

Focus Newsletter

Dromana Foreshore

2015

Chairperson Report

In 2014 / 2015 the Committee and staff continue to work hard to provide all stakeholders with a foreshore reserve to be proud of. Naturally this is not without its challenges as the demands on the reserve are increasing with larger visitor numbers.

Again we have been fortunate to receive a grant from the local Bendigo Bank which has been used to provide extra bin clearances over the summer period. Unfortunately some reserve users still see the bins as an easy place to dispose of household rubbish.

The Committee are pleased to announce that installation will soon begin of a fitness station at the BP end of our reserve. This is the first of four proposed stations along the foreshore. The stations are made of recycled plastics and are the equivalent of 95,000 recycled plastic bags.

The Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management continues to employ a full time ranger together with 2 part time rangers. Also part time are the positions of caravan park manager and secretary. The Committee members are all volunteers with a passion for maintaining and improving the reserve. Should you be interested in becoming involved with the Committee please contact our secretary.

Of concern to the Committee is the actions of a small minority of license holders undertaking unauthorised works. Please remember that NO WORKS are to be undertaken without prior approval of the Committee. Please do not jeopardise your license or its future renewal by ignoring this requirement.

Boatshed inspections will be carried out over the next 2 months with reports following shortly after completion.

The Dromana Foreshore Committee hope that you continue to enjoy our wonderful foreshore reserve.

Julie Allan
Chairperson.

Best Boatshed 2014

Congratulations to the Zuccala Family, owners of Boatshed #52 for winning the Best Boatshed Award this year. This boatshed was chosen as the Zuccala family have completely renovated giving the Boatshed a bright, fresh appearance.



Finance

Whilst the DFCoM is well placed to meet the day to day expenditure commitments that arise from maintaining our Foreshore, we rely heavily on grants from other bodies to expand and develop further our community asset. Over the past few years you may have noticed an increase in the number of bins, both general waste and recycling bins, on the Foreshore. We were able to provide this expanded presence by virtue of a Community grant from our local Bendigo Bank branch, for which we remain extremely grateful. We also rely upon the generosity of other business operators within our community who often provide us with goods and services at heavily discounted prices or for no charge. We would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Steve Vesper and Hillview Quarries, amongst others for their generosity.

As most people would be aware our infrastructure, including our amenities buildings, are ageing. In the harsh environment to which they are exposed it is testament to the original builders that they have survived so well. The DFCoM are always on the look out for grants that may become available to assist us with refurbishing/rebuilding these facilities. If anyone is aware of grants that may be available to provide funding towards these facilities we would be delighted to hear from them.

The Dromana Foreshore is a community asset which the DFCoM is proud to manage on behalf of the users and stakeholders and with the assistance of the Community we believe that we can continue to offer an outstanding facility.

Mark Barson
Treasurer



Friends of Latrobe Volunteer Group working alongside Federation Walk helping to remove noxious woody weeds.

Bay Trail

The past year has seen the connection of the Safety Beach and Dromana sections of the Bay Trail with the McCrae section still under discussion as to how we can best complete this section.

The first of hopefully 4 fitness stations will soon be started at the BP end of the trail. We hope to see many residents and holiday makers making use of it once completed.

There is no doubt that the Bay Trail is a wonderful asset to the foreshore as is evidenced by the large volume of traffic on any day of the week.

Andrew Duncan
Bay Trail Subcommittee



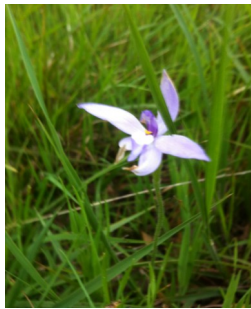
Volunteers helping with the Bay Trail Works



More Bay Trail Works



An Example of our magnificent fauna and Flora. A Caper White Butterfly and a Wax Lip orchid are shown here.



Vegetation Management

We have a slightly different program for the Foreshore Reserve. The vegetation has been changed so much that restoration is difficult. However we are trying to do the best we can. The aim is to make the track along the reserve as safe as possible. At times, we have to clear some plants as they are becoming too invasive. This may apply to native species as well as non native. This has caused some public criticism. However we are passionate about our vegetation and any plant removals are more than compensated for with new plants that are both appropriate and native to the area.

Some of you may be aware that a large Monterey Cypress collapsed in a wind storm during the year. Unfortunately it caused a major problem for the power supply in the western end of the peninsula as it fell on the power lines. Unfortunately these trees are becoming old and top heavy. We are conscious of their historic significance but they are slowly reaching the end of their lives. We only intend removing ones that become a safety issue.

Storms caused significant erosion of the eastern end of the foreshore with Banksia and other vegetation collapsing onto the beach. We decided to leave the fallen trees on the beach where they had fallen. The aim was to capture sand and act as a natural base for regrowth. This appears to be working well. Some fallen trees had to be pushed back or trimmed because of public safety.

We feel proud of our foreshore and the Latrobe reserve, which we believe is probably one of the best preserved on the bay. Considering the demands put on these areas in the years to come, people should still be able to appreciate our Vegetation.



Latrobe Reserve

Our on-going program of restoring the reserve is showing results. The coordinators are the Dromana Foreshore Committee's Latrobe subcommittee and the rangers Michael and Pia. We are ably assisted by Gidja and Phil from SPIFFA and Pete Nash (Eco Regen). In addition we have a very active volunteer group which meets every third Saturday. This group does invaluable work in removing invasive species, both weeds, shrubs and trees. We are currently approximately 10 strong. Additional volunteers are more than welcome.

Our aim for the reserve is to try and recreate the bush as it was before European settlement. We have a diverse terrain from cliff faces to open level bush land. The gullies still have residual pockets of Ferns, Lobelia, Pelargonium, Senecio and many other species. The bluffs have several varieties of Green Hoods, Chocolate Lilies, Milkmaids and many native grasses. The most amazing aspect of our restoration is that there is still a large dormant seed bank of native plants that have not been seen in living memory. All that is required is to clear the invasive soft and hard weeds including exogenous trees. They have crowded out the native species. The only regrettable aspect of our program is there are a small number of people who vandalise the vegetation. This not only risks injury to people who are working in the reserve as partially cut trees could fall on volunteers. The other problem caused is that it increases the fire risk as dead vegetation can dry out and ignite more easily.

We have constructed a path alongside Latrobe Parade for easier walking and to reduce the weed problem. This should be completed in the next 18 months as funds become available.

We have a tree audit every year in order to make sure that there are no trees that could cause a problem to walkers.

The committee would like to acknowledge the 100's of voluntary hours local resident Len Warfe has contributed to removing invasive weeds and replanting in the reserve. Len's commitment to improving Latrobe Reserve is amazing and much appreciated. Please visit our website for more information about the Latrobe Friends Group, www.dromana.foreshore.net.au Neil Wilson and Don Campbell

Latrobe Reserve Subcommittee





This year we have seen the reappearance of an Australian Fur Seal who seems to be a semi-permanent resident. He is being monitored by James Clemens who is one of our dedicated volunteers.

Please ensure that you keep 50 metres away from the seal. For further information or to report incidents please call Department of Environment, Land & Water on 136 186.

National Tree Day August 2014

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped us out by planting indigenous provincial plants grown by Seawinds Volunteer Nursery along Dromana Foreshore. Feel free to register for 2015. (Sunday July 26th)



Local Resident Sienna with Federal Minister for Environment, Greg Hunt.



Ranger Michael Everitt planting primary dune species with Sienna and Cooper.

KEEP YOUR DETAILS UPDATED

Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details. In the unfortunate event that your boatshed is broken into, current contact numbers ensure we can contact you easily and quickly. Send your contact numbers and email address to the Secretary Kylie at dromana@foreshore.net.au

SAVE PAPER!

Want to receive your Invoices and Newsletters by Email? Email dromana@foreshore.net.au to advise.

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Where the Mountain Meets the Sea