

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

Mount Eliza Association for Environmental Care

March 2018 Newsletter

ABN 64 566 184 275 ASN A0018210M

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www.meafec.com

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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

SUNDAY MARCH 4th 2018

Volunteers needed Mount Eliza

BRING Gardening Gloves, Hat and Sunscreen

Earimil Lookout 10.00am to 12 midday Leader Jeff Yugovic

We are custodians of the unique Buruk Bunun coast
(Earimil Coves below Earimil Bluff)

We meet at Earimil Lookout, end of Earimil Drive, Melway 101 C12

If late: down path, left on beach, past Earimil Point

We invite and encourage your participation. More information at www.cleanup.org.au

Annual General Meeting April 24th 2018

Our guest speaker will be Prof Stephen Swearer from Melbourne University. Steve is passionate about marine ecology and will entertain and inform you with his research work about Port Phillip Bay. Please mark this event in your calendar you won't be disappointed. Our Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Mt Eliza Bowling Club from 7.30pm. Friends and Family are most welcome and supper will be provided following our guest speaker talk.



Annual General Meeting Prof Swearer cont.

Steve is Professor of marine biology at the University of Melbourne and more specifically Marine Ecology (fish ecology, fisheries ecology, otolith chemistry, larval ecology). At heart Steve is a larval fish biologist, with a keen interest in understanding how ecological processes that occur in early life influence the dynamics of populations. His research has recently taken a more applied focus by identifying the primary causes of extinction risk in fishes and coastal marine ecosystems, in order to inform better water, pollution and fisheries management policies.

At the present time Steve and his team are researching four broad themes:

I. Ecological Engineering– Developing solutions to pressing environmental challenges in coastal marine ecosystems that provide new economic opportunities.

II. Fish and Fisheries Ecology– Studying the early life-history stages of marine, estuarine, and freshwater fishes to understand how their populations are replenished and to identify the causes of variation in recruitment.

III. Eco-Evolutionary Dynamics– Exploring the feedbacks between individual life-history trait evolution and the population dynamics of fish.

IV. Ecotoxicology– Investigating the sub lethal effects of heavy metals and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) on fish reproduction and development. At the moment restoring the lost shellfish reefs of Port Phillip Bay are the focus:



Figure 1. Juvenile flat oyster on scallop shell Photo by Ben Cleveland

Native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis planulatus*) beds were once ecologically important features of significant areas of Port Phillip Bay and were recognised as important fish habitat by commercial and recreational fishers. There is now opportunity with the recent development of a local commercially operated hatchery supply of native flat oyster and mussel spat (small juveniles) to consider re-establishing lost shellfish beds in Port Phillip Bay. Once established, and if managed appropriately, shellfish beds can self-replenish and increase in size, to form more expansive 3-dimensionally complex and valuable bottom habitats for both fish and a variety of other marine biodiversity.

The team, including PhD candidate Ben Cleveland and Research Fellow Dr John Ford will engage directly in the restoration process, develop restoration methodology, monitor the successes and examine the benefits and challenges. This is being carried out in conjunction with Collaborators: Fisheries Victoria, The Nature Conservancy, Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club.

This valuable work has been undertaken with several grants from DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT LAND WATER & PLANNING 2017 - 2020 and MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

Melbourne Water Grant



In September 2016 we commenced the first of our three Melbourne Water grants to enhance the Earimil creek bank weeding and revegetating. Weeds removed included coprosma, blackberry, polygala, boxthorn, north cape weed and rambling dock. The initial removal of the heavily infested weeds resulted in bare ground – see below/next page

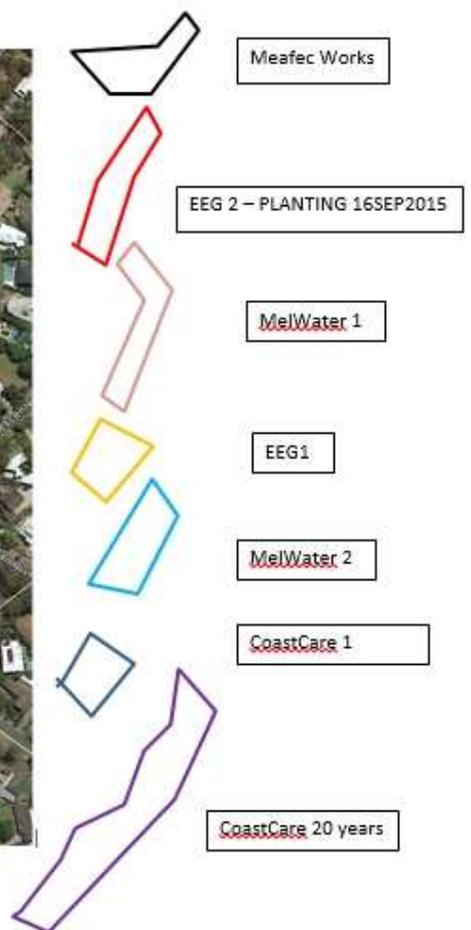
This area was planted late in October 2016. However the water from the creek and the shading from the escarpment have provided ideal growing environment for the plants. All plants are site specific and either propagated from seeds collected on site or sourced from Shire nursery



Western bank of Earimil creek to 30 metres South from bridge has been cleared of woody weeds in September 2016 and has very little vegetation. It was planted with Rhagodia, Drooping Sheoak and Boobialla OCT2016 and requires ongoing weeding.

Picture (left) taken of the same Western Bank of Earimil creek – 25FEB2018. The plants are thriving!

Earimil – Ranelagh Works Area – Planting Day 16SEP17



Friends Groups

MOUNT ELIZA CFA 3rd Sunday
monthly 9:30am to 11:30am



EARIMIL CREEK 3rd Saturday
monthly 9:30am to 11:30am



BADEN POWELL RESERVE weekly
Tues 10am Coralie 9787 7228



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



MOOROODUC QUARRY meets 4th Sunday of
each month from 10:00am till Noon.
Call Paul 0468 582 577



VICTORY RESERVE 3rd Sunday
monthly (Aug to Nov) from 1 to
4pm. Call Gerard 0418 505 290



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



The map on page 3 (above) shows an overview of the Works area and the grants we have worked on over the past 3 years.

A dotted line indicates the grant has been completed.

The light blue shows a new grant we have just received from Melbourne water for weed removal and revegetation along the escarpment between Earimil Creek and the steps leading down from Earimil lookout.

The lime green area is a new grant we have applied for to extend the weed removal from the existing works area.

The entire Earimil Estuary has been transformed from a massive overgrown weeds into an abundance of native trees and shrubs. See above the transformation of the Western Creek Bank or lower Earimil creek.

Operation 3930

In March 2017 the MEAFEC Committee pledged to install 3,930 new plants in Mt Eliza whilst we always knew this was a tall order we wanted to aim high to maximise plantings in Mt Eliza. With this in mind we are pleased to report having planted 2,845 trees and shrubs.

2018 Membership Due

Your Annual Subscription for 2018 is now due and can be paid in person at our AGM or by direct credit Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000

Account Number: 155719453