

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Thursday 4th October 2018

AGM -2017-2018 – MORNINGTON ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Firstly, thank you all for continuing to support Mornington Environment Association and for all the messages of support I have received. I am grateful!

I would like to thank the outgoing Committee for their assistance this year; Margaret as Vice President, Victoria as initial Secretary, Ann Robb for stepping up as Acting Secretary and Jim as Treasurer.

As volunteers our members are all an integral part of what we do and hopefully we can work towards creating an environment we all enjoy in our Mornington community. As a group we must continue to adhere to the Objectives of the Association to defend the foreshore by protecting the positive attributes of the natural and human environment, including flora, fauna, the foreshore, public and private land, seabed, waterways and structures of historical significance. Also to support, oppose or amend development proposals which impact on our immediate environment and support other like minded groups.

I am currently attending a Habitat Management Course conducted by SPIFFA. Carolyn Rose and Marty Lenard are also attending. Some of the highlights that I think we should reinforce as a group to look at are:

What are our Objectives: have we got a plan and to discuss how do we implement that plan
Communicate effectively
Provide up to date information
Assess issues collectively for logical and positive outcomes with the skills that we have within the membership.
Create new initiatives for better options that benefit us and the community.

Just something to think about!

MEA has had a fairly quiet year with working bees regularly continuing with each group doing their own progressive work along the Mornington coastal area and Tanti Creek.

Mornington Environment Association supported two applications from Friends of Beleura Cliff Path and Friends of Fisherman's Beach for Coastcare Grants. MEA also made an application for Red Bluff for Friends of Mills Beach. All three were successful with approximately \$17,000 of money to be allocated for works in these areas. A great result which makes the work all worthwhile. Friends of Tanti Creek are also making further grant applications through Melbourne Water.

The Green Wedge has been a focus this year. I attended the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Green Wedge Summit where the importance of protecting the Green Wedge was highlighted for conservation, agricultural, economic and recreational environment purposes for future generations.

With our increasing population along our coastline planning and development issues continue to highlight themselves with infrastructure always being a major concern.

As MEA's delegate to Devilbend Foundation I have enjoyed being part of a different group that faces the same problems with it's membership base. Great to see the new Ambassador Program with local schools. I would encourage members if they have the time to visit other groups working bees or meetings of interest. Sometimes we need to look outside the square we live in to get a different perspective on what we do as a group.

I would like to acknowledge Hannah Brown from MPSC Natural Systems team who provides us with varying forms of information. Also, Dan Suffern from Naturelinks for your help with many issues over the past two years.

Keep up the great work.

Jill McIver