

**MINUTES for the meeting of Victor Harbor Coastcare  
held in the Old School Building on  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.00 pm**

1. **Welcome and Present**

Loreto Cameron (Chair), Jen Priddle, Geoff Cope, Andrew Leak, Anita Leak, Richard House, Richard Edwards, Rosene Edwards, Sue Robertson, Sally St George, Eric Everitt, Lee Philp, David Thorn. **Visitor** – Colin Woods - Steam Ranger Volunteer

2. **Special Welcome – Bronson Symmonds – Open Space Team Leader Victor Harbor Council Projects**

- Jagger Road stormwater upgrade underway at the start of the Bluff
- Pedestrian crossing for the Causeway commencing next week
- The Bluff Project stage 1 has commenced - Base Civil are the contractors delivering the project. The project was commenced with a cultural induction to site by Cedric Varcoe
- Hayward Court beach access design and build this financial year.
- Yilki protection sea wall - staged approach
- Extension of the fencing along Bridge Terrace post and rail and conversations have commenced.
- Soldiers Memorial beach access ramp - finalise the design to suit 'all access' suitability.

**Other**

- Potential for Encounter Lakes all access matting to be installed at that location
- Weed control still being carried out along Oliver's Reef area and have spent substantial amount of time there. Note there will be some off-kill due to the Cape Ivy control.
- Wright Island inspection – looking to re-classify
- Council have 2 wave buoys to put in the ocean - looking at a depth of 8m and 30m which will be able to collect local wave height data which will be used in modelling for research and projects.

**Staff**

- New Biodiversity and Conservation Officer has joined the team alongside Sophie. Her name is Cheyenne and will be working part time until the New Year and potential to go full time in January.
- Micheal Keough- Commenced as the Environment and Sustainability Officer Michael will be working on a 5 year environmental management plan, sustainability policy, education program and youth climate forum.
- PhD student- Have recruited for this position and hoping to commence this year

3. **Apologies:** Jeff McEvoy, Di Sinclair-Warren, John Ray, Nigel Ibbotson, Harry Rake, Trevor Brand, Christina Michell, Janine Hurley, Jen Priddle

4. **Minutes of previous meeting 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

*Motion:* That the minutes of the VHCC meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 be accepted as an accurate record.

*Moved:* Anita Leak

*Seconded:* Sue Robertson

***Carried***

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

a) **Grant Application**

Loreto reported that Geoff Cope has completed the grant application for \$7500 for the cost of a contractor to work on woody weeds on the Bluff. Priority will be given to *Allocasuarina Glauca*, particularly in locations where there is evidence that containment lines have been breached. In addition, there are also areas where a contractor could deal with *Melaleuca* reduction. We expect that this amount would enable a contractor to have a small team that could operate for 5 days. The work would be completed by 30/06/2025 and the total project cost (of \$15,000) would include provision for separate in-kind contribution by Council. Funding will be administered by Council. The Council will provide a letter of support for the Grant application. Bronson Symmonds of Victor Harbor Council Open Spaces Team has been most helpful with advice and time for which we are most

appreciative. Loreto thanked Geoff Cope for submitting the application on behalf of Victor Harbor Coastcare.

b) **Tool kits**

These have been completed by Richard House and delivered to us last Wednesday on the Bluff. All have numbered tools aligned with the tool kit they reside in, thus making it easier to keep track of all tools on a busy day on site. Many thanks again to Richard House for such an enormous effort.

6. **Financial Report**

Geoff Cope

a. Balance

**CBA Working account**

Opening balance **\$2185.55**

Deposits \$30.00

\$10.00

Donation

Subscription

b. Expenses

\$30.70

\$311.68

\$157.58

Morning tea supplies

Tools purchased for tool kits

Fertiliser

Closing Balance **\$1715.59**

Amounts foreshadowed to be paid include \$86.79 for tool kits and irrigation items costing \$28.39. Total expenses to be paid will be \$115.18.

*Motion:* That this month's financial report be accepted

*Moved:* Andrew Leak

*Seconded:*

Richard Edwards

**Carried**

c. Term Deposit

**Beyond Bank** Term Deposit of \$7,500 @ 4.95% is due to mature on 4/10. Interest accrued amounts to \$371.25. If there is no significant expenditure planned, Geoff Cope recommended skimming the interest earned into the Working Account and then renewing the term deposit of \$7,500 for 7 months at the current interest rate of 4.9%.

*Motion:* That the amount of \$7,500 be re-invested for a term of 7 months at the current interest rate of 4.9%.

*Moved:* Richard House

*Seconded:*

Barb Francis

**Carried**

7. **Publicity Reports**

a. Publicity

Anita Leak

- The Coastcare group photo taken at the Planting for Plovers working bee on August 14 was published in the local paper.

- Sales of the digital Entertainment Book are delivering \$14 per copy to Coastcare while offering substantial discounts at a wide range of local businesses. Flyers promoting the book are going to be placed strategically around the local area to promote sales.

b. Facebook

Andrew Leak

Posts have been made of the recent working bees.

c. Web site

Jen Priddle

Ongoing maintenance

d. Instagram

Geoff Cope

Two posts for the recent working bees.

8. **Membership Report**

Loreto Cameron

One new member - Loreto's daughter Chelsea Cameron has joined the group.

9. **Beach Pole Report**

Geoff Cope

The last readings were taken on 15 September 2024

Readings followed a number of stormy days in the last month. Relatively small variations at all locations apart from Memorial Park.

Yacht Club

No change

Memorial Park

240mm reduction following 4 months of inundation

Wills Street

No change

King Street

No change

Esplanade

10mm reduction

Seaweed levels were generally low except for the Causeway area.

The D.E.W. site inspection report, funded by a previous grant, indicates that the location for new beach poles will be: 1 at the bottom of the Hayward Court steps, between the two storm water drains and at the top of historical high tide points; and 2 poles at Kent Reserve. Due to it being a highly dynamic site under active recession – one down where it will be subject to inundation from stormy conditions and one further back in the established dune area, so that currently and hopefully for the next 10+ years, will be indicative enough to inform VH Council for their strategic future planning.

#### 10. Plover Report

David Thorn

Biennial Bird Count and weed report will be held again this year on 16th and 17th November. The observations will extend from the NSW coast around to Western Australia but our area stretches from the Murray Mouth to Knight's Beach – 9 sites in total. Bird Data is suggesting that the Coastcare volunteers might join the team, pairing with Birdlife Australia volunteers, to help spot weeds on the foreshore, particularly marram and sea wheat grass, sea spurge, sea rocket and pipe grass. Birds to be recorded include Hooded Plovers, Pied Oyster Catchers, Sooty Oyster Catchers.

David to update the group further in the October meeting – also to seek volunteers from the group for this biennial activity.

#### 11. Working bees

##### a. Work done.

- i) **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August – WA 10 – Esplanade to Playground (GS Reid Reserve and on towards the Inman River)**  
300 seedlings were planted along the fence and through walking tracks to the beach in two areas. Tree guards were placed in one area behind a group of large shrubs to deter rabbits. Buckthorn and olives were removed during this planting session also. Thanks to David Thorn and Derek Conroy for the supply of post hole diggers.
- ii) **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – WA 1A/1G/1C – The Bluff**  
3 working groups spread out over a large area. Old tree guards, coastal t-trees, melaleuca seedlings, olive trees, polygalas all removed, and outbreaks of Cape Tulip noted and some of these were also removed. Council have been notified of the scale of the outbreak of Cape Tulip, and Bronson has advised that he will look into managing this by spraying.

##### b. Work planned

- i) **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 – WA1A/1G/1C – The Bluff**  
Continuation of previous work – removal of old tree guards, coastal t-trees, olives etc.  
There is still the large patch of melaleuca seedlings that we didn't get to on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, it would be good to get this under control before they get any bigger. It is an area we will need to follow up on again this time next year.
- ii) **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – WA22/25/26 – Lagoon Circuit and end dunes**  
Once again, this bee will depend on the numbers attending. The main objective though will be trimming and pruning all along the length of the walking path from the Hayward Court steps to the Lagoon, this will include the walking paths to the beach. There is a patch of watsonia not far from the steps, so we are looking to remove them while we are in the vicinity.  
There are small outbreaks of sea statice which, if we get time we will remove and also, the channel to the Lagoon at the river end needs clearing, just a small section of it, so a couple of workers could do that easily.  
What we don't manage to finish this time, we will return for the next working bee to complete. If that is the case, we may tie that in with a working bee spreading mulch at Bridge Point on the slope front and side.
- iii) Richard House has 15+ pigface he has propagated. Anita and Andrew volunteered to help Richard plant them in an area not too far from the lagoon on the beach side of the track. Parking is at bus stop 3 with a walk to the site carrying plants.

## 12. Other Business

- **First Aid Training Course**

Landscape SA is sponsoring 3 members to do this course at a time of their choosing between now and the end of the year. Lara Geach, Margie Fredberg and Lee Philp have expressed interest in the course.

- **Ausmap – Lee Philp**

Ausmap is a citizen science initiative, set up by the Total Environment Centre, surveying Australian beaches for microplastic pollution in local aquatic environments and identifying the pollution hot-spots. Lee Philp is part of this data-collecting initiative and is seeking our involvement to monitor an area perhaps in Encounter Bay or in front of the Soldiers Memorial Garden. Plastic waste would be recorded and logged 3 times per year at 3 to 5 chosen points in the selected area, requiring small groups of 2 – 3 people. Sites of particular interest would be close to storm water release channels and have a low gradient. Pristine beaches are also of interest. Suggestions for a suitable site measuring 50 metres x 5 metres would be most welcome. Each data collection would take about 90 minutes, 3 or 4 times per year. As it is an important coastal issue, please contact Loreto or Lee if you are able to help. A roster of volunteers could be drawn up to cover a 12 month period. Lee will donate the kit (\$450) and the training day in Victor Harbor (\$2000) will be organised by Michelle Blewitt PhD who is overseeing the project. (See **attachments** at end of Minutes for further information.) Lee will update and seek volunteers at the next meeting.

- **Watering Rosters**

Loreto will be preparing a roster for watering our new plantings. Please let Loreto know as soon as possible if, and when, you are available.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm** Richard House called for volunteers to install the drippers into the new irrigation pipes he and Richard Edwards have placed on the dunes near the Causeway. Eric, Anita, Andrew and Loreto have volunteered for this.

- **Cape Ivy outbreaks**

Two sites were visited with Sophie Rawson from Victor Harbor Council on Monday and it was decided that both the lagoon area and the Hayward Court steps that we worked on last year will need to be control sprayed by a contractor again.

- **Biodiversity Victor Harbor**

This group is steadily gaining pace as to its achievements and forward planning.

Currently:

\* Victor Harbor Council have supplied them with 'start up' funding of \$10,000.

\* A number of members are participating in a comprehensive 8 module training programme in association with the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Nursery. These are being conducted by Richard Owen.

\* A plant list supplied by Victor Harbor Open Spaces Team is currently being quoted on by Biodiversity VH with the view to supplying council with a portion of their requirements for the planting season in 2025. Propagation of these seedlings is well underway.

\* A temporary nursery site on private property is about to be set up with fabricated benches made to specifications and they plan to have a working bee in the next few weeks to pull it all together.

It is a most exciting and beneficial project for our community and the VH Council are to be commended for their foresight in supporting this group.

## 13. Correspondence

1. Letter from Landscape SA re 1<sup>st</sup> Aid training.
2. Letter from Southern Volunteering re networking meeting at Victor Harbor

## 14. Hours worked:

Lee Philp 7; Geoff Cope 9; Anita Leak 6; Barb Francis 3; Jen Priddle 4; David Thorn 4; Gavin Dally 2; Janine Hurley 4; Lara Geach 2; Tom Griffiths 2; Kevin Howard 2; Trevor Brand 6; Chelsea Cameron 2; Heather Castle 2; Richard Edwards 9; Richard House 14; Sally St George 3; Andrew Leak 5; Eric Everitt 5; Sue Robertson 3; Bill Eden 2; Margie Fredberg 2; Christina Michell 2; Rosene Edwards 1; Loreto Cameron 20 = **121 Hours**

## 15. Next Meeting

 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm – Old School House

**Guest speaker – Ali Bloomfield – Fleurieu Marine Education**