

Merricks Matters

AUTUMN 2022

While we all enjoyed the lovely warm weather over the last few months, unfortunately Omicron caused the cancellation of some community events during the summer holidays and, as a result, there was not enough content to publish a Summer Edition.

Our Autumn 2022 newsletter recalls some stories that I wanted to share a couple of months ago, particularly a good news story from a Merricks Beach regular Fraser who, thanks to some amazing teamwork from some local angels, is still here, smiling and incredibly grateful to be alive. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.

Sharon Muhleisen, Editor

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve

The Reserve is flourishing under the care of Dave Stewart, the Committee and Nature Links, who specialise in bushland conservation, restoration and revegetation works, and who are employed by the Shire. They have chipped the fallen branches and took away the mulch. They also whipper-snipped our roadside drain which was full of paspalum grass – a difficult weed to kill. All of this activity was overseen by a drowsy koala.

We are planting more shrubs and trees to attract native bees because these guys can cross fertilise to their heart's content, tend to be solitary and don't sting. And, with Richard Anderson's guidance, we're exploring the idea of creating an edible Australian garden within the Reserve.

Lainie Larsson - President and member of the Fellowship of Weeders, Planters and Mulchers at FOBCR

Advantage: Merricks Beach

The fundraising drive to raise money for the refurbishment of the tennis courts has been met with terrific community support. To date around 80% of the funds needed to complete the project have been pledged. We also obtained a \$5000 grant from the Mornington Peninsula Shire. The final stage of works will extend the concrete apron to the fence and between the courts with a new mod grass surface laid on top.

If the remaining required funds are secured, we expect to be able to complete the project before next summer.

If you have not already done so, please join in and make a donation pledge by completing the form at [\[link\]](#) and sending it to president@mbra.com.au.

Peter Cash – MBRA President

The MPKCS meets the MBRA

Members of the Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation Society met with committee members to present its goals to create habitat for koalas in our special part of the world.

Belinda and Dirk are among a group of volunteers who are aiming to expand the koala friendly tree canopy between Cerberus and Red Hill South.

Currently, 70% of koala habitat is on private land and the society are keen to engage with landholders to encourage and help them plant more koala friendly trees on their properties. The society has the funds, the volunteers, will provide the trees and in some cases, do the planting too. It is all part of their plan to connect the private land canopy with the public land canopy so that some of our cutest residents have a corridor to move freely throughout the peninsula.

Already they have twenty thousand plants to place between Stanley's Road and the beach, 50% of which are already committed. The society is looking for sites to place the rest. Ideally, three or four large property owners would enable a mass planting of more than a thousand trees per property and free labour would be included for anyone who would like to take up the offer of one of these large plantings. The MPKCS also have fifteen to twenty thousand plants to give away which are an indigenous mix suitable to the local environment. Some examples are: narrowleaf peppermint, swamp and manna gums. The MBRA has accepted the offer to distribute some of these plants as part of the Queen's Birthday annual plant giveaway. (The koala friendly plants are offered with tree guards.)

The committee's thanks goes out again to Belinda and Dirk for taking the time to present this important project at the last meeting.

Peter Cash – MBRA President

Weed management

We all love a plant that we can't kill easily and a plant that flowers without much water is even better. But before long, these plants can become a problem and often times fall into the weed category. Agapanthus is one such plant. Once it has flowered, each individual flower eventually releases a seed which can get into culverts and travel to low lying areas where, because of their resilient nature, they usually take over native habitats. So, it is important if you have planted agapanthus, that you dead-head them regularly and keep their spread in check.



On April 9th, the Merricks Beach Foreshore Committee of Management undertook the difficult task of removing



dozens of agapanthus plants from along the fire-trail. Thanks to a little help from Merricks Beach local, Brad Vann and his excavator, the job was done in no time at all. One passer-by rightly commented that "the magic of Merricks Beach doesn't happen by itself". Many thanks to the foreshore volunteers and Brad for maintaining the magic on our behalf!

For more information on what the

Foreshore Committee are doing to keep Merricks Beach beautiful – follow their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/merricksbeachforeshore>

Davies Cup 2021/22

The annual 'Davies Cup' tennis event was held in brilliant weather on 30 December 2021. Participants were allotted a partner (sort of randomly) and, in a nod to the times, teams were arranged in 4 groups named 'Alpha', 'Delta', 'Kappa' and 'Omicron' for the initial round robin stage of the tournament. The winners from each group (Zac Proctor and Ian Sanders, Mitch Campbell and Harriet Johnson, Andre and Trina Calder and Marvin Garnham and Peter Cash) then played off in semi-finals and a grand final, with Marvin and Peter emerging victorious over runners up Zac and Ian in a tight match with thrills and, unfortunately for Ian, spills galore. Congratulations to all who played and thanks also to the supporters who joined in the fun.



Peter Cash – MBRA President

Easter Fun at Bill Carroll Reserve

The Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve have been storing up the fun for a couple of years now and are ready to egg-splode!

Come to the Reserve for an egg-cellent afternoon of races and chocolate faces.

The fun starts at 3pm, Easter Sunday – April 17th.



Bring along your friends and family to join in the community egg-citement. Relax with some egg painting or get cracking in the egg and spoon races which are for all ages and include our famous egg-and-spoon-and-dog race. It will be egg-streme fun for everyone so see you there!

Vale James (Jim) Webster

14.06.1925 - 03.04.2022

Jim was a foundation member of the Merricks Yacht Club. In the early years, he was active sailing and very involved in the many social activities. The first flag pole for the club came from his family's timber yard. For a number of years, his involvement in politics and the diplomatic corps restricted his ability to spend time here, but he passed his love of Merricks and sailing on to his children and grand-children. Jim lived an incredibly full life and while he will be sadly missed. His is a life that should be celebrated.



Queen's Birthday Plant Giveaway

This year, we are reverting to the format of collecting your plants from a stall on the foreshore near the noticeboard. Members have a choice of six native plants supplied by Merricks Nursery which can be collected from 10am on Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend.

Open Letter to the Merricks Beach Community

On Tuesday 28th of December 2021 I collapsed on Merricks Beach, after a midday swim to the green buoy. Upon reaching our towels, I commented to Bern, Angela, Sandy, Cliff and Harry that the swim had taken 17 minutes - that's the last thing I recall. And so, what follows has been described to me by those who revived me:

Angela asked Bern if I had a history of epilepsy, Bern said "not that I am aware". Ange's medical training kicked in and she quickly requested a defibrillator, and for someone to call an ambulance while she started CPR immediately. Harry called 000. Bern was frantically yelling down the beach calling for a doctor and for someone to bring the defib unit. She yelled out that there's a defibrillator at the yacht club. John (Onella's son in law) heard this and sprinted to the yacht club assisted by Matt Johnson to access the device. He said he's never run faster in his life.

Meanwhile some holidaying nurses, who heard Bern's call had miraculously appeared from the sand dunes and were assisting Angela with CPR. Pip Nolan with her sister and another friend Sara - a physiotherapist, formed the CPR team with Ange on working to revive me.

The defib arrived via John to the girls and without hesitation, produced a razor from the defib kit to shave my chest hair so they could properly connect the device. They were saving my life! The defibrillator analysed my heart and breathing, and recommended a shock in its robotic voice. They pressed the button, sending a shock into me which squeezed all my

muscles, most importantly my heart, to pump blood. "Continue CPR" the defib said. It was guiding and counting down the CPR process until the next analysis, then it recommended another shock. This cycle continued and I was shocked 5-6 times. Being an electrician, I am somewhat used to this.

Someone in running gear jogged over and told the team that he was a cardiologist. He told the girls that they were doing everything right and to continue as they were. I believe Nish and Craig contacted cardiologist No 2. who arrived, and coincidentally, knew the first cardiologist. "You holiday here too?" It turns out Merricks Beach in summer is the right place to have a heart attack. The second cardiologist took over from the nurses to continue CPR compressions.

The paramedics arrived and I was stabilised somewhat. Everyone was working as a team. There was talk of a helicopter arriving and landing on the beach for an airlift to the Alfred Hospital. Craig was even asked by paramedics to draw a helipad on the sand which he did! But due to logistics and refuelling, a regular ambulance was decided upon as the quicker option.

Harry, Sandy, Matthew D, Matthew J. and Clifford were attending to needs of the ambulance and the paramedic teams. Another nurse also arrived via The Good Samaritan app, which is an app that alerts off duty, medically trained people about local emergencies.

This team of Merricks Beach community angels, along with the paramedics (and others I may have missed, but you know who you are), revived and delivered me from the beach to the ambulance via vehicle and trailer. I was taken to Frankston Hospital for a stent to be put into my LAD 1 artery.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt and sincere thanks to all in this precious community for saving my life. My family and friends are so very grateful, as of course, am I. You truly are all wonderful!

Best Wishes and Warm Regards,

Fraser Standish

If you would like to support the raising of funds to go towards the installation and maintenance of a defib machine in Merricks Beach, Angela Richards has set up a [go fund me](#) page at which you can contribute:

www.gofundme.com/f/community-defibrillator-at-merricks-beach
