



Issue: **02**    **October 2013**

Mornington Environment Association Inc.

# M.E.A. News

Locals caring for our local environment

Spring Edition

## Updates.

Quarry at Arthur's Seat

We have received a letter notifying us that EPA has blocked the proposed use of quarry for dump as per MEA's submission.

Parks Victoria has set up a system to monitor dog-free beaches following public demand, so plovers & other birds can enjoy safe nesting.

MEA has revised its website. Visit us at [www.morningtonenviro.org.au](http://www.morningtonenviro.org.au)

Harbour Precinct Stakeholder Group is yet to consider two consultants' reports on traffic management and possible infrastructure construction. MEA's position remains "No marina!" Watch local media and MEA for updates.

Debris: There has been an unusually large amount of manufactured and natural waste entering the water systems such as Tanti Creek and washed up onto the local beaches. It is a result of localised spring rains and storms. Even dead penguins have been found. Friends of the beaches have been busy picking up harmful materials such as plastics and needles.

## Contact Us:

- [www.morningtonenviro.org.au](http://www.morningtonenviro.org.au)
- [morningtonea@gmail.com](mailto: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 Bjerkhavn 0407572089

*Tanti Creek Friends:* Judith Martin  
[jsm6064@gmail.com](mailto:jsm6064@gmail.com)

*Mills Beach Friends:* Jan 0417986077,  
[morningtonea@gmail.com](mailto:morningtonea@gmail.com)

*Fisherman's Beach:* Peter Deerson:  
[pdeerson@netscape.net](mailto:pdeerson@netscape.net)

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Busy students constructing nest boxes with the support of volunteers and Bunnings.

## School, volunteers, business and philanthropy working together.

Tanti Creek Friends worked most successfully with children of Mornington Primary School in June 2013.

Paul Bertuch (contractor) was funded from **Inger Steven**

**Memorial Fund** to work with Bunnings (Mornington) to lead students, their parents and MEA members. Boxes for bats and gliders are now installed along Tanti Creek, near the bridge at the end of Marchington St., and along the creek in large trees.

Monitoring of these and the earlier boxes sited on Red Bluff and Mills Beach is being undertaken to check what wildlife is there, as well as presence of feral cats and foxes. Warning to all – any roaming cats will be caught and removed due to Shire's 24 hour cat curfew.



During springtime lookout for and carefully dispose of feral starfish (N Pacific Seastar) pictured left. However, the 11-armed starfish (see right) and the large blue jellyfish are meant to be in the sea at this time of year! Deliberate cruelty is discouraged. Always encourage children to be interested in and respect sea creatures in their habitat.

The Draft Coastal Strategy has been released by the Victorian government, and if you are interested in protecting our coastal environment, the committee suggest you consult the web page and possibly attend one of the public meetings. The web page is [www.vcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au)

**Getup** is a grass roots community lobby website that encourages people to have a voice on current issues, such as the protection of the Great Barrier Reef. Take a look [www.getup.org.au](http://www.getup.org.au)

## CLIMATE COMMISSION becomes CLIMATE COUNCIL.

Following the withdrawal of funds by the current government, Tim Flannery's team has secured public donations from 30,000 Australians. This enables the team to continue to provide independent, expert information on climate change. Now called the **CLIMATE COUNCIL** you can follow their work and make donations of support: <https://secure.climatecouncil.org.au>

**Annual General Meeting** September 12th 2013

### Office Bearers

The following members were re-elected to office. President **Jan Oliver**, Vice President **Christine Stewart**, Treasurer **Jim Price**, and Secretary **Franz Bjerckhamn** with 2 committee members: **Judith Martin** and **Jude Burrows**. We appreciate the time and effort they contribute to support the goals of our Association.

### MEA's Year

Jan spoke of the year's activities. A full copy of the report is available on the MEA web site. See Page 1

### New Look WEB Site

The revamped web site was officially launched at AGM. Many thanks to Peter Robb and Peter Pavey for their support.



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### Constitution

Our new constitution in keeping with the 2012 legislation was approved by special resolution and is ready to be lodged with Consumer Affairs for acceptance. When we receive final approval the document will be available by electronic or hard copy.

## AGM Guest Speaker : Jeff Weir

### Director of Dolphin Research Institute

Jeff explained how important our local pod of Common dolphins is and we should watch for them off Mills and Shire Hall Beaches.

They are exceptional here in that they are ocean dolphins, and do get hit by boat propellers, tangled in fishing line, and chased and harassed by boats and by the bigger bottle-nosed dolphins.



The lead dolphin and her calf off Mills Beach 2007.

### HELP! We need dolphin watchers

Jeff made an appeal for local residents to watch for dolphins, with the help of pictures of local dolphins and news from Jeff's leaflets. Special viewing areas include Beleura Hill, Schnapper Point, and Linley Point. You can assist and **report sightings** – all the dolphins have been photographed and identified by the markings and notches on their dorsal fin.

**David Morris MP for Mornington commented** : "The pier repairs are progressing though they may stop over the Christmas holiday period. The basic footprint and shape of the pier has remained, however cement screens have been hung along both sides of the existing pier. State Planning:- New zones (including residential) have been agreed upon and location now up to Council. There will always be a need to oppose excessive proposals. The Shire and State Government support green wedge zones which ensures natural and agricultural land. This restricts developers who often state they are locked out of these areas. Existing green wedge zones stand, and have been strengthened, although site specific re-zonings are always possible. The Peninsula Planning Statement will consider Peninsula needs though is often a compromise because the Peninsula is complementary to the metropolitan area. Freeway service centres are now banned from the Green Wedge Zone.

David thanked all M.E.A. members for informing him on local needs

## WORKING BEES



**News on working bees** – The Shire and MEA leaders are deciding on priority requirements for the next twelve months. We have yet to apply for grants to assist with the costs of our work. The Shire has registered volunteers working at MEA working bees. The Shire has also undertaken risk assessments on the tasks usually completed by our group. The Naturelinks rep who leads our work is now implementing a short induction of all volunteers. Mills Beach, Red Bluff, Schnapper Point and Mothers Beach will continue to be our focus. Tanti Creek Friends continue to work

upstream from the Estuary with assistance from Melbourne Water. Fisherman's Beach restoration also continues— we all need new volunteers on a regular basis.

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

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



Above: - Friends of Tanti clearing flood debris September



Planting and weeding on one of the coldest Sunday mornings this winter

**Federal Government** thanked MEA for its report of the Fore-shore Restoration along Mills Beach by working bees. Maintenance of this area will continue into 2014.

### 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](mailto:morningtonea@gmail.com) Please include name, address, phone and email address Working bee volunteers are contacted by email or phone.