

Spray Point Wild Coast Area Conservation Group Inc.



Newsletter Edition No.1 April 2014

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President's Report

Our committee is delighted to welcome two new members, Lucy Firth and Holly Lindsay, both of whom bring enormous enthusiasm and experience to our group. Holly will manage communications and Lucy will focus on environmental and conservation issues. Jane and Wes Gault stepped down from the committee and I thank them for their contributions to our discussions and activities.

Our January AGM and BBQ was again a great success, with 75 members and their families in attendance. Nahum Mushin led a discussion on the status of Patricia Ave (between Spray Point Rd and Foam Ave) and raised the issue of the "Private Roads" signs. The matter is now in the hands of the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Lands Victoria. We await their decision.

Paul Bonnici, from the CFA, gave a clear and concise presentation on the fire danger which confronts us during the warmer months. Given that we endured 4 consecutive days over 40 degrees last summer, Paul's talk was timely.

Important points Paul emphasised:

We live in a high fire-prone area so we should all have a fire plan

- Preparation of a survival kit, including suitable clothing, is recommended
- "Wait and See" is not a good strategy; if the forecast is for high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds and/or a total fire ban, it is important to leave early in the day or the night before
- Safe places include the front beach or the main street in Sorrento (take water and essential medications)
- If a fire takes hold on the Mornington Peninsula it will travel quickly so we may have little warning
- Due to the structure of our local roads, fire trucks may be unable to access the area
- Have the CFA Fire ReadyApp on electronic devices, be aware of fire ratings, listen to media information

continued over...

President's Report continued:

Paul has kindly offered to give us any other advice or information; should you have queries, I would be happy to pass these on to him.

To Liz and Glenn Moorhouse, who again so generously loaned their home and garden and to Denice and David Jones who organized the catering, a huge thank you.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to all committee members for their support and hard work; this is certainly a team effort.

Anne Hayman

Membership Report

- Adrian Vinck with assistance from Peter McNabb and Lucy Firth

This year's 2013/14 membership renewal was carried out in the middle of the financial year leading up to Christmas. At the same time we took the opportunity to remind everyone of the annual AGM and family BBQ get together.

Our renewal drive was very successful with 80% of members renewing over the holiday season and we look forward to the

other sending in their renewal subscription as soon as possible. Of ten new prospective members 6 have signed up and paid their dues. We hope the others will do so soon.

We welcome all the newcomers and hope that you all enjoy the rustic natural environment of our lovely unmade roads and the camaraderie that our neighbourhood provides.



Treasurer David Jones on AGM carving duty



Sheriden/Loel Family



Left to Right: Jenny Raseta, Jane Gault Gayle McNabb



Ben Gerst, Gojko Raseta

Conservation Report - Gojko Raseta

The Committee of the Spray Point Wild Coast Area Conservation Group Inc is delighted to announce the reinstatement of the conservation awards and a renewed focus on the removal of weeds on roadside verges and replanting with local indigenous species. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in three initiatives:

1. Awards for best verges in the two categories ie "established" and "newly created". The "newly created" will be required to submit a "before" photo/video as an evidence of improvements. Awards will be presented at the AGM and BBQ.

Members can nominate their own or somebody else's verge by emailing Lucy Firth on lucy.firth1@gmail.com, or by phoning Lucy on 0407531893 or by dropping a note to Lucy at 20 Koonya Ave Blairgowrie 3942. Current Committee members may nominate.

2. Voucher for 30% subsidy for purchase of plants from Glenvue Nursery provided that you spend \$100 on the plant purchase (maximum voucher value is \$30). Voucher is reissued below – please bring to Nursery.

3. Two roadside verge makeovers

to the value of \$150 each for plants. Interested members of the Group (except for the current Committee members) are invited to nominate for the makeover by emailing Lucy Firth on lucy.firth1@gmail.com or Gojko Raseta on goraseta@bigpond.com by 17 May 2014.

The winners' names will be drawn from a hat by the Committee's President or the Secretary.

The Committee will offer the winners advice on plant purchase, weed removal, ground preparation and planting. If desired a working bee will be organised with the winners expected to participate.

This photo is an excellent example of a much improved verge from 2013. Congratulations to Dan Pieters Rachel Kleinert and baby Osborne on a job well done!



Spray Point Wild Coast Area Conservation Group Inc.

Please provide the member of the SPWCACGI bearing this voucher, with, as required:

- * Advice on suitable indigenous species
- * Advice on planting
- * A discount of 30% on up to \$100 worth of suitable indigenous plants

For use in verge planting in the Spray Point, Blairgowrie area.

Glenvue

Nursery & Landscaping
410 Browns Road Rye

Ph: 03 59 851000

Email: glenvuen@bigpond.com
Open 7 Days A Week

The owners of the nursery are willing to recommend suitable plant species and to provide advice on soil preparation, planting and post planting maintenance. The most appropriate method of eradication of environmental weed species can be found on the Mornington Peninsula Shire website. Just google the Shire and follow the prompts to Weeds Guide.

Roads Report - Graham Pratt

Spray Point Road was graded at Shire expense in early February. This was a one-off annual grading of Spray Point Road only.

Given the rough patches that developed in several areas over the summer holiday period we asked the Shire to grade all the remaining roads

on at our expense. This grading was carried out in mid-February and so far the feedback has been positive. The hills of Koonya, Foam and Beach have been surprisingly smooth!

Since then the combination of dry weather and the presence of construction vehicles has led to

development of corrugations in some areas such as the lower region of Spray Point Road. We will continue to conduct regular inspections of the roads and advise the Shire of any major problem areas.

The next grading of all roads in the Shire's program is planned for May.



Spray Point Wild Coast Area Conservation Group

welcomes your photographic or written input!

If you or a family member can take a photo or write an anecdote to share in the newsletter please send it to:

Holly Lindsay
h.lindsay@imatters.com.au

Treasurer's Report - As at February 22nd 2014

- David Jones

We maintain a healthy bank balance of \$13,869. Our incomings consist of dues and our recent outgoings are the AGM expenses (\$1,071 and printing \$204).

We anticipate the following outgoings:-

- Road works: (\$8,000) [estimated on historic costs]- ie. 2 grades
- AGM : Yet to be presented (\$300)

- Newsletters, publications, audit fees, postage: (\$1,000)

Therefore we should budget for (\$9,300). This leaves us with approximately \$4,569

I think that it is prudent to allow for additional road works, we should therefore identify potential hazards or areas of possible degradation - eg. build-up of sand (soft spots) ruts depressions etc. The regular grading normally does not add aggregate so this is something we can contribute.

The Winter Dinner

Following on from our successful Spray Point community get-togethers we are holding another event in August.

Saturday 2nd August 6:30 pm

29 Foam Ave
(Home of Judith Peirce and Nahum Mushin)

Sit down dinner – Committee will provide main courses

Please bring a salad or
dessert to share, BYO drinks

Note: Places limited to 30 people please
RSVP Lyndall Vinck lyndallv03@yahoo.com

‘A sense of place’

My sense of place relates to everything that the word ‘Home’ evokes. In the 1960’s I abandoned my first home – England – and moved to Australia. My initial reaction was one of shock and horror: the summer heat and flies, the vastness of the country, the ugly vegetation and in fact the absence of all that was dear to me growing up, in particular my family.

In 1990, about to set off for a visit to England, my husband Ian suggested we might buy a beach house. We spent just one day exploring all houses for sale at the cheaper end of the market in Sorrento and Blairgowrie. That day we found our holiday shack; what decided it for me was asking directions to the closest beach and seeing Spray Point for the first time.

We re-built our house ten years ago and now live in this beautiful place, enjoying the ever-changing sea, the sunsets, the big skies. For both of us Blairgowrie feels like home, in every sense of the word. It is here that our children and grandchildren come to see us, to celebrate holidays, to enjoy birthdays and Christmas, often with extended family. Through our involvement in local activities we feel a sense of belonging to a growing community of people who, like us, love this place.

And the ugly vegetation? Over the past twenty years I have developed a love affair with the native trees and shrubs that grow in our little corner of this vast land. I learnt over the years how to care for them; next to us, on a vacant block, nearly all the trees have died in the time we have been here, apart from those I adopted, close to our boundary.

*I feel most passionately about the coast beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), of which there are many on our property. It took some time to discover them all, as they were submerged under a dense canopy of weeds, creepers and the ubiquitous polygala. But they survived and with adequate watering and mulching and gentle pruning of dead branches, the trees reward me with their stunning new growth. The tiny flowers in Spring/Summer are exquisite, attracting native birds. The flowers are followed by white bead-like fruit, bush tucker for the aboriginals who lived here long before white settlement.*

And apart from the airborne monsters that one would expect to appear in March only, I have even learnt to tolerate the flies!

- Amanda Stuart (Ridge Road)

Amanda Stuart’s Coast Beard Heath shrub, showing the lighter new growth.



Blairgowrie Rainfall Totals 2014

- January
13 mm (3 days of rain)
- February
5 mm (2 days of rain)
- March
52 mm (6 days of rain)

Special thanks to Doug Chugg
for supplying these figures.