

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### MCCRAE HOMESTEAD COASTAL GROUP AGM 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM of our Association.

At a local government level, we have recently voted in 8 new councillors, so we hope we don't have to fight the same issues that were so contentious with the previous council- eg: the pool on the foreshore, Rosebud Foreshore Master plan etc. We need to remain vigilant for old bad ideas getting a re-run.

At a state government level, the Andrews government is half way through the production of a new Marine and Coastal Act to replace the Coastal Management Act 1995. At the recent community consultations DELWP Officers described the CMA as deficient in offering the best protection for our coastlines and particularly the Bay- they pointed out that but the CMA is largely silent on the Bay, the 2000 sq. kms of water surrounded by and affected what happens on the coast. The new name – Marine and Coastal Act reflects that change of focus. The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 is also under review – and it is hoped that the impacts of humans, native vegetation removal, mismanaged “controlled” burns and removal of the 5% target for public land to be burned every year, will all be considered as part of guaranteeing a future for our flora and fauna.

#### **Turning to the local scene:**

Works on the Coburn Creek by contractor Sue Di Iorio are progressing to plan, and are nearing completion. On November 6<sup>th</sup> we assisted in planting the west bank of the creek with plants provided by Sue.

This year we received a \$4,000 grant from MPSC to remove woody weeds at the narrow section of the Reserve at Anthony's Nose. We plan to start this work early next year.

#### **Membership**

This year we have welcomed 4 new members: Felix Fuller- Jackson; Helen Ryan; Heather Lyon and Yvonne Davey. We farewelled Rachel Anderson who moved to Queensland.

#### **Working Bees**

We didn't do any tree planting in 2015, but in May this year we planted trees near the Rotunda, the toilet block and further east along the track.

During October, to our dismay we came across some severe damage to juvenile new She oaks and Banksias opposite about 595 Pt. Nepean Rd. they had been growing well and some had reached around 2 metres height. Margaret Wilson photographed the damage and the images are in our latest newsletter.

In July, Dee offered to provide hot soup and muffins for our after work lunch, and since then it has become a welcome addition to the morning's activities. Sometimes it has been in the rotunda and sometimes at Barry and Dee's home- so thankyou B&D on behalf of the group for your hospitality and support.

This year we have worked 22 Sundays for a total of 320 hours. Last year we worked 19 days and clocked up 260 hours. Our new members, and maybe the soup, have contributed to a significant increase in hours worked- so more weeds out and more trees in. A great outcome for our foreshore.

Highest attendance was our first day back on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016, when 11 attended, and the lowest was last Sunday when 3 attended.

### **Other issues**

Margaret Wilson has been our Secretary this year, and has oversighted our website, and produced excellent newsletters throughout the year. Thank you Margaret

Naturelinks continues to be the MPSC's supervising contractor overseeing our works on the foreshore, led by Danielle Suffern. Tess Graham alternates with Danielle between our week 1 and 2 sessions, and they also do other works on the Reserve – spraying etc. - as part of their normal work schedule.

We have received 2 grants this year for works on the foreshore, one from Melbourne Water, and one from MPSC.

Late last year Council agreed to install a bike cavaletti on either side of the road into the beach car park, aimed at slowing cyclists and pedestrians on their approach to the Pedestrian crossing on the road. Council had initially proposed quite severe cutting back of mature vegetation to supposedly improve visibility on approach to the road. After a meeting with our group's representatives, Council agreed that they had no data on any incidents for the area, and that the cavaletti was a suitable low impact response.

So, as always I thank you all for your dedication to our special section of our coastline. Congratulations to you all.

Our efforts are often commented on by the numbers of walkers who pass by when we work there, and I'm sure you agree there is great satisfaction in giving back something to the environment.

May we keep it up for a long time to come!