



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Summer 2019

Welcome to the 2019 Summer issue of the newsletter, the first one for the year.

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FIRST WORKING BEE FOR 2019

Don't forget our first working bee for 2019 is next **Sunday 3rd February** – 10.00am at the Rotunda. Lunch will be provided as usual.

ALSO – DON'T FORGET
7th Friends Network Event
Saturday 2nd February 2019
Boneo Park, 213 Boneo Road

Walk & talk session around Tootgarook Wetlands to mark World Wetland Day followed by award celebration and lunch.

If you want to go to this event and have forgotten to register, call Hannah Brown NOW! 5950 1356

UPDATES

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2018

The work related to this grant is due to be completed shortly.

Melbourne Water Grant 2019

We are pleased to report that our application to continue the maintenance of the Coburn Creek riparian zone has been approved.

We were not successful with our application for the Eyrie Creek project as that creek does not strictly come under the Melbourne Water definition of a waterway which runs into Port Phillip Bay.

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2019

Our application for funds under this grant opportunity will be submitted next week. We are seeking funds to maintain work carried out under the 2018 grant, and to establish three new plantings. You will recall that it was the intention to revegetate all the sites now protected from car parking and this includes the first of those sites.

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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
2018	591.00mm Lowest since 2006

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

SHEOAKS SUPER FOR GARDEN and FAUNA

Sunraysia Daily 20 Jun 2015



It's an impressive backyard buddy with super powers to lend you a hand around your house.

Fauna friend: The helpful Sheoak, (main picture), has the ability to attract all sorts of wildlife including the stunning glossy black cockatoo (right).



Pictures:
Paul Coddington/Ian Sanderson

From helping you out in the garden, to looking after local wildlife, this common superhero can do it all and it's called the casuarina, or more commonly the Sheoak.

“Super powers possessed by the Sheoak are virtually endless,” said Susanna Bradshaw who is CEO of the *Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife*.

“One of their powers is this plant's ability to feed a range of animals, from endangered birds, to furry mammals and even caterpillars.

“The roots of the Sheoak are a gardener's best friend because they contain bacteria that convert nitrogen in the air into nitrate for the soil.

“This is like the ultimate plant food.

“Sheoak needles help sustain native animals and livestock and they make great mulch which suppresses weed growth,” said Ms Bradshaw.

There are, however, some tips for living with Sheoaks:

- Don't plant these trees too close to your nice lawn as their needles may smother the grass. Since lawn doesn't support many plants or animals, see if you can convert some areas into garden beds instead, where Sheoaks will be happy to grow and provide free mulch.

- If you plant Sheoaks in a row, they can make an excellent windbreak for your garden.

- Remember that these trees are very fast growers so don't expect them to stay small for long.

Ms Bradshaw said gardeners shouldn't be fooled by the changing nature of Sheoaks.

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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.



Police Point is a hidden treasure on the Peninsula. It is a 17 hectare bushland reserve in Portsea abutting Point Nepean National Park, comprising of Coastal Moonah Woodland.

For the past 6 years the Shire has been implementing a substantial ecological restoration project helping to improve the depleted vegetation and protecting the population and habitat of the long-nosed bandicoots, white footed dunnarts and the many other critters that call this reserve home.

An enormous amount of work was achieved at the first working bee in September, so it has been decided to hold more.

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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 is 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.)

Put these dates in your diary now

and let Hannah & Danielle know you'll be there

DanielleSuffern@Naturelinks.com.au
Hannah.Brown@mornpen.vic.gov.au

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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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Forum for Peninsula Creatives to Have Your Say on Arts & Culture

At the recent forums at Rye and Mornington over 60 local creatives provided very strong, clear feedback about how they can be more supported in what they do including discussions about networking, physical and online hubs, activating public spaces and better marketing and promotion. If you want to be involved in our last forum to look at the data we have received and help draft some key strategies and priorities for the next five years please [Book to Attend Our Next Forum](#) at Somerville Mechanics Institute on **Wednesday 6 February** from **6pm to 9pm**.

AND..... Have Your Say on Arts & Culture in Our Libraries

Tablets are now available at Rosebud, Hastings and Mornington libraries and the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery where you can complete our [online survey](#). Your thoughts, ideas and vision will help us to develop key strategies to support arts and culture on the Mornington Peninsula for the next four years. Arts and culture is so much more than paintbrush and pen. It's the languages we speak, the stories we tell and things we create. Have your say today.

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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.

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