



December 2017 Newsletter

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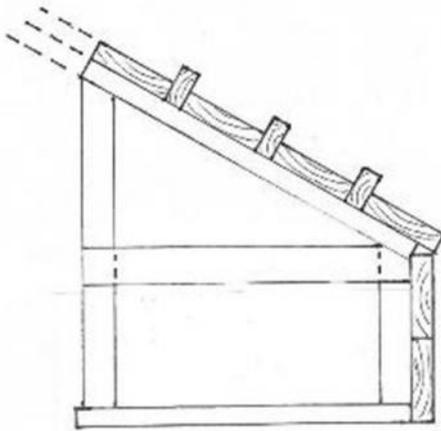
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Beach Protection Structure

© John Scholes 2015 Patent Pending

Williams Road Friends Group over many years have been trying to save an old Banksia tree perched on the edge of a sand dune which over time has suffered badly from wave erosion. John and Ann Scholes have tried many different strategies to stop sand erosion, such as sand bagging, but each high tide saw their efforts washed away. So when loss of the 150 year old Banksia was imminent John put his mind to finding a lasting solution and so the "Beach Protection Structure" was conceived. This new structure has not only stopped waves from eroding the sand away but has provided the support to build up sand behind and in front of the structure thereby enhancing the beach all round. With a Patent pending it is hoped this structure will help protect beaches all around the bay.



Beach protection structure

- Designed to be a lightweight construction. In its present form it has been manually placed on a beach. The modules could be factory prepared by carpenters, but we have used volunteer labour
- Modular framework is designed to provide rigidity.
- The structure is lined with geotextile, and filled with sand. This fixes it in position. No footings are required.
- The structure is angled at 30° to the horizontal but this can be varied. Momentum is quickly lost as the incoming waves ride up the structure. In doing so, this process is assisted by the provision of "calming bars"
- Depending on tidal range, multiple rows of structures can be installed on a beach, at differing elevations.

Unveiling of Beach Protection Structure

On November 10th MP Lily D'Ambrosio Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change visited Williams Road Beach to see firsthand John Scholes beach protection structure and learnt how it could be used in the future. Many people were in attendance from the Mornington Shire Council (MPSC), Baden Powell Park Scout Group and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Also in attendance was Adam Magennis Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisor and Archaeologist.



Seen here on the left, Adam spent some time explaining to Minister D'Ambrosio the age and content of one of the middens found on Mt Eliza beach. Mr Magennis said there were 800 registered Aboriginal sites on the peninsula. Many are near water, but many have been destroyed since Europeans arrived on the peninsula in the 1830s.

It is hoped that with funding from the Government John Scholes Beach Protection Structure can be extended to help protect Aboriginal Middens in front of the Scout Hall from Wave Erosion also.

The prototype structure seen above was totally funded by the Baden Powell Park Scouts and built by its volunteer members.

Ann Scholes reported to those in attendance that approximately \$125,000 worth of grants and funding have gone into the Williams Road site since 2003. The majority of these grants have been through DSE or DELWP and implemented with the assistance of the MPSC who are always willing to help in any way they can. There are currently 12 active members, who volunteer their time March to November, which helps make Williams Road the success that it is. Why not come along and be a part of a successful team, even for one morning a month, and enjoy the friendship and scenery followed by lunch on the beach. What could be more rewarding!

Nature doing its thing in the Quarry

The Wedge-tailed eagles in the foothill forest are fledging two young who are getting close to flight. Observers have seen them over the last few weeks and evidence of a number of kills close to the nest, a straw-necked ibis and what appears to be either a rabbit or ring-tailed possum. Also, the peregrine falcons have successfully parented young in the Quarry again they too are fledging two young on the NW face of the Quarry.

On a floristic note: The xanthorrhoeas in the South East part of the reserve are in flower, so a great time for visit to the Quarry all round. Paul Cumming Team Leader.

Earimil Works

The view North from Earimil Lookout was obscured by a large boxthorn growing on the edge of the cliff. This unsightly tree - A weed species from South Africa - was growing vigorously and masking the view of Ranelagh Beach and the sea looking north. Last year the Meafec committee decided to commit reserve funds to the removal of this pestilent weed.



Here is the view from Earimil Lookout – before the boxthorn removal.



View of Ranelagh Beach from Earimil lookout after the removal of boxthorn. The committee is very happy with the result. The tree on bottom left of the picture is native to the area.

Recent Mt Eliza Way Median Strip Plantings

MEAFEC has been in touch with the shire Contract Coordinator - Parks & Roadsides regarding the new plantings on Mt Eliza Way in the Village Centre. Unfortunately the Convolvulus is silverbush Convolvulus cneorum from southern Europe. MEAFEC has requested it be removed and replaced with an appropriate indigenous species as per the Mount Eliza Village Strategy and the plant lists we have supplied on previous occasions. On November 19th we supplied the plants listed below as suitable alternatives but as yet have had no response.

Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
Long-hair Plume-grass	<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>
Bulbine Lily	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>
Pink Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus remotus</i>
Small-flower Flax-lily	<i>Dianella brevicaulis</i>
Variable Groundsel	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>
Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>

The other plants already installed are Chrysocephalum and Dianella plantings which are indigenous.

Friends of the Snow Gums

On November 4th twelve people attended a working bee to weed in a magnificent example of the Moorooduc Plain grassy woodland on the Mornington rail line. Over 30 indigenous species are present, many being colourful wildflowers. Thanks to all who attended.



Ritchies' Community Benefit Reminder

Just a reminder that if you have a Ritchies card please present it at the checkout each time you shop and/or please change the beneficiary to MEAFEC. This is quick and easy to do at the counter next time you shop. Whilst we are receiving some funds it's not every month because of the \$2,000 threshold.

Operation 3930

To date we have been able to plant 2,845 plant species in and around Mt Eliza. Our target was ambitious and the planting season is finished as it is too hot over summer for new plantings to survive. However we will continue to strive to meet this target every year.

The Year 2017 in short

With majority of our committee having 10 years MEAFEC experience we are taking on more grants and seeing some spectacular results. Currently we are overseeing 6 grants with another 2 in the pipeline. Our dedicated Group Leaders continue to inspire our volunteers and selflessly donate their time and skills on a weekly basis. Thank you Ann and John Scholes, Jeff Yugovic, Ross Simpson, Coralie Davies, Gerard McDonald, Des Berry and Paul Cumming.

But most importantly thank you once again MEAFEC members for supporting us, we appreciate you all for caring about the environment in which we live.

**Members, Supporters and Volunteers the MEAFEC Committee
Wishes You a Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year.**