



Easter at the beach!

March	Saturday	31st	9.30am	Foreshore CoM working bee
			7pm	MYC Easter BBQ (BYOF, drinks at bar)
April	Sunday	1st	3.00pm	Bill Carroll Reserve Easter Egg Hunt & raffle
	Monday	2nd	10am	Foreshore Caretakers workshop - meet at tennis courts
	Saturday	14th	9.30am	Foreshore CoM working bee
June	Saturday	9th	3pm	Merricks Yacht Club AGM
			6.30pm	MYC Presentation Dinner
	Sunday	10th	9.30am	MYC & Foreshore CoM working bee
Weekly	Thursdays		5.30pm	'Happy Hour' at MYC, hosted by Sue Rutley

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Merricks Beach Residents Association Inc

The MBRA has worked for the community for over 80 years with the preservation of the ecology and environment as one of its principal aims. The MBRA is active in dealing with local government regarding roads and other local matters and assists residents with drainage issues and cross-over pipes. The Association owns and maintains the tennis courts, as well as helping to maintain public areas such as the Foam St walkway.

Annual events include the sand-modelling competition and sausage sizzle, the Davies Cup Tennis competition, an indigenous plant giveaway and a welcome evening for new residents.

The MBRA has an elected committee and we welcome all residents to be involved, either on the committee or as a member of the Association. There are currently around 170 members, representing about 70% of the homes in Merricks Beach.

The MBRA works closely with the Merricks Yacht Club, the Foreshore Committee of Management and the Friends of the Bill Carroll Reserve.

Tennis Court Update

Following the feedback provided at the MBRA's AGM in January regarding the proposed tennis court renewal works, the MBRA committee has sought further advice concerning the options for ensuring the courts' long-term utility and safety.

Both at the AGM and subsequently, some residents have expressed a strong preference for retaining the current concrete surface, assuming that they can be adequately repaired. Other residents have expressed a preference for re-surfacing the courts, assuming that this is technically and financially viable. Ultimately, once the expert opinions which have been commissioned are received, the committee will again seek MBRA members' views before a decision is made, both as to the courts' surface and as to any further vegetation works.

In the meantime, it is important that residents are not misled by some myths that have, unfortunately, been circulating subsequent to the AGM. These include that, if re-fenced and re-surfaced, the courts would then be locked, and not available for casual use; that they could not be used by children (including for activities other than tennis); that re-surfacing of courts is of value only to 'serious' tennis players; and that a mod-grass surfaces would necessarily be less attractive than what we have now. None of these propositions are consistent with what has been – or may be – proposed by the MBRA committee. It is hoped that further information on this issue will be provided to residents in April/May.



Planning issues - Mornington Peninsula Housing and Settlement Strategy 2017

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) has released its Green Wedge Management Plan for public comment and finalised its local Housing and Settlement Strategy for State Government adoption. Thankyou to all of those who voiced their concerns. The strategy can be viewed at <http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au> Submissions **close at 5pm on Thu 5th April**

Merricks cycling, equestrian and walking trail

Mornington Peninsula Shire is planning to link the existing Red Hill Rail Trail to a new trail running through Merricks, Balnarring and Bittern. The Shire has developed three concept designs for a shared path between Bittern Station and Merricks Station Reserve connecting to the existing seven-kilometre track. Community feedback is welcome and MBRA will submit a response. The plans can be viewed at <http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au>. Submissions **close at 5pm on Friday 13th April**

Drones over Merricks Beach

It has recently been reported that there has been a drone has been observed flying over Merricks Beach and hovering at points along the foreshore. This has unsettled some residents and beach-goers. There are drone safety rules which can be found on the CASA website and the rules vary depending on whether you are flying commercially or for fun (recreationally). You will find plenty of information about these rules at www.casa.gov.au/modelcraft or you can contact CASA on 131

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News from the Merricks Yacht Club

It was another wonderful summer at the yacht club. The sailing was competitive and the clubhouse hosted all of the traditional events, including our annual Pinot and Paella night and Australia Day dinner - which were both oversubscribed. Kids were kept entertained with sailing, a hotly contested Games Day, Little Dude's disco and movie nights. Quite a few families participated in the Round French Island Cruise and returned with tales of surviving some treacherous weather conditions.

The yacht club also hosted a get together of the four organisations to help keep Merricks Beach the great place that it is: the committees of each of MYC, the Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve, the MBRA and the Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management came together and it was wonderful to see these groups getting to know each other better.

There is still plenty of sailing over the Easter break with the Commodore's Cup scheduled for 31st March and 1st April and the final heats of the Westernport Home and Away Series on 8th and 14th April. The season ends with the AGM and Presentation Dinner on 9th June. There is talk of a trivia night towards the end of the year, so stay tuned.

Megan Bassler



Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

Autumn is a great time for weeding and planting, both at home and in the Foreshore Reserve! We have several working bees planned for March and April and we will also be running a weed identification and management workshop on Easter Monday. Please look out for the notices and come and join our small but committed group of Foreshore caretakers, and get trained and equipped to help the Foreshore Committee to manage the Reserve.

At home, please take the time to deadhead your agapanthus to prevent the seeds getting into the Reserve, where they grow into difficult-to-remove clumps, which crowd out indigenous plants. Also consider whether you could replace other potentially invasive species in your garden with indigenous plants - examples of problem plants for this area include hawthorn and polygala, which readily spread to the Reserve.

Autumn is also a great time for beach walks, and enjoying nature in the Reserve. Once Daylight Savings Time finishes, dogs on a lead are allowed on the beach at any time. A reminder that the Balnarring rangers will be conducting dog patrols on the beach during the Easter holidays to encourage residents and visitors to look after their dogs responsibly. Interested to join us? Talk to one of the Committee members, or leave us a message on our Facebook page.

Joyce Lawrence





Join Easter Fun in the Bill Carroll Reserve Sunday 1 April, at 3pm!

Fun for the kids: There will be egg and spoon races, Easter egg hunts, Easter egg painting, the lot! Do come and join the fun, organised by our super Ellery family. On the day, we'll be drawing the raffle for our superb hand-turned wooden bowl, made by the deft hands of local super-sailor, Ian Jeffrey. If you'd like to join in the raffle, which we run to cover the costs of our insurance, let us know, beforehand, or on the day.



What is going on in the Bill Carroll Reserve?

You may see our local couple of tawny frogmouths perched in one of the trees. Tawny frogmouths, which look like owls, form partnerships for life, usually staying in the same territory for a decade or more. During breeding season, pairs roost closely together on the same branch, often with their bodies touching. Tawny frogmouths are considered to be among Australia's most effective birds at controlling pests, eating things like moths, slugs and snails. You may hear them at night, when they send a deep and continuous "oom-oom-oom" grunting, or a soft, breathy "who-who-who" of about 8 calls in 5 seconds. Part of the complex life in the Reserve!

Sand Modelling Competition



Saturday 6th January 2018 was an incredibly hot day at 35 plus, but the entrants and judges still arrived to take part in the day. Although the number of entrants was down on last year the quality of the exhibition was thought to be the best seen in recent years.

A big thank you to the collectors of the money and the contributors to the prize money as the prizes were hotly contested. Many



thanks too to our judge, Sue Rutley, for braving the heat all day.

The winners were:

Rosebowl Trophy – Jeremy Spencer. This is the 6th time Jeremy has won this prize, having first competed back in 1981.

Best on the Beach – "Under The Beach"

Most original – Celeste Wood for Cone Shell - and only 11 years old.

The Rick Daly Trophy - Megan Sebire Junior encouragement award- 'Sea Shell'



Cooking the sausages in the heat took its toll:

A big thank you too to the chefs who braved the heat in front of the barbecue and cooked the 600 sausages provided on the day. That was a feat in itself. Ken Rowe was at work by 7am on the day and marked out the sand into squares for the sand-modelling competition before he brought down the BBQ trailer and commenced cooking! He was ably assisted by Grattan Fitzgerald, Lucille

Fitzgerald, Kathy Clarke, Simon Jaski, Greg Sutherland, Peter Cash and many other volunteers



Davies Cup Tennis tournament

The last Friday in 2017 saw the third edition (in the modern era) of the Davies Cup tennis tournament – the annual opportunity for Merricks Beach’s finest to strut their stuff and ace their way to glory. Undaunted by the threatening weather and the slightly chaotic draw, the players - of all ages - threw themselves into their matches with great skill and/or greater humour until, with the rain clouds about to burst upon us, a gripping final was played out between Roger Dench & Heather Hunter and Phillip Fox & Ian Basser, with the latter pair victorious (6-4). Congratulations to both teams, and also to the winners and runners up in the consolation event, Joe Basser & Peter Golombek and Mitch Campbell & Tom Davies, respectively.

Thanks to all who participated. Particular thanks to Ian Basser, for organising (as well as playing as a late substitute) and Bernard Barrett, for getting the courts ready and lending his own court for the day. The Davies Cup will be duly inscribed with the names of the winners, assuming we can ever get it back from Phillip Fox ...



Merricks Matters Autumn 2018

Things To Do Over Easter

Many of our residents will have family or friends visiting at Easter and may be looking for things to do. Other than the **Easter egg hunt at the Bill Carroll Reserve 3pm Sunday 1st April** here are a few unique things to keep you occupied:

Balnarring Picnic Races

Saturday 31st March gates open at 10am and racing at 1pm
Fashions on The Field with prizes of \$2000
A great day out for the family with plenty of food and entertainment
58 Coolart Road Balnarring VIC 3926



Ferret Racing @ Rain, Hayne & Shine

Ferret Racing. Daily at 11am and 2pm during School holidays
Animal feeding and fun for the kids Open 10:00am - 4:00pm
490 Stumpy Gully Rd, Balnarring



The Cape Schanck Lighthouse

Guided Tours into Cape Schanck Lighthouse are available between 10 am and 4pm every day and include entry to the museum. Tours begin at the kiosk.
420 Cape Schanck Road, Cape Schanck



Montalto Winery Picnic Experience

A beautiful and peaceful ways to spend an afternoon is having your own private picnic at Montalto winery. There are ten beautiful and secluded sites throughout the property, available for groups of 2 – 8. Bookings required.
33 Shoreham Road, Red Hill South.
(The Merricks Beach Residents' Association is very grateful for the support of Montalto)

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We welcome any items of interest, photos or advertisements for future editions of Merricks Matters. Please email your copy to Madeleine Curtain madw73@yahoo.com.au

