



McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.

A0035176R ABN 84 215 491 899

Caring for the local environment

Newsletter Summer 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Summer issue of the newsletter, and Happy New Year!

HELP WANTED FOR DISCOVERY DAYS

For the Discovery Days to be a success we need the assistance and involvement of as many members as possible – attendance for the whole event or for any part will be appreciated.

We would be really pleased to receive your confirmation that you can help – text or phone Jenny on 0405 825 769, Margaret on 0408 373 144 or the group email: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au

Friday 24th February 2023; Saturday 11th March 2023; Saturday 22nd April 2023; Saturday 6th May 2023
Clean out and sweep the Rotunda and surrounds (afternoon).

Saturday 25th February 2023; Sunday 12th March 2023; Sunday 23rd April 2023; Sunday 7th May 2023
At **9.00am** assistance to erect a gazebo and set up tables and sensory area in the Rotunda. From **10.00am**, to generally assist where needed and/or take photographs. Clear away and tidy up **11.30am-12noon**.

More information about the days on the next page.

WORKING BEES

Sunday 5 th February 2023	Working Bee
Sunday 12 th February 2023	Working Bee
Saturday 25th February 2023	Discovery Day

Sunday 5 th March 2023	Working Bee
Sunday 12th March 2023	Discovery Day

Sunday 2 nd April 2023	Working Bee
Sunday 23rd April 2023	Discovery Day

Sunday 7th May 2023	Discovery Day
Sunday 14 th May 2023	Working Bee

Sunday 4 th June 2023	Working Bee
Sunday 11 th June 2023	Working Bee

UNVEILING OF RESTORED McCRAE LIGHTHOUSE - addendum



We reported on this in the last newsletter and forgot the most important part! The McCrae Lions Club invited local organisations to submit documents and mementos for inclusion in the time capsule which is to be opened in 2047.

For the MHCG we put together an information brochure, copy of our successful submission to the Shire for works in and around Eyrie Creek and the

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Margaret Wilson	5986 4159	Treasurer:	Jenny Warfe
PO Box 29, McCrae Vic 3938	email: mhcg@mccraecoastalgroup.org.au	web: www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au	5987 1583

schedule of funding MHCG has attracted since its inception, so those good people of McCrae into the future will know the difference the contribution of a small band of volunteers made in keeping the McCrae foreshore beautiful for them to enjoy.

DISCOVERY DAYS

The Discovery Days are part of the community engagement segment of the Coastcare and Port Phillip Bay Funding agreements.

Saturday 25th February 2023 10am

Indigenous Walk

A guided walk along the McCrae foreshore with Sean Moyle from Living Culture, pointing out indigenous plants, their use, and significance in medicine, bush tucker and indigenous culture.

Sunday 12th March 2023 10am

Bush Art

Explore McCrae foreshore collecting items to weave into an idyllic bush canvas – your masterpiece!

Sunday 23rd April 2023 10am

Tree Planting

Meet volunteers and learn how and why they care for the beautiful McCrae foreshore. Decorate a pant guard, plant an indigenous species and watch it mature into the future as you visit the foreshore.

Sunday 7th May 2023 10am

Captain Trash Citizen Science

Time with the Bay Keeper, Neil Blake, talking about Recycle, Reuse, Refuse. Taking part in a Citizen Science project searching the shoreline identifying seashells and collecting single-use and micro plastic pollution along McCrae beach.

They will be great fun for everyone. Tell your friends and bring your kids/grandchildren.

Bookings are essential

Log on to MHCG website and scroll down the page to Events www.mccraecoastalgroup.org.au
Or go to Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com.au and search for the events by date, location, or free events.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Thank you to our supporters for providing funds or in-kind support to enable MHCG to continue the vital work we do on the McCrae foreshore:



Mornington Peninsula Shire

Our website is maintained by:
Mornington Peninsula Websites

www.morningtonpeninsulawebsites.com.au

UPDATES

Shire Placemaker Community Grant 2022

We have submitted our lists of plants and weeds to the Shire's internal Graphic Design team and the Communications team to create the signs and review the texts. The next step will be for us to do a final revision and audit before the information is sent to the Printer to create the signs.

Coastcare 2022/2023

Environmental work has commenced under this programme. Details of the first two **Discovery Days** are being finalised and we are already receiving bookings. See item at left for details.

Port Phillip Bay Fund 2022/2023

Environmental work under this programme is progressing well. Bookings for the third and fourth **Discovery Days** will open on 1st March. See item at left for details.

Victorian Landcare 2022/23

We were grateful to be granted funds under this programme to cover our compliance costs – insurance and lodgement fees, which we would otherwise have difficulty in meeting.

Melbourne Water Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways 2023/25

We are in the process of applying for further funds from Melbourne Water to continue the excellent work we do in maintaining a healthy Coburn Creek and to follow on from the work recently completed in and around Eyrie Creek.

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FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AUSTRALIA

Restoring shellfish reefs in the Bay

This information came across my computer about six months ago, is still relevant and is really interesting reading.

A crucial component of TNC's shellfish reef restoration work is the preparation of recycled shells to grow oysters on at the Victorian Shellfish Hatchery in Queenscliff. The purpose of this activity is to clean and bag the recycled shells. These shells will be used as shell cultch and be seeded with baby oysters to then place on the new shellfish reefs. It is important for the restored reefs to be regularly monitored to understand how the reefs' oyster and mussel populations are doing, as well as to check overall reef health and biodiversity levels. Terrific to read that there was an improvement of the survival rate of seeded oysters at the Dromana site for 2021/22 compared to 2020/21.

Log on to [TNC's Reef Builder Project in Port Phillip Bay](#) and see the good work being done to get shellfish back into Port Phillip Bay and how to become involved.

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FROM THE PORT PHILLIP ECO CENTRE



Our updated Best Practices Guide to Pest Seastar Removal in Port Phillip Bay

Teams of volunteers of the [Community Rapid Response Teams](#) project have been training to remove pest Northern Pacific Seastars (NPS) from the Bay. With help from divers from [Earthcare St Kilda](#) and [Diveline Scuba Centre](#), they collected citizen science data on more than 3200 pest seastars!

To make it easier for people to organise their own pest seastar removals outside of any projects, the EcoCentre has updated our 2013 manual '[Best Practice Guidelines for NPS Removal in Port Phillip](#)

[Bay, 2022'](#). It offers practical tips on how to organise your own removals, the things you need to know and prepare for before you go out, get in and get amongst it, and a great pest seastar identification guide.

The project is designed for Rapid Response Teams of local volunteers to respond to mass aggregations of NPS in the Bay. If you see lots and lots of orangey-purple, 5-armed seastars congregating on your favourite beach plotting to take over the world, please let us know ASAP and activate your local Rapid Response Team.

[Download your free copy of the manual here](#) and [join your local Rapid Response Team here](#). This project was funded by the Victorian Government, under the Port Phillip Bay Fund.

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RAINFALL IN MCCRAE

Year	Annual
2013	854.50 mm
2014	652.55 mm
2015	631.50 mm
2016	773.50 mm
2017	673.00 mm
2018	591.00 mm Lowest since 2006
2019	621.50 mm
2020	689.00 mm
2021	682.50mm
2022	701.50mm

WORKING BEES



Working Bees - First and second Sunday of the month except January - 10.00am at the Rotunda.

Just turn up!

Volunteers do need to be a member of the group and registered with the Shire, but this can be done on the day. You will be provided with gloves, safety glasses, sun hat, safety vest and tools.

**SEE YOU ON THE FORESHORE NEXT SUNDAY
5th FEBRUARY....**

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