

Merricks Matters

Autumn Winter 2015

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Happy Easter holidays!

April	Sunday	5	9.30	Foreshore Committee working bee. Meet at bottom of the Surfie Steps and walk towards Balnarring Beach
			3.30	Easter egg hunt at Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve
	Monday	6		Junior tennis coaching: Bookings Grant O'Callaghan 0417 528 502
	Tuesday	7		
	Saturday	19	9.30 10.15	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve committee meeting at Reserve then working bee & morning tea
May	Thursdays		5	Drinks in the MYC clubhouse
	Sunday	31	9.30 10.15	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve committee meeting at Reserve, then working bee & morning tea
June	Saturday	6	10-12	Merricks Beach Residents Association plant giveaway
	Sunday	7		

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A busy year for the MBRA

Over 50 people attended the MBRA's AGM on January 4th. We reported on finances and completed and proposed projects supporting the village. The Foreshore Committee, Friends of the Bill Carroll Reserve and the MYC updated members. Cr Tim Wood spoke and congratulated members on their high level of engagement in community issues and also reported on his activities. The MBRA report was presented by retiring (acting) President Roy Wiedemeyer. As most will know, Roy had worked extremely hard for many years and we congratulate him for the many great things he achieved. The 2015 MBRA Executive is: Peter Cash, President, Greg Sutherland, Treasurer, Kathy Clarke, Secretary. Residents will know that the Shire has proposed deleting the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO27) that applies to Merricks Beach. The MBRA met with Shire officers and wrote to members with information about ESO27 and the potential effects of its deletion. Given the lack of time to investigate properly those effects and then to consult members, the MBRA Committee did not feel able to adopt a concluded position. It therefore made a submission to the Shire Council neither supporting nor opposing the deletion of ESO27. Copies of the letter to members and the Council submission are at merricksbeach.org.au We plan to survey residents shortly regarding their suggestions for MBRA projects and priorities.

Peter Cash President



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Of Sand and Sausages and Merricks traditions

As far as we can ascertain, the sand-modeling competition has been a popular annual fixture at Merricks for over 80 years. The sausage sizzle that follows is much younger – probably more like 30 or 40 years! It was great to see enthusiasm for these activities continuing. This year we began at 3pm, with the sausage sizzle a twilight event at the Yacht Club. Lots of Merricks folk, close to a record number of sand-modelers, participated in both activities and a good time was had – despite the heat and a region-wide power failure. Well done to all sand-modelers, section winners and special congratulations to Susan Handasyde who won the Rose Bowl and Journey Lui who won the Rick Daly Trophy. Many thanks to: Sue Rutley and team for their organization; the Yacht Club for the use of the clubhouse (especially the great new kitchen); and members of the MBRA who brought the sausage sizzle together and cleaned up the Yacht Club afterwards. Check our website for photos: <http://merricksbeach.org.au/sand-modelling-competition-and-sausage-sizzle-2-jan-see-photos> The MBRA will review the event and consider feedback before deciding on the place, time and format for next year – remembering the tides determine the time!

Rosanne Pittard and Roy Wiedemeyer MBRA Committee



Our bumper crop of junior sailors



Former MYC commodores

A summer of sailing and socialising for Merricks Yacht Club

In November we celebrated the opening of the sailing season with a sail past, race and canapes in the newly refurbished clubhouse, and met the next day to celebrate the life of Norma Larsson and her amazing and long-standing contribution to our club. It was a celebration of both Norma's life and the Merricks community, who attended in large numbers and made the day a special tribute. We also celebrated our 50th anniversary with a cocktail party on Australia Day weekend. It was wonderful to have so many old faces and new to celebrate with – particularly 9 of our former commodores (that must be a record of some sort!). Our younger set kept the junior members happy with plenty of events, including movie nights, the Little Dudes Disco, tennis tournament and even sumo wrestling at the Kids Night Out. It wasn't only social though – there was also plenty of action on the water. Our Junior Sailing Series continues to be extremely popular. It's great to see so many new young sailors around the club, and they're getting pretty competitive. They gave our senior members a run for their money in the club races, with one race seeing a record 38 boats on the water. A big thank-you to everyone who helped to make it a summer to remember. Our sailing season finishes at Easter time, but the hardy Thursday night crew will continue to socialise throughout the year. Why not pop down and join them for a drink on the deck?

Patsy Moloney MYC

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve

A mild summer has helped our plantings to thrive and take on a lovely shape. Summer holidays brought families and children, Sumo wrestling practice, bike riding, walking and people admiring birds, frogs and the native foliage. Picnic in the Park was most enjoyable with a good turnout of residents. Autumn is a time for work, so 2 working bees are planned to weed, mulch and clear pathways. Please come, children welcome. Bring gloves, wheelbarrows, secateurs, chainsaws or whatever implements you like and choose your activity. Morning tea and very enjoyable company is provided. Remember Easter egg hunt April 5th 3.30pm. New committee members are very welcome. Committee meetings at the Reserve will be followed by working bees on April 19th and May 31st.

Jan Gilfillan Hon. Secretary

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Meet the Merricks Beach tennis champions

On January 5th the Residents Association and MYC younger set ran a tennis competition at the local courts, which was open to all Yacht club or Residents Association members. The competition started at 9am and went until 12ish. We had approximately 40 kids aged from 7 to 21 playing mixed doubles.



Each pair was randomly chosen, as was who they would oppose. After several rounds of knockout, we had found the Merricks junior tennis champions. From the younger age group, 7-12 yrs, the winners were Henry and Oliver, and runners up Sam and Lucy. For the older age group, 13-21 yrs, Joe and Eleanor won, with Steph and Henry runners up. Hope to see even more juniors next summer!

Eleanor Corden



Steph, Henry, Joe and Eleanor (from left to right)



Sam and Lucy

The MBRA would like to acknowledge Eleanor Corden for her initiative in suggesting and organising the tennis competition. We are also grateful to her for providing this information and photographs for Merricks Matters. It is fantastic to see the young residents establishing their own summer traditions!

Merricks Beach Foreshore Committee

Those who have been along the fire track (aka Lovers Walk) lately will have seen piles of dead branches. These are sallow wattles, a weed species that the Foreshore Committee is trying to eradicate because it cross breeds with the local dune wattle and creates a very robust much taller plant than the lower creeping dune wattle, which you can still see behind the grasses on some of our dunes. We have had two goes at chipping the material but, as it is very hard, the chipper has broken down twice. Hopefully we will complete this soon as the chips are very useful for mulching areas of the Foreshore! There are several benefits from this project: greatly reduced fire risk; better access for weed control work; improved opportunity for spontaneous indigenous plant regeneration; and a more visually attractive Reserve. The next Foreshore planting bee will be on Sunday April 5th at 9.30am east of the Surfie Steps. Volunteers please go to the BOTTOM of the Surfie Steps and walk along the beach toward Balnarring. Signs will direct you to the planting site. We have 400 tubes coming so we will be grateful for a big turnout. Morning tea is always provided.

Bill Cleveland, Foreshore Committee

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Mobile Phone Troubles?

Try using a cordless phone with a blue tooth connection. Even if it is not plugged into a fixed phone line, this phone can find your smart phone. Pop your smart phone in a spot where it gets some reception, then use the cordless handset to make and receive calls from anywhere within a range of, say, 15-20 metres.

Rosanne Pittard MBRA

Bush Ticks

Not quite a plague, but there have been reports of residents' dogs acquiring bush ticks at the beach. So, be on the lookout! Early signs include lethargy, loss of appetite, altered bark, drooling and limb weakness. If untreated, the toxins from the ticks lead to paralysis and often death. Prevention is mostly achieved by a combination of daily searching and the use of tick-repelling or killing agents. These may be topical sprays, rinses, collars or systemic oral insecticides. Spring is the peak season.

Peter Cash MBRA

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

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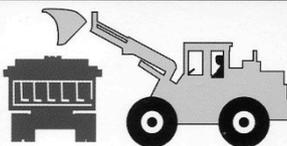
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