



# McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

*Caring for the local environment*

## Newsletter Summer 2020

**Welcome** to the 2020 Summer issue of the newsletter.

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**FIRST WORKING  
BEE FOR 2020**

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup>  
FEBRUARY**

**10am at the  
Rotunda**



### **WHAT IS THIS? “The Boundary Road Project” or is it the proposed destruction of 100ha of old growth forest.**

Late last year you would have received notice about a general drop-in session providing information about what is called “The Boundary Road Project” and you may have attended such a session. Perhaps you didn’t go thinking it had no relevance for you – Boundary Road being in Dromana/Arthurs Seat and away from the McCrae foreshore.

Then you may have also noticed that the quarry scar on Arthurs Seat has grown substantially in the last six months. All this activity points to one thing, the fact that Hillview Quarries wishes to open a

new quarry on Arthurs Seat which could be up to 4 times bigger than the current quarry operated by them. See the photograph above. Hillview has requested a pit of 107 acres 190 metres deep; and 38ha of forest cleared. Dr Mark Fancutt, President of the Peninsula Preservation Group Save Arthurs Seat spoke to members at the AGM in December and outlined what this new quarry will mean not only to the 10 endangered vegetation classes and over 24 endangered fauna species which will be destroyed in the process, but also the residents, schools and food producers of Dromana who will

#### **Office Bearers:**

	President:	Len Warfe	5987 2537
Secretary:	Margaret Wilson	5986 4159	Treasurer: Jenny Warfe 5987 1583
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be subjected to blasting, noise, dust and around 40 truck trips per day.

Millions of dollars have been invested by Federal and State governments to establish a biolink across the Mornington Peninsula and Landcare groups are working hard to connect each of the conservation areas to protect the ecological significance of our parks and to eventually connect through from Greens Bush to Cape Schanck.

Recent reports from the Shire, government and the United Nations state that biodiversity is declining, the primary cause being land clearance. And the development of this new quarry which forms an essential component of the biolink, would lead to inevitable and wider-spread loss of biodiversity.

For what – to extract one million tonnes of rock per year for 70 years. This rock is unlikely to be used on the Mornington Peninsula as most major infrastructure projects and growth will be to the west of Melbourne and through the Cardinia, Berwick and Officer areas. There are much larger and more accessible reserves of granite in Gippsland which do not result in mass habitat loss which could be utilised.

The owner of Hillview Quarries is the RE Ross Trust - a charitable trust established in 1970 whose revenue is derived from Hillview Quarries in Dromana. Their mission is to:

1. Address disadvantage and inequity;
2. Encourage and promote social inclusiveness, community connectedness, health and wellbeing;
3. Protect and preserve Australian flora and fauna.

The Trust has supported many worthy charities and organisations throughout Victoria. But this comes at great expense. The Ross Trust has pursued projects which would cause irrevocable environmental, economic and social damage to the Mornington Peninsula (which incidentally, receives only a tiny portion of annual donations).

Add your voice to the opposition of this quarry. –  
\*\*Attend the community meeting being held by the Peninsula Preservation Group on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 4pm in the Dromana Community Hall.

\*\*Log on to [www.SaveArthursSeat.com](http://www.SaveArthursSeat.com) for more information and to sign a petition.

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## VALE LEN EVANS



We were saddened to hear that one of our longest serving members, Len Evans, had passed away last August.

Len was a member of the group for more than 20 years and for much of that time was our hard working Secretary, securing several of our early funding grants and engaging and supervising contractors undertaking works on our grants projects.

Len was committed to the restoration of the McCrae foreshore and we are grateful for his dedication.

Earlier last year, Len received a Mornington Peninsula Shire Volunteer Achievement Award in recognition of his dedication and long service to the McCrae foreshore.

His vision for the foreshore is gradually being realised and will continue to remind us of his zest and commitment for the preservation of the McCrae foreshore for future generations.

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## UPDATES

### Melbourne Water Grant 2020/2021

We have received formal advice that our application has been successful for continued maintenance at Coburn Creek and initial works at Eyrie Creek.

### CoastCare Victoria Community Grants 2019/2020

Work is progressing well under this project to protect our Coastal Banksia Woodland and revegetate degraded spaces (due to drought) along the McCrae foreshore.

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### Port Phillip Bay Fund Round 3 Community Grants

Work is well under way under this project which aims to reduce the cover of high-threat weed species in the McCrae and Rosebud Foreshore Reserves (from Chinaman’s Creek to Anthony’s Nose) in line with the Shire’s natural systems strategic priorities. Carried out under the auspices of the Shire Bushland Management Team.

### Port Phillip Westport VLG Grant 2019/2020

We were successful in attracting a support grant of \$500 under this scheme. These monies will cover our insurance and compliance costs for 2020.

#### In addition:

The group made a submission to the Mornington Peninsula Shire to allocate funds in the 2021/2020 budget to further rejuvenate Eyrie Creek.

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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 <small>Lowest since 2006</small>
2019	621.50.00mm

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### NEW BEACH FURNITURE

You may have noticed the two new picnic tables and several new seats which have been installed along the Bay Trail. The MHCG was very surprised to see these new additions, particularly as they had been erected in areas we are trying to revegetate, and were very disappointed that we had not been consulted – or even just plain informed, that this furniture was to be installed.

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On enquiry, we were advised that the installations had been carried out by the Shire at the request of a local Probus walking group.

We sought a meeting with Shire Officers to discuss the matter. We’re not particularly opposed to the installation of seating to ensure Bay Trail walkers have adequate places for rest but were concerned that the placement of the picnic tables was inappropriate. Shire Officers admitted the matter could have been handled better, and the end result of the discussions is an agreement that the seats remain but the picnic tables be removed. This was to have taken place before the end of 2019, but as of last week they were still there.

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### KOALA FORUM

Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm

There is growing interest within our community to understand what we can all do to assist our diminishing Koala populations on the peninsula. The Shire is pleased to be hosting a forum where a range of expert guests will be speaking on Koalas and Koala habitat, and to find out ways we can support Koala conservation. For further details and to RSVP, please click on the Eventbrite link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/koala-forum-finding-ways-to-support-koala-conservation-tickets-90270472413>

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### FRIENDS GROUPS NETWORK EVENT

Advance notice of this event to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Put the date in your diary. Further information will follow.

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### POLICE POINT WORKING BEES 2020

Advance notice for the 2020 working bees. Put the dates in your diary now:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Keep a look out for further information.

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## SHIRE'S BIOLINK DECISION MAKING TOOL

MHCG was invited to send two representatives to the original workshop and a confidential draft report was distributed in mid-December.

A follow-up workshop is planned for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February before the final proposal is put to Council.

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## BUSHFIRES

The bushfires still raging in Gippsland and the high country remind us to look to our own backyard to make sure that we have a proper evacuation plan.

18.6 million hectares of bushland have been burnt to a cinder – that is equivalent to the size of 258 Mornington Peninsula Shires – incomprehensible.

We also share a thought for all those people who were caught up in the blazing fires, those who lost homes and stock, the destruction of wildlife and wildlife habitat, those who sadly lost their lives fighting to contain the inferno and those whose businesses have been greatly impacted.

Make sure you are aware of the daily situation by going to [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

## 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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## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2020

At the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the following people were elected to the committee for 2020:

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

Congratulations!

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## REMINDER

Membership subscriptions are now overdue.

In the rush of the festive and holiday season you may have overlooked paying your subscription.

If you require another application form, please email [mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au](mailto:mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au)

Otherwise send the completed form and your cheque to PO Box 29, McCrae 3938.

You may also pay by direct credit\* to the MHCG bank account:

BSB 633 000 Bendigo Bank Dromana.

Account 126679034 McCrae Homestead Coastal Group - quote your surname in the reference box.

\*Note that agreement to abide by the Rules of the Association is automatic when you pay by direct credit.

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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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