

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MHCG AGM 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the 23rd AGM of our Association. For over 23 years now we have focussed our efforts on the restoration of the foreshore and beach between the McCrae lighthouse and Anthony's Nose. I'm sure you will agree that we should be extremely proud of what we have achieved since we first started working on what was a degraded and pretty sad looking section of foreshore. It is now a welcome sight from all who pass by.

This year has not been our most active due to the COVID restrictions, which is also the reason for the delayed AGM.

In fact, during the usual 2020 reporting year (November to October) we only managed 9 days of onsite work in, instead of the usual 22.

Our highest attendance was 9 and lowest was 7, and the 9 days of work amounted to 136 hours compared with last year's 22 days and 340 hours.

Dee and Barry Robinson have only been able to provide 5 post working bee lunches, including our Xmas party on 8th December. I have added an extra 10 hours of volunteer hours to our total hours for Dee's catering time, to make a total of 146 hours of volunteer efforts for McCrae foreshore. Our deepest thanks again to Barry and Dee for their years of support to our group.

Membership is around 16 with one new member joining this year Danielle Gold. A warm welcome to you Danielle.

As with most volunteer groups, membership numbers and dwindling operating funds seems to be an issue, and you may have noted in the Agenda that we will be asking you to consider us raising the membership fee to \$10.

Grants: I am pleased to report our great success in our submission to last year's MPSC budget for funds to start restoring Eyrie Creek.

After several unsuccessful submissions to Melbourne Water and then the Commonwealth Bank, the Shire allocated \$24,500 in its budget for Eyrie Creek works. The Natural Systems Team within the Shire is responsible for managing the grant spending, so unlike the other grants we obtain (Coastcare, MW, PPWP CMA etc.) we don't have the administrative burden!

I will leave discussion about future grant opportunities and grants received during last year to Margaret and Jenny.

To our great benefit Naturelinks continues in charge of our working bees, under the guidance of Danielle Suffern and new Naturelinks team member Maggie Logan, who replaces Emily Sharp. We send our thanks to Emily for her past work with us.

We would normally have participated in 3 planting and mulch spreading events during the year, but this had to be handed over to Naturelinks as the planting season occurred during lockdown. So, on the few days that we were on site, we were confined to weeding and the usual picking up of rubbish.

We are particularly grateful to Danielle and her team at Naturelinks for keeping our part of paradise in such good shape during our absence, her particular commitment to McCrae foreshore, and for her regular encouraging reports.

Danielle will give us a report tonight on Naturelinks works in our absence.

To the committee- Once again many thanks to all committee members whose efforts, as usual, have been much appreciated.

Other issues of interest:

Save Arthurs Seat campaign: You will recall that at our last AGM Save Arthurs Seat campaigners Dr. Mark Fancett and Michelle de La Coeur were our guest speakers. Following their talk the meeting resolved to write to Local MP Chris Brayne MLA, with copies to The Premier, Minister For Planning, Minister For Environment & Energy, R.E. Ross Trust, and all Eastern Victoria MLC's

I can report that we did receive a reply from Mr. Brayne advising:

"I have ongoing contact with Minister Wynne's office regarding this issue and have voiced my community's concerns about the project."

Save Arthurs Seat now has an experienced PR person and a highly qualified IT person helping to boost the group's profile. The PR person negotiated with Dromana Drive In and the Rosebud and Sorrento cinemas to run a "movie trailer" produced by the PR person and voiced by well known actor Stephen Curry (from The Castle) before all their screenings. It showcases some of the magnificent places that would be lost if the quarry project proceeds. Apparently it has been very well received.

We have more recently heard through local channels that Mr. Brayne was unhappy with the showing of the movie trailer at the Drive In and Cinemas, and subsequently declined a request from a constituent to assist in organising a meeting with relevant Ministers to discuss the Quarry issue.

Despite this apparent lack of interest from the local state MP, The Save Arthurs Seat campaign has continued to gain momentum and wide community support. Lots of information on their website.

You may have also noticed the Quarry project have boosted their local advertising to convince the community that the project is benign.

Dredging and sand pumping at McCrae and Dromana:

Representing PPCC, (of which MHCG is a member organisation) in January Jenny and I met with DELWP coastal Engineer Neil Daykin and another officer in charge of DELWP's beach renourishment programs.

Along with a local engineer John Weir and McCrae architect Paul Millsom we met in the car park on McCrae foreshore to discuss concerns about the new groyne design and the impacts they are having,

And to discuss DELWP's proposal (now underway) to dredge 50,000 m³ sand from the offshore sandbar to renourish the McCrae beach and Dromana beach east of the boat ramp.

The dredge is currently working off Anthonys Nose and pumping sand onto the beach in front of the Dromana foreshore caravan area.

Cliff and foreshore at Anthony's Nose:

With our friend and Civil Engineer John Weir, Jenny and I recently wrote to Council's Coastal Planner Zac Grimes and local Councillors to lobby for the windswept, rubbish strewn wasteland between the beach and Anthonys Nose cliff to be rehabilitated, and for the unsightly weed infestation on the face of Anthon Nose to be weeded and revegetated.

Last week we met with one of the new local ward Councillors Kerri McCafferty who seemed genuinely interested in our suggestions for a Master plan for the area.

It would enhance the years of successful work we have put in on enhancing McCrae foreshore if it wasn't bookended by the ugliness of the barren treeless area immediately east of our works.

Finally as always my deep thanks and congratulations to all of you for your dedication to keep on working to protect our special place on McCrae foreshore. Your support and companionship is enjoyed and greatly appreciated.

At the end of the meeting Jenny will show some before and after images of our works over the last few years.

Len Warfe

President MHCG, 24th February 2021