



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Autumn 2019

Welcome to the 2019 Autumn issue of the newsletter.

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REMINDER

POLICE POINT WORKING BEES

Everyone can participate

You are invited to come along and join the Bushland Team at a Police Point working bee under the ancient twisting moonahs.



When:

- Friday 12th April 2019 1-3pm
- Friday 14th June 2019 1-3pm

Afternoon tea will follow.

Where: Meeting at the main car park off Point Nepean Road, Portsea.

Who: Everyone invited.

The Bushland Management Team will be onsite to assist with the working bee and to bring along tools and personal gear (gloves, hats, glasses etc.)

Please let Hannah & Danielle know you'll be there

DanielleSuffern@Naturelinks.com.au

Hannah.Brown@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Office Bearers:

Secretary: Margaret Wilson 5986 4159 President: Len Warfe 5987 2537
Treasurer: Jenny Warfe 5987 1583
PO Box 29, McCrae Vic 3938 email: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au web: www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

UPDATES

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2018

The work related to this grant has been completed.

Melbourne Water Grant 2018

The work related to this grant has almost been completed.

Melbourne Water Grant 2019

Coburn Creek Riparian Zone: The works plan has been approved and work will commence shortly.

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2019

We are awaiting a response on the success or otherwise of our application.

Port Phillip Bay Fund Round 3 Community Grants

We have submitted an application for funds to reduce the cover of high-threat weed species in the McCrae and Rosebud Foreshore Reserves in line with the Shire's natural systems strategic priorities. We will know whether we have been successful in May or June.

**Don't forget the special lunch after our
working bee**

Sunday 14th April 2019

6 Burrell Street, McCrae

RSVP by Tuesday 9th April to Dee at:

bazndaz7@bigpond.com or telephone 5981 2909

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	591.00mm Lowest since 2006
2019	69.5 mm to 31 March

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FRIENDS NETWORK DAY 2 FEB 2019

A large contingent attended the 17th Friends Network Day at Boneo Park, hosted by the Shire Natural Systems Team.

The day consisted of a 1 or 2 hour walk around that part of the Tootgarook Swamp located at the southern end of the Boneo Equestrian Centre.

Groups led by Cameron Brown and Gerard Cook walked around and among the more than 25 grassy islands which make up that part of the swamp.



Walking along cleared pathway around the islands

In times past both horses and cattle were allowed to roam willy-nilly over this fragile and essential part of the southern peninsula environment. Of course horses are still in this area but restricted to the facilities within the Equestrian Centre and are banned from sections of the swamp.

Re-generation has been slow but encouraging with many of the original indigenous species recovering which in turn has led to many birds returning.

The Leafy Green Hood Orchid has been discovered here along with 7 other new orchid species yet to be identified!



A pretty white flower prolific in the swamp is purported to be an early carrot species.

Years of misuse has seen half the Moonah Woodland infested with Polygala, although it was encouraging to see one section where this infestation has been wiped out allowing natural regeneration of local species.



Typical view across swamp looking towards the Moonah Woodland

Over years, residential and industrial encroachment into, and draining of the swamp, not to mention the highest concentration of private bores in Victoria feeding off its waters, has had huge effect on the water table and is being monitored.

It is estimated that 67% of the swamp still exists and is protected. Given the previous misuse, this would appear to be a positive thing and must be nurtured.

The swamp is of utmost importance to vegetation on the southern peninsula as there are no rivers or creeks running through the peninsula south of Drum Drum Creek at Rosebud, and the vegetation

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of the whole southern peninsula (yes, all the way to Portsea!) is reliant on the wetlands to survive.

Then there is the issue of the freeway reserve still over part of the swamp. To run a freeway through the swamp would finally kill it causing great destruction of vegetation and upsetting the finely balanced biodiversity of the swamp. We can only hope that common sense will finally prevail and the freeway reserve removed.

Four Friends Groups received awards for their enthusiastic and enduring commitment to preserving the environment we love.

Over lunch everyone mingled and had the opportunity to see a series of historical aerial photographs of the swamp bringing home just how much damage has been done to this special place since white settlement – and the encouraging results of efforts now made to redress its precarious position.

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FOR INFORMATION:

From Melbourne Water WATERWAYS LOCAL UPDATES



Our annual [Waterways Local Updates](#) are online and ready for use. These updates outline the services and work Melbourne Water has delivered in all 38 local council areas to enhance waterway health and build resilience to flooding. This work is funded by the Waterways and Drainage Charge, collected by local water retail businesses.

Updates are provided at the end of each financial year and provide a survey of all the projects and programs happening across Greater Melbourne; the culmination of a great collaborative effort between Melbourne Water, Local Councils, community

groups and committed individuals to make our waterways the best they can be.

From Enviro Justice Australia YOU CAN HELP SAVE OUR POSSUMS FROM EXTINCTION



It's only a couple of months until we hit the courtroom in our Federal Court case to protect the critically endangered

Leadbeater's Possum and the threatened Greater Glider. We've raised half the target for our crowdfunding campaign, but we still have a long way to go! Can you chip in so we can give our possums the defence they deserve? With your help we can save these possums from extinction.

Contact Enviro Justice on 1300 336 842

From Frankston Beach Association FRANKSTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Frankston Beach Association are sponsoring the Peninsula Folk Club's performance at the Frankston Music Festival on:

Sunday 28th April 2019, 1.00pm

Life Saving Club, 1 Long Island Drive, Frankston.

Cost \$10

While you are there, take in the exhibition of Marine life photographer Freddie Leong's spectacular work. Freddie is well known for his artistic and dramatic underwater images from Port Phillip Bay and many other locations. Some of his work is held by the National Library of Australia.

You can book online [here](#)

DID YOU KNOW

..that the cardboard tissue box you pop into the recycle bin may well be contaminating that batch and undoing all your good intentions? The small piece of plastic film which is adhered around the opening in our tissue boxes is the culprit. Pull it off before you consign the tissue box and put it in your landfill bin.

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DO YOU WANT TO HELP??

As you know the MHCG has been singularly successful in obtaining funding to enable us to continue maintaining the fabulous McCrae Foreshore - actually to the tune of \$142,791 since 1997.

We regularly receive advice of offers from a myriad of providers and recently Jenny Warfe and Margaret Wilson have put the applications together. But they would be interested to hear from anyone else who might like to be involved.

The offers are varied in requirements and generally it's not difficult to comply, but the lead time for submission of applications can sometimes be a bit tight.

However it is another way to find out about our patch and the flora and fauna living there, and how best to maintain it. And of course when we are successful there is quite a sense of achievement.

If you are interested, talk to Jenny or Margaret at the next working bee.

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FUNDING SUPPORT

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



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CONTINUING THE WAR ON SEA SPURGE

Don't forget to be on the look-out for Sea Spurge and remove it whenever you can.

We ran an item about this in the 2017 AGM Issue (you can access it on the website) and it continues to pop up all over the sand dunes along McCrae beach. So, this is a reminder that if you see this scourge on the sand dunes, PULL IT OUT!

But be careful when handling it, protect your hands from the sap and ensure that you remove the entire taproot.



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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.