

Autumn Edition

Contact Us:

- www.morningtonenviro.org.au
- morningtonea@gmail.com
- **PO Box 580 Mornington 3931**
- **Monthly Meetings**

7:30PM 2nd Thursdays Feb. –Dec.

Mornington Library Meeting Room.

President: Jan Oliver 0417986077

Vice Pres.: Christine Stewart
59756687

Secretary: Franz Bjerkhamn
0407572089

Tanti Creek Friends: Sec. Judy Seager
seager2@bigpond.com

Mills Beach Friends: Jan 0417986077,
morningtonea@gmail.com

Fisherman's Beach: Peter Deerson:
pdeerson@netscape.net

There is movement at the Red Bluff

Friends of Mills Beach have been working on the rehabilitation of the vegetation on Red Bluff Mornington for the last two years. The project is financed by Federal and Coastcare grants. At last we are seeing some results!

Flame Robins have arrived from Tasmania to spend the winter in Victoria. They can be sighted on the Red Bluff and were photographed during Easter week near the second lookout, enjoying our restored habitat. They eat from the ground, often caterpillars.

Our work is visible and the plastic shields protect the new growth. Surprisingly, we note that many plants have survived the hot dry summer.



Photo: Danny Vits

Marine Environment News

1. Feral Sea Stars

Following up on the feral starfish pictured shown here (see our last edition), local media reports that there is to be a removal day at the harbour and pier organized by Paul Talbot: CLEAN UP OUR WATER. The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) says that Northern Pacific Sea Stars are a serious marine pest.

M.E.A. members are encouraged to sign up www.cleanupourwater.com.au



2. Support Dolphin Research - The Dolphin Research Institute is looking for volunteers to assist with their 2014 Community Dolphin Monitoring Project.

Dolphin Monitoring day is the second Sunday of each month for about 3 hours. They have land-based sites between Mt Eliza to Mt Martha and need volunteers who want to make a regular commitment to get involved.



3. Water Quality Testing In Progress - Nigel Nicholls, from the Environment Protection Authority, is in charge of the latest local water testing. He told Jan Oliver recently that Melbourne University Research has a team in charge of monitoring the water in the local creeks and drains. Our Tanti working bee has found apparatus for testing ammonia. It is likely we will be sent a report at the end of the experiments (late May). So far no ammonia has been found in Tanti Creek lower reaches.

4. Mornington Pier progress - Work is well underway on the seaward end of the pier, at a cost of 15 million dollars

The old piles are being removed in pieces and new steel piles are being dropped in. The aquatic environment with dozens of species on the wooden piles will go. However, we expect that the new piles will be re-colonized by seaweeds and other organisms quite

quickly and then we will enjoy the return of our endangered seahorses. MEA has approached our local MP David Morris MLA and Parks Vic. about retaining some of the old wooden piles to serve as a historical memorial. Parks Victoria have this well in hand. Some of the piles are also going to be used in the reconstruction of the toilet block facing Mothers beach.

5. Harbour Precinct Stakeholder Group - MEA has two representatives on this group but it has not met since mid 2013. Two consultants' reports have been received by council. Traffic recommendations to the Shire should improve parking, access and use of the local roads, but the cost may be millions. The Group has not seen the engineering report from Gutteridge, Haskins & Davies (GHD) who were the original consultants for the marina proposal by the Yacht Club in 1991. That proposal was thrown out by the State Government.



Brian and Danielle at the water testing site



Tanti Creek Friends

President Judith Martin of TCF will be moving from Mornington in May. She is heading to Sydney to be closer to family. Judith was a foundation member of the Tanti Creek Friends and has been responsible for the design of all plantings since 2007. She contributed significantly to the winning of the Mornington Peninsula Heritage Award 2012, presented by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and National Trust of Australia (Vic), Mornington Peninsula branch. It recognised the successful restoration of the estuary area of Tanti Creek, Mornington, by the planting of indigenous species over a five year period. She increased local involvement in the restoration of the Creek and implemented the schools program using funds from the Inger Stevens memorial fund. Judith's presence will be sorely missed by our team of volunteers but we all send her our very sincere good wishes for her new adventures in Sydney.

**Her last meeting is
Thursday 1st May at 7:30 at Judy Seager's.
For further information contact Jan Oliver.**



Judith planting close to Tanti Creek - her abiding passion

Left - Judith and Remy with the sign erected on the regenerated site acknowledging Inger Stevens Memorial Fund

WORKING BEES

Volunteers meet to work and care for the following areas: see page 1 for contacts

Mills Beach - 3rd Sunday of the month
18 May 9:30—11:30

Tanti Creek - Last Sunday of the month
25 May 9:30—11:30

We need you!



One of MEA's key objectives is to support all waste reduction on the Peninsula. We urge all our readers to participate in this Shire initiative as outlined below.

Please contact MEA – morningtonea@gmail.com

The Mornington Peninsula Shire would like to invite you to participate in the review of its Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Let's Talk Waste.

This is your opportunity to have your say on the future of waste management and recycling services in our community.

The Shire's overall vision is to move towards zero waste to landfill.

With this objective in mind, they are seeking feedback on the following aspects of waste management:

1. Household Kerbside Collection Services
2. Resource Recovery Infrastructure (Resource Recovery Centres and hoppers, Mornington Recycle Shop, Green Waste Processing Facilities and voucher system)
3. Management of landfill waste
4. Waste Reduction

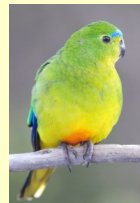
There are a number of opportunities for people to get involved in the review process from 1 April – 30 May.

Online surveys or **Community Engagement Forums** are scheduled for Tuesday 13 May and Thursday 29 May 6pm – 9pm. Register your attendance with the Shire Office.

www.yoursay.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Time to have a say.

Orange Bellied Parrot



We have been invited to assist with the survey to observe the local area on specific dates to see if any of these endangered birds turn up around the Westernport-Bass Coast

Dates for our area are 17-18/5, 26/27 /7 and 13/14 /9

Pearcedale Sanctuary is now breeding Orange Bellied Parrots. Members of MEA may remember visiting there under the Biosphere Program some 5 years ago. It would be good to see some of our members supporting this project.

Websites and newsletters of interest:

www.cleanupourwater.com.au
[www.info@peninsulaspeaks.org.au](mailto:info@peninsulaspeaks.org.au)
www.marineconservation.org.au
www.ppwcmma.org.au
www.landcareonline.com.au
www.nattrust.com.au

Briars Ward Community Meeting, Mt Eliza on 25/2/14

There was a good turn out of local residents.

A MEA rep spoke privately to Councillor Bev Colomb about damage to the surrounds of the Mornington Life Saving Club in 2013. Bev assured us that such non-compliance matters were being taken very seriously by the Shire and emphasised that she can only make comment in general terms. Thank you Bev for your clarification.

You can be involved

If you would like to join in, membership forms are available on the web site.

Fees are: Family \$15; Single \$10; Concession \$7

You can write to Mornington Environment Association Inc. P.O.Box 580 Mornington 3931 or

email morningtonea@gmail.com

Please include name, address, phone and email address.

Working bee volunteers are contacted by email or phone.