



Mornington Foreshore Newsletter

March 2015

Who is Mornington Foreshore Advisory Group (MFAG)? MFAG is an independent group of community members who provide advice to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (Shire) on foreshore use and planning in the Mornington area. Our primary point of contact with the Shire is via the Strategic Coastal Planner and we are pleased to welcome Mornington's new Strategic Coastal Planner - Neil Daykin an experienced coastal planner and water engineer. Please join our facebook site for foreshore updates and news – 'Mornington Foreshore Group'.

Clean Up Australia Day – 1 March 2015 – Register at www.cleanup.org



2014 Clean up organisers at Tanti Creek

Sunday 1 March 2015 is the annual clean-up of rubbish around the beaches, foreshores and creeks. Details are available at www.cleanup.org or through the Shire. All are invited to participate! Volunteers should wear closed footwear (not thongs), hats and sunscreen. Rakes, gloves and tongs will be provided. Last year we saw a reduction in cigarette butts and larger dumped items (e.g. computers and building debris) but there are lots of plastics, food containers and bottles hidden in bushes and behind boat sheds.

Updates on Shire projects

Mornington Pier opening

Mornington's pier reconstruction project is now 80% complete, with all the wave screens now installed protecting vessels within the harbour. The outer section will remain closed until the deck, handrails and low landing are installed by March 2015 by Parks Victoria. Further improvements are planned to the forecourt area including re-laying cobblestones, services upgrades, seating, lighting, formalised car parking and historical information signage.

Works along Esplanade

The area near the Rotary BBQ and beach access paths off the Esplanade opposite the Police Station have been fenced off as some aboriginal archaeological was uncovered during some upgrade works to the foreshore path. The site will remain closed until Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) has completed their investigation. Adam Magennis (Shire's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer) supervised the recent AAV approved surveying and site remediation.

Look out for our native sea stars

The Good guy!
Our native 11-armed sea star

Photo Source:
Mark Norman / Museum Victoria



The Bad guy!
Introduced Japanese 5-armed sea star - take out above the high tide mark to expire (they won't feel it!)

Source: DEPI



If you come across any maintenance, doggie or litter issues, please lodge via the council 1300 850 600 or customerservice@mornpen.vic.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY: The Regional Coastal Plan is out for review and can be viewed on the Shire's web mornpen.vic.gov.au/. It is similar to the Victorian Coastal Strategy, approved in 2014.

Mothers Beach toilets to undergo \$500,000 renovation

The toilets will be unisex and include showers. Due for completion by April 2015. Temporary toilets have been installed close by. The Mornington Environment Association will eventually undertake native planting in the area. The old bluestone toilets in the car park will be replaced in 2015-16.

\$11,000 boat wastewater pump station to improve water quality

The Shire has obtained funding for a boat wastewater pump station to help prevent bacterial contamination of Mornington (Mothers) Beach from sewage discharges. The pump station will be on the pier near Mornington Yacht Club. Other water quality improvement measures including litter traps on stormwater drains are also being installed around the Peninsula. Consultants are regularly testing seawater at Mills Beach, Mothers Beach and near stormwater outlets on Shire Hall Beach.

Beleura Cliff-Caraar creek path collapse

The cliff walk around Beleura Hill has been closed by the Shire, following continuous slips, collapse of the path and ongoing water flowing down the cliff. A heated meeting in November 2014 saw local residents, tourists and walkers voice their disbelief at the Shire's slow response in remedying the ongoing problems with water damage along the path.

A newsletter published by the Shire states:

"The Shire is responsible for maintenance but State Government responsible for provision of structures and repair of storm damage to Crown land. A consultant has been engaged to investigate options for a special charge drainage scheme for effective management and discharge of drainage"

Soil nail (anchor) tests to assist in the repair of the land slip were unsuccessful, so a cement stabilized sand bag method is to be tested. Once known, cost estimates will be used to advocate for funding. Proposals are also being sought to redirect the storm-water pipe at the slip site. In addition to the land slip there are issues with the boardwalk and handrails that could cause the path to remain closed.

A Community Steering Group has been formed to investigate the issue and is already working with residents. Please contact the Shire Coastal Planning Officer for further information on 5950 1982.

Our foreshore wildlife

The Shire is funding ecologist Mal Legge to undertake a survey of native fauna along the foreshore from Beleura Hill to Linley Point. The study revisits an original survey area from nine years ago that occurred before restoration work commenced with local Friends Groups. Since then, habitat has been restored along the foreshore and Tanti Creek, although feral and domestic cats, rats, foxes and even rabbits have taken their toll.

Nest boxes placed along the Mills Beach, Tanti Creek and Red Bluff are being checked to see if any have been occupied during spring. One box on Red Bluff will have to be re-installed as its tree fell down!

Residents are urged to keep their cats confined to their properties, as required by the Shire's curfew, and to avoid using rat baits in their boatsheds, which kill our protected native swamp rats.



Photo shows poaching on rocks under Beleura Hill

Abalone poaching

We urge people not to take abalone illegally from shallow waters. There have been some recent successful apprehensions and seizures of bags. If you see any poaching please contact the Shire or Department of Fisheries on 13FISH (136186) or local police 5970 4900.

Dangerous rips at Mills Beach

Rips in surf form along Mills Beach when north-westerly winds blow, taking unwary swimmers by surprise. Notices stating "Dangerous rips operate in this area" have been installed urging users to be aware that conditions can be dangerous. Swim between the flags!

