



## Ocean Grove Coastcare: Strategic Plan 2019-20

### Our Vision

A coastal environment where local native plants and animals thrive alongside an actively engaged community.

### Our Mission: To help our beaches and creatures

We protect and enhance the natural values of Ocean Grove’s coastal environment through education, hands-on activities, and partnerships with land managers, the community and other key stakeholders.

### Our Objectives

**1. Protect and enhance coastal vegetation and local biodiversity**

*“Our fragile coast needs our help in order to hold fast against increasing pressures of use and development.”*

**2. Eliminate single use plastics from Ocean Grove**

*“We are deeply concerned about the threats that single use plastics present to the marine environment and to coastal biodiversity.”*

**3. Foster a greater, broader and more active OGCC membership**

*“A larger, more diverse and more active membership will enable us to better achieve our vision.”*

### Our Approach

*Ocean Grove Coastcare will:*

- Lead by example, working with others to activate our community to care for the environment;
- Maintain good governance structures, support our membership and resource projects that enable the group to undertake priority activities safely and to best practice.

## Background & context

This plan was developed following a facilitated workshop in June 2018 with the 2017/18 Ocean Grove Coastcare committee. Its purpose is to document and direct the priorities and actions of the group for two years commencing January 2019.

Ocean Grove Coastcare came into being in 2010 when a small group of enthusiastic women, keen to see the precious coastal environment of the town protected and enhanced, organized a winter film night to gauge community interest in a volunteer environmental group. Community response was positive, and a working group/steering committee was formed. Ocean Grove Coastcare became an incorporated group in December 2010.

Our geographical boundaries are from Fellows Road, Point Lonsdale, to the east of Ocean Grove township, to the Barwon River in the west, and anywhere in and around Ocean Grove where people live, work and play, and where they may impact on the marine and coastal environment.

The group's main activities have included revegetating coastal corridors with native plants and grasses, removing non-indigenous vegetation (i.e. weeds), community education about marine litter and plastic pollution, litter clean up events, information stalls and film nights.



## Challenges and opportunities

| Beaches and Creatures   |   |
|---|---|
| Challenges  | Opportunities   |
| <p><b>Human pressures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New housing developments create issues like runoff, litter</li> <li>• “weeds and revegetation are for life”</li> <li>• Dogs on beaches</li> <li>• Greater demand for limited coastal space</li> </ul> <p><b>Preserving and protecting native vegetation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native vegetation is being degraded, not being replaced in gardens; biodiversity is being lost</li> <li>• Households are not seeing their gardens as part of something bigger</li> <li>• People lack knowledge about what to plant in their gardens</li> </ul> <p><b>Litter and plastics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many disposables available in the system</li> <li>• Plastics and other litter end up in the sea, harming marine life</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain wildness of Buckley Park – last remaining CoGG wild coastal place, 5km long.</li> <li>• Strong, positive partnerships with key land managers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Educating residents and visitors through Gardens for Wildlife.</li> </ul> |

| Our Group  |  |
|--|--|
| Challenges   | Opportunities  |
| <p><b>Building and maintaining our profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some of the Ocean Grove community don't know who we are or what we do</li> </ul> <p><b>Building our membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we have a large email list but small paid up membership base, and small numbers attending activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Governance, safety and administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OH&amp;S space is always getting more complex.</li> <li>• There are issues around insurance for groups that DELWP is still working through</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong, positive partnerships with local land managers</li> <li>• Collaborative relationships with a number of other local volunteer groups/associations</li> </ul> |

## Priority actions for 2019-2020

We have chosen our priority actions for the Ocean Grove community and environment because of their potential to contribute to our Outcome Areas.

| <b>Outcome 1: Protect and enhance coastal vegetation and local biodiversity</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Priority Actions</b>  | <b>Planned outcomes</b>  |
| Revegetation in dunes and nearby public land to improve native coastal vegetation.   | Previously vacant spots in the dunes have indigenous vegetation.<br>Planting on public land has improved habitat connectivity with the coastal dunes.  |
| Removal of weeds from sand dunes.  | Minimal areas of polygala, sea spurge etc in the dunes.  |
| Encourage participation in the Gardens for Wildlife program to benefit our coast and its wildlife.<br><br>Partner with Bellarine Catchment Network to deliver Gardens for Wildlife and other revegetation/regeneration programs. | More people grow indigenous plants in their gardens.<br>People do not remove indigenous trees from their gardens.<br>People maintain indigenous plants on adjacent public land.<br>Wildlife habitat is maintained and increased. |

| <b>Outcome 2: Eliminate single use plastics in Ocean Grove</b>             |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Priority Actions</b>  | <b>Planned outcomes</b>   |
| Partner with school groups to deliver educational activities.              | Students and their schools actively reduce their use of single use plastics.  |
| Campaign with the Ocean Grove business association for less plastic usage. | No business offers single use plastic bags with goods.<br>Plastic straws are not provided or are replaced with other types.<br>More than 70% of food businesses allow people to bring their own containers for food and drinks. |
| Run twice yearly Clean Up events.  | Reduced litter on beach, dunes and estuary.<br>Data passed on to Clean Up Australia and Tangaroa Blue Foundation  |

### Outcome 3: Foster a greater, broader and more active membership

| Priority Actions  | Planned outcomes  |
|---|---|
| Run twice yearly Clean Up events.   | Reduced litter on beach, dunes and estuary.<br>Data passed on to Clean Up Australia and Tangaroa Blue Foundation. |
| Publish an annual activity plan that invites and encourages participation in OGCC.                    | Participation in activities increases by 10% each year.   |
| Hold an annual environmental film night.  |   |
| Create a better understanding of OGCC within the community using website, and social and other media. | OGCC is the recognised destination for the community to undertake environmental volunteering.                     |
| Communicate with key stakeholders to coordinate activities.   | Annual meetings held with Barwon Coast, DELWP, CoGG and BCN.  |
|   | Paid up membership is 50 or more, and 80% of members are active.  |

## **Appendix 1: Governance, membership and participation**

### **Committee structure**

As an incorporated body, Ocean Grove Coastcare operates under a typical committee structure of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (the Executive) together with a number of ordinary committee members. The committee meets ten times each year.

The group operates entirely with volunteer participation. Its activities are funded partly through grants tied to specific outcomes, and partly from membership fees and donations.

### **Membership**

New members are attracted through the range of public activities that are offered throughout the year. Members currently pay an annual fee of \$5 which contributes to the running of the group. Annual membership has typically ranged between 15-20 people. Currently, as of January 2019, we have 29 members, and 264 subscribers to our email/newsletter list.

### **Activities and participation**

OGCC host a number of its own activities and supports other groups to offer a calendar of events each year. These activities include weeding, planting, litter clean ups, film nights, information stalls, presentations and environmental education activities. Participants (both OGCC members and non-members) include families, school groups, retirees, young unemployed people.

Some of these participants already have knowledge of local flora and fauna, while others join our activities to learn more and to contribute to protecting and enhancing the coastal environment.

OGCC is also working with the Ocean Grove Business Association and others on a campaign to reduce/eliminate the local distribution of single use plastics.

### **Other stakeholders**

Ocean Grove Coastcare regularly works in collaboration with:

- **Barwon Coast** - responsible for managing the foreshore and dunes area from the Ocean Grove Spit to access track 6W
- **City of Greater Geelong** - managers of the dunes area from 6W to 4W, known as Buckley Park reserve
- **Bellarine Catchment Network** - an umbrella group comprising representatives from key catchment and coastal organisations (both government and non-government) with a landcare / coastcare focus
- **Coastcare Victoria** - primarily through the Regional Coastcare Co-ordinator

The group also shares interests and activities with Ocean Grove Business Association, Friends of Bellarine Hooded Plovers, Barwon Heads Festival of the Sea, Mountain 2 Mouth Festival, Ocean Grove Surf Lifesaving Club and local schools.

The group's litter and beach clean ups are aligned with Clean Up Australia and Tangaroa Blue Foundation. Over the past 7 years, OGCC has received grants from Coastcare Victoria, City of Greater Geelong, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Tangaroa Blue Foundation and other bodies, which enable the group to undertake environmental and community activities.

## Appendix 2: Typical annual activity plan

|                  | Event/Activity                    | Description  | Partners/Stakeholders                                |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>January</b>   | Nippers Environment Education Day | Beach games with environmental messages, with up to 60 Nippers   | Bellarine Catchment Network; OG Surf Lifesaving Club |
| <b>February</b>  | Bellarine Farmers Market Stall    | Information stall for the general public                         | Bellarine Farmers' Market                            |
|                  | Meeting event                     | OGCC plans for the year/guest speaker                            |  |
| <b>March</b>     | Clean Up Aust Day                 | Beach/river clean up   | Clean Up Aust Day                                    |
|                  | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Festival of the Sea               | Info stall/activities for general public                         | Festival Committee                                   |
| <b>April</b>     | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Walk and talk                     | Explore dunes area with a guide                                  | Barwon Coast   |
| <b>May</b>       | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Weed Pull (Polygala)              | Area to be advised   | Barwon Coast/CoGG                                    |
| <b>June</b>      | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Weed Pull (Polygala)              | Area to be advised   | Barwon Coast/CoGG                                    |
| <b>July</b>      | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | National tree day                 | Planting trees, shrubs and grasses                               | Barwon Coast/CoGG                                    |
| <b>August</b>    | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Film night                        | Film with environmental message                                  |  |
| <b>September</b> | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Bushcare Big Day Out              | Planting trees, shrubs and grasses                               | Barwon Coast/CoGG                                    |
| <b>October</b>   | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Tangaroa Blue clean up            | Clean up beach/river, count all items and contribute to database | Tangaroa Blue  |
| <b>November</b>  | Bushland regeneration             | Small group weeding in Buckley Park                              | CoGG   |
|                  | Walk and talk                     | Explore Buckley Park with a guide                                |  |
| <b>December</b>  | OG main street night market       | Information stall for the general public                         | Business Association                                 |
| <b>Other</b>     | School groups                     | Explore Ocean Grove Spit with guides                             | Barwon Coast/BCN                                     |
|                  | Dogs' breakfast                   | Info/activities about dogs and coastal wildlife                  | Barwon Coast/CoGG                                    |
|                  | Mountain to Mouth                 | Info stall, or perhaps planting activity                         |  |