



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Winter 2017

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

20th Anniversary



Celebrate 20 years with us at lunch after the working bee on Sunday 6th August 2017. (12.30pm)

At the Robinson's, 6 Burrell Street, McCrae.

This to be achieved by eradicating weeds and planting indigenous grasses and trees.

Site number 2



Placemaking Grant Works Completed

In June last year, the McCrae Group won a *Placemaking Grant* from the Shire to "increase community participation in enhancing the eastern gateway to the McCrae Beach foreshore".

Site number 1



Early this year, and thanks to *Naturelinks*, all weeds in the area approximately 375m along Pt Nepean Road, between Anthony's Nose and Eyrie Creek, were eradicated, and some unsightly and over grown vegetation cropped, ready for mulching and planting.

However, our planting programme was set-back when a resident demanded that the mulch on the number 2 site be removed. He insisted that removal of the mulch would stop pathogens, which have a detrimental effect on health, being distributed in his immediate vicinity.

Following a meeting with staff from the Shire *Natural Systems Team*, it was agreed to the temporary removal of the mulch.

As a result of this concession, site 2 is generating weeds at speed so does not look at

Office Bearers:

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PO Box 29, McCrae Vic 3938 email: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au web: www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

all as though any effort has been made to enhance it.

To say we are disappointed is an understatement particularly as our submission promised a more inviting eastern entry. We hope the mulch will be replaced before too long.

But we battled on and you can now see from the next photographs that the eastern gateway to 'our patch' has had quite a make-over and by the time Spring comes around it will be a real welcome to the eastern gateway to the McCrae Breach foreshore.



We have to thank Danielle, Tess and *Naturelinks* for the extra work put in because of the concession made and the Shire for providing additional funds for the mulch removal.

As you know, this grant also covered the updating of the website and production of a new brochure, both of which we have reported on previously.

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Vegetation Removal Rosebud Foreshore

Over 100 mature trees earmarked for removal from Rosebud Foreshore Reserve

MPSC is proposing to remove 106 mature trees from camping sections of Rosebud foreshore between Beverley Rd. McCrae to Chinaman's Creek West Rosebud. Forty-two trees are indigenous Coastal Banksia Integrefolia, but many other indigenous and native trees would be removed. Already Rosebud foreshore has lost significant indigenous canopy trees and understory indigenous vegetation, so our group has made a submission requesting that important local trees are not removed. We do however support removal of the various weed (introduced) species.

Banksias enhance the beauty and amenity of the Reserve, and have heritage value due to their age and critical habitat value. Crimson and Eastern Rosellas and Galahs rely on Banksia hollows for nesting, so removing these trees threatens many birds in the Reserve. Possums, sugar gliders and bats also rely on tree hollows and compete with birds for the few remaining hollows, further concentrating habitat stress.

Council states that the proposal is to protect campers, and that it won't be removing any of the prolific weed species e.g. cotoneaster, coprosma, as these weeds do not pose a threat to campers. These tenacious weeds are a significant threat to local amenity and habitat, and removing larger trees would allow these weeds to proliferate and dominate the foreshore. The end result is an unattractive environment for regular foreshore users, campers, tourists and visitors, with little natural habitat for other species.

We understand that foreshore camping is an economic loss for the Shire, and point out that ongoing upgrades and maintenance to camping areas (power & water supply, vandalism, environmental degradation, rubbish and dumped camping equipment removal at season's end etc.) is a significant liability for ratepayers, resulting in a degraded and unattractive environment throughout the year. So, it makes little sense to spend many

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thousands to further diminish our greatest asset - our beautiful foreshore Reserve to support a loss-making activity. (Council recently advised it spent \$30,000 just in a tree trimming project on the foreshore.)

We have suggested a cost effective outcome would be to reduce the current number of camp sites (880) and to locate camp sites away from significant trees, which could be fenced off to create attractive planted areas. Thus important trees would continue to provide wildlife habitat, amenity and shade for foreshore users for many years to come.

Notably, since camping was removed from the McCrae foreshore it has become the most attractive and well used section of the Reserve. It provides intact habitat and picturesque amenity for all, and is undoubtedly much less costly to maintain than the camping sections.

Have you noticed how much cooler it is to sit under a tree than under an umbrella?

A recent Curtin University/CSIRO study found that one mature tree can transpire up to 150 litres of water per day, producing a cooling effect similar to two air conditioners running for 20 hours, and can block up to 95% of the sun's radiation.

Trees provide immediate cooling and protection from the sun's rays, as can be felt as soon as one steps from the sun into the shade of a tree – and of course everyone wants to park under a tree on a hot day. Evapotranspiration and shading effects can reduce air temperatures by 1 to 5 degrees C¹.

Thus, mature foreshore trees are providing a great benefit to all foreshore users, perhaps especially campers, and tree removal would undoubtedly produce a hotter, drier and less pleasant foreshore environment.

Clearly, retaining trees in the landscape must be a key component of planning strategies and policy.

If you would like to make your own submission, it's not too late. Write to MPSC quoting P16/2494.

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Old Photos

Matt Stahmer would like to hear from anyone who has photos of the early days when we first started working around the Rotunda. You can contact him at:

Matthew.Stahmer@mornpen.vic.gov.au

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New Member

A big welcome to new member Diane Lever, who joined recently.

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

** ** *

Annual review

On 7th June, your committee met with Matt Stahmer and Hannah Brown of the Shire's *Natural Systems Team* and Danielle Suffern of *Naturelinks* to review the last twelve months. It was a lively discussion covering a range of topics including:

- * the excellent working relationship we have with *Naturelinks* and the *Natural Systems Team*;
- * finalising work for our *Placemaking Grant*;
- * the value of 'Friends Network Days';
- * tree vandalism signage;
- * the wholesale removal of vegetation at Rosebud (see page 2);
- * possibility of establishing a memorial for Eunice Cain;
- * maintaining our schedule of working bees – 1st & 2nd Sunday of the month;
- * progress of the work being carried out under the Shire MOU grant.

We were pleased to hear that the *Natural Systems Team* had been successful in procuring a Port Philip Bay Grant to assist them in supporting the large number of Friends Groups across the Shire.

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¹ <http://ehia.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/CoolCommunities.pdf>

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Contacting the Shire

Easy ways in which you can reach the Shire:

1) You would like to Speak to someone in customer service?

Call: 1300 850 600 - available 24 hours a day.

2) You like to use the computer?

a: Report a problem.... Below is a link from the Mornington Peninsula website where you can enter all the relevant details, including photo, location and your contact details.

<https://mtrsv.mornpen.vic.gov.au/crmwebinput/home/new>

b: Make a suggestion, provide feedback or ask a question...

<http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Contact-Us/Feedback>

3) When you are out in the field...

The Mornington Peninsula Shire App has been replaced with "Snap Send Solve"

Just like the old App which you can download for free on your phone. It enables you to add a photo, select your position, select the incident type, and add additional notes (remember, the more detail the better!)

This is also a great way to track your previous requests.



4) Or you would like to talk to someone face to face?

Visit our staff at any of our offices:

Rosebud Office:

90 Besgrove Street, 3939 (Mel ref: 170 A4)

Mornington Office:

2 Queen Street, 3931 (Mel ref: 104 D10)

Hastings Office:

21 Marine Parade, 3915 (Mel ref: 154 K11)

Somerville Office:

1085 Frankston-Flinders Road, within Somerville Library

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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	01/01-31/05 269.50mm

'Guarding the Galilee' screening

Right now, Adani is itching to dig one of the biggest coal mines in the world in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

If it goes ahead, burning coal from the megamine would generate billions of tonnes of pollution, fuel global warming and irreversibly damage our Great Barrier Reef.

Members may shortly have the opportunity to view the *Guarding the Galilee* documentary produced by the Australian Conservation Foundation. Once arrangements have been finalised we will email them to you.

In the meantime, you can find out more about this potential disaster from the following websites: www.acf.org.au or www.stopadani.com

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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.