Plant volunteers go back to the park

For several years now, the Altona Refinery team have been working closely with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to assist them in supporting the natural habitats of local animals and plants in the local area.

In June, the refinery’s annual Day of Caring built on previous years when the team returned to Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park in Williamstown to plant new trees in the area.

“At our 2018 Day of Caring, we cleared a massive amount of weeds in this area to make room for more environmentally friendly foliage,” said Altona Refinery Manager Riccardo Cavallo. “It was great to return to the same site this year and continue this progress.

“In recent years, we have also partnered with CVA to deliver the Victorian Wetland Care Program, which provides the local community with opportunities to volunteer and learn about significant wetland sites at Jawbone Flora & Fauna Reserve in Williamstown.

“The environment will always be a priority for the team at Mobil.

“We take considerable steps to minimise the environmental footprint of our own operations and we are an active contributor to a range of organisations that conduct important environmental research, conservation and education programs.”

Robots point to a Bright Future

Robotics and virtual reality technology feature highly in this year’s round of Mobil Bright Future Grants.

Through the 2019 Bright Future Grants program, 26 schools and kindergartens close to the Mobil Altona Refinery and Yarraville Terminal received a grant of up to $4000 each for a variety of maths and science resources and projects.

In total, Mobil distributed more than $80,000 to projects in the area.

“We are definitely seeing a trend to more high-tech equipment among the innovative projects supported this year,” said Altona Refinery Community Relations Adviser Nikki Calcraft.

“Apart from a variety of robotic projects we have also supported the purchase of drones as well as tablets and iPads.”

Altona Refinery Manager Riccardo Cavallo said he was very encouraged to see the advancing technology in the Bright Future grants.

“This is a reflection of our increasing use of innovative technology to improve the way we operate our facilities,” he said.

“As we continue to tackle the daunting challenges of meeting growing energy needs while reducing emissions, we are going to be relying heavily on innovative technological advances from future generations.

“This is why programs, like our Bright Futures grants, that inspire children to pursue careers in science, engineering and mathematics are so important.”

It’s now 10 years since the Bright Futures Program began and over that time ExxonMobil has distributed over $1.4 million to schools and kindergartens in Australia.

Penguins go off to school

Primary schools students in Melbourne’s west were treated to some ‘chirpy’ visitors in May.

Altona Green Primary School was recently visited by Phillip Island Nature Parks’ Chirpy Chicks program.

Sponsored by ExxonMobil Australia, the program involves school incursions from park rangers who give children an interactive understanding of the daily lives of penguins.

During a Chirpy Chicks session, children immerse themselves in penguin life through life-like penguin dress-ups, mock-examinations and storytelling.

ExxonMobil Australia Community Relations Manager Melanie Saliba said that during 2019, the Chirpy Chicks program would again visit schools close to ExxonMobil’s operations in Victoria, including Gippsland, the Mornington Peninsula and in Melbourne’s west.

“Our business has been a proud supporter of the Chirpy Chicks program for a number of years now,” she said.

“The program gives local children a real appreciation of our marine ecosystem and the responsibility that we all have to protect their environment.

“We also support many other local environmental initiatives via our involvement with the Conservation Volunteers Victorian Wetlands Program.”
In July I had the honour of representing the refinery at the ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Value Chain Awards in Singapore. These awards recognise excellence in teams’ contributions and individual behaviours that focus on growing value, collaboration and strengthening partnerships across the company’s fuels and lubricants supply chains.

I’m proud to say we had a number of teams and individuals from the refinery receive awards for their outstanding achievements. The awards covered a wide variety of operations including improved production through waste minimisation, significant enhancements to safety and our learning culture, as well as advocacy to help secure our long-term future viability. These awards illustrate the wide variety of skills we need on our team to ensure on-going success in this complex industry.

This is continuously reinforced as I look back over our 70 years in this anniversary year. As we celebrate our history, I have had the privilege of meeting some outstanding people who worked here in the past, including Colin McLaren, who coordinated the refinery’s start-up all those years ago. Colin recently celebrated his 96th birthday.

One of Colin’s colleagues back then, Alby Clarke, features in a beautiful video we produced celebrating our 70 years. The video is available on our website.

This anniversary is an important milestone, but we want to celebrate by not only looking at the great past we had, but by looking to the future. It’s really around celebrating the success of our people over time, how this refinery has evolved since it started up in 1949, and how it is now today, projecting to be a refinery of the future, set to supply Victoria for the long haul.

Throughout our history the support of our community has always been of paramount importance. We have always worked hard to ensure we are an active, valued member of our community.

We do this through supporting our quality people to directly engage in the community such as through volunteering and visiting local schools, and by supporting community organisations and activities, like the recent Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre’s ‘Postcards of Altona’ photo competition.

I look forward to meeting members of our community at our CLC meeting on September 4 and telling you all about the exciting activity we have at the refinery right now.

Engineering an interest in refining

Chemical engineering students from the University of Melbourne have taken a tour of Altona Refinery to learn more about the refining and supply process.

The tour involved a group of students from the Chemical Engineering Students Society and comes as ExxonMobil Australia is accepting applications for its 2019/2020 vacation student program.

Altona Refinery Engineering Manager Michael Baker, who was involved with the tour on the day, said that the visit was a great opportunity to show the next generation of engineers the important role the refinery plays in fueling Victoria.

“We partner with a number of Australian universities as well as support local schools and education initiatives as part of our broader efforts in the community,” he said.

“Altona Refinery has been operating for 70 years and we play a crucial role in the fuel supply chain. It is great to see university students fostering an interest in the energy industry as part of their wider studies.”

Mobil Chat

By Riccardo Cavallo
Mobil Altona Refinery General Manager

Colin McLaren celebrates his 96th birthday. “It’s really around celebrating our people, the success of our people over time and how this refinery has evolved since it was started up in 1949.”

Engineering students refining their energy knowledge. “The visit was a great opportunity to show the next generation of engineers the important role the refinery plays in fueling Victoria.”
Community complaints

Confirmed Complaints | Unconfirmed Complaints
--- | ---
**Date** | **Odour** | **Noise** | **Flaring** | **Other** | **Odour** | **Noise** | **Flaring** | **Other**
2016 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0
2017 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 3
2018 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 2 | 0 | 0
2019 | | | | | | | | |
Jan-Mar 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0
Apr-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0
May-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0
Jun-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0
Jan-Jun 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0

All complaints are investigated. If the refinery is found to be the source of the complaint it is considered confirmed.

Sirens

Community members should be aware that the sirens at the Mobil Altona Refinery are sounded to alert on-site personnel only.

People in the community do not need to take action in response to the sounding of these sirens.

In the case of an emergency, Police and Emergency Services personnel will direct community members if any action is required.

Mobil Altona Refinery has a 24-hour Community Information Line service (Free Call 1800 659 527) to which any queries or complaints can be directed. For any queries, concerns or complaint which you suspect may be a result of refinery operations, please call us immediately for prompt investigation and action.

Community Hotline
1800 659 527

Other Emergency Contacts
Hobsons Bay City Council 9947 4685
EPA Pollution Watchline 1300 372 842 1300 EPA VIC

Local contacts
The following resident member of the CLC will be contacted by the Refinery in case of any incident or emergency and is happy to receive calls from other residents who may have concerns:

Geoffrey Mitchelmore OAM 0411 274 718

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SIRENE - Obavještavaju se stanovništvo da se sirene u rafineriji Mobil Altona javljaju kao znak upozorenja, samo za osoblje koje je tu na poslu. Stanovništvo ne treba reagirati na zvuk ovih sirena. U slučaju hitnosti, Policija i osoblje Hitne službe će dati upute stanovništvu o tome što i ako treba rešiti učiniti.

SIRENE - Oziroma, osebje se osebje obvestilo, da sirene na različnih lokacijah v refineriji Mobil Altona se uporabljajo le za obvestila sodelavci in ne za javnost. Ljudje v okolju refinerije ne morajo obvestiti o nobenem dogodku, ki vpliva na operacije refinerije.

SIRENE - Sirena varata za upozorenje, ki ni za javnost, temveč le za vodila in osebje, ki se zaseda v refineriji.

SIRENE - Objetek opozorilnih zvokov je, da se sirena v refineriji Mobil Altona uporabljajo le za obvestila sodelavci in se ne uporabljajo za javnost.