



Mornington Environment Association

NEWS

caring for our local environment

Friends of Mills Beach Edition Summer 2022

Friends of Mills Beach is a volunteer group dedicated to improving the environmental and aesthetic values of Mills Beach and Red Bluff. The group has been active since 2007 and holds working bees each month. We undertake activities such as weeding, seed collection, native planting, and litter collection. New members are always welcome!



Visit, www.morningtonenviro.org.au or call, Brian Burrows 0467489810.



Rehabilitation Activities by Friends of Mills Beach

The group applies for grants to protect and upgrade native vegetation on the foreshore. Our current grant is funding weed control in our Coastal Banksia woodland and removal of invasive Polygala on Red Bluff. Other activities include the revegetation of the old toilet block site at North Mills Beach.

Photos:-

Top: Our Volunteers collecting litter at the Tanti Creek Estuary

Above: Removing Polygala to make room for native revegetation

Right: Toilet block site revegetation



Spinifex and Vegetation Protection

Our foreshore vegetation is a valuable asset. It shelters native plants and animals, stabilizes dune sands, provides sun and wind protection and cools the local environment. It is also fragile. Please respect areas where rehabilitation is being undertaken and avoid creating any new tracks through existing bush areas

All vegetation on Mornington foreshores is protected and cannot be pruned or removed without a permit. Spinifex grasses play a particularly important role. They stabilise the ground and prevent sand erosion thus protecting our beautiful beach and our iconic landmark boat-houses. Please don't remove any Spinifex or make new tracks through spinifex patches.



Spinifex stabilizing sand on Mills Beach



Sand blowing onto the Herbert St path where vegetation cover has been lost

Rat Poison

Are you putting out rat poison in your boatshed or home? You may be unwittingly killing birds of prey and other native animals that eat rats and mice. The poison stays active in the bodies of rodents well after they die!



You may also be killing Bush Rats, native rodents common on the Mornington Foreshore. Their numbers are already in decline due to habitat loss and predation by cats and foxes.

Use traps instead of poison or better still remove any foodstuffs, rubbish or materials that attract the rats in the first place.

LEFT: Native Bush Rat: Cuddly with short tail, round ears and round appearance, - all different from Black rats

Big Red Jellyfish

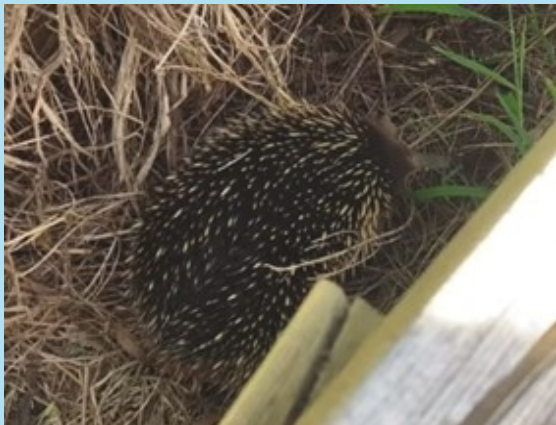
Are those big red jelly fish dangerous? They are called Lions Mane jelly fish (see picture) and are very common in the sea at this time of year. They have long tentacles, sometimes 10 metres long, which can sting so we should keep away from them. If you or a family member get stung don't panic: these stings may be painful, but **they are rarely fatal**. Exit the water and inspect the area of the sting. If any tentacles remain on the skin, do not touch them with your hands; instead, use tweezers to remove any remnants.

We don't need to destroy them or squash them as Lion's mane jellyfish are part of our natural sea ecosystem



Echidna Sighting! Great news!

In December this Echidna was photographed along the Beleura Cliff Path. Echidnas have been locally extinct for 35 to 40 years. We believe the echidna's appearance is quite possibly due to the thicker vegetation on the cliff created by the Friends Group. It may be a great example of how native fauna can return to an area once the habitat is rehabilitated.



Contact Us:

- www.morningtonenviro.org.au
 - morningtonea@gmail.com
 - PO Box 580 Mornington 3931
 - Monthly meetings
7:00PM 2nd Thursdays Feb. – Dec.
- President:**
Margaret Howden 0414 641 999
- Secretary:**
Ann Robb mornintonea@gmail.com
- Treasurer :**
Martin Lenard 0427 888 712
- Tanti Creek Friends:**
Martin Lenard 0427 888 712
tanticreekfriends@gmail.com
- Mills Beach Friends:**
Brian Burrows
millsbeachfriends@gmail.com
- Fisherman's Beach:**
Peter Deerson 0401 584 792
pdeerson@netscape.net
- Beleura Cliff Path Friends:**
Peter Nicholson 0400 326 306
beleuracliffpath@gmail.com

SNAP AND SOLVE APP

If you are out and about and think there is something that the Shire should know, see, or act on, then your smart phone can provide an easy and effective link to the Peninsula Shire Offices.

This kind of reporting to Shire is empowering people from our community to be actively engaged in caring for this district.

Your neighbours will thank you and the Shire will too.!



WORKING BEE TIMES

Volunteers meet to work and care for the following areas:

Tanti Creek - 9:30—11:30

Last Tuesday of month
contact Martin Lenard

Mills Beach 9:30—11:30

3rd Sun. or Mon. of month
contact Brian Burrows

Beleura Cliff Path 9:30 – 11:30
varied days contact Peter Nicholson

Fishermen's Beach 9:00 - 11:00
last Thursday of month
contact Peter Deerson

You too can be involved

If you would like to join us, membership forms are available on the web site.

