



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Spring 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Spring issue of the newsletter.

COVID-19

Yes, we are still in lockdown although some restrictions have recently been lifted. It seems a year since our last newsletter when we were looking forward to resuming working bees, which we did in July – for one week only! And then suddenly a huge spike in COVID-19 cases and sadly, many deaths. Stage 4 restrictions quickly enforced with a curfew and wearing face masks to boot. Not many of us will be able to remember anything like this ever happening in our lives before. One good side is that in McCrae there have been no cases at all, and we hope that continues.

While we may not work on the foreshore, the Shire's Bushland Management and Naturelinks Teams are still out and about, and continue to work along the McCrae foreshore and work has commenced on the Coburn Creek project under the Melbourne Water Grant we received recently.

There is one thing that has benefited from the lockdown and the resultant decrease in pollutants, and that has to be nature. Have you noticed how everything seems to be happier and more abundant? No doubt we too, are benefitting from the cleaner air and environment.

As soon as we have any news from the Shire about a resumption of working bees we will let you know. In the meantime, maintain social distancing, practise good hygiene, stay safe and healthy.

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UPDATES

Melbourne Water Grant 2020/2021

Work on Coburn Creek has commenced. These funds also include preliminary work on Eyrie Creek and that work will commence soon.

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2019/2020

Work under this funding was completed by the end of June and it is great to see the difference it has made. See photos on the back page.

CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2020/2022

Unfortunately we were not successful in our submission for funds under this grant.

Port Phillip Bay Fund Round 3 Community Grants

This project, as you know, carried out under the auspices of the Shire Bushland Management Team, was successfully completed by the end of June and the final report was favourably received.

MPS 20/21 Budget Allocation

It is pleasing to confirm that the proposed allocation of funds in the MPS 20/21 Budget for substantial works around Eyrie Creek and along the Bay Trail, and including an upgrade of the information panels in the Rotunda, was confirmed by Council without any reduction. These works will be carried out under the auspices of the Shire's Bushland Management Team in consultation with MHCG. We are not yet certain when work will commence on this project.

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RAINFALL IN MCCRAE

Year	Annual
2010	934.50 mm
2011	843.00 mm
2012	959.00 mm
2013	854.50 mm
2014	652.55 mm
2015	631.50 mm
2016	773.50 mm
2017	673.00 mm
2018	591.00 mm Lowest since 2006
2019	621.50 mm
2020	535.50 mm to 30 September

FROM BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA

www.birdlife.org.au

Grey breasted parakeet recovers from three fledglings to a thousand!

In 2012, researchers made the alarming discovery that this vivacious parakeet was now confined to a single small region in northeastern Brazil. Find out how their campaign has seen the birds make a remarkable comeback from three fledglings in 2010 to a cumulative total of 1,165 fledglings.



© Fábio Nunes

Birds to look out for this month:

What birds might you see in the month of September? Here's a few to keep a look out for...

- Flocks of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters on passage along the Great Dividing Range
- Short-tailed Shearwaters returning to their breeding colonies in Bass Strait
- Return of Dollarbirds in south-eastern Queensland
- Eastern Koels and Channel-billed Cuckoos arriving back in NSW
- Return of migratory shorebirds to north-western Australia

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- Arrival of Barn Swallows in northern Australia
- Swooping Australian Magpies

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WEEDS – how to identify and eradicate them??

If you'd like to know more about the weeds that infest not only your garden, but which choke the lands and waterways of our local environment, have a look at this website to assist you in identifying them and how to deal with them. It lists weeds of National Significance and of great interest is a catalogue enabling you to identify weeds in our region.

www.weeds.org.au

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GROWING INDIGENOUS PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

When we were able to travel, I picked up a couple of leaflets from the Shire Nursery at *The Briars*. The nursery grows plants, indigenous to the peninsula as well as a range of native Australian plants, ready for your garden. They collect seed from local species for wholesale and retail sale to the public. Some of the tubestock we plant on the foreshore comes from this nursery.

One leaflet in particular relates to indigenous plants of the Mornington Peninsula which can be used as landscaping for bushfires. The list includes trees, shrubs, tufting plants and groundcovers and I was pleasantly surprised to see that I already, un-be-knowingly, grow quite a few of the plants listed. The leaflet emphasizes that the plants listed are not guaranteed not to burn, but that they are simply more resistant to fire than many other species.

From the website you can also access a list of plants indigenous to the Rosebud region and other information about the current plants in stock:

<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/The-Briars/Shire-Briars-Nursery>

MHCG 2020 AGM

Usually held in November, this year we are waiting on the lifting of restrictions on public meeting rooms before setting a date. There is no particular problem with this as the Rules provide for the AGM to be held by 31st March. We'll keep you posted.

CHANGES TO ROSEBUD CENTRAL FORESHORE AREA

In August, MHCG was pleased to be part of a Zoom meeting with Zac Grimes, Shire Coastal Planner, and two representatives from the consultants (Urbis) who have provided preliminary drawings for the development of a masterplan for the Central Activity Node at Rosebud foreshore (see map below), to provide input before the plan is further developed to take to Council and the broader community.

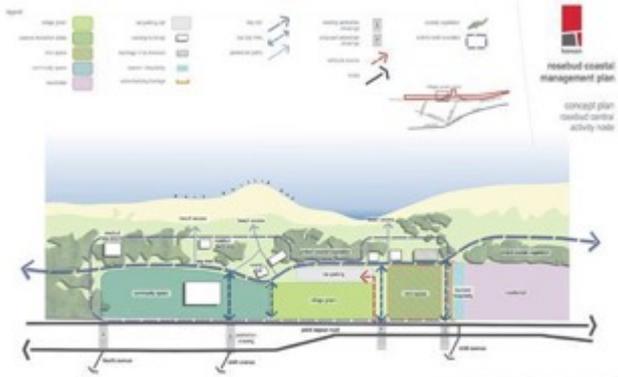


Figure 6

For discussion was the Rosebud Coastal Management Plan 2015, to which we have previously made submissions and we were pleased to re-iterate our thoughts that the park around the Bowling Club worked on by the Friends of Rosebud Beach must be retained. We argued again that all non-coastal dependent structures should be re-located elsewhere. It was pleasing enough to see that the updated drawings reflected the proposed amalgamation of some facilities to reduce unnecessary structural footprints on the foreshore and also retention of the park although somewhat reduced and with a different shape.

In addition, and separately, we note that the submission to name that park the Eunice Cain Memorial Park is progressing through the Council application process.

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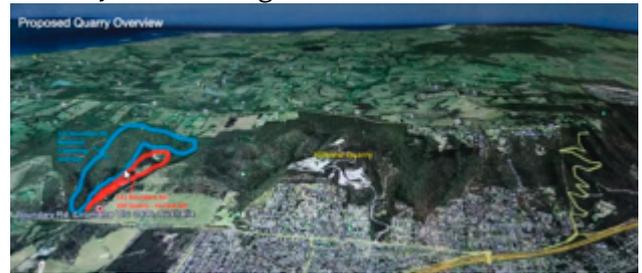
WORKING BEES

We will let you know when they resume.

FROM MORNINGTON PENINSULA LANDCARE NETWORK ...

The proposed new Hillview Quarry on Arthurs Seat

Recently you may have noticed an advert in the local paper, placed by Hillview Quarries, providing their argument for opening of the new quarry. Following is an excerpt from a recent *Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network* newsletter bringing our attention to some good reasons why this travesty should not go ahead –



View of the area from the Bay side. To the far right is Arthurs Seat Road, in the centre is the current quarry, outlined in red to the left is the exhausted Pioneer Quarry that was proposed as a landfill site, and outlined in blue is the proposed new quarry. The remaining bush areas comprise Arthurs Seat State Park.

The Roy Everard Ross Heritage

The founder of the Ross Trust, Roy Everard Ross, who died in 1970, was a keen bushman with an excellent knowledge of local flora and real love of our indigenous birds. He set up the trust with three core foci; social welfare, nature conservation, and education of foreign students. His wishes were that the trust be used in part- for the acquisition, preservation and maintenance of national or public parkland, particularly the protection and preservation of flora and fauna". We consider that this mining proposal to be the antithesis of what Roy Everard Ross had intended for his legacy. We have no doubt that the RE Ross Trust has a commendable philanthropic record. However we firmly believe that this amazing property has enormous potential for rehabilitation as part of the Arthurs Seat State Park and that the Roy Everard Ross legacy to our community should not be this proposed massive and destructive environmental scar.

Reasons why Lancarers should care

This project proposes the clearing of 38 Ha (93acres) of significant bushland within the Green Wedge of the Mornington Peninsula. It will result

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in a massive 190 metre deep crater that will not only scar our environment forever but will also divide 2 parts of the Arthurs Seat State Park, thus destroying an essential component of the Mornington Peninsula Biolinks Project. It is worth noting that 38 Ha represents a similar area to that which has been regenerated under the major Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink program during the past three years.

This is deemed to be a 70 year project.



It would be naïve to believe that the Ross Trust would be any more committed to the task of environmental site rehabilitation then, having apparently ignored the same permit requirements for the last 20 years.

On release of the EES we have only 25 to 30 days to lodge an objection. The final decision is in the hands of the Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, whose decision cannot be challenged. The EES is not an independent document as it is totally funded and written for the benefit of the Trust and will no doubt produce an enormity of information to which our community with limited funds, nor specific specialists, will have little time to respond.

And Finally

A major cause for the diminishing biodiversity within our environment is loss of habitat. On the Mornington Peninsula with its encroachment of urbanisation, the shire and community groups such as Landcare have been working so hard to preserve and extend our unique habitats. This clearing of 38 Ha of prime bushland within the centre of our Peninsula-wide Biolinks and splitting of our two major public native parks runs counter to this dedicated community effort.

From an article and Images by Mark Lethlean -President Friends of Hooded Plover MP, and Vice-President Sheepwash Creek Catchment Landcare Group (all images taken in the proposed quarry area).

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For more information go to:

www.savearthursseat.com OR www.mplandcare.org.au

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LANDCARE GROUP HEALTH SURVEY

We recently completed the 2019-20 Landcare Group Health Survey.

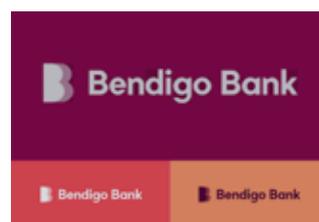
The survey is usually linked to the Victorian Landcare Grants application process, but with the grants process for 2020-21 delayed, groups were still encouraged to complete the survey, which provides excellent data and which helps illustrate the reach and scope of Landcare in our region.

The Port Phillip Westernport Catch Management Authority is using this data to create a 2019-20 Landcare Report Card, which will highlight key activities, demographics and the return on investment environmental volunteering delivers.

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FUNDING SUPPORT

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



Our website is maintained by:

Mornington Peninsula Websites
www.morningtonpeninsulawebsites.com.au

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2019/2020 COASTCARE PROJECT

- BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS

Site 1

Opposite house 591: Beach side of Bay Trail, now protected from unauthorised parking and revegetated to protect tree roots



Feb 2019



July 2020

Site 2

Opposite house 575: revegetated. Site is adjacent to works previously funded by CoastCare, and now provides more connectivity and protection for small mammals and reptiles



Feb 2019



July 2020

Site 3

Opposite house 599: revegetated to enhance visual amenity



Feb 2019



July 2020

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