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, including natural and built assets, holiday parks, playgrounds, community halls, 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.

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

Our Structure
Bellarine Bayside is a not-for-profit Committee of Management formed by the Victorian Government in 1994 to manage Crown land between Point Richards in Portarlington and St Leonards.

Committee members are selected through a public, skills-based expression of interest process and 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, administration staff, and holiday park indoor and outdoor staff.

Our Funding
Bellarine Bayside currently generates around $6 million in direct revenue annually, with approximately 85% 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 that are used for specific projects.

All incoming 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 Peninsula land and waters, the Wadawurrung People, and pays tribute to their Elders past, present and future.

Committee and Senior Management Team
The Bellarine Bayside Committee in 2016-17 was made up of seven Committee members, with Diane James AM as Chair. Committee members include the interim Committee members appointed in February 2015, Therese Cotter (Vice-Chair), Elaine Carbins, Graham McGregor AO, Stephen Griffin, Paul Simmons (resigned 15 August 2016), Lindsay Ellis (resigned 18 January 2017), and Melanie Rogers and John Hartigan who were both appointed to the Committee on 16 August 2016. New Committee members will be appointed in 2017-18.

The Committee delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer, John Nankervis, to work with staff to manage the day-to-day operations. The CEO is supported by the Senior Management Team:

- Nick Wynn, Manager Planning, Strategy and Reform
- Paul Gangell, Operations Manager
- Michael Hodges, Finance and Business Manager
- Rod Newnham, Holiday Parks Manager.

Further information on the Committee and Senior Management Team can be found on our website at https://www.bellarinebayside.com.au/coastal-management/who-we-are.

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.
This past year has been an extremely busy but very satisfying one for the final 12 months of the interim Committee established in February 2015. The success of 2016-17 is a result of the delivery of a large number of projects, both within the holiday parks and right along the foreshore, the increased community engagement and consultation surrounding these projects, and improving and consolidating our financial sustainability.

The positive reviews and feedback received by the community and holidaymakers throughout the year is testament to the hard work and dedication shown by Chief Executive Officer, John Nankervis, the Senior Management Team and staff, demonstrating their ability to deliver high quality results and engage with our campers and local communities. I would like to thank all involved for their commitment and perseverance in getting the job done!

Some of the more significant projects included:

- The removal of approximately 100 Monterey cypress trees from the Portarlington Holiday Park that became unstable after the severe wind storms in October 2016, and subsequent landscaping at a cost of $400,000;
- A $450,000 upgrade to the Indented Head boat ramp, including the re-design and replacement of the ramp;
- Completion of the Camping and Accommodation Strategy;
- More than $200,000 of improvements to foreshore facilities and infrastructure including the Coastal Trail, new picnic tables on the Portarlington foreshore and additional drinking fountains and outdoor showers.

Communication and community engagement has been a priority for the interim Committee and we continue to build that relationship based on open communication and trust. Increased accessibility to the Committee, CEO and Senior Management Team through a number of forums, such as the Annual Community Meeting and Camper Connections sessions, digital communications, and updates in the local newspaper, has significantly improved our relationship with the wider community and the transparency of the organisation. The incoming Committee will continue to focus on working with the community and key stakeholder organisations within a wide variety of programs.

The interim Committee was extended for an additional 12 months in 2015-16 to continue to oversee improvements to Bellarine Bayside’s operations. Two new Committee members, Melanie Rogers and John Hartigan, were appointed at this time by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and will continue on the Committee in 2017-18. Lindsay Ellis resigned from the Committee in January 2017 and we thank him for his service on the interim Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity 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 on a number of key projects and initiatives.

I would also like to thank my Committee for their dedication and professionalism shown over the past 30 months and we look forward to welcoming the new Committee in 2017-18. Melanie Rogers and John Hartigan will be joined by the new Committee members to be appointed by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and the progress we have made on the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management and wish the new Committee, staff and management continued success on the Northern Bellarine coast, a 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.

Winter storms can cause extensive coastal erosion and damage along our valuable coastline and has been particularly evident recently on the Bellarine Peninsula. Understanding and managing coastal erosion to protect our coast is not only important for current generations, but also future generations who will continue to protect our fragile environment. Specific ‘hot spots’ for coastal erosion include the foreshore area at Pt Richards in Portarlington, Anderson and Taylor Reserves in Indented Head, and near the Salt Lagoon in St Leonards.

To help combat the inevitable coastal erosion along our foreshore timber groynes and sand fences can be installed at strategic locations to encourage the collection of sand, mitigating the effect of erosion on our coastline. In this financial year we installed a 17m timber groyne and 15m semi-permeable, rock groyne at Taylor Reserve resulting in a significant improvement to the foreshore and beach access for residents and campers in this area. These structures are complemented by our continued efforts in the protection of the foreshore reserves’ environmental values, including the removal of invasive weeds and our ongoing planting program.

Bellarine Bayside also participated in the multi-agency Our Coast study into the potential impacts of climate change on the coastal areas of Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. This project will continue into 2017-18 and will investigate potential sections of the coast that might be at risk to rising sea levels and explore options for managing any impacts on communities and assets.

Environmental Conservation

Bellarine Bayside is working hard to conserve and rehabilitate the Northern Bellarine coastline to decrease erosion, beautify the foreshore, and enhance the natural habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our conservation effort this year has been supported by numerous volunteer groups including the Friends of Pt Richards Group, correctional services crews, the Bellarine Green Army Team, local community members and groups, and Portarlington and St Leonards Primary Schools.

Conservation and community engagement works this year included:

- Community planting days at Portarlington (3 July 2016), Indented Head (31 July 2016) and St Leonards (28 August 2016);
- More than 6500 native trees and shrubs planted in our foreshore coastal reserves throughout the year;
- School environmental education days;
- Installation of educational signage at the Pt Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve, designed by Ammie Yodsan; and
- Coastal Trail improvements in Indented Head and St Leonards including planting, widening the trail in some sections, ongoing maintenance, and control of invasive weed species.

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Annual Community Meeting
Almost 100 local community members attended the 2016 Annual Community Meeting on 27 October 2016 at the Indented Head Community Hall, which has recently undergone some fabulous improvements. The evening started with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Byron Powell representing the Wadawurrung people, the traditional owners of the land Bellarine Bayside manages. Following Uncle Byron Bellarine Bayside Chair, Diane James AM, gave a detailed update of Bellarine Bayside activities for the previous financial year.

The guest speaker for the evening was David Provis. David is an oceanographer who is very familiar with the Northern Bellarine coastline and Port Phillip Bay. He is the Senior Principal for Cardno, who delivered the Our Coast Inundation Summary report. David presented some important information on coastal processes of the Northern Bellarine, particularly erosion that can affect our foreshore quite dramatically.

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 to the region by raising our national and international profile, stimulating the local economy and increasing cultural awareness. Bellarine Bayside continues to provide support to these events including sponsorship, provision of venues and public space, permit approvals and documentation, site preparation, coordinating external providers, and cleaning services.

Held every year on the June long weekend, the world-renowned National Celtic Festival is a fantastic event on the winter calendar and provides some great entertainment at various venues around town over four days. In June 2017, the National Celtic Festival attracted thousands of music-lovers from around Australia and across the globe for the 15th year in succession. 2017 was one of the most successful years yet, with more than 15,000 in attendance across the four days of the long weekend. Bellarine Bayside is a Principal Community partner of the event and provides the use of Parks Hall and W.G. Little Reserve free of charge for this event.

The Portarlington Mussel Festival is held on the second Saturday of January each year and in 2017, the festival once again lived up to expectations with a record crowd, plenty of entertainment and a wide variety of stalls selling local goods and produce, all jam-packed into one very full day.

Community Activities
Bellarine Bayside not only provides plenty of activities for the local community ranging from school and community environment days to summer holiday activities, but also sponsors many local community events. The main activities occurring every year include the community environment 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 or supported throughout the 2016–17 year included:

- Bellarine Nature Cadets for children aged between 9 and 14 years old, in partnership with Portarlington Neighbourhood House;
- Summer by the Sea holiday activities;
- Our Coast project open house at Indented Head;
- Corangamite CMA/Landcare Rural Women’s Day at Pt Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve;
- Coast-to-Coast Conference Field Trip;
- Preparing and installing an indigenous garden at St Leonards Primary School in partnership with Landcare;
- Australia Day sandcastle competition;
- Kelly Sports activities; and
- St Leonards Pier litter clean-up with Bellarine Catchment Network and Dive Victoria.
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. The 17km of foreshore reserves we manage from Portarlington to St Leonards have received the following improvements in 2016-17:

- Extensive Coastal Trail improvements in St Leonards and at the Matthew Flinders anchor located above Steeles Rock;
- Solar lighting installed in W.G. Little Reserve;
- New picnic tables on the Portarlington foreshore;
- Fencing and pathway at Batman Park, Indented Head;
- Installation of signage at Pt Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve; and
- Installation of drinking fountains with dog water bowls along the Coastal Trail.

Tree Management

Bellarine Bayside has an active Arbor Plan in place where all trees in Portarlington Holiday Park (PHP) and along the coast are assessed regularly by professional, independent arborists, particularly after severe weather events. In October 2016, after a major storm event that felled several large cypress trees in PHP, independent experts recommended the removal of all cypress trees (approximately 100) in that area of the holiday park where our twelve-month permit holders are located. Twelve-month permit holders were consulted on the subsequent landscape design. Replacement native shade trees and shrubs were planted, while turf was installed on sites that previously did not have grass due to the shadow of these large trees. The removal of these trees allowed us to undertake several extra improvements in this area of the holiday park at the same time, including:

- Planting of approximately 400 coastal trees and shrubs throughout PHP to improve the amenity for campers;
- Asphalting Second and Third Avenues;
- Laying turf;
- Creation of a path from Fourth Ave to the beachfront; and
- Installation of an outdoor shower and drinking fountain at toilet block 4.

Several trees were also removed from Batman Park and other foreshore reserves to eliminate the risk to public safety. Tree management is an ongoing program for Bellarine Bayside with regular assessments and maintenance throughout the year to ensure camper and community safety.

Major Projects

Several major projects were delivered during the 2016-17 year and some will continue into 2017-18. These projects include:

- Replacement of the Indented Head boat ramp;
- The Camping and Accommodation Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- Rebuilding of Steeles Rock jetty;
- Rebuilding of Boat Road to be an all-weather accessible surface;
- Working closely with Parks Victoria in the construction of the Portarlington Safe Harbour;
- Renovating and successful sale of licences for three boat sheds at Indented Head;
- Review of Dog Control Orders (in conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong); and
- Finalising plans for the Pt Richards precinct with works beginning in July 2017.

All of these projects included community engagement and consultation phases to ensure the best possible outcome for the community, local users, holidaymakers, and key stakeholders.
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 picnic tables and drinking fountains along the foreshore, the Indented Head boat ramp replacement, upgrades to camping amenities and infrastructure, and the large-scale annual maintenance and improvement program.

The Indented Head boat ramp underwent a complete replacement after a public consultation process that will provide access to a wider variety of vessels and relieve congestion at the St Leonards boat ramp. Bellarine Bayside received a Boating Safety and Facilities program grant of $360,000 and also contributed $90,000 towards this upgrade. The new and improved boat ramp was reopened in June 2017. A Boating Safety and Facilities grant was also received to rebuild the burnt jetty at Steeles Rock. This was completed prior to summer in 2016.

Bellarine Bayside is a project partner in the Portarlington Safe Harbour Project, which is being delivered by Parks Victoria. In this financial year, Stage 2 has seen the completion of two rock breakwaters and the installation of a new finger jetty. The final stage of the Safe Harbour project is underway and includes the installation of wave attenuation barriers on the western side of the pier and dredging the inner harbour to make way for commercial fisherman, mussel farmers and the Portarlington-Docklands ferry, which will berth at the new finger jetty. The dredged sand will be relocated to areas along our coastline to improve resilience to winter storms in sensitive areas.

Portarlington Holiday Park and Seasonal Camping Reserves
For the past two years Bellarine Bayside has 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 needs of our campers. As a result of this and other feedback received throughout the year, the following works are just an example of those completed in the 2016-17 financial year:

- Refurbishment of toilet block 4 in Portarlington Holiday Park (PHP);
- Outdoor shower installed at toilet block 2 in PHP;
- Installation of a Kangaroo Jumper jumping cushion in PHP;
- A dedicated food van area installed at PHP;
- Refurbishment of the Batman Park camp kitchen;
- Turf replacement and tree planting in seasonal campgrounds;
- New drainage installed at Anderson Reserve;
- Installation of hand dryers in the toilet blocks at Anderson Reserve;
- New fencing and pathway at Batman Park;
- Drainage installed at Bengalat Reserve;
- Connecting sites 10 and 18 to water at Karrong Reserve; and
- Boom gate replacement at PHP.

All of these improvements have increased the amenity to campers and has resulted in great reviews on TripAdvisor, Google My Business and our own Facebook page. The most recent review received on TripAdvisor gave us a 5-star rating with the following feedback:

We had a rare winter weekend off so we decided to get away, we chose Portarlington because it’s fairly close to home. We’ve seen the park but never been in BUT now we have we will most certainly be back! Amenities were AMAZING!! The bathrooms are large, bright and the best smelling bathroom I have had the pleasure to use! Plenty of toilets and showers with internal screens so your clothes stay dry! The laundry wow!! Washing machines, driers, ironing boards and irons but also a couch and TV! Bookshelf well stocked with books I could have lived in the laundry until I saw the main camp kitchen!! Microwaves, hot plates, toasters, kettles and sinks for washing up! Impeccably clean lots of tables and chairs and a separate lounge area, couches, heater and large on wall TV. Since it was so cold we utilised this area a lot! It was nice to escape the biting wind inside and we really relaxed nicely. Electric BBQ’s were spotlessly clean and we made great use of them and there were plenty of them scattered around the park which is huge. We were situated by a huge playground, there were more play grounds, a recreation room and a jumping pillow as well as a beach volleyball court. And peddle cars for hire. Our site was fully grassed and powered and only feet away from the beach. We will most certainly be back! Staff were lovely and friendly, happy to have a chat.
The 2016-17 year again saw Bellarine Bayside make significant improvements to the management and governance of the organisation. This included the initiation of a wide range of projects, including:

- Camping and Accommodation Strategy;
- Boat shed sales x3;
- Tender process for all trade contractors;
- Adoption of a Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control Policy;
- Draft dog control orders (in conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong); and
- New tenant announced for Port Pier Café after an independent, competitive tender process.

Bellarine Bayside employed a Holiday Parks Manager, Rod Newnham, to oversee the commercial operations of the Portarlington Holiday Park and our seasonal campgrounds. Rod is a member of the Senior Management Team and comes with extensive management experience from Parks Victoria.

Improvements to the administration office on the corner of Sproat St and Boat Rd were also completed in 2016-17. These works have created a more user-friendly and productive working space for our team, as well as a reception area and small meeting room for visitors and informal meetings.

The Camping and Accommodation Strategy commenced in 2016 and, after a variety of consultation processes, has gathered a broad range of views and aspirations that reflect the diverse users of our fantastic local assets. Information from past surveys and consultation exercises have also been used as a foundation for the strategy. The next stage for this project is the Implementation Plan, which will commence in 2017-18.
Bellarine Bayside has completed another successful year and reports an operating surplus of $528,000 (FY2016: $463,000).

Operations-generated revenues were $7,081 million, up $858,000 or 13.8% on the previous year’s revenues of $6.223 million. The holiday parks contributed $5,970 million or 84.3% of total revenues (FY2016: $5,676 million), an increase of approximately 5%. Grants and subsidies from State Government and other sources totalled $571,000 or 8.1% of total revenues (FY2016: $379,000), and revenues from other sources (foreshore leases, sale of rights to occupy boat shed licences, licence fees, permits and investments) was $540,000 or 7.6% of total revenues (FY2016: $168,000).

Expenses, excluding depreciation, totalled $5,542 million, up $301,000 or 5.7% on the previous year’s aggregate of $5.241 million. This increase was mainly attributable to the cost of removing a large number of Monterey cypress trees from the Portarlington Holiday Park that became unstable after the severe wind storms in October 2016. Action was taken to mitigate the risk and more than 100 trees were removed at a cost of $400,000.

The asset depreciation expense for FY2017 was $1.011 million (FY2016: $519,000).

Other financial highlights included:

- Continuing strong cash flow from operations with trading for FY2017 generating $1.199 million (FY2016: $1.569 million); and
- End of year cash holdings (cash and financial assets) rising $234,000 to $3.063 million (FY2016: $2.829 million).

During the year, $1.448 million of funds were applied to project works (both operating and capital). This was up $179,000 or 14.2% on the FY2016 outlays of $1.269 million. Significant works and outcomes are outlined in previous sections of the Annual Report.


### Capital, Renewals & Project Activity

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### Revenues 2016-2017

- Portarlington Holiday Park: 69%
- Indented Head Holiday Park: 11%
- St Leonards Holiday Park: 6%
- Foreshore Reserves & Assets: 7%
- Grants: 8%

### Expenses 2016-2017

- Staff employment costs: 33%
- Repairs & maintenance: 23%
- Depreciation: 15%
- Electricity, gas, water: 7%
- Coastal management: 6%
- Cleaning: 4%
- Waste, garbage: 4%
- Contract labour: 8%
- Motor vehicle operating: 3%
- ICT: 2%
- Security: 1%
- Insurances: 1%

The asset depreciation expense for FY2017 was $1.011 million (FY2016: $519,000).
The Year Ahead

Bellarine Bayside is aiming for 2017-18 to be another year of achievements and success.

We are proud of our ongoing effort in improving the environmental condition of the Northern Bellarine foreshore, increasing the quality of infrastructure and services we provide, and consolidating our positive financial position. In doing this, we will continue our strong commitment to connect with our community and work closely with our partner agencies. We are also aware of our responsibility as a major employer on the Northern Bellarine and our significant contribution to the local economy.

We have now completed the long process of finalising the Camping and Accommodation Strategy. The focus in 2017-18 will be on implementation of the strategy, with an emphasis on making our holiday parks more attractive to the wider public.

With the fantastic works by Parks Victoria on the Portarlington Safe Harbour, which is nearing completion, and the establishment of a ferry service, Bellarine Bayside will continue working hard to investigate opportunities for the development of the Harbour Foreshore Precinct in accordance with the agreed Safe Harbour Master Plan.

Another focal point for the upcoming year will be improving visitor infrastructure at a number of key locations along the Northern Bellarine foreshore and this includes:

- Completing the extensive improvement works at the Point Richards boat ramp precinct including the car park, drainage and visitor facilities. This will also include extensive dredging to improve access to the boat ramp;
- Continue to upgrade the popular Coastal Trail to a consistent standard;
- Finalisation of the Dog Control Orders (in conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong);
- Installation of aquatic risk signage in accordance with Life Saving Victoria standards;
- Design a playground to replace the existing one in W.G. Little Reserve;
- Continue our program of providing improved foreshore seating and picnic tables; and
- Replacing the existing public toilet block in Wrathall Reserve near the Indented Head boat ramp.

Along the coastline this coming year we will significantly increase our efforts to manage coastal erosion, especially at specific ‘hot spots’. This will include works at Anderson Reserve, Bengalat Reserve, Pt Richards, the area adjacent to the Jade Tiger Abalone section of the foreshore, and near the Salt Lagoon section of the coast in St Leonards. This coastal protection will be complemented by our continued efforts to protect the foreshore reserves’ environmental values, including the removal of invasive weeds and an ongoing planting program.

We will also continue our involvement in the Our Coast multi-agency project investigating the impacts of climate change on the entire Bellarine Peninsula coastline.

In the Portarlington Holiday Park and seasonal campgrounds we will continue to respond to the needs of our customers. This will include:

- Installation of a second jumping cushion at the Portarlington Holiday Park (PHP);
- Continue to expand the very popular summer activity and food vendor programs including the purchase of an outdoor cinema;
- Replacement and upgrading the Coastal Trail adjoining 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 holiday park paths and roads;
- Installing more outdoor showers, drinking fountains and security lighting; and
- A range of other improvements to the amenity blocks throughout all our holiday parks and camping reserves.

Works to our marine assets will include the installation of fish cleaning facilities at the Indented Head and Pt Richards boat ramps.

The incoming Committee will continue to protect and enhance the Northern Bellarine coastline, by building on the trust and positive relationships developed by the interim Committee with our community, stakeholders and government agencies. By moving forward together we are aiming for 2017-18 to be another year of achievements and success.