



Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care

June 2014 Newsletter

ABN 64 566 184 275 ASN A0018210M

P.O. Box 170 Mount Eliza 3930

www.meafec.com

President	Des Berry	9787 4887
Secretary	Meredith Hocking	9787 0585
Committee	Ross Simpson	Jeff Yugovic

Vice President	Peter Greer	9787 7984
Treasurer	Judy Smart	9775 4231
	Carol Shelton	Cathy Dowling

MT Eliza Secondary College

Working Party Meetings Highlight Inconsistencies

MEAFEC Committee members have now attended 2 working party meetings held by the school to plan the development of the cleared bushland site on Mt Eliza Way. So far these meetings have proved to be confusing to say the least. Initially the soccer club said they only required a change room for when they use the oval already existing on the site and we have since learnt they were prepared to pay \$20,000 for an existing portable classroom to use for this purpose. It was also divulged at this initial meeting that the Soccer club are waiting on 3 soccer pitches to be built at Emil Madsen Reserve by the Shire Council and their need of the schools facilities' was only temporary (3 Years) while they waited for the soccer facilities' at Emil Madsen. However, at the following monthly working party meeting they changed their minds to needing 6 soccer pitches leaving no room for vegetation restoration.

Rob Adams President of the School Council stated that "none of this is what the school council was shown or agreed to a year ago". Norman Edger of the Soccer Club also admitted the soccer club organised and paid for the removal of all the vegetation on the schools site in consultation with an unnamed school representative. We are advised by the Shire that Soccer fields cost approximately \$260,000 each to construct plus cost of drainage.

It is now clear that neither the Education Department, nor the school have surplus funds available for construction of soccer pitches - we are advised that the soccer club intends to seek money from the Shire or Victorian Government for construction.

MEAFEC supports the Shire plans for 3 soccer pitches at Emil Madsen Reserve; we do not support construction of 6 soccer pitches at the Mount Eliza Secondary College.

The picture to the right shows the regrowth (natural regeneration, May 2014) at the cleared site of the Mt Eliza Secondary College.



AGM A Huge Success Thanks to Dr Ken Walker

If you missed our AGM you missed an informative and enthralling talk about the bees that can be found in your backyard. Using photos and short video clips the audience learnt about native bees and their secret lives amongst the vegetation in our Parks, Reserves and gardens everywhere. Many audience members wrote and expressed their thanks for a wonderful evening. Here is one response that summed up everyone's thoughts. "Please forward my appreciation to Des for his well compiled, well delivered, interesting information. Seeing images of the various locations in Mount Eliza was pleasantly nostalgic...reminding me of the 26 years that I lived in Mount Eliza and my continuing concern for its environmental preservation. Congratulations to you Meredith on your choice of guest speaker...enthralling; to say the least. Ken certainly knows about Bees and is an expert in conveying his passion, plus his ability to enlighten the audience. Many thanks for such a pleasant informative evening. Please keep me informed about future events".



Dr Walker (pictured below left) provided information on how we can provide habitat for our native bees and MEAFEC is holding a workshop on building your own bee house in conjunction with the Williams Road Planting Day on August 23rd.

Below: A Native Bee House

An interesting fact Dr Walker revealed to one of our members was that a long standing member of the Peninsula Field Naturalists Owen Dawson discovered a bee and had it named after himself. Owen was the first person to find *Amegilla dawsoni* bee in WA during World War II. *Amegilla dawsoni* was collected by Owen while on service with the RAAF Radar at Onslow in 1944. It is one of Australia's largest bees, and is solitary, nesting in burrows. It was not used by the Aboriginals for honey collection, but they ate the grubs. It is only found in arid NW Australia. It was described by Tarlton Rayment, who was an Honorary Entomologist at National Museum of Victoria and who named it after Owen.



Right: Amegilla dawsoni bee



Free Trees to Mt Eliza Residents

The Shire are kindly giving away indigenous trees to all Mount Eliza residents. This is to help off-set many eucalypts that have been lost due to possum over browsing. *Please tell your friends and neighbours.*

They are available from the Shire Nursery located at The Briars in Nepean Highway, Mount Martha. The opening hours are Wed, Thurs and Friday between 9.00-3.30pm and the first Saturday of the month between 9am and 1pm. Residents may take up to 5 trees each.

The trees are as follows -

Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) - a fantastic hardy tree that will stand up to drought and hot sun. It has pale yellow flowers in spring. This tree will last indefinitely. A great asset to any garden!

Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata* and *Allocasuarina littoralis*) - beautiful hardy trees of weeping habit. This tree will also last indefinitely and is a tree that has given the Mornington Peninsula a lot of its natural character.

Black Wattle - this tree has a bi-pinnate leaf which gives a soft effect. It will last for approximately ten years.

Now is a perfect time to plant these trees so they are established before our next summer.

PLANT A TREE AND HELP KEEP MOUNT ELIZA BEAUTIFULLY BUSHY

Owl Survey Evening

Held on May 1st. Friends of the Many Reserves on the Mornington Peninsula were invited to identify owls living at Main Ridge Equestrian Park. Ed Mc Nabb an experienced ecologist played a tape so we could identify the many sounds made by various owls, known to be in the area, then we waited silently in the hope of hearing them for real in the distance. Just on dusk owl calls were heard and we followed the noise in the hope of sighting them. Whilst the Southern Boobook and Powerful Owl were heard we were unable to locate their exact position but everyone present enjoyed the adventure of following their calls in the dark. Hearing their calls is considered proof enough that they remain in the area and will be added to the MPSC wildlife census.

The owl pictured is a Southern Boobook Owl and was photographed in April at a Mt Eliza residence. We need owls to fight our Possum problem.



Friends Groups

FIRESTATION GARDEN 3rd Sunday
monthly 9:30am till 10:30am



EARIMIL Creek 3rd Saturday
monthly 9:30am till 11:30am



BADEN POWELL RESERVE
Tuesday weekly 10am till 12 until
Nov 26th. Contact Coralie Davies
on shark100@dodo.com.au



WILLIAMS ROAD BEACH Friday
weekly 10am–3pm Ann9787 7228



MOOROODUC QUARRY meets 4th Sunday of
each month from 10:00am to Noon. Call
Gerard on 9787 2507.



VICTORY RESERVE 3rd Sunday
monthly from 1 to 4pm. Call
Gerard 9787 2507



BANOOL RESERVE 2nd Sunday
mthly 10am - 12. Ross 9785 1243



Membership Renewal

After our AGM we still have many memberships not renewed and the MEAFEC Committee respectfully requests that you please pay your fees now. As a not for profit organisation we rely on your membership to enhance our chances for Grant money offered by the Government, Melbourne Water and Mornington Peninsula Shire. As you can see from our Newsletter we have 7 sites which we support plus Ranelagh Rocks. Even if you are unable to attend working bees your membership is valuable to us and you are supporting the bushland environment for which Mt Eliza is famous.

Subscriptions can be posted to: PO Box 170 Mt Eliza or by Direct transfer to Bendigo Bank 633-000 Account Number 144471190 please include your name as reference and email your name and contact to secretary@meafec.com
Amounts payable are: Family membership \$25, Individual \$15 and Students \$5.

Williams Road Update

The Friends of Williams Road Beach recommenced their weekly meetings in early April. During this time they have undertaken hand weeding in the well-established retention site between the scout hall driveway and Jacksons Road with a follow through hand weeding in the buffer zone north of Jacksons Road. Gordon has undertaken planting beside tracks and Rosemary, assisted by several Friends, has grown plants for the scout and school planting days in August.

The site for these events is the new 5 metre strip above the north south track. To ensure the success of the planting days, vegetation abutting this pathway has been pruned, rubble is being removed and ground-flora weeds are being sprayed. To assist with the planting days and also, to further restoration of the northern and southern buffer zones, contractor support is required. To this end, a 2014 Coastcare grant has been secured this week and will be implemented over coming weeks.

MEAFEC members wanting to assist with the planting days would be most welcome.

Dates to Remember

Williams Road planting Day August 23rd all welcome contact Ann on 9787 7228.