

Merricks Matters

Summer 2015

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Summer holidays at last!

December	Look out for the sandwich board notices			Merricks Beach Foreshore Committee working bees and Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve working bees
	Sunday	14	10am	Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve AGM
	Thursdays		5pm	Drinks in the MYC clubhouse
	Saturday	27	7pm	Movie night at the MYC clubhouse
	Tuesday	30	8pm	Teen Horror movie night at the MYC clubhouse
January	Friday	2	3pm 5pm	MBRA Sandmodelling competition MBRA Sausage sizzle at the MYC yard
	Sunday	4	10am	MBRA Annual General Meeting at Merricks Yacht Club
		7-9	TBA	Junior tennis coaching: Bookings Grant O'Callaghan 0417 528 502
		9,14, 21	7pm	Movie nights at the MYC clubhouse
	Sunday	10	7pm	Paella and pinot night at Merricks Yacht Club

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Good news for Merricks cyclists

One of the MBRA's priorities for 2014 has been to pursue improved (ie, some) bicycle paths so that residents can ride from Merricks Beach to Merricks and/or to Balnarring Village without experiencing the terrors of the Frankston-Flinders Road. Following a number of discussions with Council, the committee was very pleased to be advised recently that work to construct a track along the (south) roadside reserve from the Merricks General Store to Merricks Beach Road will be undertaken in the immediate future, perhaps as soon as Christmas. At present, Council is also planning a bicycle path from Merricks Beach Road to Warrawee Road, but this will take longer because of the more substantial vegetation and the need for a bridge over the creek. Council's longer-term plans also include a bicycle path from Balnarring to Bittern.

A new MBRA constitution

At a special general meeting of the MBRA held on 2 November 2014, the members present voted unanimously to adopt an entirely new constitution (or, more accurately, "Rules"). The new Rules were accepted by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations on 14 November, so they are in effect as from that date. The (new) Rules of the MBRA can be viewed on its website at <http://merricksbeach.org.au/mbra-rules>.

Peter Cash Secretary MBRA

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Merricks Beach Foreshore Committee

It is the best of times and the worst of times (apologies to Mr Dickens). Just as we have wallabies appearing as far east as the Pine Slide, we have had our recurrent funding from beach clean-up slashed in half. The wildlife corridor which the Committee has enhanced over recent years through the recovery of the Coles land and the Rough Tree Fern Project plus constant weed control efforts has produced astonishing results. Community volunteer and Yacht Club planting of over 2000 plants has helped produce this outcome. As a result, many parts of the Foreshore Reserve are looking very good. Nonetheless, there are still numbers of invasive weed species such as pittosporums, hawthorns and blackberries which cover large areas. This inevitably leads to a serious loss of biodiversity where these alien species dominate. It means the Committee needs more help than ever from the community at large to continue the struggle to preserve and enhance further our precious Foreshore Reserve. There is nothing else quite like it on Westernport.

All of you will have noticed the loss of foredune along much of our beach caused by a series of severe storms over the past few years. It is imperative that beach-goers stay away from the remaining dunes to allow re-vegetation to occur. Dogs should be kept out of the Reserve except to transit to the beach, in part to protect the newly arrived wallaby population, not to mention the echidnas, agile antechinus, swamp rats and other less well known species. Oh, a seasonal reminder – dogs are not allowed on the beach between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm during daylight saving hours. Please observe this restriction and help others to do so too!

By the way, the Foreshore Committee's planter was borrowed and not yet returned. Could it be delivered to me as soon as possible please?

Bill Cleveland, Foreshore Committee

Merricks Yacht Club

The sailing season has started and so has Merricks Yacht Club's sailing and social program. Our upgraded clubhouse and new kitchen were thoroughly tested at our opening weekend cocktail party, then again at Norma Larsson's memorial celebration. Norma was a stalwart of the club over many years, a life member and well-loved by adults and children alike. The clubhouse was bursting at the seams and the final toast to Norma, looking out at her beloved Merricks Beach, was a fitting way to finish the day.



We've got a packed sailing and social program this summer, with events for young and old. To find out what's on over the summer season head to our website at merricks.org/sailing-program.html . if you are interested in joining the club, either as a sailor or a social member, come down and have a look at the club or email our membership coordinator on membership@merricks.org . Looking forward to seeing everyone again over the summer break!

Patsy Moloney MYC

Merricks Meanderings: The Rowes' ninety years at Merricks Beach

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. So we are very keen to hear about your and your family's interesting pastimes. Please email the editor with a photo and a short paragraph and you may see yourself in print in 2015.

Ken Rowe has written to us about his family's long association with Merricks Beach.

"My father Arch Rowe was a young surveyor in the 1920s working for Saxil Tuxan. In 1925 he was assigned to lay out the Merricks Beach subdivision – then called "Manly Beach" to attract buyers. His long days commenced in Kew on a bicycle, then on trains and another bicycle ride to Merricks Beach for his day of surveying, before retracing his journey to Kew. Dad and his friends camped above the cliff at Merricks every summer in the late 20's and early 30's."



"Water was carried from the old Merricks Store in kerosene tins and camping provisions came from dad's home in Kew in the sidecar of his Pope motorbike. He was so attracted by the area that, with three of these friends, he purchased our block in Spray Street for £55.00. They erected a prefabricated shack on the block for a kitchen and as a family we camped there every summer. I have had 70 years of fond memories – great family times, amazing experiences and a lot of fun. As Dad's friends gradually lost interest, he bought them out and in 1959, when Council legislation introduced controls on the size of buildings, he built our present "beach display home" which was finished in 1960. I hope our 90 year connection with Merricks continues with our two sons who share our passion for this magic place."

Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve

Despite only two working bees this year the new gardens are looking lovely. There is a lot of work still to do, but gradually the Reserve is getting to a stage where minimal maintenance will be required. We are still relying on the faithful few to attend working bees and assist with maintenance.



You will note from the photo the inclusion of our latest member who will at least try to keep the rabbits in check while we work. Our AGM will be held at 10am on Sunday 14th December for elections. All welcome, especially those who enjoy gardening, short meetings, good company and Glythn Cambell's yummy morning teas. See you there and keep an eye out for the sandwich boards advertising our working bees.

Jan Gilfillan

The Merricks Beach Story

Profit from the sale of *The Merricks Beach Story* has now reached over \$2000, which Jenny Ferguson and Meg Paul have donated to the Foreshore Committee and the Bill Carroll Reserve. This was especially welcomed by them due to recent cuts to environment funding by the federal and state governments. So help pay for keeping the paths to the beach clear of blackberries by buying another book/s. Remaining copies are available at \$7.00 per copy or two copies for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 p&p. Cheap Xmas cards? Interested? Leave a message on 03 5983 5848 or email megpaul3@bigpond.com

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 To join MBRA contact Roy Wiedemeyer 0418 148 123

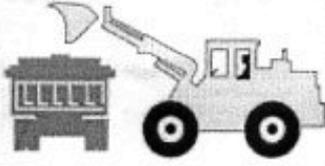


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