



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Summer 2018

Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 2018.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017 **Presented to the AGM on 22/11/17**

Welcome to the 20th AGM of our Association, which marks the 20th year that this group has been working on the McCrae foreshore rectifying the damage done by decades of camping.

The 1996 Rosebud Foreshore Review, prepared for the then Rosebud Foreshore Committee, recommended the removal of camping from the lighthouse to Anthony's Nose, and declaring the area from opposite Beverley Rd, McCrae to Anthony's Nose a Conservation Zone. Such foresight seems rarer these days, and that foresight set the scene for establishing the area we work on.

Shortly after this, our group formed to be the oversee-er of works, weed removal and plantings. Those 20 years of volunteer effort (along with supportive paid contractors) is now on display, providing a welcoming slice of natural coastal scenery and diverse indigenous vegetation. So, well done to all the many past and present volunteers for your efforts.

Last year, I reported the Coastal Management Act 1995 would soon be replaced by a new Marine and Coastal Act. Last week, we received an update from DELWP reporting on its progress.

WORKING BEES 2018

The first working bee for 2018 will be on **Sunday 4th February – 10am at the Rotunda.**

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Don't forget that you need to be a paid up member of the group to work on the foreshore with us – you can renew at the working bee.

Lunch after the working bee will continue to be provided by the group at Barry & Dee's home, 6 Burrell Street.

The next working bee will be on Sunday 11th February and thereafter on the first and second Sunday of the month.



Office Bearers:

Secretary: Margaret Wilson 5986 4159 President: Len Warfe 5987 2537
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web: www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

The Marine and Coastal Bill is expected to be released in late 2017, and funding was allocated in the 2017-18 Victorian Budget to “kick start improving Victoria’s marine and coastal management”. (DELWP’S media release wording) Funding includes just over \$7 million for various coast related projects and activities around the entire Victorian coast.

OUR LOCAL WORKS:

Last year, weed removal and planting in Coburn Creek was completed. This year, using the \$4,000 MPSC grant, we undertook planting at Anthony’s Nose. Woody weeds were removed under the supervision of Danielle Suffern as well as plantings near Eyrie Creek and opposite 573 Pt. Nepean Rd, including the spreading and then removal of mulch, to appease the owners of 573 opposite.

We have applied for three grants this year- Melbourne Water, PP&WP CMA and Bendigo Bank. Barry will be reporting on the grant amounts.

MEMBERSHIP:

During the year we have welcomed seven new members and lost one: Felix Fuller-Jackson, who left to pursue further studies. New members are: Andrew Parkinson, Diane Lever, Anne Tardif, Tony Collins, Geoff Reddall, David Uren and Rob Hobman. We are happy to have them all on board.

WORKING BEES:

This year our efforts have focussed on the Eastern end of the Reserve, except for one day (8th October) when we worked at the Lighthouse end of the reserve as weeds there were becoming so prominent.

We have worked 22 Sundays on site for a total of 332 hours, including Helen Ryan’s contribution picking up rubbish on the beach and foreshore – a never ending task cleaning up after us humans. *Incidentally, it was annoying to see Woolworths latest catalogue had warning that if the container deposit legislation is successful in Victoria their prices will rise as they have in NSW following the introduction of the legislation there.* Outrageous and threatening corporate behaviour!

The highest working bee attendance was ten on four occasions, and the lowest was four on the 3rd September. Our first working day for 2017 was 5th February, which was also my 75th Birthday. Tess Graham, our *Naturelinks* supervisor that day, made a wonderful gesture by baking a homemade elaborate chocolate cake for this auspicious occasion! So, many thanks again to Tess.

This year, I have also created a new category of work for Dee Robinson. While we have been working on site, Dee has been slaving over a hot stove to provide us all with a wonderful lunch to devour after our foreshore work. I’ve allocated an additional 40 hours for Dee’s contributions, which should clearly be counted as work, as her efforts support our work and the thought of an enjoyable lunch has kept us working hard. So adding Dee’s contribution to our onsite works, we have given a total of 372 hours work, [equals \$11,160 in-kind assistance to the Shire] exceeding our last year’s total of 320 hours.

For 20 of our 22 working days, Barry and Dee have welcomed us into their home to enjoy the lunches Dee has provided. We only missed out on their hospitality for two days when both Barry and Dee were literally quarantined with a serious dose of Influenza Type A. So, for your magnificent efforts - Thank you again Dee and Barry.

OTHER ISSUES:

Our secretary Margaret Wilson has again ably supported the group in managing the website, writing newsletters, preparing grant applications and liaising with Council.

In response to some Banksias and She-Oaks in our works area being vandalised by suspected property owners opposite, Margaret wrote to Council asking for signs to be erected warning of the up to \$120,000 fines for these environmental crimes. Council was slow to respond but Margaret persisted in getting a response. Council eventually advised that they don’t like installing these types of signs. Thank you Margaret for all your efforts as our Secretary.

In the face of this inaction from our Council, it is galling to see other Councils and foreshore committees being prepared to protect their important coastal vegetation, with some erecting

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very large signs where tree vandalism has occurred, even to the extent of ensuring the signs block the ill gotten view.

Perhaps Council's reluctance to install signs may be linked to their own proposal to remove over 100 mature trees from the Rosebud Foreshore camping area - 42 being mature Banksias judged dangerous by Council. Along with a number of other concerned residents and groups we made submissions and met with Council to suggest that in particular the important Banksias should be protected, and to express concerns that with their proposed management regime the foreshore will eventually lose its mature indigenous tree cover and species reliant on them, and its amenity, as it converts to sand blown weed infested waste land.

We also advocated that camping sites could be reduced from the current 880 sites, and re-arranged to separate campers from important trees. This would provide opportunities to create habitat corridors and vastly improve the visual and physical amenity of the area. However, Council has since issued itself a permit to proceed with the project.

Barry Robinson our Treasurer hopefully enjoys pursuing grant opportunities, for which we are most often successful. So, thank you Barry for all your efforts, and to Dee for her additional secretarial support to Barry, and in distributing newsletters etc.

Naturelinks continues to oversee works on our Reserve. Danielle Suffern and Tess Graham supervise our working bees and are both proactive in planning which areas require our attention throughout the year. Both Danielle and Tess go beyond their prescribed duties in the support they give us. We enjoy their company and support very much.

IN CLOSING:

As always I thank all our committee members for your work, and all of the membership for your dedication to our special piece of the coastline.

May we keep it up for a long time to come!

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ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following members were elected to office for 2018:

President	Len Warfe
Treasurer	Barry Robinson
Secretary	Margaret Wilson
Committee Members	Jenny Warfe
	Dee Robinson

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MEETING: SUNDAY 4th FEB **Re: Signage at McCrae**

At the meeting on 8th October 2017, several suggestions in relation to providing some type of information signage on the McCrae foreshore were discussed.

You will recall that members were against unnecessary erection of structures on the foreshore and we were unable to reach a clear decision on the day.

The suggested trip in the Shire community to sites on the coastline where different examples could be seen was accepted, but subsequently abandoned due to the high cost of the bus hire.

Some members were keen to see a QR code installation at the Rotunda and since then further information has been obtained on the ins and outs of installing such a facility.

This will be discussed at a meeting over lunch following the working bee on 4th February to determine the feasibility and whether the proposal has majority support before any application for funding can commence.

What do you think about this idea?

If you will not be at the meeting but wish to make comments, please email them by 3rd February to: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

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Funding Success

We have been lucky to secure funding to support our work on the McCrae Foreshore in 2018.



Coburn Creek Jan 2018

MELBOURNE WATER

\$6125.42

We were successful in securing funding from *Melbourne Water* for the continued management of the Coburn Creek riparian zone. It has been about 12 months since the last maintenance work was carried out.

Sue Di Orio has been engaged to remove weed species such as angled onion, tradescantia, panic veldt grasses, fumaria, asparagus fern, bridal creeper and vulpia and vernal grasses around the orchid colony nestled along the eastern bank.

This work will minimise weed species cover, enhance the condition of the creek and protect the indigenous species, enabling them to spread.

Since 2002 *Melbourne Water* has provided total funding to the group of \$24,863.52 and we thank them for their on-going support.



BENDIGO BANK

\$2000.00

In December, committee members attended the *Bendigo Bank* AGM where along with many other local organisations, we accepted a certificate of community sponsorship.

We applied for these funds to assist us in defraying our administrative costs including maintenance of the website, insurance, statutory fees, printing newsletters and general stationery expenses.

The addition of such funds enables us to keep our membership fees to a minimum.

Since 2002 *Bendigo Bank* has provided total community sponsorship of \$6000.00 and we thank them for their on-going support.



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EXPLORING THE SHIRE'S ICONIC BUSHLAND RESERVES

In October and November 2017, the *Natural Systems Team* conducted guided walks for members of 'Friends' groups in four of the Shire's wonderful bushland reserves.

Each walk lasted about an hour and a half and was followed by morning tea when we could ask questions and network.

The first walk was to [Warringne Park](#), Hastings – a 200 hectare reserve on the shores of Westernport Bay. It is 3 years since the wildfire in the coastal section and the walk explored the ecological changes to the site since then. It was interesting to note that as the trees regenerated, there was a change in types with wattles becoming more prominent.

The second to [Woods Reserve](#), Tuerong – a 58 hectare reserve located next to Devil Bend Reservoir. This reserve, distinguished by the dominant Messmate and the Narrow Leaf Peppermint, was painstakingly cleared of invasive Pittosporum and now has high biodiversity values including many beautiful orchid species.

The third to [Police Point Bushland Reserve](#), Portsea - a 17 hectare reserve comprised mainly of Coastal Moonah Woodland. For the past 6 years different methods of ecological restoration works have been implemented to eradicate Polygala and other woody weeds to achieve the highest and best recovery outcomes possible for the vegetation community and the small mammals that live there.

The last to [Peninsula Gardens Bushland Reserve](#), Rosebud – a 50 hectare reserve on the doorstep of the urban growth boundary. Removal of pines infesting the reserve has allowed native trees and grasses to regenerate. This reserve also has some amazing remnant patches, including a tropical wetland, and the number and size of the grass trees growing there must be seen to be believed!

The officer responsible for each reserve joined the walk and gave first hand information about

special plants or animals unique to that reserve and the effort required to eradicate woody weeds in these beautiful places.

These Friends network days are always interesting as well as educational so when you receive advice of the next event, do make an effort to attend.

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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	673.00mm

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome two new members since last November – Jenni & Robert Stent.

We look forward to seeing you on the foreshore soon.



Fabulous sunset across the Bay

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