

Merricks Matters

Summer 2017

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Happy summer holidays!			
December	Wednesday 28		MBRA Welcome to new residents
	Friday 30		Davies Cup Tennis Tournament
January	Monday 2	10am	MBRA Sand modeling competition & Sausage Sizzle
		2.30pm	Try sailing at MYC
	Friday 6	7pm	Movies night at MYC
	Saturday 7	7pm	Paella and pinot night at MYC
	Sunday 8	10am	MBRA AGM at MYC
	Friday 13	7pm	Movies night at MYC
	Sunday 29		Picnic in the Park at Bill Carroll Reserve
	Thursdays	5.30pm	Happy hour at MYC clubhouse every week
Working bees and beach clean-ups - keep a look out for notice boards			

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Davies Cup – time to start practising!

After the smashingly successful re-birth of the Davies Cup in 2016, the annual Merricks Beach tennis tournament will again be held in ... 2016. Yes, on 30 December Merricks Beach residents can put their skills to the fore and lob for glory, and for the famed Davies Cup. The format is mixed doubles, with partners randomly drawn. Enter by sending an email to websters1@aapt.net.au. Cost of entry is \$10.

Join the MBRA committee!

All members of the MBRA are warmly invited to join the MBRA committee. What does this involve, and why would you want to do it? The answer to the first question is very much up to each individual. The committee meets about 7 times a year, and we discuss and agree on doing things that we hope will enhance our beloved Merricks Beach, and the enjoyment of it by all residents. Then we do them. Why do we give up a bit of our time for these purposes? It's mainly altruism, but it's also absolutely the best way to know what's going on in the village, and a good excuse for a good glass of wine on a Saturday afternoon. We'd love to have a few more committee members, so please consider joining in. Do call Peter Cash (0416067377) if you'd like to discuss.

MBRA annual general meeting

The MBRA's 2017 AGM will be held on 8 January at 10am at the yacht club. All members are very welcome to attend, to hear reports and ask questions about the MBRA committee's activities in 2016 and its plans for 2017. In addition, the newly elected councillor for Red Hill ward, Cr David Gill, will be attending and will inform us about his priorities for our part of the Peninsula. As an added bonus, paid up members who attend the AGM will be in the running to win lunch for 2 at Montalto Restaurant. We hope to see you there!

Peter Cash, President MBRA

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Hello from your new councillor

I will do my best to ensure community values and expectations are met by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. I will represent community views and try to ensure good governance through accountability and transparency. Please phone me on 0435 260 384 to discuss or bring local issues to my attention. The reason I stood for Council was to try to protect our coastal village character, our beaches and the open spaces of our hinterland, all of which make up the essence of living on the Peninsula. I would like your assistance, as your newly elected Red Hill ward councillor, to help protect the Peninsula from insensitive development while promoting sound planning principles and worthwhile developments. I appreciate your trust. Have a happy and healthy festive season.

Councillor David Gill



The Fairy Orchids, above left, flower quietly under the tea trees in springtime on the coastal dunes. They are buffeted by the southerly winds but still survive. They are such delicate little species, but with the extra rain this season, they have thrived. The Patersonia, above right, are found in the Bill Carroll Reserve and are also a local species. Thanks to Elaine Larsson for text and photographs.

An update from the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

As many of you will have noticed, a number of storms this year have resulted in fallen trees both in and outside the Reserve. As a result, the Foreshore Committee pro-actively arranged for the removal of several old pine trees along the main path which had previously been identified by an arborist as being dangerous. The area will soon be replanted with indigenous species, while the large logs will remain to provide a visual barrier to the adjacent properties, and the woodchips used for mulching.

More recently, a large pine tree fell across the Surfers' steps, completely blocking the path and narrowly missing the lookout seat. Fortunately, no-one was there at the time, and help was close at hand, in the form of the Balnarring CFA who removed the branches blocking the steps to the beach. We are particularly grateful to them and the local community members who put us in touch with the right people. Our fallen tree provided some good chainsaw practice, a great win-win for all! Take care in using the steps though, the handrail was damaged and is currently replaced with safety tape and awaiting repair in the New Year. Other fallen large branches in the Reserve will mostly be left to provide wildlife habitat, such as for small marsupials and lizards.

Some of you may have also noticed that the Foreshore Committee has been less active of late due to the expiration of the previous Committee's term. This has meant that we are not currently covered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's insurance for volunteer committees, and the Department has advised us not to run any activities until it re-appoints the Committee, which it hopes to finalise prior to Xmas. We will be very sorry to lose Brett Waters, Elaine Larsson and Paul Whittington. They have provided invaluable support in the roles of Treasurer, beach clean-up co-ordinator and arborist respectively, and will be sorely missed. We thank them very much for the years of service they have given; and we are hoping for new members in the New Year.

Some big challengers may be ahead in the longer term as the Department is also considering some changes to the way that Foreshore Reserves are managed around Westernport Bay.

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More detail will be provided at the MBRA AGM and, as the proposals become clearer, we will keep the Merricks Beach community informed about any implications for our Reserve, including through updates to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/merricksbeachforeshore/> . Please also feel free to use this page to contact us about any Foreshore issues.

Joyce Lawrence, Secretary, Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve CoM

A great start to summer sailing

The MYC 2016/17 season was officially opened on October 29, a glorious Spring day with pleasant winds for our first sail of the season, and a great evening on the deck for our Opening Night canapés. We were presented with a big (literally!) \$5000 cheque from the director of the Balnarring & District Bendigo Bank as a grant towards the building of our clubhouse lift. Thank you! Unfortunately, delays in permits and the delivery of the lift from Italy mean it will now be completed after January, but building works have started with the external works expected to be completed before Christmas.

There's action aplenty at the club over summer, both on the water and off. Check out our summer calendar on <<http://www.merricksyachtclub.sportingpulse.net>> for all the dates. For anyone who wants to give sailing a go, come along to our Try Sailing Day. straight after the Sand Modelling Comp on January 2nd. You don't have to be a member and you'll get a chance to sail with an experienced sailor.

See you on the water!

Patsy Moloney, MYC



Friends Of Bill Carroll Reserve

Our AGM was held in November and with it came 2 resignations. The first was from Peter Carroll, who regrettably, has had to resign due to ill health. Peter has been part of the reserve committee since its inception, so it is with sadness that we accepted his resignation. We thank him for his involvement and untiring support. As the Reserve bears his father's name it would be wonderful to see someone else from the family join us. The second resignation was from James Webb our wonderful treasurer. James has held the Bill Carroll Reserve in a steady and safe financial position, through thick and thin funding cycles. We thank James for his diligent work and general advice. James you will be greatly missed. Thus we are looking for someone to step into his shoes. FBCR inc. is a great little group; we will make you very welcome. The committee meets 3 to 4 times a year, with working bees as necessary. This year the Shire, although providing a small grant, has decided to opt out of insuring us so we have had to fund it ourselves. But we have a PLAN. The plan is to hold a raffle, the prize being 2 hampers featuring local Merricks produce, the winners to be announced at the Picnic in the Park on 29th January 2017. Also don't forget our Easter Sunday in the Park. We look forward to seeing you.

Jan Gilfillan Hon Secretary

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Rabbit Reduction Program

The rabbit reduction program, involving 57 households occurred between 24 October and 12 December. The program went relatively smoothly and we have not heard of any animals (other than rabbits and some black rats) having suffered adverse impacts. We are very hopeful that the new Calisivirus strain will be released on the Peninsula in March 2017 and will further help control the population. This alone is NOT sufficient to control rabbit numbers and further baiting programs might occur. There are quite a number of other residents who have their own baiting programs on their properties. Over summer please try and block off warrens under houses, sheds, woodpiles and other structures. Rabbits also like thick clumped shrubbery especially agapanthus. More information is on the MBRA web page. If you would like to use the services of a professional, our contractor was Virgil Janko who lives locally and can be contacted on 0410 663 870.

Kathy Clarke, Secretary MBRA

Community notice board

Tennis Coaching

Go Tennis Academy, school holiday tennis coaching for beginners to advanced on January 3 and 4 at Merricks Beach.
Contact Grant on 0417 528 502

Wanted - Houses for rent

Houses are required in Merricks Beach for 6-10 retreat participants to stay for 2 or 9 day retreats in 2017 on March 18-25, June 3, August 12-19. Retreats are by donation, so being able to pay a reasonable fee would be appreciated.
Philippa Ransome 0422 366 907

We welcome any items of interest so please email your copy to Gai Wilson, wilsong@inet.net.au



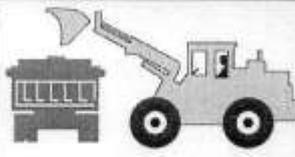
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