



Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee Of Management Inc Report of Activities and Achievements 2017

2017 has been a highly successful year for the Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (CFRCoM). A new committee was inducted in December 2016, and continued to build on the good work of the former committee.

Management Plan

The Management Plan sets the objectives of the CFRCoM and was the driving document for most of activities, and guides the work undertaken both ongoing and as specific objectives.

Foreshore Reserve & Environment

Maintenance of the Reserve is one of the key objectives, and continued throughout the year. The Foreshore Reserve comprises approximately 30 hectares of native vegetation. Key maintenance items included:

- Removal of *Pinus radiata* from the cliff face
- Continued maintenance of around 5kms of walking tracks
- Widened the walking tracks from Albon Street to Settlement Point
- Continued debris removal from the reserve

Reserve adjacent to Heritage Bay development

This continued to be a challenge with rampant weeds including Patterson's Curse, debris remaining in situ for some months before being removed, and lack of sufficient maintenance by the estate developer's contractor. A remediation plan is being confirmed with the contractor/developer.

Environment

Continued management of the environment to remove invasive weeds such as bridal creeper, wild watsonia and blackberries.

Boat Ramp

Ongoing maintenance and repairs included rewiring power to the finger jetty light, regular cleaning of the ramps to remove silt and weeds washed up, and dredging to maintain sufficient clearance for boat access to the ramp and jetties at low tides.

Work on the Ramp Master Plan

Sub-committee worked with consultants on preparation of Ramp Upgrade Strategy, 'What's Important' summary of community and stakeholder feedback, CMA consent, ramp and jetty design. Community engagement was a priority with 2 further consultation/information sessions on the ramp upgrade. Stakeholder engagement sought input and feedback on the proposed plan from key bodies such as Coast Guard, DELWP, Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria and other. Continued communication via the website and Foreshore Highlights newsletter to keep the community informed of progress.

Corner cutback

The corner at the entry to the ramp area from Peters Street was cut back to provide better clearance for vehicles and trailers exiting the ramp area. Some further work on this area is scheduled. Re-marking of the Keep-Clear and road lines in this area, including relocation of the centre line, will also provide clearer guidance for safe exit.

Caravan Park

The Caravan Park continued to be a popular destination for campers and caravaners throughout the year, with high occupancy rates through the holiday and peak periods.

New Caravan Park Manager

The resignation of the incumbent Caravan Park Manager early in 2017 prompted the search for a new manager via a formal recruitment process, and came on board in May 2017. A review of the caravan park accommodation and facilities was undertaken, and a plan drawn up for general overhaul and refresh. In addition, there was a new focus on the use of social media channels such as Instagram and Facebook to better promote the location and facilities.

Caravan Park Maintenance and Repairs

Key items to note for the year include the removal of Van 10 which had deteriorated to an extent not worth repairing. The site is now available for adhoc lease for caravans and motor homes, and is generating an income, with a long-term view to install an onsite cabin for lease. Van 4 was also removed, and the site made available.

Other work completed includes replacement of all linen and soft furnishings to freshen the lease vans for leasing, and a rigorous cleaning regime keeping the facilities shiny and spotless.

The Emergency Management Plan was also reviewed, and a CFA compliance inspection completed.

Community Engagement

The committee has focused on community engagement and information to provide a better understanding of its operations, and to seek feedback and input on key activities.

To this end, there have been 3 formal community engagement activities:

- Ramp Master Plan information session in May – providing an update on progress towards the Master Plan and ramp designs, and seeking input on key facets
- Our Fascinating Foreshore session – four notable guest speakers presented on topics of interest to the community. These included Nicolas Day (bird illustrator and expert), Alison Oates (environmental consultant), Peter Merritt (DELWP, on context of the committee), and Mike Cleeland (geologist/palaeontologist on the geology of Corinella). Around 80 people attended the session, and many continued on to join one of three walks following the session.
- Final Ramp Master Plan information session in September – presenting the final plans and proposed facility details.

In addition, other engagement opportunities have arisen through the year including:

- Visit by a group of University of Melbourne geology students accompanied by noted geomorphologist Neville Rosengren. The students stayed at the Caravan Park and undertook exploration of the geology of the area as part of an on-ground tutelage. A session was organised for the group to visit the committee office and view a number of artefacts such as pictorial montage boards recording the history of the area, and were also shown spectacular drone footage of the cliffs, highlighting the ancient layers and formations. This provided an insight on how monitoring can be carried out in the future through comparison of footage.
- Information was provided to assist research by the National Centre for Coasts and Climate at Melbourne University as part of a project partnership with DELWP to assess the current state of knowledge around the physical geography of Victoria's coast relevant to assessing coastal change and threats.
- Visits by Melbourne University students collecting samples of elephant fish eggs for research

- Ongoing sampling and studies by various authorities such as the EPA.

Foreshore Highlights newsletter

The newsletter presents a summary of key items covered in committee meetings, as well as general information for the community such as report back on working bees, and upcoming working bee dates, progress of other works etc.

New Website

A website was launched, providing information about the committee's operations and activities to the community. The website includes details about the committee's objectives and purpose, information about key assets including the reserve, caravan park and boat ramp facilities, the local environment, a community news page, and includes downloads such as the Management Plan, regular Foreshore Highlights newsletters and copies of presentations from engagement activities. A Contact page also provides a direct means for enquiries to the committee.

Use of local media

Other channels have been used to promote and promulgate information through local media such as the South Gippsland Sentinel Times, Bass Valley News, Waterline News and The Phillip Island Advertiser, along with posters and information on the website.

New logo

The committee approved a new logo to assist with branding and identity, and is now used on all letterhead, documents, posters and other branding opportunities. The logo represents the duality of Corinella's green Reserve and blue shoreline, with a sandy walking track represented between the two.

Committee Education & Recognition

Committee members have attended conferences and forums through the year including:

- the 2-day Coastcare Forum in April, with the opportunity to network with members of similar volunteer groups from across Victoria, including topical walks and field trips.
- Governance workshop held by Bass Coast Shire Council
- The Connecting Coastal Champions conference in November held by the Central Coastal Board
- South Gippsland Conservation Society 2-day Plant Identification course.

In addition, four committee members were recognised for their extensive service at a ceremony hosted by DEWLP in May. Anwyn Martin, Barbara Oates, Joe Ford and Jenny Lawson were each awarded Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the community and Reserve – combined service of over 74 years.

Working Bees

Since January 2017, we have run 6 Working Bees- removing dead undergrowth and weeds and spreading mulch in the Western Precinct, around the Rotunda area, around French Island Close in the Northern Precinct, along The Esplanade, at Settlement Point, and around the Heritage Bay foreshore.

A total of 44 volunteers have attended during these Working Bees.

Horses on the Beach

A key objective in the Management Plan has been resolved with the Bass Coast Shire Council implementing a two-year trial for a permit system for horses on the beach at Norseman Road, starting from 1 December 2017.

Grants Received

Grants were received for:

- Cutting the corner (ramp area)
- Grant for development of the Ramp Masterplan
- Grant for community education in relation to rabbit management (session to be held in early 2018).

The grant application for the infrastructure funding to support the Ramp Masterplan is expected to be submitted during December 2017.

Conclusion

The Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management have completed another successful year in terms of maintenance and operations of the Reserve, Caravan Park and Boat Ramp. Patronage of the caravan park and usage of the boat ramp continues to show high demand. Advancement of the objectives of the Management Plan continued, including work on key improvements such as the Ramp Masterplan and associated works. Community engagement has also been highly positive and well received.

The committee is fortunate to have members with significant expertise in the care and maintenance of the Reserve. The health of the Reserve is well-demonstrated by the presence of diverse birdlife, kangaroos, echidna's and other fauna which are seen throughout the year, and are a sign that the Reserve continues to be a viable habitat.