

Merricks Matters

Summer 2019/20

Dates to note for Summer

- > MBRA AGM - Sunday 29th December 10am at Merricks Yacht Club
- > New Residents Welcome Drinks – Sunday 29th December 2019, 6pm
- > Sand Modelling Competition and Sausage Sizzle - Monday 30th December, 10am
- > Discover Sailing Day – Monday 30th December, 1pm
- > Davies Cup Tennis Tournament – Thursday 2nd January 2020
- > Picnic at the Bill Carroll Reserve – Sunday 26th January 2020



Tennis Courts Update

As members will have likely noticed, stage one of the renovation project was recently completed. This involved the complete replacement of the fences, patching and grinding of the concrete, installation of a root barrier to prevent further heaving and cracking of the concrete, and landscaping of the court surrounds to eliminate tripping hazards.

In parallel with the actual work on the courts, the committee pursued funding for those works by way of grants. Our thanks to Cr David Gill and the Honourable Greg Hunt MP for their support in relation to these grants. In 2020, the committee will turn to stages 2A (resurfacing the courts with cushioned Plexipave) and 2B (replanting the area between the courts and Foam Street).

Dog Regulations at Merricks Beach

As previously advised, during 2019 the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council regarding management of dogs on beaches. Accordingly, and for the first time at Merricks Beach, Council officers may enter the beach and have the power to issue on-the-spot fines for noncompliance with regulations.

Dog regulations at Merricks Beach are unaltered. Merricks Beach is a dogs-on-leads beach and, during daylight saving hours, dogs are not permitted on the beach between 9am and 7pm.

Please remember to pick up your dog's waste in the foreshore and throughout the village.



MBRA Subscriptions Due

A reminder that MBRA subscriptions are currently due. Annual Fee \$125.

Fire Warning for MB Resident's

Everyone is talking about fires and although the fire risk at Merricks Beach may be higher than we normally experience in the suburbs of Melbourne, in the view of the relevant authorities CFA, MPSC and DELWP, Merricks Beach is not a high risk area. If it was, there would be special plans in place for it, as there are for other areas on the peninsula and other parts of Victoria that are considered high risk.

According to authorities like the Bureau of Meteorology, although this fire season conditions are expected to be worse than usual in Victoria, the highest risk areas are in the North of the state. At this stage, the level for the Mornington peninsula is expected to be elevated but is not expected to be extreme.

Nevertheless, residents shouldn't be complacent and they should be prepared in the event of a fire. The main way residents can prepare is:

- > To prepare their own homes, as per the CFA advice that the MBRA has already referred residents to
- > Report any fire in the foreshore and on the beach to police. (There is evidence of one having been lit on the sand near the yacht club in recent days)
- > Have fire extinguishers in every home
- > Install a fire pump that will run a hose to all parts of their properties.

Some residents will want to do more, and we encourage community participation in fuel reduction working bees that are organised by authorities such as the CFA, MPSC or DELWP. Residents may be interested in joining a CFA Fireguard group to learn about and participate in fire prevention activities. Let's work together to keep Merricks Beach safe.



Coastal Villages Study

The final version of the CVS has been released by the Mornington Council. It confirms the environmental features of Merrick's Beach as needing to be retained including unmade roads and green wedges. We believe Council will now try to get the study appended to the State planning laws to strengthen the overlays that currently exist.

Lionel Lauch will return to Merricks Beach in 2020

Responding to requests, the MBRA has invited Lionel Lauch to take a second cultural guided tour in the Merricks Beach foreshore on **Saturday, 11 April 2020 (Easter Saturday)**, commencing at 10.30 am. Further information will follow. Please save the date.



The Foreshore Committee general news

Thank you also to the community members who have worked with the Committee this year on a range of weed control and other projects, we really appreciate your input. Likewise thank you to everyone who participates in our regular beach cleaning program – this helps ensure the community not only has a clean beach that everyone cares for and can enjoy, but also results in a much needed injection of funds from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). This last year, the program raised over \$4000, which will be used to purchase plants for the Reserve and pay contractors to do specialist work that volunteers aren't able to do.

The terms of the current Foreshore Committee members expire at the end of the year and DELWP is currently seeking applications from members of the community to be appointed for the next three year period. A couple of current members of the Committee have advised that they won't be re-applying for another term and we would like to record our appreciation of their service. David Wharington has advised he is retiring after having been a member of the Committee for 24 years. During this time he has undertaken a variety of roles and worked tirelessly on a range of activities. His long experience and knowledge have been very valuable and will be missed. Likewise, we are sorry to be losing our current Treasurer, Mary Daley, who has done a superb job in the Treasurer role, as well as leading working bees and liaising with our local suppliers, the MBRA and our foreshore caretakers.

We have advertised the DELWP process through the various Merricks Beach organisations and are looking forward to new people joining us to continue the work of looking after Merricks Beach's major asset, our beautiful beach and Foreshore Reserve. If you are just hearing about this and are interested in joining us, please contact Sarah Wordsworth of DELWP on 03 9210 9415, as she may be willing to accept late applications.

Joyce Lawrence, Secretary

News from The Bill Carroll Reserve

The Bill Carroll Reserve is thriving through rain, sun, mulching, weeding, removing dead trees, and planting.

Do join us for the Picnic in the Park on the afternoon of Sunday 26 January for wine and bread appreciation, and all-round socializing.

See you there.

By Kirsty Richards

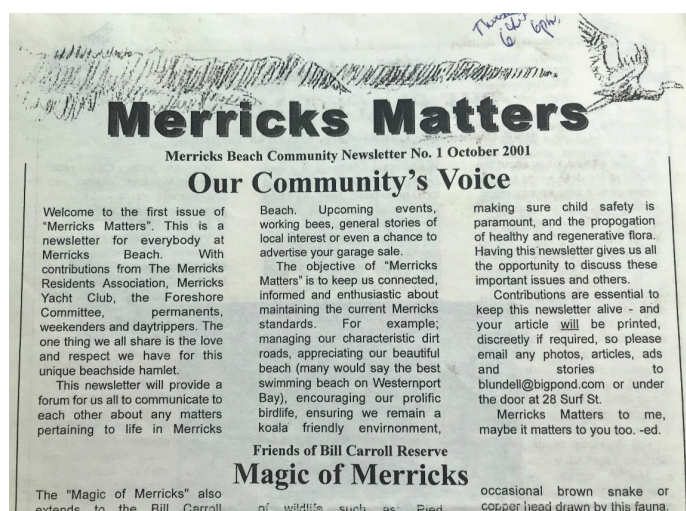


Merricks Matters New Editor needed:

As you can see the Merricks Matters Community news began 18 years ago in 2001. The purpose was and still is to provide a newsletter for everybody from the Merricks Beach Resident's Association, to the Yacht Club, the Foreshore Committee and the Bill Carroll Reserve. The news contains general stories of local interest to keep everyone connected. Currently, there are 3 Merricks Matters editions per year in Summer, Autumn and Spring and recent editions can be accessed on the MBRA website.

We are in need of a volunteer from the Community to become the Editor of the Merricks Matters. Having been the editor for two years and a resident for 3.5, my family and I will be moving away from the area, and need someone to take the reins. Enquiries about what the role involves can be sent to madeleine.curtain@yahoo.com.au

Expressions of interest for the role should be sent to Peter Cash on the following email president@mbra.com.au



New community noticeboard

Thanks to Bruce Dench for his project management skills in arranging the refurbishment of the community noticeboard. This is now complete, apart from sign-writing. David McNulty's workmanship has produced a great result. Warner Signs of Balnarring will be doing the sign-writing

Neighbourhood News

Manned by dedicated volunteers, a delightful maritime history centre can be found currently located in the old BP Administration Building (with Heritage Overlay) at 220 The Esplanade, Crib Point. The Victorian Maritime Centre showcases Australian Merchant Navy, Royal Australian Navy and Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) stories. The Victorian Maritime Centre is open on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Refer www.maritimecentre.com.au

Coolart Homestead

will again host two twilight performances of a Shakespearean comedy. OZACT will perform Twelfth Night on 11 and 12 January 2020. For further information and to book see www.coolart.org.au/coming-events/ and/or www.ozact.com/events

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