

SILVERLEAVES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg.no 0015325J

NEWSLETTER

December 2012



President's Report

It's an exciting moment as I write the first Report as the new President of the Silverleaves Conservation Association (SCA) from my desk overlooking the Rhyll Inlet. The organisation has expanded and been injected with new blood and ideas, at the same time recognising and retaining its proud heritage. As well as providing an update of recent SCA news, I'd first like to acknowledge the contribution of several key people.

Thank You

Joan Jones, our outgoing President, who remains a member, wrote the lovely tribute to Ethel Temby in the last issue of the Newsletter but must also be recognised for her work and support for SCA over many years. Joan partnered with Ethel Temby and provided focused leadership with a firm grip on the SCA tiller. We are thrilled to have Joan continuing on the SCA Committee.

Ros Trayford took on the challenging task of chairing the SCA's Extraordinary General Meeting held in the Reserve on 4th November. On a hot morning at 'the seat', he ably guided re-election of office bearers and committee at a gathering of a large group of interested members and visitors.

It was gratifying to see the level of support for SCA's future at that meeting and Ros's stewardship was an encouragement to all present. Together with Veronica Trayford, we are very pleased Ros will continue on the Committee and thank the Trayfords for their tireless past work, including the production of this newsletter.

Don Cox has borne the responsibility for SCA finances for many years and his contribution has been significant. His thorough reporting and management as well as his commitment to SCA activities give us a solid foundation for the future. He has also given invaluable assistance by providing transport and signage and many other unseen tasks. We are very pleased Don will continue as Treasurer.

Claerwen Jones will continue her excellent work as Minutes Secretary and Jeff Teele an SCA member of long-standing, will bring their knowledge of past campaigns.

Finally, a special thanks to Gwen Holmes who hosted many SCA meetings over the years at her Melbourne home. Future meetings will be held at Silverleaves so everyone can attend.

Welcome

Ethel Temby had a vision for the SCA continuing with new members and a revitalised commitment to keeping its important work going. That vision has been realised in the new Committee and expanded membership and interest. I welcome the new Committee and thank them for their participation.

We are most fortunate to have as our new Secretary, Jarvis Weston. Jarvis is Senior Environment Supervisor with Phillip Island Nature Parks and also a Silverleaves resident. He brings invaluable knowledge of local flora and fauna and approaches to vegetation management and other key environmental programs. Already, Jarvis has brought several innovative ideas to the SCA including the application for a 'Communities for Nature Small Grant' and the offer of leading a 'Silverleaves Nature Walk' in January.

Jane Westworth, John McGauran and Richard Guy have also joined the Committee and will lead SCA Campaigns as part of the organisation's new Vision 2015 of which I say more below. Their contacts and networks have already provided new resources for this work and we are very pleased to have them on board.

SCA Newsletter

Myra Holmes has taken on the position of SCA Newsletter editor from Ethel Temby and Dan Fothergill the role of Pictorial editor. As Myra noted at our recent meeting, the Newsletter is the mouthpiece of the SCA and an important means of communicating news and promoting activities and issues as well as receiving feedback.

A Special Tribute to Gillian Armstrong

Gillian is a Silverleaves resident and has been a committed member of SCA for decades. Her tireless work for the local environment, including monitoring the foreshore to protect it against inappropriate development, and lobbying Bass Coast Shire on a range of issues

have been the bedrock of many campaigns. Gillian also has a deep knowledge and love of Silverleaves as well as a connection to SCA's work of decades.

Future Plans

At the Committee Meeting held in Silverleaves on 24 November (thank you Ross and Veronica for hosting and providing afternoon tea) discussion focussed on approaches for 2013 and beyond. Vision 2015, summarising the SCA's objectives, was tabled and a strategy for managing actions discussed. These are provided in draft form below.

Vision 2015

Our mission is to protect and conserve the natural environment of Silverleaves on Phillip Island promoting the importance of conserving the area's unique values to residents and visitors, taking appropriate action to protect and manage those values, and serving as a key resource for the area's ongoing preservation.

Campaigns 2013

To achieve the above objective in 2013, we will adopt an action-based Campaign approach with leaders co-ordinating activities and marshalling support in response to threats in the following key areas:

SCAID - Silverleaves Conservation Association Against Inappropriate Development – Jane Westworth
Campaign Leader

Silverleaves Shorebirds Protection –
Jarvis Weston Campaign Leader

Wildlife Conservation (birds, animals, insects etc) – Richard Guy, Campaign Leader, with Dan Fothergill.

Weed Control and Vegetation Protection -
Don Cox Campaign Leader

Save the Rhyll Inlet – M A Johnston
Campaign Leader

We also want to include children in the SCA and are planning a program to engage them too. We will provide more information about how people can get involved in SCA Campaigns at the next meeting in January.

SCA is a not for profit organisation funded by grants, subscriptions and donations. We rely on the generosity of members and friends for their financial support and time. Thank you to all those who have given in the past.

We look forward to meeting our members in the coming months and welcoming new members and supporters as we work together to protect the wonderful habitat that is Silverleaves. I am sure our work will be appreciated most by those residents who have the least say: the birds, animals, insects and plants of this special corner of Phillip Island.

M.A. Johnston
President

Silverleaves Nature Walk

Jarvis Weston, Senior Environment Supervisor, Phillip Island Nature Park has kindly offered take us on a Nature Walk to Observation Point.

- Sunday 13th January 2013
- 10.00am,
- 2km walk and approx. 2 hours.

Learn about the coastal environment of Silverleaves, including nesting shorebirds, migratory birds, weeds that threaten their habitat, and what we can do to help.

Meet at the very end of Silverleaves Ave (the east end closest to Observation Point.) Car parking is limited.

Bring your binoculars, a hat and water to drink. It will be a great opportunity to meet other Silverleaves residents, and have fun. Bring your neighbours, friends and children, everyone is welcome.

Illegal Vegetation Removal



Bass Coast Shire Council has put up a large sign at the site of tree vandalism at the Silverleaves foreshore. The vandalism happened in late June and included the destruction of at least 20 mature coastal tea trees.

The sign is big – it's three metres high by three metres wide and put up as a further deterrent to tree vandals. Any views that might have been gained by destroying those trees are now ruined by the large sign.

The site will be replanted with indigenous coastal dune plant species and the sign will remain until the replanted vegetation is well established. Coastal vegetation plays an important role in providing habitat for native animals, stabilising sand dunes and protecting nearby houses and roads from the elements.

Anyone with information about illegal foreshore vegetation removal is encouraged to contact Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278).

FIRE SAFETY Please report directly to the police if you see any fires on the foreshore: ring 000 or Cowes Police Station (03) 59522037.

Be vigilant and prepared over the coming months and have your fire safety plan ready in the unlikely event of a fire in the area.

Working Bees 2013

There are plans for Working Bees to remove foreshore weeds such as the Sea Spurge (Euphorbia Paralias). The sap can cause skin and eye irritation so it's a good idea to wear gloves when pulling them out. Schedule dates to be announced at a later date.



SCA Membership

Remember to renew your membership for 2013. To save costs and save paper there are plans to make the newsletter also available by email so please include your email details. Complete the membership form with your cheque and send to;

Hon Secretary Silverleaves
Conservation Association Inc
P.O.Box 9037 Cowes, VIC 3922
(Please note the new P.O.Box number.)

Or make a direct deposit online:
Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000 Account 132 984 592.

NEXT S.C.A. MEETING

- Saturday 12th January 2013
- 3.00pm
- At the Reserve

Please feel welcome to come to the meeting and hear more about SCA plans, put forward your ideas and meet other residents of Silverleaves.

Fitting Tribute to Ethel Temby

A pair of Hooded Plovers have chosen to make a new nest on the foreshore in front of Ethel Temby's property. Phillip Island Nature Park erected fencing and notices this week to help protect them and to warn people of their presence.

It takes 28 days for the eggs to hatch, then 5-6 weeks for them to fledge. It's a long time for them to survive from such threats as dogs, people, weather, tides and predators over the busy summer period. The best way to help them is to keep dogs on a lead and not sit or remain near the roped refuge area.



Hooded Plovers (known locally as Hoodies!)