

Merricks Matters

Autumn 2025

Welcome to the second edition of Merricks Matters for 2025.

Thank you to all our contributors for your articles and photos. In addition to the regular reports from the various Merricks Beach organisations, this edition features a story and some tips on attracting and caring for wildlife in our gardens, and some more wonderful Merricks Memories.

Please send in your own contributions for future editions. Letters, photos and articles are all welcome. Send your contributions to the Editor at contact@mbra.com.au.

Hope you have had a great Autumn, and happy reading!

Joyce Lawrence, Editor

MBRA Update

As residents will easily see from the following pages of this edition of Merricks Matters, the MBRA committee and its volunteer members are continuing to devote considerable time and energy to investigating and supporting any number of community projects. One issue which has been the subject of regular reports in this column is our campaign to improve safety on Frankston-Flinders Road. In an endeavour to spur the State government to action on its 'in-principle' agreement to reduce the speed limit, the MBRA has recently joined with each of the other residents groups between Balnarring and Flinders to petition Minister Horne to provide the necessary funding. We now await her response.

Whilst some excellent progress has been made in the MBRA's drain rejuvenation project, particularly in Wave Street, there has also been frustratingly slow progress in obtaining engagement from MPSC, which has proved necessary for permitting and other reasons. Despite this, the MBRA remains completely committed to getting these important works done, as soon as possible.

With thanks to our Treasurer, Ian Breadon, the MBRA's finances are currently very solid. Too solid, in fact! As a result, the committee has recently approved grants to each of the Foreshore Committee and the Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve, for planting and infrastructure works and for renovations to the reserve's bird hide, respectively. If you have a suggestion for a project or infrastructure of general benefit to the community, do please let us know!

Finally, for all members of the MBRA, the annual plant giveaway will, as usual, take place over the King's Birthday weekend (details elsewhere in this newsletter). It's a great opportunity both to add a few indigenous shrubs, trees and/or grasses and to get the benefit of advice on planting from resident Richard Anderson from Merricks Nursery. Hopefully, we'll have some rain by then!

Peter Cash – MBRA President

Merricks Matters – Autumn 2025

MERRICKS BEACH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC



Update from MBRA Stormwater Working Group

As the MBRA has previously announced, we are working with Melbourne Water and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to develop a long-term strategy for improving the management of stormwater and drainage at Merricks Beach.

Work is continuing on developing the strategy. The MBRA Stormwater Working Group is hoping that the draft strategy will be available soon and we can schedule a community session to discuss it with the consultants, Wave Consulting. Watch this space!

The MBRA is extremely grateful to have received the financial support of Melbourne Water and Community Bank Balnarring and District (Bendigo Bank) for this project.

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

 Bendigo Bank

 Melbourne
Water

Kriston Symons – MBRA Vice President

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 7/Sun 8 June	MBRA Plant Giveaway Tennis Courts 10am-12 noon
Every Thursday, 5.00pm	Social drinks at the Yacht Club
Every Tuesday, 10am	Craft Group, Yacht Club (Excl school holidays)

Help us save on the costs of printing and postage

If you currently receive a printed copy of Merricks Matters, please consider changing to an emailed copy. Just provide your email address to our President, Peter Cash at president@mbra.com.au and he will add your details to our mailing database.

MBRA Residents' Survey

The survey was open to all residents of Merricks Beach for 44 days from 23rd February until 8th April 2025. It allowed for multiple responses per household, to gain the views of our whole community, not just members of the MBRA. As a consequence of these conditions, 324 surveys were completed – 302 via the online tool and 22 hard copies. In comparison, the last residents' survey in 2015 had 92 respondents, however it allowed for only one response per household. This needs to be considered when comparing the results between the surveys.

46% of respondents are frequent residents, 32% permanent residents & 20% holiday makers. 70% of the survey respondents are aged 55 years & above. Most respondents are retired (36%), employed full-time (32%) or self-employed (15%).

Tranquility, peace and quiet, the village environment, the unique flora & fauna and actively preserving the ecology and environment of Merricks Beach remain most important to the community, as well as road maintenance & improving infrastructure. This has remained consistent across both surveys. Whilst there was appreciation and positive feedback for the MBRA committee's efforts, there were also concerns and potential areas for improvement highlighted by some respondents. The key areas suggested for focus by the committee include speeding & traffic safety, environmental preservation, infrastructure improvements, community engagement & communication, recreational facilities and domestic animal management.

There were five questions asked to gather the views of the community on specific matters. The committee will undertake further consultation and consideration of these matters based on the feedback received, however top-line results indicated:

- 40% of survey respondents think MBRA should provide information on access to reticulated water
- 67% of respondents do not support installation of a basketball ring
- More information is needed regarding a community battery as 34% were undecided
- 90% of respondents want double lines at the FF & MB road intersection
- 55% of respondents support dust suppression measures.

Thank you to those who took the time to provide their feedback to ensure the MBRA can meet the current and future needs of the Merricks Beach community. Full details of the survey results can be accessed here: [Thanks for your feedback and input! Merricks Beach Residents' Survey Results. – mbra.com.au](https://mbra.com.au)

Sarah Lawrence - MBRA Committee member

[Editor's Note: Thank you Sarah, for doing all the work involved in this. Designing and managing the survey, collating and analysing the responses, both electronic and paper, is no mean feat! The information collected will be very helpful to the MBRA]

Community Battery

A community battery – time to charge ahead?

Batteries are becoming part of everyday life – powering our phones, torches, cars, and increasingly, our homes. Across Australia,

community batteries are being installed in suburbs and towns to help store and share renewable energy. Could a small village like Merricks Beach benefit from one?

What is a community battery?

A community battery is a medium-sized shared battery (larger than a household battery but smaller than a grid-scale installation) that stores electricity – charging directly from the grid, including solar energy that has been exported from local homes.

It discharges power when needed, typically during the evening when energy use rises and solar generation drops. These batteries help stabilize the power grid, lower household bills, They can also be used for financial gain, charging when grid prices are low and discharging when prices are high, but this requires an agreement with the network owner, with constant monitoring and management of the battery using dedicated software.

Batteries can be connected 'in front of meter', meaning connected directly to the grid, or 'behind the meter', meaning connected to a building or premises that has electrical connection. Before the meter installations would require liaison and support from the network owner and the Shire, because if the battery is not placed on private land. then an acceptable public site must be found. There is also the issue of bushfire overlays, and ideally the battery is not located within or adjacent to a bushfire vegetation zone.

A community battery can also be connected to a community facility like a library so that during power outages the community facility can act as a place of refuge for local residents.

How much would it cost and how would it be funded?



Large community batteries (120kW & 360kWh like in Flinders or North Fitzroy) cost around \$500,000 and can support wider community needs. Smaller ones (e.g. at the Red Hill Recreation Reserve or Flinders Golf Club) are designed mainly for emergency backup and can cost around \$20,000.

The Merricks Yacht Club already has a small battery (funded via a grant) to provide limited power to refrigerators during outages. It does not power air conditioning during outages. The Flinders battery, owned by the Mornington Peninsula Shire, is not currently able to provide back-up power in emergencies. We have spoken to the people who organized the Flinders battery for greater insights as part of our investigations.

Given the significant cost of batteries, they are often largely funded through government grants, both state and federal. We had heard about a new round of grant applications being sought by the Victorian State Government, but upon enquiry it was clear that grants would only be made available for installations which involved community facilities which could serve as places of refuge. The MBRA does not have any such facilities, and the tennis court reserve would not meet the criteria.

Should Merricks Beach have a community battery?

While the community may support the idea, putting aside the funding issue and the inability to secure a government grant in this round, there are three other questions to help determine if we

should pursue this in the future:

- Is solar uptake high?
- Is there year-round energy use?
- Are outages a concern or does the electricity grid need upgrading?

Based on these factors, it appears that a community battery for Merricks Beach is not worth pursuing at this time. The significant number of houses not occupied year-round, albeit with a growing number of solar-equipped homes, along with irregular (weekend and seasonal) energy demand, and limited outages compared with other communities, with no significant electricity network upgrades planned, reduce the potential benefits and business case. In addition, the MBRA does not have a suitably located community facility (building).

However, this may change. As solar and battery prices fall, and more residents invest in sustainable energy systems, the case for a community battery could grow stronger – especially if grid reliability worsens, government subsidies increase, and the electricity distribution authority identifies our part of the electricity grid for upgrades. Of course, the Shire would also need to be willing to host the battery on suitable public land.

What can we do in the meantime?

In the meantime, household batteries (with new Federal Government rebates available shortly) – especially when paired with rooftop solar – and electric vehicles with “vehicle-to-home” capability (they usually have six times the capacity of a home battery) will likely offer the best solution for local backup power, energy savings and bill savings, and contribute to a greener grid. This solution enables individual residents to take control of their power needs.

Further information may be found at the Shire website (<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Environment/Climate-Change/What-can-you-do-about-climate-change/Electrify-your-home>), the Repower Mornington Peninsula website (<https://repowermornpen.org.au/>) or the Flinders Zero Carbon Community website (<https://www.flinderszero.org.au/about>).

Ian Breadon & Kriston Symons – MBRA Committee

Foreshore Committee Update

‘Pine Slide’ track closure at the end of May for sewage works

The ‘Pine Slide’ beach access track at the eastern end of Cliff Road will be closed for a period towards the end of May to allow South East Water to relocate sewage infrastructure serving private properties. This is necessary as a result of the erosion caused by high tides at the bottom of the path. Once the date of the works is confirmed, further notice will be provided.

Update on erosion at the bottom of the ‘Pine Slide’ track

People using the ‘Pine Slide’ beach access track should continue to take care as the access to the beach at the bottom of the track is impacted by erosion from high tides. The track is not recommended for people with mobility issues or during high tide. The Foreshore Committee is in discussions with the Department (DEECA) and the

neighboring Balnarring Foreshore Committee about options for relocating or remediating the final section of the track to improve beach access. Further updates will be provided as those discussions progress.

Nesting boxes in the foreshore reserve

A number of nesting boxes have been installed in the foreshore reserve to provide additional habitat for native wildlife. A photo of one of the new occupants is below, as well as a photo of one of our other foreshore residents. To see more wildlife photos and read more about the nesting boxes and how you could install one in your garden, check out our Facebook and Instagram pages here:

<https://www.facebook.com/merricksbeachforeshore/>
https://instagram.com/merricksbeach_fc?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=



Stop dumping green waste in the foreshore (please)

There have been a number of recent incidents of green waste being dumped in the foreshore. This has included grass clippings and prunings. Grass clippings do not serve as effective mulch for native plants and, instead, spread weeds into the foreshore and increase fire risk. Similarly, prunings and other garden waste spread weeds and impact native vegetation. It also takes considerable time and effort for our foreshore volunteers to remove the dumped green waste and dispose of it correctly. Please dispose of your own green waste responsibly.

Fisherperson rubbish on the beach

We are aware that there has been an increased incidence of fishing equipment, surplus bait and other items belonging to fisherpeople being left behind by those fishing at Merricks Beach, as well as evidence of fires being lit on the foreshore by fishers. There are also regular instances of vegetation being broken for use in fires. Fires on the foreshore are prohibited at all times. The Foreshore

committee has been in contact with the Victorian Fisheries Authority raising these concerns and is awaiting a response. The committee will continue to consider ways to influence the behaviour of people leaving rubbish and damaging vegetation on the foreshore.

Working bee and nature walk

Thank you to all who participated in the recent foreshore working bee and nature walk. The working bee spread mulch along a section of the fire track to improve the track for pedestrians, continuing the work that has been done in other areas of the track. There was also a guided nature walk conducted by Nick Williams (Professor of Ecology at University of Melbourne), taking participants through sections of the reserve to highlight native flora and other items of interest. There will be future working bees and other nature walks later in the year, so please keep an eye on the public notice board next to the tennis courts and our Facebook and Instagram pages for details of upcoming events.



Upgrade works

Two infrastructure upgrades have been installed recently, courtesy of a grant from the Victorian State Government department, DEECA.

In late March the handrails on the well-used Bluff Road access path to the beach were replaced and a seat installed midway along the track. The works were completed by our local handyman Dave McNulty to his usual high standard.

Previously, in late February, the roof on the toilet block at the end of Merricks Beach Road was replaced. The new roof has a larger skylight panel which provides better internal lighting during the day.

Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve

Friends of the Bill Carroll Reserve held their annual Easter in the Park on Easter Sunday.



A small crowd of eager children painted and decorated eggs.



Afterwards, the old-fashioned egg and spoon race.

One young lad, realising you scored an Easter egg at the end of each race, kept doing reruns.

It was all good family fun... and with the old favourite, an Easter egg hunt to finish.

Lainie Larsson - FOBCR

Another Season draws to a close at Merricks Yacht Club!

It's been a great season at Merricks Yacht Club for both sailors and social members. As always, our social calendar has included great dinners, movie nights and other social events throughout the summer, for members of all ages.

We had all sorts of weather to contend with this year, but our sailing members took to the challenges thrown at us by 'mother nature', as we always do, and the sailing season was a great success. Our **Try Sailing** events were well attended, and we welcomed some new sailors to the club as a result.

Our first season of **Salty Sisters** proved popular, seeing a growing group of women members take on a mix of on-water and land-based activities, including casual sailing, paddleboarding and beach walks.

In the yacht club's role as a community hub, we also hosted valuable community activities, including **defibrillator training** run by Ange Richards, and weekly **Pilates classes on Wednesday mornings at 9AM**. For those who enjoy being creative in the company of others, our **craft mornings** are also back in full swing every **Tuesday at 10AM** in the clubhouse.

Our weekly **Thursday night drinks at 5:30 PM** continue throughout the year, providing community members with a perfect chance to take in the stunning bay views with great company and great-value drinks.

Thinking of joining? Whether you're a keen sailor or just love the social scene, we'd love to welcome you! Drop by the club or sign up at <https://merricksyachtclub.wildapricot.org>.

Rosemary Nolan – Vice Commodore, MYC

Merricks Beach Gardens for Wildlife

Caring for Koalas in the Garden

Many of you would have heard stories of koalas strolling around the village or even heard them growl at night seeking a partner. We were lucky enough to experience firsthand a koala visiting our backyard regularly at the start of this year. We would spot him either snoozing in the tree or quietly climbing up a tree to seek refuge and food to eat. It is fascinating to watch how these beautiful creatures can sleep precariously on a small branch of a tree.



It is not just luck that has meant that we have had this koala visit our property. We have made significant effort to replace many of the introduced trees on a property with native and indigenous trees, including eucalyptus trees that are a food source for koalas. This koala's favourite tree in our yard was a Bushy Yate, a small Western Australian variety of eucalyptus tree that grows up to 4 metres.



On one of these occasions, I spotted the koala sitting under the tree trying to drink from an empty water bowl. The continuous dry weather during the summer and autumn period meant that there was very little water around. I tried to refill the water bottle using a watering can and the koala immediately

tried drinking from the watering can. I got a hunch something was wrong as I know koalas usually get their water through eating gum leaves.



Fortunately, I have kept in touch with a local who is also the Vice president of Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation (MPKC). Many of you know Belinda Eden, who is always around putting up signs when active koalas are spotted. Belinda reached out to Jennie Bryant, from the Tyabb Koala Hospital and they came to check on the koala. Jennie decided that the koala was very old and was enjoying its last few moments in our village.

Belinda said, "Sadly, this koala's last days quickly approached in early May when he was spotted moving very slowly on one of the paths through the village and was then found huddled by the base of a tree". It was decided at that point that the kindest option was for the koala to be euthanised and Belinda took him last Friday.

MPKC keeps records of koalas and, upon examining the nose markings of this koala, it became apparent that this koala was "Bill". Fondly named this as he was first sighted in the Bill Carroll Reserve. From that time, he was then sighted regularly around other areas of

Merricks Beach. Many of you would've spotted him high above in the gum trees of the reserve, sleeping and enjoying the peace of Merricks Beach.



Belinda said, "Once Bill had passed, we were able to take a close look at his teeth and get a better idea of his age, which was estimated to be around 14 years. Thankfully, Bill was always wild and never taken into care. We know this as he didn't have an ear tag - something rehabilitated koalas across Western Port typically have".

If you do spot a koala in your yard or on the streets of Merricks Beach alert the Mornington Peninsula Koala

Conservation (<https://mpkoalas.org.au/submit-koala-sighting/>). If you find an injured or unwell koala, please contact Jennie Bryant on 0417 395 883 or Belinda Eden on 0433 310 485.

Belinda also encourages people to come along to MPKC's koala tree planting days. These events occur between May and September to establish koala habitat across the Peninsula to help ensure koalas can exist here in the future. MPKC doesn't just plant eucalyptus trees, it plants a mix of indigenous vegetation to support a variety of wildlife and promote biodiversity.

At our property, Bill enjoyed not only the bushy yate but also three young coastal manna gums that were planted some years ago. It takes about five to seven years for a koala to find trees beneficial, so the best time to plant is now!

You can find out more at www.mpkoalas.org.au

In Bill's memory, we are planting a couple more Bushy Yates and manna gums to create a koala friendly environment for the young koalas of Bill's next generation.

Thanks for the special memories, Bill.
Rest in peace.



Arte Koutsis – Merricks Beach resident

[Editor's Note: Arte also provided a list of ways to support koalas to continue living in our village, but unfortunately there wasn't space to include them in this edition of Merricks Matters. Look for them on the MBRA's website www.mbra.com.au

Supporting the Welfare of Koalas in our Area

Please consider supporting the important work of Jeannie Bryant's Koala Rescue and Rehabilitation, and Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation. More information at

[Jennie Bryant, wildlife carer — Shoreham Community Association](#)
[MP Koalas | The Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation Group](#)

Gardens and Habitat for Wildlife

We are very fortunate to have several suppliers of local indigenous plants, which will help attract and sustain wildlife in your garden. These skilled and knowledgeable people are very helpful too. Not only will they happily talk with you about plants, they often have the time and interest to talk with you about your particular garden's needs as well.

Here are details for some of them, they are well worth a visit

- Merricks Nursery, 3361 Frankston Flinders Rd, Merricks (run by local resident Richard Anderson, who for many years has supplied the plants for the MBRA annual plant giveaway)
- Conservation Collective in Somerville [Online native plant nursery | Conservation Collective Native Plant Nursery](#) (has supplied the MBRA with 'koala trees' for past MBRA plant giveaways)
- Willum Warrain Bush Nursery in Hastings [Willum Warrain Aboriginal Bush Nursery | WILLUM WARRAIN](#) (a 100% Aboriginal community-owned bush nursery specialising in local indigenous plants from the Mornington Peninsula)
- The Briars Nursery in Mount Martha [Briars Nursery - Mornington Peninsula Shire](#) (run by the Shire for the benefit of residents, has regular plant giveaways too)

The Shire's website also has information about the local indigenous plants that would have originally been on your block, check it out [Local Native Plants Guide - Mornington Peninsula Shire](#)

Light Pollution and Wildlife

Did you know that light pollution from sources like leaving your windows uncovered at night or leaving external house lights on can have serious impacts on wildlife and ecosystems? Please keep your external lighting to a minimum to protect our local wildlife.

Explore this website to find out more

[Reducing the effect of light pollution on wildlife - DCCEEW](#)



Thanks to Belinda Eden for letting us know about this initiative.

Annual MBRA Plant Giveaway

Over the King's Birthday weekend, the MBRA will once again offer all members free indigenous plants. Thanks to Richard Anderson, a local resident and owner of the Merricks Nursery we will have a wonderful selection of grasses, shrubs and koala friendly trees to choose from. Come to the tennis courts from 10am-12 noon on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th June. Hope to see you there,

Di Hall – MBRA committee member

Merricks Memories

Twenty five years ago, we discovered Merricks Beach.

We were idling along in the car on a hot January day in the 'new' 2nd hand FJ Holden

3 in the front, 3 in the back – Comfort!!

We had swum at Pt. Leo, refreshing waves rolled over us, We lolled on the beach, the afternoon was warm and lazy, After lunch we packed up vaguely and drove along Flinders road going nowhere in particular.

Suddenly a sign loomed up

'Land now Selling, Palmers Hill Estate'

Without knowing why, we pulled up at the Estate agents.

I can still see the small man with a bright face and a limp showing us the land for sale,

Beach frontages – 700-1200 pounds and a map of the area!

Without knowing why again, we found ourselves driving along an unmade road bumping along across a sunburnt land.

We fell in love immediately with the area – Sea Views – Cliff face with a pine slide to the beach. Secluded, beautiful.

How could we buy a Block?

'Seventy pounds deposit + 3 monthly instalments of 30 pounds'

Not bad terms but how could we pay?

We drove home fascinated with our find.

The next week we looked again.

The thrill of owning a block of land – Crazy with four children – A whim

Ah! The child endowment – Thank God for four children!! It would pay the instalments.

And so we came to Merricks – the six of us

In time we built a holiday cottage

We are still in love with Merricks

Some would say it has no made roads, no reticulated water, no shops, no swings or slides,

But it has Magic –

The magic of the Sea, the everchanging skyline –

The cold South wind meeting you head on as you clamber down the cliff to walk upon the rocks –

The magic of the sun setting behind the hills.

Merricks also has its Dogs

Practically everyone who goes to Merricks has a dog

If you don't like dogs, don't go to Merricks!

They sit on your towel, take your shade, squabble with each other, chase seagulls

(Owners hide them under towels if an unfortunate ranger should appear).

It is difficult to find Merricks –

One has to fall across upon it

It comes out of the mist, sort of a Brigadoon

But once you find it

It never lets you go.

Written by Jeanne Crowe about 1987

Bern Hayes (Crowe) – Merricks Beach resident

[**Editor's Note:** We were very saddened to hear about Jeanne's recent passing. She was a much-loved resident of Merricks Beach for many decades. Sincere condolences from the MBRA Committee to her family and friends]

Pichler's Chicken Bar

Many locals and long-time visitors to Balnarring will remember a charming little stop along Frankston-Flinders Road, just west of the Balnarring Village Shopping Centre: Pichler's Chicken Bar. Known for its freshly roasted chickens, farm-fresh eggs, and a modest selection of sweets and ice creams, this spot was more than a roadside shop—it was a beloved part of the community's fabric.

Pichler's Chicken Bar was the creation of Richard and Gertrud Pichler, a young European couple who arrived in Australia in 1950 as part of the Commonwealth Government's Displaced Persons Migration Scheme. Richard, born in Poland to Austrian parents, had once studied music before war swept through Europe. He served as a lieutenant in the Polish Army, was taken as a prisoner of war, and eventually became fluent in Polish, German, Russian—and even picked up some English.

Gertrud, originally from Germany, was well-educated, fluent in French, German, and English, and taught English to fellow migrants after arriving in Australia aboard the ship 'Fairsea'. The couple was initially placed at the Commonwealth Immigration Camp in Somers, where they began contributing to their new home: Richard worked at the Flinders Naval Depot, while Gertrud taught and later assisted in administration.

When their two years of compulsory service ended, they purchased a block of land overlooking Western Port Bay, hoping to start a poultry farm. Despite having no prior farming experience, they leaned on advice from the Department of Agriculture and steadily grew their operation. By 1958, they were building their home, and in the 1960s, encouraged by Councillor Myers, they built a roadside shop, to be closer to the soon-to-be-upgraded road.

In 1968, their vision took shape as a small retail outlet with a circular driveway for easy customer access. Living in their house up the hill, they manned the shop as needed and even added living quarters inside. A loyal German Shepherd stood guard and served as a living doorbell.



The 1970s brought another addition: an Ampol petrol bowser installed out front, a welcome convenience for weekend motorists when other stations were closed.

The Pichler's weren't just shopkeepers; they became cherished friends to many residents and tourists. Gertrud's warm smile, often accompanied by rosy cheeks from the rotisserie's heat, and Richard's quiet, thoughtful conversation at the petrol pump or among his rose garden remain treasured memories.

Tragically, Gertrud passed away from a heart attack in 1973 at the age of 72. She had been the driving force behind the shop's operations, while Richard maintained the farm and infrastructure. Though heartbroken, Richard continued on, hoping to pass the business to someone who would maintain its spirit and provide

employment for his loyal staff. Eventually, he sold the property, though he was granted the right to live there for as long as he wished. He passed away in 1997 at Hastings Hospital at the age of 85.

Though Richard and Gertrud left no descendants, their legacy lives on in the memories of all who visited Pichler's Chicken Bar. Their story is a reminder of resilience, community, and the beauty of building a life in a new land with heart and hard work.

Written by Di Hall, information from 'Take it from Here' an article written by Bert Heitsch for the *Balnarring Byways & Memories, Volume 3*.

Community Corner

Balnarring and District Historical Society: Become a member

The Balnarring and District Historical Society is currently seeking new members and Committee members.

I'm sure that many locals enjoy reading the regular articles published about diverse local history issues researched and prepared by Ilma Hackett, the Information and Research Officer.

The current Treasurer, Ian Wisken, can be credited with the founding of the Society. While researching the history of the original Balnarring State School for the new primary school which was under construction in 1989, Ian saw the possibilities for a group of people interested in local history to form a society. So, shortly after the official opening of the Balnarring Primary School in May, 1990, Ian called a public meeting, which resulted in the formation of the Society. Later redevelopment of the Balnarring Hall provided the Society with a permanent home for its collection and meetings.

The Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings are held at the hall, with the latter currently held at 1.30 p.m., bi-monthly from February, with the December meeting traditionally being a Xmas lunch and meeting. The Committee has recently discussed meeting times and would consider change if this encouraged increased Committee membership.

Membership is currently \$20 per annum. Members receive regular copies of *Snippets*, an interesting assortment of history stories provided by past and present residents of the area.

The History Room at the Balnarring Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Mondays (except Public Holidays) so drop in and have a look at the extensive collection of documents and photos. A number of local history publications, most prepared by members, are available for sale.

So, please, if you have an interest in the important tasks of collecting, preserving and communicating local history, especially to younger generations, consider joining the group. The application form is attached (see p 8).

If you require further information, contact the Secretary, Rick Daly by phone, 0419591161 or email balhist4@gmail.com

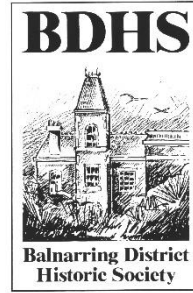
Di Hall (diannehall73@icloud.com) – MBRA Committee member

Balnarring & District Historical Society Inc.

® A002 25691B ABN 95 872 570 068

PO Box 183, Balnarring 3926

0419591161 balhist4@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership per person/family **\$20.00**

Total Enclosed Donation

Name

Address

..... Post code

Telephone e mail

Please ensure the email address is correct and clearly written.

Type of Membership

- **Active** – attend minimum of two General Meetings a year.
- **Supporting Only** – supporting the Society, but only interested in receiving new-sheets and other updates. May attend General Meetings as observer.

Do you want to receive minutes? Yes (email only) No

We need to minimise the expense of mailing. Would you be able to receive the “Snippets” and other notifications by email? Yes No

Signed

Date

Payment

Cash – please place in envelope with your form inside with your name written on this envelope when posting or handing cash over so we can enter your details into our records.

Cheque: with the form, to Balnarring and District Historical Society.

Return the Membership Application form and pay to

BSB 633 000 A/C No. 135 369 676