

Merricks Matters

Autumn 2020

First, on behalf of the MBRA, we hope you are all staying well, whether at Merricks Beach or elsewhere. This newsletter contains information that we hope will assist residents to do so.

MBRA COVID 19 Service

During this COVID 19 crisis, there are many residents choosing Merricks Beach as the place to hibernate. It is important that our community acts together to support all our residents who may need help during the crisis.

The MBRA is establishing a service to support people who need to isolate by linking them up with people who are willing to volunteer their time to assist.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

Please send us an email via the CONTACTS tab on the MBRA homepage. Just fill in your name and email address, listing the following in the message section:

- > Mobile phone number
- > Services you are able to provide
- > Any other relevant information

IF YOU NEED HELP

We can organise help with shopping, meals, basic handyman services, etc. You can contact us by clicking on the CONTACT tab at the top right-hand side of the MBRA homepage and filling in your details.

OTHERWISE, YOU CAN CALL

Kathy on 0408 214 728 or Sharon on 0407 227 002

We would like to reassure you that volunteers will maintain the rules of social distancing by staying at least 1.5m away from residents.

Gloves or sanitiser will also be used.

Kathy Clarke

Mornington Peninsula Shire Beach Update

Signs have recently been erected (by MPSC) at beach entrances stating that the foreshore and beach areas are closed. The signs also state, however, that swimming and walking are permitted provided that social distancing guidelines are adhered to. The MBRA will keep residents advised of any further news we receive from the Foreshore Committee of Management in that regard.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor Sam Hearn said this adjustment has been made to provide a consistent approach to beach closure restrictions in our municipality. He urges: "The Victorian Government's 'Stay at Home' message still applies for the safety of our whole community and beach access should be kept short and for exercise purposes only.

While we recognise that our beaches need to be an asset supporting our physical and mental health over this time, I must stress that curbing the spread of coronavirus remains a key focus and the message to visitors and residents remains the same: Please don't congregate on our beaches."

The Shire is monitoring the situation every day and will continue to seek advice from the State Government.

Tennis courts renovation project update

The newly patched tennis courts, with their new fences, have had plenty of use during the summer and since, including for the Davies Cup which was held on 2 January. And congratulations to Henry Campbell and Conor Watkins, who edged out Ian Basser and William Roberts in a high quality final.

Prior to the onset of the virus, the MBRA was obtaining quotations for the final stage of the planned works, the re-surfacing of the courts. It is now uncertain when these works can be undertaken, but it is likely that donations will first be sought from within our community in order to bridge the gap from the government grants that the MBRA has previously secured and the funds it has saved up for this purpose. Donations will be tax-deductible as the MBRA has obtained registration with the Australian Sports Foundation. Further details will be announced once the pandemic crisis has abated.



Merricks Yacht Club

As MYC members will be aware, the yacht club closed on 23 March due to COVID-19. We will be updating you in the coming weeks with a new calendar and letting you know when we can all get social again on Thursday nights. Stay tuned!

Merricks Beach – More Memories

Following the success of my recent book ‘Merricks Beach Memories’ Edition One, I have been encouraged to start collecting stories from families to produce Edition Two. If you or a family member would like to make a contribution, please forward it to me at diannehall3@bigpond.com or phone on 5983 1229. Dianne Hall

Make Mine Montalto

If wondering what’s available on the food front when so many businesses are closed, you are not alone.

We really like the Montalto approach. You can order an Essentials Box which includes two meals (each meal serves two people), a selection of yummy pantry goodies and some homegrown produce. You can also add some divine wines to accompany your meals. Order online by clicking this link: <https://montalto.com.au/montalto-essentials-box-launched/> or call 5989 8412 to order. Pick up address is 33 Shoreham Rd, Red Hill between 11am and 4pm – 7 days a week! These have been quite popular so check regularly as the menu is updated.

The Red Hill Bakery is still open and has the bonus of doing home deliveries (or you can pick up). Check out their menu here: <https://www.redhillbaker.com.au/takeaway-home-delivery> or give them a call on 5931 3125.

Merricks General Wine Store is also still open and serving a limited and very delicious menu for pick up. Or, if you prefer to make the most of the warm days we have left, you could order a picnic hamper (24 hours in advance) and pick up some lovely fresh produce and wine. Go to their webpage: <https://mgwinestore.com.au>

Bill Carroll Reserve

Easter Celebrations will be need to be stored up ’til next year, I’m afraid. So, look forward to double the fun, double the energy, double the chocolate and double the chaos in 2021! In the meantime, I’ve included a photo of last year’s Easter in the Park showing some of the energy and the joy.

We have to remember that it is important to get outside and get some fresh air so do come by the Reserve for a walk or a bike ride – it’s rocketing ahead with all the lovely sun and rain that we have had. You will be rewarded with frogs, birds, bugs, plus seeing how much everything has grown since you were last there. It is changing all the time.

If you’d like to sit, enjoy the air and the myriad of wildlife sounds, and steep yourself in nature, there’s a beautiful new bench seat, in memory of John O’Neil. A long-time and passionate supporter of Merricks Beach and the Bill Carroll Reserve, John was very much part of community action at the Reserve, the MBRA Committee, the Yacht Club, on the Foreshore, and on the beach.

If you’d like to be part of some of that community spirit we have regular working bees, where robust conversation and laughter reign. You’ll see the noticeboard about the working bees put out at the end of Palmers Hill Road. Do come along, you’ll find it’s definitely more discovery than it is digging; more social, than it is work.

We welcome everyone in helping us keep this special part of Merricks Beach in glorious, chaotic condition. See you there. Lainie Larsson

Cultural Walk with Lionel Lauch Postponed

Sadly, most of the events and meetings that we have planned for the community over the next few months have either been cancelled or are under review. The indigenous cultural walk with Lionel Lauch which was planned for April 11th, has been postponed until further notice.

Remembering Gillian

Gillian Uthmeyer of Spray St, Merricks Beach has moved on to a new paradise. Her son Sam Talbot shares how special Merricks Beach was to her.

Mum had been spending time at Merricks Beach since the early 1980’s and loved to escape the “rat race” for the “simple life”. Whether walking her dog on the beach, pottering in her garden, catching up with friends or dancing along the Fairy Walk with grandkids, her days at Merricks were happy ones.

Gillian Uthmeyer passed away unexpectedly on 23 December, aged 76. She sadly missed by her family and friends.

Undesirable BMX Track in the Reserve

Recent happenings in the Foreshore Reserve appear to include the exertions of an enterprising group of cyclists, who have cleared grass, felled trees and removed scrub from a formerly well-managed area of native flora. Although enthusiasm for outdoor activities is to be commended, forging one’s own path through protected wilderness must, unfortunately, be condemned. There are several serious reasons for this. Most obvious is the direct destruction of native plants we are working hard to care for. Disturbing areas in the Reserve also encourages weed growth in places that would otherwise be free of invasive species. Weed invasion is a problem in its own right, however invasive species are often particularly flammable, and thus serve as excellent fuel for bushfires. As such, we ask cyclists not to ride in areas that do not have clear paths, and point prospective BMX enthusiasts in the direction of the skate park opposite the Balnarring shops.

Update from the Foreshore Reserve: Working Bee 5 April cancelled

Consistent with directions from the Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease) in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, all working bees have been cancelled at this stage. Working bees are an important part of maintaining a beautiful foreshore and as everyone is aware, we are unable to meet to do this work until restrictions on gatherings are lifted. We will keep you informed of any plans to resume as news comes to hand so keep an eye on the MBFC section of the noticeboard (just outside the tennis courts) and our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/merricksbeachforeshore>. Make sure you click the “LIKE” button to receive notifications on news and events.

Plant giveaway

It is unlikely that the Queen’s Birthday plant giveaway will take place in its usual format. The MBRA is, however, exploring options for plants to be distributed by alternative means. Details will follow once these arrangements have been confirmed.

As the Government is in the process of reviewing COVID related restrictions, there will be updates over the winter months which you can find by checking out the Merricks Matters tab on the website. In the meantime, stay safe and socially distanced everyone!