



Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The past twelve months have brought the Dromana Foreshore Committee many challenges and successes. The committee works throughout the year to maintain a safe, healthy and tidy reserve for residents, visitors and holidaymakers. We are fortunate to have in our employ rangers who are committed to their work and go above and beyond the call of duty.

Rather than just policing activities on the foreshore, we like to reward responsible behaviour. For example, our rangers give coffee vouchers to people seen picking up rubbish on the foreshore, and dog owners are thanked for having their animals on a lead at all times.

Special thanks is given to committee member Jacinta Banks whose perseverance has brought about the successful completion of the "all access" viewing platform opposite Permien St. People of all abilities can use the facility set amongst the banksias whilst enjoying views across the bay.

Our funds come from boatshed/bathing box fees, caravan park sites and transfer fees that are received following a sale of a boatshed. Boatshed ownership on public land is both a privilege and a responsibility and the committee works closely with owners to ensure that any works they carry out are in keeping with our regulations. All boatshed owners must receive written permission from the Committee for any works on their shed.

Our committee consists entirely of volunteers. The skills and life experience we bring to the table is both extensive and varied. What we share is a passion for our local environment and a commitment to seeing the broader community's interests reflected in the management of the Foreshore.

In July this year there will be a number of vacancies on the Dromana Foreshore Committee and I encourage you to consider becoming involved in this dedicated and dynamic collective. Please contact our secretary if you are interested in receiving an Expressions of Interest pack.

We are proud to be entrusted with the stewardship of the Dromana Foreshore. It really is a beautiful part of the world all year round.

Julie Allan, Chairperson



Best Boatshed Award

Each year the Committee makes an award to the Best Boatshed on the foreshore. The winner of this award receives their public liability insurance paid by the Committee. The winner for 2016/17 is Boatshed 107—Robert Morrison—congratulations and well done.



Latrobe Reserve

The year 2016/2017 has seen considerable change in the reserve. The rather high rainfall for the year has encouraged a lot of weed growth. However our management of the reserve has helped to minimize the extent of this. Unfortunately the heavy rain of March has washed away some of our paths. These will be repaired as soon as possible.

There has been a lot of work adjacent to the Federation track. The area has been transformed from a jungle of invasive species to its natural state. A lot more work is necessary to consolidate the area with ongoing weed management and replanting. This work has been carried out by our staff, and volunteers – especially Len Warfe.

On the lower eastern end of the reserve, weeding has cleared nearly all the Gorse and Pittosporum. However the periwinkle creeper is still a major problem. In the lower end of this area, we are attempting to restore the spring fed ditch adjacent to the old Nepean Highway. Certain parts of this area will appear dried out but it is being replanted during 2017.

The central part of the reserve is being managed by Eco Regen. They have achieved a lot in their clearing of asparagus fern, boneseed etc. On going management is important at this stage to maintain the results in this area.



Caravan Park

Another Summer has come and gone with the vibrant hustle and bustle now replaced with the Winter peace and quiet. It is also an opportunity for our Rangers to get some time to undertake works on the entire foreshore reserve to get it all ready for the influx of visitors in only 6 months time. With less time needed for day to day activities it is now possible to undertake some projects with the aim of improving aspects of the foreshore reserve.

It was another successful season for the caravan park with more families returning with young children creating a great atmosphere for everyone. We were blessed with great weather for most of the season with many opportunities for water based activities, including fishing, swimming and boating. All the things that Dromana is famous for, that bring us back year after year and attracted the local residents to live here.

Members of the DFCoM recently walked through the Caravan Park to review compliance issues and to address any concerns raised by residents and Caravan Park users. On the whole most users were found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Caravan park. These rules are provided to all site users at the commencement of each season and set out everything that is expected from our residents for the season.

One area that will be addressed for next year is a clearer and revised set of requirements for electricity connection to caravans, including the standards for conduit to be used, depths required etc. We will also be seeking to avoid power leads being strung through foliage from power heads to caravans. Where necessary each site will be individually advised of any new requirements.

We are all anticipating the start of Summer 2018 and look forward to welcoming everyone back.

Vegetation

There are slightly different problems on the foreshore area. Weeds are a problem there also but the nature of the soft weeds are different. Selective spraying is the only realistic management of this due to the extensive invasion. We are mindful of marking the areas involved to allay anxiety concerning herbicides.

We have an annual assessment of the trees on the reserve. There are a considerable number of old trees which need to be monitored for safety reasons. Our aim is to replace trees that are removed or trimmed with indigenous species such as Banksias and Casuarinas. Unfortunately there has been illegal cutting of Banksias in the eastern end of the Reserve in spite of our requests not to do this. This part of the reserve is especially important as it is the best preserved area of the entire foreshore.

Our seal continues to reside near the foreshore office. He comes and goes for weeks on end. We

strongly request that people and dogs are kept away from him as he is now a 200kg male who would no doubt protect himself if molested. He is a great asset to our foreshore and we need to live with him

