



Locals caring for our local environment

President's Message

Greetings everyone,

I am thankful for the support and advice from all members of MEA, the various Friends groups and everyone who helped me throughout last year. It was a testing first year as President and a huge learning curve for me, but also interesting to develop contact with various groups across the Mornington Peninsula.

The main issue from the last year was the change to State-wide planning by Minister Peter Wynne. We assisted with letterbox drops for Peninsula Speaks supporting their petition to State Parliament. Thank you to the members who helped.

All three applications for Coastcare Grants from DWELP have been successful. Congratulations to Peter Nicholson for Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path, Peter Deerson for the Friends of Fisherman's Beach for the work at Linley Point and MEA / Friends of Mills Beach for further work to Red Bluff. Keep up the great work and thank you to all volunteers who help out. Brilliant effort everyone.

I regularly attended meetings of Devilbend Foundation which has been moving forward, with some local schools coming on board from Tyabb and Moorooduc. The children will become *Ambassadors for Devilbend*, having learned about the area, birdlife and local flora and fauna.

It is good to see the Mornington Peninsula Shire adopt some policies across issues of rubbish/plastic. The landfill issue is a major problem everywhere.

Start up group Beach Patrol Mornington - collecting rubbish once a month at various beaches across the 3931 postcode. First cleanup was at Fisherman's Beach in April and Mills Beach was on Sunday 20th May. Congratulations to Dawn Scott for organising this.

We will be doing a local letterbox drop in the area shortly to promote Friends of Mills Beach and Mornington Environment Association as we desperately need to share the work with caring local help. As a group, by giving just a little bit, we can eventually make a significant difference to where we live!

Please join us and help us make change possible.

Volunteers are Vital!

Jill McIver. President - MEA



Welcome coffee break
for the hard working team at Mills Beach



Fence successfully installed
behind the
Life Saving Club at Mills Beach

MEA General Meeting Dates 2018/2019 Held at Mornington Library Meeting Room

Vancouver St. Mornington

Wed 6 June 2018, 7-9pm

Thurs 5 July 2018, 7-9pm

Thurs 2 Aug 2018, 7-9pm

Wed 12 Sept 2018, 7-9pm

Thurs 4 Oct 2018, 7-9pm

Thurs 1 Nov 2018, 7-9pm

Thurs 7 Feb 2019, 7-9pm

Thurs 7 Mar 2019 7-9pm

Thurs 4 Apr 2019 7-9pm



Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path



The Beleura Cliff Path Friends Group is planting indigenous plants along the edges of this iconic Mornington cliff walk to enhance its beauty and to preserve the path itself from erosion. The steep cliffs north of Mills beach, through which the path climbs, contain large areas of remnant Coastal Headland Scrub, which these days is quite rare and is a valuable wildlife corridor. The wildness of this walk is part of its character, along with the serene views of the sea and rocks below.

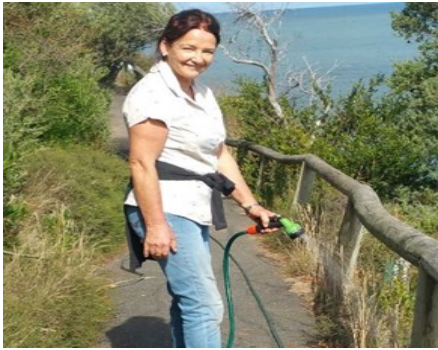


However, the cliff suffers weed incursions and erosion and in the last 12 years has been closed three times because of small landslips. Our group is determined this will never happen again. To achieve this we are planting deep-rooted, indigenous plants along the edges of the path. To give them a better chance of survival we often make small "terraces" with timber sleepers to catch water, and put in drip irrigation to help the plants survive their first couple of summers. When the plants grow, the paths edges will be much more stable and the plants will spread their seeds to the areas below.



Beleura Cliff Path Continues.....

The irrigation lines we put in are not connected directly to any water supply or automated system. We connect them manually when we are working in the immediate area. The water is supplied by hose by generous house-holders above. It is only used in very dry spells, for new plants, and for “watering in” on planting days. Our survival rate for seedlings is a remarkably high 90%.



The indigenous species we plant are the ones you see now clinging to survival in the toughest spots on the cliff t-tree, sea box, coast beard heath, pomaderris, several species of wallaby grass, “elegantissima” spear grass, boobiallas, small pig-face, bower spinach, seaberry salt-bush, coastal spear grass, eutaxia and other deep-rooted salt/drought/heat/wind tolerant species.



We scrape the path shoulder with shovels in many areas to allow the water to exit the path in a thousand places rather than run down the asphalt and flow off in a torrent at an unsuitable place.



The working bees are the first Thursday of each month, from 9 to 11.15am followed by coffee and biscuits! Notices on the Cliff Path advertise each working bee. If you would like to get an email before the next one, contact Peter Nicholson, 0400 326 306, beleura-cliffpath@gmail.com

Rehabilitation/Revegetation

TCF and Naturelinks activity has focussed on the Mills Beach Close, Stones and Hospital sites. All areas are showing the benefits of handweeding and watering, with excellent growth and surprising natural regeneration despite the dry conditions.

Thanks to our dedicated Friends for your ongoing sterling efforts and to Dan and Jaala at Naturelinks. Welcome to new TCF members Ron Johnson, Louise Permezel and Theresa Carmichael.



Stones Jan 2017



Stones Feb 2018



Hand-weeding behind Flame Tree Grove. Natural regeneration is occurring around plantings in an area mistakenly cleared by residents.

Grants

TCF successfully applied for a \$11,605 Melbourne Water Community Grant for 2018/19. The funds will enable us to continue work at our existing sites, and start work on two new areas. These will be the Railway area (opposite the Watts Rd tourist railway station) and Morven (a small area of high conservation value downslope of the Morven Manor Retirement Village).

Other TCF Activities

TCF participated in a VCAT Compulsory Conference re: a five-townhouse development backing onto Tanti creek at 87 Herbert St Mornington. TCF's concern was an uncorrected error in the post-development site permeability figure. This may have resulted in larger discharges into the creek than should have been permitted. VCAT ordered the error be corrected.

Surveying of bird species along Tanti Creek between Creek Rd and Barkly St commenced in December 2017. The monthly surveys are led by avid bird-watcher and Tanti Creek neighbour Neil Shelley. The list of 30 species is available from Marty Lenard.

Waterwatch testing of creek water continued. The background water quality is very good.

Our Tanti Creek Estuary and History signs have finally been completed after many years work. Keep an eye out for the unveiling ceremony!

Maintenance

Works along the creek have included:

Removal of willows at Hunters Crossing and rock-walling downstream of Creek Rd by Melbourne Water. The rock-walling rectifies a major bank erosion front and is estimated to have cost \$80,000.

Pruning of willows by Naturelinks at Green Paddock in preparation for planting along the creek bank to Stones Crossing bridge by Mornington Shire..



Pictures of recent plantings along the foreshore. Hopefully they will take root and enjoy the winter rain .



Fishies Friends: Autumn 2018

The Fishermen's Beach friends group has applied to Coastcare, through MEA, for a grant of \$8210 to cover the cost of employing Naturelink to assist in restoring and enhancing the Coastal Headland Scrub along Linley Point and Fisherman's Beach.

Despite its iconic position, Linley Point's vegetation is quite degraded. The grant would cover woody weed and ground weed control, revegetation using a variety of indigenous plants and planting preparation. The Fishies Friends will provide labour in planting clearing with an in-kind value equivalent to the grant.

The Friends group has already done considerable work on the site. We await the outcome of our application

Peter Deerson

Coordinator, Fishies Friends Group

In Sympathy



Old photo showing the Mornington Pier in earlier days .

Contact Us:

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Position Currently Vacant

Tanti Creek Friends:

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Mills Beach Friends:

Brian Burrows 59756029 ,

brianburrows8@gmail.com

Fisherman's Beach:

Peter Deerson:

pdeerson@netscape.net

WORKING BEES

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

Mills Beach - 3rd Sunday of the month

9:30—11:30

Tanti Creek - Last Tuesday of the month

9:30—11:30

contact Martin for details.

We value your support!



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

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.

Clean Up Australia Day 2018

This year's Clean Up Australia day was attended by thirty volunteers helping to clean up the Mills Beach foreshore and adjacent areas.



Again, there was a wide range of ages, including three young travellers from Europe brought along by their Australian friend for the experience.

Age (years)	Number
5 to 18	3
19 to 29	3
30 to 39	7
40 to 49	8
50 to 59	1
60 to 69	4
70 to 79	3
Over 80	1

With this number of volunteers, we were able to clean up not only the Mills Beach foreshore (around the estuary, behind the beach houses and along the paths) but also covered Red Bluff and Shire Hall Beach. Additionally, a group worked their way up Tanti Creek to Stone's Bridge, collecting three bags of rubbish and two bags of recyclables. Some further cleaning up was also achieved at Royal Beach and Fisherman's Beach.

A total of 17 big bags of rubbish and nine bags of recyclables were collected, less than last year but still a good number (or perhaps not!)

Many thanks to all those who came to help, and especially to Jill for her help in organising the event and for helping cope with the rush of volunteers on the day.

Brian Burrows
Mills Beach Site Organiser