

Merricks Matters

Spring 2016

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Spring has arrived at Merricks Beach!

September	Sunday 25th	10.30am	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve working bee (see noticeboards)
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
October	Sundays		Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve and Foreshore Reserve Committee working bees, for details see noticeboards
	Saturday 29th	6.30	Official MYC Opening Day
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
November	Sunday		Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve and Foreshore Reserve Committee working bees, for details see noticeboards
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
December	Sunday		Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve and Foreshore Reserve Committee working bees, for details see noticeboards
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
	Wednesday 28th		MBRA Welcome to new residents
	Friday 30th		Davies Cup Tennis Tournament

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Traffic calming works in Merricks Beach (at last!)

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has allocated funds in its current budget for traffic calming works in Merricks Beach. The MBRA anticipates that these works will include each of the locations discussed with residents at the public meeting held in February 2016; namely, one way chicanes in Bayview Road (2), Palmers Hill Road and Spray Street, remodelling of the Palmers Hill /Foam intersection, and remediation of the pedestrian exit from the Foam Street walkway. At last report, the shire’s engineers are planning to have the work done before Christmas. The MBRA will continue to liaise with the shire’s engineers regarding both these works and other problem areas that have been raised by residents, including the Foam/Minto intersection.



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Plant giveaway

Once again this year, over the Queen's Birthday weekend, the MBRA gave away some 400+ trees, shrubs and grasses to its members and to the Foreshore Committee. An increase in the proportion of trees that were made available appeared to be well-received by the many members who came by to take their pick, so we can expect to see plenty more manna gums and she-oaks coming up in the years to come! Many thanks to Richard Anderson (from Merricks Nursery) for curating the plants and for being on-hand throughout to provide his expert advice to MBRA members. PS There are quite a few plants leftover and these are still available to MBRA members at Merricks Nursery – just drop by, see Richard, and take your pick!



NBN construction underway

Good news for those Merricks Beach residents who want better data and are willing to pay for it - construction of the NBN has now commenced. Build progress for precise addresses can be monitored using the 'check your address' tool on the front page of the NBN website (www.nbn.com.au). NBN Co has advised the MBRA that it anticipates the service to be live by mid-2017.

Peter Cash, President MBRA

Final conclusions from the MBRA Community Survey

The MBRA Committee was thrilled with the level of response to this survey. It is clear that residents wanted to respond and have their say. We were also pleased with the content of the responses, showing in the main that respondents value the village for what it is and as it is. There was no apparent groundswell for changes to roads or infrastructure. The respondents have generally confirmed the priorities of the MBRA and the direction and focus undertaken by the Committee. At the same time the responses have given the Committee some endorsement for continued and new actions. In particular:

- Telecommunications connectivity; the committee will continue to be active in encouraging a better service and is actively pursuing options with the carriers.
- Speed on the roads; the committee is currently active and has support of council for traffic calming initiatives.
- Rabbits (whilst not specifically raised by many respondents, the value of gardens and the natural environment was); the committee is separately proposing community action on this matter.
- Communications; Merricks Matters will continue to be used as a prime communications medium, together with email and continued development of content on our website.
- Representations regarding Merricks Beach to authorities; the survey has reaffirmed the role of the Committee to be active here and the Committee will continue to be proactive on matters relating to Merricks Beach.

Thank you again to all the residents who responded and to Rosanne Pittard for her work in analysing and preparing the interim and final reports. Full details are at: <http://merricksbeach.org.au> If you have any issues to raise please contact a committee member or peter@cashhogarth.net

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The “Junction Road” walkway is open for business

With the weather on the improve, why not try out the brand new walkway which now connects Merricks Beach Road to Junction Road in Balnarring Beach? At the Merricks Beach Road end, it begins between nos. 7 and 9, on the east side. It is hard work to cycle, particularly when the weeds are up, but the shire promises to slash them 2-3 times during Spring/Summer. It would be far better with an actual path, and the MBRA understands that this might happen if enough users ask for it. In other good news for non-vehicular travel in the area, the shire has allocated \$50,000 for planning work for a cycle/equestrian path from Merricks to Bittern. This is now likely to incorporate the Junction Road section, rather than a new path along Frankston-Flinders Road.

Peter Cash, President MBRA

MYC – we’ve been busy

The big news is that the lift project is underway! Following a huge response from the Merricks Beach community, we have managed to raise just over \$90,000. The lift has been ordered and is currently under construction overseas, with delivery and installation expected prior to Christmas. In the meantime, we are about to appoint builders to begin the required clubhouse modifications that should be underway by our official Season Opening Day on 29th October. This has been a wonderful effort by our Lift Subcommittee and the entire Merricks Beach community. THANK YOU! We are very excited about now being able to welcome people of all ages and abilities into our clubhouse.

As usual, we’re planning an action packed summer season - series races, movie nights, themed dinners, ‘Chill Out Tuesdays’ for our junior members, Thursday night drinks and we’ve got some new additions to the calendar this year, so check out the website! www.merricksyachtclub.sportingpulse.net.

Patsy Moloney, MYC

It’s wet, wet, wet at Bill Carroll Reserve

If anyone were to take a walk in Bill Carroll Reserve today, they would have a hard time getting around the paths due to the damage caused by wind and rain. However, the foundations of the reserve are good, the newest plantings are all doing well and, come Spring, we will see the results of the labour from the small committed group who undertake to keep our reserve in good shape. Please come along to the next working bee scheduled for Sunday September the 25th at 10:30 am and enjoy the delicious morning tea provided.

Jan Gilfillan, Hon. Secretary

Vale

Sadly, some well known members of the Merricks Beach community passed away recently, including Carlene Daly, Peter McNulty, John Hick and Alan Goldberg. The editor received the following obituaries.

John Hick (1945-2016)

Merricks Beach lost a unique character with the sudden death of John Hick on July 20th. John’s family had an association with our community going back over 50 years, as he spent most of his early holidays here and then became a permanent resident over 20 years ago. A familiar figure riding his electric powered tricycle around the village and to local shops, he was a font of knowledge on a wide variety of subjects especially nature, food and wine. An accomplished cook, specialising in jams, preserves and shortbread, he won numerous prizes at the Red Hill show. His annual jam sales were legendary, as was his reputation as keeper of the Merricks orchard. Ever steadfast in his views, he will be greatly missed but never forgotten by his family and many other friends.

Rick Daly

Dr Alan Goldberg AO QC

The MBRA notes with sadness the passing in July of Merricks Beach resident and leading lawyer and jurist, the Honourable Alan Goldberg AO QC. Besides his stellar career as a barrister – culminating in his appointment as a judge of the Federal Court from 1997 to 2010 – Alan was a prominent and tireless contributor to many other aspects of Australian life, having been president of the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties, a board member (and life member) of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and president of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, amongst many other roles, each of which he discharged with legendary good humour and courage. The MBRA expresses its condolences to Rachel and their children and grandchildren.

Peter Cash, President MBRA

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Proposed Rabbit Reduction Program for Merricks Beach

The MBRA consulted its members regarding the possibility of a community-wide program to substantially reduce the rabbit population. The program's timing was designed to parallel the release of a new Calisi virus in 2017. Our advice from experts at the Shire is that, to be effective, Calisi needs to work in conjunction with a program of burrow destruction and baiting. To date, some 70 households have said that they would participate in the program for no more than \$300 in the first year. There were 30 who declined to participate. We are now assessing how best to proceed on the basis of the funds available. If you would still like to participate but have not yet responded, please email me at merricksbeachra@gmail.com

Kathy Clarke, Secretary MBRA

Dust suppression treatment proposal

Following investigations earlier in the year, in July the MBRA conducted an email survey to gauge how many Merricks Beach residents would subscribe to a scheme for a dust suppression treatment of some or all of our roads. The proposed treatment would be with a product called Dustmag. It is claimed to deliver 90-95% reduction in dust levels on roads, but costs \$1.50 per m². The survey did not reveal sufficient interest in the proposal to warrant the MBRA pursuing it further, with around only 30 residents (mostly in Spray Street and Bayview and Palmers Hill Roads) indicating a willingness to participate. Any member who might wish to pursue the matter further with their neighbours is welcome to contact Peter Cash for more information. peter@cashhogarth.net

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

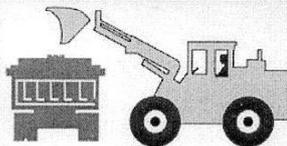


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