

SILVERLEAVES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.

Reg.no 0015325J

NEWSLETTER

September 2017



SCA Plant Stall

SCA will hold its second Plant Stall for this year in Spring. We will be selling indigenous plants suitable for Silverleaves, from tube stocks to mature plants ranging in cost \$3-\$10.

- Sunday 24 September 2017
- 10 am – 2 pm
- Silverleaves Store

Next SCA Committee Meetings

- Saturday 23 September 2017
- 3.00pm Silverleaves Store

- Sunday 19 November 2017
- 11.00am Silverleaves Reserve

Silverleaves working bee is on

- Sunday 10th September 2017
- 10am - 12pm, meet at the Silverleaves Store. Planting and weeding along the Silverleaves foreshore. Bring: gloves, sturdy shoes, work clothes, water bottle

We look forward to seeing you there!

President's Report

Farewell Joan Jones – a most dedicated SCA Office Bearer

It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to Joan Jones, a past President of the SCA and Silverleaves resident of long standing who died in July. Joan was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership of the SCA in January 2016 in recognition of services rendered to the organization.

A dedicated conservationist, Joan held the office of President of the SCA for a period of more than 20 years - from March 1991 to September 2012 - and since handing on the Presidency to this writer, she continued to serve and attend meetings as a committed and aware SCA Committee member. Her knowledge of the SCA's history proved invaluable at our meetings over the past four years. Joan attended the last SCA meeting in the Reserve and many members enjoyed speaking with her under the trees to a chorus of laughing kookaburras.

During Joan's years of service as SCA President, she oversaw many important projects which helped to maintain significant natural character and amenity in Silverleaves. These included the building of the Silverleaves Avenue roadway that maintained much of the existing roadside vegetation, and writing many VCAT submissions, as well as attending VCAT and Council hearings, to fight inappropriate developments in Silverleaves. She helped on road work parties and planting bees through the 1970s and 1980s before she became President in 1991.

Furthermore, Joan championed the SCA as President in its aims of conserving natural vegetation, protecting indigenous wildlife, eradicating weeds, preventing foreshore erosion, and educating all Silverleaves landowners and visitors in the importance of conserving the Silverleaves environment.



Joan Jones

Recognition of Service

The SCA itself, the Silverleaves community, and the broader Phillip Island community, all owe Joan a significant debt of gratitude. In the near future, we plan to hold a tree planting ceremony in the Silverleaves reserve in recognition of services rendered by Joan Jones to Silverleaves and the SCA.

Recruitment Drive

You don't have to live in Silverleaves to become an SCA member. Membership is open to everyone – including house owners, renters and visitors to the area. We welcome and encourage people to attend a meeting and hear about our important work – or visit the SCA's Facebook page to learn more.

M.A. Johnston - SCA President

News Updates

Good news for Western Port – and not so good news

A report commissioned by Infrastructure Victoria for the Victorian state government has advised Hastings is not the right choice for a future port, owing to the estimated \$5 billion cost of connecting it to Melbourne's rail network and the ecologically sensitive Western Port. This is a significant victory for the people of Western Port and our bay environment.

But it seems there is a new threat with a \$250 million gas terminal at Crib Point proposed by the energy provider AGL. This has yet to made as a formal application to the State Government so it is uncertain when - or if - it will go ahead. The Preserve Western Port Action Group has been very active in fighting the Hastings Port development and it would appear that they and we may have another battle ahead. We will be monitoring developments on the AGL application and opposing construction of any such Western Port infrastructure.

Killer Plastic – What a Waste

Australians generate more than 13000 tonnes of plastic litter every year – about of quarter ends up in the ocean poisoning and strangling seabirds and other marine life. What's more we use four billion plastic bags a year in this country and it's predicted that plastic bags will take up to between 500 to 1,000 years to break down. There are alternatives to plastic bags. We recommend making a commitment to eliminating plastic from your life. It's not easy but it's worth it.

Plastic Bag Free Island and Boomerang Bags

Boomerang Bags is a non-for-profit community initiative who are providing shoppers free sustainable alternatives to plastic bags. Volunteer community members sew reusable cloth bags from recycled materials. Shoppers can borrow them and return them on their next shopping trip or boomerang them to family and friends, hence the name. They can be found at a number of shops in Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Phillip Island.

Phasing Out Plastics

It is welcome news that supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths have announced plans to phase out single-use plastic bags over the next 12 months. A number of IGA supermarkets have gone plastic bag free and at ALDI supermarket you have to pay to use one as they have never provided free plastic bags.

Recycle your soft plastic

Coles Supermarket in Cowes has a new soft plastic recycling service which takes empty bread, cereal and frozen food bags, plastic and reusable shopping bags, and other flexible plastic packaging. The collected soft plastic material is turned into outdoor furniture for Australian primary schools and pre-schools.

Keep Silverleaves Beach Litter Free

Remember to take a spare bag with you when you go to the beach. It's amazing how quickly you will fill it with plastic and litter found on the beach – SADLY IT'S WASTE THAT SHOULD NOT BE THERE!!

New three bin systems for Phillip Island

Council have introduced a new rubbish collection service; every household in Bass Coast Shire will receive a third bin with a green lid for food and garden waste (organics bin). This will be collected weekly. Landfill waste bin (red lid) and recycle bin (yellow lid) will be collected on the alternate fortnight.

The Council have made the new organics bin universal across all properties to ensure that economies of scale result in minimal cost to the community and ensure the maximin amount of material is diverted from landfill. The following is a guide to what may be put in the bin:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat scraps and bones
- Fish and seafood (including shells)
- Dairy products
- Pasta and rice
- Bread and bakery products
- Teabags and coffee grounds
- Tissues and paper towels
- Pet manures and compostable kitty litter
- Lawn clippings
- Garden prunings (including weeds and rose trimmings)
- Twigs and branches under 100mm in diameter

We encourage everyone to get on board with better waste management by sorting into the three new bins.

Whale Season 2017

It has been a great season for whales this year. A total of 330 whales have been sighted around the island. This compares to 120 over the entire season from May to December in 2016.

Twelve of those were southern right whales, 300 were humpbacks and the remainder unidentified due to poor visibility. Six humpbacks came within ten metres of the Cowes Jetty in early July much to the amazement and joy of many people who were lucky enough to see them.

There are various species of whales passing through, the most common being the humpback, as well as southern right and killer whales, with occasional blue and minke whales. They will visit up to the end of the year and have been spotted off Silverleaves swimming in the channel. Keep an eye out for the tell-tale plume or spout of water.

Island Wallaby Count

A recent study into the wallaby population on the Island was conducted for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning which is responsible for management of wallaby populations. The survey was undertaken by Phillip Island Nature Park research biologist Dr Duncan Sutherland, who walked and mapped 138kms of the Island using GPS-mapped-grids to assess wallaby numbers over two years. He estimates the wallaby population on the island is about 2900.

Wallaby hotspots include Cape Woolamai, Berry's Beach, Summerland Peninsular and around Oswin Roberts Reserve and the Rhyll Inlet. Dr Sutherland said it is difficult to judge whether the Island's wallaby population is high or not as there hasn't been a survey done on the whole Island before to compare numbers.

The results will now be used as part of the PINP's further research into the impacts of wallaby populations on vegetation, including farms and bushland. Dr Sutherlands research also showed wallaby deaths on the roads has increased and last year an island wide road kill survey found that of the 720 carcasses recovered, wallabies had the highest number, followed by rabbits and brushtail possums.

We remind the community that wallabies are a protected wildlife species. They are a shy and wonderful part of the Island community and in a world where so many native species are facing extinction, the right approach is to protect and accommodate them.

Nesting Shorebirds

Shorebirds such as Red-capped Plovers and Hooded Plovers are nesting again so keep an eye out for them. The breeding season starts in August and continues through to March next year, however peak laying is usually in December. The Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council will again be looking for volunteers to assist with Hooded Plover Watch, so stay tuned for more information on this.

Weed of the Month



Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*)

Image Source; <https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org>

Cape Ivy is an invasive perennial climber/ creeper and unfortunately there is quite a bit of it around Silverleaves. It is a serious threat as it forms a dense smothering layer over trees, shrubs and the ground that prevents the growth and regeneration of native species.

With many weeds spreading from residential gardens, tracks and roadsides into surrounding bushland, we can all play a part in managing them and the best way is to remove them as soon as they appear in your garden or target them before they begin their seeding period. Seeds germinate in autumn, grow rapidly and stems may take root where they contact the ground. Cut stems can survive for some months and take root when moisture is available.

Ivy Management and Control

If removing manually, collect all stem fragments and burn because these can survive for many months if left on site. Stems can be cut near the ground and hung in vegetation to dry. Stems with flowers should be destroyed as seed can be produced from reserves within the cut stems. Regular monitoring is required to ensure they have been completely removed from the area.

Snake warning: Warm days bring Victoria's reptiles out of hibernation early

Unusually warm, sunny winter days have brought snakes out of hibernation ahead of their expected springtime arrival. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Senior Scientist Nick Clemann said the reptiles had already been spotted across Victoria.

Mr Clemann warns this is the time of year the chances of stumbling upon a snake are high. In the warmer months, they will move away quickly when they hear something approaching, but in the cold weather they are likely to remain where they are and there is a real risk of stepping on them.

SUPPORT THE SCA

The SCA relies on membership subscriptions and donations to continue its vital work such as valuable weed clearing in the foreshore and revegetation projects amongst other activities. Due to rising costs of mail and printing, the SCA in the future will only be able to mail newsletters to current SCA members. We encourage you to receive the newsletter by email if possible. Please let us know your email address at silverleavesconservation@outlook.com

Membership renewal is at the beginning of the calendar year and you can now renew for one, two or five years at \$20.00 per annum or \$40.00/\$100.00 respectively. Seniors and Students \$15.00 p.a. Membership includes four issues per annum of the SCA Newsletter.

Complete a membership form with your cheque and send to:

The Secretary Silverleaves Conservation Association Inc
P.O. Box 9037 Cowes, VIC 3922

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

Or make an online payment through the SCA website using your credit card.
<http://www.silverleavesca.org>

Please include your name on your transfer for our records, otherwise we cannot identify payments made.

To request a membership form or if you have a query about your membership contact the SCA Secretary;
silverleavesconservation@outlook.com



Silverleaves Conservation Association has a Facebook page where members share photos and stories of Silverleaves. Become a part of our online community. We would love you to share your experiences of Silverleaves as well!

Please visit our wonderful new SCA webpage, which includes archived newsletters and membership forms. <http://www.silverleavesca.org>

Thank you SCA Members

Thank you to all of you who have opted to have the newsletter delivered to you by email, and we understand for some of you this is not an option. We have successfully managed to reduce the numbers of printed copies by over two thirds in the last year and have cut our printing and mail costs significantly. This results in more of your subscription rates being redirected into invaluable weeding, planting and other important environmental work around Silverleaves.

SCA Working Bees

SCA holds regular Working Bees and welcomes you to join us. Please consider coming along to remove invasive weeds, plant indigenous plants and do your bit to preserve the unique area of Silverleaves for the future. We are currently fighting agapanthus, cacti succulents and other exotic 'escapees' in the Foreshore. All efforts to help the battle are most welcome. If you notice a large infestation contact SCA and we will organise a working bee to remove them.
silverleavesconservation@outlook.com

If you have a story to tell about Silverleaves or would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please contact the SCA Newsletter Editor by email myra.holmes.000@gmail.com