



Locals caring for our local environment

MEA COMMITTEE 2017



Jim Price
Treasurer,

Margaret Howden
Vice President,

Franz Bjerkhamn
Outgoing Secretary

Jan Oliver
Outgoing President

Jill McIver
Incoming President

Also: Christine Stewart Secretary

MEA gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contribution of our outgoing President Jan Oliver, OAM and outgoing Secretary Franz Bjerkhamn for their expertise, knowledge and guidance through some historical and formidable issues for MEA.

President's Message

Greetings everyone,
It is my pleasure to formally introduce myself, having been nominated and duly elected to the position of President of MEA.

I have lived in Mornington for 26 years, have two children and one grandchild all of whom live on the Mornington Peninsula. I have been a volunteer since my children were young, be it kinder, school, sport or other local group. It makes me feel good and I encourage you all to join in. Keep active and stay engaged with other people – it is good for us!

I would like to thank Kevin Street for his contribution as a member and delegate to Devilbend Foundation. Kevin resigned from the Foundation but has given years of invaluable advice towards creating a beautiful place to visit at Devilbend.

As incoming President I wasn't quite sure what I would be dealing with but have had a very steep learning curve with a few busy months. It has involved meeting new people from varying groups based across the Mornington Peninsula, attending meetings, creating new relationships with MPSC staff and contractors, reading and recording information about issues effecting us in and around the Mornington Peninsula.

continued...

Like any volunteer position I value the input from all members of our Association and hope that as a group we can make some changes for the betterment of the environment we all share. There have been some local planning issues that have been highlighted by members and residents. Hopefully they will result in appropriate changes or simply compliance within planning rules of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Department.

Amongst my aims as new President is to promote recruitment of a new generation of members to carry on the invaluable work already done by Mornington Environment Association. Also, to develop stronger alliances with like minded environmental groups across the Mornington Peninsula. Although we all have our own agendas in our own areas, by joining forces to make a larger lobby group we can create bigger and better changes.

I personally would also like to address the consequences to our environment of the effects of rubbish, through landfill and the amount of plastic/non degradable material that we all consume in our households and everyday life. I would like to open the conversation further on what we can do on the Mornington Peninsula to create a better place. Re-use/Recycle/Deposit for cans/bottles?

We continue as a group to provide working bees which is always pleasing to see the results after a few hours work and sometimes several years of planting/weeding around Tanti Creek/Mills Beach and now Beleura Cliff Path.

As a group by giving just a little bit we can eventually make a big difference to where we live!

Please join us and help us make changes possible. Volunteers are Vital!

Jill McIver
President - MEA

The Beleura Cliff Path



Compare the difference "before and after," above.

It shows the dramatic improvements of the area of work completed by the friends of Beleura

The Beleura Cliff Path, from Caraar Creek Lane to Mills Beach, has been neglected in recent years, so the Friends group is very focused on practical measures. Our top aim now is to plant deep-rooted long-lived indigenous plants along the downhill edge of the path, where there is bad erosion, or the shoulder is very thin. Most seedlings planted on this exposed, waterless edge die either immediately or during their first summer. Very discouraging and wasteful! We have adopted the practice of making small "terraces" along the path-edge, which catch the water and any falling leaves. These "terraces" are not intended to structurally hold up the path edge, but rather to give the seedlings and cuttings a chance to get established.

Once established, they will grow there for 50 years doing unpaid work for the benefit of the path, the shire, and the walkers and joggers. Tea-tree, Sea Box, Pomaderris, Eutaxia, Correa, Dianella, small pigface, and many other common "Coastal Headland Scrub" plants will hold the edge together with their roots.

Also, we don't pull out the large weeds like Polygala and Boneseed. Instead we use them as shelter for the seedlings we plant, and after a year or so we will start attacking the weeds, first just cutting them back leaving the roots alive, and later by cutting them off at the base, which kills the plant whilst leaving the roots dead but in place.

We hope to preserve the path, to make it more of a nature walk, to make it a better wild-life corridor joining Mills Beach to the golf course cliff, and to make the path edges a seed-bank for the cliff below.

More details: www.beleuracliffpath.com.au.



Under a funded project called Coastcare Community Grants from the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) the club received a Grant of \$4084.30 in April 2016. Under this Grant a new fence has been installed at the rear of the club rooms at Mills Beach. Shortly there will be mulch spread over the area and hopefully we will be planting at our working bee on June 17th at the rear of the fence. Further spraying of the area will be conducted later this year. Our original application in 2016 was for planting and protection of the midden under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, this was amended to include the fence installation. Hopefully, the new fence and plants will give further protection to the midden, a listed heritage site. This process took over 9 months due to the various departments/cultural requirements for this to proceed. Once all the money from the project has been allocated it will be signed off as complete.

I would like to acknowledge the Boonwurrung and Bunurong people, traditional owners of the land, Victorian State Government, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Naturelinks, Mornington Environment Association and Mornington Life Saving Club Committee.

Jill McIver Life Member - Mornington Life Saving Club

As a Life Member of Mornington Life Saving Club and before I became President of MEA, I applied for funding under **Coastcare Community Grants**, under the auspice of MEA, Friends of Mills Beach. We received funding for the project as outlined.

Tanti Creek Friends (TCF) – Update

Estuary

Weed control and rubbish collection

Banksias and casuarinas in restoration area all thriving

Green Paddock

Maintenance and flood debris removal

This area now regularly floods due to the increased storm-water flows



Flooding of Green Paddock adjacent to No1 Morell St

Stones Crossing/Strattons Lane

Seeing good growth of the canopy plantings completed to date

The poplar area and path on the west side of the creek have been sprayed in preparation for mulch spreading

Planting of ground cover and understory species planned for this Autumn



Cutting & painting poplar suckers at Stones poplar site

Creek Rd/Hospital

This area is on the west bank of the creek between Creek Rd and Tanti Ave

Restoration of the area was originally undertaken by the Shire following flood remediation works in about 2007.

TCF also assisted spreading mulch here at one of its first working bees.

TCF and the Green Army combined forces in late March to undertake maintenance of the remnant poas and lomandras from the original revegetation. Further The Green Army in action hand-weeding the creek reserve adjacent to Tanti Ave



Admin

We are awaiting the results of a Melbourne Water Community Grant application lodged last year.

TCF assisted Melbourne Water in an application for a Port Phillip Bay Fund grant. The proposal is to reduce the litter and sediment load entering Port Phillip Bay by installing a gross pollutant trap (GPT) in a major stormwater drain entering Tanti Creek.

mulching is planned.

Marty Lenard.

Vale Richard Grose

The death was announced early April of Richard Grose, one of the hardest workers for the environment around Mornington. He had been in care for several years but used to live on Beleura cliff top overlooking Mills Beach. He was an original member – and in fact, started, Friends of Mills Beach to preserve the cliff and its surrounds. I can recall working with him planting tough little plants in wire netting along the cliff above the path! Then he encouraged the Friends to move onto Mills Beach and we started restoration work all along the foreshore – the results of which are clearly visible today. Richard was always quiet but he was one of those people who ‘twinkled’ at you with a grin as we yanked out tough weeds or wielded clip-pers.

We will miss him.

Jan Oliver

Friends of Mills Beach



Happy Birthday



On behalf of MEA members I would all like to congratulate Jan Oliver on reaching another milestone, as last month she turned 80 years of age.

May your strength and energy continue to motivate us all.

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:

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Vice President

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Christine Stewart 59756687

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Brian Burrows 59756029 ,
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Fisherman's Beach:

Peter Deerson:
pdeerson@netscape.net

Clean Up Australia Day Report

Nearly fifty volunteers turned up for Clean Up Australia Day in Mornington, with all age groups being represented.

With the large number of volunteers, the Clean Up extended past the Mills Beach foreshore, taking in Red Bluff, Shire Hall Beach and Tanti Creek. Some further cleaning up was also achieved at Royal Beach and Fisherman's Beach.

A total of 24 big bags of rubbish (including many recyclables) were collected, twice as many as last year. Additionally, a lot of debris (sticks, leaves etc) in the water near the bridge was collected and placed for removal.

The organisers would like to congratulate and thank all those who gave up their Sunday morning in this effort, and look forward to seeing them all again next year.

Brian Burrows—Mills Beach Site Organiser



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Some members have signed the petition to, "Ban plastic bags across NSW, Victoria and WA." This is important.

Will you sign it too?

https://www.change.org/p/ban-plastic-bags-across-nsw-victoria-and-wa?utm_medium=email&utm_source=notification&utm_campaign=petition_signer_rec

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 Sunday of the month
9:30—11:30
and occasional Tuesdays
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 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.

