



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

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Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Autumn 2017

Welcome to the McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Newsletter; Autumn 2017 issue.

Planting Working Bee Next Sunday 7th May

Thanks to Danielle & Tess we are ready now to commence planting in the “placemaking” grant area located at the eastern end of ‘our patch’. Looking forward to seeing you there, 10am on 7th.

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Vale Eunice Cain

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a past member, Eunice Cain, on 17th April 2017 after a short illness.

Eunice, with her husband John, established the Friends of Rosebud group and worked hard to create the inviting and peaceful park we can see today on the Rosebud foreshore between Pt Nepean Road and the Bowls Club.

She also campaigned tirelessly for the community on many issues affecting the Peninsula not the least of which was maintaining the unique environment which we all enjoy.

We will miss Eunice and her passion for what was right, commitment to the community she lived in, straight talking and good humour.

We offer our sympathy to the Cain family.

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Friends Network Day

We all think our little bit of beach is the best, and we love McCrae, but I can understand why the Friends of Williams Road Beach in Mt Eliza would think that too.

It was there, despite the weather looking a bit threatening, five members of our group attended the Friends Network Day hosted by Matt Stahmer and his Natural Systems team on Saturday 22nd April.

The cliffs around Williams Beach are cultural heritage registered and the Friends have been contributing to their rehabilitation.

We heard that there is a requirement under law now, to apply for cultural heritage registration if any work is undertaken where it is thought there may be a historical aboriginal site and this applies to the usual revegetation work done by Friends groups as well as any major development. This is not to say that the work will be prevented from going ahead, but that it may be protected from further degradation. Continued recording of historical sites will give an even more accurate picture of the life and times of the local Bunurong people.

Attendees were broken up into four groups and in turn, sat with members of the local Bunurong Land Council:

Dan Turnbull talked about the evolution of stone and wooden implements used by the Bunurong people and how they were used in their daily

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life, and showed us examples of the different shaped boomerangs, woomera, small wooden shields, stone grinders and axes up to 20,000 years old - long before there was ever a local hardware store;

Adam Magennis talked about country in general and in particular of a large midden which has been found at Williams Rd Beach and the comings and goings of the Bunurong to take advantage of the abundant seafood found there. He showed us the remedial work done to preserve what is left of it after years and years of pounding waves, dogs and people. We also learned that there are middens located along that part of the foreshore that we work at McCrae and understand that a review of the area is to be undertaken later in this year;

Aunty Dyan Summers (from Flinders Island) talked about the use, and showed us fine examples of woven baskets and quite intricate shell jewelry and taught us all how to successfully weave a very strong piece of string from two reed strands which had been soaked in water. It's a no-brainer and no wonder I have never been able to properly twist two or three strands into a decent piece of string before;

Rob Ogden talked about the Bunurong history and mythology and we learned that there is a connection of Bunurong people with Tasmanian aboriginals resulting from the abduction off Pt Nepean of four or five Bunurong girls by a Sealer who plied the waters of Bass Strait and taken to the Bass Strait Islands, and how descendants had been unaware of their Bunurong connection until more recent times. We also learned that what we know as Point Nepean Road, has been identified as being the position of the original walking tracks the Bunurong took when moving through country from what is now Melbourne to Pt Nepean.

And what a great name they have for Arthurs Seat – *Wongama*, we should use it!

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Award to McCrae Group

During lunch at the Network Day some awards were made to recognise work being done by Friends groups and the McCrae group were pleasantly surprised to be presented with the *Hail, Rain or Shine Award!!* Seems we have a reputation of just getting on with it regardless of the weather.

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Included in the package are a few yummy consumables, packets of seeds, and three books which we will put into the library for members to borrow – “*Eucalypts of the Strezelecki Ranges and Gippsland Plains*” by Jenny Wolswinkel; “*Dark Emu*” by Bruce Pascoe; and “*Little Book of Australian Orchids*” NLA Publishing.

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New brochure & webpage

At last you will see the new brochures appearing here and there including the Rotunda and the Library. If you'd like a small supply to letter-box in the local McCrae area, let us know.

The new webpage will be up and running very soon.

We hope you like the new look of both the brochure and webpage and want to thank Matt Stahmer for providing some wonderful photos for us.

Rainfall in McCrae:

Year	Annual
2005	640.50mm
2006	466.50mm
2007	756.50mm
2008	602.75mm
2009	614.00mm
2010	934.50mm
2011	843.00mm
2012	959.00mm
2013	854.50mm
2014	652.55mm
2015	631.50mm
2016	773.50mm
2017	01/01-31/03 161.50mm

New Members

A big welcome to new members who have joined recently: Andrew Parkinson, Robert Hobman & David Uren.

We hope you continue to enjoy working on the McCrae foreshore.

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