

Merricks Matters

Summer 2011

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Summer

December	Sunday	11	10am	Bill Carroll Reserve - Working Bee
	Tuesday	27	10-2pm	MYC Try Sailing program – all welcome
	Wednesday	28		MYC Junior races
	Friday	30		
	Sunday		10am	Foreshore Committee Beach Clean-ups - every Sunday morning during the school holidays
January	Monday	2	9am	Foreshore Committee Beach Clean-up
		2	10am	MBRA AGM at MYC
	Wednesday	4	6.30pm	MYC Little Dudes Disco
	Saturday	14	10am	Sand modeling at Beach and BBQ at the Tennis Courts
	Saturday	21	5pm	Picnic in the Park at the Bill Carroll Reserve

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KoalaMap

Have you seen a koala lately? Merricks Beach is a well known habitat for koalas. Koalas bring us much joy, entertainment and thrill our visitors when they appear. Do you know about *KoalaMap*? It is an initiative to document sightings of koalas throughout Australia. It can be fun for children and grand children to record their sightings of koalas on the computer. So if you see one why not go to <http://koalamap.savethekoala.com/> and follow the prompts. If you hear the sound of a grunting pig coming from the trees, chances are it is a flying pig! (Or more truthfully, one of our wonderful koalas!)

Photo: Friends of Local Koalas, Land & Wildlife website
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~folklaw/>

Did you know? Sweet Pittosporum is an evergreen bush with greenish yellow-white flowers and yellow tan berries. Did you know that it is a declared weed on the Mornington Peninsula? The Foreshore Committee has tried to remove it from the foreshore reserve and many residents have undertaken their own eradication. However there are some remaining in residents' gardens and the road side reserves. If you require assistance to identify or remove Sweet Pittosporum, contact Roy Wiedemeyer, the Foreshore Committee or MBRA.

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Merricks Beach Residents Association

The warmer weather will be here very soon and then it will be Christmas. Over the past year the MBRA has worked hard towards achieving some middle ground with the Shire on the roads and speed. Local councilor, Frank Martin, provided funds for 2 speed-calming features at 2 village intersections. Our plan is to build more over the coming years. We hope you will join us to plant the features. There are many events coming up over summer and we hope you and your friends will enjoy them. We are also keen to develop a list of peoples' email addresses and mobile phone numbers so we can send you *Merricks Matters* electronically and communicate with you quickly. We appreciate that many people will still want to receive *Merricks Matters* on paper and that is fine. We are also keen to reach out to the wider Merricks Beach community, the children and grand children of the residents, who also benefit and enjoy our village. Please do not be surprised by a visit from a MBRA committee member to obtain a few details. Let's enjoy the summer and our special place that is Merrick Beach.

Roy Wiedemeyer 0418 148 123

A regular working bee took a very productive turn on Cup Monday when a small troop of dedicated youngsters arrived to assist members of the MBRA and others. The project was to re-surface the Foam Street Walkway between Palmers Hill Road and Spray Street. A new batch of the right coloured gravel was delivered, brown not gray, and the task was to shovel the gravel into a wheelbarrow, spread the gravel and flatten it all out with a roller. With the grown-ups shoveling and barrowing, the kids spread the gravel and used the roller and the task was done in no time! The youngsters celebrated with a bike ride over the new path. The MBRA wishes to thank all those who assisted.



From left to right: Ted Basser, Allegra Baring, Ned Heasley, Joe Basser, Charlie Basser, Harry Basser and Ian Basser with Bernard Barrett and Roy Wiedemeyer amongst others in the background.

Rosanne Pittard

Summer sailing

The Merricks Yacht Club season is now in full swing. We've had three very productive working bees in October (one with the Foreshore Committee), thanks to all those who participated. Then we had a great Official Opening celebration – it is amazing how many members turned out to hear Perry Larsson open this season with some great tales from the past. The Christmas period will provide opportunities for those new to Merricks to try sailing, as well as lots of social events for the young, the old and all of us in between. There are lots of opportunities to get on the water and have fun with the Try Sailing Program, junior races, movie nights, Little Dudes Disco, cruises and don't forget Thursday night Happy Hours. No chance of getting bored at Merricks! Hope to see old and new members over summer.

Simon Corden MYC

Merricks Meanderings

Members of the MBRA thought that you might be interested in the various activities that keep Merricks Beach residents busy when they are at the village and so we have decided to present a new column entitled Merricks Meanderings. We are very keen to hear about your and your family's interesting pastimes so please email the editor with a photo and a short paragraph and you may see yourself in print! Our first guest columnists are members of the Sutherland family from Palmers Hill Road.



Our children, Thomas and Eloise, spent a very productive winter developing and harvesting our new vegetable garden. May and June were busy planting and growing rocket, spinach, broccoli, broad beans and garlic, as well as harvesting beetroot and various herbs. The kids worked hard fertilizing and mulching and saw the rewards with plenty to harvest. More recently corn, potatoes and tomatoes have been planted in preparation for summer. The winter rain and sunshine ensured great results (despite the rabbits) and plenty of motivation for their future as gardeners!!

The Sutherland family

Success on the Foreshore

We had no idea what an ally the drought was! All the rain has resulted in weeds, weeds, weeds. We are fighting back! Regular readers of *MM* will remember that over three years the MYC eliminated the *Melianthus major* "Triffids" scourge just beyond Coles Creek. This was a dream come true. About 150 local seedlings have been planted throughout the site and regular revisits have seen off the *Melianthus* re-growth. The MYC has also assisted just recently in a major replanting near their yard in Surf St. This completes a massive clearing of pittosporum and English ivy from the area and enabled nearly 400 indigenous plantings. Now you can actually see Westernport Bay from the tennis court for the first time in years! Another recent big "win" occurred when a Committee member, a qualified arborist, abseiled down the Bluff and cut and dabbed all the boneseed there thus eliminating one of the only remaining sources of boneseed in the area. We are also very grateful to one Foreshore neighbour who will assist in maintaining the largely privately owned, Big Bush Block at the Pt. Leo end of MB. This is highly significant as it contains important remnant vegetation typical of the Westernport area of yesteryear. The black tailed wallabies that live there will be grateful too, along with a huge patch of green hood orchids. We have requested a geologist, from Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, to give a talk on the amazing geology of Merricks Beach. Watch for notices during the holidays. The Foreshore Committee with the co-operation of South East Water has arranged for the Toilet block to be connected to sewerage. This is another positive step in ensuring our beach is free from pollution. Sorry to end on a sad note but the "Wooleys Way" sign, at the end of Merricks Beach Road, honouring Enid and John Wolstenholme, has been removed by someone. The Committee will replace it soon!

Bill Cleveland Foreshore Committee

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Join the Picnic in the Park!

Do join our Picnic in the Park at the Bill Carroll Reserve on Saturday 21 January. Wander up around 5pm, and meet the range of life in Merricks among the grasses, shrubs, trees, birds, frogs.

Kirsty Richards Friends of Bill Carroll Reserve

Remember Merricks Beach **speed limit is 25 kmph**, that is a very brisk walk at best . . . !

We welcome any items of interest and photos for future editions of Merricks Matters. Please email your copy to Gai Wilson, wilsong@unimelb.edu.au

To join MBRA write to the Secretary John O'Neil at PO Box 66 Balnarring 3926 or phone 0412-259 108.

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