



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Winter 2018

Welcome to the 2018 Winter issue of the newsletter.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Collaboration:

Our group has supported our friends in the Friends of Rosebud Beach & Foreshore who recently asked Council to consider naming the small foreshore park opposite Ninth Avenue in Rosebud in memory of their founding member Eunice Cain, who sadly died last year. Eunice was the driving force in the transformation of the park from its former use as the Rosebud Tennis courts and the subsequent threat of it becoming yet another bitumen car park to serve the shopping strip. Eunice worked hard to ensure her group held working bees every month for the last 20 years to transform the site into a park, proving that it was well loved and cared for, and that it should never be handed to commercial interests. So along with several other local environmental groups we were happy to co-sign a letter in support of naming the park after Eunice.

More recently, MPSC invited that coalition of groups to have input into its long-term vision for Rosebud Foreshore from 6th to 9th Avenue, which includes the park we hope will eventually be named in memory of Eunice. MHCG worked on a 'vision plan' which the groups presented to Council.

Continued next page

COAST CARE VICTORIA COMMUNITY GRANTS 2018

We have been successful in obtaining a \$8505 grant under CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2018, to eradicate scrambling weeds on the north side of the Bay Trail and to weed and revegetate several planter beds along the south side of the Bay Trail between the bitumen car park and the McCrae Beach sign.

Work has begun and already planting completed in the bed opposite street number 597.



Thank you CoastCare, we appreciate this support which will enable us to further enhance the McCrae coastal habitat.

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

From the President continues

The plan includes rationalisation of foreshore parking, a coastal botanical garden, viewing platforms and walking paths, co-location of the Sea Scouts and Sailing clubhouses, relocation of the Memorial Hall and Bowling Club, and protection of the heritage listed Soundshell.

June working bees:

We focussed on plantings for our June working bees. On 3rd June, with 7 in attendance, we undertook infill planting on the two newest sites created towards Anthony’s Nose near the McCrae Beach sign. Already we are receiving compliments from passing walkers on how good these new sites are looking.

On June 10th, we undertook path side planting in the newly mulched areas along the path from the Rotunda west towards the Lighthouse. With a record attendance for winter of 12 members, we made short work of planting around 200 plants, and installing tree guards.



Annual meeting with Shire:

We recently had our annual meeting with MPSC’s Natural Systems Volunteer Officer, Hannah Brown, Natural Systems Team Leader, Matt Stahmer, and Nature Links contractor and supervisor for our working bees, Danielle Suffern. The meeting confirmed our ongoing MOU between MHCG, MPSC and Nature Links, and we were proud to have such positive feedback from our professional colleagues on what our volunteer group has achieved in the last 12 months. Of course we would not have achieved so much without

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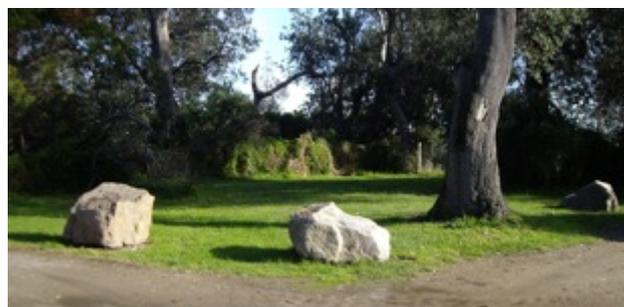
substantial funding from Bendigo Bank, Melbourne Water and CoastCare Victoria, the ongoing support of Council’s Natural Systems Team, and our wonderful Nature Links supervisor Danielle Suffern. As well as the agreed works plan for the next 12 months, we also discussed the opportunity to undertake some ad hoc infill planting in smaller grassed areas along the path towards Anthony’s Nose with any leftover plants from our planned planting days.

Car parking on McCrae foreshore

Our meeting also discussed the damage being done by the unmanaged car parking in some sections of the foreshore where we work. During summer, car parking on the McCrae foreshore is so intense it can be hard to walk on the path, so we are rightly concerned that some of our hard work is threatened by car parking and foot traffic through the planted areas. Some plants have been flattened, and sadly some appear to have been pulled out or snapped off. We are also concerned for some mature banksias whose root systems are being impacted by cars parking too close to these magnificent trees.

To our dismay, irresponsible drivers have even accessed the footpath only section of the foreshore towards Anthony’s Nose to park for their day at the beach.

As a result, and following a recent walk-through of the foreshore with Natural Systems and Infrastructure Council staff, Council has installed some large rocks in strategic locations. We see this is as the first stage of a more structured approach to managing car parking pressures on our precious foreshore.



Len Warfe

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WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

You will have received an email outlining workshops to be held in July/August/September for Friends Group volunteers and this is a reminder:

****Selling Your Story – Social Media & Communications**

Tuesday 17th July

This is for those members of the group who are interested in raising our profile in the community.

****Managing Your Project**

Monday 30th July

Would you like to manage one of our projects? Go to this workshop.

****Mapping Workshop**

Thursday 23rd August

Handy for those involved in making submissions for grants.

****Conservation Project Planning, Monitoring and Reporting**

Tuesday 11th September

Specifically for volunteers to develop & oversee group projects and grants.

Please contact Hannah Brown on 5950 1356 or at Hannah.Brown@mornpen.vic.gov.au to book a place.

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UPDATES

New grant opportunities

MHCG has submitted an application for grant funds to cover the cost of our compliance (insurance and annual return) expenses from *PPWCMA Support Grants 2018*. It will be some weeks before we hear if we have been successful.

Also, notice of MPSC funding opportunities has just been released which may provide further potential to support our work.

Coburn Creek

Following receipt of the grant of \$6737.96 from Melbourne Water, Sue Di Orio was contracted to carry out the specified work, weed control, which will contribute to the rehabilitation of the creek. Sue has commenced the work which is ongoing and looks good to date. You may remember that Sue carried out similar work together with planting under a previous grant last year from Melbourne Water.

As you may be aware, we are not permitted to work in the creek bed or on the creek banks.

QR reader at the Rotunda

You will recall that last year, Len Evans suggested that an information shelter be erected at Anthony's Nose and this was discussed with MHCG members in October. The Committee, at its meeting on 25th May '18, agreed to two signs containing a QR, which links to the MHCG website, being placed on the Rotunda.

Thanks to Jenny Warfe this has been achieved inexpensively and with little fuss. One sign is located outside and another inside the Rotunda and people who wish to find out more about the group need only to scan the QR with their mobile phone.



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Bay Trail planting

**FOR GENERAL INFORMATION....
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE**

St John Ambulance has recently (November 2017) commenced a Community Transport Service. This is a service for anyone who is unable to drive and/or access public transport who needs to attend a medical appointment, shop, visit friends, or go to an event or function and can book 24 hours ahead. Transport is by regular car driven by St John Volunteers who are also fully trained in first aid.

The cost is favourably commensurate with taxi fares. Currently the service is located around the City of Monash area and will gradually be rolled out across Victoria.

For more information go to www.stjohnvic.com.au

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
2018	to end June 236mm

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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 Office Bearers listed below.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Thank you to our sponsors for providing funds to enable MHCG to continue the vital work we do on the McCrae foreshore:



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