

The logo for MEAFEC is written in a large, white, stylized font with a black outline, set against a background of a landscape with a river and trees.

Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care



# December 2016 Newsletter

ABN 64 566 184 275 ASN A0018210M

P.O. Box 170 Mount Eliza 3930

[www.meafec.com](http://www.meafec.com)

**President** Des Berry 9787 4887  
**Secretary** Meredith Hocking 9787 0585  
**Committee** Cathy Dowling Jeff Yugovic

**Vice President** Ross Simpson  
**Treasurer** Judy Smart 9775 4231

## Successful Walk and Talk

On Sunday November 13th 2016 Mt Eliza Woodland Residents Association & Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care combined to explore the values of native vegetation. Thirty-four people attended asking many questions of Jeff Yugovic regarding tree health and local plant species.

Originally Mt Eliza was mainly Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) "Grassy Woodland". Both Ann Scholes and Ruth Marriot have "Grassy Woodland" EVC and were very kind to open their gardens to the public so everyone could see how Mt Eliza once was and compare these private yards to the Moorooduc Quarry botanical area and beyond.

Ann had an instruction board out with green ribbons indicating a circular walking track so people could enjoy her native bush block which backs onto Keraboite Creek. People had the freedom to follow the marked trail through the Grassy & Gully Woodland observing swathes of lilies, maidenhair Fern & along the newly cut creek line, which was subjected to erosion in 2010, and see below the emergence of fern species previously not present.



In 2010 when this area suffered considerable erosion Melbourne Water put in Coir logs (coconut fibre) & Ann planted site indigenous species, undertaking minimal disturbance hand weeding. The emergence of ferns, from the seed, significantly aided the stabilization of the site. This is in contrast to the other side of the creek where contractor spraying damaged emerging vegetation and, as consequence, the area remains bald and eroded. The walk was followed by an informal and chatty get together over Morning tea which was appreciated by all who attended.

# Impromptu meet at Williams Road

"This morning, 18 November, was like many other mornings during spring and autumn. We met in the foreshore reserve. It was not a planned gathering but it was typical of many such meetings.

Separate missions were being undertaken yet, as the morning wore on, six people, from three different organisations, pitched in to achieve multiple results for the environment and take part in an enjoyable lunch. Weeds beyond the eastern boundary and in the Banksia Woodland were removed. In addition, branches over-hanging the drive were mulched and put down on the hydrophobic soils of the Banksia Woodland. Finally, preparatory work on a project designed to assist dune stabilization was furthered. To end a busy morning, a last minute participant provided lunch.

These outcomes are the result of friendships, understanding and input between three organizations: Baden Powell Park Scout Group, the Friends of Williams Road Beach and the Mt. Eliza Association for Environmental Care.

As our work for the year draws to a close, we would also, like to acknowledge work undertaken by our contractor, Naturelinks, the Green Army crew and, most particularly, the support and care provided by the Shire's Natural Systems Team.



Finally, without external funding our efforts

would be limited. We would, therefore, like to thank the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority for the 2016 Community Grant which it made available for ongoing work between the north side of Jacksons Road and Glen Shian Lane". *Ann Scholes*

## AGVENT Course sponsored by Mornington Peninsula Shire

Des Berry President MEAFEC and John Scholes Friend of Williams Road Group recently completed an AGVENT course and will be issued with certificates in the near future. The two day course provided information regarding planning for spraying, weather patterns, measurement of wind and the most importantly recording of spraying activity.

This course stressed the importance of Personal protection of the operator both during mixing of chemicals and while spraying as some herbicides will endanger ones health. The Spraying process must take into account the potential harm to the environment, particularly spraying close to waterways, where there is the potential for spray to become airborne and drift onto high quality vegetation. Some herbicides maintain a high residual and can remain for years in the soil with possible leaching from rain runoff. The AGVENT course is a necessary precursor for all volunteers wishing to undertake spraying on Crown Land and foreshore reserves.

## Peninsula Link Baxter Service Stations

Over the past 12 months MEAFEC has been monitoring the new petrol stations and asking the Shire Planning Department to follow up with run off into the Balcombe Creek finally they have responded and are investigating as 'a possible planning contravention'. More to come on this issue in our March Newsletter.

# EARIMIL ESTUARY GROUP (EEG) Update works –October 2016



**Figure 1 - Works area Earimil Estuary –**  
Image downloaded from Google Earth does not show current vegetation

**Figure 2 - Works area Earimil Estuary –**  
Image downloaded from Google Earth does not show current vegetation

Western bank of Earimil creek to 30 metres South from bridge has been cleared of woody weeds and has very little vegetation – planted with Drooping Sheoak and Boobiella OCT16 – requires ongoing weeding



**Figure 3: Image shows current vegetation after clearing & with plantings (16 OCT 2017) of Sheoak, Boobiella and Rhagodia well established**



The bare ground has encouraged weed growth and will require hand weeding over the coming months. A total of 56 plants have been established in this small bare patch along the bank of Earimil creek on the Foreshore reserve.

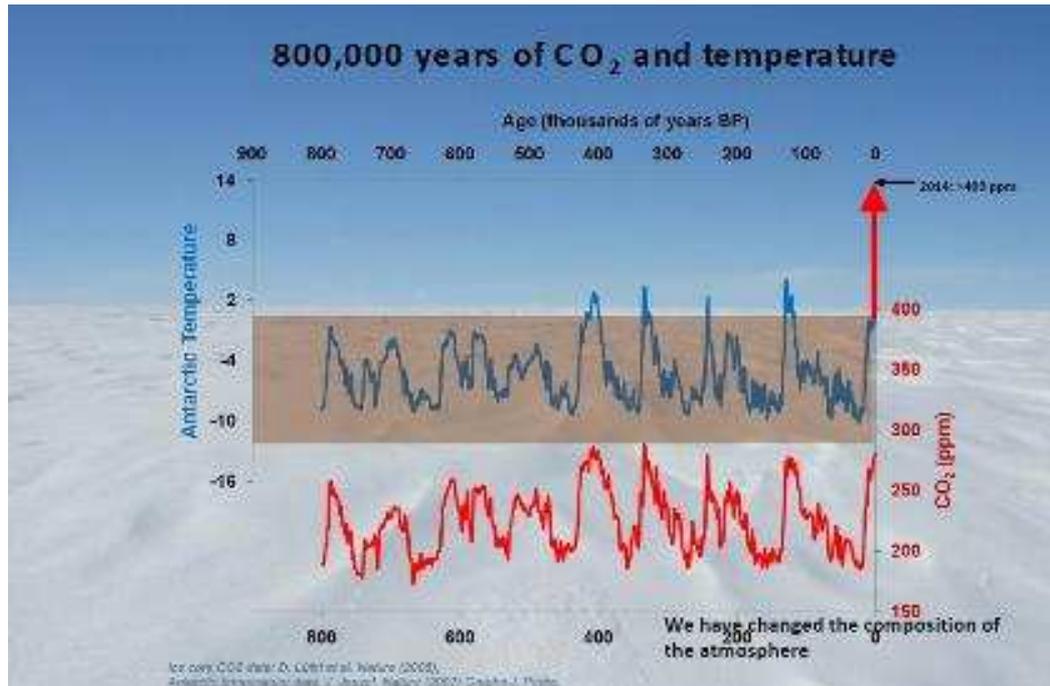
This bank area is protected from prevailing SW winds and faces primarily east. There is a good copse of Sheoaks on the adjacent flats on Lot B land. Rhagodia planted in May have trebled in size, even the plants direct into sand are doing well. The escarpment above the bank is proposed for a MMBW grant for 2017 to extend the weed removal program along the escarpment. *Des Berry, EEG Coordinator 0419 992 939*

# Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM)

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner held 24<sup>th</sup> November Mornington Golf Club

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council appoints Foreshore Advisory Groups to complement Council's designated coastal planning and management responsibilities. These groups consist of volunteer community members that have a strong passion and commitment to the coast. Foreshore Advisory Groups provide valuable local knowledge and history that is used to inform strategic plans. They act as a key link for community consultation and provide advice/feedback on issues related to management, projects, policy initiatives and protection of the foreshore reserves. MEAFEC has three members who are registered on the Mornington Peninsula Foreshore Advisory Committee they are Des Berry, John Scholes and Jeff Yugovic. They regularly attend meetings with Shire Officers to help protect and promote better outcomes for our foreshore. Meafec received an invite to attend a meeting of the ABM.

At the recent annual dinner the guest speaker Dr Nick Gales Director of Australian Antarctic Division spoke about "The Importance of Antarctic & Southern Ocean Research to Understanding our Region and to our national wellbeing". He presented a slide show which outlined the science being undertaken to prove Global warming is real and how Australia's climate and the Antarctic are intertwined. Ice cores record thousands of years of information about past climate. One graph shown here reflects the changes over 800,000 years of CO<sub>2</sub> levels and temperature.



I hope to have the complete slide show up on our website for you to view in the near future.

## The Year 2016 in short

This year has seen our group continue to be productive. We commenced the year with Ann Scholes receiving a Rotary Award for Community service and we have seen the Earimil Estuary Group grow and make significant vegetation restoration but there are many more issues we have tackled.

Our dedicated Group Leaders continue to inspire our volunteers and selflessly donate their time and skills on a weekly basis. Thank you Ann, Jeff, Ross, Coralie and newly appointed Committee member Vyv Stryder.

Thank you once again MEAFEC members for supporting us and we sincerely appreciate you all for caring about the environment in which we live.

**Members, Supporters and Volunteers We Wish You a Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year.**

## Long-time Moorooduc Quarry Leader Resigns

After many years of dedicated work in the Quarry and as Leader Gerard McDonald has resigned from the position. Gerard will be missed and we wish him well enjoying retirement with his wife travelling Australia.