff Slope**

Removal of more Suckering Sheoaks from the old copse - We will once again be working with Council who will be cutting and macerating the selected trees while Victor Harbor Coastcare treat the remaining stumps.

Melaleucas Amaryllis has been identified here and Loreto will approach Bronson Symmonds concerning this.

10. Other Business

a) **Clean Up Australia Day – March 3rd** – A most successful day, several apologies due to illness, but if everyone had turned up that had planned to, our numbers would have been over 30. Thanks again to everyone who participated, especially Derek Conroy who makes life much easier on that day when he turns up with his trailer in tow. Thanks Derek.

- b) **Biodiversity Victor Harbor** – Community Forum by Professor Hugh Possingham, to be held for local environmental groups such as Victor Harbor Coastcare, Friends of Inman and Hindmarsh Rivers, Nangawooka etc. to take place at the Council Civic Centre. Please register your attendance on line through the Council website – bookings. If you have any problems please let Loreto Cameron know for help to register. Loreto encourages anyone interested to go, as it looks to be a most informative and educational evening. It begins at 5.30pm and finishes at 7pm.
- c) **Hooded Plovers** –David Thorn
 At the moment there is only one 24 day old chick at the Croquet Club,
 The last remaining chick at the Inman River site was lost in the hot weather of the long weekend and the triathlon activities.
 Statistics for the Victor Harbor Council area:-
 4 nesting sites, 4 pairs of Hooded Plovers, 61 eggs laid, 21 nests, 6 chicks hatching, 1 of those chicks fledging and 1 chick at 24 days old at the Croquet Club site.
 Loreto Cameron:-
I mistakenly referred to the terns last meeting as ‘little terns’ when in fact they are crested terns, and it looks like the numbers have doubled since our last meeting. The little terns have been listed as vulnerable in SA.
I believe the numbers of penguins fledged this season has been raised to 25. A great result. I also will mention that I sent a letter to the Compliance team at Victor Harbor Council regarding dogs chasing and attacking shore birds, and that there needed to be more education regarding this on both the Council and public sides. I hadn’t heard anything back and was a little disheartened, as Monday morning, I saw a man standing on the shoreline looking on while his collie dog stalked and then pounced on both herons and egrets. Well, Monday afternoon I got a phone call back from the Manager of the Council Compliance team who told me that there are going to be more patrols along all the beaches between 8 and 10am for an extended period of time. If anyone witnesses anything reportable, they are to be contacted, even after hours. Council are making a concerted effort with this problem.
- d) **Junior Coastcarers** – this looks to be taking place on 18th April, thanks to Geoff, Jen and Janine for taking this project on for Victor Harbor Coastcare which involves planting 20 propagated pigface by Richard House on one side of the boat ramp area. Victor Harbor Coastcare will be revegetating here also as it has been hammered over the summer period by holidaymakers cutting through the back of the dune with their cars and destroying the dune. Council are going to block it with bollards or similar and we will then install replacement plants. – **Update** – *Council have already put in stakes and wire to deter vehicles.*
- e) **Thank you to Bill Eden** – who very kindly mended Loreto’s garden fork.
- f) **CoastSnap cradles (Citizen Science Project)** – please remember to use your app on your phone at this site whilst watering
- g) **Defibrillator installation** – Old School House – Clear instructions on how to use this device are in the cabinet where the Defibrillator is housed.
- h) **Biodiversity Victor Harbor** – deputation to VHCC seeking assistance with funding set up of nursery to be held on 25th March. Anyone that can spare the time to show up as VHCC volunteers wearing your Victor Harbor Coastcare blue tops supporting this would be most appreciated.
- i) **Seed collection workshop** next Tuesday 26th March 9am Hindmarsh Island should anyone be interested let Loreto know.
- j) **Birds SA Tour**-David Thorn reports that Birds SA recently walked the Hindmarsh River Valley and identified 50 species of birds. They recognised and complimented the work of Victor Harbor Coastcare in contributing towards this statistic.
- k) **Derek Conroy**- expressed his thanks to Victor Harbor Coastcare members for the support after his recent bereavement.
- l) **Sue Robertson**- complimented the advertising for our group in local establishments.

11. Correspondence

- Biodiversity Victor Harbor – re Forum to be held by Professor Possingham
- VH Council – re Defibrillator
- Biodiversity Victor Harbor – re Citizen Science program bird survey – grant was not successful so this will not now be occurring.

12. Hours worked –

Loreto Cameron 20; Harry Rake 4 ½; Derek Conroy 9; Christina Michell 5; Lara Geach 5; Rosene Edwards 3; Richard Edwards 9; Richard House 12; Geoff cope 10; Jen Priddle 9; Trevor Brand 7; Bill Eden 4; Bruce Lindqvist 4; Margie Fredberg 2; Tom Griffiths 2; Sally St George 7 ½; Sue Robertson 4; Anita Leak 8; Andrew Leak 7½; Kevin Howard 3; Jenny Dally 4; Gavin Dally 4; Janine Hurley 8; Sue Thorn 2; David Thorn 2; Barb Francis 2.

Total = 157 ½ hours

13. Next Meeting Wednesday 17th April - **AGM 2024 – Dr Moira Jenkins attending** (Mayor)