



Bellarine Bayside
Coastal Management

Annual Report 15/16



About us ~

Our Management Area

Bellarine Bayside manages 17 kilometres of Crown land reserves along the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay from Pt Richards to the southern edge of the St Leonards township, which includes natural and built assets, holiday parks, playgrounds, boat ramps and boat sheds.

Our Mission

Bellarine Bayside, in partnership with local community groups and residents, sustainably protects, restores and enhances the Northern Bellarine natural and built coastal environment for the benefit and enjoyment of local communities, holidaymakers and visitors.

Our Structure

Bellarine Bayside is a not-for-profit Committee of Management formed by the Victorian Government to manage Crown land between Point Richards in Portarlington and St Leonards.

Committee members, selected through a public, skills-based expression of interest process, are appointed for a three-year term by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

Bellarine Bayside has the equivalent of 30 full time staff working within the organisation, including coastal planners, conservation officers, holiday park caretakers, grounds and administration staff.

Our Funding

Bellarine Bayside currently generates around \$6 million in direct revenue annually, with approximately 92% of revenue received as income from the six coastal holiday

parks. Other income is derived from a range of sources including lease, licence and permit fees. Revenue is also often supplemented by grants, which are used for specific projects.

All funds are used to preserve and protect the natural coastal environment, while ensuring the local community and visitors have access to quality parks, reserves and facilities. No recurrent funding is received from state or local government.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Bellarine Bayside formally acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Northern Bellarine

Our Goals ~

- Understanding, protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- Connecting communities and the coast
- Facilitating access, enjoyment and sustainable use of the coast
- Improving built environments along the foreshore
- Developing Bellarine Bayside as a sustainable, adaptive and accountable organisation that takes up its role in partnership with others

The Northern Bellarine Foreshore Plan 2012 outlines the vision and strategic goals for the region over the next 15-20 years.

Chair's Report



2015-16 has proved to be a highly successful year for Bellarine Bayside with significant improvements to the operation of the organisation and the delivery of a large number of projects for the enjoyment of campers and users of the foreshore reserve.

Members of the interim Committee that were installed in February 2015 by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water agreed to extend their 18-month term for a further 12 months to continue to oversee the improvements to the organisation's operations. Paul Simmons, resigned at the end of the initial term and we thank him for his service during that period. Two new members, Melanie Rogers and John Hartigan, have recently been appointed to the Committee.

Over the past year Kevin Craig resigned as the CEO and John Nankervis was appointed as the new CEO, commencing in early January 2016. John has over 25 years' experience as a senior manager at Parks Victoria

In the past year, the large scale works improvement program has continued within the holiday parks and along the 17km of our beautiful coastline.

Some of the more significant projects included:

- Over \$400,000 of upgrades to the camper facilities in both the Portarlington Holiday Park and the seasonal parks at Indented Head and St Leonards, including the upgrade of several amenity blocks, improved drainage, paths, bbq facilities, increase plantings, replacement turf and upgrading laundries;
- Over \$250,000 of improvements to the facilities and infrastructure along the foreshore, including the continued upgrading of the Coastal Trail, new seating and picnic tables and the addition of more drinking fountains;
- Continued improvement to the condition of the boat ramps, and
- A number of coastal protection works, including the addition of protection groynes and sand fencing.

Our commitment to the enhancement and protection of the Coastal Reserves' environmental values has continued

with a wide scale program that includes the removal of invasive weeds and the planting of over 8000 plants along the foreshore and within the Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Our commitment to working with the community and our stakeholder organisations has continued with a wide ranging program of volunteer projects, including community planting days, primary school environmental education workshops and ongoing involvement with the Green Army and Community Services work teams. I am particularly pleased to announce the development of a Collaboration Agreement with the City of Greater Geelong which aims to consolidate our relationship and mutual cooperation in developing the Northern Bellarine coastline for the enjoyment of all.

The Committee has been focusing on the establishment of improved management practices that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Bellarine Bayside into the future. Examples of this work include the development of the first ever Asset Management Plan, a Risk Management Plan, and improved financial management practices which have resulted in very positive financial outcomes. A program of improvements is well underway in response to the recommendations of the 2015 PPB Advisory Review.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Nankervis and the staff for their dedication, professionalism and ability to deliver high quality results over this past year. We have seen a remarkable turnaround in our engagement with our campers and local communities and we continue to build a solid relationship based on open communication and the development of trust.

I would also like to thank the officers of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the City of Greater Geelong who continue to work closely with Bellarine Bayside in a spirit of cooperation. .

I am excited about the coming year and the opportunity to continue to serve the community in the delivery of an improved coastal environment, and provide even better facilities for campers and users of the foreshore reserves in this beautiful part of Victoria.

Diane James AM

Bellarine Bayside Chair

Goal 1: ~

Understanding, protecting and enhancing the natural environment



Coastal Protection

Bellarine Bayside actively manages the Northern Bellarine coastline to protect and enhance the natural environment to provide a safe, clean and accessible foreshore for the local community, visitors and holidaymakers to enjoy.

To protect coastal assets and reduce public risk whilst improving beach amenity Bellarine Bayside has been proactive in the installation of coastal protection such as the timber groynes at Taylor Reserve and sand fences at Grassy Point. These structures complement the on-going beach renourishment works right along the foreshore. Bellarine Bayside is also working in partnership with Jade Tiger Abalone Farm to address the erosion on the foreshore in the immediate area by relocating approximately 1000m³ of excess sand dredged from Portarlington harbour.

Bellarine Bayside contributed as a project partner in the Geelong-Queenscliffe Coastal Adaptation Program (Our Coast) project which commenced during 2015 and will continue into 2017, which has mapped our coastal region and conducted a comprehensive risk assessment for vulnerable areas. The Our Coast project is a partnership with community, government and coastal management agencies to successfully respond to the challenges of climate change. This multi-agency partnership project is focused on developing a better understanding of the potential risks associated with the impacts of climate change on the coast of the Bellarine Peninsula and exploring options to mitigate those risks.



A 2014 beach renourishment site adjacent to Bengalat Reserve (formerly Area 3) provided the setting for a state-of-the-art monitoring program using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones. The UAV photographed the coastline to build a current beach profile for comparison with the 2014 dataset. This assessment allows Bellarine Bayside and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to better understand and shape our coastline.



Environmental Conservation

Bellarine Bayside continually conserves and rehabilitates the Northern Bellarine coastline to decrease erosion, beautify the foreshore, and enhance the natural habitat for birds and other wildlife. **Conservation works this year included:**

- the upgrade of access tracks and stairs to Lower Bluff from Bluff Rd;
- improving the extent and condition of native vegetation at Lower Bluff including protection of the Leafy Greenhood Orchid;
- community planting days at Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards;
- school environmental days;
- installation of signage designed by Gordon TAFE student, Ammie Yodsan, at the Indented Head saltmarsh;
- the introduction of biological control agents in Pt Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve to manage bridal creeper and gorse spider-mite; and
- the continual maintenance of past conservation works

Community groups and schools were involved in planting more than 8000 native plants along the Northern Bellarine foreshore in 2015-16. Participants included schoolchildren from Portarlington and St Leonards Primary Schools, Friends of Point Richards, Gordon TAFE students, Green Army workers, Correctional Services crews, and local community members during the three individual community planting days.



Goal 2:

Connect communities and the coast

Annual Community Meeting

Sixty-five local community members attended the Annual Community Meeting on 27 November 2015 at the Indented Head Community Hall. Bellarine Bayside Committee Chair, Diane James AM, opened the evening with an update on achievements for the past year and the vision for the year ahead before handing over to Wadawurrung elder Uncle Bryon Powell for a traditional Welcome to Country. Adam Ford, an archaeologist, TV host and Cultural Adviser to Bellarine Bayside for the past eight years, was the guest speaker and provided a comprehensive insight into the cultural heritage of the Northern Bellarine.

Major Community Events

Bellarine Bayside sponsors a wide variety of community events throughout the year, which provide an opportunity for locals, day visitors and holidaymakers to come together and enjoy some of the finest entertainment on the Northern Bellarine. These major events, such as the National Celtic Festival and Portarlington Mussel Festival, bring a range of benefits by raising our region's national and international profile, stimulating the local economy and increasing cultural awareness. Bellarine Bayside continues to provide a range of support to these events including permit approvals and documentation, site preparation, coordinating external providers and cleaning services.

In 2016, Portarlington's world-renowned National Celtic Festival attracted thousands of music-lovers from Australia and around the globe. Held every year on the June long weekend it is a fantastic event on the winter calendar and provides some great entertainment at various venues around town over four days.

The 2016 Portarlington Mussel Festival in January was also a great success with record crowds, plenty of entertainment and a wide variety of stalls selling local goods and produce. Jam-packed into one very full day there was something for everyone including talented local musicians, roving entertainers, art shows, cooking demonstrations, boat and water safety information, and local beer and wine tastings.

The number of public events along the coast also increased during this past year which is an indication of the increased attractiveness of the Northern Bellarine area and the upgraded coastal trail. A new event on the calendar this year was the inaugural Bellarine Sunset Run on the Coastal Trail. The Sunset Run tackled the Coastal

Trail as a 21.7km half-marathon or a 10 km run. In its first year the Sunset Run attracted more than 750 competitors and we look forward to supporting this event again 2017.

Other major events supported by Bellarine Bayside in 2015-16 that showcase the region and benefit the local community include the Wreck 2 Reef Open Water Swim Classic, BUPA Around the Bay cycling event, Mitchelton Bay Cycling Classic and the Portarlington Gatorade Triathlon.



Community Activities

Bellarine Bayside not only provides plenty of activities for the local community ranging from planting days to school education days to summer holiday activities, but also sponsors many local community events. The main activities occurring every year include the community planting days in winter, our year-round educational program with the local primary schools and the Caring for Our Bays Litter Hotspots Program in partnership with Bellarine Catchment Network.

Other Bellarine Bayside activities held throughout the year included:

- A film night at the Indented Head Community Hall to view Melbourne Down Under;
- An Easter Sunday cook-up with hot cross buns for everyone;
- Australia Day sandcastle competition;
- Kelly Sports Kids Activities; and
- Caring for Our Bays – summer holiday program.

Goal 3: ~

Facilitating access, enjoyment and sustainable use of the coast



Landscaping and Coastal Works

Bellarine Bayside is committed to the improvement and maintenance of the Northern Bellarine foreshore for the accessibility, safety and enjoyment of the local community and visitors alike. In 2015-16 a pedestrian bridge was installed over the creek at St Leonards between the two camping areas. This completed the missing link in the coastal trail and users no longer have to walk along the roadside to cross the creek. This has improved public safety and provided a more natural coastal experience. The design of the bridge allows for relocation should future coastal erosion occur. Another bridge and a boardwalk were also installed at the Indented Head saltmarsh where the trail was realigned to improve pedestrian safety and protect the nationally significant saltmarsh from increased pedestrian traffic. The coastal trail was also realigned away from The Esplanade in Portarlington where landscaping works included the removal of weeds, dune restoration and re-vegetation.



Tree Management

Bellarine Bayside has an active Arbor Plan in place where all trees in Portarlington Holiday Park and along the foreshore are assessed regularly by professional, independent arborists, particularly after severe weather events. In 2015 approximately 30 ageing cypress pines were assessed as being 'high-risk' and were subsequently removed from the holiday park to ensure camper and public safety. Replacement native shade trees and shrubs were planted and replacement turf was also installed on affected sites. Tree management is an on-going program for Bellarine Bayside with regular assessments and maintenance throughout the year to ensure camper and staff safety. Should those assessments deem any trees at high risk to camper or public safety Bellarine Bayside will not hesitate in removing those trees to protect our campers and their property.



Major Projects

Several major projects were announced and began in this financial year but will continue into 2016-17. These projects all have a community engagement and consultation process to ensure the best possible outcomes for the community, users, holidaymakers and other stakeholders. These projects include, but are not limited to, the Point Richards precinct master plan and car park construction, and the Indented Head Boat Ramp replacement works.



Goal 4:

Improved built environments along the foreshore



Foreshore Facilities

Bellarine Bayside is committed to the upgrade of built environments for the benefit and enjoyment of local communities and visitors to the foreshore. Works completed this year include the installation of foreshore furniture and water fountains, boat ramp improvements, the Indented Head Community Hall upgrade, upgrades to camping amenities and infrastructure, and the large scale annual maintenance and improvement program.

The Indented Head Community Hall underwent a series of internal and external enhancements in accordance with the service agreement with City of Greater Geelong. These works, valued at \$150,000, included the installation of an audio and projector system, acoustic ceiling panels, reverse cycle air-conditioning, installation of an all-access toilet, blackout blinds, new entrance façade and balustrade with strip lighting, a marked car park, new signage, and landscaping works. Bellarine Bayside has worked together with the local community to determine specific design details throughout the project and thank this group for their role in this process.

Several boat ramps and jetties received makeovers throughout the year including the jetty at the Portarlington Holiday Park boat ramp, the Indented Head boat ramp jetty and St Leonards boat ramp. At Indented Head a damaged whaler was repaired and missing fenders replaced. At Portarlington the lower landing of the jetty was replaced with a stable non-slip surface while the structural timber on the main jetty was replaced. At the St Leonards boat ramp and jetty the wave screens, ladders and some decking were replaced.

Bellarine Bayside is a project partner in the Portarlington Safe Harbour Project. The project is being delivered by Parks Victoria and will provide a much needed improvement to the existing marine infrastructure along with the extension of existing breakwaters and the installation of new breakwaters, wave screens and jetties. Stage 1 of the project was officially opened in July 2015 and Stage 2 is currently in progress with the creation of the rock breakwaters and installation of the new finger jetty.

Bellarine Bayside has also provided advice and assistance in the establishment and operation of the new ferry trial to the Docklands.

Portarlington Holiday Park and Seasonal Camping Reserves

In early 2016 Bellarine Bayside connected with campers at three camper listening sessions, one each in Portarlington, St Leonards and Indented Head that enabled the Bellarine Bayside Committee and Senior Management team to listen to and understand the main concerns of our short-term and long-term campers. A comprehensive survey of campers was also undertaken at this time. As a result of this and other feedback received, the following works are just an example of works completed in the 2015-16 financial year:

- A new camp kitchen at Ramp Rd in Portarlington Holiday Park (PHP);
- Toilet block 4 refurbishment in PHP;
- Tree planting through all camping reserves;
- Playground upgrades (basket swings) and maintenance;
- Turf replacement on high use sites at Batman Park;
- Toilet block repairs at Anderson Reserve;
- New dump points at Anderson and Bengalat Reserves;
- New and refurbished washing machines at Indented Head;
- Standard cabins refurbished;
- Sealing of main access road at Anderson Reserve and First Avenue in PHP;
- New outdoor showers at Bengalat and Anderson Reserves;
- Wind protection installed at BBQs;
- Security access to toilet block and additional picnic tables at Karrong Reserve.

Every year the Portarlington Holiday Park and seasonal campgrounds are assessed by Star Ratings Australia. In 2016 Portarlington Holiday Park maintained its 4-star rating, while the seasonal camping grounds in Indented Head and St Leonards all retained a 3-star rating.



Goal 5: ~

Develop Bellarine Bayside as a sustainable, accountable and adaptive organisation



The 2015-16 year saw the Committee make significant improvements to the management and governance of the organisation. This included a wide range of projects, including:

- Implementation of the recommendations from the PPB Advisory Board Independent Review.
- The development of an Asset Register and Asset Management Plan;
- A comprehensive Risk Register and Risk Management Plan;
- The implementation of the Communications Plan across the organisation, increased community engagement and external communications, and collaboration with our sister Committees of Management.

Former CEO, Kevin Craig resigned on 1 September 2016 and John Nankervis was appointed as his replacement. John commenced in the CEO role on 4 January 2016 and brings to the organisation a wealth of experience with a background in public land management, park and coastal management and town planning. John was also a senior manager at Parks Victoria for more than 25 years.

Bellarine Bayside previously had two separate websites which have been consolidated into just one: www.bellarinebayside.com.au. Bellarine Bayside engaged Paul Kelly Creative after a short selection process to develop this new website that is not only user-friendly but contemporary and informative. The new integrated website went live on 22 June 2016 and complements the monthly e-News that began in January 2016. The new website and e-News, together with our social media outlets increases Bellarine Bayside's transparency and provides a variety of avenues to disseminate important information to the local community and holidaymakers.

The Camping and Accommodation Strategy commenced in the latter part of the year and will gather a broad range of views and aspirations that reflect the diverse users of our fantastic local assets. Information from past surveys and consultation exercises will be used as a foundation for the strategy with further input from community consultation.



Financial Overview

Bellarine Bayside has completed another successful year and reports an operating surplus of \$463,000 (FY2015: \$753,000) which continues the consolidation of sound financial management of the organisation.

Operations-generated revenues of \$6.223 million, up \$264,000 or 4.4% on the previous year's revenues of \$5.959 million. The holiday parks contributed \$5.676 million or 91.2% of total revenues (FY2015: \$5.676 million). Grants and subsidies from State Government and other sources totalled \$379,000, 6.1% of total revenues (FY2015: \$345,000) and revenues from other sources – foreshore leases, licences, permits and administration was \$168,000, 2.7% of total (FY2015: \$177,000).

Expenses excluding depreciation totalled \$5.241 million, up \$651,000 or 14.2% on the previous year's aggregate of \$4.590 million. The increase was mainly attributable to increased staffing costs, repairs and maintenance.

The asset depreciation expense for FY2016 was \$519,000 (FY2015: \$616,000).

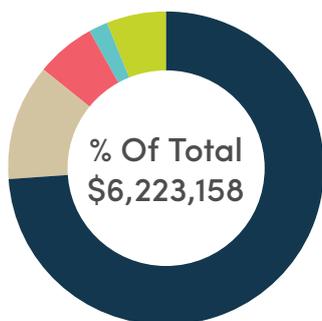
Other financial highlights included:

- Continuing strong cash flow from operations with trading for FY2016 generating \$1.569 million (FY2015: \$1.568 million); and
- End of year cash holdings (cash and financial assets) rising \$996,000 to \$2.829 million (FY2015: \$1.833 million). Fifty-three percent of the \$996,000 increase was attributable to an increase in deferred income (holiday park deposits for 2016-17 up \$134,000 and deferred grant funds up \$391,000) and the balance can be attributed to profitable trading.

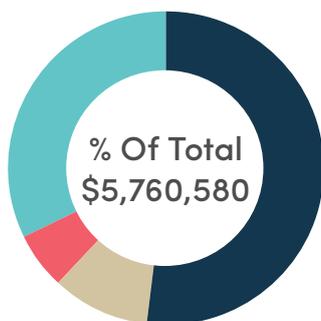
During the year, \$1.269 million of funds were applied to project works (both operating and capital). This was up \$326,000 or 36% on the FY2015 outlays of \$943,000. Significant works are outlined in other sections of the Annual Report.

To view the full financial statements for 2015-16, please visit: www.bellarinebayside.com.au

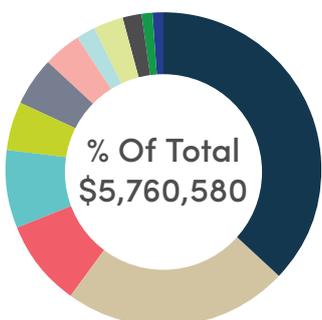
Revenues 2015-2016



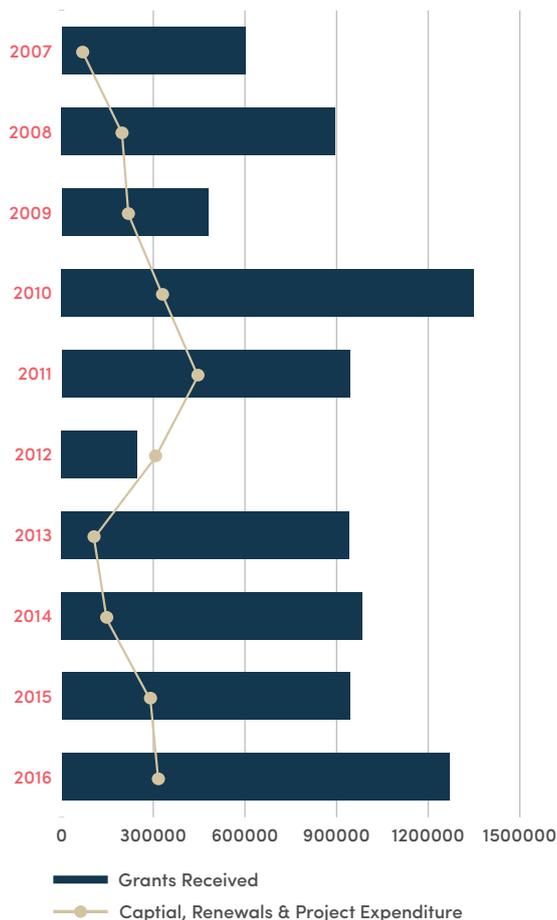
Expenses 2015-2016



Expenses 2015-2016



Capital, Renewals & Project Activity



The Year Ahead



The Year Ahead

Bellarine Bayside is aiming for 2016-17 to be another year of achievements and success for Bellarine Bayside.

Effort will continue in improving the environmental condition of the foreshore, increase the quality of infrastructure and services we provide and consolidate our positive financial position. In doing this we will continue our strong commitment to being connected to our community and working closely with our partner agencies.

A key project that is aimed at guiding the future management of our Holiday Parks will be the Camping and Accommodation Strategy. This project will review the Holiday Parks and explore the options to improve their operation as well as investigate opportunities to improve their low use during the spring, autumn and winter periods. The community is strongly encouraged to participate in this project.

Another focus for the year will be improving the visitor infrastructure at a number of key locations along the foreshore and this includes:

- Completing a Master Plan for the Point Richards boat ramp precinct and implement Stage 1 works to improve the carpark, drainage and visitor facilities;
- Completing the Coastal Trail link between the Portarlington Holiday Park and Point Richards;
- Working with Parks Victoria as part of the Safe Harbour project in providing pedestrian access to the newly constructed Eastern Breakwater;
- Indented Head Place-making Project;
- Continuing to upgrade the condition of the Coastal Trail;
- Animal Management Orders;
- Continue our program of providing improved seating, picnic tables and signage along the foreshore; and
- Replacing the existing toilet block at the Indented Head Boat Ramp/Wrathall Reserve precinct.

Along the coastline we will also continue to undertake measures to help understand and manage the coastal erosion, especially at specific 'hot spots'. This will include works at Taylor Reserve and near the Salt Lagoon section of the coast. This coastal protection will be complemented by our continued efforts in the protection of the foreshore reserves' environmental values, including the removal of invasive weeds and the ongoing planting program.

We will also continue our involvement in the Our Coast multi-agency project looking at the impacts of climate change along the coastline of the Bellarine Peninsula.

In the Holiday Parks we will continue to respond to the needs of our customers. This will include:

- Installation of a children's jumping cushion at the Portarlington Holiday Park (PHP);
- Expanding the summer activities and food vendors program;
- Replacing the boom gates at PHP;
- Continuation of our tree risk management program to ensure the safety of our visitors;
- Continuation of our planting and grass replacement program;
- Upgrading internal paths and roads;
- Installing more outdoor showers, drinking fountains and lights; and
- A range of other improvements to the condition of the amenity blocks through all the holiday parks.

Works to our marine assets will include:

- The replacement of the Indented Head Boat Ramp; and the
- Replacement and improvement to Steeles Rock jetty.

Throughout all of our work we will continue to build strong and positive relationships with our customers and the broader community. It is critical to our success that we continue to respect their views and encourage them to participate in our key decision making processes.





**Bellarine
Bayside**
Coastal Management

**Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee
of Management Incorporated**

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