

Focus Newsletter

Dromana Foreshore

2013

The Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management would like to welcome new committee members Don Campbell and Andrew Duncan.

Julie Allan and Neil Wilson have signed on for another three years.



Best Boatshed Award

Boatshed number 123 was awarded the best boatshed for 2013. This tiny bathing box may only be small, but owners Wendy and Joe certainly get a lot out of it, proving that size does not matter!



LATROBE RESERVE

It has been busy on La Trobe Reserve with our regular monthly working bees, with work being done our Friends Group, Conservation Council of Victoria Volunteers, Gidga Walker and our regular weeding contractor. It is very satisfying to see progress under the coordination of our rangers Michael and Pia, without their energy and enthusiasm we would not see the vegetation improvement in the reserve. The Conservation Council Of Victoria Volunteers are organised from Melbourne but the Volunteers are a mixture of Australians and many overseas visitors who are volunteering to learn more about Australian ecology during their visit. One can only feel very humble when we see this kind of effort from these young people.

The plants on the reserve constantly amaze us, two new sub species have been discovered one is a sub species of the common "wild cherry"(exocarpus) and the other of the well known "egg and bacon plant" (eutaxia microphilla). It is only through the removal of the over whelming number of weeds and then allowing nature to respond, often with suppressed seeds that have been dormant in the soil for countless years to germinant and grow, that we discover the real diversity of La Trobe Reserve.

We are delighted to welcome Donald Campbell a volunteer for many years on the La Trobe Reserve to the Dromana Foreshore Committee , his years of experience and expert knowledge of plants will be a wonderful asset to the foreshore.

A reminder that we are always looking for more volunteers and would love to see you at 10.00am on the third Saturday in the month working bees , it is certainly rewarding to work alongside experts to further your own knowledge and to improve the La Trobe Reserve.

CARAVAN PARK

Well another Summer has drawn to a close in the Caravan Park with the final month of April bringing a familiar chill to the night air. Our 46 sites were fully occupied and with the warmer weather this year there were more people about for the whole season. No major issues were encountered this year although some work was required on the rock revetment wall to alleviate some movement over the course of the year. We are grateful to the Department of Sustainability and Environment for their financial assistance in resolving this beach access problem. The impact on our beach in the Caravan Park from continued erosion has, at times been quite evident, and there seems to be less time where we have our extensive sandy beach and more occasions when the rock wall is revealed. Whether this is an impact of the channel dredging, rising sea levels or just a cycle that the beach goes through, only time will tell.

Having spoken with many of the Caravan Park residents it is clear that they thoroughly enjoy their time at Dromana and the relaxed and accommodating attitude of Phil Plant our Caravan Park Manager. Once again a big thank you to Phil for a job well done.

W O R K S

The busy Works Subcommittee this year has occupied itself with many capital works projects. For this newsletter though, rather than spotlight 2 or 3 projects, we thought that the spectrum of day to day programs the works subcommittee oversees deserves acknowledgement and may come as a surprise to a few readers.. Some of these works in no particular order include:

Infrastructure maintenance.

Bay Trail works and top dressing.

Rubbish removal.

Staff management including seasonal tailored assignments and leave co-ordination. Correspondence from our 247 boathouses.

Tree works.

Mowing.

Stair maintenance and repairs (we have 11 flights as well as Federation walk).

Cleanup Australia Day.

Contractor works facilitation (contractors include civil, building, electrical, plumbing, safety, ecological, I.T and cleaning).

Car park maintenance and topdressing (we have 9 crushed rock car parking areas and 2 bitumen ones).

Signage (design and installation).

Occupational Health and Safety of staff and contractors.

Off season toilet cleaning.

Toilet block maintenance (we have 7 blocks).

BBQ maintenance and cleaning.

Power line tree clearance works and reporting.

Volunteer works program design, facilitate and oversee.

Caravan Park grounds preparation.

Foreshore safety assessments.

Maintenance of our trusty old Ute.

Design and Application of our landscape management plan.

National Tree Planting Day.

Weed works.

Roadside barrier upkeep.

Tool and equipment audits and maintenance.

Risk tree assessment of 195 trees and action outcomes of this assessment.

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Mulching garden beds. Plumbing works.

Whippersnipping.

Co-ordinate boathouse inspection reports.

Australia Day expo.

1 of our 3 rangers on site 365 days of the year.

11 meetings per year

Fauna recording and reporting to shire.

Strategic financial planning of our modest budget.

Bay Trail vegetation trimming.

Boathouse Break-in reporting.

Vandalism and graffiti repair and removal.

Picnic table and bench seat planning installation and up-keep.

Talks to schools.

Emergency response and remedial works.

Electrical Line Clearances for Boatsheds

Visitor services.

Work experience kids.

Maintain our works depot and cleaning of 9 drains.

And that's not everything!

As you can see without listing extra ordinary projects ,the works sub-committee is a motivated group striving for and achieving improvements to our reserve. Great thanks and recognition go to our 5 members volunteering their time to oversee these jobs I'm sure you'll agree improvements on the foreshore are proudly, hard fought and won.



GRANTS

In 2012 Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management was successful in applying for the following grants:

Small Grant Dromana Foreshore Rehabilitation Program

Communities for Nature; Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

This project engaged the local community (Friends of LaTrobe Reserve) and boatshed owners to rehabilitate selected areas of the foreshore. The important Coastal Banksia Woodland EVC is a valuable remnant of what the foreshore used to be like. Removal of invasive weeds and planting of appropriate indigenous understory flora has encouraged the area to regenerate to its previous vegetative type and also encourages native fauna to return to the area. Sightings of the elusive White's Skink have increased.

Large Grant Dromana Foreshore Fern Recovery

Communities for Nature; DSE

The restoration and rehabilitation of 5 species of local fern remnants were targeted for recovery in LaTrobe Reserve. The ferns are: Rough Treefern, Fishbone Water Fern, Bracken, Bat's Wing Fern & Tenderbrake Fern. Specialist consultants were engaged to direct activities for local groups including school groups who learnt essential information about the survival of these ferns and worked to establish an environment to encourage their rehabilitation.

Community Safety in Use of Dromana Beachside Car Park

Community Road Safety Grants; TAC

Unsafe gravel entry and exit ramps at the Boatshed Hire car park were bituminised. Mornington Shire will erect signage to direct traffic flow within the car park to create a safe area for people, cars, boats and bicycles.



Coastal Woodland Links to Reconnect Remnant Native Vegetation in LaTrobe Reserve

CoastCare; DSE

From input by local consultant, activities will be centred around invasive weed removal and planting of indigenous plants to promote linkages of valuable remnant vegetative types in LaTrobe Reserve. Conservation Volunteers will work with the consultant and rangers to establish these important links and create an environment that will attract increased numbers of native flora and fauna.

Minor Grant Terramatrix Report

Public Safety on Public Land; DSE and Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management to fund 50% each

A new report on the local foreshore environment advising of fire and other safety issues will be prepared.

Recommendations will be made and tabled at the Committee for action.



Conservation Australia Volunteers with Rangers Pia Spreen and Michael Everitt

Major Grant Wheelchair Ramp & Viewing Platform x 2

Public Safety on Public Land; DSE

Two new viewing platforms will be assembled on the foreshore. These will provide access to wheelchairs, prams and other forms of mobility equipment. Access to the foreshore will be enabled for all members of the community who have mobility issues.

Minor Grant Removal of Cypress Pines x2

Public Safety on Public Land, DSE

Two large and old cypress pines will be removed to create a safer area for public use. The pines are not indigenous and therefore not part of the original landscape. The old trees were dangerous because of loss of vigour and strength.

BAY TRAIL

How to progress the Bay Trail through the Caravan Park and around Anthony's Nose has presented problems for the Dromana Foreshore Committee. Parks Victoria were assisting with this project and have now passed the development of this 'tricky' section to the Mornington Peninsula Shire, to assist with the design, financing and construction. This development is welcomed by the Foreshore Committee and we have been involved in consultations with Shire employees and also a traffic management consultant who has been employed to 'fine tune' the design taking into consideration the caravan park, boat ramp and seawall at Anthony's Nose. The design has been completed and the MPSC is seeking finance/grants to undertake this work. This may take some time but it is a positive outcome as we have a design and agreement that this project will be completed in the future.



Ranger Michael Everitt with regular volunteer Glenis.



La Trobe Reserve Friends Group

Meet on the third Saturday
of each month from 9am to 12noon
Meet Rangers Michael Everitt and
Pia Sreen and local botanist
Gidja Walker for a rewarding and
interesting morning.
See website for monthly activities

KEEP 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 Sarah Hilli at dromana@foreshore.net.au

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