

# DROMANA FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

## FOCUS NEWSLETTER 2025

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The Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management (DFCoM) manages approximately 3 kilometres of the Dromana Foreshore and faces many ongoing challenges and pressures including weather, erosion, vandalism and sand movement.

We also co-ordinate and manage the use of this foreshore area by the public, boatshed owners, caravan park residents while attempting to balance the desires of locals and environmental groups.

We are fortunate to have a caring, loyal and dedicated group of Rangers who are aware of all the above issues and somehow manage to make everything run smoothly! They are kept busy with a wide range of tasks needed to be done to keep the Dromana foreshore and its infrastructure well maintained. Our full-time Ranger works closely with Dromana Primary School and often conducts talks and activities with the children. This enables them to understand the importance of ecology, erosion, the environment and the foreshore.

Our office staff are part-time so please be aware that your phone messages may not be answered immediately. Also, on occasions, your request or question may need to be referred to the full Committee which may take extra time. Good communication is vital, and we thank our office staff for the role they play in ensuring everyone is kept informed.

Any building or substantial works (except painting) MUST be approved by DFCoM. Occasionally this may involve a further process of applying for Coastal Management Act Consent from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and obtaining 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. Given volatile sand movements, DFCoM is happy for licensees to have portable steps which can be stowed away inside their boat shed when the boat shed is not in use. A reminder to all boatshed owners that they are responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of their own boatsheds.

We have a dedicated, volunteer committee who devote substantial time throughout the year to ensure that our foreshore remains beautiful and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

The Dromana Foreshore is a vital community asset - one which we are proud to be associated with and honoured to help care for.

*Julie Allan, Chairperson.*



## Works Sub Committee

This year we have seen the completion of the external structure of our new Depot garage/shed. Over time the internal fit out will be completed allowing for multipurpose usage. New cigarette butt bins have been installed on the foreshore to help reduce the number of butts being left on the ground.

Boat shed owners are reminded that any external works (excluding painting) must get approval from the DFCoM. This process involves putting the request in writing, giving specific details of the work to be done and ensuring that the dimensions of the boat shed do not increase in any way. This includes width, length, height, eaves, adding steps or decking. Your request will be taken to the Works subcommittee meeting and then ratified at the full committee meeting. Each of these meetings is held once a month. Some boat shed owners will have received their 2025 Condition Reports with a notice of works to be done. Please ensure these works are completed so that all boat sheds are kept in good condition and match the description and measurements on their licence agreements.

Each year, on Australia Day, the DFCoM has a display on the foreshore which is manned by a ranger and committee members. This is a great way to meet in person, learn more about the DFCoM and ask any questions you may have or share your thoughts about the foreshore.



Green Hood Orchid



Grey Shrike-thrush

## Latrobe Reserve

2025 has seen many interesting and exciting adventures at Latrobe Reserve. We continue to have our monthly volunteer working bees tirelessly working together removing invasive species such as polygala, sweet pittosporum and boneseed. We plant a range of local indigenous tube stock grown with care by Kath at Seawinds nursery and we carefully steward our important biodiverse areas.

We are very grateful to have Sue Wade from Nature Links lead our working bees, Sue's knowledge, experience, homemade cakes and easy-going vibe have become the flavour of our Saturday morning fun. Pete Nash and his team from Eco-Regen attend every fortnight applying their bush tech expertise, improving a designated strip of the reserve between Federation walkway and Park Grove.

Jade Hide and her Natural Regeneration crew are our special projects team, designing unique approaches to repairing weedy areas and restoring environmental stability. Many of Jade's projects are funded by the fantastic work of our grants' writer Andrew Robertson. Andrew monitors, reviews, writes and evaluates projects that are roughly described to him, with a lot of hand pointing usually in the rain standing on a steep slope.

Lastly our Ranger team (including weekly volunteer Andrew C) whose interest, passion and dedication keeps the swamp wallabies grazing, the Grey Shrike-thrush nesting and the tiny orchids emerging year on year. Their collective enthusiasm is evident in the continued improvement of our little patch of Dromana gully woodland.

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

## Treasurers Update

Managing the finances of the Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management involves balancing the income from boatshed and camping fees with the ongoing maintenance and improvement costs for the 3 kilometres of Foreshore we are responsible for.

Our income sources are split roughly 50/50 between boatshed licence fees and camping fees so the collection of these are an important part of the financial management. Unfortunately, any late payment of these fees means considerably more time is needed from our volunteer Committee to follow up these amounts and I encourage all campers and boatshed licence holders to pay their invoiced amounts on time.

Last year we were fortunate to receive 2 sizeable grants from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. These grants were used to replace two sets of beach access steps at Williams and Seacombe Streets at the Eastern end of our foreshore. We are grateful for the work of the J A Carpentry team for their efforts in constructing these steps, which have vastly improved these access points. Watch out for the next updated access point near toilet block 7 which will begin construction shortly.

The other grant we received in the 2025 financial year was used to repair and upgrade our toilet block 2 within the Caravan Park, at the Western end of our foreshore. This upgrade involved the removal of all asbestos and the total rewiring of the facility to meet current compliance requirements. The facility was also fully repainted and externally repaired where required.

Without these grants these improvements would not be possible.

### Annual Boat Shed Award Winner

Congratulations! Our annual Boat Shed Award for 2025 was awarded to Number 46. The winner receives their public liability insurance paid for by the DFCoM and a plaque to display.



## Caravan Park News

The caravan park will open from 1 December 2025 until 30 April 2026. I am sure that all our campers are looking forward to their visit and are hoping for another season of magnificent Dromana weather. It is satisfying to be able to provide a facility that brings such joy to the families who stay with us.

Whilst the caravan park provides an important source of revenue to the DFCoM and therefore enables maintenance and upkeep to continue, it also provides other valuable functions. The occupation of the sites adds enhanced security to boatsheds in the caravan park area. In addition, the boat ramp facility is managed by people within the caravan park. This ramp provides access to the bay for a large amount of watercraft over the period it is open – being 1 December to 30 April. As the boat ramp requires constant clearing of sand, the facility would not operate without the input of these campers.

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.



p. 03 5981 0933

[info@dromanaforeshore.com](mailto:info@dromanaforeshore.com)

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