

DROMANA FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

FOCUS NEWSLETTER July 2024

The Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management (DFCoM) operates under the guidance of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Therefore, when the Committee makes any decisions concerning boatsheds and bathing boxes, we are enacting State Government policy.

Any building or works (except painting) MUST be approved by DFCoM – sometimes this may involve a further process of applying for Coastal Management Act Consent from DEECA as well as Planning and Building Permits from the Mornington Peninsula Shire. It is particularly important that licensees check the exact dimensions of their building that appear on their specific license agreement BEFORE commencing any works so that there is NO increase in the dimension of decks, permanent steps or any other additions whatsoever. Given volatile sand movements, DFCoM is happy for licensees to have portable steps which can be stowed away inside their boatshed when the boatshed is not in use. A gentle reminder to all boatshed owners that they are responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of their own boatsheds.

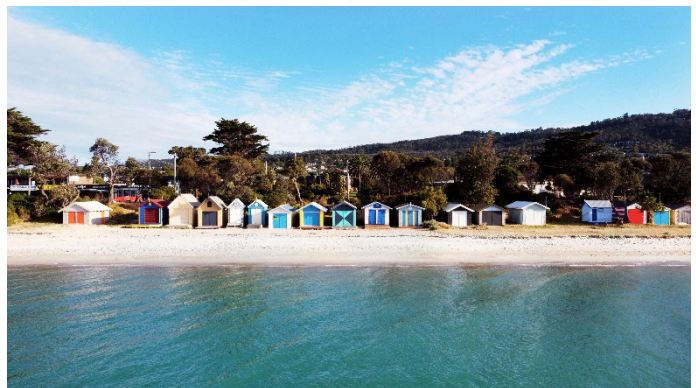
Please take into consideration that our office is manned on a part time basis. For all enquiries, please contact the office on 5981 0933 or email: - info@dromanaforeshore.com Our Secretary will return your call or email at their earliest convenience.

Our funds come from boatshed/bathing box fees, caravan park sites and transfer fees that follow the sale of boatsheds. 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.

Our committee consists entirely of volunteers. The skills and life experience we bring to the table are 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.

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

Julie Allan, Chairperson.



Works Sub Committee

DFCoM plans are currently underway to erect an additional garage/shed to house our work vehicles.

Unfortunately, this is a necessity, caused by various break-ins over a period of time creating enormous problems, costly repairs and theft.

DFCoM is upgrading Condition Reports from hard copy to digital, so please bear with us as we develop this program.

Bins are now on our Reserve for 12 months of the year. These are partially sponsored by Bendigo Bank.

Our timber tables and bench seating are slowly being upgraded with Replas. Dromana Men's Shed is assisting with some of the construction.

Erosion around boatsheds has been constant at the Eastern end of the Reserve and a reminder that the sand is cyclic, and it will return.

Thank you to all who apply for permission to improve/upgrade their sheds. As previously mentioned, approval must be received for any works and under no circumstances will an increase in license agreement measurements be given.

We value the hard work of our full time Ranger and 2 part time Rangers. Our outstanding foreshore is the result of their hard work and commitment.

Latrobe Reserve

"Bringing back the bush is a gentle art, demanding strong will and patience." - Joan Bradley, Australian Conservationist

Latrobe Reserve is a unique slice of remnant native bushland and is highly prized by both visitors and the local community. Covering approximately 13.5 hectares, the Reserve sits opposite the south-western end of the Dromana Foreshore and is bordered by Foote Street, Foord Lane, Latrobe Parade and Point Nepean Road.

While Latrobe Reserve is managed by the DFCoM the actual on-ground, hard work of weed removal, vegetation enhancement, pest control and walking path maintenance is undertaken by our dedicated Rangers, specialist contractors and an enthusiastic Friends Group.

Consequently, over the past 24 years, biodiversity values of the Reserve have improved beyond expectation and can clearly be seen in aerial photographs that compare 2013 with 2023. The area is visibly less weedy and now hosts a number of notable plants such as Nodding Greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*), Spotted Sun Orchid (*Thelamitra ixiodes*) and Tall Greenhood (*Pterostylis longifolia*). Bird species seen include the Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*), Black-shouldered kite (*Elanus axillaris*) and White-browed scrubwren (*Sericornis frontalis*)

In addition, the Agile Antechinus (a small marsupial) has been seen in Latrobe Reserve in recent years.

In June 2023, LaTrobe Sub-committee received a Port Phillip Bay Fund grant to be used for the eradication of Spider-Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*), which is an extremely hardy species that can dominate intact low vegetation becoming a problematic local weed within smaller urban reserves exacerbated by disturbances. This is a continuation of our Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) eradication work from last year.

Almost all Spider Plant patches have now been treated with the enthusiastic and tireless efforts of our contractor, Natural Regeneration, (Jade and Will) and our Latrobe volunteers guided by Sue from Nature Links. Many thanks go to our expert grant writer, Andrew Robertson.

As the DFCoM, Rangers and our Friends Group continue their important work at Latrobe Reserve. We aim to improve the area by:

- removing weeds to restore native vegetation communities and support habitat
- removing rubbish and illegally dumped vegetation from the foreshore
- reducing erosion and weed introduction
- engaging with the local community on Latrobe Reserve activities

Latrobe Reserve Friends Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month (Feb-Nov), working on weed eradication and planting field activities. If you would like to join the team or contribute in any way, please contact our DFCoM secretary on 59810933



Spotted Sun Orchid



Eastern Yellow Robin

Dogs on Beaches

Dogs are permitted at all times on the Dromana Foreshore however they must be on a lead.

Boatshed owners are reminded that this rule applies to their dogs on the Dromana Foreshore as well. Our regulations around this are straightforward however it may differ from neighbouring beaches.

Whilst our staff do not have the power to enforce these requirements, they will point out this rule to any dog owners that are not complying.

The DFCoM has entered into an agreement with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to have their Enforcement Officer patrol our beach to enforce this rule. They have the power to serve a Penalty Infringement Notice of an on the spot fine, to anyone found with a dog off the lead. All beach users are entitled to peaceful use of our Foreshore, without dogs intruding on their space. The DFCoM have paid for this service in an effort to achieve this outcome.

If you or any visitors to our Foreshore encounter dogs off the lead, please call the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council "Community Safety Team" on 5940 1434. One of the Shire Rangers should respond however if there is no answer, please phone the Shire Offices on 1300 850 600.



Annual Boat Shed Award Winner

Congratulations! Our annual Boat Shed Award for 2024 was awarded to Number 208. The winner receives their public liability insurance paid for by the DFCoM and a plaque to display.

Caravan Park News

Another successful camping season has come and gone! Our caravan park once again welcomed campers to our beautiful foreshore from 1 December 2023 until 30 April 2024, the time seems to fly by in a flurry of activity on and around the beach. All sites were occupied by the second week of December and only a couple of families left before the final 30 April departure date. It was great to see so many new additions to the families enjoying our beach.

This season saw the review of our caravan park fire safety requirements by the CFA as part of the renewal process for our Caravan Park permit, issued by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Whilst our caravan park passed muster on most of the assessment criteria there are a couple of issues for all residents to address when returning in 2024. Firstly, all caravans must have their gas bottles orientated to ensure that the pressure relief valve faces away from the caravan. Secondly, all electrical leads must be tagged with the required safety test tag and the date on the tags must ensure coverage for the duration of the season, that is the test must be current until at least 30 April in the following year. The caravan park Manger will be closely monitoring these two items as part of the park arrival process, and we encourage all campers to attend to these requirements prior to arrival.

One other matter of concern for the DFCoM is the use of poisons on the foreshore. We want to advise campers and boat shed owners that the use of any poisons/herbicides etc on the foreshore is not allowed. This includes the use of any rodent baits or poisons in and around caravans, annexes and boat sheds. The Committee urge campers and boat shed owners to maintain their sites and sheds in a clean, rubbish free manner at all times and to particularly avoid leaving any food items or scraps when sites and sheds are unoccupied. Attending to these measures will help deter any rodents from unwanted visits.

The Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management acknowledge and pay respect to the Bunurong / Boonwurrung people as the original custodians of Dromana foreshore land and waters.

Dromana
Where the mountain
meets the sea

p. 03 5981 0933

info@dromanaforeshore.com

Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.
PO Box 107, Dromana Vic 3936