

Merricks Matters

Spring Edition 2019

Calendar of Community Events

Sunday 29th December – The MBRA AGM

Monday 30th December, 10am – Sand modelling competition

Vic Roads ‘responds’ / Peter Cash

Many thanks to the many residents who responded to the call to arms in the Autumn edition of Merricks Matters by sending an email to VicRoads seeking a reduction to the 100kmh speed limit on Frankston Flinders Road. Regrettably, VicRoads is apparently indifferent to these concerns – the following was a typical response: “Historical safety records suggest that there have been no reported crashes at the intersection of Merricks Beach Road and Frankston-Flinders Road in the past 10 years. Based on the crash history, road environment and the other factors mentioned, Frankston-Flinders Road is currently not eligible for speed reduction and the current speed limit is consistent with the speed zoning guidelines and many similar locations across Victoria.” So, it would seem that only when a crash occurs will VicRoads acknowledge the obvious and needless dangers posed by the speed ‘limit’ in this stretch of road.

Tennis courts renovation update / Peter Cash

The MBRA Committee has been continuing to review options for the much-needed renovation of the community’s tennis courts. An application for a further grant to the Shire Council was successful to the extent of \$10,000, to go with the \$27,000 awarded last year. In addition, the Committee has been advised by Greg Hunt MP’s office that we will be allocated \$9,000 from the Federal Government’s Stronger Communities Programme. While these funds are not enough to complete the entire project, they are sufficient, with the addition of some of the MBRA’s own money, to replace the fences, repair the concrete slabs and re-landscape the court surrounds. Meanwhile, we are pursuing funding options for the remaining work of resurfacing the courts. There will be some interruption to access to the courts while the immediate work is done, but we expect that this will be finished before the summer holidays begin.

Neighbourhood Watch

There has been a residence in Spray Street targeted by vandals recently. Graffiti and a broken window were reported. Please keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the area.

Neighbourly changes

It is with sadness that Bruce Dench and his wife Lyn, of Minto Street have announced they are selling. After a 40 year association with Merricks Beach, the last four as permanent residents, they have decided they are missing the grandchildren too much and will move back to Melbourne to be closer to them. Bruce and Lyn have been wonderful neighbours to those who know them, always keeping an

eye out for others. Bruce and his labrador, Zoe, stop for a chat and keep you posted on anything going on and even when Bruce was getting around on his walking stick, he would still return nearby bins to their rightful owners. Bruce has served on the Bill Carroll Reserve Committee and the MBRA Committee and we thank him for his time and Lynne for sharing him with the community. We wish them all the best for their move.

RECENT EVENTS IN MERRICKS

Lionel Lauch Cultural Walk / Mary Daley

Throughout the Merricks Beach village in September, children were preparing poultices from bracken to heal stings and wounds, and various cooks were baking quiches using the local spinach, the bower plant (*Tetragonia*) which grows profusely in the foreshore. These activities were inspired by Aboriginal guide and educator Lionel Lauch from Living Culture during his walk conducted on Saturday 31 August. More than thirty residents were entertained and educated under bright sunny (Grandfather Sun) skies and in perfect temperatures. We learned of medicines, infusions, gums and tools. There were fire-starting and woomera throwing activities for the energetic amongst us. Lionel also conducted a yidaki meditation, educating us that the instrument had been erroneously named a didgeridoo when there was a language barrier between white men and Aboriginal Australians. The feedback from those who attended has been extremely positive and there may be an opportunity to do another cultural walk next year.



RECENT EVENTS IN MERRICKS

Book Launch / The History of Merricks Beach

Di Hall recently launched her book on the History of Merricks Beach at the Yacht Club. The book is A4 size and has 95 pages and stories and photos from 34 families. It was written by Di, designed by Annthea Hick and has some lovely colour illustrations from our own local artist, Carole Milton, which makes the book look very attractive. The cost is \$20.00 per copy, plus \$6.50 postage within Australia.

To purchase a copy Di can be contacted by email- diannehall3@bigpond.com
phone: 5983 1229 or 0427 947 662 or at 73 Merricks Beach Road

RECENT EVENTS IN MERRICKS

Winter Plant giveaway

The MBRA's annual Queens Birthday plant giveaway just grows bigger each year. While MBRA members keenly leafed through the shrubs, grasses and trees on offer, Richard Anderson (from Merricks Nursery) provided root and branch advice on what - and how - to propagate. Once again, the fervour in Merricks Beach for surrounding our homes with local indigenous species was evident from the tables that were left bare at the end of Sunday morning. Many thanks to Richard for his generous assistance. Merricks Beach, the koalas salute you!



Easter Egg Hunt, Bill Carroll Reserve

It was a joyful eggstravaganza of an afternoon at the Bill Carroll Reserve for our annual Egg Races on Easter Sunday. There was egg-painting, then egg and spoon races, egg and dog and spoon, egg and grandparents, egg and mums, egg and dads... the total chaos of an egg relay... then people running wildly in all directions for the egg hunt.

Our delightful sponsor Bendigo Bank now supports us, which means we can pay our insurance, and everything is made possible – from the egg races, to hilarious working bees, planting, and pure enjoyment of the local wildlife and nature in the Reserve. From correas to banksias and chocolate lilies; from tawny frog mouths, to frogs and native bees. Native bees are solitary and don't sting. How friendly is that. See you round the Reserve!



Changes at Bill Carroll Reserve

Dee Edgar has tendered her resignation from the role of Secretary for FBCR. We thank Dee for all her work with the Bill Carroll Reserve; it has been greatly appreciated, and we also thank her for providing Merricks Matters with the monthly rainfall amounts. The rainfall for August was 136 mms. Pip Ransome has kindly offered to fill in as secretary until the election of office bearers at the next Bill Carroll AGM in November 2019.

News from the Foreshore Committee by Joyce

The long awaited arrival of Spring offers us great opportunities to get out and about and enjoy our lovely nature-filled Reserve. However, it is not without its risks. As some of you may know, there have been rock falls near the cave steps. Fortunately, no-one was injured and the fallen parts of the cliff face are mostly contained to the far side of the barrier fence. However, it serves to remind us that the beach cliffs in this area are unstable, and may give way without warning, so everyone should keep clear of them.

We are aware that some parents have been allowing their children to play in the smaller cave in the area, and although there have not been any rock falls affecting the small cave so far, we strongly recommend that you actively discourage them from doing any climbing, or digging type activity that might disturb the cave or its surrounds and closely supervise your children in the area.

Likewise, there are a few places along the Foreshore where the sand dunes have been undercut by high tides and bad weather over Winter. These sand cliffs can be extremely dangerous, as there is a risk of people, particularly children, being buried under tons of sand if they collapse. Please discourage your children from playing near any undercut areas.

Another risk that we face every Spring is the garden escapee! For those not familiar with these pest plants, go and have a look at the fern gully area. In amongst the indigenous plants are many arum lilies, forget-me-nots, agapanthus, polygala..., and the list goes on. None of them native to the area and in places choking out the indigenous plants. Please take care with the plants you choose to plant (or leave) in your garden, and come and help us keep the escapees under control at our community working bees.

The next one is planned for Sunday 20 October, hope you can come and join us.

Summer Sailing at Merricks Yacht Club

The Merricks Yacht Club will kick off the season soon and the sailing and social calendar through the summer months is crammed full of the usual events, including seasonal dinners and a strongly contested summer series of sailing. For the younger set there will be the usual movie nights, little dudes' disco and a games day, which is aimed at little kids, big kids and adult kids too. For beginners, the opportunity to try sailing is too good to be missed. For more specifics on times, check the MYC website.

<http://www.merricks.org>

Neighbourhood News by Mary Daley

Like so many in the Merricks Beach community, eight out of ten of our neighbouring villages nominated natural vegetation, coastal character and bush character, as well as unsealed roads and the village feel as major attractions. (Westernport Coastal Villages Report Summary February 2019 pp. 24-29).

The presence of these features is the result of unceasing efforts to protect and to maintain these characteristics. Many of the local groups are looking for fresh ideas and younger energy. All residents are invited to find and join the local group that has conservation objectives that call to the readers' hearts and minds.

Within the Merricks Beach village alone there are four committees working together to protect and enhance our natural assets, and each group always welcomes new members: **MBRA, MBFRCoM, Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve, Merricks Yacht Club.**

For koala watchers, there is a new Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation Group. You can be part of a koala study by noting the place, date and time of seeing a koala and email your sightings to Dirk: mpkoalatreplanting@outlook.com

Or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Mornington-Peninsula-Koala-Conservation-172593936728985/>.

Below: From the area a stinkhorn

Bottom: Fabulous Funghi in Minto Street Merricks



The Biolink / Balnarring to Balnarring Beach to Somers Beach / Mary Daley

A proposal to create a corridor to allow movement of animals and plants from the Balnarring Skate Park to Westernport Bay, a corridor that will follow the course of Merricks Creek, is well advanced. It is a BIG plan and it has been created and developed by a very small number of local people including Merricks Beach residents.

The BioLink will include the creation of new wetlands in our neighbourhood. Merricks Beach residents who attended Balnarring Primary School, or who have had or have children at Balnarring Primary School, will know the thrill of seeing a wetlands grow from a paddock, as the school community itself developed the fabulous and widely celebrated Balbirooroo Wetlands.

You can join in and be part of creating a wildlife corridor for our region. Information at:

<https://mplandcare.org.au/landcare-groups/merricks-coolart-catchment-landcare-group/>

Time to Spring Clean?

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is offering a no charge green waste weekend on 25-27 October. All types of garden waste and untreated timber can be delivered from residential vehicles or trailers. For more details see mornpen.vic.gov.au/greenwaste

Also, Sustainability Victoria is offering residents the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted chemicals, cleaning products and liquid fertilisers in Mornington on Saturday 23 November 9am-3pm.

For more information, visit <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome>



Treasures on the Peninsula / Madeleine Curtain

A cooking class at Georgie Bass Café, Flinders

Last Christmas my sister gave me a very special Christmas present- a gift voucher for a cooking experience at Georgie Bass café, Flinders. As a committed partner of the Mornington Peninsula Produce program, the Georgie Bass cooking school incorporates 'home grown goods' from their kitchen garden, planter boxes and their Flinders farm into the menu. It was at the farm in Flinders where we met the head chef who educated us about what the afternoon would entail whilst we foraged for zucchini's beetroot and other ingredients for our meal. A couple of hours later we had created a delicious meal, complimented by local wine and all eaten at Georgie Bass Café. These classes cater for a maximum of 11 people, ensuring you receive personalised tuition throughout. They cater for all levels of experience, and welcome private group bookings for friends, special occasions or corporate groups. It makes for a unique fun Christmas present.



Bass & Flinders / Gin classes

Bass & Flinders' modern new cellar door in Dromana is the location for a unique Mornington Peninsula experience where you have the opportunity to make a bespoke bottle of gin. Learn all about how gin is made, smell and taste the exotic botanicals, then blend them to invent your personal gin recipe. At the end of the master class you get to take home your creation which you can re-order at any time.



Foxy's Hangout / Meet The Winemaker

Not only does Foxy's Hangout make a great sparkling wine, but they offer you the chance to join winemaker Michael Lee to learn how they make it. You can create a blend to suit your taste and will have a bottle to take home with you. Allow some time afterwards to sit on their deck and enjoy the wine, tapas style menu and the brilliant view over the vineyard.

