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If you would like to support Saltbush Balnarring Beach by donating or volunteering, please contact us here:

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



[saltbushbalnarringbeach](https://www.instagram.com/saltbushbalnarringbeach)



[Saltbush Balnarring Beach](https://www.facebook.com/Saltbush-Balnarring-Beach)

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to the (belated!) Autumn Newsletter.

It is inspiring to hear from guests about the positive impact of their stay at Saltbush. It may be a chance for a foster family to enjoy a holiday for the first time in their lives, a fulltime Carer gaining much needed respite, or a young mother and her children accessing a safe place to take a break from their challenging life circumstances.

In this edition, we acknowledge and thank the numerous donors, volunteers, supporters, and community partners who provide funding and generous in-kind support that enables guests to experience a rejuvenating stay at Saltbush.

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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

CEO'S REPORT

We welcome a significant new funding partner, **Property Mums Australia**, a leading holiday rental business run by passionate hardworking mums on the Mornington Peninsula and Melbourne. By joining forces, this collaboration will provide more respite breaks for women when they need it most.

As winter sets in, we are grateful for recent funding from **Red Hill Lions** and **CCI Giving** to upgrade heating systems in houses that will vastly improve the guest experience during these chilly months.

A beautiful new timber fence at House One completes the front entrance project, thanks to financial support from the **Balnarring and District Community Bank** and **Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation**.

Also in this edition, we say farewell and thank you to dedicated staff member Cassie Mills, we hear from our Co-Chair Phillip Steele about the impact of the "Friends of Saltbush" donor program and highlight the powerful volunteer movement at Saltbush.

Warm regards,
Maree



GUEST EXPERIENCE

What did you enjoy about your stay at Saltbush?

“The beautiful bush walks and beach access ... I loved the peacefulness.”

“The whole community was welcoming and helpful. Nature on our doorsteps and the amount of stars was amazing.”

“Peace and tranquillity.”

Why is a holiday at Saltbush valuable to you?

“My family needed this so much. We connected over these days we spent here like we haven’t before.”

“It’s good for me to get some time out from my caring role and refresh and go back again to my family.”

“We have huge financial restrictions and I’m a single mum to four neurodivergent kids. I love that I can take them on short holidays.”

“I’m a single mum with autism and ADHD. My children have the same diagnosis. We left a FV situation and are quite financially disadvantaged. Having some fun and rest and feeling like a “normal” family who can actually afford a holiday was pretty special.”

Welcoming families from MacKillop Family Services.

Three foster families from **MacKillop Family Services** stayed during autumn, providing a first ever holiday for most children. One of the foster carers reported that the stay at Saltbush stood out as one of the highlights of her journey as a carer so far.

“This holiday had a profound impact on our carer and the young girl she cares for. I cannot express how grateful we are for your help in making this little break happen. At a time in which foster carer retention is one of our biggest challenges, a break like this really can make all the difference.” - Sam Patterson, Director Community Engagement, MacKillop Family Services.

AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

We love our Saltbush School Holiday Programs and were so excited to run another week of activities during the Autumn School Holidays in April. We were joined by 12 children of all ages, abilities, and diverse backgrounds to participate in a mix of indoor and outdoor games and activities. We played games in the bush led by volunteer **Pea** from **Camp Manyung**, and were so pleased that children, parents and grandparents alike had fun with the parachute!

The wonderful art session, run by long-time Saltbush volunteers and supporters **Dani and Rex**, included watercolour painting and other sensory art. We are so grateful to Dani and Rex for gifting each child their own watercolour paint kit to take home and continue their skill at home! Thank you to Board members **Katy** and **Keeley** and volunteer **Suzanne** for their support on this program.

We are looking forward to our Winter School Holiday Program this July. If you would like to book a stay during our program, please contact the Saltbush team at info@saltbushbb.org.au or 03 5983 1819.



THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

Friends of Saltbush

Last year, we established the **Friends of Saltbush** program, a regular giving initiative that directly supports the costs of running our non-profit organisation. Since then, we have had a wonderful group of supporters who have donated through this program, and we sincerely thank them! Their generous donations helps Saltbush provide a comfortable and safe place of rest and respite to over 1600 people each year!

Thank you to our Friends of Saltbush and other donors:

Charles Reis
Erica Pegorer
Joan Kenny
Julia Breen
Kaylee Mitchell

Margaret & Kevin Begley
Phillip Steele
Sarah Woods
Shelley Iles
Rachel Connor

Kildare Ministries Community

Thank you to the Kildare Ministries conference attendees at **Kildare College Holden Hill, SA**, and **Brigidine College St Ives, NSW**, for their generous donation to Saltbush during the Kildare Ministries 10 Year Anniversary Conference.

Presentation Sisters Victoria

Saltbush is grateful for the continued support of the **Presentation Sisters** as we continue their legacy of providing space for rest and respite for families who need it most.

St Marks Anglican Church Op Shop Balnarring

We are incredibly grateful to **St Marks' Anglican Church** for their donation toward the Saltbush service, ensuring that families experiencing difficult circumstances can have access to a place of peace and quiet.

THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation

Our front fence is complete! Thank you to the **Balnarring and Community Bank Branch** and **Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation** for their ongoing support of this project! This entry and fence was designed by a brilliant volunteer to provide a more accessible and attractive entry for our guests and visitors. We are so thrilled with how it turned out!



Padua College Volunteer Project

Saltbush's connections with secondary schools engaging in community service make a significant impact and is also rewarding for the many students who have joined us.

This term, a wonderful group of Year 10 students from **Padua College** joined us for weekly community service, as part of their Certificate II in Active Volunteering. This collaborative effort is a great way for these students to join in on some meaningful community action while providing Saltbush with the important volunteer work that keeps our service running! Activities have included knocking down fences, repainting others, and a lot of gardening! Having a well-cared for site makes a great difference in the experience of our deserving guests, and we are grateful for the help!



THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

Saltbush Heating Upgrades

This year, Saltbush has a focus on improving the heating across all houses, so our guests can better enjoy our services all year round. Thanks to long-time supporters **CCI Giving** and the **Red Hill Lions Club**, we have been able to install ducted heating system in House 4 and House 1.

Thanking our Saltbush Volunteers

The collective effort of volunteers across many areas of the organisation, makes a significant impact, enabling the organisation to continue to thrive.

A heartfelt thank you to the following volunteers:

Sue Gilbert, Anne Cairns and **Sally Cooper** who provide regular weekly support to Saltbush and are highly valued members of the operational team.

The class of Year 10 **Padua College** students studying Cert 2 in Active volunteering undertaking an 8-week volunteer project to work on the extensive gardening across the six houses.

Jennifer Wraight and **Keeley Reade** the workforce behind our Fundraising Working Group, planning activities and initiatives to help raise funds.

Katy Henley, Keeley and Suzanne – school holiday program volunteers lending a hand in the kitchen.

Saltbush warmly welcomes new volunteers to join our team, there are multiple roles available from **Green Team, Fundraising** and **Operations**. If you are interested to get involved and find out more, visit <https://saltbushbalnarringbeach.org.au/volunteer/>



THANK YOU FROM SALTBUSH

Mount Martha Valley Probus Club

Thanks to the efforts and kind-hearted generosity of the **Mount Martha Valley Probus Club** and the **Mount Martha Community Centre Knitting Group**, Saltbush has recently been gifted a beautiful selection of handmade woollen beanies! A few members of the knitting group are aged over 90 years and keep active through the creation and gifting of beautiful knitted garments! We have loved sharing these gifts with Saltbush guests, volunteers and supporters. Feel free to stop by to pick up a beanie!



Donation of Books



Thank you to Liz Phillips for the generous donation of beautiful new Mornington Peninsula coffee table books, children's activity packs for each house. These gifts and donations make a big difference in our guests experience, creating friendly, welcoming environments for guests to enjoy during a restful stay.

Thank you also to Keeley Reade for her donation of many contemporary novels that our guests are loving!

Plant Donations from the Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation

Earlier this year, the wonderful Lisa and Belinda from **Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation** generously donated koala-friendly saplings to Saltbush so that we can improve the vegetation on site to encourage koalas and other wildlife in the area. Thank you to Belinda for her continued donations of indigenous saplings and tube stock, which are extremely useful in our current replanting of the gardenbeds around the Saltbush houses.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Landcare & Presentation Sisters collaboration

Through the effort and commitment of **Presentation Sisters Victoria**, and **Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group** a major revegetation project is underway on Presentation Sisters land adjoining Saltbush that forms part of a Mornington Peninsula wide bio-link project that will have tangible benefits for both wildlife and the community.

By creating wildlife corridors, the regeneration project enhances habitat for koalas and other wildlife, fostering biodiversity. Furthermore, it contributes to local climate mitigation efforts by reducing regional temperatures by an estimated 1-2 degrees Celsius over time and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

Throughout August over 2,500 native trees and shrubs have been planted thanks to the efforts of Landcare volunteers and community partners including the **Balnarring and District Community Bank**.

Over the coming years, thousands of native trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted on the property, to re-establish the original ecological vegetation class; Swampy Woodland. This project has been years in the planning. The native plants have been propagated from seed collected from local remnant vegetation by numerous local volunteers.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

New governance and leadership roles at Saltbush

Saltbush is looking to fill a vacancy on its Board. We are looking for people with experience in community development, professional communications, marketing and/or fundraising.

Saltbush is currently seeking enthusiastic new members for the “Green Team”, a working group that meets quarterly to plan, implement and monitor our environmental initiatives and performance. For more information, visit our website

<https://saltbushbalnarringbeach.org.au/environmental-charter/>

If you may be interested in governance and leadership roles and would like to discuss, please contact CEO Maree Feutrill
maree@saltbushbb.org.au

Farewell Cassie

After 3 years of dedicated service to Saltbush, Cassie is moving on to pursue her chosen career in psychology. Highly adaptable, Cassie has been able to turn her hand to almost every job at Saltbush during her time here from communications, administration, gardening, operations,



IT expert and Green Team leader, all the while endearing herself to many supporters, guests, staff and volunteers along the way!

We wish Cassie all the very best with her fulltime post-graduate studies and will miss her bright energy around the place.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Saltbush has many wonderful supporters who regularly read our newsletter with much interest and have a long-standing relationship with Saltbush. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support over many years.

Many of our guests are currently feeling under financial pressure as costs continue to rise. Saltbush is also currently feeling this financial pressure. Our aim is to charge our vulnerable guests as little as possible for their stay at Saltbush and to do this we must rely on the generosity of our donors.

We have recently introduced a 'Friends of Saltbush' program to provide an opportunity for our supporters to sign up to make a regular donation to Saltbush. Regular donations make a big difference to us because they provide more certainty about when we receive donations. Some people, like my wife Maureen and I, find it easier to donate a small amount on a regular basis. I am reminded of the song 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' by Australian artists Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody that tells the inspiring story of the Gurindji people's struggle for equality and land rights after their walk off at the Wave Hill property in 1966. Small steps add up and can have a large impact!

Many friends of Saltbush, individually donating even a small amount regularly, will add up to a significant ongoing donation that will have a large impact.

Could you please consider signing up to become a Friend of Saltbush? You may do this by contacting our office or online through our Friends webpage

<https://saltbushbalnarringbeach.org.au/friend-of-saltbush/>

Thank you,
Phillip Steele
Board Co Chair

