

VOLUME 2

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1.0 Background to Volume 2

1.1 Introduction

The strategy has been developed in three volumes.

Volume 1 *'The Strategy Plan'*

This volume provides the key directions for the planning and management of open space including the vision, key direction statements, and the recommendations

Volume 2 *'The Basis of the Strategy Plan'*

This volume includes background information, project methodology and, and the project findings

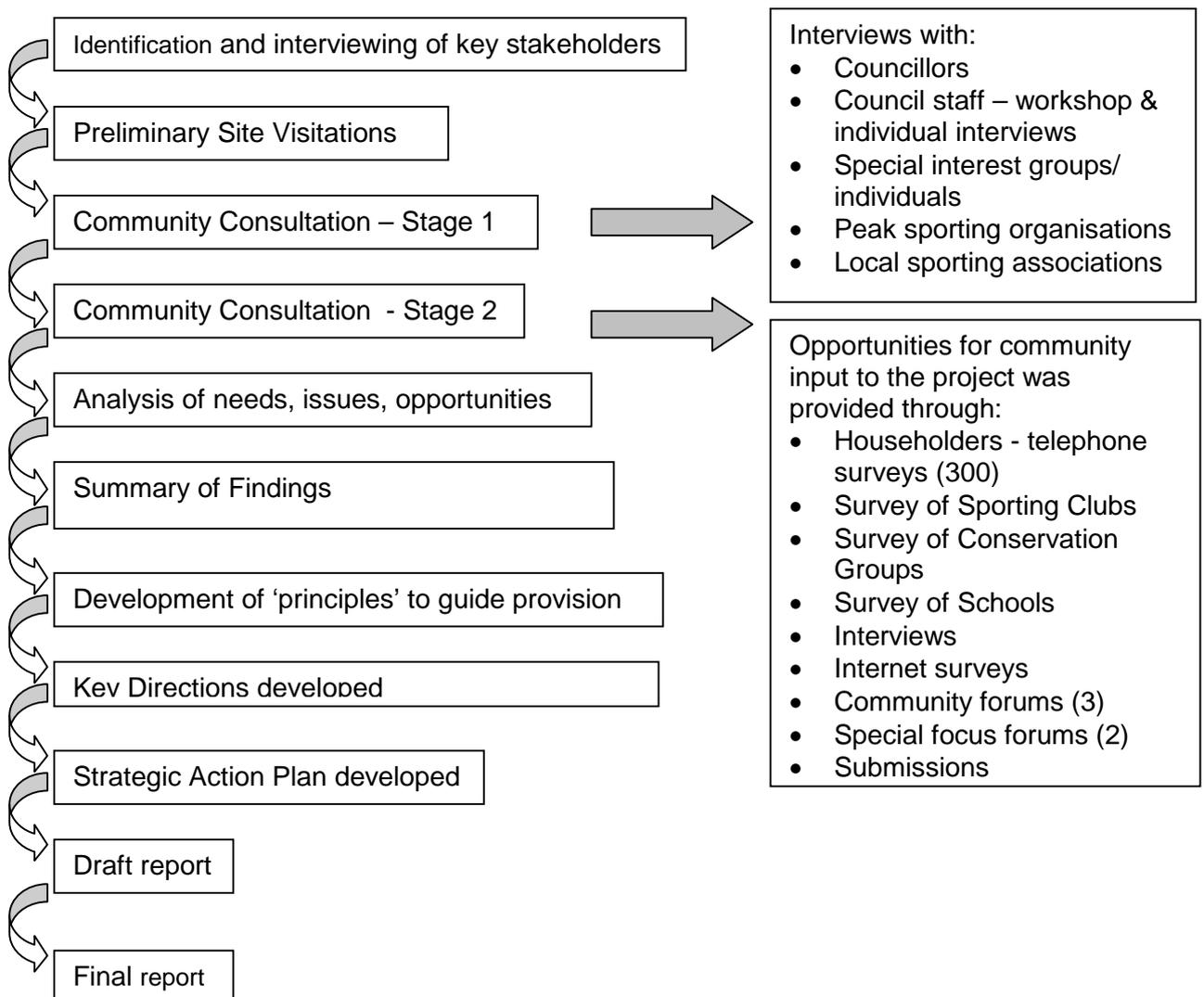
Volume 3 *'Planning and Policy Framework'*

This volume is a working document that categorisation criteria, management and development frameworks for each open space type and policy and procedural frameworks.

1.2 Project Methodology

1.2.1 Process

The following provides an overview of the process used to develop the Open Space Strategy.



1.2.2 Promotion of Project

The project was extensively promoted to maximise community awareness of the project and to encourage participation. The project was promoted through the following channels:

- Advertisements – local papers
- Editorial – local papers
- ‘How to be involved’ flyers distributed to libraries, recreation centres and commercial outlets
- On Council’s website
- ‘Peninsula Wide’ (Council’s newsletter)

2.0 Mornington Peninsula Shire

2.1 The Region

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council was constituted as a new municipality on 15 December 1994 and comprises the former Shires of Flinders, Mornington and Hastings, plus areas of Mount Eliza and Baxter. The municipality is 723 square kilometers in area and has an estimated population in 1996 of 117,800, comprising 45,392 households.

The Shire is located just over an hours drive from the Melbourne CBD and as a result is the most popular visitor recreation area in Victoria. It forms the promontory separating Western Port Bay and the Port Phillip Bay and contains a diversity of foreshore areas and scenic landscapes, urban residential and farming communities, state forests and parklands and visitor attractions.

In recent times the Shire recorded the third highest residential construction activity in the state after the Cities of Casey and Brimbank. Since 1996 there has been a 50% increase in new dwelling construction.

Mornington Peninsula Shire has to contend with a range of social and community issues that arise from an ever changing, community. Key issues affecting the municipality include:

- high unemployment levels in pockets of the region, including Hastings, Rye, Rosebud, McCrae, Crib Point and Blairgowrie and parts of Mornington
- an increasing concentration of older people and retirees in certain areas, many of which do not have the capacity to cater for the growing demand for services associated with these age groups
- lack of accessible public transport and the resulting isolation for residents, particularly older adults, young people and those on low incomes

2.2 Demographics

The population of the Shire is projected to increase by 25,222 to 143,022 people between 1999 and 2021. This equals a growth rate of 19.7%. The current population of 117,800, is forecast to grow to over 145,600 by 2016 (Department of Infrastructure).

It is projected that there will be population gains in most parts of the Shire. This trend is encouraged by the attraction of 'retirement' and 'semi-retirement' markets to attractive coastal areas and the increasing ease of travel to Melbourne due to improved transport infrastructure.

The number of households are expected to rise by 19,393 (38.7%). Change is also expected in the age structure over the next 22 years. The 70-84 and 60-69 age groups are projected to have the greatest net growth, with the highest net loss in the 5-17 and 0-4 age groups.

Council commissioned an independent evaluation of population projections that indicates a more rapid population growth of 27,827 to 145,627 by 2016. As part of this evaluation a set of population projections based on smaller areas within the municipality were developed.

TABLE 1 Total forecast estimated resident population change statistics, Mornington Peninsula Shire 1996 – 2016

1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	<i>total population change</i>
117,800	126,761	133,360	139,322	145,627	27,827

(Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire: Small area population forecasts 1996-2016, March 2000 – i.d. consulting.)

The following table identifies demographic changes in relation to specific age groups.

TABLE 2 - Mornington Peninsula Shire Forecast Estimated Resident Population by Age Group

	1996			2006			2016		
	females	males	total	females	males	total	females	males	total
0-4	3,871	4,073	7,944	3,642	3,658	7,300	3,998	4,032	8,030
5-9	4,290	4,656	8,946	3,919	4,016	7,935	4,155	4,254	8,409
10-14	4,150	4,190	8,340	4,477	4,723	9,200	4,241	4,361	8,602
15-19	3,672	4,139	7,811	4,512	4,763	9,275	4,209	4,283	8,492
20-24	3,040	3,513	6,553	4,167	4,161	8,328	4,311	4,471	8,782
25-29	3,439	3,223	6,662	3,842	3,812	7,654	4,337	4,443	8,780
30-34	4,009	3,656	7,665	3,793	3,794	7,587	4,412	4,245	8,657
35-39	4,496	4,199	8,695	4,307	4,054	8,361	4,571	4,419	8,990
40-44	4,147	4,028	8,175	4,785	4,491	9,276	4,676	4,657	9,333
45-49	3,904	3,828	7,732	5,051	4,806	9,857	4,958	4,775	9,733
50-54	3,228	3,134	6,362	4,641	4,452	9,093	5,177	4,897	10,074
55-59	3,006	2,612	5,618	4,361	4,131	8,492	5,302	4,929	10,231
60-64	3,021	2,713	5,734	3,744	3,532	7,276	4,941	4,590	9,531
65-69	3,424	3,161	6,585	3,410	3,079	6,489	4,544	4,285	8,829
70-74	3,211	2,872	6,083	3,060	2,787	5,847	3,658	3,438	7,096
75-79	2,425	2,035	4,460	2,743	2,482	5,225	2,798	2,467	5,265
80-84	1,577	1,059	2,636	1,946	1,653	3,599	1,938	1,637	3,575
85-89	865	440	1,305	1,023	778	1,801	1,163	949	2,112
90+	305	170	475	484	279	763	638	483	1,121
Total	60,080	57,701	117,781	67,907	65,451	133,358	74,027	71,615	145,642

(Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire: Small area population forecasts 1996-2016, March 2000 – i.d. consulting.)

The following table looks at population change from the perspective of the geographical areas as defined in the report. A list defining the “Areas” has been included following this table.

TABLE 3 - Mornington Peninsula Shire population forecasts by small area 1996 – 2016 Summary

small area		Population 1996	% of total	Population 2016	% of total 1996 - 2016	Total change	Average annual % change
Area 1	Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Somers	3,795	3.2%	4,189	2.9%	393	0.49%
Area 2	Bittern, Crib Point	5,430	4.6%	6,225	4.3%	795	0.69%
Area 3	Dromana, Safety Beach	6,057	5.1%	8,006	5.5%	1,949	1.40%
Area 4	Flinders, Shoreham, Point Leo	1,567	1.3%	1,979	1.4%	412	1.18%
Area 5	Hastings	5,840	5.0%	7,497	5.1%	1,657	1.26%
Area 6	HMAS Cerberus	1,731	1.5%	1,728	1.2%	-3	-0.01%
Area 7	Mornington, Moorooduc, Tuerong	6,179	5.2%	14,114	9.7%	7,936	4.22%
Area 8	Mornington East	13,669	11.6%	16,110	11.1%	2,441	0.83%
Area 9	Mount Eliza	16,511	14.0%	17,600	12.1%	1,089	0.32%
Area 10	Mount Martha	7,479	6.3%	9,289	6.4%	1,810	1.09%
Area 11	Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie	4,358	3.7%	5,332	3.7%	974	1.01%
Area 12	Red Hill, Red Hill Sth, Merricks Nth, Main Ridge, Arthurs Seat	2,620	2.2%	3,391	2.3%	770	1.30%
Area 13	Rosebud, Rosebud West, McCrae, Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schank	17,406	14.8%	18,871	13.0%	1,465	0.40%
Area 14	Rye, Tootgarook, St Andrews Beach	10,709	9.1%	13,272	9.1%	2,563	1.08%
Area 15	Somerville, Tyabb, Baxter, Pearceedale	14,451	12.3%	18,024	12.4%	3,574	1.11%
Mornington Peninsula Shire		117,800		145,627		27,827	1.07%

(Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire: Small area population forecasts 1996-2016, March 2000 – i.d. consulting)

2.3 Tourism

The Shire attracts peak visitations during summer and holiday periods placing significant pressure on the open space environment, particularly foreshore areas, and associated infrastructure, facilities and services.

During the peak summer period the population increases by in excess of 60,000 people. Most of this increase is experienced in the southern bayside townships where numbers double and in some cases quadruple over that period of time. The Shire has a significant number of 'residents' that are not full-time residents, but rather have a primary home outside the municipality. The number of these holiday or secondary residences is declining as a proportion of total households, due to the increasing accessibility to Melbourne and other business centres with the improved transport infrastructure.

The Shire is attracting year round visitor 'markets' to a number of areas, particularly to the southern peninsula towns of Sorrento and Portsea, bringing with them specific expectations in terms of streetscape, foreshore and general infrastructure amenities.

A regional travel and tourism survey conducted in 1995 estimated the total number of visitors to the Mornington Peninsula to be 1,875,741 per annum, with daytrippers accounting for 58% of total visitation. (Source: *Greater Peninsula Tourism: Tourism Development and Marketing Plan, Urban Enterprise P/L, 1999*).

More recent estimates indicate that the number of visitors to the peninsula each year is increasing significantly, and has probably doubled since the release of the 1995 figures. (Source: Council's Economic Development Unit)

3.0 Open Space Facilities and Services

3.1 Provision

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is well known for its natural beauty, boasting over 190 km of coastline, major tourist destinations such as Arthur's Seat as well as an abundance of parks, reserves and sporting facilities that cater for a wide range of interests.

The Shire is home to approximately 300 sporting/recreation groups, 50 schools as well as a variety of other groups that use open spaces areas on a regular basis. Open space is an important feature of the Shire's make-up, providing social gathering points, formal and informal sporting/recreation opportunities, education experiences, play experiences, access (ie. Trails), tourist destinations/sites of significance and an array of healthy lifestyle experiences and opportunities.

Along with Council there are a number of other agencies and groups that work in partnership with the community in the management, development and maintenance of open space

The following table provides a snap shot of the type and number of open space facilities as well as the agencies and organisations that play a role in the management of these assets.

TABLE 4 – Summary of Open Space facilities managed by Mornington Peninsula Shire

Type of Facilities/Services	Total Number	Management Type
Sporting/Recreation Reserves	57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Committees of Management • DNRE

(continued over page)

Type of Facilities/Services	Total Number	Management Type
Playgrounds	160 approx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • DNRE
Tennis Courts	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • DNRE
Bushland Reserves	139	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Friends of Groups • Committee of Management
Parks	350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Friends of Groups • Advisory Committees
Foreshore	192km of coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • DNRE • Parks Victoria • Committees of Management
National Parks	Mornington Peninsula National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Victoria
State Parks	Arthurs Seat State Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Victoria
Golf courses	1 Council owned and managed 14 private courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Private Operators
Historic sites	The Briars Park Collins Settlement Historic Site Coolart Wetlands and Homestead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Parks Victoria • National Trust of Victoria

3.2 Participation

As part of the project 300 residents were interviewed over the telephone in relation to their leisure time activities.

Respondents were asked to identify the 2 recreation activities that they engaged in most frequently. Apart from 'indoor swimming' all other activities involved the out of doors, reflecting the nature of the environment, the regions demographics, and lifestyle choices of people living on the peninsula. The following table provides a list of activities most frequently engaged in by residents over the age of 18.

TABLE 5 - The most frequently undertaken leisure activities by residents

	Activity	Responses (%)
1	Casual walking	56
2	Golf	11
3	Tennis	8
4	Swimming	8
5	Bike riding	7
6	Fishing	7

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	Activity	Responses (%)
7	Swimming (indoor)	6
8	Gardening	6
9	Football	5
10	Bowls (outdoor)	4

The following two tables identifies the most frequently undertaken recreation activities by males and females.

TABLE 6 – Indoor and outdoor activities frequently undertaken by males.

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	36
2.	Golf	19
3.	Fishing	13
4.	Bike riding	9
5.	Tennis	8
6.	Football	8
7.	Gardening	7
8.	Basketball	5
9.	Yachting	5
10.	Swimming (outdoor)	5

TABLE 7 – Indoor and outdoor activities most most frequently undertaken by females.

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	64
2.	Swimming (outdoor)	11
3.	Tennis	9
4.	Swimming (indoor)	8
5.	Golf	5
6.	Bike riding	5
7.	Gardening	5
8.	Bushwalking	5
9.	Bowls (outdoor)	4
10.	Horseriding	4

When females were asked to indicate *outdoor* activities only, photography became one of their 10 most frequent activities with 4% stating that they engaged in this activity once a week or more.

When males were asked to indicate *outdoor* activities only, athletics, horseriding and outdoor bowls (all equally ranked at 3% participation) were added to their top 10 most frequently undertaken activities.

Frequency of use of Open Space amenities

Respondents were also asked to indicate how frequently that they used a number of outdoor amenities and environments. TABLE 8 identifies the proportion of respondents who use amenities on a frequent basis, that is once a week or more.

TABLE 8 – Proportion of people using facilities on a regular basis

Ranking	Facility/amenity	Responses (%)
1.	Beaches and foreshore areas	55
2.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails	41
3.	Sporting reserves (e.g. football, softball, bowling greens)	27
4.	Neighbourhood parks	25
5.	Jetties and marinas	18
6.	Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skateparks)	18
7.	Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	14
8.	Golf courses	12
9.	Regional parks (e.g. Mt. Eliza Regional Park)	5

10.	Equestrian facilities	2
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The following trends were also noted in the survey results:

- females tend to use open space areas more than males, with a significantly higher frequency of use by females in relation to beaches and foreshore areas, trails, neighbourhood parks and playgrounds
- males are likely to have a significantly higher frequency of visitation to golf courses and a slightly higher frequency of visitation to regional parks and jetties and marinas and sporting reserves
- males and females are likely to have a similar frequency of visitation to conservation areas
- those facilities that were likely to have been visited rarely or not at all over the last 12 months equestrian facilities (93%), regional parks (74%), golf courses (73%), sporting reserves (60%) and play spaces (58%)
- visitation to conservation areas and regional parks are likely to be 'rare'

Survey respondents were also asked to identify 2 activities that they would like to do, but were unable to at this time. Table 9 indicates the top 10 responses and the reasons respondents gave for not being able to participate in these activities. While there may be little opportunity to influence health factors affecting participation (other than modified sports and activities), information barriers can be addressed.

Given the demographics and the isolated nature of the region there is a need to consider opportunities to assist and encourage older adults, young people and the family group to better access recreation opportunities within the region.

TABLE 9 - Reasons respondents gave for not being able to participate in specific activities

	Activity	Number of Respondents	Reason				
			No facilities /nowhere to do it	Lack of time	Health reasons	Hasn't been arranged	Other
1.	Tennis	29	4	9	13	1	2
2.	Golf	22		5	11		6 (transport&cost)
3.	Photography	14					1
4.	Bike Riding	10	5	2			1
5.	Outdoor Swimming	7	2	2	2		1
6.	Outdoor Bowls	6		2	4		
7.	Yachting	6	2	2			2
8.	Outdoor Netball	6		3	2	1	
9.	Casual walking	5	3	1	1		

3.3 Financial Overview

The following section provides details about the shire's financial commitment to Open Space across the last 3 financial years:

3.3.1 Annual Operational Budget

DEPARTMENT	2001/02 Annual Budget
Infrastructure Services - Transfield Maintenance	
<i>Roads (lump sum)</i>	
Off pavement (vegetation)	\$688,300
<i>Open Space (lump sum)</i>	
Garden Beds	\$185,200
Preliminaries	\$468,200
Grass Areas	\$942,050
Bushland	\$4,680
Firebreaks	\$47,900
Sports Fields	\$279,050
Foreshore/Beach	\$174,840
Trees	\$169,980
Playgrounds	\$80,000
Park Furniture/Landscape	\$86,570
Drainage	\$7,490
Irrigations/Bores/Pumps	\$39,650
Litter Control	\$228,900
Cemeteries	\$107,800
General	\$5,300
Carparking	\$31,200
<i>Open Space Provisional Sum</i>	
Open Space unscheduled Emergency	\$10,000
Open Space Contingency	\$28,000
Garden Beds/Grass Areas	\$120,000
Firebreaks	\$300,000
Bushworks Weed Eradication	\$200,000
Sports Fields	\$15,000
Foreshore	\$80,000
Cemeteries	\$227,900
Trees	\$500,000
Playgrounds	\$15,000
Paths Access Roads and Carparks	\$100,000
Park Furniture	\$50,700
Services Minor	\$10,000
Storm Damage clean Up	\$50,000
Portsea Foreshore Litter	\$5,000
Infrastructure Services - Conservation	
Fire prevention	\$260,000
Bushland Management	\$200,000
Coastal Management	\$110,000
Roadsides Management	\$110,000
Warrigine	\$50,000

3.1.2 Community Grants Scheme

Popn Area/s	Open Space Type	Description of Project	Council Contribution
1999/00			
5	BA	Trees for 2000: Rotary Club of Hastings	\$1250.00
5	FA	Sailing School – Westernport Yacht Club	\$1000.00
2000/01			
?	FA	Sailability - Mornington Peninsula	\$4000.00
7	OS	Community Garden Project – Mornington Lions	\$3000.00
11	SR	Lawn Marker – Sorrento Croquet Club	\$160.00
3	FA	Safety Beach Foreshore	\$1500.00

3.1.3 Capital funding projects:

Popn Area/s	Open Space Type & Description of Project	Type of Project		Total Project Cost
		New project	Upgrade of existing	
2000/01 Financial Year:				
Capital Works				
10	BA: Erosion Control Works – Hearn Creek		✓	\$355,000
7	PK: Skateboard facility – Mornington	✓		\$85,000
10	PK: Land Acquisition- Open Space – Legacy Dve Mt Martha	✓		\$105,000
?	SR: Oval Rehabilitation – including drainage 7 sprinklers		✓	\$140,000
8	OS: Vanness Ave Open Space Development	✓		65,000
Shire wide	SR: Tennis Court rehabilitation		✓	80,000
Shire wide	TR: Rehabilitation of walkways, bike paths, footpaths		✓	130,000
7	OS: Implement Master Plan – Civic Reserve		✓	60,000
14	OS: Implement Master Plan – Truemans Rd Reserve		✓	72,000
3	FA: Implement Master Plan – Safety Beach Foreshore		✓	50,000
11	SR: Implement Master Plan – David McFarlane Reserve		✓	50,000
6,1	TR: Bike path – Cerberus/Balnarring, South Beach road, Somers		✓	240,000
5	OS: Adventure Playground Hastings – stage 1	✓		85,000
12	SR: Refurbish Main Ridge Tennis Courts		✓	60,000
10	OS: Erosion Control – Hearn Creek, Kilburn Grove, Mt Martha		✓	700,000
Shire wide	SR: BMX tracks	✓		7330
14	OS: Chinamans Creek Design		✓	105,000

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Popn Area/s	Open Space Type & Description of Project	Type of Project		Total Project Cost
		New project	Upgrade of existing	
15	SR: Tyabb Cricket/Football Clubroom Extension		✓	1,000
8	OS: Serpentine Wetland	✓		441,000
7	SR: Alexander Park Mornington Change room		✓	7,000
Shire wide	TR: Rehabilitation of walk ways/bike paths/footpaths		✓	130,000
?	SR: Oval rehabilitation including drainage		✓	\$100,000
7	SR: Changing rooms and facilities, Dallas Brooks Park (carry over from 2000/2001)		✓	\$80,000
Shire wide	SR: Tennis Court rehabilitation		✓	\$50,000
7	SR: CB Wilson Reserve Baseball Pavillion		✓	120,000
5	FA: Implementation Hastings Foreshore Master Plan (carry over from 2000/2001)		✓	\$170,000
12	TR: Shared Pathway Red Hill (includes carry over of \$60,000 from 2000/2001)	✓		\$180,000
5	PK: Skateboard Facility Hastings (carry over from 1999/2000)	✓		210,000
10	PK: Adventure Playground – stage 2 – Mt Martha	✓		\$80,000
11, 3, 8, 14	OS: Implementation of Recreation Master Plans		✓	\$200,000
Shire wide	PK: Playground developments	✓	✓	210,000
14	PK: Skateboard facility – Rye (carry over from 1999/2000)	✓		200,000
Shire wide	SR: Reserve improvements		✓	50,000
7	SR: Alexander Park Pavilion		✓	170,000
Shire wide	FA: Rehab. Foreshore Facilities – Boat Ramps/Boarding Jetties		✓	50,000
8	TR: Shared footpath works, Mornington East	✓		80,000
1	FA: Rebuilding of access stairway Somers Beach (carry over from 2000/2001)		✓	50,000
Shire wide	OS: Sigange – Local Laws on Reserves		✓	20,000
12	SR: Refurbish Main Ridge Tennis Courts		✓	30,000
14	PK: Skateboard facility – Rye (part carry over from 2000/2001)	✓		200,000
14	FA: Lighting of Rye Foreshore	✓		20,000
15	OS: Recreation Facilities at Tyabb (ie. BBQ)	✓		5,000
12	SR: Red Hill Recreation Reserve – Equipment Storage	✓		6,000

Popn Area/s	Open Space Type & Description of Project	Type of Project		Total Project Cost
		New project	Upgrade of existing	
8	OS: Land acquisition for recreation purposes, Harrop Road Mornington	✓		120,000
Priority Works				
Shire wide	SR: Resurfacing of cricket pitches		✓	10,000
Shire wide	SR: Netball court resurfacing		✓	20,000
Shire wide	OS: Implementation of dog leash free areas	✓		20,000
12	SR: Main Ridge Equestrian Ground Master Plan Implementation		✓	20,000
Shire wide	RR: Roadside Conservation works		✓	90,000
Shire wide	FA: Coastal Reserves Biodiversity Conservation		✓	50,000
Frankston	SR: Regional Synthetic Hockey Facility	✓		900,000
3	SR: Relocation of Dromana Rec Reserve Cricket Nets		✓	25,000
Shire Wide	FA: Rehab. Of Foreshore facilities – pedestrian ramps, stairs, fences		✓	50,000
14	TR: Bike and Footpath track, St Andrews (carry over from 2000/01)	✓		\$4,000
Shire Wide	RR: Roadside Conservation works		✓	90,000
9	OS: Basketball Rings Relocation		✓	5,000
Priority Projects				
Shire wide	BA: Survey of remnant vegetation on private land		✓	60,000
Shire wide	OS: Implementation of conservation strategy framework	✓		10,000
Shire wide	BA: Bushland Reserves Biodiversity Surveying	✓		40,000
Shire wide	BA: Bushland Reserve Management Plans	✓		20,000
Shire wide	OS: Open Space Strategy – stage 2	✓		35,000
Shire wide	OS: Weeds Officer Contribution	✓		30,000
Shire wide	OS: Review of PIMS specification		✓	50,000
Shire wide	SR: Pricing Policy – Recreation Reserves	✓		10,000
Shire wide	OS: Risk Management – Tree Hazard Report and Recommendations		✓	20,000

Note, in the absence of all financial budgets relating to open space, the above figures are noted as part of the overall shire expenditure. Specific conclusions and analysis cannot be undertaken.

4.0 Criteria for Open Space Provision

4.1 General

Factors that influence future provision of open space can vary from ratios of standard quantities of space per head of population, to more complex considerations including leisure activity trends, demographic profiles, and geographical features that restrict access. Mornington Peninsula Shire is very different to typical urban areas in the way that open space is developed, managed and accessed. Industry ratios often used to assess the provision of open space in more urbanised areas do not apply to the Peninsula, and as a result have not been used in the assessment process.

Table 10 provides a summary of information and data relating to these criteria, which are:

Existing provision:	What currently exists and how effectively needs are met
Catchment:	Provision based on geographic distances
Travel times:	A measure of travel time tolerance of the community to access specific services
Hierarchy:	Shire, region, township and minor provision provides a guide and pattern for development Local needs for open space can be catered for by regional open spaces eg. foreshores.
Strategic:	Minimum standards / working in a larger framework of provision Community perception and values on adequacy of provision of open space.
Service specific impacts:	measuring the success of a facility or service by how it is managed, what opportunities are available, etc.

It is important to acknowledge that no one factor should be the basis for determining future open space provision. A statistical method alone is often ineffective as a planning tool since community profiles, and therefore community needs change over time. Planning for future open space provision must consider local trends along with general industry trends to develop a model of provision that will best fit the specific communities.

The following table presents information relating to industry trends and outlines a number of factors specific to the Mornington peninsula Shire.

TABLE 10 Open Space Provision Considerations

Category	Current Shire Plan	Existing Provision	Travel Times & Catchment factors	Hierarchy	Strategic factors	Service specific impacts
Parks	Local: 0.5-1.0 ha within 500m District:3ha within 2km	350 parks through the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilities within a park will influence the catchment of the park and the time people are prepared to travel. • Local parks will have a small catchment but are likely to be used more often than Regional Parks. • Regional parks that offer innovative, relevant and enjoyable experiences have the potential to attract visitors from a large catchment area. 	<p>Open Space Strategy recommends the following hierarchy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shire - Region - Township - Minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides links to community facilities and other parkland/trails. • Provides a buffer to residential development from major roads or intensive development. • Parkland can play an important role in maintaining rural character of an area. • Acquisition of parkland must be in accordance with identified needs and local environmental values. • Subdivision contributions must be in accordance with Council's local and regional recreation and environmental priorities • Maximise integration of parkland components to provide a range of interactive opportunities for specific needs groups e.g. families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of Council to maintain large number of parks (particularly if small and offer limited experiences) • Service standards required to ensure all stakeholders understand service levels associated with different levels of provision

Category	Current Shire Plan	Existing Provision	Travel Times & Catchment factors	Hierarchy	Strategic factors	Service specific impacts
Playgrounds	Classification framework from current ROS&C Plan, 1998 - Regional - Neighbourhood - Local	160	Within easy walking distance and linked for access through road and footpath design. For more regional playgrounds, the community has generally accepted the need to travel to access.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of small playgrounds to provide a variety of play experiences throughout a neighbourhood or region. • Planning for areas with significant population growth • Access needs for different level of provision e.g. 'on-foot access to local park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to regularly inspected and maintained to relevant standards • Playgrounds required to meet Australian Standards
Sporting Reserves	Sports Grounds:1.5ha : 1000 people Categories currently include Oval- levels 1, 2 & 3 Pavilion- levels 1, 2 & 3 (ROS&C Plan, 1998)	57 sporting / recreation reserves across Shire Provision of individual sports: (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a greater tolerance in relation to travel time to access regional playing fields, given there is the understanding that teams travel as part of a league / competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification hierarchy recommended Shire, Region, Township and Minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to increase joint use of facilities • Load tolerance for specific grounds (i.e. capacity of ground in wet/dry weather) • Regional and state-wide sporting participation trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability of clubs/Council to maintain/manage existing/new/upgraded facilities • Ability of clubs/Council to fund additional infrastructure
Sporting Reserves (Outdoor Courts)	n/a	27 Tennis Courts 15 Bowling greens Netball Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, there is an expectation that tennis courts for casual / social games will be provided locally, within a 5-10 minute travel time. • Increasing appreciation of the need to travel to access facilities of a higher standard 	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing participation needs and trends need to be noted e.g. night time vs daytime tennis • The need to consolidate facilities to minimise maintenance and provision in efficiencies. And to maximise participation and competition potential • Regional and local participation trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going maintenance requirements and capacity of the community to maintain required safety and provision standards

					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity of a site to accommodate expanded facilities to cater for different levels of competition e.g. minimum number of courts• Facility that has the ability to offer a range of competition levels catering to a range of age groups	
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Category	Current Shire Plan	Existing Provision	Travel Times & Catchment factors	Hierarchy	Strategic factors	Service specific impacts
Trails	Shared Pathway/Trails Strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trails can be accessed from home - travel will be required to access regional trails 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails need to provide effective and safe links to key local and regional destinations, eg parks, schools, shops • Trails should include the capacity to be used as 'transport routes' as well as recreation amenities, • Trails should be well integrated and continuous • Different community needs e.g. rural vs. urban need to be considered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to maintain existing networks and additions to the trail network, according to consistent standards • Capacity to provide and maintain appropriate trail infrastructure e.g. signage, boardwalks • Capacity to satisfy promotional and information needs of the community

Category	Current Shire Plan	Existing Provision	Travel Times & Catchment factors	Hierarchy	Strategic factors	Service specific impacts
Bushland	n/a	139	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushland (amenity) as part of general open space experience e.g. trails, parkland - That travel is involved to access Bushland Areas of high value • That small Bushland Areas are relevant in terms of preservation of natural values 	Open Space strategy recommends the following hierarchy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shire - Region - Township - Minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role/significance of Bushland Areas in relation to the protection and enhancement of significant environmental values • The need to ensure linkages with other parkland/ bushland areas for wildlife corridors • Partnerships with other land owner agencies eg. NRE and Parks Victoria • Partnerships with the local community (ie. Friends of Groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of Council to enhance/ maintain Bushland Areas to 'expected' standards. • Capacity to support 'Friends Groups' • Capacity to provide associated programs and information • Capacity to provide appropriate infrastructure to manage access to sensitive areas
Foreshores	n/a	31 Foreshore areas (shire managed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreshore reserves (amenity) as part of general open space experience e.g. trails, parkland - That travel is involved to access Foreshore areas of high value (conservation and recreation) - Access to local foreshores can be by foot. 	N/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to ensure linkages with other open spaces and adjoining foreshore reserves • Partnerships with other land owner agencies eg. NRE and Parks Victoria • Partnerships with the local community (ie. Friends of Groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

(Note: this table can be further developed and used as a planning tool as more information on provision becomes available.)

The following table indicates significant ‘local’ factors that have an influence on the provision of open space in each of the Shire’s 15 demographic areas. This section should be read in conjunction with sections 4.2: Demographic Trends and 4.3: Priorities from Community Consultation, to determine specific priorities for open space provision within the Shire’s townships.

TABLE 11 – Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision in Mornington Peninsula Shire

Population Area	Existing provision – any gaps (implications for hierarchy)	Catchment / Travel Time	Strategic Factors & Service specific impacts
AREA 1: BALNARRING BALNARRING BEACH, MERRICKS, MERRICKS BEACH, SOMERS	High	High	Medium
AREA 2: BITTERN CRIB POINT	High	High	Medium
AREA 3: DROMANA, SAFETY BEACH	High	Medium	Medium
AREA 4: FLINDERS, SHOREHAM, POINT LEO	High	High	Medium
AREA 5: HASTINGS	High	High	Medium
AREA 6: HMAS CERBERUS	N/A	N/A	N/A
AREA 7: MORNINGTON, MOOROODUC	High	Low	Medium
AREA 8: MORNINGTON EAST	High	Low	Medium
AREA 9: MT ELIZA	High	Medium	Medium
AREA 10: MT MARTHA	High	Medium	Medium
AREA 11: PORTSEA, SORRENTO, BLAIRGOWRIE	High	High	Medium
AREA 12: RED HILL, RED HILL STH, MERRICKS NTH, MAIN RIDGE, ARTHURS SEAT	High	High	Medium
AREA 13: ROSEBUD, ROSEBUD WEST, McCRAE, BONEO, FINGAL, CAPE SCHANK	High	Medium	Medium
AREA 14: RYE, TOOTGAROOK, ST ANDREWS BEACH	High	High	Medium
AREA 15: SOMERVILLE, TYABB, BAXTER, PEARCEDALE	High	High	Medium

4.2 Demographic Trends

The following provides a summary of demographic trends relating to each of the 15 demographic areas used by the Shire. (Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire: Small area population forecasts 1996-2016, March 2000 – i.d. consulting)

TABLE 12 – Summary of demographic profiles for small areas

	Area Characteristics 1996	Area Characteristics Forecasts to 2016
<p>Area 1 Balnarring Balnarring Bch Merricks Merricks Bch Somers</p> <p>Population 1996 - 3,795 2016 – 4,189</p> <p>Population change - 393</p> <p>Av, annual % change (.49%)</p>	<p>In 1996 the area had the second lowest population with holiday homes comprising 50% of the housing stock.</p> <p>Young families and young adults with a significant number of teenagers and 35-44 year olds. The area had a younger age structure than the rest of the Shire, with noticeably lower proportions of 70+ year olds.</p> <p>No major land parcels available for development, however, conversion of holiday houses to permanent dwellings and subdivision of existing allotments have occurred in recent times.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) - 244 Occupancy rate (1996) – 53.3%</p>	<p>Despite the decline in average household size, relatively low levels of development and a young age structure in 1996, an overall population increase is expected. However a levelling off of the population is anticipated over the forecast period.</p> <p>By 2016 a middle age and retiree age structure will be evident with significant numbers of 50-64 year olds. The area is forecast to have an age structure dominated by 40+ year olds.</p>
<p>Area 2 Bittern Crib Point</p> <p>Population 1996 – 5,430 2016 – 6,225</p> <p>Population change - 795</p> <p>Av, annual % change (.69%)</p>	<p>Young families and low numbers of elderly and middle aged characterised the area in 1996. There was a significant number of young children and their parents in the 30-39 age groups. The area had substantially lower numbers of 60+ year olds compared to the rest of the Shire.</p> <p>This area has a significant supply of vacant residential lots with 3 main broad hectare sites consisting of low density housing.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) – 615 Occupancy rate (1996) – 94.2%</p>	<p>Young and mature families are expected to characterise this area in 2016. The young families of 1996 will result in an increased number of young adults and 50-64 year olds. New low density development can be expected to attract mature families, contributing to the increase of 50-64 year olds. The average household size is expected to decline at a rate similar to the Shire with aging in place and children leaving home. The youngest age groups are expected to decline to 2016. A relatively stable population is expected over the forecast period.</p>
<p>Area 3 Dromana Safety Beach</p> <p>Population 1996 – 6,057 2016 – 8,006</p> <p>Population change – 1,949</p> <p>Av, annual % change (1.40%)</p>	<p>In 1996 the area was characterised by retirees and elderly with a significantly higher proportion of these age groups than the rest of the Shire.</p> <p>There was also a higher proportion of 0-4 year olds compared to 5-19 year olds, indicating that younger families were settling in the area.</p> <p>Other than the significantly higher proportions of 60-79 year olds, the area had a relatively broad age structure in 1996.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) – 1,030 Occupancy rate (1996) – 49.1%</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the area will have a broad range of age groups in 2016 resulting in a flattening out of the population.</p> <p>The area is expected to add substantially to its number of households, although the average household size is forecast to decline (2.27 to 1.87 people per household) as its mature population 'ages in place.'</p> <p>The significant number of new households will result in nearly all age groups to 2016. The only age groups that are not forecast to increase are the 65-74 age groups that had significant numbers resident in 1996.</p> <p>The area will represent a slightly higher percentage of the overall Shire population.</p>
<p>Area 4 Flinders Shoreham Point Leo</p> <p>Population 1996 – 1,567 2016 – 1,979</p>	<p>Young families with children 0-14 years, and middle aged characterised the area in 1996. There was also a significant proportion of retirees in the 55-69 age groups.</p> <p>The area had no significant broad hectare land stocks, with minimal supplies of vacant lots.</p>	<p>The area is expected to increase its population slightly with a growth in new households, but the average household size is expected to decline relatively significantly due to an increase in empty nester and elderly age groups.</p> <p>The younger age groups are expected to decline or remain stable, with the 50-64 age groups expected</p>

	Area Characteristics 1996	Area Characteristics Forecasts to 2016
Population change - 412 Av, annual % change (1.18%)	A small level of development and conversion of holiday dwellings is assumed. Vacant lot stock (2000) – 142 Occupancy rate (1996) – 44.6%	to have the most significant growth. That is, largely an aging in place.
Area 5 Hastings Population 1996 – 5,840 2016 – 7,497 Population change – 1,657 Av, annual % change (1.26%)	In 1996 the area was characterised by young families and young children, and had significantly higher proportions of this age group than the rest of the Shire. 1 in 5 of residents were under the age of 10 in 1996. The area had low proportions of 50-79 year olds. Although this area had a substantial supply of residential land, development rates had been slow over the preceding decade. Vacant lot stock (2000) - 346 Occupancy rate (1996) – 91.2%	The average household expected to decline over the forecast period with families aging in place. Overall the population will grow with development to the west of the township. There is an expected growth in all age groups, however forecast numbers in the younger age groups are expected to decline as a result of the high numbers of these age groups in 1996. Older age groups are not expected to increase over this time but rather will remain relatively stable.
Area 6 HMAS Cerberus	The base had a population around 1700 persons in 1996. This is expected to remain steady, conditional upon naval policy changes.	
Area 7 Mornington Moorooduc Tuerong Population 1996 – 13,669 2016 – 16,110 Population change – 2,441 Av, annual % change (.83%)	The areas constituting this area have been settled over a long period. The 1996 age structure was relatively flat, representing a mixture of household types – this being typical of well established areas. In comparison to the rest of the Shire this area had proportionally fewer children and slightly more teenagers/young adults and elderly, Vacant lot stock (2000) – 287 Occupancy rate (1996) – 86.7%	It is anticipated that this area will have a declining average household size as the population ‘ages in place’, and new households moving into the area are likely to be mature family households and retirees. Relative stability is expected across all the age groups, with the most significant shift occurring with an increase in the 50-69 age groups. It is expected that there will be a significant demand for redevelopment and an intensification of development in this area.
Area 8 Mornington East Population 1996 – 6,179 2016 – 14,114 Population change – 7,936 Av, annual % change (4.22%)	In 1996 the area had a relatively younger population than the municipal average, with proportionally more children (less than 9 years of age) and more adults in the 25 to 39 year age groups. This area had significantly smaller proportions of population in all age groups over 50. This is consistent with the young family housing market being attracted to this new development area. This area has produced the highest amount of new residential development of any area of the Shire '91-'96, and has one of the highest average household sizes. There remains a large stock of zoned land for development in the latter part of the forecast period. Vacant lot stock (2000) Occupancy rate (1996) – 92.7%	It is anticipated that the area will be characterised by young and mature families, with a high number of teenagers and young adults (up to 24) in 2016. The area is likely to be fully developed in the forecast period. Two significant trends for the area to 2016 – ‘aging in place’ of the existing population in-migration of primarily new family households The area will represent a significantly higher percentage of the overall Shire population in 2016 than in 1996 (5.2% to 9.7%).

	Area Characteristics 1996	Area Characteristics Forecasts to 2016
<p>Area 9 Mt. Eliza</p> <p>Population 1996 – 13,669 2016 – 16,110</p> <p>Population change – 2,441</p> <p>Av, annual % change (.83%)</p> <p>(note check accuracy of stats areas 8 & 9)</p>	<p>In 1996 the area was characterised by mature families with a high number of teenagers There were proportionally fewer post 65 retiree and elderly than the Shire average, and one of the highest average household sizes in the Shire.</p> <p>The area has traditionally attracted third and fourth home buyers and family households due to its quality residential location and its proximity to employment and education facilities.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) – 193 Occupancy rate (1996) – 90.1%</p>	<p>This area is forecast to have a range of age groups, with high numbers of middle aged and ‘empty nesters’.</p> <p>This area is likely to experience a rapid decline in the average household size to 2016 as mature family households ‘age in place’ and children leave home.</p> <p>New development in the area will result in a relatively stable population despite declining household sizes.</p> <p>The most significant gains will be in the retiree age groups. This together with forecast gains in the young adult groups will even out the extraordinarily low proportion of these groups in the area in 1996</p>
<p>Area 10 Mount Martha</p> <p>Population 1996 – 7,479 2016 – 9,289</p> <p>Population change – 1,810</p> <p>Av, annual % change (1.09%)</p>	<p>In 1996 the area was characterised by retirees and young families, and experienced a significant amount of development in recent years both in permanently and non-permanently occupied dwellings.</p> <p>The area had proportionally more children in the 5-9 year age group and their parents in the 35-44 age groups. The area also had proportionally more 60-70 year olds than the Shire’s average.</p> <p>There was a significantly lower proportion of teenagers and young adults than for the Shire.</p> <p>The diverse age structure is likely to be a result of the different eras of development.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) – 567 Occupancy rate (1996) – 67.7%</p>	<p>It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in households, both permanent and non-permanent households.</p> <p>The demographic diversity of the area will increase due to the aging of the existing population. The increase in younger households attracted to the area over the forecast period will not be in numbers to significantly alter the existing (aging) age structure.</p> <p>The largest increases will be in the retiree and middle age groups.</p>
<p>Area 11 Portsea Sorrento Blairgowrie</p> <p>Population 1996 – 4,358 2016 – 5,332</p> <p>Population change - 974</p> <p>Av, annual % change (1.01%)</p>	<p>In 1996 the area was characterised by elderly and retirees, with an older age structure than the rest of the Shire. There were also significantly smaller proportions of people aged 0-29.</p> <p>The age structure is consistent with the relative isolation from major employment centres.</p> <p>Vacant lot stock (2000) – 1,054 Occupancy rate (1996) – 27.6%</p>	<p>The population will increase slowly over the forecast period despite the decrease in average household size. Gains in population are expected to be limited to the 45+ age groups with younger age groups remaining fairly stable.</p> <p>It is expected that there will be migration into the area of older and retiree households.</p> <p>Based on the 1996 occupancy rate it is not anticipated that there will not be significant growth in households. Any increase will be due to the conversion of holiday homes and minimal new development.</p>
<p>Area 12 Red Hill Red Hill Sth Merricks Nth Main Ridge Arthurs Seat</p> <p>Population 1996 – 2,620 2016 – 3,391</p>	<p>In 1996 the area was characterised by mature families and middle aged with a relatively young age structure compared to the rest of the Shire. It had higher proportions of mature family age groups and far lower proportions of retirees and older adults.</p> <p>There was also significantly smaller proportions of people in their 20’s and early 30’s.</p> <p>The relatively low proportion of elderly can perhaps be explained by the areas isolation from services</p>	<p>In 2016 the area is anticipated to be characterised by ‘empty nesters’, middled aged and retirees.</p> <p>The population will increase marginally, however this increase will primarily be in the older adult and retiree age groups. The numbers in the under 39 age groups are expected to rain stable or decline .</p> <p>There is expected to be a relatively large migration from the area in the student and young adult age groups for education and employment reasons.</p>

	Area Characteristics 1996	Area Characteristics Forecasts to 2016
Population change - 770 Av, annual % change (1.30%)	and facilities. Vacant lot stock (2000) Occupancy rate (1996)	
Area 13 Rosebud Rosebud West McCrae Boneo Fingal Cape Schanck Population 1996 – 17,406 2016 – 18,871 Population change – 1,465 Av, annual % change (.40%)	Retirees, middle aged and elderly characterised this area in 1996. The area had a significantly older age structure than the rest of the Shire, with significantly more 60-89 year olds. There were significantly smaller proportions of people age 54 and under. In addition to remaining zoned land available for development this area has a substantial supply of vacant lots. Vacant lot stock (2000) – 1.120 Occupancy rate (1996) – 64.3%	This area is expected to have the lowest average household size in the Shire over the forecast period. This is as a direct result of its substantial population of older couple and older lone person households. Decline in average household size is not expected to result in a decline in overall population however, due to new development and conversion of holiday homes to permanent residences. By 2016 an 'urban' age structure is expected, with a broad range of age groups. Increases are expected in nearly all age groups except the 65-79 age group that had a high population in 1996.
Area 14 Rye Tootgarook St Andrews Bch Population 1996 – 10,709 2016 – 13,272 Population change – 2,563 Av, annual % change (1.08%)	In 1996 the area had a broad age range but with significant proportions of retirees and empty nesters. The area had substantially fewer teenagers in the student age groups that the rest of the Shire. The area has a small number of zoned sites available that are expected to be fully developed early in the forecast period. Vacant lot stock (2000) – 2,519 Occupancy rate (1996) – 42.1%	The area is expected to have a dramatic change in age structure, going from a broad range of ages to a significant growth in the older adult (including frail elderly), retiree and empty nester age groups. All age groups under the age of 39 are expected to decline. This area is expected to have the smallest fall in household size of any area in the Shire over the forecast period. The stability of average household size, the conversion of holiday homes to permanent occupancy and the addition of households will see an increase in the overall population.
Area 15 Somerville Tyabb Baxter Pearcedale Population 1996 – 14,451 2016 – 18,024 Population change – 3,574 Av, annual % change (1.11%)	A young age structure with young adults and young families characterised this area in 1996. Newly formed families with children between 0-9 years consistent with an area that has experienced a significant level of residential development in recent years typifies this area. Development is expected to slow over the forecast period given that much of the remaining land available is zoned for low density development. Vacant lot stock (2000) - 210 Occupancy rate (1996) - 94.6%	The area is expected to have one of the highest average household sizes in the forecast period, although it is expected to fall dramatically. A steady and significant increase in the population is expected to 2016. The population overall is expected to age in place, as a result the 15-29 and 50-64 age groups will significantly increase.

4.3 Priorities from Community Consultation

The following highlights priorities and frequency of use of facilities within demographic areas. Some of these areas had small samples of the population surveyed (*), therefore the data on its own is not conclusive. This information needs to be used in conjunction with other findings and trends. Please note that themes highlighted in bold indicate open space priorities that frequently emerged across all small demographic areas.

TABLE 13 – Open Space priorities by small areas

Area	Top 4 priorities	Top 4 Facilities considered 'Very Important'	Facilities having the highest frequency of use (top 4)
*Area 1 (Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Sommers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood Parks • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Opportunities for young people • Support to community groups that help to maintain reserves/Well maintained playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Jetties and marinas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks
*Area 2 (Bittern, Crib Point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Jetties and marinas • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushland and foreshore reserves • A network of safe off-road trails • Opportunities for young people • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Jetties and marinas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Sporting reserves
*Area 3 (Dromana, Safety Beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenities such as seating, shade, BBQ's etc. • Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings • Opportunities for young people • Bushland and foreshore reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks • Golf courses/Sporting reserves
*Area 4 (Flinders, Shoreham)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Jetties and marinas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to community groups that help to maintain reserves • Bushland and foreshore reserves • High quality outdoor sports fields • Opportunities for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks • Golf courses/Sporting reserves
*Area 5 (Hastings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Jetties and marinas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks for the whole family • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Opportunities for young people • Support to community groups that help to maintain reserves/ Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks • Play spaces
*Area 6 (HMAS Cerberus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • play spaces • Regional parks • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained playgrounds • Parks for the whole family • Opportunities for young people • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks • Beaches and foreshore areas • Jetties and marinas
Area 7 (Mornington,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks for the whole family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas

Moorooduc, Tuerong)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood parks • Conservation reserves • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Well maintained playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Sporting reserves • Jetties and marinas
Area 8 (Mornington East)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play spaces • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Parks for the whole family • Well maintained playgrounds • Bushland and foreshore reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Sporting reserves
Area 9 (Mt. Eliza)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Neighbourhood parks • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Parks for the whole family • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. • Well maintained playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks • Sporting reserves
Area 10 (Mount Martha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. • Support to community groups that help to maintain reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Jetties and marinas • Sporting reserves
*Area 11 (Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation reserves • Beaches and foreshore areas • Sporting reserves • Regional parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of safe off-road trails • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings • Parks for the whole family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood parks
*Area 12 (Red Hill, Red Hill Sth., Merricks Nth., Main Ridge, Arthurs Seat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play spaces • Regional parks • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of safe off-road trails • Well maintained playgrounds • Parks for the whole family • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jetties and marinas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves
Area 13 (Rosebud, Rosebud West, McCrae, Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Jetties and marinas • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Well maintained playgrounds Well maintained • Parks for the whole family • Opportunities for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Sporting reserves • Jetties and marinas
Area 14 (Rye, Tootgarook, St. Andrews Beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Play spaces • Conservation reserves • Neighbourhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Bushland and foreshore reserves • Parks for the whole family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Jetties and marinas • Neighbourhood parks

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well maintained playgrounds 	
Area 15 (Somerville, Tyabb, Baxter, Pearcedale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaches and foreshore areas Conservation reserves Play spaces Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for young people Parks for the whole family Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. Bushland and foreshore reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaches and foreshore areas Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails Sporting reserves Neighbourhood parks

4.4 Priority Action Areas

Key themes emerged over the period of the project, particularly in relation to the management and enhancement of the natural environment. The community is indicating the following to be a priority across the Shire:

- Conservation areas including bushland areas and foreshore areas, particularly in terms of preservation and enhancement of these areas, and managed access, as in the case of foreshore areas
- Trails and the need to ensure these are continuous, well maintained and are integrated with other off road networks for walkers, cyclists, people with disabilities etc.
- Township parks including opportunities for young people and in particular playgrounds

These issues were raised at all forums, and by respondents to the household survey from all of the demographic areas (*note comments re statistical accuracy, section 4.3*).

The following table provides additional information for each demographic area, based on feedback, demographic projections, subdivision projections and current level of provision. This table should be used as a basis for future decision making, and reviewed in light of additional research, changing demographic and participation trends, and additional community consultation processes.

TABLE 14 – Priority actions for small areas

Area	Priority
*Area 1 (Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Sommers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail networks and linkages to sites of significance in the community Neighbourhood parks with opportunities for young people and children Open space infrastructure including picnic facilities, seating, water access
*Area 2 (Bittern, Crib Point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail networks and linkages to sites of significance in the community Jetties and marinas (water access) Sporting reserves Neighbourhood parks with play spaces for a range of age groups
*Area 3 (Dromana, Safety Beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to open space amenities including play spaces for a range of age groups, BBQ's Sport & recreational fitness opportunities (private and public)
*Area 4 (Flinders, Shoreham, Point Leo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporting reserves Sport & recreational fitness opportunities (private and public) Trails Township parks
*Area 5 (Hastings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds (noting access issues in more isolated subdivisions and the need for 'township' playground in these areas) Neighbourhood Parks that cater for a range of age groups including playgrounds, and meeting spaces in parks for young people Foreshore access opportunities including jetties/marinas Off-road trail/path access between isolated subdivisions (e.g. Hastings West) that link to existing network

*Area 6 (HMAS Cerberus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger parks (regional) that have a range of opportunities for families and young people • Local parks • Access to jetties and marinas
Area 7 (Mornington, Moorooduc, Tuerong)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks that cater for a range of age groups • Sporting reserves (potential for additional requirements) • Playgrounds • Access to jetties and marinas • Foreshore and trail linkages
Area 8 (Mornington East)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks that have activity opportunities for a range of age groups and a range of open space amenities • Playgrounds that cater for a broad range of ages • Good linkages (trails and footpaths) between community facilities and other open space sites, and that cater for a range of uses (e.g. pushers, skaters, bikes) • Protection of conservation areas and enhancement of potential conservation areas (low lying areas)
Area 9 (Mt. Eliza)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails and foreshore linkages • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. at appropriate locations • Identification of opportunities to reclaim public open space from private landowners to re-establish the original linear pathways in original township design • Integrated linear and pathway linkages, including addressing issues of pedestrian access along nature strips
Area 10 (Mount Martha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails • Improved amenities in parks such as seating, BBQ's etc. • Access to jetties and marinas • Sporting reserves • Well maintained parklands
*Area 11 (Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of trails that is well integrated with the townships and 'lifestyle' opportunities available in the townships • Township and streetscape amenity • Township parks
*Area 12 (Red Hill, Red Hill St., Merricks Nth., Main Ridge, Arthurs Seat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional parks and smaller township parks that provide for a range of users • Amenities that cater for family activities as a priority, as opposed to activities for younger children only (e.g. playgrounds) • Well integrated network of trails, regional and local connections
Area 13 (Rosebud, Rosebud West, McCrae, Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township parks that cater for a range of age groups, including play areas, opportunities for young people • Trails • Access to jetties and marinas • Sporting reserves
Area 14 (Rye, Tootgarook, St. Andrews Beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township parks with opportunities for young people • Playgrounds • Trails • Jetties and marinas • Sporting Reserves (additional provision)
Area 15 (Somerville, Tyabb, Baxter, Pearcedale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting Reserves (potential for additional requirements) • Township parks • Playgrounds • Trails integrated with pathway network

4.5 Open Space Provision Assessment for Small Areas

Introduction

Each of the 15 population areas has different local factors that affect the provision and use of open spaces. Factors such as demographics, geographic location and topography as well as the provision of and accessibility to crown land and regional open spaces all play a role in the way communities access and prioritise their open space needs.

The following section provides a snapshot of the open space provision for each of the 15 small areas. Each of the 15 areas has been assessed according to provision criteria and outcomes from consultation and research.

Small Area 1: Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Somers

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 3,795
- By 2016, the area is forecasted to have an overall population increase to 4,189 with a significant middle age and retiree age structure.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood Parks • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail networks and linkages to sites of significance in the community • Neighbourhood parks with opportunities for young people and children • Open space infrastructure including picnic facilities, seating, water access

Assessment Summary:

- Diverse range of recreation opportunities are available with numerous foreshores and beaches as well as 'Minor' and 'Township' level sporting reserves within the area.
- High level of amenity and conservation values along the foreshore reserves and within Coolart wetlands
- Significant bushland reserves and wetland areas such as Hanns Creek Reserve and Balbirooroo Wetlands.
- Level of provision of parkland is adequate, however improved park infrastructure eg. seating, play equipment, BBQ's etc will increase opportunities for families and children,
- Significant linear reserve, ie., Merricks – Red Hill Trail catering for both equestrian and walking activities.
- Important equestrian facilities eg. Merricks Station Ground, attracting both locals and visitors to the area.

Small Area 2: Bittern, Crib Point**Demographic Profile:**

- 1996 population = 5,430
- Young and mature families expected to characterise this area in 2016, with a total population of 6,225.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Jetties and marinas • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail networks and linkages to sites of significance in the community • Jetties and marinas (water access) • Sporting reserves • Neighbourhood parks with play spaces for a range of age groups

Assessment Summary:

- Adequate level of provision of sporting and recreation reserves with 1 region and 2 minor reserves.
- Diverse range of landscape qualities, with high amenity along the foreshore and within specific bushland reserves such as Lorna's Triangle
- Improvement of the amenity of the sporting/recreation reserves may assist to increase usage of the facilities.
- Beaches and Foreshores are an important component of the open space network, for recreation and conservation purposes.
- Bittern Coastal Wetlands Boardwalk contributes to the significant environmental values and diversity of the foreshore reserves.
- Significant provision of bushland reserves, with Warringine Park comprising of a woodland reserve and creek reserve.

Small Area 3: Dromana, Safety Beach**Demographic Profile:**

- 1996 population = 6,057
- Broad range of age groups expected in 2016, with the number of households expected to substantially increase, with a population increase of 1,949.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails • Neighbourhood Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to open space amenities including play spaces for a range of age groups, BBQ's • Sport & recreational fitness opportunities (private and public)

Assessment Summary:

- The foreshore areas play a significant role in meeting the 'unstructured' open space needs of the community.
- 1 'region' sporting reserve within the area that provides a number of opportunities for participation in structured activities.
- Majority of foreshore areas have high amenity values. Current improvements (revegetation, planting) along parts of the Safety Beach Foreshore will contribute to maintaining and increasing the conservation values of the foreshore.
- Bushland reserves, eg., Dromana Bushland, contributes to significant conservation values in the area.
- Ensure continuous shared trail linkage between Dromana and Safety Beach Foreshores, providing opportunities for walking and bike riding.

Small Area 4: Flinders, Shoreham, Point Leo

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 1,567
- Expected that by 2016, this area will have largely ‘aged in place’, with an increase in empty nester and elderly age groups. The expected population in 2016 is 1,979

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Jetties and marinas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting reserves • Sport & recreational fitness opportunities (private and public) • Trails • Township parks

Assessment Summary:

- Provision of 1 ‘township’ reserve provides a range of sporting opportunities such as tennis and netball.
- A range of casual recreation opportunities are provided at Pt Leo Public Park, the extensive range of foreshore reserves as well as within the Mornington Peninsula National Park.
- Foreshore areas and beaches play an important role in meeting the open space needs of the community and visitors to the area.
- The Mornington Peninsula National Park provides significant conservation/bushland reserves as well as a high level of landscape amenity

Small Area 5: Hastings**Demographic Profile:**

- 1996 population= 5,840
- By 2016, there is an expected growth in all age groups, with the west of the township expected to grow considerably. Total population expected to increase by 1,657.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Jetties and marinas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds (noting access issues in more isolated subdivisions and the need for ‘township’ playground in these areas) • Neighbourhood Parks that cater for a range of age groups including playgrounds, and meeting spaces in parks for young people • Foreshore access opportunities including jetties/marinas • Off-road trail/path access between isolated subdivisions (e.g. Hastings West) that link to existing network

Assessment Summary:

- A range of recreation opportunities exist in Hastings, including 2 sporting reserves (1 region and 1 township level), providing opportunities for participation in football, cricket and athletics.
- The foreshore is an integral component to the open space network, providing fitness opportunities (limited), social gathering points and a range of casual recreation activities.
- There is a diverse range of landscape qualities throughout the area, with RAMSAR protected sites along the Hastings Foreshore as well as specific bushland/conservation reserves such as Warringine Creek.
- Provision of trails/shared pathway that provide links between newly developing areas within the area to existing open spaces is important in ensuring access to the range of opportunities that currently exist.
- The provision of local and neighbourhood parks that provide a range of opportunities for families and children is limited, however, ensuring safe off road trails that link housing estates to the foreshore reserves, will encourage access to a range of activities for all ages.

Small Area 6: HMAS Cerberus**Demographic Profile:**

- Population expected to remain steady, conditional upon naval policy changes.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Play spaces • Regional parks • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger parks (regional) that have a range of opportunities for families and young people • Local parks • Access to jetties and marinas

Assessment Summary:

- *While Council does not have responsibility for the provision of open spaces within the Naval Base, ensuring access to open space areas in the surrounding townships that provide a range of opportunities for families and young people has been identified as a priority.*

Small Area 7: Mornington, Moorooduc, Tuerong

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 13,669
- Relative stability is expected in all age groups, with the most significant population growth expected to be in the 50-69 age groups. 2016 population expected to be 16,110.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks • Conservation reserves • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks that cater for a range of age groups • Sporting reserves (potential for additional requirements) • Playgrounds • Access to jetties and marinas • Foreshore and trail linkages

Assessment Summary:

- There are 5 sporting reserves, ranging from Region level to Township Level, that provide a range of opportunities for all ages, including soccer, baseball, cricket, football, netball.
- Beaches and Foreshores are popular open space areas providing both recreation and sporting opportunities.
- There is a diverse range of landscape qualities along the Foreshore as well as within sporting and recreation reserves.
- Significant conservation/bushland reserves are provided within the area, eg, Tanti Creek Reserve, Woods Bushland Reserve as well as some parts of the Foreshore.
- The former Devilbend Reservoir may potentially provide the local community with increased opportunities for access to parkland and conservation reserves.

Small Area 8: Mornington East**Demographic Profile:**

- 1996 population = 6,179
- It is expected that by 2016, this area will be characterised by young and mature families with a high number of teenagers and young adults. The total population is expected to reach 14,114 by 2016.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play spaces • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks • Conservation reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks that have activity opportunities for a range of age groups and a range of open space amenities • Playgrounds that cater for a broad range of ages • Good linkages (trails and footpaths) between community facilities and other open space sites, and that cater for a range of uses (e.g. pushers, skaters, bikes) • Protection of conservation areas and enhancement of potential conservation areas (low lying areas)

Assessment Summary:

- There are limited sporting opportunities within this area, with Dallas Brooks Park being the closest Sporting Reserve.
- Civic Reserve is a significant open space area providing a range of casual recreation opportunities with a focus on young people and families as well as club associated activities (Bowls, Croquet) for all age groups.
- As the area continues to develop (ie. residential), so does the provision of open space areas Eg. Serpentine Wetlands. Continued liaison with developers to ensure appropriate contribution of land is a priority, ensuring appropriate types of spaces are obtained for public recreation purposes.
- There is a undersupply of Local and Neighbourhood Parks in some areas of Mornington East, therefore linkages to existing open space areas that provide opportunities for young children and families is crucial.
- There is an opportunity to review existing play spaces within Mornington East with a view to ensuring that they cater to a broad range of age groups as well as identifying new areas that would be suitable for playgrounds.
- There is a shortage of linkages between housing estates and existing open spaces, which contributes to a feeling of isolation and lack of open space.
- Continuing to protect and enhance conservation areas/reserves should be a priority (eg. Balcombe Estuary)
- Foreshore areas and Beaches are important open space areas, therefore linkages from Mornington East into Mornington township and beaches is important.

Small Area 9 : Mt Eliza**Demographic Profile:**

- 1996 population = 13,669
- This area is likely to experience significant gains in the retiree age groups and young adult groups. Anticipated that the population will remain steady due to new development in the area, with an expected population of 16,110 by 2016.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Strategic factors and service specific impacts • Catchment/travel time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Neighbourhood parks • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails and foreshore linkages • Amenities such as seating shade, BBQ's etc. at appropriate locations • Identification of opportunities to reclaim public open space from private landowners to re-establish the original linear pathways in original township design • Integrated linear and pathway linkages, including addressing issues of pedestrian access along nature strips

Assessment Summary:

- Adequate range of sporting opportunities exists within the area with 1 region level sporting reserve and 1 minor level reserve, providing activities such as cricket, football and BMX.
- High landscape amenity exists in many of the Neighbourhood Parks, with Mt Eliza Regional Park providing significant conservation/bushland and casual recreation opportunities.
- There is an opportunity to ensure that existing parks have amenities such as seating and BBQ's to attract a range of user groups ie. families
- Beaches and foreshore areas are a significant component of the open space network, for both recreation and conservation purposes.
- Provision and protection of conservation areas is an important component to the identity of Mt Eliza.
- Shortage of off-road linear pathways providing safe pedestrian routes between key community facilities and open space areas.

Small Area 10: Mt Martha

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 7,479
- Anticipated increase in both permanent and non-permanent households. The largest population increases will be in the retiree and middle age groups, with the area still maintaining its diversity of age groups. Population in 2016 expected to reach 9,289.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Play spaces • Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails • Improved amenities in parks such as seating, BBQ's etc. • Access to jetties and marinas • Sporting reserves • Well maintained parklands

Assessment Summary:

- Beaches and Foreshore play an important role in meeting the open space needs of the community.
- A diversity of recreation and sporting needs are catered for by the range of sporting reserves provided, eg, Ferrero Reserve, Mace Oval, Citation Reserve and Mt Martha Golf Course
- Significant open space areas such as Balcombe Creek, Mt Martha Park and The Briars contribute to a high landscape amenity and valuable conservation areas.
- An opportunity exists to ensure that Mt Martha's existing key open space areas are linked by trail networks.

Small Area 11: Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 4,358
- It is expected that there will be migration into the area of older and retiree households. Anticipated that the population will increase slowly, within gains in population limited to the 45+ age groups. Total population in 2016 is expected to be 5,332.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation reserves • Beaches and foreshore areas • Sporting reserves • Regional parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of trails that is well integrated with the townships and 'lifestyle' opportunities available in the townships • Township and streetscape amenity • Township parks

Assessment Summary:

- Beaches and foreshores play a key role in meeting the communities open space needs. They provide a range of informal casual recreation opportunities and social gathering points for the local community and visitors to the area.
- The Bay and Ocean Beaches are also important open space areas providing different experiences and opportunities.
- A range of recreation and sporting opportunities is provided by the existing region level and Minor level sporting reserves, with activities such as netball, cricket, football, bowls, sea-scouts.
- High level of landscape amenity and conservation values along the Foreshore and within the Point Nepean National Park and Mornington Peninsula National Park.

Small Area 12: Red Hill, Red Hill Sth, Merricks Nth, Main Ridge, Arthurs Seat

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 2,620
- In 2016 the area is anticipated to be characterized by ‘empty nesters’, middle aged and retirees with a total population of 3,391

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play spaces • Regional parks • Beaches and foreshore areas • Neighbourhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional parks and smaller township parks that provide for a range of users • Amenities that cater for family activities as a priority, as opposed to activities for younger children only (e.g. playgrounds) • Well integrated network of trails, regional and local connections

Assessment Summary:

- This area is rich in conservation and environmental values, with high levels of landscape amenity. eg Mornington Peninsula National Park (Greens Bush)
- Merricks/Red Hill Trail provides a significant linear reserve for recreation activities eg walking, horse riding, bicycle riding
- Significant provision of open space owned and managed by other land authorities ie. Parks Victoria, providing a range of informal recreation opportunities such as BBQ facilities, trails etc.
- Limited provision of play spaces for younger children. Opportunity for current provision to be examined.
- A number of facilities for equestrian activities is provided in the area. Eg Main Ridge Equestrian Ground
- A range of sporting opportunities is provided at the region level sporting reserve

Small Area 13 : Rosebud, Rosebud West, McCrae, Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schanck

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 17,406
- By 2016 broad range of age groups is expected in this area, with increases expected in nearly all age groups except the 69-75 age group. Population in 2016 expected to be 18,871.
- The area is expected to have the lowest average household size in the Shire due to the substantial population of older couple and older lone person households

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Conservation reserves • Jetties and marinas • Play spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township parks that cater for a range of age groups, including play areas, opportunities for young people • Trails • Access to jetties and marinas • Sporting reserves

Assessment Summary:

- Foreshore areas and beaches play an important role in meeting the open space needs of the local community
- Opportunity to examine existing facilities/activities, in partnership with the land owner, along the Foreshore areas ensuring a diversity of opportunities exists for a range of age groups. Eg play spaces
- There are a number of undeveloped parcels of land could also be investigated as to their suitability as play spaces.
- Foreshore areas and numerous bushland reserves contribute to a high level of amenity and landscape values.
- The existing Region, Township and minor level reserves, provides a range of sporting opportunities.
- Mornington Peninsula National Park provides a high level of conservation and landscape amenity values.
- Significant provision of open space owned and managed by other land authorities ie. Parks Victoria

Small Area 14: Rye, Tootgarook, St Andrews Beach

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 10,709
- By 2016, this area is expected to undergo a significant change in age structure, going from a broad range of ages to a significant growth in the older adult, retiree and empty nester age groups. The area will see an increase in the overall population to 13,272 people.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Catchment/travel time • Strategic factors and service specific impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches and foreshore areas • Play spaces • Conservation reserves • Neighbourhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township parks with opportunities for young people • Playgrounds • Trails • Jetties and marinas • Sporting Reserves (additional provision)

Assessment Summary:

- Foreshore area, Bay and Ocean Beaches play an important role in the network of open spaces.
- Currently there is a limited provision of play spaces/township parks for young people in the area
- Opportunity may exist to create more play spaces for young people along parts of the Foreshore.
- Significant conservation values within the Mornington Peninsula National Park and the Tootgarook Wetlands.
- A range of sporting opportunities are provided by the Minor, Region and Township levels.

Small Area 15: Somerville, Tyabb, Baxter, Pearcedale

Demographic Profile:

- 1996 population = 14,451
- A steady and significant increase in the population is expected to 2016, with the 15-29 and 50-64 age groups expected to increase significantly. Total population expected to be 18,024.

Significant Local Factors Affecting Open Space Provision	Top Priorities identified from Community Consultation	Priority Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing provision • Strategic factors and service specific impacts • Catchment/travel time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people • Parks for the whole family • Amenities such as shade, BBQ's etc • Bushland and foreshore reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting Reserves (potential for additional requirements) • Township parks • Playgrounds • Trails integrated with pathway network

Assessment Summary:

- A diverse range of sporting and recreational opportunities exists, provided by the Region, Township and Minor level reserves. Activities provided include Netball, Tennis, Football, Cricket, Baseball
- Significant shared trail along Frankston Flinders Rd, providing causal recreation opportunities.
- Opportunity may exist to provide improved linkages between key open spaces and residential areas.
- Opportunities for young people and families may be able to provided within the existing adequate provision of neighbourhood/township Parks eg improved provision of play spaces play spaces and park infrastructure.

5.0 Summary of Findings

The following information is compiled from the community consultation process carried out as part of the study. Consultation included:

- interviews with peak sporting, recreation and tourism associations
- interviews with community representatives
- interviews with Councillors
- staff workshops
- 5 community forums
- schools survey
- sporting club survey
- environmental and conservation group survey
- household telephone survey (300)
- literature review

Findings that have an application to all open space types (e.g. Sporting Reserves, Bushland Areas) have been consolidated into *section 5.11 'Open Space General – Summary of Findings'*. Where findings have a specific application they are listed under the relevant open space type.

Detailed notes from consultations can be found in Appendix 1.

Findings contained in this section form the basis for the 'Key Direction Statements' for each open space type (**refer. Volume 1 of the Open Space Strategy**)

5.1 Open Space General – Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Integrated Management</i>	General community feedback indicated the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better integration between Council departments in relation to the planning and management of open space generally, with particular concern expressed in relation to areas of environmental sensitivity. - a more effective process for insuring that all relevant Officers have input to projects and decision making in relation to issues that may be common across departments - a more streamlined and effective process when having to deal with a problem that sat across a number of departments. - greater assurity that action/appropriate action will be taken, and follow-up made in relation to an issues or inquiry 	OS1 OS4

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<p>Officers from all Council departments expressed a need for improved processes and procedures in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - referral between departments relating to issues, development, planning projects etc. - the need for a formal forum/group that deals with common open space issues and opportunities in an integrated manner - the competing demands for resources that restricts the development of proactive forward planning of strategies and policies, to better direct the way the Shire responds to community requests and expectations 	<p>OS2</p> <p>OS3</p>
<i>Management Plans and Master Plans</i>	<p>Anecdotal feedback from community forums indicates a demand for clear overall planning for open space assets. This is particularly the case in relation to the larger and more significant assets, and those areas that require specific management actions to minimise impacts.</p> <p>Council has been preparing management and master plans for major foreshore areas and aims to continue to develop these for other significant foreshore areas. There is not currently a program for developing management/master plans for parks, or bushland areas (<i>refer also Bushland Areas – Management Plans</i>). It is recognised that this process can be resource intensive, however the development of management/master plans will ensure that planning is based on an identified need, is not ad hoc or reactionary, and communicates a consistent and clear message in relation to specific sites or open space types.</p> <p>As a result of community and commercial expectations and state planning requirements, there is a need to identify and clearly define management zones within foreshore areas. There is benefit in applying the following management zones to all open space types as they have been applied in recent foreshore master plans. These management zones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation • Buffer • Recreation – Open Space • Recreation – Tourism Activity • Water Activity 	<p>OS5</p>
<i>Level and Type of Recreational Access</i>	<p>There are conflicting ‘visions’ and expectations within the community relating to the level and type of access to ‘bushland areas’ associated with or adjoin areas used for other open space or landuse purposes. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the proposed extension of sporting related infrastructure on a recreation reserve that may impact on environmental values on an adjoining area of the reserve - the construction of a trail on a roadside reserve that may have significant environmental values 	<p>OS6</p> <p>OS7</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<p>Recreation users are concerned about a reduced or nil level of access, while conservation interests are concerned about current, ongoing or increased levels of access. All interest ‘groups’ are looking for a framework for decision making in relation to existing and future levels and type of access (e.g. conservation, vs. recreation) and in different environments (e.g. roadside reserves, bushland areas associated with sporting reserves.)</p> <p>The lack of criteria and process for determining access is causing frustration (both within Council and for the community), and is resulting in an inconsistency in response from Council.</p>	
<i>Specific Age Groups</i>	<p>Young people A recent survey of young people in a municipal area in the eastern suburbs identified that 50% prefer to participate in unstructured recreation activities and that skateboarding, bike riding, inline skating, swimming and horse riding were in the top 12 activities most enjoyed by young people. Note that horse riding was the 4th most frequently undertaken activity by girls. Given that this research was undertaken in an urban municipality and that Mornington Peninsula Shire has one of the highest incidence of horse ownership, it would be expected that participation rates would be higher. Skateboarding and inline skating has a far greater number of boys than girls involved.</p> <p>The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) has recently announced a priority initiative to encourage the development of recreation infrastructure and programs that encourage young people to engage in unstructured but active recreation past-times. To this end the ASC has announced a significant budget allocation to support involvement of young people in skate and BMX related activities.</p> <p>All age groups and 97% of total household survey respondents stated that it was important or very important to provide opportunities for young people. Industry research identifies that it is important to locate site specific facilities where young people can access them, on a high profile sites, and in population centres/close to amenities and shops etc.</p> <p>There is a real need to make our open space areas relevant to young people, and encouraging of them to engage in healthy lifestyle pursuits in open space areas. The community is looking for opportunities for young people in parks. There is a challenge for the industry to engage young people in the planning and development of open space amenities.</p> <p>Young Mothers Anecdotal information would indicate that there are opportunities for co-ordinating ‘play’ activities at local playgrounds for young mothers through maternal child health centre programs and/or pre-school programs,</p>	<p>OS8</p> <p>OS9</p> <p>OS10</p> <p>OS11</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
	<p>particularly for mothers in more isolated areas. Information would indicate that these activities would also provide a valuable social network and a ‘social’ opportunities for mothers and children in these areas</p> <p>All age groups The importance of quality parklands that catered for a range of age groups and interests was important across all age groups. There are a number of opportunities to work with agencies and organisations to jointly promote and encourage involvement in ‘whole of life’ recreation activities. For example SRV is currently piloting a fishing program in schools that involves local fishing clubs; there are trends overseas that young people are taking an interest in golf at a younger age, and there would appear to be a level of interest by current non-participants; walking continues to be a popular pastime across all age groups with opportunities to encourage increased participation through community and schools programs; Tennis Victoria and local associations have an interest in developing the sport further in the region, and survey results would indicate that there is a level of interest by current non-participants.</p> <p>All respondents placed a far higher priority on access to facilities that offered opportunities for unstructured/informal participation. Active recreational facilities were given the lowest priority rating by respondents overall (i.e. sporting reserves, golf courses, equestrian facilities).</p> <p>Older Adults Older Adults are a growing section of the community, that are becoming more active and are increasingly choosing to engage in unstructured recreation opportunities. In particular, walking attracts a significant number of older adults, who are looking for a variety of walking opportunities in their local neighbourhood and in a range of different environments. Amenities such as seating , shade, picnic areas, and attractive townscapes were important to survey respondents over 60.</p>	<p>OS12</p> <p>OS13</p> <p>OS14</p> <p>OS15</p>
<i>Inventory of Planning and Management Documents</i>	<p>In many cases staff were not aware of strategic planning and management documents that related to open space generally and to specific open space assets. This can potentially mean that, information pertinent to the management and planning of an asset is overlooked, public relations issues arise, work is duplicated by subsequent staff, and resources are taken up with trying to locate information and documents. There is no central inventory for registering of planning and operational documents, so that policies or strategic planning documents relating to an asset is readily identifiable. The opportunity exists to link a document database to the GIS system.</p>	<p>OS16</p> <p>OS17</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Maintenance of Open Space</i>	<p>Concerns were raised both in-house and by the community in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the deterioration of existing assets because of inadequate maintenance and asset replacement resourcing - the lack of recognition given to the extent and long term impact of new developments at the time of project proposal - the inconsistency in relation to the maintenance of open space infrastructure <p>There is a significant impact on the Shire's capacity to maintain existing infrastructure when additional maintenance requirements of new developments have to be accommodated. There is a need to identify real and on-going costs associated with the maintenance of open space infrastructure at the project feasibility stage. Staff identified that there needed to be a greater appreciation and recognition of the impact of new developments on maintenance budgets. Significant feedback was received in relation to the inconsistency of maintenance and development standards across the Shire, particularly in relation to trails and bushland areas.</p>	OS18
<i>Process for Listing New Assets</i>	<p>There is no formal process for ensuring that staff responsible for the maintenance of assets are informed of new assets coming on-line. This has implications re maintenance contracts and auditing for safety, condition etc. It was recommended that a process be developed to ensure that all staff/departments that had any responsibility for the planning, development and on-going management of assets were involved from the outset of the project.</p>	OS19
<i>Support to Community Groups</i>	<p>Support to community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands was seen as the 3rd most important consideration in relation to open space (after 'opportunities for young people' and bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native bushland'). Females rated this more highly than males, as their equal top priority.</p> <p>Council officers are seen to be "helpful and largely available when needed". There is a significant and increasing expectation that officers will be available to support community groups both at a planning and operational level. Council officers are providing support to a large number of very active and high profile groups that have an astute and articulate membership</p> <p>There are a large number of community organisations, including schools, that have an interest in forming a partnership with Council in relation to the enhancement of environmental values and management of environmental areas.</p> <p>Council's role in managing environmental areas, promoting responsible environmental 'stewardship', serves to enhance the community's understanding of environmental values. In turn this heightens community involvement and expectations that Council will support community endeavours. This pressure is being felt by staff, particularly in relation to the management of sensitive areas such as waterways, bushland areas and foreshores.</p>	OS20

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Dogs in Public Places</i>	<p>There is a need to ensure that a positive and co-operative approach is taken in regards to dog ownership issues and opportunities. Changing demographics and the changing nature of household types (increasing number of single person households) will potentially add to the already increasing rate of dog ownership. There is extensive research demonstrating the positive benefits of animal ownership, particularly for the elderly and single households. In addition, the increased participation in walking as a recreation activity together with smaller urban houseblocks means that there will be an increasing need and benefit to approach the issue of responsible pet ownership in a positive manner.</p> <p>43% of household survey respondents did not believe that there were enough off leash areas for dogs. In addition, anecdotal feedback indicated that some of the existing off leash areas were not well located or well maintained.</p> <p>Management of dogs in public places was raised at all forums with typical comments including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dogs not adequately restrained within private property (i.e. they have access to the front fence of the property that may be low and which intimidates young children) - dogs off leash in 'on lead' areas including footpaths - lack of resources to follow up complaints generally, but particularly in a timely manner - dogs from adjoining properties roaming in bushland areas - the need for an integrated approach to management of animals in public places 	<p>OS21</p> <p>OS22</p> <p>OS23</p>
<i>Community Information and Awareness</i>	<p>Visitor Opportunities</p> <p>Information was being sought by residents, community groups, visitors, tourist information centres on a range of open space opportunities. Consistent with the findings from other park management agencies, visitors are looking for a 'packaging' of information and opportunities relating to their proposed open space experience. In particular information is being sought on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trails - what, where, how to access, level of skill, maps, location of ancillary amenities such as toilets, car access points - bushland areas - what there is, the purpose, environmental information, opportunities i.e. walks bird watching etc. - parks - type and extent of facilities i.e. playgrounds, picnic, activity opportunities, typical time/length of stay relating to opportunities available 	<p>OS24</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how open space activities can be integrated with a total leisure experience – the drive/sight seeing experience en route, coffee shop/eatery access etc. <p>92% of respondents to the household survey said that they thought it very important or important that information on parks and trails and recreation opportunities associated with them be made available. Feedback through community forums indicated a desire for more information, however attendees had varying responses as to the most effective way to achieve distribution of information. Feedback indicated that the type of information provided in tourism publications was not satisfying the needs of the local community. It was recommended that opportunities for providing information on the web and through hard copy forms should be explored.</p>	
	<p>Community Education There is an opportunity for Council to play a lead role in the development or co-ordination of community education programs, particularly in relation to schools and skill and knowledge development programs for community groups and residents. Anecdotal feedback indicates a desire for Council to have a more strategic plan for communicating different types of information and 'key messages' e.g. tree vandalism, through signage, for tourists. <i>(Refer also 'Parks - Conservation/Environment Awareness and Education')</i></p>	OS25
Signage	<p>Interpretive Signage There is an expectation that Council should be playing a more significant role in relation to <i>providing information</i> and <i>increasing community knowledge</i> through signage particularly as it relates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regulations and penalties for inappropriate/illegal activities e.g. removal of vegetation, dogs in public places - community education particularly in relation to land management practices, 'codes of conduct' e.g. trails, importance of different types and 'levels' of vegetation - interpretation of environmental and cultural values - directional as it relates to key sites of interest <p>89% of respondents to the household survey indicated that park signage including interpretive and directional signage was important or very important. Council's existing 'Comprehensive Signage Policy' does not establish Council's position in relation to the provision and type of signage relating to recreational, interpretive, educational etc. signage</p>	OS26 OS27 OS28

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<p>‘Enforcement’</p> <p>There is a very strong sense of ‘indignation’ and frustration in relation to the illegal removal of vegetation and the inability to take action against offenders because of the ‘degree of evidence required’. Action taken by some Councils to profile the issue with signage where ‘vandalism’ had occurred was strongly favoured.</p> <p>A high level of concern was raised in relation to vegetation management/risk management measures undertaken in parks and bushland areas that were perceived to be inappropriate. There was an expression of wanting to understand/have knowledge about what was taking place and why.</p>	OS29
	<p>Significant feedback indicates a perception that there are inadequate resources in relation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - illegal removal of vegetation - monitoring of inappropriate/illegal activities - issuing of penalties for inappropriate activities/behaviours - community education relating to ‘codes of conduct’ e.g. animal management <p>Feedback indicated a strong support for punitive measures in relation to dogs in public places and vegetation removal and a need to insure that enforcement officers had a real knowledge and understanding of the impact of illegal activities relating to removal of vegetation.</p>	OS27
	<p>Opportunities for working with dog obedience clubs and in co-operation with the ‘Responsible Pet Ownership in Schools’ program.</p>	OS23
<i>Liaison with other open space management agencies</i>	<p>Community, Council staff and other management agencies identified benefits of an integrated response to opportunities and common management issues e.g. management of disease, liaison with the community/community groups. Identified that work demands and a lack of formal and ‘endorsed’ protocols may be minimising potential benefits.</p> <p>Note: Increased co-operation and contact has resulted following Bushland Management staff establishing regular 6 monthly meetings with Parks Victoria. Bushland management staff involved, will monitor the outcomes and benefits of the partnership.</p>	OS30 OS32 OS32

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Former Devilbend Reservoir</i>	<p>The decommissioned reservoir at Devilbend is seen as a unique opportunity, particularly in relation to preserving conservation values, as a potential tourism destination ('environment experience, environmentally friendly infrastructure development opportunities, environmental awareness programs, recreation activity opportunities, and general recreation access opportunities). Melbourne Water is looking to work closely with Council in relation to identifying and developing unique and sustainable (environmental, economic, social etc.) opportunities at the site that can be held up in the industry as a 'best practice' model of ecologically sustainable development practices that are in accordance with the National Eco-tourism Accreditation program.</p> <p>Indications within the leisure/tourism industry this site is seen as highly unique and one-off opportunity in relation to leisure and visitor facilities and services in the state.</p>	OS33
<i>'Net Gain'</i>	<p>Issues were raised in relation to the loss of vegetation on the Peninsula, both in terms of private property clearance and public open space (primarily in relation to roadside reserves). The community considers that Council is in a prime position to establish a policy/position and advocate 'to the community' and on behalf of the community on this matter. The principles of Net Gain are articulated in the State Governments policy document '<i>Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework</i>'.)</p>	OS34
<i>Subdivisions</i>	<p>Subdivision contributions Consideration needs to be given re the nature of the land or contribution that is made by developers in consideration of the 5% open space contribution. There is a need to distinguish between land that has a high conservation value (e.g. wetlands, waterway buffer) and as a consequence should be preserved for environmental reasons and land that is set aside for multi-purpose recreational use (and which has no or few limitations re recreational access). In some cases it might therefore be expected that the open space contribution be greater than the 5%.</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to requiring a contribution from small subdivision e.g. of existing blocks, multi-unit subdivision. There is currently no open space contribution required from these subdivisions, yet the tenants are likely to be retirees that are known to have a high usage and demand for a well integrated and high standard of trails and park amenity.</p> <p>There is a shire-wide town planning priority, in both urban and rural environments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancement and protection of bushland areas - enhancement and protection of foreshore areas 	OS35

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trails - enhancement of waterways - playground - township parks (that include opportunities for all age groups, and families) 	
<i>Rationalisation and Consolidation of Open Space</i>	<p>There is a need to examine the ‘value’/significance’ of smaller parcels of open space and the opportunity to rationalise or consolidate land, or consolidate funds to enhance other open space assets that may have a higher value or significance. This would need to be done in line with a set of criteria that considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the extent of other open space opportunities in the area - the conservation significance - type and extent of use - its role in relation to community and linear linkages <p>If these areas are not providing ‘value’ to the local community there is an opportunity to allocate maintenance funds to other assets that have a greater community value.</p>	OS36
<i>Inventory of Open Space Assets</i>	<p>There will be the requirement to <i>categorise</i> (Bushland Areas, Sporting Reserves, parks etc.), and <i>classify</i> (‘Shire’, ‘Region’, ‘Township’ etc.), all open space assets in line with recommendations contained in this report, and to ensure that these categories are correctly recorded in the asset inventory.</p>	OS37 OS38 OS39

5.2 Bushland Areas - Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>Categorisation of Bushland Areas</i></p>	<p>Currently Council does not have a framework by which to categorise Bushland Areas, and then by which to determine standards and levels relating to development, maintenance, resourcing etc. Feedback ('in-house' and community) indicates that as a result, there is confusion and are disparities in relation to actual levels of provision for each bushland type.</p> <p>A process is currently being used to determine priorities relating to the enhancement and protection of flora and fauna values in Bushland Areas (refer 'Rating Criteria and Assessment document). However this process does not provide a framework for categorising like Bushland Areas, and does not establish a future planning and development framework.</p>	<p>BA1</p> <p>BA2</p>
<p>Management Plans</p>	<p>Currently most Management Plans for Bushland Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focus on vegetation and fauna management - have given minimal and in some cases no consideration to forward planning for the management of recreation impacts and user demands, and potential heritage and cultural issues and opportunities - do not consider the infrastructure and management regimes necessary to manage the desired level of access through Bushland Areas of varying sensitivity <p>Staff, particularly as a result of the above, are having to be reactive in relation to issues both on a management and public relations level. The need to review or develop management plans for a number of open space assets was raised during community consultation</p> <p>Consistent and high level of anecdotal feedback through the consultation process regarding the need to manage the level and type of access through 'areas of environmental sensitivity'.</p> <p>Management Plans need to be succinct and pull together key and practical strategies relating to bushland areas. Frustration expressed at the number of documents that have to be referred to in relation to the management of specific sites e.g. 'Fire Management Plan', 'Vegetation Management on Council Owned Land'.</p>	<p>BA3</p> <p>BA4</p> <p>BA5</p> <p>BA6</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Agency Roles and Responsibilities</i>	<p>Community groups that play a role in the management of public open space and that responded to the survey, indicated that they were very clear on their roles and responsibilities. However, in practice it would appear that some groups are not working within their terms of reference, do not understand their roles/responsibilities, or have not been provided with a clear terms of reference.</p> <p>Council Officers were frequently having to deal with issues relating to inappropriate actions by groups, and had little opportunity for redress when groups knowingly exceeded the scope of their role because of the lack of a 'formal understanding' e.g. Management Plan, 'Roles and responsibilities' handbook etc.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to maximise integration (where there is common ground) with other park management agencies re requirements and roles and responsibilities of the various management stakeholders. There is an opportunity to use resources such as the existing NRE Committee's Handbook' as a basis for identifying issues that can be jointly communicated by NRE, Parks Victoria e.g. removal of vegetation, committee requirements, risk management reporting etc.</p>	<p>BA7</p> <p>Also refer BA3 BA4 BA5 BA6</p>
<i>Practices of Private Property owners</i>	<p>Community concerned that land management practices by some property owners is having a negative impact on public open space areas e.g. weed infestation and that more should be done to educate landowners and work with them to insure appropriate land management practices.</p> <p>Significant concern re irresponsible pet ownership practices in relation to dogs not being restrained on private property and allowed to wander into adjoining bushland areas.</p> <p>Refer also comments in Open Space General - Enforcement</p>	<p>BA8</p> <p>BA9</p>
<i>Council Support to Community Groups</i>	<p>It would appear that there is a growing demand on Council Officers to support community groups in the management of bushland and other conservation areas, and that an increasing number of Officers are being required to devote greater time to supporting these groups or monitor the work that they are undertaking.</p> <p>The demand is coming not only from committees/friends groups but also from NRE committees, particularly in terms of advice and monitoring of works. 95% of respondents from the telephone survey stated that it was important to support community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands.</p>	

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	In most cases there is not a clear terms of reference for these groups, regarding their roles and responsibilities, nor a development / management plan that can be 'signed off' and more easily monitored by staff.	BA10
<i>Schools Use and Interest</i>	<p>5 schools identified bushland related projects that they were interested in pursuing, with three stating that they would like to talk with Council re partnering. 14 schools stated that they used trails or bushland areas as part of their curriculum, primarily for environmental education or outdoor education.</p> <p>There are opportunities for integrating (developing and promoting) schools programs more effectively. For example, 'Conservation staff' are planning the development of a School's Information Kit, The Briars Park is aware of opportunities re the expansion of educational programs, and is currently conducting a number of these in conjunction with the Gould League. Feedback from a number of outdoor education related agencies indicates that schools are contracting out a large component of their environmental and outdoor education programs.</p> <p>A number of government sponsored programs are using in-schools programs to influence 'responsible behaviours' in the community (e.g. NRE 'Responsible Pet Ownership Program). It is recognised that this is one of the most effective ways to influence attitudes in the broader community. There are opportunities for an integrated approach to community education re the environment with an expansion of the program currently sponsored by The Briars Park.</p>	BA11 BA12
<i>Networking Opportunities for Community Groups</i>	<p>The 'Friends Network' established by Council 18 months ago is attracting a regular attendance of 30-40 representatives. A Terms of Reference for the group has not been established, but the group functions to provide a support and exchange of ideas and information forum.</p> <p>All of the community groups responding to the survey stated that a support network of 'friends groups' is important and that the network established by the Shire is very positive.</p>	BA13 BA14
<i>Group/Committee skills and knowledge</i>	Council Officers expressed a need for a greater diversity of skills on 'friends' groups. It was also identified that some groups did not have the necessary level of skills and knowledge. 2/3rds of the community groups responding to the survey stated that they needed to attract more members and half stated that they found it difficult to get members with the skills and experience that they needed. Land management agencies (DNRE,	BA15

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	Council etc.) identified that it was difficult to obtain the diversity of skills that were required on these management committees and that selection processes need to be reviewed. It would appear that members of groups have an interest in developing further skills and knowledge in relation to their role in bushland management.	
<i>Volunteer Management</i>	Council's 2 equipment trailers and the equipment contained in the trailers require specific operating procedures to insure that risk management issues are avoided. There are currently no guidelines/operating instructions provided to residents using the trailer or the equipment to insure that both the trailer and equipment are operated appropriately. In addition, the trailers need to be reviewed in terms of there ease of operation, particularly in relation to the rear 'gate'. The 'checking-in/out' of the trailers, restocking supplies, and the delivery/pickup of trailers impacts on staff resources, redirecting expertise from a management/planning emphasis to maintenance tasks.	BA16

5.3 Foreshore Areas - Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Planning and Development</i>	<p>Currently Council does not have a framework by which to categorise Foreshore Areas, and then by which to determine standards and levels relating to development, maintenance, resourcing etc. Feedback ('in-house' and community) indicates that as a result, there is confusion and are disparities in relation to the levels of provision that should be applied and on what basis.</p> <p>Council has undertaken a number of foreshore planning and development projects. The process for determining priorities against other open space priorities and incorporating them into the capital works program was not clear.</p>	<p>FA1</p> <p>FA2</p>
<i>Combined Foreshores Management Committee</i>	<p>Received positive anecdotal feedback from community forums in relation to the improved communication and sharing of information since the formation of the Combined Foreshores Management Committee. The committee was strongly supported as an ongoing committee and networking forum.</p> <p>It would appear that there are opportunities for this forum to consider and/or clarify issues, information, processes that are currently causing points of difference and frustration e.g. removal of outdated signage, provision of consistent signage in relation to dogs, access to new signage (protocols etc.), charging of fees by some committees, and associated impacts on other foreshore areas etc.. There is also a desire that Council use this forum to a greater extent to communicate information and clarify issues.</p>	<p>FA3</p>
<i>Groups and Committees Skill and Knowledge Development</i>	<p>As with Council, DNRE also stated that they were not attracting the level and type of skills necessary to effectively manage 'reserves'. DNRE has reviewed 'Expression of Interest' process and committee composition to try and attract a greater diversity of skills and membership to committees. DNRE stated that they were in the process of developing a training program and information kit for Committees of Management . DNRE also reported that a new membership selection process was having positive results. This involves a clear identification and recognition of the skills and knowledge required by Committees of Management – these include conservation, marketing, business management and planning skills.</p>	<p>FA4</p> <p>(BA15, BA10, OS 20)</p>
<i>Council Support to Community Groups</i>	<p><i>(As per Bushland Areas)</i></p> <p>It would appear that there is a growing demand on Council Officers to support community groups in the management of bushland and other conservation areas, and that an increasing number of Officers are being required to devote greater time to supporting these groups or monitor the work that they are undertaking.</p>	<p>BA10</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<p>The demand is coming not only from committees/friends groups but also from NRE committees, particularly in terms of advice and monitoring of works. 95% of respondents from the telephone survey stated that it was important to support community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands.</p> <p>In most cases there is not a clear terms of reference for these groups, regarding their roles and responsibilities, nor a development / management plan that can be ‘signed off’ and more easily monitored by staff.</p>	
<i>Toilets</i>	<p>Foreshore committee representatives expressed concern about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the state of toilets - frustration that non-Shire managed toilets do not get considered for funding when most foreshore toilets are on Council managed crown land - old toilets that have poor design in relation to personal safety - are poorly located i.e. isolated/low profile sites <p>The Shire has recently undertaken an audit of Shire managed and owned toilets in the Shire. This has not included those toilets managed by DNRE committees.</p>	FA5
<i>Strategic Planning</i>	<p>Strategic Planning – State Government State government strategic planning documents (e.g. The Coastal Strategy) are providing clear planning, development and management frameworks for coastal areas.</p> <p>There are concerns that the generic application of ‘principles’ e.g. ‘coastal dependency’ contained within the Coastal Strategy do not take into account issues and conditions that face the Shire. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Shire is based on ‘a peninsula’ with the result that major townships are located along the coastline (and not the hinterland) - poor public transport services between and within townships, requiring that services and facilities be located in areas of highest population - community social, recreation and sporting focus for many townships has traditionally been developed and consolidated in parkland areas associated with ‘the foreshore’ - foreshore areas provide the only opportunity for provision of recreation amenities within some township precincts that are accessible by the community <p>Strategic Planning – Local Government There is a need to ensure that facility developments in foreshore areas do not compromise natural values.</p>	FA6 FA7

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
	Primary and long-term use of foreshore areas needs to consider not only traditional and historical uses/activities, but also appropriate management strategies for the future to ensure sustainability. In some cases, where environmental significance is not as high, multi-use may be permitted, eg. recreation access through foreshore.	OS4
<i>Encroachment onto public open space</i>	<p>There is evidence of a significant history of encroachment by private property owners onto foreshore areas, particularly in relation to fencing, structures and inappropriate vegetation including weeds. There are not the resources or processes in place for monitoring these encroachments and taking steps to rectify illegal actions. Concern that claims by ‘adverse possession’ (e.g. Mt. Eliza and loss of linear linkages to the township) will continue to take place if processes not developed to prevent encroachments.</p> <p>Feedback would suggest that there is a need to develop very clear requirements in relation to the ‘upgrade’ of boat/dressing sheds on beaches. In the absence of these, there has been a broad interpretation of terminology relating to ‘upgrade’, ‘renovation[’ etc.. There is a need for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Council to develop a clear policy and direction, and enforce policy requirements stringently.</p>	FA8
<i>Jetties and Marinas</i>	<p>Jetties and marinas are seen as an important open space asset and were recorded as the 5th highest open space priority by the community. 70% of females and 64% of males considered jetties and marinas to be a priority for Council, with the 60-69 age group placing it as their 3rd priority after beaches and foreshore areas and conservation reserves, and the 70+ age group as their 4th priority.</p> <p>Jetties and foreshore areas are also being used in developing the ‘Hooked on Fishing’ schools program, and 9 schools indicated that they run outdoor education and environmental programs at jetties/marinas.</p> <p>The following visitation numbers recorded by Parks Victoria for 2000/2001 provide a picture of the extent of use of jetties and piers in the Shire: Flinders jetty - 79,122, Hastings pier - 300,645, Mornington pier – 557,208, Portsea pier - 167,802, Rosebud pier - 43,839, Rye pier - 68,928, Sorrento pier - 521,433,</p>	FA9 FA10

5.4 Parks - Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Planning and Management Framework</i>	Currently Council does not have a framework by which to categorise Parks, and then by which to determine standards and levels relating to development, maintenance, resourcing etc. Feedback ('in-house' and community) indicates that as a result, there is confusion, and are disparities in relation to the levels of provision that should be applied and on what basis.	P1 P2
<i>Regional and Neighbourhood Parks</i>	<p>Neighbourhood Parks were the 4th most frequently used open space areas (after foreshore areas, trails, sporting reserves) with 25% using them once a week or more. Only 5% of respondents stated that they used regional parks on a regular basis. Visitation to regional parks is likely to be on a very occasional basis with 53 % stating that they had not visited a regional park in the last 12 months.</p> <p>In terms of Council priorities neighbourhood parks were identified as respondents 4th highest priority and regional parks 7th highest priority.</p>	P3
<i>The Briars Park</i>	<p>Visitation The Briars Park has experienced a significant change in visitor demographics and the type of visitor use and access requirements, since the removal of the entrance fee. There is a high level of visitation from the local community who, since the removal of entry fees, account for the significant rise in visitor numbers. There are also a greater number of people accessing picnic facilities on a more regular basis. As a result there is a significant increase in the demand for access to amenities, particularly picnic and shelter, and a need to provide additional infrastructure to cater for the this demand.</p> <p>Of note is the 28% increase in visitation in the 12 months following the removal of fees.</p>	P4
	<p>Integration of 'activity' areas/components There is an opportunity to further integrate some of the 'activity nodes', so that the visitor is aware of, and drawn to opportunities. This can be achieved via landscape plantings, pathways, signage, 'visitor itinerary', introduction to activity areas at the visitor information centre and precincts etc. This is particularly relevant in relation to the Homestead that has a 'perceptual barrier' ("not sure what it is that I am going to see"/"out of sight"), and the</p>	P5, P13

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
(continued)	<p>There is a need to ensure that the <i>Business and Marketing Plan</i>, currently being developed, 'drives' the future business of The Briars Park. An extensive and concise range of management plans have been developed to guide 'operations', including the Wildlife Reserve Management Plan, the Interpretation and Education Plan, and the Homestead Conservation Management Plan. A 'targeted' <i>Business and Management Plan</i> will ensure that key business opportunities are realised and prioritised, and staff resources and skills maintained/developed in response to business directions.</p> <p>Given the diverse operations that are managed at the Briars Park, it is important that an appropriate level of both operational and business skills and resources are available to the facility.</p>	P7, P8
	<p>Partnerships and liaison</p> <p>The Briars Park staff play a crucial day-to-day public relations role with tenants at the site. On site staff are often the first point of contact in relation to clarification of issues, and application of Council policy, particularly in relation to access to the Wildlife Reserve and associated programs by groups attending the camp on site.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to investigate partnership ventures with tenants and off-site education and outdoor education service providers, particularly in relation to community events and programs and promotion.</p>	P11
	<p>Marketing and Promotion</p> <p>Anecdotal feedback would indicate that the general community is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not aware of the opportunities at The Briars Park - not clear as to the function of The Briars Park - not aware of promotional material - unsure as to its relevance to them and opportunities in relation to environment education, general recreation etc. <p>There is an opportunity to identify a clear marketing focus for The Briars Park based on the key themes of recreation, culture, and environment. The recreation opportunities at the site are significant, and can be 'packed/promoted' for specific target groups e.g. families, older people. (Note, the facilities/provision needs to cater for these groups e.g. shelter, adequate toilets, access etc.). Presentation of promotional material and roadside signage needs to better communicate to its target market.</p>	P12, P13

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>(continued)</i>	<p>The Briars Park reports a low level of return visitation. This is consistent with household survey feedback for 'regional' type parks and bushland areas generally, and with visitations to similar Parks Victoria parklands. Survey feedback shows that the community places a very high importance on these type of facilities but do not visit frequently (other than residents that access the park as park of their local park network). This has implications re the identification and targeting of visitor markets that can assist to sustain operations and support provision to the local community.</p>	
	<p>Conservation/Environment Awareness and Education</p> <p>There is an opportunity for The Briars Park to play a role in relation to environment/conservation education, awareness and interpretive programs in the Shire and in the region. These opportunities can be enhanced with a networking of other key sites and education program providers in the community (community and public) such as the Warringine Reserve and Tootgarook Wetlands, and in relation to programs being offered by other Council departments.</p>	OS25
<i>Playgrounds</i>	<p>In 2000 Council completed a playground strategy that addressed provision needs, risk management actions and consolidation opportunities. Respondents considered that play spaces, including playgrounds and skateparks, should be Council's 3rd highest open space priority after foreshore areas and conservation areas.</p> <p>Playgrounds were considered a very important amenity, particularly in townships where recreation opportunities for children and parents are limited. 18% of respondents to the household survey stated that they used playgrounds on a weekly or greater basis, and 92% (98% for females) stated that it was important to have well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups.</p> <p>Research undertaken by resident Belinda Lewis (<i>refer Appendix 1</i>) as part of an academic research project identifies the following key issues in relation to use of playgrounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mothers feel safe when there are other users present, therefore playgrounds need to be comprehensive enough to attract numbers of users - ancillary facilities must be part of the design and planning considerations e.g. shade (constructed, artificial), water, seating (with backs to cater for nursing mothers) - playgrounds ideally should be fenced to enable mothers to relax in the playground environment - access needs to be safe and comfortable e.g. trails/footpaths, restraining of dogs on private properties and on leash in public areas - organised programs at playgrounds were an effective way of introducing mothers to facilities i.e. through playgroups, maternal child health programs etc. 	<p>P14</p> <p>P15</p>

5.5 Roadside Reserves – Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>Equestrian use of Roadside Reserves</i></p> <p>- Commercial operators</p>	<p>69% of respondents from the household survey stated that ‘commercial businesses that use public open space regularly should pay a fee towards maintenance’ of the area.</p> <p>Parks Victoria has a licence fee/permit requirement of equestrian tour operators that access foreshore/beach areas. Parks Victoria has reduced the number of beach areas that can be accessed by horses. This has been achieved as a result of decreasing demand i.e. training facilities (racing) no longer located in the area.</p> <p>Feedback identified significant agitation in regards to the impact of intensive equestrian activities on roadside reserves, particularly in areas where commercial equestrian facilities operate e.g. Greens Bush. Feedback was in favour of some form of regulatory process to better manage use and impacts e.g. permit/user fee/code of conduct. Respondents recognised that these operations provide tourism benefits.</p> <p>Currently no partnership agreement (e.g. code of conduct/use, licence, permit etc.) in place between Council and commercial operators using roadside reserves.</p>	<p>RS1</p> <p>RS2</p>
<p><i>Equestrian use of Roadside Reserves</i></p> <p>- general access</p>	<p>Horse riders concerned that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any loss of safe off-road access for recreational and ‘commuter’ riders - loss of opportunity for equestrian access as areas become built up - loss of opportunities for a recreational activity that is an alternative to structure sporting activities and that attracts a large number of girls <p>Concern by conservation and environmental interests that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access along some roadside reserves is inappropriate due to the sensitive and rare nature of the vegetation - that intensive and unmanaged use by horses, particularly in areas of heavy commercial use, continues to severely degrade the environment - that access by horses along roadsides is not compatible with environment values 	<p>T 12</p> <p>RS4</p>

5.6 Sporting Reserves - Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Categorisation of Sporting Reserves</i>	<p>There is currently no preferred categorisation system for sporting reserves to provide community groups or Council with direction in relation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the setting of fees and charges that are consistent with relevant categories of reserves • the type and level of development considered appropriate for specific categories of reserves, and • the type and level of contribution expected from contributing parties 	SR1
<p><i>Management at Reserves</i></p> <p>- <i>Tenancy Agreements</i></p> <p>- <i>Change over of seasons</i></p> <p>- <i>Roles and Responsibilities of Committees/ Clubs</i></p>	<p>A number of clubs are unsure as to their tenancy arrangements and as a result feel they have an insecure tenancy arrangement. This is generally the case with tennis clubs. A number of clubs associated with other sports are expressing similar concern. There is a lack of formal documentation regarding tenancy arrangements with clubs, resulting in difficulties associated with inconsistent and uninformed decision making for Officers, particularly at times of staff changeover.</p> <p>The Ministers 'Determination of Seasons' for changeover between summer and winter sport is not being adhered to, which is causing conflicts at some grounds, particularly those used for cricket finals, and/or where winter tenants want to start pre season training early.</p> <p>Authority and role of various stakeholders is not well understood. This is noted particularly in relation to the lack of familiarity and application of 'requirements' set out in the LMSG Handbook, and in relation to the authority of various stakeholders and the communication process in the case of the closing of ground due to poor condition of playing surface etc.</p> <p>While 87% of respondents claimed that they were clear on the scope of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the management of reserves, feedback indicates that there is a mixed understanding on roles and responsibilities on a task by task basis. There is also some confusion as to the role of various agencies such as NRE, Council, Parks Victoria etc.</p>	<p>SR2 SR3</p> <p>SR5</p> <p>SR3 SR13</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>Management at Reserves</i></p> <p>- <i>Local Management Support Groups (LMSG's)</i></p>	<p>Concern about the effectiveness and equity of decision making in relation to Local Management Support Groups was raised, particularly in relation to allied interests on the committee and the inconsistency in the application of fees and charges, and access to facilities.</p>	<p>SR4</p>
<p><i>Fees and Charges</i></p>	<p>Feedback indicates that fees are not consistently applied by committees to clubs under their management, and that there is inconsistency between committees at different grounds in the application of fees despite similar overheads.</p> <p>Fees charged (by Council) to clubs within same sporting codes (e.g. tennis, bowling) vary significantly. There is no apparent basis for this disparity.</p>	<p>SR6</p>
<p><i>Viability of Sporting Clubs</i></p>	<p>The Mornington Peninsula and Nepean Football League (MPNFL) expressed concerns about future viability of clubs because of clubs' current financial priorities. Across the industry experience with football clubs shows increasing difficulties maintaining viability. Anecdotal feedback indicates that fees associated with player payments are the greatest impost on club viability.</p> <p>Tennis Association expressed concerns over the capacity of clubs to maintain significant infrastructure longterm. To become more viable was in the top 5 priorities for clubs.</p>	<p>SR11 SR13</p>
<p><i>Commercial Activities In Council Owned/Managed Facilities</i></p>	<p>Some clubs are introducing commercial/restrictive access activities into the facility that they tenant. The agreement under which they tenant the facility does not allow 'subletting/restrictive access activities. There is currently no policy that addresses the issue of commercial operations (e.g. pokie machines, sports clubs, gymnasiums) re fees and charges in what are community facilities.</p>	<p>SR2 SR6</p>
<p><i>Sporting Reserve Masterplans</i></p>	<p>Council is supporting the preparation of masterplans for a number of sporting reserves. These will provide a good framework for future planning and development of specific reserves. However, it is not clear how these masterplans will be integrated with sport development directions of the relevant peak associations and Council for the sport across the Shire.</p>	<p>SR7</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>School Use of Sporting Reserves</i></p>	<p>24 of the Xx schools returning surveys indicated that they use Council sporting reserves – 6 use reserves on a weekly or greater basis, 4 about once a month, the remainder using facilities between 1-6 times a year.</p> <p>A number of schools appear to have significant access to a number of Council facilities. There does not appear to be any formal documentation of the partnership which makes management for Council Officers difficult. Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Boneo Primary School which has significant access to the Boneo Community Hall - Westernport Secondary College that adjoins the athletics facility and accesses the facility <p>There is no policy or agreement in relation to use of facilities by schools e.g. responsibilities, general community access, fees and charges, maintenance, wear and tear, joint community development opportunities etc.</p>	<p>SR9</p>
<p><i>Sports Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Participation Membership & Sporting Culture</i> 	<p>While 79% of all clubs/associations responding to the survey stated that they needed to attract more members, both soccer clubs and all tennis clubs gave a high priority to increasing membership. In addition, the peak sporting associations contacted as part of this study were encouraging of working with Council and other stakeholders to better promote their sport. Increasing membership was in the top 5 priorities for clubs. 48% of clubs said that they needed to cater better for young people, while 34% said that women's sport was a low priority.</p> <p>Different sporting codes are experiencing trends in relation to growth and decline of their sport, and in particular trends relating to participation by juniors and women. E.g.</p> <p><i>Soccer</i> Growth of soccer is significant across the state and this is typical in the Shire. In particular, there has been an extraordinary growth of junior soccer in the Shire. In addition, Mornington Soccer Club is developing girls soccer but is needing to consider facility needs.</p> <p><i>Cricket</i> The MPCA reports that participation is remaining constant but the development of women's cricket will be an issue that will need to be addressed in the region.</p>	<p>SR13</p> <p>SR10</p> <p>SR12</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>Capital Works</i></p> <p>- Non Council Owned Land</p>	<p>Council has recently received requests from schools re joint development of facilities on non-Council owned land. Council does not currently have a policy regarding provision of funds for development on land it does not own or manage.</p>	<p>SR15</p>
<p><i>Capital Works</i></p> <p>- Sporting Reserves</p>	<p>The development/upgrade of grounds and clubroom facilities was in the top 5 priorities for clubs. A number of clubs across a number of codes have indicated plans for expansion or upgrade in the near future and many anticipate that Council be a contributing partner. In particular the following may emerge as planning requests or priorities:</p> <p>Tennis 7 tennis clubs forwarded submissions expressing plans for the upgrade/expansion, primarily of courts or clubrooms, over the next 1-6 years (est. value \$350,000). Any proposal at this stage to upgrade facilities would be inappropriate given the lack of information re participation trends, potential for consolidation, access issues, and strategic directions envisaged by Tennis Victoria.</p> <p>Soccer Morningson Soccer Club are looking for opportunities to better accommodate both junior and women's soccer at the Dallas Brooks Reserve site and is prepared to make significant contributions towards developments both financial and in-kind. The growth in soccer in Victoria is primarily due to the significant increase in participation by women and juniors. Anecdotal information suggests that clubs cannot cater for the present demand and young players are being turned away. The Victorian Soccer Federation is wanting to talk with Council re opportunities within the Shire for possible expansion of soccer activities.</p> <p>Football 9 submissions were received from football clubs relating primarily to club/social room extension and ground lighting. Written comments from football clubs related to the inequity in the level of facility provision, improved communication between all stakeholders (Council, committee, clubs etc.) and information re funding opportunities.</p>	<p>SR19</p> <p>SR10</p> <p>SR14</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<p><i>Capital Works</i></p> <p>- Sporting Reserves (cont.)</p>	<p>Junior Football Junior league recognises the support shown by Council, but continues to highlight the inequity in amenity provision for juniors. In particular highlights lack of shelter/change facilities at 2nd Crib Point Oval and Somerville. A second oval at Tootgarook reserve is needed to accommodate teams from Rye, Sorrento and Tootgarook (oval 1). Development of second oval recommended in Draft Masterplan for the Reserve. Dangerous driveway conditions at Ferraro Reserve (Mt. Martha) causing car accidents.</p>	<p>SR11 SR20</p>
	<p>Cricket The MPCA is pleased with the overall program of grounds improvement and is generally pleased with the level of provision. The following are infrastructure development issues that will need to be addressed in the near future:</p> <p>Grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - condition of the Balnarring Reserve ground. Association considered declaring the ground unsafe in 2000/01 because of condition of the surface. Has concerns that the ground receives little attention because only one sport played on the ground. - Ferraro Reserve (Mt. Martha) - Lack of a boundary causes inconsistency in play - Hooper Oval – watering system needed. Association wanting to make this the municipal HQ particularly for the development of women’s sport <p>Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexandra Reserve (Mornington) – waiting for rebuilding of clubrooms - Moorooduc – pavilion small, needs upgrading - Rosebud – issues with LMSG, particularly in relation to the setting of fees and charges. The cricket club is missing out because of the poor relationship with the LMSG 	<p>SR16 SR17</p>
<p><i>Main Ridge Equestrian Centre</i></p>	<p>Considerable concern from environmental/conservation interests re</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the location of the equestrian centre on the boundary of ‘Greens Bush’ - the lack of restrictions on equestrian activities through the forest area and sensitive environments. (e.g. streams etc.) <p>Concern by the Equestrian Club re the delay in implementing the Management Plan for the reserve.</p>	<p>SR8</p>

5.7 Trails – Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Linear linkages</i>	<p>Two types of linear open space linkages emerged as priority town planning issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Linkages - those linkages that played a key role in providing safe off road access to community facilities within townships, and those linkages that connected townships with their outlying areas 2. Regional Linkages - those linkages that provided access to sites of interest and significance throughout the Mornington Peninsular region <p>The lack of footpaths was raised as an important issue, particularly for communities that had no or very little footpath access (rural and urban), and those that had reduced footpath access due to changed town planning requirements on developers. Issues relating to footpaths were significant for developing areas where there is a high number of young families with specific footpath needs (e.g. pushers, safe off-road passage for young children etc.)</p> <p>It was seen as important to ensure that the trail/linear parkland network integrated well with the footpath network and provided for a variety of users.</p>	<p>T2</p> <p>T3</p>
<i>Trail Infrastructure</i>	<p>Consideration needs to be given to sealing trails that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are a significant part of the township pedestrian infrastructure - are in place of formed footpaths (particularly relevant in subdivisions that are removed from the township), or are used to access community facilities on the township fringe. <p>Standards for trail development and management are not necessarily reflecting the type and extent of use and the role they play in connecting community infrastructure. Safe off-road access is a high priority in both rural and urban communities.</p> <p>There also is a perception that there is an inconsistency in the level of maintenance for trails across the Shire. Reference was made to depressions in trails that trapped water, weed incursion, irregular surfaces, however most issues were raised in relation to erosion that was occurring as a result of lack of preventative works and lack of remedial action along highly used trails.</p> <p>Feedback asked that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the width and alignment (blind corners) of trails take into account existing uses, future demographic 	<p>T4</p> <p>T5</p> <p>T6</p>

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - changes, and a full range of healthy lifestyle activities that are increasingly being pursued - a review of trail infrastructure provision be made, to ensure that the type of infrastructure used is consistent (where application is appropriate) throughout the Shire - the placement of trail infrastructure be appropriate to uses and sensitive to user needs <p>better use be made of signage to warn of potential hazards</p>	
<i>Maintenance of Trails</i>	<p>There is a perception that there is an inconsistency in the level of maintenance for trails across the Shire.</p> <p>Reference was made to depressions in trails that trapped water, weed incursion, irregular surfaces, however, most issues were raised in relation to erosion that was occurring as a result of lack of preventative works and lack of remedial action along highly used trails.</p>	T5
<i>Information</i>	<p>There is a significant demand for information on trails and walking opportunities within the Shire, both from residents and visitors. The type of information being sought includes destinations, how to access the trail, amenities, suitability of surface for various users etc.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to ‘grow’ a database of information on trails using a proforma that can be accessed by residents through Council’s website. This can complement information provided by agencies and Council in relation to walks that attract a wider catchment (i.e. are of regional or state note).</p> <p>Information was also requested in relation to the ‘permitted’ users on various trails. Some users were feeling unwelcome on some trails (e.g. equestrian users) and are looking for opportunities to encourage a more congenial atmosphere, others were concerned about the lack of consideration by some users (e.g. fast travelling cyclists)</p>	T8 T9
<i>Local ‘walks’</i>	<p>Given the demand for trail information, the extent of involvement by the community in walking and trail activities, and the mature nature of the population, there is justification for establishing local ‘walk and talk’ routes in conjunction with interested community groups or individuals. These programs have worked well in a number of communities, and are particularly relevant in communities that do not have a broad range of social networking opportunities due to their location etc. These trails would be encouraged where there is a network of people interested in documenting routes and formalising linkages. Routes can include footpaths, trails, foreshore areas, and can incorporate sites of cultural, flora, fauna and landscape significance.</p>	T10

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Partnerships</i>	<p>Trails are used by a variety of community organisations (schools, clubs) as well as by casual recreation users. There is an opportunity to form some strategic partnerships re the management of trails, particularly in relation to vegetation plantings, and monitoring of condition/use. Relevant schools (through their environmental and outdoor education programs), walking groups, service organisations and equestrian clubs should be approached to investigate partnership initiatives, particularly given the current level of use of these facilities by the groups.</p> <p>There are opportunities for educational programs developed at The Briars Park to translate into specific projects at sites relevant to local schools.</p>	<p>T11</p> <p>T12</p>

5.8 Undeveloped Allotments – Summary of Findings

Subject	Findings	Strategy Plan Ref.
<i>Disposal of Undeveloped land</i>	<p>Council owns a number of undeveloped parcels of land, many of which are the size of household blocks and do not have the capacity to provide for local open space needs. In some cases these blocks are in areas that do not have adequate 'park' provision (e.g. Rye, Rosebud, Tootgarook), but the parcels of land themselves are not appropriate for development as a park with associated amenities. In some of the areas in which these parcels exist there is not the opportunity to acquire additional parkland because of the level of residential development.</p> <p>Many of these parcels have no significant level of use by the local community, but rather provide an improved amenity for adjoining property owners, with little benefit to the local community. Some of these allotments provide linkages and casual meeting points for residents, and this must be considered when evaluating use. There is an opportunity to review these parcels of land, against a set of criteria, to determine whether Council should retain them or consolidate funds for enhancement of other local open space assets, and apply maintenance allocation to other assets.</p>	U1
<i>Land used for provision of Public Utilities</i>	Opportunity to integrate existing land used for the provision of public utilities into the open space network, particularly as it relates to trails.	U2

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Notes from Consultation

1. Community Forums

Conservation and Environment Groups Forum

6.00 pm Tuesday 3rd July 2001 – Rosebud Shire Office (22 present)

Issues

- Parks Vic Management plan objectives for Greens Bush
 - close roads through Greens Bush
 - definition of appropriate users
- Road and road reserves – no horse riding on significant vegetation areas
- Users/horses need to stick to pathways
- Management issues – dogs and horses (enforcement)
- Regulations/licensing for commercial equestrian sector (fees/conditions)
- Define trails with fencing to restrict horses to trails
- Problem – cyclists and walkers – speed/warning required
- Mountain bikes produce ruts in slopes
- Motor bikes off road causing damage – enforcement required
- Education of equestrian community
- Signage – illegal activities (motor bikes banned/dogs off leash banned)/significant vegetation areas (permitted uses)
- Surfacing – natural area – dirt surface if well managed
- Public significant vegetation – in road reserves (streetscapes/sense of place)/wildlife corridors
- Education/Interpretation – use existing facilities such as libraries, mobile customer service van, Shire offices, tourism centres, brochures, signage, Peninsula Wide etc. There is no central location in the Shire for one education centre.
- Individual riders are not the big problem – commercial operators are
- Limit on numbers of horses allowed
- Trails need to be defined so that horses do not verge off trails
- Horses are OK in appropriate areas that are managed correctly
- Dogs = have social and environmental implications
- Need for increased education for horse riders regarding the damage to the environment
- Lack of signage is a big issue
- Designated trails for specific uses required
- Surfacing of shared trails – what should they be?
- Need to ensure that the amenity of the Peninsula is maintained
- 4%-6% of remnant vegetation left on the Peninsula – future of roadside reserves needs to be protected
- Vegetation Values
 - Streetscape value
 - Sense of place
 - Conservation value
 - Character of roadside
- Increase in Council staff resources required to deal with enforcement issues

Priorities/ 'Hotspots'

1. Green Bush (Limestone Rd, Wallamerryong Rd, Purves Rd, Hyslops Rd, Baldrys Rd)
2. Greens Bush is also the site of the headwater for two creek catchments (Chinamens Creek and Balcombe Estuary)
3. Equestrian Trail from Red Hill South to Merricks (weed invasion, horses riding off the main track, orchids present, walkers feel intimidated by horses, dogs should be on lead at all times)

4. Greens Rd to Perves Rd (Greens Bush)
5. Mornington Train Route – native orchids
6. Nunns Walk Mornington
7. Bay Trail – sustainability (Cameron’s Bight)
8. Riding on beaches (Gunnamatta and St Andrews – Parks Vic control) and Safety Beach

Equestrian Groups Forum –

8.00 pm Tuesday 3rd July 2001 – Rosebud Shire Office (33 present)

Issues

- Need a circuit/through rides
- Mountain bikes are dangerous – no noise warning (not a shared opinion by all in attendance)
- Brochure required on responsible horse riding and horse management, safety equipment, code of conduct
- Need to be realistic about costs of exclusive pathways. Shared pathways can work
- Would like to be inclusive in problem solving
- Access for floats
- The equine industry has the potential to be a huge tourism feature of the Shire
- Road safety – increase in awareness of horses (needs to be taken into consideration as the strategy develops)
- Encourage land owners to plant
- Nursery that subsidises purchase of native trees/plants required
- Used to be an equestrian advisory committee – that worked well
- Adopt a pathway/highway idea
- Maintenance of trails essential for horses to avoid injury
- Clear defined tracks required
- Natural vegetation buffers work well
- Perception in the community that horse riders are pests – this needs to change through education/maybe similar campaign to “Look Bike”
- Information to pony clubs, all groups etc
- Land owners trying to block access along nature strips – causing damage to horses
- Shire needs to play a greater role in enforcement and designating trails
- Star pickets on nature strips are dangerous
- Commercial operators are responsible and are involved in day to day management
- Truemans Rd & Sandy Pt Road - \$12M equestrian facility being constructed by the Freemans (horse racing)
- Charging commercial operators would make horse riding elitist
- It shouldn’t just be horse riders that have to pay – it should be all users
- Trail bikes are causing significant damage
- Many (most) riders are young children and members of pony clubs and saddle clubs – safety is taught and consideration for the environment. More can be done
- Greens Bush
 - Was seen as a ‘4WD bash track’
 - Equestrian community worked towards getting rid of conflict
 - It is too dangerous to go off the tracks in Greens Bush
 - Horses do not verge off tracks – too dense vegetation

Discussion Points

What support/assistance can equestrian people offer to create a good trail network?

- What they do already ie. look after the local environment/people’s needs
- Confine riding to set trails for horses

- Treat other trail users with support and willingness to share environment
- Maintain the condition of heavily used/vulnerable areas by appropriate upgrading as required (clearing of debris)
- Working Bees
- Have a long history of working collaboratively and contributing – just give us a call

Should there be controls, fees etc for commercial equestrian operators?

- They are not the cause of problems – dogs not on leads cause more problems
- No – it would increase fees for riders, decrease support for tourism and decrease numbers of riders
- People and dogs off leashes cause more problems and very few people keep their dogs on leashes in the area
- In the end the bush is only beautiful if we enjoy it – close it off and only a handful of people will see it
- No! x 16
- Important to encourage commercial sector for success of equestrian
- What about the racing industry?
- Commercial operators play an important tourism role – promote business development
- Fees are already paid by one commercial operator to Parks Victoria

Partnership opportunities and alliances for equestrian groups with others?

- Walking clubs
- Trail bikes
- All user groups to establish a co-operative approach
- Local businesses eg. Wineries
- Planting in partnership with conservation groups and Council
- Working with Council and landowners who have their roadside verges affected to come up with workable solutions.

What are the factors for access to trails? What works well and what are the priorities?

- Vehicle Access
- Clear trails
- Well maintained trails
- Access for riders who don't have floats
- Road safety awareness and education – motorists
- Trails need basic maintenance to ensure year round weather access. Network of trails around the municipality would also allow access for riders from virtually any point. Basic maintenance would include single file slashing of overhead branches cleared, clear stopping places eg. Baldry's Creek and safe sign posted crossings over roads.
- Easy access ie. float parking, interlinking trails (gives more riding options), safe trails, fencing especially where you need to cross a busy road allowing horses to stand behind fence prior to crossing.
- Open access view for road crossing when necessary
- Signage to warn motorists that horses cross here
- Slower speed signs
- Bridges fenced where horses must travel along the roadside
- Safe access
- Round route rides
- No deadends

How should we manage potential damage to the environment caused by horses on roadsides and trails?

- What damage?
- Keep horses on the trail
- Clear defined trails required
- By having a designated area for horses to prevent straying
- If the trail is surfaced correctly the potential damage should be minimal
- What type of damage do you perceive to be the problem?
- By having a larger diversity of trails the pressure on particular trails could be lessened
- Horse riders would welcome revegetation and fostering of a healthily vegetated indigenous buffer between themselves and the track they ride on and the road for safety reasons
- Damage can be managed by similar strategies described for the Equestrian Ground (Kowalski Report) ie. erosion management by mulching, weed management, fencing off of existing phytophthora hot spots, light slashing of trail, revegetation etc.
- We are very happy and in the past contributed to responsible environment management and like to call ourselves “Greenies on horseback”. We love the bush. Why do you think we like riding in it?
- Type of fencing used needs to be safe. Eg pine rails
- Trails on S.E.C land – well maintained, cleared and low impact

Where are the sites of major concern? Why?

- Would be a good idea to have interconnecting trails throughout the Shire – linking the Pony Club sites and Equestrian Grounds
- Inability to ride from one town to another without the danger of traffic
- Areas of erosion, sensitivity or water flow
- Compaction of soil due to heavy traffic of horses (spreading the load on the number of trails available to ride on could help)
- Difficult to say as many ‘undesigned trail’ are used as well as known trails.
- Sites need mulching
- Coolart Rd between Bittern-Dromana Rd and Myers Rd – Hastings Pony Club located here and children rode to and from along Coolart Road
- There are a lot of trails which were used in the past and have been included in prior equestrian strategy reports – which do not seem to exist on the “blue existing trails map”
- Mornington Peninsula Horse Riding Trails Report?
- Quite a few trails in the past went along right of way easements between farms which have mistakenly been swallowed up/ignored with recent subdivisions.

General Community Forums (3)

Forum 1 – Wednesday 25th July 2001 Council Offices, Mornington (25 present)

Overview of Issues:

- Regional Parks
 - Management of Mt. Eliza park needs to be overviewed – more supervision needed; confusion re the different departments involved in the management of the various areas in the park; little or no natural resource management; management plan needs to be implemented; may need a similar building/environmental education center as Coolart
 - Moorooduc reserve weeds seeding in and around reserve affecting quality of the naïve vegetation; when will the management plan be implemented?
- Foreshore areas and Beaches

- More funds and resources need to be dedicated to these areas to improve maintenance and revegetation regimes; improve footpaths so the easier to maintain; improve/clear paths Mornington to Mt. Martha, paths to Mt. Eliza beaches; trails need to be better maintained to prevent weed invasion; Council needs to actively encourage formation of 'friends groups'; 'recover trails along foreshores that have been incorporated into private property – trail from Frankston south; Dog free zones in sensitive areas, more off leash areas in less sensitive areas; take harder stand with residents who remove vegetation without approval (e.g. property owners along bay front); many reserves too barren – need indigenous plantings; infrastructure needed on the foreshore to support tourism ventures.
- Playgrounds and Skateparks
 - Locate skateparks better, consider noise factor; Mornington needs skatepark closer to township area – current location too far for young people from Mornington; playground equipment too old and outdated (e.g. Johns Rd res., Berry reserve), facilities (tracks and jump) needed for BMX riders – investigate opportunities at Dunns Rd – area large enough to develop both off leash areas for dogs and BMX etc. facilities for young people, informal areas designed by the kids needed, Hickenbotham Winery has put on bike show and may be interested in partnership, BMX track currently at Watsons Road Mt. Martha.
- Local Parks
 - Local parks very important to local people – all new developments need to include good size areas for playgrounds etc. and areas of bushland; Mt. Eliza looking tired; Fairbairn Pk, Norfolk Reserve, Mitchell Reserve need attention/friends group; Mornington Park – needs masterplan, why old trees being cut down?; preserve natural heritage (e.g. mature trees) as well as native trees; cater better for families with wider variety of activity opportunities (e.g. playgrounds for all ages, BMX, skate facilities); keep Mornington depot to grow indigenous plants; Civic Reserve needs good quality off leash areas for dogs; Dunns Rd. res. Needs to be better managed and maintained; needs to be a facility focus on young teens; ensure skate facilities are compatible with existing activities (e.g. conflict with bowling club amenity)
- Conservation/recreation
 - Issues where native vegetation clearance is involved; preserve mature trees and tree lines (an attraction for the peninsula); protect roadside reserves; peninsula should have 'environmental guides' to run tours (self-funded)
- Funding of Open Space projects and developments
 - Opportunities for funding – Melbourne Water, garden shops/supplies, local business; consider an environment levy as part of taxes; developers need to contribute sizeable amount to open space; an equestrian park – financial return for the Peninsula (e.g. Wandin, Werribee)
- Information, Signage, promotion
 - More information in shopping centers; involve local people more – sense of belonging; remove and replace outdated signs from hidden foreshore areas replace with prominent signs re vegetation removal, rubbish dumping etc.
- Sporting reserves and outdoor courts
 - Improvement management and facilities at Dallas Brookes Reserve. (e.g. lease, playing surface, buildings, security etc.; Mt. Eliza Bowling Club – what security of tenure to enable long term planning and investment; sporting clubs should be responsible for better clean up after games and need to be made more responsible for management of adjoining environmental areas at the reserve; Mornington Soccer Club – needs to investigate partnership with Council re the upgrade/development at Dallas Brooks Pk., club prepared to invest and better cater for fast growing club especially juniors.
- The Briars Park
 - Enhance by planting trees; management of mini ecosystems needs to be planned, concerns re location of commercial nursery at The Briars Park and near the creek.
- Conservation, wetland areas, waterways

- Closer working relationship between all the Council depts.. involved e.g. engineering, planning, recreation etc. – there should be a central co-ordination department to ensure close liaison; Balcombe Estuary very significant – total area and management issues e.g. silting, drainage catchment etc. need to be considered; great opportunity at Devilbend Reservoir; keep up the good work re Uralla rd. boardwalk; ensure proper management of Balcombe Ck. catchment including public and private land; ensure vegetation buffer and good planting along every Crk. and waterway. More Council Officers needed to manage environmental issues and give advice; use real estate agents as a resource for getting information re ‘the environment’
- Other Comments/issues
 - Trial and off leash area at the old High School – what other plans are there for the area?; Mt. Eliza Rotary interested in working to improve township amenity; signage and penalty followup re ‘enforcement’ (e.g. dogs off leash, rubbish dumping etc.): developers must be made to revegetate/vegetate properly (e.g. Bentons Rd.) ; pinetrees seed – owners must remove seedlings; value natural cultural heritage and indigenous native vegetation heritage; ‘Council should be stronger re illegal removal of vegetation’ (foreshore and private land) – note signage and penalty signs being erected in Bayside CC; more quality equestrian facilities needed

Forum 2 – Thursday 26th July 2001

Council Offices - Rosebud (8 present)

Overview of Issues

- Information, signage, promotion
Old signage needs to be removed and a consistent approach to signage take e.g. re dogs in foreshore areas; ‘why is it that signs have been made and are not being given out to all foreshore committees?; need to develop and education/information strategy for Committees of management, private property; need to develop ‘protocols for use and management of areas and land;
- Foreshore areas and beaches
Committees need to be provided with incident reporting procedure so that infringements etc. can be referred back to Council/responsible agency for action if relevant; Rosebud managed poorly and should be managed by the Shire, ecology , weed control etc. needs to be better managed; review beach cleaning program – the cleaning of beaches every 2 weeks in winter, could there be a more proportionate allocation in summer?
- Conservation areas, wetlands and waterways
Greens Bush - needs to be signage and enforcement re ‘no dogs off leash’, dumping of rubbish; roadside reserves – need to be protected and valued more; dead trees – need to find out what is killing them (salination?, die back?) e.g. White Hill, the ridge at Red Hill; need to investigate issues around salination e.g. Dunns Creek; depot in Hintons rd. should not be sold, instead should be incorporated into the reserve; conservation trailer – need more access to this type of resourcing, community groups have to go and collect; Shire should acquire more land for conservation areas; deterioration of native gardens around the Shire offices in Rosebud
- The Briars Park
Trees dying because of erosion by cattle; lack of ‘vitality’ in the relationship between Shire and national Trust; “we hear nothing from The Briars Park”; opportunity for a greater education role – educators e.g. Healesville Sanctuary; should link more closely with other sites e.g. Tootgarook Swamp
- Playgrounds and skateparks
Trial a skate facility then assess suitability of the site for a skate park, needs to be associated with a masterplan development, consider instead Tootgarook/west rosebud reserve for the skatepark site, foreshore areas should be open accessible open space
- Other comments/issues

Council - Council is not requiring great enough accountability from property owners, individuals re breaching flora and fauna care and protection legislation (local, state); Council pr needs some attention – non return of phone calls; departments need to talk to each other more effectively; Commercial operators – needs to be a contribution for use by commercial operators as a contribution to the maintenance and rehabilitation, in some areas they should not be allowed/use restricted; Fees and charges – needs to be thought given to consistency and impact of some areas charging and other areas not charging e.g. in summer Rye foreshore charge fees to access which increases pressure on the Dromana foreshore; Toilets – non-Shire toilets get no funding from the Shire, toilets generally are in a poor state, findings of EPA testing an issue re discharge; Dogs – issues re dogs from neighbouring properties in bushland areas/reserves, more community education needed, rangers are too stretched to be able to followup infringements.

Forum 3 – Tuesday 31st July 2001

Hastings Library (15 present)

Overview of Issues

- **Regional Parks**
Buy more land around Warringine to make 1 large regional park – develop management plan, consider a bridge over the Frankston/Flinders Rd.; regional parks would be used more if dogs were allowed – people feel safer with dogs; more information needed on parks, location, what is there etc.
- **Foreshore areas and Beaches**
Toilets need to be in prominent and open spaces and at frequent intervals – vandalism is not an acceptable reason to keep them closed; vandalized signage has not been maintained or replaces; more rubbish bins along foreshores; provide links between existing footpaths.
- **Playgrounds and skateparks**
Existing playgrounds do not challenge children; desperately need BMX bike and Mountain bike facilities that offer degrees of difficulty; stage 2 of playground at Hastings needs to be completed; brochures on bushland parks need to be developed and promoted (e.g. brochures as per Frankston City)
- **Conservation areas, wetlands and waterways**
More support needed for the removal of weeds and the development of paths in these areas; Bittern wetlands should be combined with Warringine and brought under a ranger; Lornas Triangle a potential fire hazard – has not been burnt off as initially indicated that it would; Kings Ck. And Olivers Ck. Should be tidied up – community groups, schools, environmental groups could assist; preserve local indigenous landscapes; heritage value of boundary tree plantings on properties; Farm Forestry – manage the aesthetics, e.g. maintain treed amenity along roadsides
- **Funding of Open Space projects and developments**
Footpaths needed outside the built up areas; ensure links between coastal villages; Hastings to Bittern, Crib Point, Somers excellent projects (“well done”) – consider extending them.
- **Information, signage, promotion**
Map showing location of sport and activity areas; Dogs - promote off lead areas through dog obedience clubs, information re where dogs can/cannot go/conditions etc.; made signage structures more solid to avoid vandalism; more interpretive signage and shelters; why have signs re restriction of access (i.e. for horses, dogs etc.) been removed?; install barriers to restrict some access; promote trails, natural features of the area better; consider opportunities for different/alternative information outlets e.g. newsagency; series of brochures – types of reserves, map, features, ease of access/walk, weather appropriateness, toilets, carparking, age group suitability etc.; more directional signage from point of arrival in town
- **Sports reserves, oval, courts and greens**

There are no major equestrian facilities that schools, clubs etc. can access in the area; need active promotion of sporting clubs particularly those that young people can access e.g. little aths., soccer, basketball; lighting at Westernport Secondary School oval for night use; info on sporting clubs – not sure of effectiveness of info through clubs, emergency contact numbers, better information re relevant contacts within Council

- The Briars Park
Market better – more articles in local paper; link to broader programs e.g. conservation week; use different programs to promote e.g. night walks; “what is the role, what is the function?; difference between community perception and actual operations of the facility;
- Conservation and recreation
Roadside survey of vegetation needs review; there is a place for both indigenous and exotic plantings; need to be more respect by horseriders for native vegetation; consider ‘code of animal ownership’
- Other thoughts/issues
Dog off lead areas – voice control for dogs off-lead must be enforced, fines for soiling ovals/parks etc., more rubbish bins; more signs to remind animal owners of their responsibilities; boundary fencing for off leash area (safety for motorists etc.); increase education drive re responsible pet ownership; fines fro people who walk dogs off lead along roadsides/footpaths etc.; need marine interpretive center for Westernport.
sporting clubs need to be made to be more responsible re removal of beer bottles etc., regional parks would be used more if dogs were allowed (feeling of safety); Bittern – n land left to provide appropriate local open space; look at needs of specific age groups in smaller/isolated communities; acknowledge that not all communities can have access to same level and type of facilities.

2. Key Stakeholder Interviews

2.1 Council Staff

2.1.1 Staff Workshop

The following details discussions and information that was provided through a staff workshop that involved staff from a range of departments within the organisation.

Points marked with * were given a *high importance* rating by workshop attendees

Issues raised

Trails/Bike paths/ Walking tracks

- (**) Trails need to better connect to places, facilities, social and community hubs
- (**) Trails need to include rest spots (with appropriate infrastructure e.g. seating), have appropriate lighting, be safe and feel safe, have surfaces/ amenities suitable for prams, wheelchairs etc., be of a width etc so that they can be ‘shared’
- Important connections/trails
 - Somers-Hastings-Somerville-Baxter (to be constructed 2001/02)
 - The Briars Park-Baxter (land is being obtained through subdivision. Make use of railway land)
 - Peninsula Gardens and Two Bays Trail
 - Bay Trail – linkage of coastal track around peninsula/need for the community to better understand this proposal and the impact, both \$’s and environmental
- Opportunities to use foreshore trails instead of residential footpaths
- The local footpath network needs to be well integrated with trails system
- (**) Need to manage conflicting uses/interests. E.g. The Briars Park has a ‘no dog’ policy. Having the trail link Balcombe Creek and Mount Elisa Regional Park (?) MERP will lead to concerns with dogs in the park (*)
- Standards need to be developed for the construction, upgrade and maintenance of trails

- Need to identify where boardwalks are more appropriate to minimise impact on sensitive environmental areas e.g. Bittern Boardwalk, Balcombe Estuary, Peninsula Gardens
- Complete gaps within existing trail network e.g. Melbourne Rd, Rye; Blairgowrie etc

Playgrounds/Skateparks

- High level of demand for skateparks but difficult to satisfy all needs (skater, resident, open space etc.) due to perceived conflicts of use
- Are these type of facilities appropriate for coastal reserves? ‘coastal dependency’ test
- How should skateparks and BMX facilities be provided e.g. one fully integrated regional facility vs a number of local facilities
- Consider locations for mobile ramps
- Playgrounds – highly valued asset. Industry standards (provision ?) not appropriate to this community, instead, provision needs to be based on community need
- (*) Information needed in relation to playgrounds, that is maps, directories etc. need to be developed re location and associated amenities e.g. hard copy, website, Council newsletter etc.

Sporting Reserves/Outdoor Courts

- (*) No data on usage patterns (link to demographics)
- No strategic asset management plan
- Budget allocation for asset maintenance and improvement is continuing to decrease – asset deterioration
- (**) Increasing expectations from Committees of Management (COM's) for financial support from Council – need to examine resourcing of these groups
- Need to consider the issue of sole (exclusive) usage by sports clubs etc. vs. open public access
- Need to review leases and occupancy agreements
- Sports reserves have a dominant male focus

Foreshores/Waterways/Wetlands

- Issues re the relationship between Council and other land management agencies e.g. NRE, Parks Victoria
- Competing demands (management etc.)
- Impact of the Coastal Strategy on Council's ability to provide facilities on crown land
- Some retarding basins are being developed as wetland areas – the appropriate infrastructure needs to be put into place e.g. carparking, paths e.g. Rosebud Wetlands
- Coastal foreshore open space facility development must not compromise natural values
- Note foreshore controls/management documents e.g. Victorian Coastal Strategy, Coastal management Act 1995, (setting design and guidelines)

Committees of Management/Friends Groups

- Do these groups have the capacity, appropriate skills, knowledge to do this well
- There is a increasing demand for Council/staff to resource their activities
- Ongoing education and support is needed for these groups
- There is not an appropriate level of accountability by these groups
- Issues around risk management and legal liability
- Opportunities for sharing of information between COM's, friends groups and advisory groups
- Regulations/processes/responsibilities needs to be understood by groups
- ‘Friends’ groups largely associated with bushland reserves – this should be expanded to non-bushland areas so others can have opportunity to be involved in ‘protection’ of the reserve
- Need to define the scope of COM functions, responsibilities, reporting etc.
- (*) Need to involve traditional Aboriginal land owners in the management/care of the land

Conservation Areas/Bushland areas/Wildlife Corridors

- (**) Conservation vs. recreation – Need a classification system to make it clear what Council is trying to achieve with each asset and each asset type (category). E.g. Peninsula Gardens - walking tracks /interpretive/no walking tracks etc.
- Roadside reserves – issues of conflict with equestrian activities – need to determine role of roadside reserves as wildlife corridors
- (**) Need to get the balance between visitor use and conservation ‘no go’/limited access zones for people in bushland areas
- Potential conflicts with adjoining open space – e.g. sporting reserve with bushland area e.g. Lone Pine Reserve
- Need hierarchy of assets within each category type
- Walkers expecting/demanding closer access to streamlines

Equestrian

- Educational material needed – e.g. ‘code of conduct’
- (*) Contribution to trail maintenance and community education
- Need to identify appropriate roadside reserves for equestrian use as well as ‘no go’ zones
- (*) Commercial operators should make contribution to the maintenance and upgrade of tracks, conditions need to be placed on commercial operators for use of tracks
- Managing shared usage trails e.g. equestrian vs. cyclists
- Note the ‘informal’ vs. formal trails
- Access to foreshore areas??
- Needs to be broader community promotion for where riding is appropriate
- Note ‘Sustainability Frameworks’ (yet to be adopted)

Amenities – Toilets/BBQ’s/Picnic areas

- (**) Greater consideration needs to be given to access for people with disabilities
- Level of provision needs to be in line with level of demand – use level of provision to ‘control’ number of visitors
- Maintenance standards for cleaning needs to be reviewed – need to minimum standards defined
- Make sure adequate facilities available at coastal reserves, especially at isolated beaches where facilities are not maintained
- Opportunities for community art work on or around facilities

() Government Agencies/departments**

- NRE –coastal reserves – referral for works [program
- Parks Victoria – manage national parks and Rosebud Foreshore, heavily involved in trail funding
- DOI – development of coastal open space (e.g. jetties, piers) and referral for safety e.g. safe boat harbors
- (*) Dept. Education – use of school facilities, school use of public open space, need to recognise school assets as part of the open space network
- VicRoads – linkages to principal bike network
- Need to clarify responsibilities – some historical anomalies
- (**) Need to clearly define the objectives of each agency in relation to open space in the region
- (*) State government does not consult with local government re the disposal of state owned open space assets that may have a regional significance

() Internal Protocols and Procedures**

- Need to understand who does what across the organisation
- Policy needs to be developed then agreed procedures put in place
- Better networking and communication required between officers
- Need to develop procedures

- Link open space to other policies

Subdivisions/Developer Contributions

- (*) What is the process, the criteria and the referral procedure??
- Need to develop guidelines to ensure that Council plans for what it needs – need to ensure that Council gets the financial contribution
- Mornington East – Funds have been accounted for, money (development and drainage levies) is being spent as part of ODP
- Mornington east and Kinfauns are the only areas where levies are applied and taken
- (*) How to plan for open space where high density urban development is occurring e.g. house site being developed as a multi-unit site

Rationalisation/Consolidation of Open Space

- Drainage reserve – e.g. Blaigowrie, Portsea, Sorrento do small ones serve any purpose – opportunity to consolidate??
- (**) What are the criteria for disposal of open space? What are the criteria for the purchase of open space?
- (**) Need a forward vision – long-term and 5-10yrs

Resources – Maintenance, Upgrade, Capital Works

- Works need to be developed as part of a workable program
- (*) Need to increase emphasis on maintaining existing assets
- (***) Need adequate budget for open space
- Given the crossover between local and regional use of open space need to have better agreements re funding, resourcing etc – particularly for infrastructure provision and land acquisition to complete trail network
- Bike paths e.g. crib Point to Somerville have been constructed but require further maintenance
- Outcome of this review will be important for the infrastructure maintenance contract

Managing the Interface – recreation, tourism, conservation etc.

- (**) Finding a balance between tourism and impacts on the environment, conservation of natural resources and cultural assets etc. - Sustainability of assets
- The need for supporting infrastructure e.g. access, parking areas, defined trails, boardwalks- to manage pressures
- Identify the primary role and objectives reserves and open space areas – there may be secondary roles/activities – but not to the extent that the primary purpose is compromised. Need also to avoid ‘locking away’ large tracts of land e.g. not all foreshore areas
- (**) Difficulty of trying to manage the competing demands of the open space network and the high level of community expectations re standards on a day to day basis
- Consider the formation of an open space ‘committee’ with representation from all Directorates to consider strategic open space issues
- Identify areas that can and cannot sustain high level of use
- Need to educate commercial sector re responsible use

Signage (Directional, interpretive) and Public Information

- (*) Educate the public via interpretive signage re the need to protect areas of open space and natural and cultural assets for the future – preservation and protection
- Signage is lacking on all levels
- The interpretive signage that is in place is ad hoc – need to look at standard designs
- (*) Need to develop a consolidated information base – look at using webpage and electronic communication of information
- (*) Consider using ‘fun signs’ using community art, telling stories about places and involve local community
- Need guides to playgrounds, parks, trails etc

- Need signage to highlight public risk e.g. cliffs
- Determine who is responsible for signage, i.e. development of concept design and implementation (Recreation/Culture/Engineering etc.)
- Consider more Aboriginal interpretive information

2.1.2 Manager - The Briars Park

Overview of issues

- The aim of the facility is to provide an interpretation of landuse over a period of time; property purchased with local, state and federal funds
- There are 7 lease relating to The Briars Park including educational/recreational camp, farming, restaurant, vineyard, Rose Nursery. Income from these leases is not recognised in The Briars Park operating budget
- The annual operating budget for the park is approximately \$383,000 however this does not recognise lease payments
- Community Forest – consideration needs to be given to future opportunities for the forest
- Visitation has increased by 20% over the last 6 months with the removal of the entry fee. There is increased demand for picnic, BBQ and other infrastructure as a result. The shortage of amenities is creating public relations issues for the facility and the staff
- Change in visitor demographics since the removal of the entry fee – a far greater number of local people are using the facility – now 36% of visitations are people living on the peninsula; fees are now charged for ‘value added’ services but not for not general entry
- Management liaison – Staff play a significant role in building and maintaining partner/lessee relations. Presence of lessees has an appreciable impact on the facility’s budget and staff. This includes garbage collection, toilet cleaning and stocking inn relation tot he restaurant. Road maintenance in relation to the farming lease. Water consumption in relation to all lessees etc.
- Need to consider the park as part of Council’s overall open space network – particularly as it relates to local usage by residents and the provision of amenities for local use e.g. playgrounds
- Environmental education – opportunity for the facility to develop a stronger focus for community and schools education programs
- Linkages with other open space areas. Opportunity to link with Mt. Eliza Regional Park with the trail that is nearly complete through to Balcombe Estuary. Access around/through The Briars Park needs to be carefully considered particularly in relation to the closure of the park after hours and protection of wildlife
- Management Plan has been developed for the park

2.1.3 Recreation Staff

- Need to consider the issues/benefits etc. re having committees of management vs. in-house management/seasonal allocation of grounds.
- Not a lot of mentoring of junior sport by senior clubs
- Management Plans being developed by some committees with assistance from Council – the development of a MP will possibly be a requirement of future funding for capital works, and tenancy agreements etc.; not clear how these plans relate to regional sports development in terms of priorities determined on a more local level – sporting associations need to be part of the process.
- Infrastructure department held workshops to test appropriateness of current service levels – feedback that over-servicing on some reserves
- The following provides an overview of issues within Council’s defined demographic areas as they relate to sport

Demographic area	Comment/issues
1	Not a high sporting area, transient population, no football team, Merricks equestrian centre
2	Not significant structured activity, crib point – sporting clubs strong, 1 reserve and work together, growing demand for junior facilities/programs
5	No committee at present, opportunities for club to benefit from a committee at the reserve
7	Significant demand on facilities, overuse of Alexander Pk. (football) – pressure re senior sport, agreement needed to clearly establish roles and responsibilities and who to contact Dallas Brooks and Citation Reserves used as relief grounds
9	Mt. Eliza – clubs active – juniors want to expand, issues around all clubs wanting their own facilities – use not integrated, juniors separate to seniors, not good integration of junior and senior sport in terms of sports development, support etc.
11	Portsea (Percy Cerruty Res) – no club formally based at the reserve, mainly an overflow ground; tennis – no club, 2 courts – basic standard and maintenance.
12	Sorrento – opportunities for committee to be better integrated, large reserve Trails important; Red Hill Rec. reserve – difficulties with conflict of interest when red Hill show is on; this committee responsive in terms of management Plans
13	Rosebud – high use area, baseball (also at Mornington and Tyabb), Soccer (also at Mornington and Hastings) and football, Football strong – issues re club subletting of rooms to cricket club
14	Tootgarook – large junior sport; athletics track – former tip site, some issues re subsidence and protrusions through top soil, masterplan needs to be reviewed in terms of onsite issues, \$5,000-\$10,000 pa to maintain
15	Huge junior sport demand- issues in the future re being able to satisfy the level of demand; 3 reserves at Tyabb full with junior; Sporting reserves at Somerville - drainage/irrigation an issue

2.1.4 Conservation staff

- Access through sensitive areas
 - Needs to be a process/framework for assessing the environmental values of areas before decision is made as to the type and extent of access and development; this will provide the basis for determining the appropriate type of management and provision treatments that should be applied to any specific site – particularly relevant to this areas that have been identified as having high environmental significance or sensitivity. ‘State of the environment’ report needs to be undertaken as part of the evaluation.
 - Need to develop a set of criteria and a flowchart to detail the assessment process and involvement by various parties.
 - Need to consider whether same requirements made of private property owners re removal and replacement of vegetation needs to be applied to Council managed and developed areas.
 - Roadside and other trails – in determining type of access need to consider such issues/opportunities as a degree of sensitivity, impact of access, management treatments, alternative alignment opportunities, access through private land, alternative access through adjoining public open space etc.
 - Minimising impacts – need to acknowledge that in some areas there will be a financial cost to managing/minimizing impacts – all opportunities should be investigated
- Community education
 - Opportunities to expand school and community education resource kits/brochures
- Priority management open space management needs

- Framework for a clear referral process within Council re all proposals for development, capital works, developer contributions etc. This framework should identify and involve all staff that have a role in the management of open space areas
- A project assessment proforma that highlights the type of considerations (issues, timelines, reports etc.) that need to be documented/discussed as part of an open space development evaluation process.
- Trails planning and development assessment framework. This should then be applied to developments on other open space assets that have significant environmental considerations.
- More effective communication process between relevant departments e.g. open space reference group that meets semi-regularly or on an ‘as needs’ basis.
- The Briars Park
 - Issues around stock grazing and resulting erosion because of over grazing; access of stock to the quarry; protection of remnant vegetation from grazing and trees dying because of being affected by stock
 - Significant opportunities in relation to community and schools education program
 - Opportunities in relation to other significant sites and programs on the peninsula (e.g. Warringine – could be equally as significant as The Briars Park, Peninsula Biosphere program, etc.)
 - Birdland Environmental Education center in Yarra Ranges – (a good example of the scope for a center – education programs self sustaining??)
- Link environment education messages into the development of new infrastructure e.g. Hastings pool – murals, information etc.
- Integration of all departments that have a role to play in environmental management e.g. Balcombe Estuary – trail to Mt. Eliza and Mt. Martha – significant linear and environmental corridor
- Management of sporting reserves
 - All sporting organisations must be made aware of their obligations in relation to protecting bushland/environmental areas that exist/about their activity/leased area; concern as indicated by their behaviour that they are not aware/concerned about possible impacts of associated activities e.g. carparking under trees and compacting earth, incursion of activities/associated activities into sensitive Bushland and foreshore reserves lease agreement needs to point out areas (use of a map?) and their obligations, perhaps a checklist
 - Perhaps need to establish a network of sporting organisations/committees as with the conservation groups/network
 - Significant issues in relation to Long Pocket Reserve, Citation Reserve, Main Ridge Equestrian Centre in terms of appropriate management of the sites and need for tenants to adhere to appropriate management practices
- Community development
 - Community groups are not kept informed of grants and possible funding sources, need to consider holding forums to pass on this information
 - Relationship with other agencies
 - Formal relationship needs to be established with regular meetings e.g. bi-annual, to discuss issues that are of common interest e.g. equestrian activities, commercial operators and access, joint initiatives, management of phytophthora etc.

2.1.5 Planning staff

- Subdivisions
 - 45,000 existing homes, 22,00 are holiday homes
 - Not a significant amount of subdivision to take place into the future, another possible 7,500 blocks from Greenfield sites, the contribution from this will be miniscule, infill will be the most common form of subdivision from this point

- Obtain 5% from subdivision of existing house blocks ‘blocks’ – need guidance as to what this should go to in the future
- Subdivisions planned/currently taking place include:
 - Hastings (west) – 1000; Rosebud Sth – 250, Somerville – infill; Safety Beach - ; Mt. Martha - 200; Mornington Esplanade – infill;
- Mornington East – currently appeal with VCAT because of the requirement on the developer to provide 9-12% open space, developer objecting
- Intention is not to create ‘pocket size’ parks
- Reports that provide some direction/guidance re matters relating to planning etc. should be flagged in the GIS system
- Tourism
 - The ‘drive through’ needs to be considered as an open space experience and the infrastructure demands that come with this type of experience are significant – e.g. integrated road network, layoff/viewing points, toilets etc.. need to think about how the demands can be ‘distributed’ – consider better use of local/tourist radio for giving people options/directing way from congested areas etc.
- Dogs
 - While there are a number of dog off leash areas (21), they are not necessarily in the correct places; looking to add more areas
 - The amenity of the area needs to be appropriate – e.g. area needs to be attractive, mown at appropriate intervals etc.
 - Extended community education program that includes newspaper articles
 - Enforcement (level, type) needs to be given further thought
- Internal processes
 - The teams involved in the planning and management of open space need to come together more effectively. All players need to be identified, their roles and input identified and a framework for insuring that input happens effectively
- Main Ridge Equestrian Centre
 - Located in environmentally sensitive area, values similar to that in a National Park
 - Need to develop ‘principles’ to help guide the type and extent of recreation access/use in these areas, need also to tie back to Sustainability Policy
- Commercial operators – Equestrian
 - Need to clearly define what the primary purpose of roadsides are and the management principles to guide development/use/access etc.
 - Need to be sensitive to the damage that they are doing and how to manage
 - Need to consider – alignment of trails, extent of access, codes of conduct, management
- Regional Parks
 - Devilbend Reservoir - should be an ‘icon’ in the region; Mt. Eliza Regional Park – tourist railway has potential to turn the park and environs into a significant attractor
- Coastal Reserves
 - What responsibility should ‘Melbourne’ take; defines the character of the area; note Victorian Coastal Strategy

2.2 Councillors

The following is a combined summary of information and comments from Councillors that were interviewed as part of the project.

- Young people
 - The dramatic change in demographics has not been catered for and planning has not catered for needs
 - We need to be creative in terms of ‘accommodating’ young people in open space areas

- Need more informal spaces for young people e.g. basketball rings, skate facilities, BMX facilities (kids have a facility that they built themselves taken away)
- Linear linkages, trails and ‘barriers’
 - Need to take advantage of ‘destination points in the region that are attractive but not well linked into a trail or pathway network e.g. Kackerbite Creek, Erimore Creek, Bum Rock – opportunities for walking
 - Need to better link community facilities and sites of significance by the trail/footpath network
 - Mt. Eliza has no/poor footpaths in some areas
 - Hastings has a lack footpaths or trails to community facilities e.g. playground, trails are incomplete/do not link up
 - Need to consider the development of a trail linking the Rosebud jetty-Olympic park-Shire Office and other community facilities e.g. library
 - Residential area at the corner of Waterfall Gully Road and Cape Schanck Road (Rosebud) does not have access to open space areas. The freeway is a barrier
 - ‘Local’ pathways and trails
 - need to look at the application of the English system of ‘biddlepaths’
 - local paths need to be networked and mapped
 - linkages within urban areas are important. They do not have to be formalized i.e. sealed
 - laneways that are not required for this purpose are being sold to adjoining property owners. They should be retained for linear/trail linkages
 - Naturestrips – people are blocking these off either through vegetation or structures, which reduce opportunities for safe access particularly when there are no footpaths
 - Need to investigate opportunity for better access to pipelines etc.
 - Older adults looking for ‘safe surface and trail environment on which to walk, particularly in more isolated/smaller townships. In these areas there are no footpaths, therefore trails important
 - Mornington needs a major network of trails, in particular existing trails need to be better linked
 - Need to recognise 2 types of trails – commuter trails and recreation trails
 - Mornington East – minimal footpaths i.e. on one side of road only in many areas
- Signage
 - Signage to sites of significance and for local walking routes (urban and trails) needs to be developed
 - Need signage relating to, the type of use of trails, interpretation of natural values, protection of flora and fauna
 - Better directional signage
 - Trails need to be marked and signed
 - Signage needs to be robust
- Information
 - Lack of information about trails, particularly local trails that people want to access as part of their fitness/recreation regime
 - Identify opportunities to ‘mark’
 - Needs to be more information in Tourist Information Centres re trails, particularly major trails e.g. 2 bays Trail
 - Forest Walks need to be promoted – potential for tourism
- Management of Natural Values
 - Creeks in Mt. Eliza poorly managed (weeds etc.). Opening these area up to walkers etc. may create greater awareness and interest by the community re involvement in the care/maintenance of these areas
 - Sweetwater Creek a good example of successful remediation works
 - Waterways and wetlands need to be better managed and cleaned
- Encroachment on to public open space

- Need to look at the opportunity to regain access to public open space e.g. trails, reserves, that have been incorporated into private properties. 'Adverse possession' may prevent this from becoming a reality.
- Dogs
 - Need to look at community awareness and behavioural programs re the management of dogs in public open space areas and restraint within private property
 - Need a 'Code of Conduct' for dogs and owners in dog off-leash areas
 - Opportunities to promote training/animal management programs that are being run in the community and encourage participation
 - Complaints re dogs on beaches
- Friends Groups/
 - Difficult to manage the work of Friends groups without Management Plans for designated areas
 - Groups are growing at an enormous rate, and this is impacting on Council resourcing, particularly in the environment management area
 - Attempting to get a 'Friends group' established for Nixon Street
 - Need to maximise these partnership opportunities
- Committees of management
 - These committees are less and less able to do what is expected of them. Expectations are rising and they are not given the resources to achieve what is expected of them by both the government and the community
 - Not necessarily the scope of skills that are needed to operate committees
 - Breaches of responsibilities in relation to tree removal by some Committees
 - Have to question whether committees are resourced well enough (Council and NRE Committees)
 - Their activity focus e.g. recreation (e.g. camping) vs. conservation, often determines their actions re vegetation removal/management
 - Foreshore Committees are often having to deal with different issues e.g. weed eradication, revegetation, maintenance of camping grounds – sometimes can be a conflict of interest
- Partnerships
 - Relationship with State Government
 - State government departments have a 'master-servant' attitude with Council'. They are not referring to Council on strategic policy and planning matters that will have an impact on Council and community planning
 - Local networks and partnerships broke down over amalgamation, these now starting to rebuild
 - Need to look at opportunities for partnerships with commercial operators e.g. promotion
- Regional Parks
 - Mt. Eliza Regional Park – the park needs a 'sense of purpose'. Opportunities to develop this particularly in light of its proximity to the Tourist Railway and the Bay Trail/Rail Trail
- Cycling
 - Not many safe options for riding to/along the peninsula
- Sporting and recreation facilities/activities/clubs
 - Mt. Eliza Tennis Club looking for 2 more tennis courts. This is one of the largest clubs in the region. Car parking an issues
 - Rosebud Lifesaving Club – The club is having trouble getting new club rooms approved
 - Development of Social rooms. These should be built at the clubs own cost
 - Need to look at opportunities to consolidate sporting facilities/organisations so that maximum use of facilities is achieved

- Surfing activities have high level of involvement by males and should be encouraged as an alternative recreation activity
- Resourcing needs to go into local facilities rather than regional facilities at this time e.g. the Shire has higher priorities than a regional hockey facility
- Need to ensure that all sporting clubs are treated equitably, e.g. discrepancy between football, basketball etc.
- Sailing Clubs – only pay \$500 for foreshore position and exclusive access facilities. Lease conditions need to be more demanding in terms of requirements
- Need to consider the position in relation to sports clubs that have pokies/licensed premises etc. in terms of lease conditions and fees and whether they should be allowed to operate on Council land
- Need to look at why Council is sponsoring/operating' a golf course
- Internal processes
 - Need to set in place a process and criteria to determine the level and type of recreation access to/through sensitive environments e.g. trails. Need to note that trails are important, particularly in areas that do not have footpaths and where conditions require off-road access for pedestrians and recreational users
- Maintenance and management
 - Complaints from community re cracking of trail surfaces, weeds, erosion between Hastings and Crib Point, boardwalk missing planks, and incomplete trail (circular trail routes are important
 - Need to manage access of motorized vehicles to trails and other 'prohibited areas
 - Hastings boardwalk needs finishing
 - Playgrounds need to be maintained better, always in 'catchup' mode

- Equestrian activities
 - Need to be in areas that are better suited to the activity and where impacts can be well managed
 - Need to work in with commercial trail ride companies to better manage activities and impacts. These companies do not make a contribution to the management of affected areas. Erosion, weeds etc. an issues
 - Main Ridge Pony Club managing impacts in the adjoining bush area. Conservation issues in the southern Peninsula
- Open space 'icons' and special values
 - Beaches
 - 'Not Melbourne' (i.e. the peninsula's 'difference')
 - Arthur's Seat
 - Tootgarook Swamp
 - Clear air/ less noise/less traffic/better environment/'spiritually intact'
 - Greens Bush
 - Devilbend Reservoir
 - Warringine Reserve
 - Coolart Reserve
- Economic value of Open Space
 - Commercial opportunities include bird-watching, cycling etc.
- Open Space provision
 - Should not include foreshore areas in the open space allotments/allocations for communities. These areas have natural values and cannot be used for broader recreation needs
 - A major playground is needed for the Bittern/King Fauns area
 - Civic reserve in Mornington East is working well
 - Foreshore is the best recreation asset
 - The Shire should not fund activities such as sailing
 - Public land should not be used for 'elitist' activities
 - Need to develop criteria for local parks – note 'corner blocks' serve as 'meeting places' in isolated communities, and provide amenity. They are important in areas that do not have other open space
 - The Briars Park – this is a significant property. Could others be managing the facility better?
 - Festivals – they are not being run as proposed in the previous strategy
- Former Open Space Strategy
 - Did not recognise the importance of the small open space allotments, i.e. recommended that these be sold off

2.3 Peak Associations

2.3.1 Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association - Secretary

- Participation and Sports Development
 - levels were increasing to 2000, when the association experienced a decline
 - 20 clubs in the Mornington Peninsula Shire
 - struggling to get juniors at Sorrento
 - Hooper Oval – Hastings- Looking to make this the association HQ for the peninsula, particularly in relation to the development of women's cricket; No facilities at Hooper for women
 - women's cricket growing in the area
- Ground issues
 - generally pleased with the standard of ground and Council's program of upgrading

- Balnarring Reserve – dangerous because surface hard and rough. Nearly had to cancel games in 200/01 season. No work done on the ground in winter because no winter tenant/maintenance needs to be 12 month
- RM Hooper Ground – this is a significant ground in the competition/association i.e. provisional grand final ground and looking for this ground to be home of women's cricket in the region
- Tootgarook – can be rough ground
- No.2 ground at Dallas Brooks – all sand, no water
- Pavilions
 - generally pleased with level of provision
 - pavilions that need work or upgrade include Boneo, Barclay ground pavilion, Moorooduc, Ferrara (Mt. Martha), Rosebud
- Changeover of Seasons
 - have real issues with incursion by early start to football training to the cricket season
 - Minister's Determination of Seasons' needs to be used as the protocol for seasonal changeover
 - prepared to work in with football if two way consideration
- LMSG
 - some LMSG's don't look after the interests of cricket in relation to tenancy
 - Level of fees and charges levied by some LMSG's is prohibitive for events e.g. local school boys competition. Rosebud LMSG sent account (\$700) to cricket club for use of the ground – this will be a disincentive for cricket to be played at the reserve

2.3.2 Tennis Victoria

- Participation
 - Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Associations looking to amalgamate in the future
 - Clubs and the association are generally strong, junior affiliation strong
 - Shift away from Saturday afternoon tennis and towards night tennis for seniors; Saturday juniors still strong
 - Membership in tennis across the state have been static for the last 4-5 years (approx 90,000); increase in 'casual tennis' (e.g. night competition)
- Sports Development
 - Tennis Victoria conducts series of seminars on club management e.g. succession planning, promotion, best practice
 - Tennis Victoria Website – all clubs can link to this
- Facility development
 - Council undertook audit of facilities, this needs to be complemented with an audit of tennis demand/need/etc. before further development so as to determine priorities

2.3.3 Mornington Peninsula Tennis Association

- Participation and Sports Development
 - 45 affiliated clubs, 25 from the Mornington Peninsula Shire area
 - junior membership increasing; mid-week ladies stable; Saturday comp. Declined by approx 20% over last 5 years; night tennis increasing
 - Juniors not following through to seniors
- Relationship with Council
 - would like to have a closer relationship with Council particularly in relation to promotion of tennis and club development
 - clubs frustrated with lack of formal tenancy agreement – the process was started some time ago but did not proceed
 - clubs concerned about maintenance of courts – cannot keep up with maintenance of courts
- Court problems – Somers, Tootgarook

2.3.4 Mornington Peninsula and Nepean Football League – Executive Officer

- The league has a relationship with 5 Councils
- Grounds
 - grounds improved since amalgamation
 - Crib Point – drainage points subsiding
 - finals need fenced ground
 - Pavilions – Mt. Eliza – small visitors rooms; Crib Point – visitors use pool facilities; umpires rooms – size an issue at most facilities
- Participation and Sports Development
 - looking at a sports development program – drop off between junior and senior sport an issue
 - senior clubs do not foster juniors
 - player payments an issue in terms of club viability – something needs to be done to address ('under the counter payments' to avoid salary cap issues)
- Relationship with Council
 - want to introduce no smoking policy for pavilions (sponsorship conditions) – would like assistance from Council

2.3.5 Mornington Peninsula Junior Football League - President

- Participation and Sports Development
- Numbers in junior football increasing
- Grounds
 - Mt. Martha - issues with entrance to Ferraro ground – accidents at entrance on wet days;
 - Citation Oval – Sth Mornington Club growing, need another oval, sending teams to Devon Meadows and Sorrento to play, can't keep teams together
 - Tootgarook – need second oval at the reserve, if second oval would assist with pressure on Sorrento, Rye and Tootgarook; kids from these being sent to Devon Meadows and Pearcedale
- Facilities
 - Council on the whole been great with helping to develop facilities; still concerned however about the inequity in provision between senior and junior football; not looking for same level of provision however the lack of shelter or undercover area for changing at Crib Point (2nd oval) and Somerville a concern
- Impact of pokie venues
 - Association tried playing a final at Hastings but the type of environment caused by commercial activities (bars, pokies etc.) at these venues is not appropriate to expose young people to

2.3.6 Victorian Netball Association – Administrator Frankston and District Netball Association

- Participation and Sports Development
 - trend for netball is to indoor competition; outdoor netball still played but this generally Saturday and in conjunction with an indoor facility
 - not a demand for additional outdoor courts on the peninsula at this stage
- Mornington Peninsula and Nepean Football League
 - the association has had discussions with the league in relation to the league's proposed combined football/netball competition; association is supportive of the competition as long as consideration is given to not undermining existing netball association competitions; the Bendigo association competition suffered badly when the combined competition was introduced in that regions; need to target another market i.e. non-players that are part of football 'family' etc.
 - the competition will require a single court – many sporting reserves currently do not have a court at the ground

2.3.7 Victorian Soccer Federation – Facilities Project Officer

- Participation and Sports Development
 - significant growth in junior soccer across the state, this is consistent with the growth being experienced by the Mornington Soccer Club
 - the rate of growth will have significant implications for facility provision in the future
- Relationship with Council
 - is looking to have dialogue with Council in relation to soccer development in the Shire and in relation to the implications of the 'Local Government and Victorian Soccer Resource Study' (1999) for the region
 - is wanting to identify additional grounds that may be available for future soccer development

2.3.8 Mornington Soccer Club

- Participation and Sports development
 - the club has experienced an unprecedented growth in junior soccer and is one of the fastest growing clubs with over 300 juniors
 - club has introduced girls soccer which is becoming popular – lack of facilities for girls is making it difficult to manage
- Grounds and pavilions
 - the club is wanting to undertake works at the ground to accommodate another junior ground (alignment)
 - there are issues associated with sharing of the pavilion with the cricket club
 - is wanting to liaise with Council re facility development and is now looking to invest in ground/facility development
- Club viability
 - The club has become financially very viable after having experienced financial difficulties in the past

2.3.9 Mornington Peninsula Tourism Inc. – Alva Hemming

- Mornington Peninsula region has the highest number of day visitations in the state and the second highest number of overnight stays
- Requests for information by visitors to the area:
 - where do trails start and finish
 - request for maps
 - information on Fingals Beach, Bushrangers Bay, Two Bays Trail, Arthurs Seat trails, Cape Schanck, Point Nepean,
- Issues/gaps in provision
 - Maps – there are very few maps, information on existing maps is inadequate
 - Information on amenities at various walking/cycling destinations e.g. length of trails, level of fitness needed, suitability for people with disabilities, access, picnic, shade vs. open trails etc.
 - Signage – from highway etc. indicating turnoff/location of trails/trail network
 - Signage – Interpretive signage along the trails e.g. cultural, habitat, circular vs. linear route etc.
 - Signage – indicators along trail – distance etc.
 - Interpretive information – e.g. brochures/book giving historical/cultural information relating to the area
 - Need to create linkages between existing trails
- Opportunities to better use community agencies in developing information and in the preparation of materials e.g. historical society, Tourism Association etc.
- Information produced needs to be 'visitor friendly' and 'fun' – not corporatised
- Look at network of primary and secondary trails example of a secondary trail – Mornington Cliff walk

- Parks Victoria – don't promote walks well, signage good, need to update interpretive material, currently manage Seawinds, Pt. Nepean, Coolart, Cape Schanck lighthouse
- Managing visitation numbers – need to plan for a develop infrastructure to cater for a determined number only. This will discourage visitation beyond a level which cannot be accommodated. Council needs to be proactive in determining this and managing the impact of visitors
- Community education – Good opportunity for partnership between Council and Mornington Peninsula Tourism re information dissemination, i.e. use the associations strong business networks to educate on new signage policy etc.

2.4 State Government

2.4.1 Parks Victoria – Mornington Western Port District

- Good joint planning with Council on specific projects e.g. Collins settlement, Flinders Pier precinct, Coastal Action Plan
- Issues that PV has re foreshore areas
 - Consistency in application of management guidelines etc,
 - Lack of funding for committees, infrastructure replacement etc.
 - Inappropriate plantings along foreshore
 - Funding of infrastructure is resulting in a lessening of the emphasis on environmental management
- Recreation access
 - Historical use has, in some areas, driven the retention of some recreation uses
 - In other areas significant changes in level and type of access e.g. McCrae – high conservation zone camping removed, access managed differently now; Cape Schanck – carparking 'pulled back'
 - Equestrian/cycling access – not allowed in National Parks. Compromise is allowing it around the boundaries even though recognised that this can still have impacts. Sojme equestrian access has been restricted – Portsea back beach no longer allows horseriding, Rye/St. Andrews beach restricted significantly Why the reduction? – impact on endangered species, impact on other users, decreased level of demand – not the number of horse trainers in the area because of the subdivision that has taken place.
 - In Langwarren – access through environmentally sensitive areas is being 'managed' because of danger to recreation users due to busy roads; strategy is to use fencing, signage, 'education etc.
 - Criteria for assessing access to environmentally sensitive areas should include – the need of users, safety and public risk, sustainability (economic, conservation etc.), circuit opportunities/linkages
- Influences on spread of disease e.g. phytophera
 - Primary – activities that move large quantities of soil e.g. truck removing soil from/into other/adjoining areas; the next level of threat (of spread) vehicle traffic, trail bikes etc.; the next level horses, walkers, cyclists etc.; the next level animals, birds (ground birds in particular); the next level is tools of trade.
 - PV looking to develop a phytophera strategy
- Greens Bush – recommending that it be closed
- Roadside reserves – need to determine what the primary purpose of these areas are and manage accordingly – if access is required then management processes/strategies developed to minimize impacts etc. depending on degree of sensitivity

2.4.2 NRE – Port Phillip Region

- Working with Council

- NRE and Council working together re strategic framework re the management of crown land – NRE looking to set management standards through management Plans
- NRE requiring Council to develop management plans for those areas over which Council Committee of management (COM)
- Vegetation management – the standard of vegetation management on land for which Council COM is not of a high standard; the standard of management by other committees varies
- Looking to develop better understanding of standards and environmental needs across all management agencies and agency representatives – e.g. committees, contractors, Council staff etc.
- Appointment process to committees and management of committees
 - The new process is helping get people with more relevant skills and a better mix of skills (e.g. business management, conservation, project management, marketing etc.)
 - Not clear as to what process Council uses – opportunities to integrate processes
 - Committee training package being developed – looking at the framework based on the issues that they are having to deal with e.g. dogs, bathing boxes, signage, promotion/education. Training will then target what they are having to deal with.
 - Focus will be around ‘building capacity of the committees/community’
- Summary of Committees relating to NRE (crown land)

Foreshore Area	Land owner	Management		
		Land Manager	Council ‘auspiced’ COM	NRE Committee of Management
Balnarring	NRE	NRE		√
Cappel Sound	NRE	NRE		√
Crib Point/Stony Point	NRE	NRE		√
Dromana	NRE	NRE		√
Flinders	NRE	Council		
Hastings	NRE	Council	√	
Mt. Eliza – Mt. Martha Point	NRE	Council		
Merricks	NRE	NRE		√
Point King	NRE	NRE		√
Point Leo	NRE	NRE		√
Portsea	NRE	Council		
Rosebud	NRE			
Rye	NRE	Council		
Safety Beach	Council	Council		
Shoreham	NRE	NRE		√
Somers	NRE	NRE		√
Sorrento	NRE	Council		
Tyabb	NRE	Parks Victoria		√
White Cliff – Cameron Bight	NRE	NRE		√

- Tyabb foreshore – managed by Parks Victoria. Management working to discourage trail rides through this area. Trail rides not being banned outright (even though they are not consistent with management of PV managed parks) because of historical precedence and use by local community. Tyabb foreshore - sensitive environmental area.

- Toilets – looking at management and planning issues re toilets – need to get all players involved in this so that there is a consistent approach. Range of issues – discharge, cost of infrastructure, maintenance etc.

3. Submissions and Interviews

3.1 Belinda Lewis

Summary of information obtained as part of a research project (requirements for 'Mother baby Friendly' open space areas)

This information has been obtained as a result of community meetings and 40 case studies involving one on one interviews with mothers.

- Open Space

Important in building/rebuilding 'sense of community'; break the cycle don't feel safe – not many others at facility – don't go because feel isolated/alone/unsafe. Need to make these places where lots of people go.
- Infrastructure development
 - Trails/footpaths - should be 2 prams in width, surface good and well maintained
 - Playgrounds – shelter, full , located away from the road, 'supportive seating' (i.e. backs to seats)fencing around play equipment); playgrounds are a key component to 'mother's social network and therefore want to feel safe
 - Standards and criteria need to be consistent across the Shire – many mothers feel that 'needs' on the Western Port side not considered as important
 - Mother needs central gathering place – community facilities important in providing this
- Infrastructure maintenance

Monitoring regime needs to be improved (missing slats in boardwalks, low lying spots on trails that hold water etc.); not clear who to report these issues to; many mothers feel intimidated/lack confidence/feel unimportant in the overall scheme of things and therefore do not report problems to Council
- Linkages

Good linkages needed to community destination points (e.g. schools. Shops, community centers); linkages stronger on port Philip side, linkages broken and not as well developed on Western Port side
- Dogs

Unrestrained dogs on trails and dogs perceived not to be well restrained on private properties cause mothers anxiety and to resort to other routes (often less direct) to reach destinations
- Promotion

Information about places that are MBF should be distributed through school newsletter, health centers, community houses, GP's etc.
- Other Information

Reference documents – 'Creating Supportive Environments for Physical Activity Toolkit' (NSW)

3.2 Ian Bell

- Trails/pathways
 - 'Local' pathways and trails
 - need to look at the application of the English system of 'biddlepaths'
 - local paths need to be networked and mapped
 - linkages within urban areas are important. They do not have to be formalized i.e. sealed
 - laneways that are not required for this purpose are being sold to adjoining property owners. They should be retained for linear/trail linkages
 - Naturestrips – people are blocking these off either through vegetation or structures, which reduce opportunities for safe access particularly when there are no footpaths
 - Need to distinguish the difference between shared pathways and trails
 - Opportunities to develop trails along "themes e.g. flora and fauna of the area, historical landmarks. There are people in the area that would be prepared to play a role in doing this

- Council officers need to understand how the public want to use the land (trails) e.g. different experiences, not always on sealed/formed/high use shared pathways
- Trails should be acknowledged in the planning scheme
- Commercial trail ride operators
 - Use of roadsides and trails by trail ride operators is causing significant damage and needs to be better managed. Recreational/family use ok
- Signage
 - Signage to sites of significance and for local walking routes (urban and trails) needs to be developed
- Information
 - Lack of information about trails, particularly local trails that people want to access as part of their fitness/recreation regime
 - Identify opportunities to 'mark'

3.3 Ron and Ellen Wernke (Somerville) – Equestrian Centre

Proposal – for 150-250 acres of land associated with the current Devilbend Reservoir to be acquired for the purpose of a major regional equestrian center. Proposal would include indoor arena, cross country course, show jumping areas, polocross, polo etc.

3.4 Ron Rothenberg

Ron very active in relation to bike/cyclist safety and development of bicycle infrastructure. Formerly Bicycle Program Co-ordinator with former Hastings and Chelsea municipalities

- Maps of trails, both on-road and off-road, are needed
- Rail Trail and connections needs to be a high priority
- Economic benefit – opportunities to encourage and develop business activities around cycling on the peninsula
- Infrastructure – infrastructure is poor particularly in the south of the peninsula where there is a significant demand, need to develop a strategy for provision
- Lifestyle
 - need to encourage people to think of cycling as a 'transport option' and develop infrastructure to support this, as well as a recreation option
 - need to encourage participation in cycling as a healthy lifestyle activity
- Road safety
 - need to look at how to manage use of roads by skateboarders – consider a 'Code of Conduct'
 - need to identify safe linkages between cycle routes and to develop a strategy for linking rails
- Older children – need to look at developing precincts/open space opportunities for young people e.g. skate facilities, BMX facilities, 'play spaces for older children/teenagers
- Mt. Martha park – beautification works are required
- 'Icons of the Area' Two 'levels' of attraction,
 - the first includes Seawinds/Arthurs Seat (walking trails etc.), Point Nepean, Forshores, Cape Schanck
 - the next level includes Coolart reserve, Jack's Beach, The Briars park, , Somerville-Cerberus trails etc
- refer also *Aust Road Guidelines* re standards

Appendix 2 – Survey Results

1.0 Household Survey

As part of the consultation process for the Open Space Strategy and Shared Pathways and Trails Strategy 302 household telephone surveys were conducted across the Shire.

The following provides a summary of the raw data obtained through the household surveys.

1. Recreation activities (indoor and outdoor) MOST FREQUENTLY undertaken by respondents away from home in their spare time.
Respondents were asked to select 2 activities that they enjoy doing the most.

TABLE 1 – Top 12 recreation activities (indoor and outdoor) most frequently undertaken.

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	56
2.	Golf	11
3.	Tennis	8
4.	Swimming	8
5.	Bike riding	7
6.	Fishing	7
7.	Swimming (indoor)	6
8.	Gardening	6
9.	Football	5
10.	Bowls (outdoor)	4
11.	Bushwalking	3
12.	Basketball	3

TABLE 2 – Indoor and outdoor activities frequently undertaken by males.

	Activity	Responses (%)
11.	Casual walking	36
12.	Golf	19
13.	Fishing	13
14.	Bike riding	9
15.	Tennis	8
16.	Football	8
17.	Gardening	7
18.	Basketball	5
19.	Yachting	5
20.	Swimming (outdoor)	5

TABLE 3 – Indoor and outdoor activities most frequently undertaken by females.

	Activity	Responses (%)
11.	Casual walking	64
12.	Swimming (outdoor)	11
13.	Tennis	9
14.	Swimming (indoor)	8
15.	Golf	5
16.	Bike riding	5
17.	Gardening	5
18.	Bushwalking	5
19.	Bowls (outdoor)	4
20.	Horseriding	4

2. OUTDOOR recreation activities MOST FREQUENTLY undertaken by respondents away from home in their spare time.
Respondents were asked to select 2 activities that they enjoy doing the most.

TABLE 4 - Top 10 OUTDOOR recreation activities undertaken most frequently by respondents.

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	45
2.	Golf	14
3.	Swimming (outdoor)	10
4.	Tennis (outdoor)	9
5.	Bike riding	8
6.	Football	6
7.	Fishing	6
8.	Bowls	4
9.	Bushwalking	3
10.	Gardening	3

TABLE 5 - Top 10 OUTDOOR activities Most frequently undertaken by males

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	36
2.	Golf	22
3.	Fishing	11
4.	Bike riding	9
5.	Tennis	8
6.	Swimming (outdoor)	8
7.	Football	8
8.	Yachting	5
9.	Cricket	4
10.	Athletics Horseriding Gardening Bowls (outdoor)	3

TABLE 6 – Top 10 OUTDOOR activities most frequently undertaken by females

	Activity	Responses (%)
1.	Casual walking	51
2.	Swimming (outdoor)	12
3.	Tennis	9
4.	Golf	8
5.	Bikeriding	7
6.	Buswalking	5
7.	Bowls (outdoor)	4
8.	Football	4
9.	Photography	4
10.	Gardening Horseriding	3

3. OUTDOOR facilities/amenities used most frequently used by respondents.
Respondents were asked to indicate how frequently they used the following outdoor facilities.

TABLE 7 – Outdoor facilities and amenities used most frequently, once a week or more, by respondents.

Ranking	Facility/amenity	Responses (%)
1.	Beaches and foreshore areas	55
2.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails	41
3.	Sporting reserves (e.g. football, softball, bowling greens)	27

Ranking	Facility/amenity	Responses (%)
4.	Neighbourhood parks	25
5.	Jetties and marinas	18
6.	Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skateparks)	18
7.	Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	14
8.	Golf courses	12
10.	Regional parks (e.g. Mt. Eliza Regional Park)	5
11.	Equestrian facilities	2

Trails

- 31% of respondents said that they 'rarely' or 'never' used trails over the last 12 months
- More females (41%) than males (35%) use trails on a weekly or greater basis
- Frequency of use of trails is similar across all age groups (variation 38% - 42%) apart from 60-69 year olds where 46% used trails once a week or more
- Residents from 'Area 15' tended to be less frequent users of trails (28%), that is on a weekly basis or more

Beaches and Foreshores

- Respondents from townships on the Phillip Bay side of the Shire are more frequent users of foreshores and beaches
- A larger number of females (60%) than males (49%) access beaches on a weekly or greater basis
- 14% of respondents stated that they had 'rarely' or 'never' used beaches and foreshores over the past 12 months

Conservation Reserves

- The 40-49 age group access conservation areas on a more frequent basis than other age groups
- As a general trend visitations to conservation reserves decreases with age, the exception to this trend is the 30-39 age group. 58% of this age group, compared to 49% of total respondents, indicated they had 'never' or 'rarely' visited a conservation reserve in the last 12 months
- 28% of respondents indicated that they had not visited a conservation reserve over the last 12 months
- Of respondents that visit conservation reserves visitations are more likely to be 'rare' (29%)

Sporting Reserves

- 27% of respondents stated that they visited sporting reserves at least once a week
- The greater frequency of visitations to sporting reserves was by the 60-69 age group (30%), the 40-49 age group (30%) and the 30-39 age group (27%)
- 51% of respondents stated that they had not visited sporting reserves over the last 12 months
- A slightly greater number of males (29%) than females (25%) said they had visited these facilities on a weekly or greater basis

Playgrounds

- The 30-39 age group was the most frequent user of playgrounds with 34% indicating that they use playgrounds on a weekly or greater basis
- 48% indicated that they had not used playgrounds over the last 12 months

Neighbourhood Parks

- Neighbourhood Parks are used on a more frequent basis by females (30%) than males (20%) and by 30-39 year olds (34%) and 50-59 year olds (34%)
- 34% of respondents indicated that they had not used Neighbourhood Parks over the last 12 months

Regional Parks

- Of respondents that visit regional parks, visitations are more likely to be 'rare' (21%)

- 53% of respondents stated that they had not visited a regional park over the last 12 months
 - The frequency of visitation to regional parks is similar for males and females
- Jetties and Marinas

Equestrian facilities

- 89% stated that they had not used equestrian facilities in the last 12 months, while 2% indicated they had used them once a week or more

4. Outdoor facilities/amenities considered IMPORTANT by respondents. Respondents were asked to indicate how important each of the following facilities/amenities are to them.

TABLE 8 – Facilities/amenities that are considered ‘VERY IMPORTANT’ and ‘IMPORTANT’ by respondents.

Ranking	Facility/Amenity	Total Responses (%)
1.	Opportunities for young people	97
2.	Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	95
3.	Support to community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands	94
4.	Amenities such as seating, shade, picnic facilities, toilets etc.	93
5.	Parks that cater for the whole family	93
6.	Information about parks and trails and the recreation opportunities available	92
7.	Access to a variety of quality parklands	92
8.	Well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups	90
9.	Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	89
10.	Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings	89
11.	A network of safe off-road trails throughout the Shire	80
12.	High quality outdoor sports fields	73
13.	Organised activities and special events in the parks	66

- Over 60% of respondents considered bushland and foreshore areas (70%), opportunities for young people (69%), parks that cater for the whole family (64%), amenities (61%), and well maintained playgrounds (60%), very important

TABLE 9 – Facilities/amenities that are considered ‘very important’ and ‘important’ by males (in order of ‘importance)

	Facility/amenity	%
1.	Opportunities for young people	92

TABLE 10 – Facilities/amenities that are considered ‘very important’ and ‘important’ by females (in order of importance)

	Facility/amenity	%
1.	Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	98

(continued)

	Facility/amenity	%
2.	Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	91
3.	Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	91
4.	Access to a variety of quality parklands	89
5.	Amenities such as seating, shade, picnic facilities, toilets etc.	89
6.	Parks that cater for the whole family	88
7.	Support to community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands	88
8.	Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings	87
9.	Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	84
10.	Well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups	80
11.	A network of safe off-road trails throughout the Shire	78
12.	High quality outdoor sports fields	70
13.	Organised activities and special events in the parks	58

	Facility/amenity	%
2.	Well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups	98
3.	Parks that cater for the whole family	98
4.	Support to community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands	98
5.	Opportunities for young people	98
6.	Amenities such as seating, shade, picnic facilities, toilets etc.	97
7.	Access to a variety of quality parklands	93
8.	Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	93
9.	Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	93
10.	Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings	91
11.	A network of safe off-road trails throughout the Shire	82
12.	High quality outdoor sports fields	76
13.	Organised activities and special events in the parks	72

- Overall, females gave a higher importance ranking of all items than did males
- The greatest difference in 'importance' rating between males and females was in relation to playgrounds (females 98%, males 80%), organised activities in parks (females 72%, males 58%), support for community groups (females 98%, males 88%), parks that cater for the family (females 98%, males 88%), and park signage (females 93%, males 84%)

TABLE 11- Three most important facilities/amenities for each age group

Age Group	Facility/amenity	
15-29	• Access to a variety of quality parklands	100
	• Well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups	100
	• Opportunities for young people	100
	• Parks that cater for the whole family	100
30-39	• Well maintained playgrounds that cater for a range of age groups	99
	• Parks that cater for the whole family	98
	• Access to a variety of quality parklands	97
40-49	• Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	98
	• Access to a variety of quality parklands	97
	• Opportunities for young people	97

(continued)

Age Group	Facility/amenity	
50-59	• Park signage including interpretive and directional signage e.g. trails	97
	• Opportunities for young people	95
	• Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	93
60-69	• Bushland and foreshore reserves that preserve native vegetation and wildlife	100
	• Amenities such as seating, shade, picnic facilities, toilets etc.	98
	• Opportunities for young people	97
70+	• Townships and streetscapes with attractive plantings	94
	• Opportunities for young people	93
	• Support to community groups that help maintain reserves and parklands	90

5. AGREE or DISAGREE statements.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements.

TABLE 12 – % of respondents ‘Agreeing’ or ‘Disagreeing’ with statements.

Ranking	Statement	Respondents (%) that <i>Agreed or Strongly Agreed</i>	Respondents (%) that <i>Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed</i>	% Of <i>Not Sure</i> responses
1.	On the whole Council maintains its open space well	72	26	3
2.	Commercial businesses (e.g. horse trail rides) that use public open space regularly should pay a maintenance contribution	69	23	9
3.	Beaches and foreshore areas are clean and well maintained	68	24	2
4.	There are enough sports grounds in the Shire	67	16	17
5.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails are well maintained	66	19	15
6.	On the whole Council staff are helpful and available	56	21	13
7.	Council’s program of removing weeds and noxious plants from reserves is satisfactory	53	25	12
8.	Parks and opportunities in parks are well promoted	53	37	6
9.	Foreshore areas are too crowded in summer for residents to enjoy	45	50	5
10.	People less mobile or with disabilities have good access to a variety of open space opportunities	38	31	30
11.	Council provides an adequate level of support to Committees of Management on reserves	38	18	44
12.	There are enough off leash areas for dogs	32	43	25

11. Open Space priorities for Council.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether the following should be a High, Medium, or Low priority.

TABLE 13 – Open Space priorities for Council as identified by respondents

Priority Ranking	Facility /Amenity
1.	Beaches and foreshore areas
2.	Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)
3.	Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)
4.	Neighbourhood parks
5.	Jetties and marinas
6.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails
7.	Regional parks (e.g. Mt. Eliza Regional Park)
8.	Sporting reserves (e.g. football, softball, bowling greens)
9.	Golf courses
10.	Equestrian facilities

TABLE 14 – Open space priorities as indicated by male respondents

	Facility/amenity	%
1.	Beaches and foreshore areas	90
2.	Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	77
3.	Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	70
4.	Neighbourhood parks	68
5.	Jetties and marinas	64
6.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails	56
7.	Sporting reserves (e.g. football, softball, bowling greens)	53
8.	Regional parks (e.g. Mt. Eliza Regional Park)	53
9.	Golf courses	37
10.	Equestrian facilities	8

TABLE 15 – Open space priorities as indicated by female respondents.

	Facility/amenity	%
1.	Beaches and foreshore areas	93
2.	Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	85
3.	Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	82
4.	Neighbourhood parks	74
5.	Jetties and marinas	70
6.	Regional parks (e.g. Mt. Eliza Regional Park)	67
7.	Walking, equestrian and bicycle trails	67
8.	Sporting reserves (e.g. football, softball, bowling greens)	62
9.	Golf courses	30
10.	Equestrian facilities	18

TABLE 16 – Open space priorities as indicated by age groups

Age Group	Priority	% of age group
15-29	• Beaches and foreshore areas	93
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	90
	• Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	86
30-39	• Beaches and foreshore areas	100
	• Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	85
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	81
40-49	• Beaches and foreshore areas	94
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	85
	• Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	77
50-59	• Beaches and foreshore areas	84
	• Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	79
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	76
60-69	• Beaches and foreshore areas	97
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	81
	• Jetties and marinas	81
70+	• Beaches and foreshore areas	83
	• Conservation reserves (e.g. wetland, wildlife, bushland)	77
	• Play spaces (e.g. playgrounds, skate parks)	63
	• Jetties and marinas	63
	• Neighbourhood parks	63

12. Breakdown of respondents by TOWNSHIP of residence

TABLE 17 – Breakdown of respondents by TOWNSHIP of residence

Population Area	% of Population	% of Respondents	Description
1.	3.2	3	Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Somers
2.	4.6	4	Bittern, Crib Point
3.	5.1	4	Dromana, Safety Beach
4.	1.3	2	Flinders, Shoreham, Point Leo
5.	5.0	5	Hastings
6.	1.5	2	HMAS Cerberus
7.	5.2	6	Mornington, Moorooduc, Tuerong
8.	11.6	10	Mornington East
9.	14	14	Mt. Eliza
10.	6.3	8	Mount Martha
11.	3.7	4	Portsea, Sorrento, Blairgowrie,
12.	2.2	2	Red Hill, Red Hill Sth., Merricks Nth., Main Ridge, Arthurs Seat
13.	14.8	15	Rosebud, Rosebud West, McCrae, Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schanck
14.	9.1	9	Rye, Tootgarook, St. Andrews Beach,
15.	12.3	12	Somerville, Tyabb, Baxter, Pearcedale

13. Breakdown of respondents by GENDER

TABLE 18 – Breakdown of respondents by Gender

Gender	% of Respondents
Male	44
Female	56

14. Breakdown of respondents by AGE

TABLE 19 – Breakdown of respondents by AGE

Age	% of Respondents
15-29	9.6
30-39	19.5
40-49	23.5
50-59	19.2
60-69	12.2
70+	9.9

2.0 Sporting/Recreation Club Survey

Local sporting and recreation organisations were forwarded and asked to complete surveys. 41 surveys were returned and the following provides a summary of information obtained through the survey.

Survey data

1. Clubs were asked whether they anticipated that their membership would increase, decrease, or remain the same over the next 3 years, and the reasons.

TABLE 1 – Anticipated change in club membership

No. of clubs expecting membership to:	
Increase	29
Decrease	1
Stay the same	7

2. Clubs expecting an increase in membership. These clubs were asked why they expected an increase in membership.

TABLE 2 – basis for anticipated increase in membership

Ranking of response	Reason for expecting increase in membership	No. of Organisations
1.	We are a family friendly organisation	21
2.	Our sport/activity is popular	14
3.	We cater for a wide range of age groups	12
4.	Our club makes new members welcome	10
5.	We actively promote the benefits the organisation offers	9
6.	Membership fees are low	8
7.	We have a range of competition levels	8
8.	We have a high standard of tuition and coaching	6
9.	We have good facilities	5
10.	We offer a range of social activities for members	2

The two organisations that indicated that their sport/activity was in decline, stated that this was due to their sport being in decline and that their facilities were not of a high enough standard.

3. Organisations were asked to indicate the facilities that are 'very Important', and their satisfaction with the level of provision.

TABLE 3- Satisfaction and Importance ratings

Ranking of Importance	Facility	No. of clubs ranking as 'Very Important'	No. of clubs 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the level of provision
1.	Playing activity/surface	35	19
2.	Grounds maintenance	32	22
3.	Change/club rooms	26	20
4.	Social facilities	25	18
5.	Ground lighting	23	18
6.	Internal building maintenance	20	23
7.	Vandalism management	20	28
8.	Security lighting	17	23
9.	External building maintenance	15	26
10.	External toilets	14	21
11.	Condition of the carpark	12	18
12.	Paths & roadways	11	22
13.	Amenity of the area	11	25
14.	Number of carparks	9	28
15.	Management of surrounding bushland	7	25

The greatest disparity between level of importance and level of satisfaction is in relation to the standard of playing surface, the level of grounds maintenance, social facilities and change facilities where there is an expectation of a higher level of provision.

4. Organisations were asked to indicate who they thought to be responsible for the following.

TABLE 4 – Familiarity with management responsibilities

Area of responsibility	Council identified as responsible	Club identified as responsible	COM identified as responsible	Not sure
Paths/roadways	28		5	3
External building maintenance	25	5	8	4
Carpark areas	24	3	7	5
Major maintenance	23	6	12	4
Vandalism repair	22	8	8	5
Surrounds of facilities	22	5	10	2
Fenceline/perimeter	21	3	9	6
Mowing of playing/ activity surface	20	9	6	1
Rubbish collection/removal	20	12	3	3
Development of new facilities	19	12	14	3
Improvements to existing facilities	17	15	15	4
Internal building maintenance	17	18	10	1
Playground equipment	11	4	2	4
Toilet/amenity cleaning	10	23	7	3

Area of responsibility	Council identified as responsible	Club identified as responsible	COM identified as responsible	Not sure
Waterbodies/lakes/waterways etc.	8	1	3	3
Financial responsibility for the facility	7	16	19	1
Booking allocations to user groups	4	11	20	1
Casual hiring	2	14	20	1
Day to day management	1	18	14	2

5. Agree/Disagree responses

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements. The following are statements that attracted the greatest % of 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' responses.

TABLES 5 & 6 – 'Agree' / 'Disagree Statements

Statement	% of clubs that 'Agreed' or 'Strongly Agreed'
Recreation activities do not have a negative impact on bushland	90
Family groups are well catered for	87
Our organisation is very clear on the scope of its roles and responsibilities	87
Our organisation has all the necessary skills and knowledge to manage the facility well	82
Our organisation needs to attract more members	79
Our organisation is familiar with its insurance and legal liability obligations and limitations	79
Generally, there are very few conflicts between users of the facility we use	76

The following are statements that attracted the greatest % of 'Disagree' or 'Strongly Disagree' responses.

Statement	% of clubs that 'Disagreed' or 'Strongly Disagreed'
Council gets too involved in the management of the facility	90
Our committee needs to consider amalgamation with another/other similar organizations.	89
It is difficult to get members with the type and level of skills and experience that we need.	53
Our organisation is familiar with available funding and grant programs and requirements.	50

- Half the organisations survey stated that they needed help with promoting their organisation and activities, and were not familiar with the available funding and grant programs and requirements
- 63% of respondents stated that on the whole, Council maintains its open space well and 61% believed that Council staff are mostly available when needed.
- 55% of respondents stated that a support network of similar clubs/associations should be established for mutual support, and that facilities catered well for people with disabilities.
- 48% of respondents stated that they needed to cater better for young people
- 45% of respondents said that it was difficult to get people with the level and type of skills needed.
- 40% of respondents said that they were unclear on the role of Council, parks Victoria, NRE etc.

6. Future priorities

The following are the top 10 planning priorities as identified by respondents.

TABLE 7 – Planning priorities as indicated by respondents

Ranking	Priority Activity	No. of clubs indicating as a 'High' priority
1.	To develop/upgrade ground facilities	79
2.	To increase membership	74
3.	To develop/improve clubroom facilities	71
4.	To become more financially viable	68
5.	To develop/maintain a good relationship with Council/NRE etc.	68
6.	To improve competition skills	66
7.	To increase volunteer involvement	66
8.	To develop more junior programs	61
9.	To identify and develop alternative fundraising opportunities	55
10.	To improve coaching/instruction skills	55

34% of respondents consider the development of women's programs to be a low priority.
 53% of respondents considered the improvement of club administration to be a 'medium' priority only.
 50% considered the development of a stronger relationship with their association and other clubs in our region to be a high priority.

All football clubs considered the need to upgrade/develop of ground facilities; to improve clubrooms; and to find alternative ways of fund-raising to be a high priority.

All cricket clubs considered the need to increase membership; to increase volunteer involvement; to become more financially viable to be a high priority.

All soccer clubs considered the need to upgrade/development of ground facilities; improve clubrooms; to develop/maintain a d good relationship with Council/NRE to be a high priority.

5 of the 6 tennis clubs considered the need to increase membership; to develop more junior programs; to develop/maintain a good relationship with Council/NRE; to upgrade/develop ground facilities to be a high priority.

7. Facility Development

Organisations were given the opportunity to identify capital works projects that they were considering for the next 5-10 years. The following table provides an overview to this information.

TABLE 8 – Future works proposed by Clubs

Organisation	Proposed project & anticipated cost	Proposed timeline	Funding expectations
Cricket			
Boneo Cricket Club	New floor, \$5,000 New deck, \$3,000 Fix plumbing, \$	2003 2003 2002	Sponsor, Club Not identified Not identified
Flinders Cricket Club	Extend clubrooms, \$25,000	2002	Club, Council, SRV
Hastings Cricket Club	Fencing of Barclay oval, \$10,000 New wicket, \$1,500	2002 2001	Council, ACB, Club
Mornington Cricket Club	Automatic sprinkler system – Alexandra Oval		
Mt. Eliza Cricket Club	Expand clubrooms, \$100,000 Upgrade kitchen, \$20,000 Fence oval, \$15,000	2003/10 2002/5 2002/7	Club & Council Club & Council Club & Council
Rye Cricket Club	Upgrade training facilities, \$5,000	2002/4	Sponsorship, Club
Football			
Hastings Junior Football Club	Separate cover and storage room New brick office room	2001 2002	Not identified Not identified
Mornington Football Club	Extension of clubrooms/social rooms		Insurance from grandstand fire (1999) and Council
Mt. Eliza Football Club	Extension of clubrooms, \$250- 300,000	2002/6	Council & club
Mt. Martha Junior Football Club	Change facilities for oval 2. \$80,000	2002	Club, Council, SRV
Red Hill Football Club	Extended/new clubrooms, \$300,000	2007	Council, local clubs, sponsors
Red Hill Junior Football Club	Club/social rooms, \$1- 1, Upgrade groundlighting 500,000	2005 2003	Club, Council Club
Rosebud Football Club	Extension to clubrooms * Undercover area	Abandoned due to lack of lease	Club Grounds Committee
Somerville Football Club	Oval lightings, 430,000 Replace carpet.	2004 2002	Club & grounds committee

Organisation	Proposed project & anticipated cost	Proposed timeline	Funding expectations
Sorrento Sports Club	Upgrade internal amenities. Purchase bus for junior transport Ground amenity upgrades *Ground lighting, \$9,000	Asap Subject to funding	Club Grounds committee
Soccer			
Mornington Soccer Club	Restructure of grounds to increase no. of grounds, \$1600 Refurbish kitchen, bar, clubrooms, \$15,000 Lighting, \$15,000 Female facilities, \$5,000	2002 2002-2006 2002/4 2002	Club Club Council Council & club
Rosebud Soccer Club	Social clubrooms furniture, \$2,000 Upgrade BBQ area Additional oval lighting	2002 2002 2002/4	Club, other clubs, Committee of Management Club
Tennis			
Blairgowrie Tennis Club	'refer letter 27/8/2001'		
Boneo Tennis Club	Resurfacing of courts	Asap	Council & Tennis Vic
Crib Point Tennis Club	Lights, \$25,000	Asap	Club, Council. Tennis Vic
Moorooduc Tennis Club	New clubhouse	2002/8	Club & Council
Somers Tennis Club	2 new courts at Stone reserve to replace Garden Square courts \$30-\$40,000	Asap	Council SRV Tennis Vic Club
Sorrento Tennis Club	New clubhouse, \$300,000 Upgrade of courts, \$150,000	2002 2002	Not identified
Tyabb Tennis Club	Move courts to Bunguyan Res, Court lighting, \$15,000	Asap 2002	Council Club
Equestrian			
Merricks Saddle Club	Fence training arena, \$12,000 Cross country course, \$8,000	2002 2002	Club & Council Club
Peninsula Quarter Horse Association	Connection power for arena lighting, \$1500	2002	Club & other user groups

Organisation	Proposed project & anticipated cost	Proposed timeline	Funding expectations
Other			
Italian Bocce Club of Dromana	Cover part of the Bocce Courts, \$100,000	2001/02	Not identified
	Increase size of clubrooms/add social rooms.	2001/02	Not identified
Somerville Netball Club	Court resurfacing, \$15,000	2002/3	Club
	Court lighting, \$2,000	2002	Club
Field & Game Aus. Assn.	Upgrade toilets, \$1,000		Club
Dromana Bowling Club	Disabled toilet access, Disabled access to green Carparking		Council, SRV
West Rosebud Bowling Club	* Disabled access & toilet		Club, Council
Nepean Miniature Aero Sport	Toilet block, \$2,500	2002	
	Ride on mower, \$5,000	2004	
	Safety fence, \$1500	2004	
Mornington Golfing Complex	Upgrade facilities, Replace building,	Ongoing	Club Club
	Improve facilities, \$30,000	2006/7	Club, grants
Mornington Fire Brigade	Track lighting	2002/3	/
	Track surfacing	2002	Not identified
Hastings and District Obedience Dog Club	Upgrade carpark & back field; upgrade of storeroom	Not identified	Not identified

* subject of recent funding application

8. Written Comments

Organisations were given the opportunity to provide additional comments as part of the survey. The following is a summary of those comments.

TABLE 9 – Written Comments from sporting/recreation Clubs

Name of Organisation	Written Comments
Soccer	
Mornington Soccer Club	Playing surface of main oval needs renovation; major work needed on the ground if club is to achieve state league ranking; club experiencing large growth – largest club on peninsula; looking to provide additional facilities for young girls/women players; wanting closer relationship with Council; prepared to partner on capital works projects (community forum); the current tenancy arrangement with the cricket club is not working satisfactorily.
Equestrian	
Main Ridge Adult	Concerned that no management plan has been approved despite many

Riding Club	consultancy reports; report and plan needed for environmental management reasons.
Peninsula Quarter Horse Association	Roofing of arena at red Hill needed; also toilets, shower facilities, stables.
Name of Organisation	Written Comments
Football	
Rosebud Football Club	Other clubs in the same competition have better facilities
Red Hill Junior Football Club	Better communication needed between clubs and grounds committees.
Mt. Eliza Football Club	Committee wanting information re capital works funding availability and the application process.
Sorrento Junior Football Club	Don't have direct involvement in the management of the ground nor liaison with Council. Player numbers increasing – therefore want to see facilities well maintained and congenial so as to offer players and their families excellent standard of facilities.
Tennis	
Moorooduc Tennis Club	New surface not satisfactory; sharing of facilities with cricket club not working well – only tennis club to have to share facilities.
Rye Tennis Club	Finding it difficult to find volunteer committee members
Boneo Tennis Club	Been given verbal assurance that courts will be brought up to standard.
Sorrento Tennis Club	Continual flooding of the reserve (including courts) causing long term damage to the courts and clubhouse- 4 courts subsiding, 2 unusable.
Crib Point Tennis Club	Waiting on approval for installation of lights.
Other	
Nepean Miniature Aero Sport	Wanting power connection to clubrooms.
Dromana Netball Club	Wanting lower goal rings for juniors.
Boneo Cricket Club	Clubrooms need redevelopment, very dilapidated; wanting support and contact from Council.
Mornington Fire Brigade	Want to run regional competition at Mornington Park but facilities need to be improved – not up to competition standard.

3.0 Community Environment and Conservation Organisation Survey

56 community environment and conservation organisations were forwarded surveys. 12 surveys were returned and the following provides a summary of information obtained through the survey.

1. Respondents were asked whether they 'Agreed' or 'Disagreed' with the following statements.

TABLE 1 – Number of respondents that 'Agree'/'Disagree' with the following statements.

Statement	Number of groups that 'Agreed'/'Strongly Agreed' with the statement	Number of groups that 'Disagreed'/'Strongly Disagreed' with the statement
• A support network of 'friends' groups and committees should be established for mutual support	12	0
• Our organisation is very clear on the scope of its role and responsibilities	12	1
• Council staff are helpful	11	1
• Council staff are mostly available when we need assistance	11	3
• Council provides a satisfactory level of support and advice to our committee	10	3
• Our organisation is familiar with available funding and grant programs and their requirements	9	3
• Our organisation has all the necessary skills and knowledge to manage the facility well	9	3
• Generally there are very few conflicts between users of the facility	9	3
• The role of Council, NRE and Parks Victoria in relation to the land we manage is very clear	9	3
• Our organisation is familiar with its insurance and legal liability obligations and limitations	9	3
• Our organisation needs to attract more members	8	3
• Family groups are well catered for	8	3
• It is difficult to get members with the type and level of skills and experience that we need	7	6
• Our organisation needs help with promoting the facility	5	8
• On the whole, Council maintains its open space assets well	5	3
• Recreation activities do not have a negative impact on the bushland/conservation areas		8
• The facility we manage needs to cater for young people better	3	6
• The facility we manage caters well for people with disabilities and people who are less mobile	3	7
• Our organisation needs to consider combining with another/other similar organisations	2	9
• Council gets too involved in the management of the facility	0	12

2. Respondents were asked to indicate the organisation they would contact first in relation to a range of issues commonly dealt with by their committee.

TABLE 2 – Source of advice, support and referral identified by community groups

Issues & Responsibilities	No. that said they would contact Council	No. that said they would contact the Committee
• For advice and approval for the removal or planting of vegetation	12	0
• For advice on insurance and legal matters including risk management, accidents and safety concerns	11	0
• For information and advice on project grants and funding programs	11	0
• In regards to vandalism issues & repair	10	0
• For advice and approval for the construction of boardwalks, trails, pathways, BBQ's, picnic facilities etc.	9	0
• For assistance with preparing funding applications	9	1
• For day to day advice on conservation and environment management	8	0
• For day to day advice and support	7	6
• For 'training' in developing the skills and knowledge to manage the facility	7	1
• For assistance with promotion and marketing of the facility	5	4
• In regards to the management of camping grounds, jetties, carparks etc.	4	7
• For advice and approval for the construction or demolition of buildings	4	0
• In relation to committee management issues	2	6
• In regards to the setting of fees and charges	2	8

3. Proposed projects

Organisations were given the opportunity to identify capital works projects that they were considering for the next 5-10 years. The following table provides an overview to this information.

TABLE 3 – Works proposed by environment and conservation groups

Organisation	Proposed project	Anticipated cost	Funding expectations
Friends of Earimil Ck	Ongoing maintenance,	\$10,000	Council
Friends of Slips Reserve	Picnic table and benches		
Warringine Reserve	Creek revegetation	\$20,000	Engineering support
	Warrenda development	\$20,000 (Parks Vic funding confirmed?)	
Balcombe Estuary Rehabilitation Group	2 additional BBQ's	\$5,800, submission to RACV	Installation, possibly

4. Written Comments

Organisations were given the opportunity to provide additional comments as part of the survey. The following is a summary of those comments.

TABLE 4 – Summary of written comments from community environment and conservation groups

Name of Organisation	Written Comments
Friends of Earimil Ck	Need more open space, no more selling off of land; Council does not appreciate its management responsibilities; not an equitable amount spent on natural environment compared to other open space types.
Friends of Walking Tracks - Mornington & Nepean Peninsulas	Needs to be a greater recognition of walking, the most popular recreation activity.
Mclear Road Weedbusters	Priority for a all open space should be protection of indigenous habitat; strategy should consider preservation of habitat corridors; should consider buffer zones between private and public properties; limit access for motorbikes/trail bikes etc.; limit access for horses.
Friends of Slips Reserve	Acknowledge letter of thanks from Mayor; Dept. managing maintenance is under resourced; Blairgowrie is a sensitive area and needs more resources; more education/support for local initiatives to bring back local flora and fauna, what to plant etc.; Council needs to be able to provide resources to local groups and volunteers.
Friends of Dorothea Reserve	Greta guidance and support from Council officers, generally happy with how project is progressing.
Warringine Reserve	Group has over 100 members; park is well placed to become a regional reserve with addition of Bittern wetlands; development of regional environmental center will add to this.
Friends of Buxton Woodland Reserve	Protection of bushland from activities on adjoining properties; provide advice to property owners re what not to plant; recommend that letter be sent with all building permits re environmental management e.g. plants to grow/not to grow etc.
Friends of Dimmicks Bushland Reserve	Draft vegetation Management Policy is inclusive of matters of concern to the group; concern as to whether has the will to implement.
Balcombe Estuary Rehabilitation Group	Have MOU with Council; regularly apply for funding to NRE, parks Victoria etc.; need expert advice re silting up of estuary

4.0 Schools Survey

48 schools were forwarded, and asked to complete surveys. 33 surveys were returned, 27 from primary schools and 6 from secondary Schools. The following provides a summary of information obtained through the survey.

Schools were asked to indicate what open space facilities they used, how often they used them and for what part of their curriculum.

TABLE 1 – facilities used most frequently by schools.

Facility	No. of schools using the facility
Sporting Reserves	24
Foreshore Areas	18
Bushland/conservation Areas	14
Trails	10
Jetties and Marinas	9
Outdoor Courts	6

The following relates to the curriculum programs for which schools access the facilities.

- Sporting reserves (24 schools), Foreshore Areas (10 schools) and Outdoor Courts (5 schools) are used primarily for PE programs.
- Bushland and Conservation Reserves are used primarily for Environmental Studies (8 schools) and Outdoor Education (6 schools).
- Jetties and Marinas tend to be used equally for Physical Education (5 schools) and Outdoor Education (5 schools) programs.
- Trails tend to be used equally across all outdoor activity areas, with a slightly higher level of use for Environmental Studies.
- 4 schools indicated that they use The Briars Park as part of their curriculum or for camps.

The following relates to the frequency of use

- 6 schools indicated that they use Sporting reserves on a weekly or greater basis (in some cases this involved a number of reserves), and 4 schools indicated that they used Sporting reserves on a monthly basis.
- Facilities were most commonly accessed by schools about 6 times a year, including Sporting Reserves which 17 schools indicated they used about 6 times a year, Bushland and Conservation Areas which 8 schools indicated they used about 6 times a year, and Foreshore Areas which 8 schools indicated they used about 6 times a year.

TABLE 2 – Projects and works being proposed by schools

	Projects under consideration by the School	Other Comments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS		
Boneo PS	School currently fund-raising for outdoor netball/ basketball facilities	School has close relationship with the Shire re the Boneo Hall, Boneo Reserve and the Boonerwung wetlands.
Crib Point S	'Mini oval' – seeding, grading of open space at rear of playground	

(continued)

	Projects under consideration by the School	Other Comments
Dromana PS	Refurbishment/rebuilding of school buildings 2002/3	
Eastbourne PS	Construction of school hall. In planning stages.	
Hastings PS	'Shadehouse Trees 2000' project, 2002/4	Students to grow indigenous plants for shade and possibly for wider community
Kunyang PS	After School Care facility	
Mornington Park PS	Fitness Track, 2001 Community plant growing area, 2002	
Penbank PS	Purchase of more land Building of swimming pool complex, 2007	
Rosebud PS	Construction of Performing Arts Theatre, 2002,3	Will be considering a partnership with Council
Rye PS	Upgrade of school	
Somers PS	Refurbish school oval – level and top dress	
Somerville Rise PS	Black Camp Swamp. Would like to participate in cleaning up this area	Would like to seek partnership with Council re this project.
St. Macartans PS	Tanti Ck trail and boardwalk.	Would like to talk with Council re a partnership.
St. Thomas Mores PS	4 new classrooms and multi-purpose area, 2002	
Tyabb PS	Olivers Ck Reserve Improvement project. Would like to develop trails, bridge, fencing, carpark.	Would like to talk to Council re a partnership
SECONDARY COLLEGES		
Our Lady of Fatima	Relocation of the school. Yet to be determined.	
Padua College (Rosebud)	Construction of a gymnasium. Completion 2004	
Western Port SC	Construction of a new band room.	

TABLE 4 – Summary of school facilities and availability for community use

School	Oval Full size		Oval Under sized		Cricket wickets		Playground		Tennis Courts		Bushland/ conservation areas		Outdoor basketball courts		Indoor basketball courts		Swimming pool		Theatre/ darma room		Multi purpose/ meeting room		
		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use		Available for use	
PRIMARY SCHOOLS																							
Balnarring PS			♦	♦			♦	♦			♦	♦	♦	♦	♦					♦		♦	
Baxter Primary School			♦	♦			♦	♦					2	♦							♦	♦	
Bittern PS							♦	♦			♦	♦	1	♦								♦	
Boneo PS	1	♦ (Shire)			2	♦			3	♦	♦	♦	1	♦								1	♦
Crib Point S							♦	♦					2	♦								♦	♦
Dromana PS			1	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦					3	♦									
Eastbourne PS	1	♦					♦	♦			♦	♦ being developed	2	♦								♦	School community
Hastings PS	1		1		2		♦						4									♦	♦
Kunyang PS			1	♦	2		♦	♦							1/2	♦						♦	♦
Moorooduc PS			1				♦						1									♦	
Mornington PS	1		1				♦						2							♦		♦	Also Hall & IT Centre for hire
Mornington park PS			1	♦	2	♦	♦	♦					1	♦								♦	♦
Mt. Eliza North PS			1	♦			♦						2	♦								♦	♦
Osborne PS			1				♦	♦					1	♦	1	♦							
Penbank PS			1				♦		♦				♦									♦	
Red Hill Consolidated School	1	♦					♦	♦					2	♦									
Rosebud PS			1	♦			♦	♦											♦	♦	♦	♦	Also IT room
Rye PS																							
Somers PS			1	♦			♦	♦					1	♦								♦	♦
Somerville PS			1	♦			♦	♦					1	♦								♦	♦
Somerville Rise PS			1	♦			♦	♦							1/2	♦						♦	♦
St. Josephs PS (Crib Point)			1		1		♦																
St. Macartans PS			1						1				1	Schools only								1	Parish grp. only
St. Thomas Mores PS			1				♦				♦		2									♦	♦
Tootgarook PS																							
Tyabb PS			1	♦			♦	♦			♦	♦ COM for Olivers Ck. Res. (part)	1									♦	♦
Tyabb Railway St. PS			1				♦						1									1	
SECONDARY COLLEGES																							
Mornington Secondary College	1	♦											2	♦	2	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Our Lady of Fatima																						♦	
Padua College (Rosebud)	1	♦			2	♦	♦	♦	2	♦	♦	♦	2	♦	1/2	♦						♦	♦
Rosebud Secondary College	1	♦			2	♦			2	♦			1	♦	2	♦						♦	♦ Also Hall (500)
Toorak College			1	♦					4	♦			2	♦	1	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Western Port SC	1	♦	1						1						1				♦	♦	♦	♦	♦

Appendix 3 – Document Review

1.0 Council Documents

1. Corporate Planning Documents - Mornington Peninsula Shire

Name of the Document COMMUNITY PLAN, JULY 2000- JUNE 2003

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date September 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Key priorities
 - To protect Our Environment
With specific goals and actions relating to:
 - Conserving the coast, areas of agriculture and the natural environment
 - Guiding development and landuse activities
 - Encouraging energy conservation and waste minimisation
 - Undertaking and suPurvesing environmentally responsible works and services
 - Protecting the peninsula from bush and building fires
 - To facilitate a robust local economy
With specific goals and actions relating to:
 - Planning future business development
 - To service and strengthen local communities
With specific goals and actions relating to:
 - Supporting and strengthening communities
 - Providing children, youth and family services
 - Creating and facilitating better health outcomes
 - Enhancing leisure and recreational opportunities
 - Promoting and providing library services
 - Celebrating local heritage
 - Providing aged and disability services
 - Encouraging community safety
 - Promoting reconciliation and understanding of aboriginal and islander people
 - To provide and enhance physical infrastructure
With specific goals and actions relating to:
 - Maintain and enhance the road networks
 - Managing public buildings
 - Providing and maintaining drainage systems
 - To provide open and accountable consultative government
With specific goals and actions relating to:
 - Consulting with the community
 - Advocating community interests
 - Working with other organisations
 - Managing public finance
 - Supporting the organisation

Name of the Document SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date Draft, July 2001

Outline/summary of the Document

- Articulates the principles and practices supported by Council and the community to ensure that the municipality remains environmentally, socially and economically sustainable into the future

- The aims of the strategy include identifying policy gaps, helps identify and develop partnerships with agencies, organisations, government and the community, recognise synergies and creative opportunities
- Recognises 6 sustainability principles that apply to the community, the environment, and the economy
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy
 - Recreation facilities and Open Space (Community)
 - improved access and quality of facilities for future generations
 - maximising of participation and community access to facilities and involvement in the management
 - avoid adverse development particularly where impacts are unknown
 - reduction of dependency on non-renewable resources
 - The Environment
 - recognition and protection of ecosystems and natural character of the peninsula environment
 - recognising the different needs of various ecosystems e.g. coasts, bushland etc.
 - recognise the partnerships (private, public) needed to ensure the effective management of the environment
 - promotion and community development and awareness programs
 - Encouraging and supporting of local community involvement
 - The economy
 - recognising that landscapes are both built and natural, and the need to protect both
 - ensuring access to facilities (commercial, sporting etc.) that cater for a range of needs and abilities
 - developments need to recognise the natural environment and not threaten its viability
 - communities preference for 'unstructured' recreation opportunities needs to be recognised and catered for
 - features of the peninsula need to be protected to maintain a viable tourism industry

Name of the Document **RECREATION, CULTURE & OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date May 1998

Outline/summary of the Document

This plan determined Council's development of service programs and facilities for 5-10 years into the future. Its focus was general and covered leisure services delivery, council's strategic leisure role, responsibilities and management, special needs groups, promotion, pricing, active facilities, culture and the arts, open space and leisure planning/policies.

The Open Space section of the plan categorised open space as parkland, sporting, conservation bushland, conversation parkland, heritage parkland and undeveloped open space. A series of maps with overlays were prepared, to assist with the identification of open space.

Principles for open space provision were identified under the following headings: provision and distribution, environmental and cultural qualities and resources. Planning standards were identified for:

Local Parks: 0.5-1.0 ha within 500 metres of households
District Parks: 3ha within 2km of households
Sports Grounds: 1.5ha for every 1000 people

Further policies and actions were identified on the areas of provision, quality, resources, rationalisation, foreshore and conservation areas and pedestrian/bicycle paths and walking trails.

Name of the Document **HEALTH AND WELL BEING PLAN**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date March-July 2002

Outline/summary of the Document

The Shire's Health and Well Being Plan is currently being prepared, supported by the following (draft) principles:

1. That health is a fundamental human right
2. That health is a state of complete physical, mental, social, emotional, economic, spiritual and environmental well being, not merely the absence of infirmity or disease
3. That health and well being rely on the balance and inter-relationships of many health and well being factors
4. That health and well being is a sound social investment
5. That the health and well being of the community is dependent upon strong partnerships with government, corporate and community organisations and members
6. That services and programs must be developed with the community and serve to empower the community
7. That the principles of access and equity are intrinsic to health and well being outcomes
8. That local programs and services should reflect local priorities and focus on specific populations
9. That providers of services and programs should be accountable to the community for their services and programs they deliver, and
10. That the continuum of health strategies be recognised as including promotion, prevention, intervention, maintenance, support and healing for individuals and community.

The key community values that are embraced by the Mornington Peninsula communities are:

Key Values
Healthy Places and Spaces <i>Quality natural and built environments that contribute to good health and community well being</i>
Healthy Lifestyle Choices <i>Individual and community responsibility that encourages healthy living</i>
Active Local Communities <i>Creation of and support for opportunities and involvement in community life</i>
Quality of Life for All <i>Fair and just access to community resources</i>
Sense of belonging and optimism about the Future <i>Community well being and confidence through meaningful connection and place, including the experience of hope and happiness</i>

(Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire: Health and Well Being Plan, 2002)

The development of indicators, and the assessment of the shire's communities so as to produce a health and well being status report is also part of the strategy.

Name of the Document **THE BRIARS PARK HISTORIC PARK – SETTING PLAN**

Author Jennifer Lee, Janet Curtis

Date July 1997

Outline/summary of the Document

- Document developed to guide the future management and planning for The Briars Park property
- Key initiatives outlined in the document relate to :
 - Increasing visitation by removing entrance fee (implemented in 2000)
 - Increasing the number of return visitations
 - Increasing the number of fee paying services and programs
 - Decreasing costs per visit
 - Increasing the range of opportunities at the facility
 - Responsible management
- Makes recommendations relating to:
 - Visitor services – promotion, basic services, events and functions, facilities, interpretation services
 - Land management – landscape setting management, management zones (12), vegetation, grassland, wetland fauna and fire management
 - Cultural management – homestead, farm buildings, garden etc.
 - Defines 12 management zones and associated actions relating to each zone
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Does not provide a clear breakdown of priorities and actions within a timeline or resourcing framework
 - Does not discuss issues relating to the benefits and issues associated with The Briars Park being more closely integrated with allied functions/departments within Council (conservation, heritage, recreation etc.)

Is a significant open space asset that has the potential to fulfill a significant function in terms of environmental and cultural education both on a regional and local level

Name of the Document **A CELEBRATION OF PLACE – PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date July 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Summary of a project undertaken to encourage responses from the local community about aspects of the peninsula important to them.
- 298 responses were received as part of the project from a wide age range and in various medium (poetry, story, pictorial)
- 'Future Visions' strongly relating to preservation of fauna, healthy environment, healthy lifestyle, community development and support, community safety
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Strong sense of place and identity in relation to the peninsula and local characteristics emerged through the project
 - Majority of entries identified with a specific township, beach, park or place in the local neighbourhood
 - Opportunities and 'importance of place' emerged for specific age groups
 - Children – parks as a place to meet friends
 - Young people – the park a place for 'time out', 'around the corner'
 - Adults – restful walking

- Family – time together, feed the birds, time with pets
- Different places seen to have different things to offer
- Beaches – for groups, family, the individual; important natural features to enjoy and protect; colourful/fun; structured and unstructured recreation activities
- Natural environment – adults identified with the freedom and emotion of the natural environment; therapeutic; preservation, conservation values

Name of the Document **PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Author Ray Hutchison and Associates

Date Feb 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Report commissioned to identify
 - Key locations for regional and neighbourhood playgrounds (total of 146 playground sites)
 - Venues that should have equipment removed
 - An appropriate playground management system
- Provides descriptors for regional and neighbourhood playgrounds and provides an inventory of sites
- Identified the need to allocate \$1,050,000 over the next 5 years to meet the requirements of upgrading equipment to an appropriate standard (category 1 rating)
- Development program??
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Categorisation of playgrounds and terminology
 - Priorities for development of facilities for families and young people
 - Safe and well maintained playgrounds viewed as important by the community

Name of the Document **REGIONAL EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire & Frankston City

Date October 1977

Outline/summary of the Document

- Report commissioned to:
 - identify regional equestrian routes and linkages
 - identify (high, medium and low) priority capital works
 - map priority trails
- Report includes mapping of trails

Name of the Document **HERITAGE STUDY**

Author Graeme Butler & Associates

Date 1994

Outline/summary of the Document

- Study undertaken by the former Shire of Mornington and identifies public buildings, private properties, heritage site etc. including open space precincts such as foreshore areas and bushland of heritage significance.
- Provides extensive inventory listing and descriptors
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
- Includes areas such as the Mt. Martha Esplanade and Foreshore Precinct, Mornington Park and Reserve Landscape Precinct etc.

Name of the Document **COMPREHENSIVE SIGNAGE POLICY**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date

Outline/summary of the Document

- Categorises and defines signage according to function.
- Identifies 13 categories including facility, directional, promotional, and relates to townships, sites of significance, community events, real estate, shopping precincts etc.
- In summary, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that signage
 - Complements the visual amenity of the area
 - Is consistent in terms of safety, technical and amenity standards
 - Is effective and appropriate re the promotion of events, sites of significance etc.
- The policy identifies application process, fee scales, and assessment criteria
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Provides framework for signage provision throughout the Shire and in relation to open space, tourist, recreation facilities etc.
 - Standards for trail (other than tourism/ road trails) and interpretative signage provision needs to clarified

Name of the Document **LOCAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP HANDBOOK**

Author Mornington Peninsula Shire

Date September 1999, (under review, July 2001)

Outline/summary of the Document

- Provides Local Management Support Groups (reserve management committees) with understanding of their roles and responsibilities that include advising Council on priorities, planning for future development, conflict resolution, collection of fees, allocation of facilities to users, co-ordinated representation to Council
- Provides groups with information on the process for conducting meetings and the role of committee positions
- Identifies maintenance and development responsibilities of Council and the group
- Committee operate under section 86 of the Local Government Act
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy

- Council is responsible for the setting of fees and charges and policy direction, leases and occupancy agreements
- Improvement and capital Works program application process requires clubs to develop a 3 year plan, management plan (?), reserve plan (including proposals), obtain design maps/plans and quotes
- Fees and Charges
 - Based on categorisation of grounds (categories 1-3) and buildings (categories A-D) and facilities (courts etc.)
 - Community and commercial rate included in the policy
 - Concessions include - 25% for clubs with 75% of participants 18 or under
 - 25% for clubs running programs for people with disabilities
 - 10% for clubs providing programs for women (other than female sports/activities) and minority groups
 - concessions apply to use of facilities by juniors (based on ground categorisation)
 - fees paid to the Local Management Support group, no fees are paid to Council for the use of grounds

Name of the Document **SAFETY BEACH FORESHORE MASTER PLAN**

Author Inspiring Place P/L

Date February 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Outlines issues and opportunities relating to the development and management of the Foreshore Area and provides recommendations relating to:
 - Management of Natural and Cultural Values
 - Car Parking
 - Public Access and Safety
 - Community Facilities
 - Amenity Landscaping
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Need to ensure consistency with strategic open space planning documents and reserve management and development principles and directions
 - The need to review site specific planning documents in consideration of outcomes and directions determined by the Open Space Strategy
 - Makes the following recommendations (summary) that need to be considered in a Shirewide/regional facility provision context:
 - Development of the Port Phillip Coastal Trail along Safety Beaches and foreshore areas.
There are partnership funding implications and requirements that need to be explored before Council considers undertaking this (Recommendation No. 8)
 - Undertake a major development in the area of existing play and picnic facilities
This needs to be consistent with Council's Playground Strategy or provide justification as to why there should be a divergence from the strategy. Consideration also needed as to future maintenance implications. (Recommendation No. 11)
 - Development of an integrated play and picnic area at southern end (Recommendation No. 13)
Refer above for comment.

Name of the Document **TOOTGAROOK RESERVE MASTER PLAN**

Author Inspiring Place P/L

Date December 1999

Outline/summary of the Document

- Outlines issues and opportunities relating to the development and management of the Tootgarook Reserve and provides recommendations relating to:
 - Management of conservation values
 - Future sporting use
 - Improved community access and facilities
 - Access and parking
 - Landscape and amenity values
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Need to ensure consistency with strategic open space planning documents and reserve management and development principles and directions
 - The need to review site specific planning documents in consideration of outcomes and directions determined by the Open Space Strategy
 - Makes the following recommendations (summary) that need to be considered in a Shirewide/regional facility provision and sport development context:
 - Consider the development of a junior ground at the reserve (Recommendation No. 5)
 - Retain option for an additional sports ground (Recommendation No. 6)
 - Make provision for a multi-sports center (Recommendation No. 7)
 - Connection of and to walking/bicycle tracks (Recommendation No. 10/11)
 - Generic open space issues raised through consultation for the Open Space Strategy are raised through this study including impacts of recreation activities on environment, management of conservation values (vegetation, habitat etc.), better amenities for walkers, integration of 'spaces' within reserves, integration of management responsibilities within Council

Name of the Document **DAVID MACFARLANE RESERVE MASTER PLAN**

Author Inspiring Place P/L

Date February 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Outlines issues and opportunities relating to the development and management of the Reserve and provides recommendations relating to:
 - Existing facilities layout
 - Access and parking
 - New facilities
 - Safety and Amenity
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Need to ensure consistency with strategic open space planning documents and reserve management and development principles and directions
 - The need to review site specific planning documents in consideration of outcomes and directions determined by the Open Space Strategy
 - Makes the following recommendations (summary) that need to be considered in a Shirewide/regional facility provision and sport development context:

- Two of the netball courts be allocated for the future development of croquet lawns and the potential location of the Portsea club to the reserve (Recommendation No. 5)
Need to ensure that future netball use can be accommodated
- The provision of a small skatepark for local use (Recommendation No. 6)
This needs to be consistent with Council's direction for provision of skate facilities across the Shire
- Tennis Clubroom development to proceed (Recommendation No. 8)
Must ensure that need has been established in conjunction with local tennis and Tennis Victoria and is consistent with tennis participation trends across the Shire. Need to identify overall tennis facility development priorities.

Name of the Document **SORRENTO FORESHORE RESERVE MASTER PLAN**

Author Inspiring Place P/L

Date April 2002

Outline/summary of the Document

The master plan provides a framework for the future planning, development and management of the Sorrento Foreshore.

The key issue identified for the planning of the Sorrento Beach foreshore through consultation and site visits. In summary were,

Reduce the impacts on the foreshore natural and cultural values;

Improve public access, parking and activities; and

Improve landscaping and amenity.

Specific management objectives are provided in this master plan to guide future decision making in regard to the Sorrento foreshore for example, introduced species, habitat management, aesthetic values, public risk and safety, earth hazards, historic cultural heritage, Aboriginal heritage, community values, access and parking, recreation and tourism, vandalism, special events, information/education/interpretation, facility provision/design, siting and management capacity.

Name of the Document **RESPONSIBLE GAMING STRATEGY**

Author Beverley Kilger & Associates

Date May 2001

Outline/summary of the Document

- Policy drafted as a result of a resolution by Council September 2000 that also resolved to
 - support a cap on gaming machines in the Shire until the development of a policy
 - advocate to the state government in relation to impacts
 - advocate to the Community Support Fund that Council be notified of future applications from within the municipality
- Provides an overview of:
 - Gambling trends in the Shire –
Density of gaming machines and average player loses are both higher than for Victoria. Mornington Peninsula has 2nd highest number of gambling venues in Victoria

- and the most gambling venues of all metropolitan areas. Player loses increased 57.5 million – 65 million in last 2 years
- Growth in the number of venues
Number of venues increased from 2-20, 1992-2001; number of machines increased 115-864, 1992-2001
- Distribution of machines
Machines concentrated in 4 areas – Hastings, Mornington, Rosebud and Rye
- Grants received from CSF Fund
Shire received \$1.9 million in CSF grants
- Tourism and gambling
KPMG (2000) – gaming does not have a significant impact on attracting tourism to local areas
VCGA research reveals that people who live or work locally are the primary users of local gambling facilities
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy
 - Impact of gambling on the capacity of the community to support local initiatives
 - Recommended actions from the report
 - 3.2 Enhancing Leisure and Recreation Opportunities
 - Shire to promote and inform residents of open space facilities and opportunities available
 - Mornington Peninsula Community grants Scheme should require project outcomes to include increased recreation opportunities
 - Fees and Charges Policy (to be developed) should recognize the difficulty clubs (clubs) have in generating funds
 - 5.0 Gaming and Shire Owned and Managed Land and Properties
 - 5.1 Gaming Operations
 - Approval process
 - Impact assessment
 - Net community benefit
 - Fees and charges policy that considers income generated and the application of commercial rent to clubs with gaming machines; a contribution to the community from clubs with gaming machines; and the community attitude/sentiment
 - 5.2 Signage on Shire Owned or Managed Reserves
 - prohibition of NEW sponsorship signage that advertises gambling related products or venues etc.
 - Existing sponsorship signage not to promote gambling facilities as the sole attractor for the venue

2.0 Other Documents relevant to the Project

Name of the Document **DRAFT NATIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Author Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Date Aug 2000

Outline/summary of the Document

- Details the strategic direction for the protection, enhancement and revegetation of native vegetation across the state
- Primary goal 'a reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain
- Links Net gain to the conservation value (very high to low) of the native vegetation within specific areas
- Outlines government's policies, vision, principles and management goals
- Details Net Gain criteria and preferred responses at a state, regional and local level
- Review and implementation programs

- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy
 - Has expectation of a response on a local level to issues associated with decline in quality and quantity of native vegetation
 - Council facing issues associated with loss of/incursion into areas of native vegetation of varying qualities in relation to recreational access and facility development etc.

Name of the Document **GREEN WEDGES AND OTHER NON-URBAN AREAS IN MELBOURNE – TECHNICAL REPORT 2**

Author Department of Infrastructure

Date

Outline/summary of the Document

- Provides a discussion and direction paper in relation to 'Green Belts' – non-urban areas with high environmental values e.g. Yarra Valley, Dandenong Ranges, Mornington Peninsula; and Green Wedges' – non-urban areas between the city's urban growth corridors
- Identifies threats to these non-urban areas if not managed properly. Threats including ad hoc urban rezoning in fringe areas, weed growth, loss of agricultural productivity, rural residential development, pollution, loss of native vegetation
- Defines urban/non-urban boundary, discusses use and management of non-urban areas, long term reservations, agriculture and the issues associated with existing policy

- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - Protection of sensitive areas from encroachment
 - Use/preservation of linear corridors provided by services such as powerlines,
 - Information to the community
 - Defining open space reservations and uses

Name of the Document **A GUIDE TO PRIORITIES FOR MELBOURNE'S OPEN SPACE NETWORK**

Author Parks Victoria

Date December 1995

Outline/summary of the Document

- One of a series of 7 guides prepared by parks Victoria to provide a planning and development framework for public open space that:
- Constitutes a regional park
- Forms part of a linear network across the Melbourne metropolitan area
- Has high nature conservation, historic, cultural or landscape values or
- Provides specialised recreational attractions that draw visitors from a wide catchment
- This document defines the strategic open space network for the Mornington Peninsula and the basis of eligibility for funding, and provides a mechanism for identifying and developing agency, municipal and community partnerships
- Identifies the following as significant regional open space assets
 - Mornington Peninsula National Park, French Island, Arthurs Seat national Park, The Briars Park, Mt. Eliza regional park, and trails within the Mornington Peninsula national Park (between Rye and Portsea, between Greens Bush and Bushrangers Bay) and trails within the Arthurs Seat State park
- Identifies that extensive areas in the bay are of national, state or regional zoological, botanical or geological significance
- Identifies The Briars Park as having significant cultural values
- The guidelines identifies 5 management zones within the peninsula:
 - Southern port Phillip – tourism and recreation
 - Bass Strait Coast – conservation
 - Western Port Phillip – environmental management
 - Frankston Hinterland – network refinement
 - Peninsula Hinterland - diversification
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - *Site specific* management and development priorities include
 - Mt. Eliza foreshore – protection and interpretation programs in relation to aboriginal archaeology and landscape
 - Rye back beach – Gunnamatta beach - Cape Schanck – Flinders, - upgrade of visitor facilities, conservation and enhancement of environmental and cultural values of the park
 - Pt. Nepean – Flinders, - long distance walking trail
 - Sorrento township – Sorrento beach – Portsea back beach – Mornington National Park- Portsea village, investigate feasibility of walking trail circuit
 - Hastings Foreshore Plan
 - *General/overall* management and development priorities include
 - Preservation of natural areas
 - Rehabilitation of inappropriate pedestrian and vehicular access
 - Protection of significant flora and fauna
 - Improvement of conservation values

Name of the Document **VICTORIAN COASTAL STRATEGY****Author** Victorian Coastal Council**Date** 2002**Outline/summary of the Document**

The Victorian Coastal Strategy (VCS) provides a vision for the Victorian Coast that is guided by the Coastal management Act 1995 to:

- Ensure protection of significant environmental features
- Provide clear direction for the future use of the coast, including the marine environment
- Identify suitable development areas and opportunities on the coast; and
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD – development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends), guides the four principles for the VCS:

- **Protection** of significant environmental features is about the conservation of biodiversity, physical diversity and ecological integrity or the preservation and maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support.
- **Direction for the future** is about providing integrated coastal zone planning and management which has regards to the environmental, social and economic implications of decisions and takes a long, rather than short, term view when making those decisions.
- **Sustainable use** of natural coastal resources is about ensuring intergenerational equity or meeting the needs of people today without compromising the needs of future generations.
- **Suitable development** on the coast is that which provides an environmental, social and/or economic benefit, enhancing the community's value of the coastal environment

The VCS is developed under 6 major themes:

1. Marine and estuarine environments
 2. Natural onshore environment
 3. People on the coast
 4. Access
 5. Built environment & coastal infrastructure
 6. Coastal dependent industry
- Implications/relevance for the Open Space Strategy:
 - May impact on the ability of Council to locate infrastructure along coastline if proposals are not in identified 'development' zones
 - Refers to some bodies that are responsible for aspects of regional planning that will provide input to determining appropriate development regimes e.g. Tourism Victoria. Does not acknowledge other agencies responsible for other aspects of regional planning e.g. local government.
 - Possible implications re design, setbacks, and 'appropriate rates and taxes' that may be levied for activities deemed commercial (aquatic facilities ??)
 - Encouragement of involvement by local groups and individuals will increase demand for resources and support from Council Officers
 - Of particular significance to the Mornington Peninsula Shire is the following:

Safe Harbour	A major regional boating destination and a major activity focus of national, state and regional significance, would include marinas, protected harbours, jetties and ramps, hire facilities, waterfront activities and marine services.	Mornington Hastings
Regional Boat Ramp	Accommodates a significant amount of recreational boating n appropriate conditions, include multiple boat ramps, jetties, substantial carparking, safety measures where required and significance onshore facilities such as fish-cleaning facilities, wash down areas and toilets.	Rye

Coastal
Recreation
Zone

Areas capable of sustaining recreational opportunities for large numbers of people.

Mornington
Rosebud – Sorrento
Hastings