



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

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Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Spring 2017

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

General Meeting

Agenda & Notice of meeting of the McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc. to be held on Sunday 8th October 2017 at 6 Burrell Street, McCrae at 12.30pm.

AGENDA

1 Consideration of installation of information signage at McCrae.

2. Other matters

This will be a working meeting over lunch following the usual working bee.

at the Anthonys Nose entrance to the McCrae foreshore to alert people to the work the group does and its links with the McCrae Homestead;

2 A brief history of the settling of McCrae, including the connection of the foreshore group to the Homestead, installed on the Rotunda – either inside or outside;

3 A series of interpretive signs set along the Bay Trail the length of “our patch”. There could be few or many and each would address one topic. Examples could include – local Aboriginal history, Banksia Woodland, McCrae Homestead history; McCrae Coastal Group; Local vegetation; Local native animals & birds; etc. etc.

Members should decide if they are interested in supporting the erection of any such signs and, if so, to determine how and what.

Conversation about it to date has been informal so it has been decided to call a meeting for all members to consider the matter so that, if there is support to go ahead, there will be time enough to get our thoughts together before the ‘grant’ rounds start for 2018/2019.

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Information Signage at McCrae

As you know, it has been suggested that the group should erect some kind of information signage at McCrae.

It would seem that there are several options:

1 A simple shelter (similar to the one about William Buckley on Safety Beach) erected

Office Bearers:

Secretary: Margaret Wilson 5986 4159 President: Len Warfe 5987 2537
Treasurer: Barry Robinson 5981 2909
PO Box 29, McCrae Vic 3938 email: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au web: www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

20th Anniversary

We all enjoyed lunch at Barry & Dee's on 6th August. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

President, Len Warfe, made a brief speech recalling some of the history of the group and cut the anniversary cake.



We were able to see some 'before and after' photos and all agreed that we have made a huge improvement on the scraggly section of foreshore it was at the beginning.

So here's to the next 20 years!!

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Update on our new sites

We were more than pleased to hear that the resident who demanded the mulch be removed from no. 2 site, sold his house on 8th July. We are hopeful this will mean that before too long we will be able to replace the mulch on that site and not have to continually spray it.

In the meantime, all the plants at both sites are flourishing – no doubt responding to the rain and (relative) warm weather we have been having. By summer they should look fantastic.

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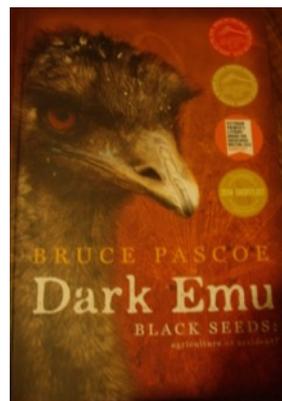
Update on tree vandal signs request

We have finally had a response to our request for the installation of "tree vandal" signs along Point Nepean Road. There are several issues in regard to this but the main one being that the Shire is not keen to see a plethora of signs along the roads. We will continue to monitor the area and look at other ways in which we can get the message across.

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Book Review

We mentioned in the Autumn newsletter that the group received a book "*Dark Emu*" by Bruce Pascoe. It now resides in the MHCG Library and may be borrowed on any of the working bee days, usually to be returned the following month.



"*Dark Emu*" is an immensely interesting read.

The author, who has Bunurong/Tasmanian heritage, sets out to debunk the myth that, before white settlement, aboriginal peoples did not engage in any form of farming or gardening. This formed the basis of the convenient and popularly held view that they had no connection with or ownership of the land and were just wanderers, hunting and gathering as they could along the way; making this new land free for the taking by the English government.

It's clear this cannot be further from the truth, and the author takes us on a journey of discovery using the journals, diaries and reports of early explorers and settlers who wrote about the managed landscapes they came across. Such areas had been

created by enormous labour of people intent on creating the best possible conditions for food production with evidence of dams and wells, amazing fish traps, planting, irrigating, harvesting and preserving/storing surplus grains as well as building permanent dwellings.

The fragile country of Australia sustained large numbers of people for thousands of years, but the widespread, abundant grasslands - so welcomed by the early settlers, were decimated over very few seasons as sheep and other introduced animals ate out the croplands and compacted the light soils.

As they viewed the land largely uninhabited, the English were not to know that these lush grasslands were a result of careful management (or farming) and, as the indigenous peoples were held in such disregard, no-one thought it worthy or necessary to consult with them about it.

It is indeed food for thought as to how the settlement of Australia could have been so different and how our 'sustainable living' today might have been so much better had it been built on the experience of more than 60,000 years of sustainability.

Let us know if you'd like to borrow any of the books in our library.

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New Members

A big welcome to new members Tony Collins and Geoff Reddall, who joined recently. We hope you continue to enjoy working on the beautiful McCrae foreshore.

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New Working Bee Signs

Thanks to the Natural Systems Team we have two new signs which we place out – one at the Rotunda and another one

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immediately where we are working at each working bee.



the group.

They are great – robust but light and as they just push into the ground, no hassle to locate.

We hope they help to generate some further interest in

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	01/01-31/08 410.00mm

Working Bees

Working Bees - First and second Sunday of the month except January - 10.00am at the Rotunda.

Just turn up!

Volunteers do need to be a member of the group and registered with the Shire but this can be done on the day. You will be provided with gloves, safety glasses, sun hat, safety vest and tools – and a light lunch to follow.

More Information

For any information about the Group contact one of the Committee members listed below.