

Merricks Matters

Spring 2011

Newsletter for the Merricks Beach Community

Spring is here!

September	Sunday	25	10.00am	Bill Carroll Reserve AGM
October	Saturday	1,8,15		MYC Working Bees
	Monday	17	11.00am	Residents Morning Tea, 71 Merricks Beach Road
	Saturday	29	1.00pm 6.30-8.00 pm	MYC Opening Day Sail Past and Race MYC Official Opening and Celebration
	Sunday	30	9.30-11am	Foreshore Committee, Community Working Bee
December	Tuesday	22	10.00-2.00pm	MYC Try Sailing program – all welcome
January	Monday	2	10.00 am	MBRA AGM at MYC
	Saturday	14	10.00am	Sand modeling followed by Sausage Sizzle at Tennis Courts

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Welcome to "Wooley's Way"



On Sunday 31st July, past and present members of the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management assembled at the end of Merricks Beach Road for the naming of the newly renovated steps. Now officially called 'Wooleys Way' to acknowledge the many years of hard work John and Enid Wolstenholme [pictured] have contributed to making our Foreshore the beautiful place it is today. Both Enid and John served on the Committee, both as presidents. It is only proper that the steps were named in their honour and we hope their example of putting into the community, for the benefit of the community will encourage others.

Busy on a Monday morning?

An idea has been floated that it would be fun to have informal meetings of interested residents every second Monday morning, on the odd dates not the even. For a chat, a nominated discussion, games of cards, boules, even croquet - ideas are endless. The informal group could meet on the beach, at the Bill Carroll Reserve, the Yacht Club, by the tennis courts or at a nearby cafe - a chance to meet other members of the MB Community. No cost - no obligation. A notice as to the location will be placed on the Community noticeboard. Jenny Ferguson and Meg Paul have agreed to set the ball rolling by inviting interested residents to morning tea at 11am on Monday 17th October (an odd date) at 71 Merricks Beach Road, corner of Wave Street to discuss the idea. If you can't make it watch the noticeboard for the next Odd Monday Event.

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Plants...yes please!

The MBRA held our very successful annual plant give away over the Queen's Birthday weekend. We purchased 500 local native plants and gave away 300. The remaining 200 plants were donated to the Bill Carroll Reserve and the Foreshore Committee. Letters of appreciation were duly received. Thank you to the people who assisted to make this happen, in particular David Wharington and Harvey Williams and to all MB residents who came to collect their plants.



Local natives or indigenous plants are truly adapted to our area and thus require minimal maintenance once established. If you require assistance with planting a native garden, there is a wealth of local knowledge amongst the MBRA and Foreshore Committees and residents.

The MBRA Committee has also been busy updating the booklet "Maintaining The Magic of Merricks". Jo and John O'Neil, current editors of Merricks Matters, indicated earlier this year that they shall be stepping down from their role by years end. Gai Wilson, one of our new committee members, is transitioning into the role of editor. Our special thanks to Jo and John for their enthusiasm to the task over the years.

Roy Wiedemeyer 0418 148 123

Where has all the sand gone? An update from the Foreshore Committee

You may have noticed quite a change as you stroll along Merricks Beach lately. The heavy seas and high tide has not only resulted in the loss of from 3 to 5 metres of our dunes over two kilometres of beach front but has also washed away much of the spinifex nodes planted in the Beach Restoration Project as well as some of the beach access track fencing. Members of the Committee repaired the fence, however, it will take some considerable time before the spinifex can recolonise and re-collect the sand to rebuild the foredune. Meanwhile the staff at the Burnley Campus of Melbourne University are having considerable success in growing spinifex plants from seeds collected at Merricks Beach. We will not give up on the project! On a more positive note, by the end of the year the Foreshore Committee hopes to have cleared all the weeds from the Tennis Courts to the Yacht Club and replanted this area, the gateway to the Foreshore, with indigenous plants. The next Community Working Bee is on Sunday 30th October 9-30 to 11pm. Watch the Notice Boards for details.

Meg Paul bruceamil@melbpc.org.au

Fancy a sail?

The Merricks Yacht Club is gearing up for a great summer, with the sailing season starting on Saturday 29 October. This year there will be lots of sailing at the club, for junior members and the more experienced sailors, as well as a wide range of social events. There will be regular racing on Saturdays, and several 'try sailing' opportunities for those who are keen to get into this great sport. For the younger kids there will also be movie nights and other events. And for those lucky enough to be at Merricks on a Thursday night, the residents get together from the start of daylight saving, for drinks, nibbles, and usually more drinks, from 17.30. With Sue Rutley hosting it's always a great night out. Hope to see new and old residents around the club this season.

Simon Corden MYC

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A winter rescue

In August, Merricks Yacht Club was involved in a dramatic winter sea rescue. A Hobie 16 catamaran from Somers had been dis-masted in the large waves on middle bank. Luckily, a laser had been sailing nearby, and she sailed into Merricks – the closest port, and began looking for help. This was about 4:00pm on a cold dark winter Sunday afternoon. Fortunately a member was walking their dog, and she helped raise the alarm with a couple of our sailors. Others got the call, and soon we had a rescue boat crew and tower observation crew ready to go. Fortunately our rescue boat had already been in for its winter service and repairs, and was ready to go. The boat launched about 4:30 in the fading light.

A Hobie without a rig is next to impossible to see, but by chance the rescue boat came upon them, about five kms from Merricks in the shipping channel on an outgoing tide. They were only spotted when about 200 yards away. By this time it was close to 5:00pm, and the Volunteer Marine Rescue had been called. There was concern if the boat was not found before dark; we would not see them in the dark. Fortunately the crew was in good shape, albeit cold, and Merricks Patrol was able to take the crew on board and tow home the yacht. Minutes later, visibility was reduced to metres, as a rain squall came up the bay. The sun had set. If the Rescue boat had been launched ten minutes later, they would not have been seen. The boats made their way carefully across middle bank, and towards the welcoming lights of the Merricks control tower. Yacht Clubs, such as Merricks, are an important part of the community's broader sea rescue system and we can all work together to make sailing and boating safer.

If you are interested in getting involved in the club's sea rescue activities, contact Sea Rescue Co-ordinator: John Hollander, on 0408 137 647 or searescue@merricks.org

Bill Carroll Reserve - more space and more plants

In the past few months, we've been clearing out the non-native species that have invaded the Reserve. We've pulled out the dead trees and weeds that have found their way into parts of the Reserve, and pruned, planted grasses and shrubs, and mulched. There's more space and more plants...and more to do as we continue planting, and removing any weeds that are invading the area. The AGM of the Friends of the Bill Carroll Reserve is on Sunday 25 September at 10am. If you'd like to share a morning, and morning tea, and ease your muscles into planting, weeding, clearing or mulching around the Reserve, join us. As well as the usual suspects, there'll be the occasional koala, birds, and fish and pobblebonk frogs in the lagoon.

Kirsty Richards

Vale Phil Emmitt



Phil and Molly- Foam St walkway

Merricks Beach lost one of its most well known residents with the death of Phil Emmitt on Sunday August 28th. In the mid seventies Phil moved permanently with his wife Lil to the house they had built in Foam St. So began his lifelong commitment to our village. Phil was an energetic member of the MBRA's committee and its first road gang. A few years after the death in the mid eighties of his wife, Lil, Phil took on the role of MBRA Treasurer and so acted for nine years. Lil had been Treasurer for eight years before her death.

Phil was a passionate advocate for the Magic of Merricks. His advocacy and efforts were very important in establishing the Bill Carroll Reserve in its present form. Phil lobbied for its realignment to possess a longer frontage to Palmers Hill Rd than that originally proposed. In Mornington on Wednesday, August 31st, Phil's family and several past and present residents of Merricks Beach attended a service to celebrate Phil's life. Those members of the community who knew Phil well would appreciate the choice, by his long time friend Cherry Gunnensen, of the song "My Way" at that service. Phil was just short of his ninetieth birthday at the time of his death.

Roads update - Action on speed and maintenance

Many residents have been concerned about excessive speeds on our roads so the MBRA has lobbied Council to implement traffic calming measures. Thanks to these efforts and Councilor Frank Martin we are about to see the upgrading of the Palmers Hill Rd roundabout and modifications to the Palmers Hill/ Bayview Rd intersection. The works will involve road re-alignment, installation of bollards, landscaping and planting. Should this be successful, further modifications will be made to most of the intersections within the village. We are also advocating for a reduction to 50km on Merricks Beach Rd, and the replacement of the bollards at the entrances to the village. While Council is funding the first two, further intersection treatments will most likely have to be paid for by The MBRA. The cost is in the region of \$4,000 per intersection. We are sure that you have also noticed the need for some replenishment of gravel on our roads. The MBRA is still negotiating to have council deal with the replacement of gravel on Palmers Hill Rd. but at the next scheduled grading in November we intend to spread some 25-30 truckloads of road material at a cost of \$10,000. This will start to address the more highly eroded roads in the village, but going forward we will be looking to instituting a regular programme of gravel replacement. *Bernard Barrett, MBRA Roads and Drains*

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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