



MARINE CARE RICKETTS POINT INC

ANNUAL REPORT - CY 2018

PRESENTED TO THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12 FEBRUARY 2019

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Our Organisation

Membership

In 2018, we had over 245 people on our membership database. Fourteen new members (individuals or families) joined during 2018.

Scott Timlock has taken over from Amy Stace-Smith in running the membership system. We thank them both for this work.

As well as maintaining membership records, the membership officer also manages the Google-groups mail system. Google-groups is essential for us. It is used by the committee and specific identified people for group communication to all members to provide news, updates and notices.

Finance

Our Treasurer, Kevin McDonnell, took over this position in 2018 from Kim Wright, who held the position for 10 years. We all thank Kevin for the outstanding job he has done.

We continue to have well-managed, prudent financial policies. A copy of the certified 2018 financial statement is at Annex C. We sincerely thank the auditor, Mr Bill Cruthers, who provided his services probono.

Kevin emailed all members in November, 2018 reminding them that 2019 annual fees were due by 31 January 2019. This helps members pay dues promptly, and mainly through our direct deposit system, which is much easier for our Treasurer. Thank you to all those who responded.

MCRP website

Anna Daniels has done much work in maintaining and upgrading the website in 2018. Our thanks to Anna for this.

Our web address is http://marinecare.org.au.

We continue to get excellent feedback on the coverage and usefulness of our site, including from government agencies.

Social Media

Social media is now vital for all community groups in providing real-time information about what's happening, where and when. We use it extensively.

It complements the more comprehensive, long-term information found on our website.

Facebook

Maddy Heath and Anna Daniels have done much to continue maintaining our Facebook site, and we thank them for that.

Our Facebook page allows all members to quickly communicate events, comments, news stories and videos relevant to Marine Care.

We will develop in 2019 a MCRP communications policy for use of the website, including what is acceptable to post on our site, and to make it clearer which posts are official MCRP posts, and which are members' own posts.

Twitter

Our Twitter account continues to be moderated by Asher Judah, and is another quick way to communicate information. We thank Asher for all the work he has done in this area.

Members' eNewsletter

Ray continues to produce our bi-monthly newsletter, which always contains an impressive array of photographs and information on the Sanctuary. Contributions are always welcome. Many thanks for his tireless and generous work in this area.

Members' Project Ideas

Early in 2018, the committee asked members to indicate specific projects or actions they wanted taken.

As a result, several members provided suggestions. These included increasing the stock of promotional materials, training up more activity leaders in citizen science, expanding our Summer by the Sea profile, changing the dates of members' nights, engaging with Beaumaris Secondary College. All these suggestions have been developed and implemented in the last 9 months. The committee carefully looked at all proposals, and was able to implement several suggestions during 2018.

For example, we consider the revitalisation of our citizen science activities a major achievement. We obtained a grant from Bayside Council which resulted in the development of new promotional material, we have built a close relationship with teachers at Beaumaris Secondary College, who are now also members of MCRP. We have also decided to move our member's speaker's night to the second Tuesday of the month, which will mean that the December meeting will no longer fall as close to Christmas.

We will review in 2019 the other ideas put forward by members to see what further we can implement.

Thank you to all those who responded to the request.

Bayside Council Grant

In April this year, we were fortunate to receive a grant from Bayside Council to update our promotional material.

This includes reprinting of brochures, business cards, and a set of new posters, which can be displayed at local coffee shops, community centres, and libraries — or any other area where people meet. In addition, we have produced for the first time a series of 5 Connie cards, depicting various marine life found in the Sanctuary. About the size of a business card, they are used to show children primarily (but not exclusively) what is found in the Sanctuary. They have been a great success at Summer by the Sea events.

Our thanks to both Hazel and Joel, her partner, for all the work that went into both submitting the grant and producing the material. And, of course, to our wonderful photographers who volunteered their photos to a good cause.

Our Programs

Snorkelling Program

Our formal Saturday morning summer snorkelling season kicked off once again in November 2018, and continues until 30 March 2019. It is one of the main ways we attract interest from new members. We have excellent, 20+ attendees, at most snorkelling events.

As usual, we've had to cancel some Saturday snorkels due to poor water quality (too much stormwater carries bacteria including e coli) or weather (adverse wind conditions make it too rough). This goes with the territory in snorkelling, however.

David Langmead continued as coordinator of the program for the summer season 2017-2018, for the fourth year. Thank you, David, for this work. In addition, Mick Morley has taken on the creation of the roster of snorkel leaders, and keeping an eye on how it's going. His friendly and efficient work has been of great help.





Qualified leaders

For safety reasons, we need at least two snorkel leaders at each event, based on the number of people attending.

To share the workload around, we ask all snorkel leaders to commit to leading at least 5 sessions per season. This way the same people don't end up doing the work and getting burnt out.

Our 8 snorkel leaders are: David Langmead (Coordinator), Mick Morley, Terry Valentine, Gayle Kiteley, Amy Stace-Smith, Clementine Heath, Hannah Baker, and Vlodik Zmyslony. We thank them for their work.

Published Snorkelling Information

We provide detailed information and tips on snorkelling in Port Phillip Bay and at Ricketts Point on our MCRP website. It reflects both our commitment to safety and to fulfilling our role of educating and informing the public about the Sanctuary.

The information is the best freely-accessed information we've seen on snorkelling in Port Phillip Bay.

We also email members each week (usually Wednesday night) advising of the snorkel location and likely conditions for the following Saturday, with links to tide, wind and other information. Updates are sent on Fridays, and, sometimes, on Saturday mornings, if conditions change.

Insurance

MCRP has our own public liability insurance, for leaders and members. We do not, however, provide any personal injury insurance for participants. All our snorkelers are required to sign a form each year acknowledging that personal injury insurance is their own responsibility.

Great Victorian Fish Count

Our participation in the annual Great Victorian Fish Count (GVFC) is organised by Gayle Kiteley, and was held on 1 December 2018. Thanks to Gayle for her work here.

We had an excellent turnout of approximately 40 people, and saw many fish species. (More fish seem to be around later in the season, as the water is warmer.)

The GVFC is organised annually by the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) to collect important information on the distribution and relative abundance of some of Victoria's unique marine life. This year, advertising for the Count and on the T-shirts featured the wonderful Port Jackson Shark.

This excellent State-wide citizen science project asks all volunteers around the state to input their data into one standard database. It provides an important longitudinal fish data base. We are the only group to have contributed to the Great Victorian Fish Count since its inception 14 years ago.

Beach Patrol 3193 Ricketts Point

Hazel Stanworth has continued to run our Beach Patrols this year, which we really appreciate.

Collaborating with Beach Patrol Australia, we have involved our local community in our 3193 Ricketts Point Beach Patrol monthly beach cleans since 2014. In 2018 we undertook 11 beach cleans (we had a break in January) at four locations:

- Beaumaris Yacht Club (4 cleans)
- · Beaumaris Life Savers Club (3 cleans)
- South of Teahouse/Seaweed beach (Watkins Bay) (2 cleans)
- South Half Moon Bay, Black Rock (2 cleans)

During the year 311 volunteer hours have helped clean up our beaches! The largest attendance of 44 was in March, a significant increase on our maximum from 2017 of 32 people! This was closely matched by our

December/Christmas beach clean where 41 volunteers attended. It was a great turn out on a gorgeous summer day!

During 2018 we collected and removed 210 bags of litter from the beaches at Ricketts Point, totalling approximately 496Kg in weight. The most common items of rubbish collected over the year were plastic items (mostly small fragments), cigarette butts and polystyrene. On some occasions we have found large numbers of straws too (106 were counted on one beach clean alone). We have recorded a lot more nurdles this year; estimated over 100 nurdles on two cleans at Beaumaris Yacht Club and one at Beaumaris Life Savers Club. We estimated over 1000 nurdles on two cleans at Beaumaris Life Savers Club and south of Half Moon Bay. We have also removed eight syringes over the year.

Significant amounts of bottles and cans were found on some beach cleans, for example 168 bottles and cans were recorded on our beach clean in November south of Half Moon Bay. The majority of these were found in the foreshore vegetation, in the rocks that make up the sea defence and car park areas.

We always find some strange items, including a foam mattress, car jack, two tyres, gas cylinders, milk crates, an unopened tin of paint and lots of thongs!







Special beach clean events

To help support and celebrate Clean Up Australia Day we had a special beach clean event in March. It was a great success with 44 attending, the highest number of volunteers of the year. The data collected was provided to Clean Up Australia Day and we had a good number of new volunteers on the day. We provided the litter from one of our beach cleans to an art student for their project. We also had a super and hot end of year/Christmas beach clean & BBQ in December. It was great to see so many volunteers attend (41 at the beach clean) with lots of families and new volunteers getting involved.

Appreciation for our volunteers

Whilst some of the litter we collect has washed up from the Bay, just as much is collected in areas like the foreshore vegetation, outlets of drains and car parks. Most of the bottles, cans and cigarette butts found over the year have been located in these areas. Removing this litter has prevented it from reaching the Bay and polluting the marine environment.

Our beach cleans are very important. They help keep our beaches safe and reduce the impact of litter to the marine life in the Bay and Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary. The data we collect has provided evidence for campaigns such as Beach Patrol's campaign for a Container Deposit Scheme in Victoria and Melbourne Zoo's 'When balloons fly, seabirds die' campaign.

Since the beach cleans started in 2014, 1236 volunteer hours have collected 2,103Kg of rubbish. This equates to 763 shopping bags full of litter, including 1,852 bottles and cans. It has all been down to the efforts and commitment of our Marine Care and 3193 Beach Patrol volunteers.

Thank you so much!













Members' Speaker Evenings

Ken Blackman has organized our members speaker evenings in 2018. Our thanks to Ken for this.

In addition, Val, Scott, Anna and Beth continue to provide much setting up and cleaning up assistance. We thank them for their often unseen but greatly appreciated assistance.

Without them all, our evenings would not run as smoothly and enjoyably as they do.

Following our move to the bright, warm and safe Seniors Centre at Beaumaris, we extended the number of speaker evenings from 4 to 6 in 2018 (ie every second month) to include the winter months as well as the warmer months.

The extra events have worked well, with average attendance of 22 people, except for the February AGM, where attendance was over 50 people.

We will therefore continue the program of 6 events in 2019.

So, in 2019, members' speaker evenings will be held on the second Tuesday night of the month at 7-7.30pm in February (including the AGM), April, June, August, October and December.

The Committee decided to change the meeting night forto avoid a clash with the meeting nights for Bayside City Council (BCC), as some MCRP members attend BCC meetings.

2018 Speakers

We hosted the following 6 really interesting speakers:

- PT Hirschfield, an underwater photographer specializing in marine life behaviour. In 2017, she led
 the successful Project Banjo campaign., successfully championing better outcomes for the rays of
 Victoria (February 2018, which was also our AGM);
- Chris Smyth, a marine & coastal consultant, on ocean marine reserves (April 2018);
- *Liz Morris*, a bio-sciences academic in water quality, esp. re enclosed and estuary waters; (*June 2018*);
- Hazel Stanworth, marine bio-diversity policy officer with DELWP, coordinator of the current 10 yr.
 Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan (August 2018);
- Nicole Mertens, Marine Projects officer with the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), on fish counts and sea slug census (October 2018);
- Simon Branigan, Marine Restoration Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy (December 2018).

These evenings are a relaxed way for people to catch up and get to know each other better. We also thank you all for coming along and contributing to these evenings, particularly those who contribute to the supper!

In addition, some of our members presented on their own experiences. For example, Jinty presented on her snorkelling experiences in the Seychelles, and Sally presented on her scholarship and research on sharks in South Africa.

If you have ideas for future speakers, or want to present yourself, please let the committee know!





Citizen Science

We made a conscious effort in 2018 to increase our activity and experience in monitoring and surveying the biodiversity within the sanctuary. This is a central role of our organisation, and we hope to continue to invest in this important work.

Robert Gardiner and Amy Stace-Smith agreed to take on the role of Citizen Science coordinators in Sept/October 2018. Our thanks to them for doing so. Previously Ray Lewis had undertaken this role for many years, and we thank him for it.

In October 2018, after some 18 months of 'we must do this' and program planning, Ray and Beth set up an Activity Leaders Training day, at which 8 MCRP members were trained in various aspects of rock pool and

seashore rambles. The day was a great success, and as a result, our members have gone on and run a very successful events during Coastwatch and Bayside Council's 2019 Summer by the Sea program.



In 2018 Marine Care Ricketts Point:

- participated in the inaugural Melbourne Sea Slug Census 21st April with 12 volunteers in the water and 3 sea slugs spotted;
- undertook intertidal monitoring with Parks Victorian Rangers in May using the Sea Search methodology;
- joined other marine volunteers from around Victoria at Parks Victoria's 'Sharing the Love' 4th biennial marine forum at Lord Somers Camp for knowledge sharing and citizen science up-skilling, where Amy delivered a very well-received presentation on our MCRP activities;
- supported the development of a new 'digital' trail in the sanctuary as part of a 'ClimateWatch in Parks' citizen science initiative that's an EarthWatch Australia and Parks Victoria partnership. We'll be supporting a few local schools to monitor phenological changes in key 'climate watch' species within the sanctuary collecting photos and data on their seasonal changes in 2019;
- Amy delivered a further very well-received presentation on 31st October at the 2018 Great Victorian Fish Count launch evening hosted by Victorian National Parks Association;
- trained up 8 volunteer Activity Leaders for the 2019 Summer by the Sea (SBTS) public education programming, citizen science, and other public education events throughout the year. Bayside Council and CoastCare's 2019 SBTS schedule of events delivered by Marine Care Ricketts Point include a coastal photography workshop, introduction to snorkelling, snorkelling experience, and a rockpool ramble and foreshore walk;
- had over 30 volunteers join in the 2018 Great Victorian Fish Count on 1 December, big thanks to Gayle Kitely for being our organiser;

- organised with Parks Victoria rangers that some GPS points are mapped out so we can start doing biannual snorkel Seagrass surveys within the sanctuary.
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Social Activities

Each year, we hold two main social events at Ricketts Point in the BBQ area just north of the Teahouse.

- The first is held on the *last Saturday in March*, to celebrate the end of the snorkelling season. In 2018, for the first time in a very long time, it rained incredibly hard. However, several people braved the weather with raincoats and umbrellas, and enjoyed some beautiful food.
- The second is held on the *first Saturday in December*. It is our Christmas/end of year event. It's held on this day to allow participants from two of our activities our Saturday morning snorkel, and our December Beach Patrol to join us. It is our biggest event, and this year, over 40 people attended.

For many years, Gayle and Jinty have organised the after-snorkel event. Gayle is renowned for her cooking and catering skills, Jinty for her organisational skills. This year Gayle and Jinty also took over the December Christmas event, and put on the most spectacular array of food. This is going to be a very hard act to follow!

Our thanks to them both, and the other volunteers who helped set up, cook, organise and provide salads on the day.



Our Policy actions

Building relationships with stakeholders

In the last few years we have been active on the policy front, and in extending our relationships with key stakeholders, both at government and non-government levels.

We were successful in again obtaining a small grant from Parks Victoria to offset some administrative costs, and to obtain further Beach Patrol supplies.

We continued to engage with Bayside Environmental Friends Network in 2018, which has provided a useful exchange of information. As part of this re-engagement, we organised an extensive number of Summer by the Sea activities for January 2018, which is organised by Coastcare and Bayside Council. This was a great success, and our events were sold out.



As a result, we have organised another great program for 2019, including an introduction to seascape photography, a rockpool ramble and two introduction to snorkelling sessions, which have also been a sold-out success.

We provide members with information about relevant public forums, and of campaigns asking you to support core issues (such as banning single-use plastics).

Reporting Offences in the Sanctuary

Poaching, speeding by motor craft, and other offences in the Sanctuary seem to be on the rise.

As part of our commitment to education, we've prominently featured where and how to report offences on the home page of our new website. We have emailed our members to remind them to report offences, and to provide photographs and videos.

The reason for this is two-fold – to ensure that we help catch offenders, and to ensure that Fisheries has a record of these offences, so they can build a picture of what is happening.

Members are reporting sightings to Fisheries, and to us.

However, some people have commented to us that they no longer report offences to Fisheries, as Fisheries do not respond to reports, due to lack of officers in the area at the time.

Marine Pollution & Debris - Plastic Bags Ban, Container Deposit Scheme, Balloons etc

Debris and pollutants, particularly plastics, are major causes of marine animals' deaths.

There is now a world-wide effort to reduce use of plastics because of the effect on the environment and human health. We try to provide you with regular updates on all the great efforts taking place around the world.

Since the decision by major supermarkets, Coles and Woolworths, to ban single use plastic bags, this issue has really attracted major attention locally also. It's easy to see the changes taking place locally as a result.

Other retail outlets now routinely ask if you want a plastic bag (just say no) and shoppers are seen more carrying their own bags.

Late in 2018, we wrote to local Bayside Councillor Laurie Evans to ask him to ban single-use plastics at Council premises and leases. Subsequently, MCRP committee members Beth, Anna and Hazel met with Laurie and Council officers in a very fruitful discussion.

Council is very supportive. As a result, in March 2019 we will see a report to Council on what actions Bayside Council will take in this area.

Many thanks to all those members who continue to email us supporting our efforts.

We will continue to advocate for a 10c container recycling deposit scheme and eliminating plastic balloons from celebrations. To read up more about these devastating effects, please visit our website and look under Beach Patrol.

Black Rock Revetment

We reported extensively in our 2017 Annual Report on our concerns about the scale and type of construction – to build a long, wide revetment (sloping rock wall) – proposed by DELWP in Black Rock, adjacent to the northern boundary of Ricketts Point Marine Park Sanctuary.

In early January 2019, DELWP advised us that this project would not be funded, as planned, during 2019-20. DELWP advise that project planning, including community engagement activities relating to the project, will recommence once funding is secured for the project.

We believe the reason for the delay is connected to the decision to fund extensive rebuilds along the Great Ocean Road.

Launched in April 2017, the project's 440 m. x 7 m. is to protect the existing stone promenade from the northern boundary of Ricketts Pt. Marine Sanctuary to Balcombe Rd.

Over the following 18 months Sandringham Foreshore Assoc, MCRP, and concerned local citizens have questioned, listened, creatively criticised and consulted many independent experts about aspects of this plan:

- its proclaimed and possible purposes
- its scale, design and materials
- Its impact on the marine reserve, and marine life adjacent to it
- its impact on (mostly seasonal) beach sand
- whether alternative designs / installations for coastal / promenade protection had been fully considered and costed
- community consultation processes.

The issue has received some local media attention, before and during the Victorian state election.

This delay is great news for us!

We believe that our work has had a significant impact on DEWLP's decision, and we thank all those who have written to us and to DEWLP objecting to the type of structure planned.

As we have said many times, we are not opposed to reinforcing and strengthening the current structure. We believe, however, that there are more effective solutions which will be more environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing.

At our December 2018 Speakers Evening, we were fortunate to have Simon Branagan of The Nature Conservancy outline their approach, relying on natural methods. We were also fortunate to have at the meeting an engineering professor (a family member of one of our members) who is expert on more environmentally acceptable marine solutions. Both these people have agreed to work with us, and with DEWLP, to develop a better solution.

We expect to have a further report from our expert in February 2019.

While the DEWLP decision gives us breathing space, we are very keen to continue to engage with DEWLP and other experts to come up with a better solution than that currently on the table.

Vicki Karalis of Sandringham Foreshore Association has been progressing these discussions. Thanks also to Alison, Hakan and Ken for their incredible work on this project so far.

Once again, we thank you for your support, and we will keep you informed of progress. Please continue to contact us with your comments and views.

Improved Land Signage at Ricketts Point

Bayside Council has been working on improving their signage at Ricketts Point for some time – since about mid-2015.

The details of our long discussions with Council are contained in last year's annual report.

We are pleased to note that the new signage has now been installed.

Protecting Beaumaris Bay

MCRP is a member of the Beaumaris Bay Consortium set up to help protect the unique fossils and other features of Beaumaris Bay.

We have continued to support A/Professor Vicki Kotsirilos for the listing of the Bay on the National Heritage Register.

We are also pleased to advise that the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron, which has its beautiful facilities at the Bay, has decided not to proceed with an application to extend those facilities. This means that there will be greater protection of the extraordinary fossils at the site. We have found the new Commodore and Committee of the club to be very welcoming, and thank them for their outreach efforts. Please note that it is also possible to become a social member of the Squadron, if you wish to take advantage of the unique environment there.

Thank you all

Firstly, many thanks to all, Committee members and others, who contributed to this report.

The 2018 Committee of MCRP has worked co-operatively and very effectively in bringing you, we hope, the range of experiences that you all enjoy. I don't know of any other purely-volunteer organisation of this size which provides so many activities for its members, on such a small budget. It has been a privilege to work with people with so many talents, and who are dedicated to the good of members and the environment.

I thank them for all their work and support.

Finally, many thanks to all members for your volunteering and active participation in our organisation. Please keep your ideas and comments coming. We do take them seriously.

Elizabeth Jensen President February 2019

Marine Care - Ricketts Point Inc

Statement of Purposes

- 1. To foster species diversity conservation of the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary through:
- a) the regeneration of the once abundant plant and animal life of the sanctuary,
- b) the protection and preservation of the natural environment of the sanctuary, its features and its indigenous flora and fauna,
- c) the educating and informing of the community about the role and values of the sanctuary,
- d) community involvement in and enjoyment of the sanctuary in accordance with the above aims,
- e) the advancement of knowledge of marine life and its environment.
- 2. To establish and maintain a public fund to be named *Marine Care Fund*, for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of the Association.

Annex B

MCRP Committee of Management – 2018

President Elizabeth Jensen

(email elizabethjjensen@outlook.com; m 0419 354 998)

Vice President Amy Stace-Smith
Treasurer Kevin McDonnell
Secretary Anna Daniels

(email anna.daniels16@gmail.com; m 0402 209 497)

Membership Officer Scott Timlock

Other committee members:

Ken Blackman Asher Judah Val Royale Hazel Stanworth

Marine Care Rickett's Point Inc. Annual Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2018

Statement of Financial Performance

Statement of Financial Performance		
	2018	2017
Income		
Subscriptions	\$2,432.00	\$3,820.00
Donations	\$564.40	
Grants .	\$3,826,00	\$140,00
Interest	\$50.08	\$54.67
Sale of Bird book		\$335,00
Total	\$6,872.45	\$4,349.67
Expenses		
Liability Insurance	\$440.00	\$426.30
PÓ Box	\$127.00	\$124.00
Eco Membership	\$173.80	\$173.80
Website	\$155.40	\$955.40
Training	\$75. 90	
Consumer Affairs	\$56.90	\$56.90
Domain name	\$19.25	
Activity books	\$288.00	
Blodaversity card (Council Grant)	\$1,900.00	
Posters/Brochures	\$580.79	
Mailing	\$160.00	
Beach clean-up	\$200.39	
General expenses	\$1,049.91	\$375.82
Depreciation	\$524.98	\$175.00
Bird Book Expenditure		\$1,090.00
Snorkel program		\$2,800.00
Total	\$5,752.32	\$6,087.22
Surplus/Deficit	\$1,120.13	-\$1,737.55

Marine Care Rickett's Point Inc. Annual Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2018

Statement of Financial Position

Assets		
Cash at bank		
Working account	\$11,393.29	\$7,923.23
Public Fund Account	\$5,641.53	\$5,616.53
MEC facilities	\$614.45	\$614.45
Investment Term Deposit	\$3,209.82	53,159.77
Current Assets	\$20,859.09	\$17,313.98
Fixed asset	00 - 000000	\$524.98
Total	\$20,859.09	\$17,838.96
Liabilities		
Creditors	\$1,900.00	
Total	\$1,900.00	
Net Assets	\$18,959.09	\$17,313.98
Equity		
Net surplus carried forward	\$17,838.96	\$19,576.51
Surplus current year	\$1,120.13	-\$1,737.55
Closing Equity	\$18,959.09	\$17.838.96

Certification

To the Members of Marine Care Rickett's Point Inc.

We hereby certify that the above report is a true and accurate record of the financial position and performance of Marine Care. Rickett's Point Inc. That appropriate records have been maintained and proper due diligence has been performed on the accounting records and reports of the association for the period ending 31st December 2018.

Signed

30th January 2019

Kevin McDonnell

Treasurer

Elizabeth Jensen

President

Bill Cruthers Auditor