



M.E.A. News

Locals caring for their local environment

M.E.A EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019-2020



Margaret Howden
President



Anne Robb
Vice President



Jill McIver
Secretary



Peter Nicholson
Friends Group
Coordinator



Martin Lenard
Treasurer

President's Message

Hello everyone,

We are excited to be getting this newsletter to everyone.

It's been a while since we did our last one, but the corona lockdown has afforded us the opportunity to regroup and reflect.

What an amazing lot has been achieved by our wonderful, dedicated and hard working volunteers. A big thankyou to everyone who has been involved.

If you are yet to join, you will be made very welcome.

The more people we have helping the more work we can get done, to maintain and restore our beautiful natural environment.

Being involved ticks all the boxes - exercise, fresh air, social interaction, fun, new learning – great for all ages.

Please enjoy our newsletter.

Margaret Howden

Mornington Peninsular Shire Information

CHANGES TO LOCAL VEGETATION LAWS

From Councillor: Bev Colomb

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has been successful in advocating to the state government for improved planning controls for vegetation removal on the Peninsula. On Wednesday 5th August 2020, changes to the current vegetation removal exemptions came into effect through Amendment VC176. This state-wide change aligns the 10/30 and fence line vegetation exemptions with the Bushfire Prone Area map across all Victorian Councils. This means that landowners outside the Bushfire Prone Area and where there is a permit trigger for vegetation removal (for example, areas covered by the Vegetation Protection Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay, Significant Landscape Overlay) will now need to apply for a planning permit to remove vegetation.

What is a 10/30 rule or fence line vegetation exemption? Often you need a planning permit if you want to remove vegetation from your property. The 10/30 rule or fence line exemptions allow you to clear vegetation to help protect your property from bushfires without a planning permit if your property is located within a Bushfire Prone Area.

This exemption previously applied across the whole of the Mornington Peninsula, **it now only applies to areas within a Bushfire Prone Area.**

How do you find out if your property is in a Bushfire Prone Area? Bushfire Prone Areas are determined by the state government. You can determine if your property is within a Bushfire Prone Area or is affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay by visiting the VicPlan website. On this website you can access bushfire and other planning information by typing your address into the Search bar. You can zoom in and out of the map and use the layers tab to filter the layers you want displayed (e.g. Bushfire). You can also download a Planning Property Report.

For more information see:

mornpen.vic.gov.au/vegetationremoval

THE IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON MEA?

During the past few months of lockdown, MEA Executive and members have managed to address the following issues of interest:-

1. Development plans by individuals, developers and the Shire. Submissions were sent to the State Government Panel regarding AGL and the proposed gas pipeline and terminal at Cribb Point, a fossil fuel proposal not supported by the Shire or by Greg Hunt, Federal Member for Flinders.
2. The Executive and individual members submitted responses to the Shire's Climate Strategy;
3. Issues of concern have been discussed using e-communication including:
 - Arthur Seat quarry proposals.
 - Landscaping trees in Beleura Hill Road.
 - The Ryman Development for Mt Eliza. We support the Council decision to rezone this land so that development proposals, (for e.g. a retirement home) cannot go ahead in this Green Wedge area.
4. MEA's web site has been updated – check it out at morningtonenviro.org.au
5. MEA with Shire support submitted three applications for Coastcare grants with the State Government. These include ongoing work for Mills Beach Friends, Fisherman's Beach and Beleura Cliff Path. Decisions have been delayed, (inevitably, by the pandemic!) Without these funds, MEA would find it difficult to supply equipment, plants and the work of our preferred contractors, Naturelinks.
6. MEA has set up ZOOM meetings on the first Thursday of the month so please contact MEA to obtain the link and join in from the comfort of your home.

Activities we have missed during Lockdown:-

- Face to face monthly meetings with members.
- Friends Groups' monthly working bees, market / event promotions, street parades, water testing, interaction with other community groups such as Devilbend and Navy personnel from HMAS Cerberus (in uniform in the photo to the right).



What can we be doing now and in the near future?

- **Visit MEA Website** and become informed about MEA activity in this Locality.
- **Melbourne Water: Worried about cats and foxes along Tanti Creek and Red Bluff?**
Join Melbourne Water and industry professionals in this live webinar series exploring waterway management and conservation. The series features expert presenters covering ecological and waterway themes to inform and inspire.
- **Thursday 17th September 2020—Strategic Pest Animal Management**
Join Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Manager Jason Wishart to hear about some of the state's invasive species and the evolving strategies to manage them.
Register via [Eventbrite](#)
- **Help us** with our many areas of interest? Become a member and get notification of next working bees or issues to work on. Check our web site and use the application form
- **Attend the upcoming AGM.** Due in October - add to your diary.
- Move any grounded yellow 5 arm Sea Stars away from the water edge, they are considered a pest.

MEA Friend Groups Working Bee Progress

All our Friends' Groups are in lock-down at this stage and likely to be for some time. But we managed to use the short window of time in June (Stage 3) to get weeding and planting at Shire Hall Beach, Mornington. We had hundreds of plants to get in, to stabilise the dune, rehabilitate the area near the car park and toilet block and improve the look of the beach area and the beginning of the path up Red Bluff. And then it rained! So that's great for the plants as we only give them one small drink to start. Jan Oliver



Tanti Creek Friends (TCF) –

Strattons Lane Planting

On 5th July 2020, (during the break between lockdowns) a planting session was held at the west end of Strattons Lane.



From left to right: Jenny Lenard - Tanti Creek Friends (TCF), Lew Wilson (TCF), Ann Robb (TCF), Hannah Brown (Mornington Peninsula Shire), Roger Huxstep (TCF), Scott Doughty & Judy Corcoran (G J Gardner Homes). G J Gardner Homes provided 300 plants as part of their 15 Trees Initiative.

Strattons Lane is a popular urban walkway in Mornington that links east Beleura Hill to Main St via Stones Crossing. It is heavily used and crosses Tanti Creek at a particularly picturesque spot. However the laneway itself is rather bare, with no garden beds or vegetation.

Tanti Creek Friends (TCF) is working with the Mornington Peninsula Shire to make the area more attractive by converting several lawn areas along the path to native gardens. We also expect that the plantings will reduce the incidence of graffiti in the area.

Continued Strattons Lane

To date over 500 tube stock have been planted. Species include Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*), the ground cover *Goodenia geniculatum*, Wattle *Lomandra filiformis*, and Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma pilosum*).

The Chocolate Lilies are particular interesting. Not only do the purple flowers have a rich chocolate scent that attracts bees, moths and butterflies but the asparagus-related plants have an edible tuber. Bush tucker that includes dessert!



Jen and Marty Lenard are key workers in the Tanti Creek Friends Group.

Major General E J Milford Walk

The 300m long stretch of Tanti Creek between Barkly St and Stones Crossing provides some of the most spectacular gully woodland views in Mornington.

It is almost 20 years since the Tanti Creek Management Plan (Hale, 2002) recommended a path in this area.

It is almost 50 years since Major General E J Milford donated land in the area for a nature reserve. Unfortunately most Mornington residents are unaware of this beautiful public asset on their doorstep.

Tanti Creek Friends, local residents, the Shire and Morven Manor worked together to define a walking track that includes a wondrous section passing through towering Sugar Gums. This location also affords the best views across Tanti Creek.

The path has proven most popular with local residents out for a stroll, bird watching or dog-walking. It can be accessed from Stratton's Lane or Barkly St. Look for the wooden marking posts.

Marty Lenard, 0427 888 712,

Fisherman's Beach Friends

Peter Deerson continues to coordinate maintenance from Linley Point up to The Royal, including the area around the Bowls Club banks.

A report of progress was submitted to Coastcare and can be viewed on the MEA website. The following pictures document their ongoing achievements.



Friends of the Fishies area at work across from the Royal Hotel.



Area of conservation around the Boat Ramp.



Peter sets out to plant native coastal seedlings.

Continued

This small Friends group normally works on the foreshores from Linley Point up to royal Beach, including the Bowls Club banks. They work monthly and are coordinated by long time MEA member, Peter Deerson (who originally worked on Mills Beach). Photos include a general one of Friends and Peter separately. Peter 0401584792; Email - pdeerson@netscape.net

The Fishermans Beach Friends Group have been working hard on Linley Point over the last few years, removing woody weeds (mostly polygala, boxthorn and Mirror bush) and ground weeds, and replanting with indigenous species like banksias, casuarinas, correas and native clematis. It's been a terrific growing season this year, lots of water and enough sun to get most of the new plants racing ahead.

We've also done some work further along Fishermans Beach and up to Coral Beach, removing masses of thistles before they can seed. We hope we can do more planting of indigenous species if the current lockdown is eased and we can get together again on our monthly bees.

We welcome new members! The more people we have, the more we can return our coastline to its original beauty.



Extensive clearing of Polygala along the fenced areas.

The Beleura Cliff Path Friends



Congratulations!!! Peter Nicholson and Beleura Cliff Path Friends have won a “Major Place” grant from the government. The Friends Group will make good use of the money to support this significant area for us all to enjoy. The Friends group have use of a greenhouse and plant-houses on the cliff at Peter Nicholson’s property. The path has become a favoured walk for families.



We promote Community engagement: we have a job for everyone especially the young and eager. Our “Bees” have success planting in a dry, hostile environment. Getting water to our new plants is our biggest task.



We removed sack loads of shallow-rooted woody weeds like Polygala.



Beleura Cliff Path Friends continues...

Views of Eroded Granite - Yellow Bluff - Before and After



The Beleura Cliff Path. This is what you see.



The dotted line is the cliff path, a much loved public walk. Below that is the magnificent view of the wild cliff and coast, open to everyone. The cliff is a rare stand of Coastal Headland Scrub, under serious threat from woody weeds and erosion. The Friends of the Beleura Cliff Path have a systematic plan to preserve and enhance this shire asset.

The Cliff Path provides the perfect vantage for Dolphin watchers who gather useful data of the marine wildlife.

(In connection with Dolphin Research Institute).



2020 Clean Up Australia Day Report

Luckily we were able to carry out the “Clean Up” on 1st March, just prior to our country lockdown.

Thirty volunteers participated at the Mills Beach site, with all age groups being represented.

The Clean Up extended past the Mills Beach foreshore, taking in Red Bluff, Shire Hall Beach and Tanti Creek and a nearby park.

A total of 20 large bags of rubbish (including many recyclables) were collected, plus natural debris (sticks, leaves etc) was removed from under Tanti Creek bridge. It created an attractive entry from the Tanti Car park across to the Mills Beach. Overall the total collected was down on last year which is reassuring.

Thanks to all those who gave up their Sunday morning we all appreciated their commitment to our local environment.

Brian Burrows - Clean up Australia and Mills Beach Coordinator



During covid 19 pandemic we clap our caring hero

Kate Phillips



Kate is one of the hardest working MEA volunteers as well as doing her everyday work in full Covid PPE at Frankston Hospital. It is a reminder that as volunteers, ratepayers and local workers, the Beleura Cliff Path Friends Group is an integral and valuable part of our community. Goodonya Kate (From Anthony).



Nature: Coastal headland wildflowers

Left:
Melaleuca Squarrosa
Bottlebrush Tea -Tree

Right:
Clematis Microphylla
Old Man's Beard

Thriving on the Beleura Cliff Path.



RED BLUFF RESERVE DAMAGED BY BIKE TRAILERS

Red Bluff, above Mills Beach and the estuary of Tanti Creek, Mornington, has been restored to much of its Headland scrub

by over ten years of work by Friends of Mills Beach, the Green Army and Naturelinks contractors. In July local school children had decided to turn several pathways into mountain bike trails and it took unofficial working bee members (masked!) and Shire intervention to fill in metre deep holes on one side of the path closest to the Esplanade, and to block off a deep trail leading through the destroyed valuable ground cover and uprooted bushes. Several teenagers were spoken to, and stated they were locals, but didn't realise this Red Bluff was reserve or anything special. The Shire reports that these trails are being made all around the Peninsula, some involving parents helping with front end loaders! We obviously need more widespread education as well as designated trails for these bike riders – but not through our valuable bushland. Jan Oliver



Tyre tracks and damaged compacted and exposed roots

Contact Us:

- www.morningtonenviro.org.au
- morningtonea@gmail.com
- PO Box 580 Mornington 3931
- Monthly meetings
7:00PM 1st Thursdays Feb. – Dec.
using Zoom, call President for links.

President:

Margaret Howden 0414 641 999

Secretary:

Jill McIver 0414 916 689

Treasurer :

Martin Lenard 0427 888 712

Tanti Creek Friends:

Martin Lenard 0427 888 712
mtenard@bigpond.net.au

Mills Beach Friends:

Brian Burrows:
brianburrows8@gmail.com

Fisherman's Beach:

Peter Deerson: 0401 584 792
pdeerson@netscape.net

Beleura Cliff Path Friends:

Peter Nicholson: 0400 326 306
nicholsonp2008@gmail.com



Our emergency volunteers filling in deep holes made by trail bikers to create an 'interesting' track .

WORKING BEES

Volunteers meet to work and care for the following areas: see left side of this page for contacts details:

Tanti Creek - Last Sunday occasional
Tuesdays last week of the month

9:30—11:30 contact Martin

Mills Beach - 3rd Sunday or Monday of the
month 9:30—11:30 contact Brian B

Beleura Cliff Path contact Peter N

Fishermen's Beach contact Peter D

We value your help and support!



You too can be involved

If you would like to join us, 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.