

Happy summer holidays!

December	Sunday	27 th	10-2pm	Try Sailing MYC
	Wednesday	30 th	10-12 noon	MBRA Sand modelling competition
			12.30-2pm	MBRA Sausage sizzle at MYC
	Thursdays		5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
January	Sunday	3 rd	10am	MBRA AGM at MYC
	Wednesday	6 th	10am	Tennis competition, Davies Cup, Tennis courts
	Monday, Thursday	4 th 7 th	8.30-12.30pm	Go Tennis Academy lessons Contact Grant 0417528502
	Sunday	24 th	5pm	Picnic in the Park, Bill Carroll Reserve
March	Sunday	14 th	9.30am	Breakfast by the bay MYC
				Working bee Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve (see noticeboards)

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The Merricks Beach Davies Cup Tennis event – entries open!

You may recall an article in the last edition of MM that traced the history of the Merricks Beach tennis competition known as the Davies Cup. The event has been revived with entries for the 2016 'Davies Cup', to be held on 6 January, now open. Anyone who is 15 years or over can enter via the 'Contact Us' page on the MBRA website. Entries can also be made by email to peter@cashhogarth.net or websters1@aapt.net.au or by adding your name to the sheets that will be located at the tennis court noticeboard and in the yacht club from 1 January. Please provide name, Merricks address and a phone number or email address that you will be able to access on 5 January. The entry fee is \$10 per person.

Always loved playing in the sand?

Let your imagination fly and try your sand modelling skills on Wednesday 30th December between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon at the MBRA annual Sand Modelling Competition. All ages are catered for and it is free to enter. The categories are: Individuals: Under 6 years; 6-7 yrs; 8-9 yrs; 10-11 yrs; 12-13 yrs; 14-15 yrs; 16-17 yrs; Open Men; Open Women. Groups (2-4 people): Under 12 years; Under 15 years; and Open 0--100 years! Prizes are awarded to all categories. The perpetual trophies are awarded to: Best on the Beach, (Rose Bowl); Best exhibit by a junior (15 yrs and younger); and the Rick Daly Trophy. The presentation of trophies and prizes will occur at the Merricks Yacht Club shortly after 12:00 noon. Come along with your family and friends, build your masterpiece, grab a sausage and a drink and watch the awards – you might even win one!

Sue Rutley

Merricks Matters Summer 2016

Residents have their say – the MBRA Survey

The MBRA was thrilled to receive 100 responses to our survey, so thank you to all those who took the time to complete it. The survey results provide useful information for us all, as well as a focus for the 2016 committee. There was overwhelming support for the Association to work actively to preserve the village pretty much as it is. Within that, however, there was a subtext of concern about issues such as speed on the roads, rabbits, dogs on the beach and a range of other matters.

As usual for Merricks there were contrasting views on such things as water connection (When can I have it? vs No Never!), and rabbits (get rid of them or please don't poison them). 78% thought the MBRA is doing quite well or better, whilst some 7% saw need for improvement, the remainder being neutral. There are a good number of suggestions in the free-form comments which will be further analysed and considered. We will present an overview of the results at our AGM in January and, following that, will post the summary on our website. If you haven't responded to the survey you can still have a say by contacting a committee member or peter@cashhogarth.net for a paper copy and mailing it to PO Box 66 Balnarring.



Rosanne Pittard presenting preliminary findings to the MBRA December Committee meeting. Photo Mary Daley

Shire Council roads infrastructure consultation

Many Merricks Beach residents attended a forum held on 1 November 2015 to discuss road infrastructure and traffic issues with Alison Leighton, chief operations officer, and Ed Pocock, team leader – traffic & transport, from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. The purpose of the forum was to assist Alison and Ed to understand the traffic issues of importance to residents right across the village, and to hear suggestions for improvements.

On the basis of what they learned on that day – as well as from the MBRA's previous representations - the shire's engineers are working on concept designs for permanent speed management. MBRA representatives will review those concept designs on 23 December and more information will be made available at the AGM on 3 January.

Of course, the biggest challenge will be to persuade Council to fund any proposed works. In due course, the MBRA will be calling on all residents to assist in the lobbying effort in that regard.

Peter Cash, President MBRA

Enjoy the park this summer

The Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve are still hoping we can encourage more volunteers on working bee days as the reserve needs to be maintained so all residents can use and appreciate it. We are fortunate to receive a council grant for major maintenance such as blackberry spraying and regular mowing. Sadly, 2 long time members have moved away and their input will be very much missed, good luck Bill and Trevor with your new horizons. Dates: Picnic in the Park 24 January 5 pm and a working bee in March to be displayed on the sandwich boards. Feel free while walking in the reserve, or past it, to pull up a weed or two!

Jan Gilfillan, Hon. Secretary

Merricks Matters Summer 2016

Calling all lycra (road) warriors ...

For those Merricks Beach residents and visitors who are looking to do some rides over the summer ... welcome to Merricks Beach's very own peloton! There are a number of us who cruise down Merricks Beach Road and then onwards to conquer the Peninsula's undulations, so let's form a pack and get the safety and conviviality that comes with numbers. Anyone interested, please email peter@cashhogarth.net

A farewell and a new beginning for the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve

Thanks to a Government grant, generous donations from local residents and lots of voluntary labour from many, the reserve is looking better than ever. We hope you enjoy the refreshed paths, stairways and new seat near the Surfers' Steps. We farewelled our long term member and President, Bill Cleveland, this year and welcomed Matt Darby who will bring his own energy and fresh ideas. We are expecting the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning to call for new members early in 2016, so if you have an interest in protecting native wildlife or flora, biodiversity or just quiet enjoyment of a beautiful natural environment, please consider joining us – for an occasional guided walk through less visited areas of the Reserve, a working bee or a committee role. Everyone's continued support of the regular beach clean-ups is also really important, especially because voluntary labour increases our funding. The clean-ups will be held every Sunday in January, 8am to 9am, near the Yacht Club gate. Finally, please keep your dogs on a lead anywhere in the reserve and, for the wellbeing of all beach goers, keep your dog off the beach between 9am and 7pm. We believe the Department's rangers are going to be active around Western Port this year.

Joyce Lawrence, Secretary



Thank you Bill!

There's a lot going on at Merricks Yacht Club!

It's 'launching' time at MYC, and we're not just talking about the boats! We launched the 2015/16 summer sailing season with canapes and bubbly at our Opening Day drinks in the clubhouse, amid plenty of good cheer. We've launched a new website at www.merricksyachtclub.sportingpulse.net, where you will find the sailing and social program, the latest newsletter and upcoming events.

An accessibility lift for our clubhouse

Our final (and most ambitious) 'launching' is one that we think will have a very positive impact for *all* Merricks Beach residents. As the only public building in Merricks Beach, we want it to be an inclusive place for everyone to participate in community events. Unfortunately, the stairs are too difficult for some. Following investigations, the optimum solution is a people-moving lift. MYC needs to raise \$96,000 and we are appealing to MYC members *and the wider Merricks community* to help us reach our target. If you would like to support this, donations can be made at <https://asf.org.au/project/an-accessibility-lift-for-merricks-yacht-club/> (tax deductible). Donation forms are also available from the club or website. If you wish to wait until the end of the financial year to donate, please use the pledge form on our website to enable us to get an early indication. The pledge will be payable by 30 June 2016. Forms can be mailed to *Lift Fundraising Committee, Merricks Yacht Club, PO Box 90, Balnarring 3926* or emailed to secretary@merricks.org. All information, including plans and forms, is on our new website. We are excited by the prospect of our clubhouse becoming an accessible community 'hub' for all members of the Merricks Beach community and hope that you will be too.

Patsy Moloney, MYC

Merricks Matters Summer 2016

Would you believe it - no NBN for Merricks Beach!

Residents of Merricks Beach may have noted the release by NBN Co of its 3 year construction plan in October 2015. This plan includes '3SHO', which is scheduled for 'fibre to the node' in the second half of next year, and wireless in 2017. However, while 3SHO takes in each of Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Point Leo, Red Hill Shoreham and Somers, there is no mention of Merricks Beach. It took 3 emails, but NBN Co has confirmed to the MBRA that, "Unfortunately, Merricks Beach is not part of the planned areas that will be covered by 3SHO". A further email elicited an 'explanation' for this exclusion: due to "network design requirements and decisions", we apparently require a separate 'Service Area Module'.

The MBRA will be taking the matter up with our local member, Hon. Greg Hunt MP. If inadequacy of data connectivity is an issue for you, please also write to Mr Hunt and ask him to investigate why Merricks Beach is to be bypassed by the NBN.

Peter Cash, President 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

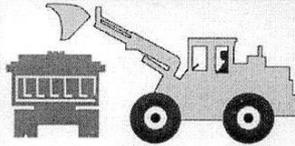


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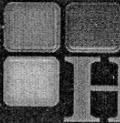
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