

Merricks Matters

Spring 2015

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Spring is here!

September	Sunday	20	9.30	MYC & Foreshore Committee Working Bee
	Sunday	27	9.30	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve working bee.
	Thursdays		5	Drinks in the MYC clubhouse every week for the remainder of 2015
October	Saturdays	10 & 17		MYC Working Bees
	Saturday	31		MYC Opening Day
November	Sunday	1		MYC & Foreshore Committee Working Bee
	Saturday	7		MYC Open Series begins
	Sunday	15	9.30	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve AGM

In this issue:

Return of the Davies Cup this summer!.....	Page 1
Foam Street walkway working bee	Page 2
Mobile phone black spot program.....	Page 2
Merricks Meanderings: The O'Neils.....	Page 2
Rabbits, rabbits and more rabbits, What can we do?.....	Page 3

Return of the Davies Cup – this summer!

In years gone by, residents of Merricks Beach 'battled' it out on the tennis courts each year for the glory of hoisting the Davies Cup. This summer, following the outstanding success of last year's junior tournament, the MBRA and the MYC are joining forces **to bring it back**. The (open) tournament will be held on 6 January. There may be a separate tournament for juniors. More details in the summer edition of *Merricks Matters*. Meanwhile Tom Davies has provided some history.

In the original subdivision of Merricks Beach, two blocks of land in Surf Street were put aside for community use and later two tennis courts were constructed on them for the use of residents and their guests. The popularity of tennis in the seventies, with Australia's world dominance of the sport, led to great demand for the courts. It was decided to have a tournament one Christmas and this was so popular and successful that it was followed up by one at Easter. In 1984 the "Davies Cup" was inaugurated, with a trophy donated by Sandy Murdock and John Walker, to record the Christmas and Easter tournament winners. It was named after Tom Davies, a long time Merricks Beach identity (from 1963) who, with his family, were the major organisers. The popularity was amazing with, for about six tournaments in a row, sixty-four competitors. As the competition was in a "knockout" form, to give everyone at least two sets a second competition, made up of first round "losers", was started. The two competitions continued together so that, at the end of the day, two grand finals would be played, with most of Merricks Beach there to watch. To be able to get the tournament finished in the one day, once the draw was completed on the Friday night, the players in the first few sets were personally contacted that evening so that they would be at the courts when needed. Private courts were also used. Children were not forgotten, with competitions for them as well. The list of tournament winners follows. Some Easter dates are not listed, possibly due to weather problems.

Tom Davies

Merricks Matters Spring 2015

Christmas

1984. Simon Webster-Wendy Doyle.
1985. Simon Webster-Fiona Candy.
1986. John Guthrie-Judy Candy
1987. Ross Davies-K Anthony
1988. Unknown
1989. Ross Davies-Wendy Doyle
1990. J Roberts-Judy Candy
1991. J Anthony-Ann Davies
1992. Ross Davies-Joan Garnham
1996. R Dench-J Mills

Easter

Ross Davies-Judy Candy
Jim Webster-Judy Candy
A McIntock-Sue Bell

Anthony Garnham-K Mcleish
Barry Garnham-Wendy Doyle
J Roberts-Jenny Rogers

Foam Street walkway working bee

You may have noticed the fruits of the labours of the volunteers who cut a swathe through the pittosporum, agapanthus and other weeds during the MBRA working bee in June. Thanks to those who attended – some doubling up from the Foreshore working bee the day before – the walkway is looking as good as it has ever done, with barrows (and barrows and barrows) of mulch to keep the weeds away. Particular thanks to Brad Vann for his tractor, Bernard Barrett for operating it, Dee Edgar for morning tea and the clean up by the Shire.

Mobile phone black spot program

Over the past couple of years the MBRA has been investigating how we might cajole one or more of the telcos into works that will improve mobile phone reception in Merricks Beach.

We made a submission to the Commonwealth Government's \$160m Mobile Black Spot Programme. Unfortunately, Merricks Beach was not included in the first funding round (nor was *any* location on the Peninsula). We will be continuing to work on this issue –with respect both to round 2 of this programme (in 2016) and any other options for improving communications access here.

Peter Cash MBRA

Merricks Meanderings: The O'Neil Family

Members of the MBRA thought that you might be interested in some of the history of Merricks Beach and the various activities that keep residents busy when they are at the village. Please email the editor with a photo and a short paragraph and you may see yourself in print in 2016. In this edition, John O'Neil shares some of his *Merricks memories*.

We first visited Merricks Beach in the mid-1960s, when a 'mystery' car rally organized by our son's kindergarten ended up with a picnic at the Woollacott's in Bayview Road. As our maps didn't cover the peninsula and we'd followed successive clues to get there we were never quite sure where we were, but certainly were impressed by the beautiful beach. In the early 70's we again discovered Merricks Beach on several visits when our daughter Sue was staying with friends who had rented a cottage there. On one of these and later visits we went off-the-beach sailing from Westernport Yacht Club with the Fagans. This led to us joining the WYC and ordering a locally made Sparrow.

About a year later we started to look for a holiday house in the area and bought the house Sue had stayed in with friends and that we had rented for Easter 1972. This was in Palmers Hill Road, a basic rectangular fibro box but with an inside toilet connected to a simple but effective septic system. In those days quite a few properties still depended on outside pan 'dunnys' – these were serviced weekly by a chap called 'Hosie' O'Grady. In the seventies most places down here were sold 'walk-in, walkout', complete with beds, chairs, tables, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans etc. In those days none of the major stores delivered to this isolated area, so other items of household stuff including an old fridge (still working!) were trailered down over the following months.

Palmers Hill Road was the most recent subdivision at Merricks Beach and at the time we moved in about 70% of the blocks had not been built on; there were very few trees and shrubs (one could see across the fields to Merricks Beach Road from our drive). The properties behind (on the north side of Spray St) had a line of pine trees along their back fences; these marked the boundary of the original Merricks Beach village. The properties opposite backed onto open fields known as "the horse paddocks", where quite a few horses

Merricks Matters Spring 2015

were agisted – our kids and their friends loved to walk over through the many empty blocks and talk to and feed apples to the horses. Part of this area later became the Bill Carroll Reserve.

Palmers Hill Road was then a 2-lane gravel road complete with spoon drains. In the late 70s/early 80s most of its residents, under the leadership of Gerald Corden, got together, planned and in a series of working bees significantly narrowed the road, added curves and planted trees on the nature strips. In the late 80s Phil Emmitt and the volunteer “Road Gang” installed a roundabout at the intersection of Foam St and Palmers Hill Road. Unfortunately, since the Shire took over maintenance of the roads from the residents about ten years ago, their larger graders have removed most of the curves and widened the road.



For some years in summer the original house on the NE corner of Merricks Beach Road and Minto St, by raising a long panel on the road side to reveal a counter, operated for a few hours each day as a small shop carrying a few basic supplies. The nearest place for other supplies was the original ‘general store’ at Balnarring Junction, on the corner of the intersection of the Frankston-Flinders road and the Balnarring-Mornington Road. Through the 70s and early 80s this carried a range of groceries, bread, smallgoods etc, and then added a vegetable and fruit section and secured a liquor licence. It was rebuilt as a Ritchies supermarket in the first phase of development of what is now the Balnarring shopping centre. Just to the west of Balnarring Junction was “Mrs V’s”, set back on a semicircular drive lined with rosebushes thriving on the manure from the chicken farm at the rear. Mrs V provided the most delicious barbequed chickens stuffed with her special seasoning. We often picked up one on our way down on a Friday night; it was so popular that we would call ahead before leaving Melbourne and ask her to hold one for us! She also stocked local veg and other produce in season, milk and icecreams, and had an ancient petrol pump in front. There was also a milk bar/store at Balnarring Beach catering for the campgrounds there. For any serious shopping one went into Hastings or even Frankston.

John O’Neil

Rabbits, rabbits and more rabbits: What can we do?

Residents often raise the problems created by our growing rabbit population. So the MBRA has conducted research to establish whether there is any effective program to reduce or eliminate the rabbit population. We found advice from the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria on its website:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/established-invasive-animals/integrated-rabbit-control-in-urban-and-semi-urban-areas>

Merricks Matters Spring 2015

Planning and working together: Talk to your neighbours and local Landcare group to work out a plan for coordinated action as it is more effective than individual efforts.

Aim to be rabbit free: Create a detailed management plan with specific aims and objectives to meet them.

Conduct monitoring: Count rabbits and identify and map their feeding and activity areas including around rocky buildings, wood heaps and fence lines. Then target, monitor and assess your effort.

Time of year: Rabbit control is most cost-effective in late summer and early autumn. Controlling rabbit populations when they are low is most effective for long term, sustained control.

Use all the tools!: Effective rabbit management utilises all the available and feasible control measures including: biological control and natural mortality; bait; destroying warrens; follow up fumigation and further warren destruction. Be persistent, remain vigilant and monitor.

Evaluate, continue to monitor and follow up your success: Continue monitoring on an ongoing basis. Any sign of rabbit activity should trigger an immediate control response.

We are considering the benefits of having a coordinated Merricks Beach Rabbit Reduction program in which as many residents as possible participate. This would be best done at the end of January 2016. We would welcome your thoughts, comments via our website www.merricksbeach.org.au

Kathy McGrath 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

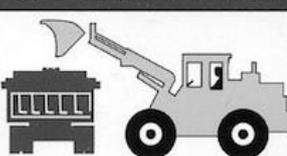


Coolart Carpentry & Construction

Quality work at a fair Price!

Sam Goode	0422-060-449
Postal Address:	(03) 5983 5984
P.O. Box 310, Balnarring, 3926	
ABN: 5413902681	coolartcarpentry@bigpond.com

MKD EXCAVATIONS & PLANT HIRE

<ul style="list-style-type: none">+DRIVEWAYS+FOUNDATIONS+SITE CUTS+DRAINAGE+RUBBISH REMOVALS		<ul style="list-style-type: none">+TANDEM TIP TRUCK HIRE+ROCK AND SAND DELIVERIES4WD BACKHOE
--	---	--

AH: 5983 0463
MOB: 0418 533 117



HALL power

Chris Hall - A Grade Electrician

mobile: 0438 087 852	ABN: 54587663201
web: www.hallpower.com.au	REC: 19664
email: chris_hall150@hotmail.com	

Satchwells Real Estate

Just love selling properties in
Merricks Beach.
We are very good at it.
Our results & success
for over 25 years speak
for themselves.
14 Balnarring Village
Phone 5983 5509



COOLART PLUMBING

D r a i n a g e
R o o f i n g

	Peter Tickell Licence N° 22232 ABN 25 006 699 841
	3 Bayview Rd, Balnarring Beach Phone: 03 59 835 936 Mobile: 0407 329 800 Email: coolartplumbing@hotmail.com PO Box 59, Balnarring, 3926