

Bellarine Catchment Network

Strategic Plan 2023-2028

BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK
Landcare and Coastcare

Acknowledgement

Bellarine Catchment Network acknowledges the Wadawurrung, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and we recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

Who we are

Bellarine Catchment Network (BCN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation overseen by a volunteer committee of management.
We are an integrated and collaborative network consisting of 32 different community organisations, 'Friends of' groups, land managers, Landcare and Coastcare. Our collective goal is to protect and conserve our catchments, coastal areas and inland bushlands with strong connections to our local communities.

We facilitate over 20 projects and programs within the Geelong and Bellarine region that have significant environmental and community outcomes.
BCN works through and for the network groups and organisations and the wider community to achieve these outcomes.

What drives us

Less than 5% of pre-European remnant vegetation remains in the Bellarine region. Action is needed to protect and enhance what remains.

Australia's biodiversity is under increased threat and continues to decline. Action is needed to reverse this trend.

Urban growth has and continues to impact our local ecosystems, and any development must, as much as possible, support our ecosystems and be environmentally sustainable.

We must mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Front cover image: Ethan and Maya bird watching at a Summer By The Sea event
Back cover image: Zero Waste Event Kit at the 2022 National Celtic Festival



Beachcomb activity at the Indented Head foreshore

Vision

Healthy, flourishing and diverse ecosystems cared for by an aware and engaged community.

Mission

To be an integrated, inclusive and collaborative network that educates, facilitates, connects and empowers groups and individuals to care for the living things of the land and water of the Bellarine catchment.

Goals

1 **Activate**

Deliver evidence-based biodiversity and sustainability services that inspire action for the environment.

2 **Engage**

Foster an engaged, educated and diverse community who care for the land and water of the Bellarine catchment, and its flora and fauna.

3 **Empower**

Build and empower a collaborative network that delivers projects in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Roel Wasterval (Swan Bay Environment Association) and Matt Crawley (Program Manager) at a planting event in the Narrows, Queenscliff

Goal 1
ACTIVATE

Deliver evidence-based biodiversity and sustainability services that inspire action for the environment.

STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES
1.1 Protect and enhance biodiversity	Work collaboratively to deliver best practice restoration outcomes in coastal and inland ecosystems
	Share and promote biodiversity resources and learnings to inspire action
1.2 Encourage climate change mitigation and circular economies	Include climate change mitigation and circular economy education in all programs
	Support, promote and encourage sustainable actions, practices and initiatives
1.3 Offer meaningful volunteering	Offer meaningful and enjoyable volunteering opportunities and citizen science programs
	Design and facilitate inclusive and accessible volunteering opportunities
1.4 Advocate for environmental protection	Respond to and promote relevant public engagement opportunities
	Support and assist network members with advocacy and engagement opportunities



Graeme O'Leary (BCN President) weeding at the Narrows, Queenscliff

Goal 2
ENGAGE

Foster an engaged, educated and diverse community who care for the land and water of the Bellarine catchment and its flora and fauna

STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES
2.1 Engage with First Nations and Traditional Owners	Build strong and respectful partnerships with Traditional Owners and First Nations peoples
	Embed Traditional knowledge and services into BCN programs and resources
2.2 Offer engaging learning opportunities	Develop an inclusive, culturally sensitive and evidence-based school education program with measurable outcomes
	Offer a well promoted, interactive and engaging community education program that links people to place
	Streamline messaging around sustainability, climate change, bush regeneration, cultural heritage and local environmental values and issues
2.3 Build relationships with diverse communities	Seek opportunities both within and beyond environmental groups and organizations to promote best practice environmental programs
	Develop and promote inclusive and accessible programs that build strong relationships in our community
2.4 Acquire a centralised facility	Champion the development of an environmental and educational facility for the region



Rebecca St Ledger (Sustainability and Circular Economy Coordinator) at Cultura

Goal 3
EMPOWER

Build and empower a collaborative network delivering projects in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

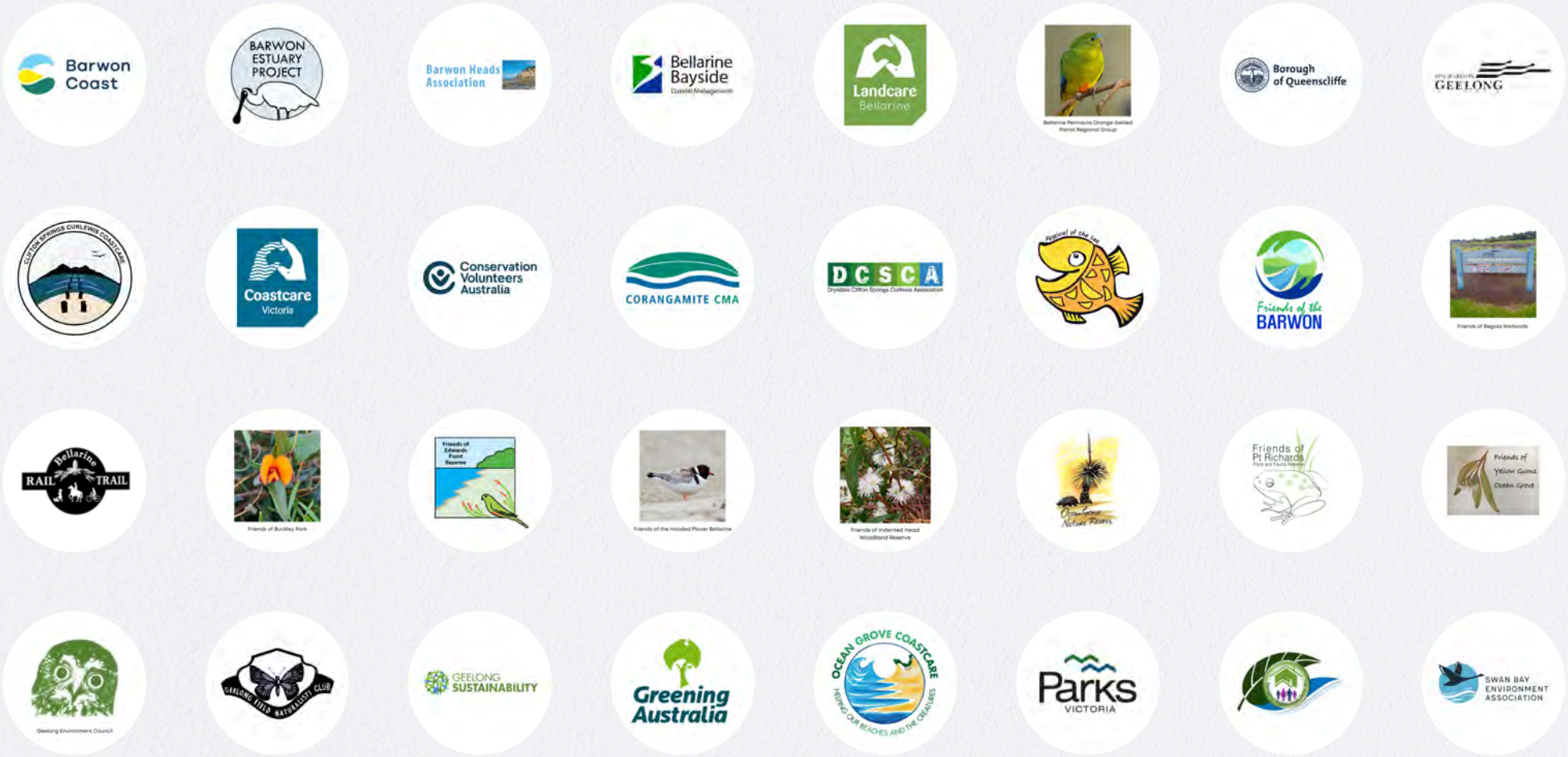
STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES
3.1 Develop BCN governance capacity	Develop a strong governance framework that is regularly reviewed and assessed
	Educate and support our committee so that they are engaged and have a meaningful role in the organisation
	Ensure all operations honour best practice, integrity, inclusion and respect
3.2 Build financial sustainability	Seek and maintain diverse and sustainable funding streams
3.3 Strengthen staff capacity	Build a positive staff culture by embracing teamwork, honesty, integrity and respect
	Develop staff capacity for growth and learning through professional development
3.4 Empower the network	Maintain a collaborative network that shares and has access to knowledge, resources, equipment and technology
	Provide support to the network through training, shared facilities, resources, advice and administration assistance
	Build relationships and facilitate communication within the network, agencies and partners



Leopold Primary School students learning about biodiversity

The Bellarine Catchment Network

The Bellarine Catchment Network comprises representatives from key catchment and coastal organisations (both government and non-government) with an integrated catchment management focus. This includes environment and community groups, 'Friends of' groups, land managers, Landcare and Coastcare groups.





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