

Merricks Matters



Autumn/Winter 2016

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

March	Saturday 26		MYC Commodore's Cup and Easter BBQ
	Monday 28	9.30am	Foreshore Reserve Committee working bee, meet at Foam St steps
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
April	Sunday 24		MYC season ends with a working bee
May	Sunday 22		Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve Committee meeting and working bee (see noticeboards)
June	Sun/Mon 12/13	10.00am	MBRA annual indigenous plant giveaway

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Keeping in touch

The MBRA had a very well attended AGM on 3 January 2016. Around 70 members were there to hear reports from the president, Peter Cash, the treasurer, Greg Sutherland, and Bernard Barrett on behalf of the Roads sub-committee. In his report, Peter highlighted both the significantly improved responsiveness of the Mornington Peninsula Shire on traffic issues (in particular) and the close co-operation between the MBRA and the MYC. A feature of the AGM was the presentation by Rosanne Pittard regarding the outcomes of the residents' survey. Cr Tim Wood addressed the meeting and spoke on, amongst other things, his campaign to improve various road 'trouble spots'. The meeting also heard from representatives of MYC, FOBCR and the Foreshore Committee. The minutes of the AGM are available on the MBRA's website: <http://merricksbeach.org.au> If you have any issues to raise please contact a committee member or peter@cashhogarth.net

Peter Cash President MBRA



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Sun, sand and prizes

A perfect Merricks Beach day on Wednesday 30th December 2015 was the scene for over 200 participants, who dug, scraped and sculpted the sand into remarkable models. The main winners were: Rosebowl trophy for best exhibit on the beach went to Megan Douglas with *Sleeping dog lies*; the most original design was won by Joel Hick with *p balls*; and the Rick Daly trophy junior encouragement award was won by Alice Ayton with *Mr. Hippo*. Well done to everyone who entered! A special thank you goes to those who made, and those who collected, the donations for the prizes. See more photos at <http://merricksbeach.org.au>



Megan Douglas won the Rick Daly Trophy Rosebowl for her depiction of her handsome dog.



Sue Rutley

Summer sizzles

While the sparkling sea and temperate weather lured many hundreds of locals and their guests to take part in the annual sand-modelling competition, the committee of the MBRA was preparing its famous sausage sizzle.



Members of the MBRA and many visitors enjoyed sausages in bread with onions and coleslaw, with cordials to accompany their meal. While people enjoyed their food, the sound system was employed to announce the prizewinners in each category of the sand-modelling competition.

Mary Daley MBRA Committee

Easter Monday Foreshore Reserve Committee working bee

Please come along and help us to chip the remaining sallow wattles and other inappropriate plants currently growing along the Surf Street reserve. Although planted by previous Committees as 'natives', they are not indigenous to the area and have interbred with, and displaced, the local indigenous coastal wattle. Over the past several years we have made a concerted effort to remove them, leaving just a few

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along Surf Street to give protection to new indigenous plantings behind. This Easter we are trialing having the working bee on Easter Monday. Please join us at 9.30am near the Foam St steps; bring gloves, wheelbarrow and shovel if you can. It might have been a good way to work off those hot cross buns and Easter eggs, if we weren't providing a yummy morning tea for helpers!

Joyce Lawrence Secretary

Game, set and match

This past summer, 'hostilities' resumed in the Davies Cup, for the first time in 20 years. Some 32 residents took up their tennis racquets and, in random pairs, fought it out for the immortality that comes with being engraved on that prestigious trophy, and for vouchers from the Merricks General Store. The ultimate champions were Anthony Garnham and Henry Webster, who triumphed in a thrilling grand final over Ian Basser and Vanessa Dench. A secondary competition, for the first-round losers, was won by Rosemary Nolan and Peter Cash, with Stu Boxer and Will Webster runners up. Special thanks to Simon Webster for organising, and Bernard Barrett for use of his court and curating the MBRA's courts. Re-live the competition at <http://merricksbeach.org.au>



Anthony Garnham and Henry Webster



Rosemary Nolan and Peter Cash

Calm, steady persistence

On 21 February, a public meeting was held at the MYC rooms to hear a presentation from Ed Pocock, a traffic engineer from Mornington Peninsula Shire, regarding the proposal that his team has developed for traffic calming works within the village. Around 50 residents in attendance heard and saw that this proposal includes landscaped 'slow points' in Bayview Road (2), Palmers Hill Road and Spray Street, and re-modelling of the 'roundabout' at Foam and Palmers Hill Roads so that it functions as a 'centre splitter island'. The proposal was well-received at the meeting; of course, there will always be more that residents would like to see done to slow traffic for the sake of safety and dust minimisation, but, as Mr Pocock explained, the necessity of enabling large service vehicles, such as fire and garbage trucks, to negotiate the village's roads, and the need to ensure residents have access to their properties, limits what changes can be made. The meeting endorsed the proposal, and the MBRA will now work with the Shire engineers and Cr Tim Wood to seek to secure funding (of around \$100,000) in the council's 2016/17 budget. Check out the proposal at <http://merricksbeach.org.au/road-calming-proposals>

Peter Cash President MBRA

Summer has sailed by

Well, what a summer we have had at the Yacht Club! We've had large fleets competing and our popular junior sailing program. There were also plenty of social events to keep everyone entertained. We joined forces with the MBRA to resurrect the 'Davies Cup' tennis tournament and provided the venue for the sand-modelling competition sausage sizzle. Easter is our next big occasion with the Commodore's Cup and our Easter BBQ on Saturday night. BYO everything! While the season ends on April 24th with a working bee, our social Thursday nights continue all winter. We would like to thank everyone who has pledged or donated toward our clubhouse lift. The incredible generosity of our community means we are very close to our fundraising target. Work has commenced on the next stage. Stay tuned!

Patsy Moloney MYC

It's dry, dry, dry at Bill Carroll Reserve

Although there has been very little rain and not much growth on the most recently plantings, the weeds flourish and there was a lot of dry material that needed collecting for mulching, which the council will take away.

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Funds have been provided by the council for the eradication of blackberries and this work has been commenced, uncovering a large rabbit warren in the process. We were delighted to welcome some extra willing workers, and achieved a lot in a short time. The activities always end with a very welcome morning tea, provided by Glythn Campbell and include her delicious jubilee cake. Thank you once again to all those that put in the effort to attend the working bees. Committee meetings and working bees will be on May 22nd and September 25th 2016.

Jan Gilfillan Hon. Secretary

The rabbit saga continues

The MBRA has been exploring the best way to develop a community wide approach to reducing rabbit numbers. A new form of the Calisi virus will be trialed this year, and several experts presented information at a recent meeting in Bittern. The virus will help but we still need to remove burrows and use poison judiciously to be effective. Autumn is a good time to start, as numbers will be reducing. Many permanent residents have been blocking and destroying burrows and placing baits out overnight with significant benefit, especially when a local group work together. At Easter the MBRA will consider the issue and hope to develop a guide for residents to use.

Kathy Clarke Secretary MBRA

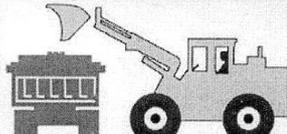
We welcome any items of interest and photos for future editions of Merricks Matters. Please email your copy to Gai Wilson, wilsong@iinet.net.au



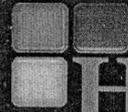
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