



FRIENDS OF OCEAN GROVE NATURE RESERVE

# Strategic plan 2021-2026

# Who we are

The Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve (FOGNR) are a group of like-minded volunteers who highly value the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve (OGNR) for its diverse flora and fauna.

We work to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the OGNR.

We advocate and liaise with Parks Victoria and other relevant organisations to enhance and protect the ecological values of the OGNR.

We run an ongoing activities program with activities that are designed to engage with the community to build appreciation and understanding of the natural values of the OGNR. Activities range from wildflower and bird walks to on-ground works such as weeding and tree planting.

The Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is located. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



# Background

The Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is a 143 hectare patch, dominated by Grassy Woodland and Heathy Woodland.

It is the largest remnant of non-coastal vegetation on the Bellarine Peninsula and supports five species listed as globally threatened, two species listed as nationally threatened and seven species listed as threatened in Victoria.

The Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is managed by Parks Victoria with support from the Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve.



# Vision

The Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is a biodiverse natural environment that supports indigenous species of the Bellarine Peninsula. It is appreciated for its natural values and respected by visitors as a place of passive recreation.

# Purpose

To work as a strong and inclusive Friends Group that is respected for its role in preserving and enhancing the ecological values of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve.

# Values

Collaborative:	We consult with the experts
Integrity:	We are honest, open and trusted
Stewardship:	We care
Teamwork:	We work together

# Goals

- 1: Work to preserve and enhance biodiversity in the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
- 2: Foster community appreciation and engagement with the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and develop the Friends network
- 3: Advocate and liaise with Parks Victoria and relevant organisations on behalf of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve



## Goal 1: Work to preserve and enhance biodiversity in the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

Activity	Desired outcome
1.1 Map and remove environmental weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control or eradication of key weed or problem species - Gorse, Spear Thistle, Buffalo Grass, Kikuyu, Couch Grass, Briza sp, Panic Veldt Grass, Serrated Tussock, Soursob, Purple Oxalis, Bridal Creeper, Cape Weed, Boneseed, Italian Buckthorn, Pampas Grass, Coast Teatree, Sallow Wattle, Coast Wattle, Sweet Pittosporum, Olive, Blackberry, Flaxleaf Broom, Pink Centaury, Cats Ears and various thistle species</li> </ul>
1.2 Conduct flora and fauna surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the full range of current flora, mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian species within the OGNR</li> <li>Regularly review changes to populations and species observed with particular attention to the effects of mulching and burning</li> </ul>
1.3 Work with Parks Victoria to conduct forest mower works and small cool management burns for ecological objectives and fire risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase area of Grassy Woodland</li> <li>Prevent Eucalypts from dying by reducing competition</li> <li>A reduction in fire fuel load</li> </ul>
1.4 Work with Parks Victoria to restore the OGNR to a Grassy Woodland as outlined in the Ecological Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reduction in mid-storey vegetation such as Wattles and Sheoaks</li> <li>An increase in the number of healthy Eucalypts</li> </ul>
1.5 Engage with indigenous land managers to conduct indigenous burns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reintroduce traditional land management methods</li> </ul>
1.6 Plant Bellarine Yellow Gums and other species to increase species diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the following trees in the OGNR: 200 Bellarine Yellow Gums, 100 Swamp Gums and 100 Manna Gums</li> </ul>

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## Goal 1: Work to preserve and enhance biodiversity in the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

Activity	Desired outcome
<b>1.7</b> Develop policies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bicycles</li> <li>• boundary fence</li> <li>• weed and pest control</li> <li>• visitor facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No bicycles on the walking tracks in the OGNR</li> <li>• Determine if boundary fence supports or conflicts with goals to enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• Pests and weeds will not impact on the biodiversity of the OGNR</li> <li>• Purpose-built visitor facilities/Information centre in appropriate locations</li> </ul>
<b>1.8</b> Develop guidelines and priorities for funding applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for grants to fund projects that meet our goals and are capable of being effectively delivered</li> </ul>
<b>1.9</b> Install exclosures for grazing animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in flora diversity as a result of browsing/grazing mitigation measures</li> </ul>
<b>1.10</b> Repair boundary fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide wallabies away from Grubb Rd and prevent Eastern Grey Kangaroos from entering</li> <li>• Fence design that allows movement of echidnas, koalas and wallabies</li> </ul>
<b>1.11</b> Map Bellarine Yellow Gums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping will allow long term monitoring of Bellarine Yellow Gum populations</li> </ul>
<b>1.12</b> Install possum-exclusion collars on eucalypts where over-grazing occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced survival of the Bellarine Yellow Gums that are being excessively browsed by possums</li> </ul>
<b>1.13</b> Propagate plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boost the numbers of rare species and species that have suffered decline</li> </ul>
<b>1.14</b> Destroy fox dens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted control of fox population</li> </ul>
<b>1.15</b> Monitor threatening processes including noisy miners and changes to hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatening processes are identified and mitigating actions undertaken</li> </ul>
<b>1.16</b> Make nest boxes (see Goal 2: community involvement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced reproductive success of selected species</li> </ul>
<b>1.17</b> Mitigate the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant trees that are genetically better adapted to predicted future climate changes</li> <li>• Experimentally deepen depressions to hold water for Bibron's Toadlet</li> </ul>

## Goal 2: Foster community appreciation and engagement with the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and develop the Friends network

Activity	Desired outcome
2.1 Improve Information Centre and surrounds e.g. toilets, BBQ and car park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An appropriate facility for FOGNR meetings, functions and storage</li> <li>• A well-planned public Information facility that is accessible and functional for visitors</li> </ul>
2.2 Produce informative website and bi-monthly newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of information about the activities of the FOGNR</li> <li>• Delivery of educational material about the flora and fauna of OGNR</li> </ul>
2.3 Initiate regular newspaper and social media column	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and news regarding the OGNR is spread to the wider local community</li> </ul>
2.4 Advertise events on local radio and newspapers, supermarket noticeboards, local libraries and FOGNR Facebook page, website and newsletters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and news regarding the OGNR is spread to the wider local community</li> </ul>
2.5 Develop stronger online presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and news regarding the OGNR is spread to the wider local community</li> </ul>
2.6 Operate promotional stand at markets and festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and news regarding the OGNR is spread to the wider local community</li> </ul>
2.7 Staff the Information Centre at weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced visitor experience at the OGNR</li> </ul>
2.8 Partner with local groups e.g. Probus, Rotary, schools, scouts and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect wider community to the OGNR</li> </ul>
2.9 Engage with new residents via letterbox drop and open days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect wider community to the OGNR</li> </ul>
2.10 Develop events and activities, e.g. bird walks, speakers, photography days, plant walks, bird box builds, community weeding, planting and plant propagation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong social network within the FOGNR</li> <li>• Enhanced community understanding of the natural values of the OGNR</li> </ul>

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## Goal 2: Foster community appreciation and engagement with the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve and develop the Friends network

Activity	Desired outcome
2.11 Encourage community groups to use the Information Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connect wider community to the OGNR</li></ul>
2.12 Print brochures, posters and publications about the OGNR and distribute in Information Centre, caravan parks, tourist information centres and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connect wider community to the OGNR</li><li>• Enhanced visitor experience at the OGNR</li></ul>
2.13 Deliver “Nature Tales” Connected Communities project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connect wider community to the OGNR</li><li>• Enhanced visitor experience at the OGNR</li></ul>

### Goal 3: Advocate and liaise with Parks Victoria and relevant organisations on behalf of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

Activity	Desired outcome
3.1 Confirm status of OGNR to include enforceable regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OGNR is formally recognised as a Nature Conservation Reserve</li> </ul>
3.2 Work with Parks Victoria to implement fire and mechanical slashing program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective fuel reduction occurs without long-term damage to the ecology</li> <li>• Ecological mulching/fire generates an increased diversity of indigenous flora</li> </ul>
3.3 Advocate to Parks Victoria and State Government for retention and enhancement of Information Centre, incl. solar power, new toilets, ceiling lining and eaves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FOGNR retain use of an appropriate meeting/storage/function facility</li> </ul>
3.4 Complete digital map of the OGNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning decisions that have potential impact on the flora, fauna or visitor amenity can be modified to accommodate sites of value that are shown on the map</li> </ul>
3.5 Seek Parks Victoria approval to install signs directing visitors to stay on walking tracks to reduce the spread of Phytophthora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread of Phytophthora is prevented</li> </ul>
3.6 Initiate regular meetings with Parks Victoria to progress management actions in the Ecological Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term planning to enhance the ecological values of the OGNR</li> </ul>
3.7 Formalise liaison role for relationship with Parks Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective communication</li> </ul>
3.8 Engage with and respond to Distinctive Area Landscape planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent any residential development adjacent to north and west boundaries of the OGNR in order to retain and enhance vegetated corridors across the Bellarine Peninsula</li> </ul>
3.9 Give written response and attend the panel hearing for the draft Distinctive Area Landscape Statement of Planning Policy when it is released	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent any residential development adjacent to north and west boundaries of the OGNR in order to retain and enhance vegetated corridors across the Bellarine Peninsula</li> </ul>

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### Goal 3: Advocate and liaise with Parks Victoria and relevant organisations on behalf of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

Activity	Desired outcome
3.10 Continue relationship with Bellarine Catchment Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connect to like-minded groups</li></ul>
3.11 Liaise with City of Greater Geelong and Bellarine Catchment Network about litter reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced litter</li></ul>
3.12 Build Bellarine Nature Search Web app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteers collect photos and information and actively contribute to the building of the database</li><li>• A new resource will be available to everyone to easily identify the flora and fauna and weeds of the Bellarine Peninsula</li></ul>
3.13 Create bio links between OGNR and adjoining areas of bushland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain or increase biodiversity in the OGNR</li><li>• An ability to recruit species from outside of the OGNR via bio-links</li></ul>



## Contacts

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The Ocean Grove Nature Reserve is located in Grubb Road, Ocean Grove, Victoria