



We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, past, present and emerging.

The Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we gather.

More Strife at Shire Hall Beach



First it was the Beleura Cliff path, now it's the steps down to Shire Hall beach.

There was already serious erosion at the beach but recent heavy rains have accentuated the problem, leading to this concerning and unstable pathway. There are probably multiple causes which need to be considered. One is the longstanding erosion and a lack of adequate mitigating measures.

The outfall from stormwater drains is another probable cause. These erosion problems, both Beleura Cliff Path and Shire Hall Beach, are currently detracting from the appeal of the area and need detailed assessments of the causes followed by detailed remediation plans with adequate funding allocation. - Ann Robb.

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BIG Thank You

Peter Robb

After years of volunteering to upload information onto the MEA website, Peter has decided to take a break.

We are proud of your commitment and achievements. It has benefitted members and our organisation. We are grateful and indebted to you.

Three cheers for you Pete!

Alison Pouliot,

world renowned fungi expert, is coming to Mount Martha!

Alison describes herself as ,“a natural historian who uses words and images to evoke stories of the living world” She is especially interested in forgotten corners and lifeforms – the stuff that slips between the cracks.

Her books include:

Underground Lovers, The Allure of Fungi and Wild Mushrooms, all illustrated with exquisite photos.

Alison will present an illustrated talk on 14th April and a workshop on 15th April under the auspices of BERG. For details and bookings see BERG’s website www.berg.org.au



Clean Up Australia Day

There was a reasonably good turn up for the Clean Up this year, although the numbers were down, especially when the children aren’t counted: of the 25 attendees, eight were children. The remainder comprised eight males and nine females. This wasn’t a problem however, as the shire “Clean Team”, with impeccable timing, went through all of Mills Beach and foreshore only a week before!

As a result we only filled half the usual number of bags - six. Big items were an old tent and a large worn out tarpaulin (both of which resisted being bagged). One area which the Clean Team missed was the long stretch behind the boatsheds, which yielded a full bag of rubbish (thanks to the Faucet father and son team, thanks John and William). Although many bags were returned with only small amounts of rubbish, the shortage of larger items, (picked up by the clean team previously), meant that a lot of often overlooked smaller items were collected - cigarette butts, bottle tops, sweet wrappers etc.

Several people showed interest in the work of Friends of Mills Beach and MEA . They took information leaflet and membership forms at the end of the session.

Many thanks to all those who helped on the day.
Brian Burrows Coordinator, Clean Up Australia - Mills Beach



Friends Group Reports



Beleura Cliff Path Working Bee was last held on 1st December

The Latest Notice is :-

After all the Friends Group did to secure the cliffside and pathway, unfortunately, the state of the Beleura Cliff was declared unsafe. **Mornington Shire has closed the public path until further notice, to protect the users of the pathway.** Peter is continuing to engage with the Shire in the hope of some progress on future action. The group's greenhouse is bursting with plantings, he is willing to share with Friends Groups.

Pine Avenue Reserve

We have had successful working bees at the dog park so a big thank you to all the helpers. One thing the rain did do was soften up the weeds for easier removal. We were able to finally finish the tan barked area which looked amazing, so happy. We then moved onto the side of the frog pond to attempt to remove the rather beautiful Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus Undulatus*) but were unsuccessful as each main bulb has a million corms\cormils, (slight exaggeration) but it felt like it so we were not making any headway. Sheridan is going to look into spot poisoning, we have to be so careful because of the frogs, so that's her homework.

Coordinator— Meg.



Friends of Mills Beach March Working Bee

On Sunday March 19 a small group of Friends of Mills Beach extended their work beyond Red Bluff to Shire Hall Beach, where we spent two hours planting. The idea was to replace the plants lost to the storm last year, but we decided to plant a little away from that area as we don't know when the issue will be resolved. The plants, mainly banksias and she-oaks, were kindly supplied by Peter Nicholson who has been unable to plant them on the Beleura Hill Path after its closure.

Although only about twenty plants were put in, it took quite a while as the soil was hard and rocky and the plants were quite big - hence bigger holes were needed. Afterwards the weather was kind enough to allow us to enjoy morning tea with warm muffins, thanks Jude!

Thanks to those who attended, Marty, Ann and Peter Robb and Sally from Naturelinks, and Peter for the plants.

Coordinator - Brian.

Stop the Great Wall of Frankston



Plans are already at Council for 14, 15 & 16 storey high rises at the Waterfront.

Scan this QR code to sign and share via email, message, tweet or Facebook

Note: all donations made on the petition page are entirely optional and go to Change.org.



change.org/p/stop-the-great-wall-of-frankston

You can reach out to us at stopthegreatwall@gmail.com to offer support or assistance.



The campaign to Stop the High Rise Wall of Frankston news
We are off to VCAT!

Stop the Great Wall of Frankston

Why we have started this petition and why we need your urgent support

The Waterway Precinct between Nepean Highway and Kananook Creek

- o Protection of Frankston's natural environment must be a priority, now and for future generations
- o Frankston City is uniquely located along a waterway and an award-winning beach, the envy of other cities
- o Proposed 41 metres (12 storey) building height at the waterfront is excessive and can even be exceeded, as shown by a recent 14 storey approval (with permit pending); and other applications for even greater heights are currently awaiting a decision
- o Other bayside cities have mandatory low heights next to the coast to protect their natural assets e.g. 2 storeys for the foreshore in the Kingston municipality
- o The cumulative effect of multiple high-rise buildings will be a wall that permanently separates the waterfront from the city centre
- o Views of our prime natural assets, the bay and creek, will be monopolised by buildings at the frontline potentially impacting investment interest and the revitalisation of the rest of the city centre
- o Excessively high buildings at the waterfront will dominate the skyline, permanently marring iconic views from Olivers Hill and from across Port Phillip Bay
- o The community have consistently opposed high rise developments at the sensitive waterfront
- o Wind downdrafts will be uncomfortable for outdoor activities along the highway and creek promenade, which the Council continues to promote, the higher the building the more severe the impacts
- o Long hours of overshadowing the creek each morning will affect aquatic ecologies and creek side vegetation along with afternoon overshadowing of both sides of Nepean Highway affecting established median strip trees and plans for increased vegetation
- o High constructions and extensive site coverage with only token vegetation, will exacerbate, rather than mitigate urban heat effects
- o Other precincts in the city centre can accommodate potential population growth
- o Nearby residents' quiet enjoyment of their homes and gardens will be permanently changed; homes will be overlooked, subject to glare, artificial night lighting, increased noise, and increased traffic
- o Traffic to and from apartment blocks by occupants and service providers (e.g. rubbish collection) will add to an already congested narrow one-way Kananook Creek Boulevard
- o These developments will leave behind an irrevocable change to our unique beachside character

This will have far reaching implications right around the bay

Please let Councillors know they are making a mistake by sending a brief message to councillors@frankston.vic.gov.au

Frankston Council should ensure that Frankston's Waterfront Precinct has mandatory low heights planning protection in line with other Bayside Councils

Supported by groups including Long Island Residents Group, Frankston Beach Association, Kananook Creek Association, Mornington Environment Association and Port Phillip Conservation Council



Update from Trust for Nature

Ben Cullen, south-central area manager for Trust for Nature, reports that the White-bellied Sea Eagle has returned to the Tootgarook Wetland searching for Swamp Skinks and other reptiles. He has spotted it rising above other birds of prey – Swamp Harriers and Black-shouldered Kites – that cruise closer to the reeds.

It seems that every cloud has a silver lining

Across south-east Australia many plants and animal populations have declined dramatically during the millennium drought. However the La Nina flooding while it caused widespread destruction of infrastructure, livestock and crops, should encourage a systemwide increase animal populations according ecologist Professor Andrew Bennett. An influx of water increases the growth of plants and availability of nectar and this echoes up the food chain to insects, birds and other animal species.

Successful Restoration Project

This March, Boneo Park, which is privately owned, and Trust for Nature are celebrating the successful completion of the ten-year restoration project of the Tootgarook Wetlands and Moonah Woodland. The woodland is one of the finest stands of Moonah remaining on the Peninsula and the wetland, which is bordered by roads and housing, is crucial to filtering water flowing into Port Phillip Bay.

Nature Stewards Program

Would you like to learn more about the natural environment?

Mornington Peninsula Shire is currently presenting a ten-week program to introduce residents to local and wider Victorian ecosystems and natural places. The program is open to adults (over the age of 18).

For information and consideration of future courses you can access the web site below.

naturestewards@outdoorsvictoria.org.au

Contact Us:

- www.morningtonenviro.org.au
- morningtonea@gmail.com
- **PO Box 580 Mornington 3931**
- **Monthly MEA Meetings**
7:00PM 2nd Thursday Feb. – Dec.

President:

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Friends Groups

Tanti Creek Friends:

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Mills Beach Friends:

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Fisherman's Beach Friends:

Peter Deerson 0401 584 792
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Friends of Beleura Cliff Path:

Peter Nicholson 0400 326 306
beleuracliffpath@gmail.com

Friends of Mornington Railway Reserve:

Charlie Clarke cfc3812@gmail.com

Friends of Pine Reserve

friendsofpine@gmail.com

MEA appreciates your support

Volunteers meet to work and care for the following areas:

Tanti Creek 9:30—11:30 Last Tuesday of the month contact Martin

Mills Beach 9:30—11:30 3rd Sun or Mon of the month contact Brian

Beleura Cliff Path 9:30—11:30 varied sessions contact Peter Nicholson

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

Pine Ave Reserve 9:00 –11:00 3rd Friday of the month, contact by
email

(see left side of this page for contact details)



You too can be involved

If you would like to join us, You can join on line :

- www.morningtonenviro.org.au

Fees are: Family \$15; Single \$10

Email— morningtonea@gmail.com
Please include your contact number.