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Welcome to the 2013/14 Annual Report for the Barwon Coast Committee of Management Incorporated.
MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL MANAGER

This year we delivered on a range of major projects, a highlight of which was the opening of the refurbished children’s playground on the banks of the Barwon river at Barwon Heads. The upgrade based on the results of an extensive public consultation process, was watched with anticipation by many children. From the day the construction fences came down prior to Christmas, the playground has been swamped by happy excited children and their families.

Our caravan park/accommodation operations which are the financial lifeblood of the organisation achieved a record high level of occupancy throughout the year generating $4.98m in revenue that enabled the Committee to allocate over $1m towards our natural resource protection and management work.

Our staff have continued with the detailed research into the extent of native flora and fauna within our coastal reserves and, through the placement of infra red cameras has led to some surprising results on the number of feral cats and new native fauna species. Our investment in high quality mapping technology has enabled staff to precisely map the location of rare flora and conversely areas of major weed infestation.

We continue to work with our local communities through the support of many events on our coastal reserves, not the least of which is the New Years Eve family orientated fireworks display. We also undertake a range of community engagements focusing on groups such as Ocean Grove Coastcare and the Barwon Heads Sustainability Group, both of which are working on Plastic Bag Free initiatives in their respective townships.

We are also heavily involved in the provision of education services with institutions (primary, secondary, tertiary) that focus on natural and cultural heritage aspects. During 2013/14 we provided programs to 34 groups and schools with in excess of 700 participants including those from non-english speaking backgrounds, and those with special needs.

None of the achievements for 2013/14 could have been achieved without the significant contribution of our volunteer Committee members and our dedicated staff.

Our eight Committee members are local residents and volunteer their time to provide strategic direction for Barwon Coast. They have played a major role in developing the current Coastal Management Plan and are now preparing to develop the next 3 year plan.

We also recognise the commitment of our small dedicated workforce who are involved in our wide range of activities including the maintenance of public place infrastructure and visitor services, protection of the natural environment, caravan park operations, business operations and providing support to Committee members and local community.

Working with our partners and our local community, as custodians of the Barwon Coast and environs, will ensure its ecological diversity for our present and future generations.

As required, we advise that Barwon Coast complies with all relevant requirements within Divisions 2 & 3 of Part 5 of the Public Administration Act 2004.

Chairman Mark Edmonds
General Manager Bob Jordan
Our volunteer Committee members are residents from Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and surrounds appointed by the State Government after the public advertising for expressions of interest.

The Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (excluding January) at 7:30pm at the Barwon Coast offices in Barwon Heads.

Mark Edmonds BA GAICD (Chair) has extensive business experience in leadership, governance, marketing, property, and product/services sourcing through his 30 year retail career. Mark is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mark lives in Ocean Grove.

Mark Rodrigue (Vice Chair), a Barwon Heads resident, has both a personal and professional passion for the marine and coastal environments and currently works as a manager of marine protected areas within Parks Victoria. He is an active member of Friends of the Bluff and can often be found with his head underwater in the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary.

Danny Keating (Finance Committee Chair) is a specialist Local Government Consultant with expertise in strategic financial planning, organisational reviews, policy development and good governance. Danny, a resident of Ocean Grove for 30 years, has been involved in a number of local community and sporting organisations.

John Lesser has a professional background in law and education, and is a Magistrate. John moved to Ocean Grove in 1980, and has been a regular beach and river user ever since. He has been involved with a number of local community organisations.

Ron Patterson has been a resident of Ocean Grove for some 36 years. His professional background was as a Consulting Engineer in Buildings/Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering. Ron has a close connection to the local area, having been a member of the Kindergarten and School councils and as an inaugural member of the Ocean Grove Neighbourhood Centre. Many years of summer riverside camping and use of local beach areas motivate him to their care and protection.

Sandra Gatehouse B. Jur LLB has a strong history of community involvement and commitment. She grew up in Barwon Heads and has had a strong connection with it for over 50 years. A lawyer by training, Sandy has demonstrated capacity in legal practice, corporate governance, risk management, contracting, strategic planning, and stakeholder management.

Kerry Petty is a resident of Ocean Grove and brings to the Committee over 13 years experience in Natural Resource and Environmental Planning with specialist skills in community development, strategic planning and organisational development. Kerry currently works in Local Government.

Tony Overman is a sustainability professional with expertise in environmental and natural resource management and corporate sustainability planning. He currently works as Coordinator, Strategy and Sustainability with Barwon Water and lectures in sustainability at the Gordon TAFE. He lives in Moriac and has a strong connection to the Barwon Coast through extensive family holidays and as a keen fisherman.
MANAGEMENT TEAM

General Manager – Bob Jordan
Bob leads the management team and was appointed in February 2000 after a long career in urban water management. An accountant by training, Bob has lived in Ocean Grove for over 40 years.

Manager Coastal Operations – John Henderson
John has responsibility for the operations of the Coastal Reserve teams that deliver on Public Place Infrastructure maintenance and Natural Resource management. John has worked in a variety of roles at various locations including Uluru, Norfolk Island and more locally at Queenscliffe.

Manager Natural Resource Planning – Warren Chapman
Barwon Coast’s longest serving employee Warren has held a number of roles in Barwon Coast and its predecessor the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee over a period of years and is now responsible for Natural Resource Planning. Warren is a long term resident of Ocean Grove and well known in the area.

Manager Community Liaison and Education – Maddie Glynn
Maddie delivers on a very wide range of education programs and local community projects. Maddie has been with Barwon Coast for 6 years after an extensive career in State Government agencies associated with the environment, community, fisheries and wildlife.

Barwon Heads Caravan Park Managers – Jon Paskas & Trina Kerans
Jon and Trina came to Barwon Heads 13 years ago from caravan park management positions in Adelaide and in Marla (inland South Australia). They have steadily increased the quality of the caravan park and its accommodation resulting in very high occupancy rates.

Riverview Family Caravan Park Managers – Dallas & Lisa Sheedy
Dallas and Lisa have recently joined Barwon Coast, having previously been involved in caravan parks in NSW. In their first year at the Park they have installed the first of up to 10 new cabins and introduced a range of customer service improvements.

Administration Coordinator – Cynthia Potter
Cynthia is a long serving employee having also worked for the former Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee. Cynthia is responsible for the accounting and IT functions at Barwon Coast and is also a long term Ocean Grove resident.

Project Manager (Part Time) - Kevin Johnson
Kevin adds his great experience in Project Management to the team on a part time basis. As a practicing architect Kevin provides valuable contract and compliance advice on building related matters.
ABOUT THE BARWON COAST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Barwon Coast is responsible for managing 13km of coastal Crown land reserves between 42W Blue Rock through to 7W Collendina along the Bass Strait coast of the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria. These Crown land reserves adjoining the townships of Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Barwon Coast’s main role is to manage coastal Crown land reserves on behalf of the State for the use and enjoyment of the community.

Our other roles are:

• Natural resources protection,
• Operation, maintenance and promotion of camping areas and caravan parks,
• Management of commercial leases, licences and permits,
• Implementation of tourism, recreation and educational services and facilities,
• Management of the local Port of Barwon Heads and
• Cultural Heritage protection.

The Barwon Coast Committee of Management (Barwon Coast) was established by the Victorian Government in July 1995 through the amalgamation of the Ocean Grove Foreshore Committee and Barwon Heads Park Committee.
STRUCTURE

The committee members of Barwon Coast are appointed under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 for a term of three years by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and are selected through a public, skills-based ‘expression of interest’ process.

The 8 committee members operate in a voluntary capacity, meeting regularly to oversee and provide direction to the organisation.

Barwon Coast has a workforce of around 30 full time employees plus part timers.

FUNDING

Barwon Coast generates about $5m in direct revenue annually with 96% coming from caravan park operations at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. Other revenue is generated from a range of sources including lease, licence and permit fees, and grant applications.
Barwon Coast
Coastal Management Plan
2012/13 to 2014/15

Barwon Coast
Vegetation Management Plan

Final Draft
Prepared for
Barwon Coast Committee of Management

Prepared by
Mark Trengove Ecological Services

March 2013
On 5th April 2013, Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change advised that he had approved the contents of the Barwon Coast Coastal Management Plan (CMP) 2012/13 to 2014/15.

The CMP aims to set natural resource, infrastructure and accommodation directions for the life of the plan and to identify future actions and priorities for our area of management to ensure the maintenance of its ecological diversity.

The approved CMP identifies a number of planning challenges applicable to many coastal communities including Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, eg, the impact of climate change and the population influx to the coast.

The CMP notes that there are other major issues that need to be addressed at a State level, but cannot be ignored locally, such as gaining an understanding of whether the impact of increased storm surges will damage local coastal infrastructure, whilst at the same time needing to address the demands of the local community and visitors alike wanting more access to the coast.

During 2013/14 we have been an active partner in the multi-agency project co-ordinated by the City of Greater Geelong assessing Local Coastal Hazards on the Bellarine Peninsula.

This project aims to identify natural and built assets at risk under a range of scenarios of forecast climate change and further work will be undertaken during 2014/15 on potential adaption techniques to address those risks.

An increasing challenge is to plan strategically to address the impacts of the rapidly increasing local community with both Ocean Grove and nearby Armstrong Creek (designated as growth areas) and their desire to gain access to the coast. Ad hoc decisions to increase car parking spaces at the expense of the protection and enhancement of locally indigenous flora and fauna is not an appropriate response and Barwon Coast continues to discuss with a wide audience the need for regional strategic planning to address those pressures.
The Barwon Coast vision statement is: "As the custodian of the Barwon Coast environs, we will ensure its ecological diversity for present and future generations."
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In support of this vision we have identified a range of landscape zones along the coast recognising the wide range of natural values within the narrow 13km band from Collendina (7w) through Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, and 13th Beach to (42W) Blue Rocks.

From the limestone Bluff at Barwon Heads, the barrier dune systems, coastal cliffs, and the rocky foreshore at Blue Rocks, this coastline provides a wide range of visual character, landform, land use, level of development, habitat and biodiversity.

The coastal reserve from Collendina is predominantly threatened Coastal Moonah Woodlands and provides long uninterrupted views along the beach, whilst the Spit in Ocean Grove is unique in providing access to both the river and the sea environments.

### FLORA STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION

A more strategic approach to natural resource management continues to guide and prioritise Barwon Coast efforts in protecting the values of our natural environment. The 2013 Barwon Coast Vegetation Management Plan guides our coastal reserves team in the development of their works programs. The detailed plan supports Barwon Coast volunteers and contractors on targeting high priority projects.

A thorough assessment across the sand dune system has identified areas of good quality diverse flora that strategically have been given priority protection.

Some key points include:

- Observation of 121 indigenous plant species, 8 of national or state significance
- An assessment of the delineation between Coastal Dune Scrub and Coastal Alkaline Scrub vegetation classes noting that Coastal Alkaline Scrub is categorised as being endangered within its natural range in this bioregion.
• Significant development of staff in areas of plant identification, assessment, ecological processes
• Coastal Moonah woodland character recognised in dune systems to guide future works.

FAUNA STUDIES

The placement of remote cameras in the coastal dunes has provided valuable information on species presence as well as an indication of pest animal program success. Cameras positioned on a 3 week rotation and over a 6 month period identified 3 native mammals, 2 reptiles, 14 native bird identified species and 6 introduced mammals and 2 pest bird species.

Our observations of the presence of Hooded Plovers along our beaches are recorded by staff and input into a shared portal managed by BirdLife Australia.

Staff and community are encouraged to report fauna observations to build an awareness of the diversity of our region, which are mapped to produce a visual education tool.

PEST PLANTS

Priority areas have been set within coastal dunes based on the areas values including vegetation diversity, the presence of significant species, the weediness characteristics and the success of control strategies.

We continue our work as lead partner in the biological control program for Bridal Creeper, a weed of National significance, whilst continuing to focus on new and emerging threats.

During 2013/14 we have undertaken trials to investigate the success of the application of herbicides on foredune weed grasses and understory woody weeds.
Our Vegetation Management Plan aims to reduce pest plant cover along our coast to less than 5% over a 10 year period.

PEST ANIMALS

During 2013/14 we have continued with our pest animal programs in an endeavour to protect wildlife and habitat in the coastal reserves.

Best practice industry standards are applied in our pest animal control programs, whilst partnering with adjoining land holders and other stakeholders maximise efficiencies.

Our programs to address rabbits, foxes, and feral cats are communicated to the general public through on ground public notices and media articles.
Throughout 2013/14, Barwon Coast delivered on a range of new infrastructure projects identified in the Coastal Management Plan.
BARWON HEADS - FLINDERS PARADE
PLAYGROUND PRECINCT UPGRADE

With major delight to the local community and visitors from afar, we completed a major upgrade to the playground and associated amenities on the banks of the Barwon River in Barwon Heads.

The playground was officially opened in December following a comprehensive community engagement program that identified a need for upgraded equipment whilst retaining the seaside and unique feel of the existing facility.

The design blended old and new equipment whilst improving the accessibility of the playground to children of all abilities. It has been a great success as attested to by the hundreds of little test pilots that attended the opening. Shower, toilet and baby change facilities were also upgraded to cater for current standards and increased use of the playground.

The funding for this project was supported by a grant from the Barwon River Parklands project.

SURF BEACH COMPLEX -
USER REQUIREMENTS AND CONCEPT DESIGN

The Surf Beach Complex is the home for the Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club (OGSLSC) and ‘The Dunes’ cafe.

The increased use of the facility is outgrowing the building’s capacity and talks are underway with OGSLSC and ‘The Dunes’ management to develop a design for the future.

Barwon Coast have engaged an architect to identify user requirements and infrastructure in conjunction with the building tenants to determine capacity and requirements for proposed future use.

Concept plans have been developed for planning and discussion purposes and potential sources of funding are currently being pursued.
FIRE SERVICE UPGRADES

Changes in CFA Regulations and City of Greater Geelong Caravan park registration requirements led to the implementation of a significant upgrade to fire services in the Barwon Heads Caravan Park, the Riverview Family Caravan Park – Ocean Grove and the Riverside Camping ground, at a cost in excess of $350,000.

This complex project presented a range of challenges, not the least of which was the practicalities of digging up the caravan parks and meeting the requirements of the various supply authorities. This work has been achieved whilst minimising disruption to our caravan park customers.

AQUATIC SAFETY AUDIT

We commissioned Life Saving Victoria (LSV) to undertake a comprehensive report of all beach access points and signage relative to aquatic safety on the land that we manage.

The report reviewed and updated LSV’s previous report (2002) including updated risk assessments and provided advice on suggested safety improvements.

This comprehensive report provides a formal assessment of our ongoing risk inspections for beach and water access points and provides us with details of current legal and standard requirements for signage.
OTHER WORKS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR INCLUDED:

Repairs were undertaken to the bluestone seawall, the timber seawall and the promenade at Barwon Heads which had been damaged by high seas and forceful swells during the 2013 winter. Funding of the repairs was assisted by a grant from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

Advice was obtained from coastal marine engineers on the overall condition of the timber seawall suggesting that a major replacement program will need to be undertaken in the not- to-distant future.

Barwon Coast financially supports the operation of the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre (the Lobster Pot) and has invested heavily in upgrading the infrastructure including the significant improvements to the external landscaping, installation of solar panels (funded by Friends Group) and the construction of a stand alone education room.

To the great delight of the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club, we replaced the perimeter fence around the oval in the Barwon Heads Caravan Park.

Our rolling maintenance program focused on high priority areas based on visitation and infrastructure condition.

Noteworthy achievements this year include:

• Lowering of all timber wheelstops in Ocean Grove Main beach carpark and re-stain bollards
• Replacement of 10 picnic tables (new style), Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove
• Updates to change decks along 13th Beach
• Partial repaint to OG Main Beach toilet block
• Replacement of 500m fencing along 13th Beach Road.
EDUCATION

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Barwon Coast provides coastal and marine environmental education free to school groups and organisations through the use of the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre, the education room and field based programs from coastal ecology to terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and responsible pet ownership.

During 2013/14 programs were provided to 34 groups and schools with in excess of 700 participants from primary, secondary, tertiary, non-English speaking backgrounds, special needs and adults.

CAMPER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A free summer holiday environmental program offered to children camping in our caravan parks during the summer of 2014 attracted over 300 participants during a three week period. Activities created awareness on reptiles, caring for our nocturnal wildlife, impacts of litter and plastics, and the importance of rockpools and marine protected areas.
EDUCATION INITIATIVES

During 2013/14 Barwon Coast continued its support of the ‘Let Our Sea Be Plastic Bag Free’ initiative through the:

• Production of the Ocean Grove Coastcare postcards and signage,
• Production of the reusable jute shopping bags for campers and school groups, and
• The continual installation of the street drain stencilling within the Barwon Heads township.
• The Barwon Heads Primary School wildlife and litter workshop as a continuation of educational commitment to the Let Our Sea Be Plastic Bag Free program.

In addition Barwon Coast provided support for the:

• Ocean Grove Primary School environment day, Ocean Grove Main Beach and the
• Bellarine Secondary College Environment Day.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the Coastal Moonah Woodlands project across the Bellarine Peninsula, partner groups attended a fungi identification workshop funded by Barwon Coast.

Barwon Coast won the 2013 Victorian Coastal Council Education Award for the Kids@the Coast activity booklet that is provided free to children camping along our coastal reserves. The use of the booklet has now been expanded to the Otway coastline.
CARAVAN PARKS

Our caravan parks in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove offer family friendly, affordable accommodation options for visitors and are an essential component of our business model.

The State Government through the provisions of its legislation such as the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 and the Coastal Management Act 1995 enables Barwon Coast to care for the natural environment it is charged with managing, funded through the operations of its caravan parks.

It is therefore critical that the caravan parks are maintained at the highest financially viable quality, whilst at the same time ensuring that we do not price that experience out of the realms of the general community.

FUNDING

Revenue raised through our accommodation and camping fees is used not only within the caravan parks, but across the entire operations of Barwon Coast.

Within the caravan parks, revenue is used for maintaining and improving existing infrastructure and replacing out dated facilities.
BARWON HEADS CARAVAN PARK (BHCP)

Investments have been made within the BHCP to replace 2 amenity blocks and for the ongoing upgrade and enhancement of foreshore toilet/shower facilities.

Improvements include painting, re-tiling, rendering and improved environmental management with the introduction of a range of water and energy saving measures including: water flow limiting devices, dual flush cisterns, rainwater tanks for toilet flushing and manual push button lighting.

The construction of onsite built accommodation units and cabins has been a great success with a yearly average of 80% occupancy and 100% over peak periods.

In 2013/14 we replaced several of the older 1 bedroom cabins with new 2 bedroom cabins. In line with the Park Master Plan, an allowance has been made for the installation of up to 10 additional cabins over the next few years.

The original Beach House used by Laura in the ABC TV Series SeaChange underwent a major internal structural refit to maintain the high standards required for this 4 star rated accommodation.
RIVERVIEW FAMILY CARAVAN PARK (RFCP)

A major initiative at RFCP was the installation of two new cabins including one suitable to meet the needs of people of all abilities. These two cabins are the first new Cabins in the Park of the 10 proposed within the Park Masterplan.

Another major project saw the installation of 385 electricity meters on all twelve-month permit holder sites. Siteholders now have the opportunity to manage their own electricity usage and charges whilst benefiting from a reduction in site fees of over $200.
RIVERSIDE CAMPING GROUND

Riverside continues to be a popular unpowered camping area for the 6 week summer season.

One incident with a caravan fire due to a faulty gas appliance was attended to promptly by local fire brigade and there were no injuries although the van and annex burnt to the ground.

The amenities blocks have all received minor upgrades to improve the standard of facilities, whilst a major power upgrade is proposed for October 2014.
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Barwon Coast continues to work with Wathaurung Corporation, the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for Aboriginal cultural heritage along our coastline and the Wathaurong Co-operative assisting members on social and wellbeing programs.

There is high recognition of the cultural significance of the coastal reserves with many Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments undertaken over time. Input from archaeologists with any project development is sought.

Three cultural heritage sites in the Ocean Grove dunes were recently assessed and approved for inclusion into the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. Three Barwon Coast staff worked with the Archaeologist in the assessment and mapping program for the sites to gain knowledge of the scientific assessment and underlying cultural heritage significance of these sites.

Through a State Government grant Barwon Coast in partnership with Great Ocean Road Committee of Management, Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management, the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation and the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative is working on the development of an Indigenous Heritage Education Resources package.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE

Barwon Coast continues to support the 'Barwon Heads Village by the Sea' township maritime character.

In any upgrade of infrastructure along the Barwon River foreshore, we promote a maritime building style. Recently heritage photo mosaic panels were incorporated onto the renovated amenity block at Flinders Parade and the Education centre at the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre. These mosaic panels encourages interest on the heritage of the area.
The Committee reviews operational and infrastructure budgets annually as part of the annual tariff setting program. The tariffs for our caravan parks provide sufficient surplus funds to carry out works programs, whilst still remaining the lowest tariffs in the region.

In 2013/14 the Caravan Park operations again exceeded revenue budget projections, generating $5.02M in revenue. When added to sundry revenue total annual operating revenue exceeded $5.35M.

Our operational expenditure for 2013/14 was just under $4.4M, which included $1.1M on coastal reserves work and $2.1M on caravan park operations.

The operating surplus generated by the caravan parks was largely due to higher than expected occupancy rates for the 4 star beach houses, boat houses and cabins.

The $1.05M cash operating surplus provided funding for investment in new capital infrastructure within the caravan parks and the coastal reserve including:

- Upgrade Flinders Parade Barwon River playground and amenity block $280,000
- Two new accommodation cabins at Riverview Family Caravan Park $130,000
- Fire Fighting services upgrades in caravan parks $400,000 plus over 2 years
- Repairs to the Barwon Heads Seawall and environs $120,000
**WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

Community input and ownership is an integral part of coastal management and Barwon Coast recognises the valuable contributions that volunteers make to our community and the environment we manage.

During 2013/14 we invested in over 3,300 hours supporting local community groups with forward planning, operational activities, capacity building and with funding support for publications etc.

Groups we worked with and alongside this year included:

- Friends of the Bluff Inc.
- Friends of the Lobster Pot Inc.
- Ocean Grove Coastcare Inc.
- Breamlea Coastcare Inc.
- Friends of Hooded Plover Bellarine
- Disabled Surfers Association Inc. – Ocean Grove branch
- CCMA Estuary Watch
- Barwon Heads Primary School
- Barwon Heads Sustainability Group
- Barwon Heads Community Arts Garden
- Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club
- Barwon Heads-13th Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- Ocean Grove Coast Watch Marine Rescue Squad

In addition to these organisations, we have supported many local events.

We have a major commitment to ensure that all those who wish to welcome in the New Year at the Ocean Grove Main Beach can do so safely. Through a multi-agency Working Party including Barwon Coast has achieved major successes; with a substantial reduction in unruly behaviour, alcohol consumption and sleeping in cars at the foreshore on New Year’s Eve.

**Barwon Coast specifically:**

- Provides temporary additional lighting towers to brighten the area
- Arranges and pays for supplies to community groups to run a refuge during the night to assist with distressed persons.
- Cleans up in the early morning of New Year’s Day.
- Fund the midnight firework display, work with the fireworks display team on safety precautions including the closure of the Bluff car park and the provision of local CFA presence to which we provide a donation.

Other local events Barwon Coast supported in 2013/14 included:

- Community Boating Day - event organiser and funding of the event.
- Festival of the Sea Barwon Heads - operational, logistical and planning support.
- Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club - Rip to River Fun Run
- Barwon Heads Primary School - Sheepwash Classic Fun Run
- Mountain to Mouth Extreme Arts Walk – planning support, operational, logistical.
- Clean Up Australia Day- attendance and operational.
- Bellarine Secondary College Environment Day - planning, operational, logistics, attendance.
- BirdLife Australia - A Dog’s Breakfast - logistics and attendance.

Barwon Coast also makes significant contributions to, and co-ordinates the operation of the free summer coastal shuttle bus, transporting beach users to the coast to minimise car parking pressures.

We acknowledge the support of our major project partners the City of Greater Geelong, Coles and the Barwon Heads Community Bank with this initiative.
Key partners include:

- Department of Environment & Primary Industries – policies, legislation and governance
- Parks Victoria - marine sanctuary, river management
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority – Estuarywatch, coastal funding support
- City of Greater Geelong – planning and enforcement, pest plant and animal control
- Victoria Police & Water Police – enforcement, community support
- Transport Safety Victoria – waterway management
- BirdLife Australia - Hooded Plover management
- Zoos Victoria & the University of Melbourne – wildlife health
- Wathaurung Corporation – Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Wathaurong Cooperative – indigenous social health and well being
- Conservation Volunteers Australia – natural resource management
- The Bellarine Catchment Network and the Surf Coast Inland Plains Network – natural resource management
- Other Committees of Management - Bellarine Bayside, Great Ocean Road, Otway Coast and City of Greater Geelong
- The Victorian Coastal Council, Central Coastal Board, & Western Coastal Board – coastal planning and support
As a manager of public Crown lands, there is a wide range of interested parties with whom we endeavour to openly communicate, particularly the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, City of Greater Geelong, environmental, recreational and community groups on our progress in achieving the strategic direction within our Coastal Management Plan and of any extraordinary events such as coastal erosion from storms.

In an endeavour to reach householders in Barwon Coast area we have regular columns in the following local newspapers:

- Bellarine Times – fortnightly
- Ocean Grove Voice – fortnightly
- Echo – monthly
- Talking Heads – monthly

Additionally, media releases locally on a broad range of issues included:

- Litter and illegal dumping of rubbish
- Dogs on beaches
- Responsible pet ownership
- Displaced wildlife
- Dune rehabilitation programs
- Tackling weeds

To further improve communications, Barwon Coast will be investing in an upgrade of its website during 2014/15 to make current news more accessible to a wider audience.

COMMUNICATIONS
COMMERCIAL LEASES - LICENCES

Barwon Coast manages leases under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 with two major restaurant operations on the local foreshore being the Dunes Café at the Ocean Grove Main Beach and the At the Heads restaurant on the jetty at Barwon Heads.

In accord with the provisions of those leases, the rentals were reviewed during 2013/14.

Other small leases include the Barwon Heads Sailing Association lease of a small heritage building near the Ozone Rd Barwon Heads jetty and the Barwon Heads Golf Club lease of a small piece of coastal reserve along 13th Beach Road.

Negotiations on developing leases continue with the 13th Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club and the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club for the use of Crown land for their buildings and activities.
LOCAL PORT OPERATIONS

Barwon Coast is the delegated manager of the local Port of Barwon Heads. This includes the channel markers, jetties and several small moorings downstream of the Barwon Heads Bridge.

Key issues addressed during 2013/14 include: the implementation of the Safety and Environmental Management Plan; the relocation of the navigation markers under the Barwon Heads bridge due to changes in seabed, and ongoing upgrading and maintenance of navigation aids.

Commercial divers were engaged to investigate seabed changes and to assist in maintaining the navigation aids.