



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

GUEST FEEDBACK

THANK YOU

WHAT'S ON

COMING UP

GM & CHAIR'S REPORT

If you would like to support the work of Saltbush Balnarring Beach by donating or volunteering, please get in touch:

E: info@saltbushbb.org.au
P: 5983 1819

 [saltbushbalnarringbeach](#)

 [Saltbush Balnarring Beach](#)

Saltbush has completed a very busy Summer period, having welcomed over 60 families from across Victoria to the beautiful, peaceful environment at Balnarring Beach. Many families enjoyed an independent stay, while others participated in our School Holiday Program which included surfing, art and craft, beach walks and afternoon teas.

We ask guests about their experiences at Saltbush and why a holiday is important for them at this time in their lives. I encourage you to read a sample of the feedback we receive, which we have included on page 4.

We could not deliver these restorative experiences for guests without the support of the wider Saltbush community, including our fabulous volunteers and generous donors. In this Newsletter, we acknowledge some of our multi-year supporters. We thank them for their trust in us, and their ongoing support. A very big thank you to the Community Bank Balnarring and District, the William Angliss Charitable Foundation, Catholic Church Insurance, Star of the Sea College, and the Presentation Sisters. We also value the generous contribution of our multi year supporters who prefer to give anonymously.

Rachel Connor
General Manager

Saltbush, Balnarring Beach acknowledges and pays respect to the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong people, the traditional custodians of these lands and waters.

Saltbush, Balnarring Beach is the trading name of Presentation Family Centre Inc, ABN 83 121 768 426 Incorporated Association Number A0040682L

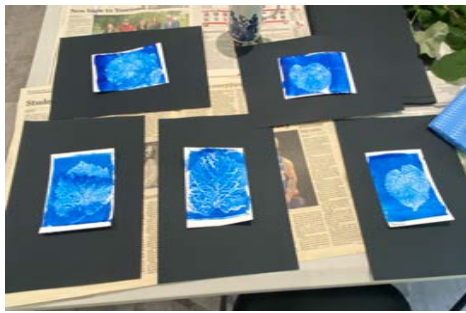
SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

"These 4 days have been the absolutely best days of my whole entire life! I made new friends, I learnt new tricks and I had plenty of time to be myself"

(SHP & teen surfing participant, Jan 2023)



This summer, Saltbush has run two weeks of school holiday programs (SHP) for our guests. Our SHP incorporates beach walks, art and craft, surfing, and independent activities for families such as the local Maze.



Our laid-back and local approach provides experiences that show families the sights in Balnarring, including the beach and bush trails, and larger activities including ticketed adventures. It also gives an opportunity for parents and guardians to relax and enjoy the program along with the kids, with sessions that are facilitated by our dedicated and talented volunteers.



This summer, we are without the wonderful Jade Warner, who carefully developed the Saltbush School Holiday Programs with reference to the Saltbush principles. Thanks to her creativity and work in establishing this program over the years, we are able to continue to provide programs that incorporate nature, inclusivity, choice, connection, and a strength-based approach for our guests.



CONTINUED PAGE 5...

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



... CONTINUED

Our programs this summer included beach play sessions, where guests were shown adventurous paths through the bush to reach our local Balnarring Beach, and we played on the beach with sandcastle building, frisbees, and rock rambling.

Our long-time volunteers Dani and Rex Swindle-Hurst ran creative art sessions, to engage all the senses! Kids joined in painting, print making, Magiclay sculpting, and creating lavender scent bags.

This summer, surfing was back on with Prue and her amazing team at East Coast Surf School, and it was great to watch everyone give it a go and catch some waves!

A special thanks to Dani, Rex, and the East Coast Surf School team for their facilitation in our program, and we can't wait for the next one!

If you would like to make a contribution to our School Holiday Programs, please contact us or visit the Support Us section of our website.



GUEST FEEDBACK

Saltbush, Balnarring Beach has been very busy this summer. We have welcomed over 60 families, groups, schools, and individuals to Saltbush over December and January alone, and remain heavily booked through until March/April. Across the holiday period so far, 100% of guests were likely or very likely to recommend Saltbush, Balnarring Beach, and 100% of guests were satisfied or very satisfied with their stay at Saltbush, Balnarring Beach. Here are some other comments guests made about their time in Balnarring:

What do you enjoy about Saltbush Balnarring Beach?

Relaxing atmosphere with the wildlife just outside our door

The tranquillity, the peace, the proximity to nature and township (and) the kindness of staff

Serenity, peaceful, large property allowing to go for walks, and a play area for children. A place to relax.

Why was a holiday at Saltbush Balnarring Beach valuable to you?

Needed a change of scenery and a break from caring

It is not easy to look after a child with disability and it is a 24/7 hard work for the whole family. Saltbush provides us the opportunity to have a holiday that we otherwise won't have. It gives us something to look forward to before the holiday, help family bonding during the holiday and have a fresh start/reset after the holiday.

Have had such a stressful 2 years and truly needed the time out to relax and rejuvenate. Perfect place for it. My son was very relaxed during his stay too. And didn't stop talking about it when he got back home

I have been a Carer for most of my life for my parents as well as a single parent raising my child. I believe no one never stops grieving and a Carer takes many years to heal.

I experience significant pain on a daily basis and to get away from my home (same four walls) for a while is a godsend

THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH COMMUNITY BANK BALNARRING & DISTRICT

Saltbush, Balnarring Beach is grateful to the Community Bank Balnarring & District, one of our valued, long term supporters. Saltbush is one of the many community groups and not-for-profit organisations that are supported by Community Bank Balnarring & District.

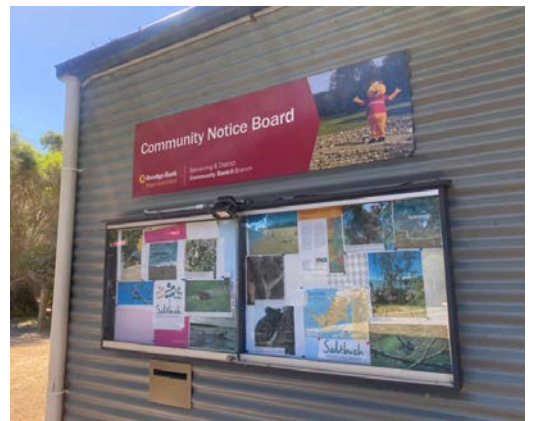


Over many years, the Community Bank has invested significantly in Saltbush, Balnarring Beach including:

- replacing worn and damaged gutters
- new flooring in multiple houses
- sponsoring the Multicultural Encounters Festival
- funding our Saltbush noticeboard



We have also appreciated that members of Community Bank Balnarring & District support us by attending Saltbush events, working bees, and Masterplanning sessions.



Through the banks connections in the community, we have also raised our profile and awareness of our service within the Balnarring and local area. This has resulted in many wonderful new connections for Saltbush that include community groups using our space, local organisations referring guests to Saltbush, and local organisations and individuals donating to support our service. A recent example is receiving some wonderful holiday hampers this summer for our guests, along with some helpful kitchen items to stock our houses.



It is the ongoing and dedicated support from groups like the Community Bank Balnarring & District that ensure Saltbush continues to welcome as many people in need as we can, while making improvements to our site that elevate our guests experience.

THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

RED HILL OP SHOP VOUCHER

Thank you to the Red Hill Op Shop for their generous crockery and homewares voucher. Saltbush, Balnarring Beach, and the Red Hill Op Shop both place value in contributing to a circular economy, and this voucher will be able to stock the kitchens for a more pleasant guest experience.



GUEST GIFT PACKS, GROCERIES AND TOILETRIES DONATIONS

Saltbush is now providing boxes with toiletries and little welcome packs in each house for our guests. These help us provide more to our guests during their time at Saltbush, and is possible due to the many donations of non-perishable groceries and toiletries that were donated over the December holiday period. We thank St. Brendans in Somerville, St Vincent de Paul, and the school communities involved in the collection of these goods. We are still taking donations of olive oil, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna tins, and toiletries so please get in touch via our website enquiries to discuss donations.



PRESENTATION SISTERS & STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Presentation Sisters, as we ensure their vision for restorative holidays and experiences continues at Saltbush, Balnarring Beach.

We also thank Star of the Sea College Brighton for their generous support through their Foundation Day Nano Walk.



THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

CCI GIVING COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENT

Rachel Connor, GM at Saltbush attended CCI Giving's Community Partner Event held in November 2022, and participated in a panel discussion on the topic of vulnerability and resilience in the charity sector. What emerged was a reflection on the capacity of the not for profit sector to adapt when the needs of the vulnerable are held as paramount. Whilst it was clear that the small community sector needs more funds, resources and volunteers; panellists and attendees also reflected on the optimism and strength of their communities.

Chair of CCI Giving Jeremy Yipp explains that CCI Giving was launched in 2017 "with the purpose of helping our community. Our focus is to support grassroots, less 'well-known' charities and initiatives, whose access to financial assistance and donations is more difficult than their larger counterparts."

CCI Giving generously donated to Saltbush in 2022 to install new flooring in House 4.



THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH



THE WILLIAM ANGLISS CHARITABLE TRUST

Thank you to The William Angliss Charitable Trust for their ongoing donations to Saltbush, Balnarring Beach. It is incredibly valuable to receive this continued support to be able to provide and improve our service to as many guests as we can.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate to Saltbush directly through our new website. Your donations contribute to a variety of things, including funding guests who cannot afford to stay, restocking houses to be more pleasant for guests, and School Holiday Program costs for families in need. Larger donations help fund large maintenance costs and capital improvements. This year, we hope to renovate one kitchen and bathroom, and would greatly appreciate some donations to support this. Saltbush, Balnarring Beach is a registered charity with deductible gift recipient status and donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

In 2022, two members of our Saltbush Board of Directors stepped down after many years of service. We are enormously grateful to Mr Ian Urquhart and The Reverend Christine Barren for their guidance, support, vision, and generosity in leading Saltbush, Balnarring Beach. Their compassion and consideration for our guests, their unique skills and energy have contributed to making Saltbush a better place. A heartfelt thank you.

We also thank and farewell our beloved Programs Coordinator Jane Warner, who revitalised the Saltbush School Holiday Programs to a fun, creative and engaging experience for both children and adults. We know many families will miss her cheerfulness, dedication and passion, and we are grateful she left behind a wonderful framework from which we can continue our Saltbush programs and retreats.



WHAT'S ON

GAS FREE AT SALTBUSH

Saltbush is now a gas free site! In 2022, the Saltbush Green Team prioritised reducing our carbon emissions and gas usage on site. After replacing our gas ovens with electric ovens at the beginning of the year, we have now replaced our gas hot water systems with electric heat pump hot water systems. This project was supported by the Mornington Peninsula Shire, and through the Community Climate Change and Energy Action program, delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. This program also supported Saltbush in the installation of eco-friendly insulation of House 3, to continue reducing energy waste.



THE FLOCK IN SITU

We now have our Flock brightening up the site at Saltbush. This project was a collaboration with artist, Kate Gorringer-Smith, the Main Ridge Men's Shed, schools, and volunteers, from the creation of the birds to the rendering and painting of Saltbush House 3 for installation. Now, our Flock helps create a peaceful space for our guests to connect with nature, with thanks also to Clonard College Geelong for their fabulous book box and outdoor benches.

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021-22 SALTBUSH ANNUAL REPORT

Saltbush's Annual Report for 2021-2022 is now available on our new website. Have a look at a wrap-up and reflection of what we have been up to at Saltbush, and see our many valued volunteers, supporters and donors who helped us along the way.

COMING UP AT SALTBUSH

FLINDERS FRINGE FESTIVAL



The first Flinders Fringe Festival is approaching, and Saltbush will be there! We will be running a stall for painting the last of our wooden migratory bird silhouettes from our Flock project, where half have already been installed on site. This is an awareness project recognising the importance of migratory bird and habitat protection on the Mornington Peninsula. Come along to the Festival to see what else is on, and paint a bird with us! More information at <https://flindersfringe.com.au/>

VOLUNTEERING AT SALTBUSH

If you would like to learn more or have a chat about volunteering at Saltbush, let us know though the enquiry form on our website.



REFER A GUEST TO SALTBUSH

Are you a Community Service Organisation, Hospital, School, NDIS Provider or individual or family experiencing hardship? You can complete the referral form on our website to refer clients, or yourself for an independent holiday at Saltbush. While we have had a very busy summer, we do have mid-week availability from March onwards, and weekend availability opening up in April.

We also keep a cancellation list, for last minute availabilities. Refer someone or be put on our cancellation list via our website's referral form.

GM & CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is great to see over 60 families enjoying all that Saltbush Balnarring Beach has to offer over the summer period. Our School Holiday Program enabled many families to enjoy a wonderful holiday at Balnarring Beach full of fun and activities, but also with some time to relax and connect with nature and other guests. Families can't quite believe the wide-open spaces and that the beach is just a 7 minute walk from their house.

Our guests tell us that they love the peacefulness of Saltbush. The staff also hear from the children; the delight of having their own bedroom, seeing bunny rabbits on site (a bit of a challenge for us!), seeing the blue tongue lizards, playing soccer on the pitch, reading (and taking home if you want to!) books from our book box. A very young guest introduced the staff to their 'backyard' where their parents had set up a little tent and play space.

I know that our dedicated and caring staff including Cassie, Megan and our wonderful volunteers, have done their very best to make sure that everyone has been warmly welcomed and supported. A heartfelt thanks to you all.

The Saltbush team said goodbye to some extra special contributors at the end of 2022. Two of our long term board members Ian Urquhart and Christine Barren have stepped down from the board after many years of service, and we also say goodbye to our very special Holiday Program Coordinator Jade Warner. Ian, Christine, and Jade brought their expertise, commitment, and generosity to Saltbush, and we thank them for their wonderful contributions and the lasting legacy they leave.

It is very affirming to see the generous support that Saltbush receives from individuals and organisations. Our important work relies on the generosity of many volunteers and donors. We thank you so much for your ongoing support, which enables us to continue our service. Your generosity is greatly valued.

The Board has recently established the Saltbush Foundation, which is a special fund for donations and/or bequests where donors want us to invest their funds to help financially sustain Saltbush for many years to come. Please let us know if you or anyone you know may be interested in learning more about how they may like to donate to Saltbush.

We look forward to working with you to continue our important work in 2023.

Phillip Steele, Board Chairperson and Rachel Connor, General Manager