**President’s Report 2018**

**Significant figures 2017/2018:**

* 32 financial members
* 102 people are currently receiving our monthly newsletter; 43% are opening it each month. 2 have unsubscribed in the last year.
* 8 enquiries received via our web page; 1 offering a profile article in Landcare Australia’s monthly newsletter, 1 seeking to join our working bees, 2 donation offers – Lennox bakery and Helene Gatland re “An Inconvenient Sequel” film showing, 1 black-necked stork photo offer,1 school group, 1 comment on water hyacinth harvesting and 1 enquiry re endemic species info for local gardens
* Facebook page – Kelly posts regularly, Malcolm once and Shaun rarely. Posts about celebrating our local, natural environment receive the highest interest (up to 1500 ‘reaches’ with c 10% - 20% clicking to view further. Some posts ‘shared’ by the Lennox Wave. Boosted posts typically have a reach of 1K – 3K with again 10% - 20% clicking on the post.
* Malcolm, with support from Kelly, Sue and myself has hosted 3 school excursion groups; 1 Primary School group and 2 HSC groups.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Working Bees** | **av. Volunteers** | **total vol. hrs** | **plants planted** |
| **‘core’ gp** | 46 | 10 | 824 | 927 |
| **Skennars Hd gp** | 63  (Aug – Jan)  *\*est. 126* | 2.9 | 338  (Aug – Jan)  *\*est. 676* | 207  (Aug - Jan |
| **Shorty’s Stairs gp**  **Pinnacle Row gp** | 15  12 | ??  1.8 | 85  74 | ??  ?? |
|  |  |  |  |  |

We continue to be represented on Ballina Shire Council’s B Ward and Coastal Advisory teams and also on the Lake Ainsworth Interest Group.

**Sites:**

We continue to cover 10 sites in total, 9 of which are on land managed by BSC and 1 on land managed by NPWS.

**Projects:**

Water Weeds – Staff at Sport & Rec Centre are collaborating with us, BSC and Rous County Council to manage both Salvinia and Water Hyacinth in Lake Ainsworth. It is early days yet but there is potential here to make this project much more sustainable over the long term as well as add another dimension to the environmental programs for students attending the Centre.

Backyards For Habitat – This project was trialled at the Love Lennox Stall this year and raised c. $250 for approximately 60 plants.

**Local Issues:**

Lake Ainsworth – Completion of the planned works for the eastern and southern foreshores continued to be stalled at every turn. We maintained our voice via deputations to Council, submissions, an information stall downtown on 3 weekends in January, membership of LAIG and the Lovin’ Lake Ainsworth Facebook page. This coming Saturday is an Extraordinary Meeting of BSC to discuss the results of the submissions called for in January this year. Meanwhile Hydrosphere Consulting Pty Ltd have completed the Scoping Study for the upcoming Lake Ainsworth CMP and moved into Stage 2 which looks into Field Work and Community input to address “vulnerabilities and opportunities”. We have submitted our LA Position Paper and a list of the primary issues we believe the CMP needs to address

Coastal Recreation Path / Shared Path – Both of these are now funded and slated for completion in 2018/19. Both impact on the Boulder Beach site. CVA have been collaborating with LHLC and as a consequence have applied for a 7 year SoS grant from OEH to restore bushland at the northern end of the Boulders site where it abuts the planned shared path. The boardwalk behind the lagoon that is planned to join the track on the southern dunes with the climb up to the Point also traverses a degraded area which Malcolm has left until Council works are completed.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contributions of the following people;

* all of our working bee volunteers
* all of those who value our work and speak up for us in a variety of ways
* Mike, Pat C, Malcolm, Kelly and Sue for co-ordinating the rehabilitation of their respective areas and keeping up with the paperwork involved.
* Malcolm, Spider and Paul Brown (BSC nursery) for continuing to propagate stock with local provenance for planting
* Kelly and Spider for continuing to produce such engaging articles for the Wave each month,.
* Kelly for posting great articles on the Facebook page regularly, helping out with school excursions and for being such a supportive and enthusiastic VP.
* Malcolm for keeping track of the bulk of our equipment and ensuring it is in good condition, helping out with school excursions and for continuing to share his vast wealth of knowledge and experience with us.
* Warren and Sue for their work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.
* James Brideson on behalf of BSC.

Shaun Eastment

August 28th 2017