



THE BRIDGE

Bi-monthly community magazine for Balnarring, Bittern, Crib Point, Flinders, French Island, Main Ridge, Merricks, Pt. Leo, Red Hill, Shoreham, Somers and Tuerong

Issue 91 June and July 2025

www.bridgemag.com.au



Made possible by the customers of
Balnarring & District

B Bendigo Bank

Joey Scouts learning about compass points and making maps. Read what all the Scout groups have been up to on pages 44-47. Photo: Gabby Ackland

Huge Thanks to Community Bank - Balnarring and District for their fantastic support.

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to your June-July 2025 edition of the Bridge, no. 91! We want to thank Dale Stohr (Friends of Woolleys Beach) for volunteering to take over the Somers General and Crib Pt distribution run from Jen – it is greatly appreciated!! And we give our apologies to Dale for omitting his page 2 in the April-May Bridge! Please read his whole article from Friends of Woolleys Beach on pages 12 and 13.

For the sake of transparency to you, our dear community, we'd like to share that we are in a (short, hopefully!) time of change re Bridge funding. One of our two wonderful Gold Co-sponsors has taken the decision to alter how they support the Bridge. In the past, the Bridge did not need to charge for advertising. So, we are looking to establish new funding that enables this service to the community to be maintained, if at all possible! We are also seeking a volunteer bookkeeper. If you can help at all, please reach out to us at info@bridgemag.com.au We shall keep you in the loop!

Covid is doing the rounds, as we know, and has just decided to visit half of the Bridge production team! What has been so lovely about it is the kind offers of help around shopping, getting more tissues and pet food, and bin logistics! Plus sharing helpful things to do – drink plenty of water and REST a lot! Also, address symptoms like a chesty cough, sore throat, sniffly nose, with over-the-counter tonics, lozenges, etc. I can now empathise with all COVID sufferers!!!

A few years ago, I was driving from Balnarring to Somers beach early each morning to walk with my dog... I would see this man on the bike path, clearly picking up rubbish. After a while I learned it was Ilma's husband, Chris Hackett. He did it all or most days – to Somers and return on his bike, stopping to make the path clean and safe for the day's users – what an Angel!! He has now left us, and our love and sympathy are with Ilma and her family.

We wish you all a Joyful June and Just-simply-wonderful July!

With our love, Jen and Ali xx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong language groups of the Kulin Nation. We would like to pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

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The Bridge Magazine

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Content:

Our wonderful community! You!



Celebrating
17 years
supporting our
community

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

B Bendigo Bank

Happy Birthday!

June

3rd Jenna Edebohls
& Melissa Thompson
6th Jen Atherton
10th Nicole Greenwood
11th Ali Hoelzer
14th Felicity Balfour
16th *We remember*
Susannah Field
19th Pea Saunders
19th Nev Morehu
24th Thomas Hoelzer
26th Beau Alfrey
27th Winnie O'Neil
28th Laura Alfrey
29th Hugo Gibson



July

2nd Mark Heffernan
4th Sean Willmore
6th Maureen & Ged Roach
8th Lynda Clark
9th Mary-Jo Hanley
12th Jacinta Van Stek
15th Adele Clemens
16th Sarah Vaughan
18th Beth Gibson &
Mackenzie Wilcox
20th Mandy Nelson
24th Stan Maine &
Jonah Van Stek
27th Bob McGaughey
29th *We remember*
Merv Roach

To add a name to community birthdays, email info@bridgemag.com.au

June July 2025

Inspirational Angel Cards for the Community:

Sense of Humour Adventurous

How can you weave these into your day to support and empower you?

Who do you appreciate in our community and why?

Email submissions of appreciation, & birthdays in our community, to:
info@bridgemag.com.au or

Post to: The Bridge, PO Box 248, Balmarring 3926

Would you like to receive a digital copy of The BRIDGE in your email inbox?

Email info@bridgemag.com.au "subscribe" in the subject line.

Want to contribute to The Bridge? For deadline reminders, email
info@bridgemag.com.au with "deadline reminders" in the subject line.

COMMUNITY

10AM
12PM



2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY OF
EACH MONTH

ST MARK'S HALL,
BALNARRING

COFFEE, TEA, BISCUITS
AND FRUIT SUPPLIED

CAFE

CORNER



BRING A FRIEND

*A place to meet, sit, chat, knit, read a book, take part in an
activity - you choose*

PROUDLY
PARTNERING WITH

Community Bank
Balnarring & District





**News from your
elected advocate
for Coolart Ward, Cr. David Gill.**

- Chain saws draw our attention especially when **koalas** frequent local trees. There is much local community concern about **suspected illegal clearance of vegetation**.

Successful prosecution is a warning that there are real ramifications including fines and costly reinstatement provisions.

However, State Government regulations including a statute of limitations and Town Planning Scheme complications (including vegetation overlay protections) offer a large number of exemptions to illegal clearing.

There is also a dependence on timely community assistance including photos and videos, times and dates and eyewitness accounts; these may all help immensely.

Enforcement issues include two processes:

- Magistrates court for assessment of guilt and any resultant penalty
- VCAT (Planning Tribunal) for any remediation works

This level of difficulty could be resolved by a State Government interested in preventing unnecessary loss of vegetation.

- “**Community Grants** assist our many volunteer groups to provide timely facilities and programs directly in their local area. There are large savings to ratepayers because of volunteer co-contributions and voluntary hours. Hopefully any short-sighted attempt to lessen support for volunteers will be rejected in the Council Budget process.”
This was written some months ago; it is now a very sad outcome. Return on investment to our community from our volunteer sector last financial year:

Received \$4.1m in Council grants and volunteers gave back \$5m fundraised by volunteers as their contribution to aquit grants

- Plus 59,000 volunteer hours

All to help our community by those that understand local needs.

- No end in sight for our 22,000 properties without **sewerage reticulation**. The lack of State Government assistance, after declaring the Mornington Peninsula a metropolitan municipality, is creating a potential major health and environmental hazard.
Council is planning an advocacy program to have these properties connected to sewerage reticulation within 10 years.
- Council **Community Engagement** in the last quarter included:
 - 39,222 inquiry calls taken with 46% resolved at first contact
 - 31,520 service requests received (including Snap, Send, Solve) 75% were resolved within 12 days.

Some interesting Shire Website page hits:

- 60,399 find your bin day
 - 48,313 book a camp site
 - 31,377 about pets for adoption
 - 21,607 involving infringements and fines
- **Encroachments.** Council's Property Team have identified and inspected many structural encroachments on Council publicly owned property. These are currently being investigated with a view toward enforcement action.

Please continue to contact me, your feedback is always welcome.

Regards,

David.

david.gill@mornpen.vic.gov.au



Save Westernport, like many other groups and individuals in our community, was disgusted to hear of the decision by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) to rescind their 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration and 10-year Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Mayor Anthony Marsh and Deputy Mayor Paul Pingiaro were the key proponents of the Motion, which narrowly passed 6 votes to 5 on April 22.

Motion 472, first tabled at the meeting on the same night as the vote, was essentially a secret, with the community cut out of the process. There was no transparency and no due process.

When we heard rumours of this Motion over the Easter weekend, the Save Westernport Steering committee and many other groups and individuals wrote to our Councillors ahead of the meeting, asking them to reconsider and suggesting reasonable options for other ways forward. But the Councillors behind the Motion didn't take up our recommendations, and when other Councillors proposed reasoned amendments during the debate, all but one was disallowed or voted down.

It has become increasingly clear that our Council is now under the control of a conservative voting bloc, set on pushing an ideological agenda that is not supported by science and has no basis in reason or fact.

Using conservative media like the Bolt Report and News Limited to push their agenda, they've been parroting right wing rhetoric and tropes to call the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration "virtue-signalling."

But such views were emphatically rejected by the wider Australian public at the recent Federal election.

If action on climate is virtue signalling, then what does it say about the 2366+ governments and local authorities around the world that have signed their own Climate Emergency Declarations—including 118 local governments in Australia?

The MPSC is now notably out of step with every other Council in our region, all of which declared a Climate Emergency following the MPSC's exemplary leadership in 2019. Our Council's Climate Emergency Declaration responded to the specific risk facing residents of this Shire, with combined coastlines on Westernport and Port Phillip Bays exceeding 192km,

In bringing a Motion that we believe would have been widely rejected by the vast majority of MPSC residents, Cr Pingiaro attempted to justify his Motion by using the Urban Forest Strategy as an example of what he claimed were wasted council resources. The UFS is a tree planting project designed to minimise the burgeoning Heat Island effect that is making built-up urban areas increasingly unliveable for prolonged periods during heat wave conditions.

A further example repeatedly cited by both Cr Pingiaro and Mayor Marsh in media interviews celebrating and justifying the Council decisions, is the accusation that Council funds have been wasted on “installing energy efficient dishwashers in private schools”. But Councillors refuting the claim say this is a complete fabrication.

It is worth noting that when he first requested the Council officers report seeking information on the financial and practical impacts of the Climate Emergency Declaration, Cr Pingiaro said his request was “... ***not a directive to rescind the declaration, but an audit of measurable outcomes...***”. (See Council minutes from January 28 2025)

But less than two months later, not only did the Councillor for Tanti ward move to rescind the Council’s declaration, but also to dump the entire Climate Emergency Response Plan— a Motion that has now been adopted without public consultation or any means for residents to formally respond.

While they were right to anticipate community outrage at the decision, far from taking any feedback into account, these Councillors “doubled down” with another regressive Council Motion that was once again approved with minimal debate.

At the May 6th meeting this second Motion by Cr Pingiaro called for Council funding of valuable local community-based Arts and Culture programs to be slashed, including Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association.

Voting to strip this local indigenous organisation of every cent of its financial support from Council, then vocally re-allocating these funds to celebrating Australia Day is the height of cultural insensitivity— and for this we should all be thoroughly ashamed.

Who knows what is next?

Save Westernport thanks Crs Gill, Roper, Stephens, Patton and Binyon for speaking out strongly and voting against these regressive Council decisions, and we urge YOU as residents, to let your elected Councillors know what you think, using social media, by writing letters to the paper, and emailing COUNCILLORS@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Keep informed via the Save Westernport facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/share/16GsbheHvG/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

and our Discussion group <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/12Hzzmj6v4b/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/savewesternport?igsh=NDJvbHluMGcyM2Vy>

and visit our website. <https://savewesternport.org/>

Now is the time to speak out to defend our community climate resilience plans, and challenge this DOGE-like Council.



PRESENTS

Rhapsody in June

fundraising for

Western Port Community Support Inc.

A concert featuring
Western Port Singers and Senior Music Students
followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Sunday 15 June, 2pm to 4.30pm

Balnarring Community Hall

3041 Frankston-Flinders Rd, Balnarring



\$25 Adults • \$20 Concession • Family \$50 -2A/2C

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1390689>

Inquiries. Lis 0407 713 211 or Jan 0439 963 109

westernportsingers.com

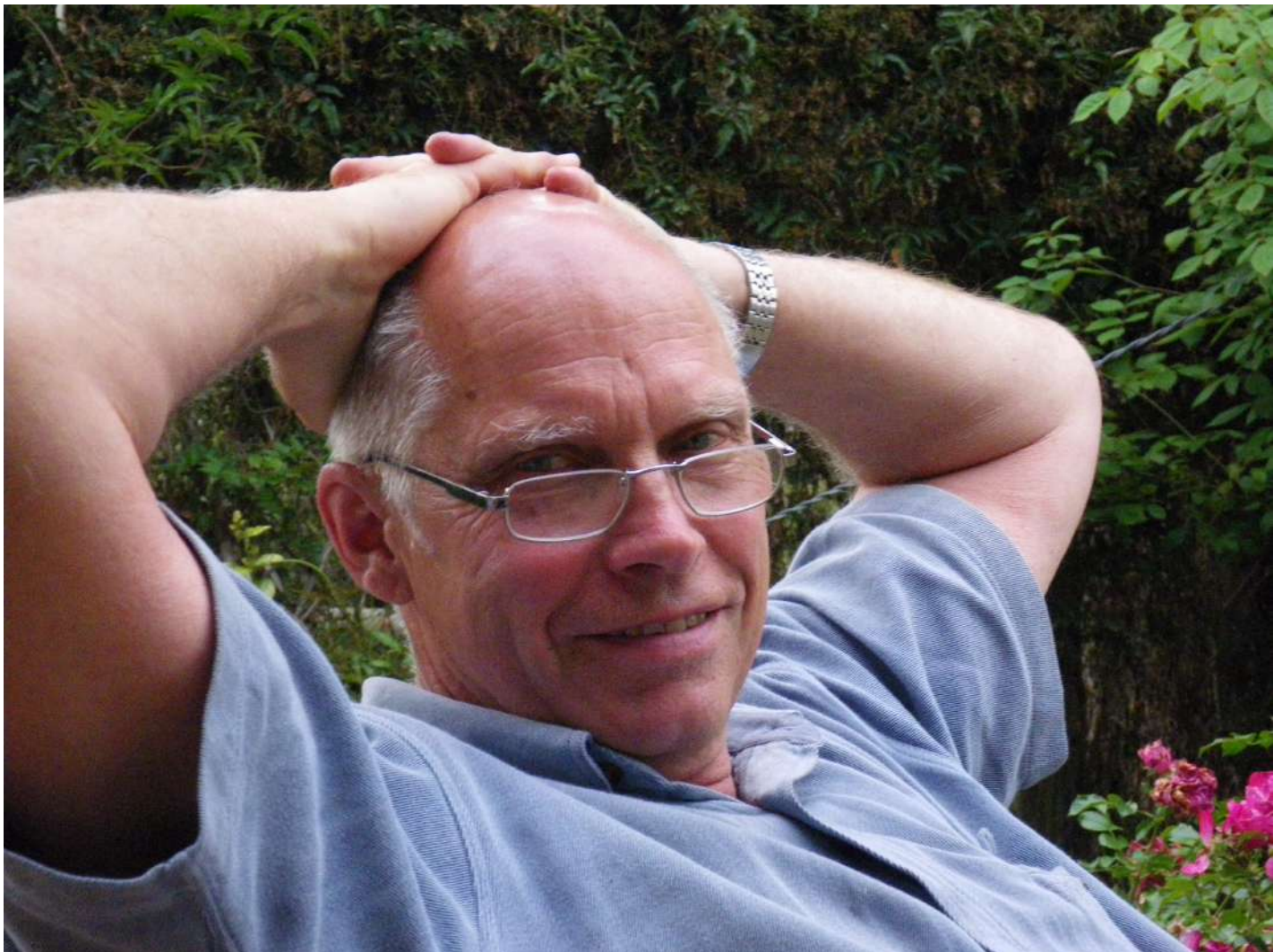


Vale Chris Hackett

After his retirement Chris did a lot of voluntary maintenance work around Balnarring, quietly and without fuss. He worked at the school and looked after the wetlands, he cleaned up graffiti, he picked up rubbish. Most recognised him in his high-vis top as he went about his work and we have received many messages of condolence.

To all the wonderful people who have shown such kindness and shared so many memories of Chris. He will be dearly missed around our community and forever in our hearts. Thank you from the family of Chris Hackett, as he would say, "Much appreciated."

Ilma, Shaun and Kerry



Friends of Woolleys Beach

Woolleys Beach and Jacks Beach are important areas of the Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Reserve located in a significant area within the Western Port Biosphere with global importance for the conservation of nature under the RAMSAR wetland convention.

This unique reserve is used by locals and visitors alike for recreation, walks, bike riding, fishing, birdwatching or kayaking. Local primary schools visit the foreshore reserve on a regular basis to learn about the coastal environment including mangroves and seagrass beds.

Unfortunately, our beautiful open woodland is under threat from invasive weeds, which left unchecked can replace these important ecosystems. Together with our new ranger Glenn Brooks-MacMillan, our volunteers seek to restore the balance in our reserve by identifying and appreciating the exciting plant communities and working to remove introduced weeds.

One common invasive weed is the dreaded Bluebell Creeper (*billardiera heterophylla*). This native evergreen climber from Western Australia can be found around the Crib Point and Bittern area where it grows unchecked. The seeds are taken by birds into the bush where this vigorous climber takes over the understory and shades out our native groundcovers.



Woolleys Beach

In 2024, the Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Committee of Management received a grant from Coastcare Victoria to employ contractors to remove Bluebell Creeper from the reserve, while our Friends of Woolleys Beach group worked on this patch as well.

We will revisit this site during the year to make sure any surviving climbers are removed and see how the native grasses and vegetation have recovered.

We are planning more activities, planting and working bees in our foreshore reserve in 2025. If you are interested to learn more, please check our Facebook page for updates and join our group. Please bring gardening gloves and hat. All are welcome and no experience needed.

Where? Woolleys Beach North carpark next to Crib Point jetty (Opposite the Victorian Maritime Centre at 220 The Esplanade, Crib Point).

When? First Sunday of every month from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Check Facebook for updates and join our group – ['Woolleys Beach Friends Group'](#)

Many thanks to all our fantastic volunteers at Woolleys Beach!

Contact: ranger@cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au

Further info: <https://cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au/>



Friends of Woolleys Beach volunteers

Peninsula SongRiders
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SONG CIRCLE

PAUL DILLON
BRAD KENNEDY
MARTY WILLIAMS
MILLINGTON
PETE KAIGHIN

@JUSTALLIMAGES

SUN 27 JULY 2-5 PM

PRE-TIX \$25 OR \$30 @ DOOR

TIX WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCAOI

WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB 1 FORESHORE RD. BALNARRING BEACH



Arts Protesters respond to Council cuts outside the MP Shire Council Meeting on Tuesday 20 May 2025. Full story at mpnews.com.au



All photos by Jo Lane.

SAVE FENTON HALL

BOUTIQUE WINE TASTING

**3 AUGUST 2025
12 - 4 PM**



ParadigmHill



**Contact us:**

185 High Street, Hastings, VIC 3915

☎ 5979 2762 🌐 wportcomsupport.org.au

✉ info@wportcomsupport.org.au

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Western Port Community Support

Western Port Community Support (WPCS) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a free, confidential, and independent support service to individuals and families who are experiencing a short-term crisis within the Western Port community.

Information. Support. Referral.

WPCS endeavours to link you to the right person, service or group who will provide you with free or low-cost assistance to meet your needs. WPCS is managed by an impartial and independent Board of Management and Executive Officer, supported by the program Case Workers, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Office Administrator. All staff and volunteers help WPCS clients.

Our volunteers all have different life experiences and unique skill sets, but they share the same enthusiasm and willingness to be a part of a dedicated team and to help the Western Port community.

WPCS can offer their services thanks to generous community donations, fundraising efforts, Local and Federal Government grants, philanthropic and business valued benefactors.

Support services

- Emergency relief and material aid
- Fresh food program
- Utility bill support
- Family and Housing Support Programs
- Education Support Program
- Financial counselling
- NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme)
- Tax Help Program (July to October annually)
- Christmas Giving Program
- Hosted outreach services
- Volunteering

Information and referral

- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Family and personal issues
- Support services and support groups
- Employment



Anglican Parish of St. John's Flinders
with St. Mark's Balnarring

<https://flindersbalnarringanglican.org>

SERVICES	PARISH ACTIVITIES
Sung Services with Eucharist St. John's Flinders: Sunday 8.30am St. Mark's Balnarring: Sunday 10.30am Said Service with Eucharist St. Mark's: Thursday 10.00am Morning Prayer St. Mark's: Tuesdays 9.00am St. John's: Wednesdays 9.00am <u>Sundays@9.30am</u> Godly Play for children First Sunday of the month at St. Mark's 9.30am	<i>Please see website for details</i> Informal Conversations with refreshments First Sunday of month, 4pm alternating b/n St. Mark's & St. John's Fridays@4.30pm gathering for young people, with snacks Third Friday of month at St. Mark's, 4.30pm Men's Group Last Saturday of month alternating b/n St. Mark's & St. John's, 8am Doing Justice Group Third Sunday of month at St. Mark's hall, 5pm Exercise Class Fridays at St. John's hall, 8.30am Craft Group Fridays at St. John's hall, 1.00pm



Western Port Uniting Church Parish
(consisting of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings congregations)

Service Locations and Times for June and July 2025

Balnarring 10.45 am Crib Point 9.00 am Hastings 10.45 am

Parish Service - Sunday June 29th - at Hastings UC - commencing at 10.45 am.
(this is the only service in the Parish on this day)

Church Locations:

Balnarring - 10 Balnarring Beach Road, Balnarring.

Crib Point - 382 Stony Point Road, Crib Point.

Hastings - Corner Marine Parade and Hodgins Road, Hastings.

If you wish to contact a Uniting Church or confirm our service arrangements, please phone a Parish Contact as listed below.

Parish Contacts

Parish Minister:	Rev. Nigel McBrien	0456 298 267
Parish Chairperson:	Margaret Baker	0400 096 669
Parish Secretary:	Colin Watt	0427 379 815

Parish Opportunity Shop - 149 Disney Street Crib Point

Our Op Shop trading hours are: -

Tuesday to Friday – 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. Saturday 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Donations are accepted, with thanks during these hours, but not electrical appliances.

If you would like to volunteer, please call into the Op Shop for an Application Form.

Craft Expo – 12th April 2025 – Hastings Hub

The Parish would like to thank the committee for another excellent Craft Expo and the community for it's support. Your hard work, contribution and participation are very much appreciated.

Parish Encouragement Message - Hebrews 10:24 – 25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”.

JUNE 2025 SCHEDULE



YOGA WITH EUGENIE

SATURDAYS 9.00 - 10.30 AM

TUESDAYS 9.00 - 11 AM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: EUGENIE 0429 092 331

SALSA DANCE

WEDNESDAYS SESSION 1: 6.30-7.30 PM

WEDNESDAYS SESSION 2: 7.30-8.30 PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579

YOGA WITH JAN

THURSDAYS 9.15AM-10.30AM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: JAN 0405 609 157

BALNARRING PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS

@SALTBUSH

MORE INFO: KIRSTEN 0421 564 439

ACTING FOR YOUTH

8-12YOS SATURDAY 11AM-12NOON

13-18 YOS FRIDAY 4.30- 5.30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: JO 0409976454

MEDITATION

MONDAYS 7.30 - 8.30 PM

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579

AFRICAN PERCUSSION

MONDAYS 6.30-7.30 PM

THURSDAYS 5 -6 PM

MORE INFO: PETER 0432 043 547

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

WEDNESDAYS 1.30-3PM

GOLD COIN DONATION

MORE INFO: JUDITH 0408 632 714

QIGONG

THURSDAYS 6.15PM-7.30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

MORE INFO: ANDREW 0406 399 850

WOMEN'S MUSICAL JAM

SATURDAYS (FORTNIGHTLY) 3PM-5PM

FREE

MORE INFO: JACKIE 0480 173 357

BALNARRING COMMUNITY HUB COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY 6PM-7.30PM

MORE INFO: BALNARRINGHUB@GMAIL.COM

EXCITING TIMES at the HUB!

Opening our **NEW ROOMS** (well new for us)

Within the grounds of Occasional Care, some hub activities will relocate from the hall to the “old MCHC” rooms (Maternal and Child Health Care), with the nursing activities now to take place in the meeting room of the hall.

This should be a positive outcome for all 3 parties:

- The HUB gains a place for some activities and meetings not bound by hall rental charges.
- The MCHC team gains easier to access newer facilities
- The Occasional Care no longer has people entering the center during operating hours, with Hub activities occurring outside of Occasional care hours.

*Thanks to the shire community engagement team for facilitating this!

Note: reach out to facilitators for any changes to locations.

Yoga, Dance, Drama and Music Groups will continue in the current Hall locations,

To keep up to date check out our

NEW WEBSITE :

<https://balnarringhub.com.au/>

If you would like to join a class, reach out directly to the number listed on the pervious page.

If you would like to start a class, start a group activity or make a suggestion contact us at balnarringhub@gmail.com



Crib Point Community House Presents

August ART ATTACK

an Exhibition of Contemporary Art and Sculpture

CALLING ON ALL ARTISTS!!

**Now Accepting Applications
For Paintings and Sculptures
Showcase Your Work
Prizes Awarded**

Last Weekend in August - 7 Park Road, Crib Point, VIC,

Opening Night : 29 August 2025 Time : 7pm to 9pm
Exhibition Dates : 30-31 August 2025 Time : 10am to 4pm

More information

**Web: AugustArtAttack.com • FB: August Art Attack
Instagram • Email: AugustArtAttack@outlook.com**

CRIB POINT COMMUNITY MARKET



June 14 * July 12



Brimming with a great variety of stalls,
fresh produce, plants, delicious food,
coffee van, Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire
tea complete with home made scones.
Don't forget the Cribby Koala
Treasure hunt fo the kids too.

Inside and outside stalls available
Stall fees paid on the day

Book a stall at market@cpch.org.au

Crib Point Community House
7 Park Rd, Crib Point



MEDITATION and MINDFULNESS at BALNARRING

A WEEKLY GROUP

Offered by Jacqui Winstanley who has over 30 years of experience practising and teaching buddhist methods for wellbeing. An opportunity to learn and practice with others, to make friendships as we meditate together

Suitable for beginners and experienced meditators.

Meditation and mindfulness have been proven beneficial for health of mind and body, memory, focus, sleep, calmness and creativity, and for exploring your own exciting inner journey.

ALL WELCOME.

Wednesday during school terms at 1.30 - 3.00pm

Balnarring Hall (Rear Room),

3035 Frankston Flinders Rd, Balnarring VIC 3926



Gold coin donation.



To register your interest email buddhataalk9@gmail.com
buddhataalk.com.au offers a clear, concise overview of the Buddha's teachings.

With Thanks to the Balnarring Community Hub Team for their support. Photo- Elaine Larsson

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



ARE YOU HANDY WITH TOOLS?



We are looking for help to install new kitchens in our respite accommodation



Help improve the houses at Saltbush so people who need it most can have a safe and restorative break

CONTACT US

info@saltbushbb.org.au

(03) 5983 1819



Help Build a Haven: Saltbush Calls for Volunteers for New Kitchens Project

Balnarring Beach, Victoria – 2nd May 2025

Saltbush Balnarring Beach is inviting local volunteers, tradespeople, and donors to be part of something special — the installation of six brand-new kitchens in our coastal accommodation cottages.

After 35 years, the kitchens in our cottages are urgently due for an upgrade. These kitchens are the heart of our houses, they help make Saltbush a welcoming and functional space for people who need time to rest and recover. With your help, we can ensure this safe, nurturing place continues to serve the community for many years to come.

The Project

Thanks to the Bendigo Community Bank of Balnarring and District, we now have \$36,500 worth of Kaboodle Kitchens from Bunnings ready to go. A generous local donor has also contributed \$12,500 for tiling and splash backs.

Our goal is to upgrade one kitchen at a time, aiming for full completion within 12 months — or sooner with enough hands on deck!

How You Can Help

VOLUNTEERS

- Dismantle old kitchens (estimated 1 day)
- Install new Kaboodle kitchens (estimated 3–4 days per kitchen)

TRADESPEOPLE

- Electricians to disconnect and reconnect ovens, cooktops, and range-hoods
- Plumbers to fit new taps and reconnect plumbing
- Plasterers for any minor repairs

DONORS

- Additional funds are needed to support other costs of this essential project that may arise beyond the kitchen purchases.



Why It Matters

Saltbush Balnarring Beach is a not-for-profit charitable organisation offering short-stay accommodation to people experiencing hardship. In a peaceful setting by the sea, guests find time to rest, reflect and recover from life's challenges, with dignity and care.

These kitchen upgrades are a practical, powerful way to support people who truly need a break.

Community Recognition

We're incredibly grateful to those who support this project and would love to say thank you through:

- Acknowledgement on social media and in our newsletter
- Your logo on our website
- Recognition in future media releases
- And any other ideas you may have!

Join the Project

Do you want to lend a hand, offer your trade skills, or support the project financially? We'd love to hear from you.

Contact:

Maree Feutrill

0400 517 392

info@saltbushbb.org.au

saltbushbalnarringbeach.org.au/whats-on/newkitchenproject/

Let's build something beautiful together — one kitchen, one family, one life at a time.

About Saltbush

Saltbush Balnarring Beach is a charitable organisation that exists to enrich the lives of people experiencing hardship. We provide short stay accommodation in a safe, peaceful environment where people can rest, rejuvenate, and restore their energy to face life's challenges.



Balnarring CFA News



ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



The 2024-2025 fire restriction period finished on 1 May 2025.

We wish to thank the members of our local community for complying with the fire restrictions over the summer, as the Brigade was required to attend significantly less calls for attendance to burn-offs over the period.

After this date, and until the 2025-2026 fire restrictions are introduced, the rules with regards to open air burning, are covered by Local Government regulations. For those on the Mornington Peninsula, a fact sheet can be obtained from the Shire website.

www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Your-Property/Fire-Emergency/Fire-Management/Open-Air-Burning

The fact sheets provided by the Local Government authorities clearly set out the conditions with regards to if and when you can conduct a burn-off on your property.

At the time of writing, there was a very significant shortfall in the rainfall that has occurred on the Mornington Peninsula over the last twelve months. Therefore, any vegetation surrounding, and near to, properties will be relatively dry and could readily catch fire should an ember land in this or be impacted by significant radiant heat from the fire.

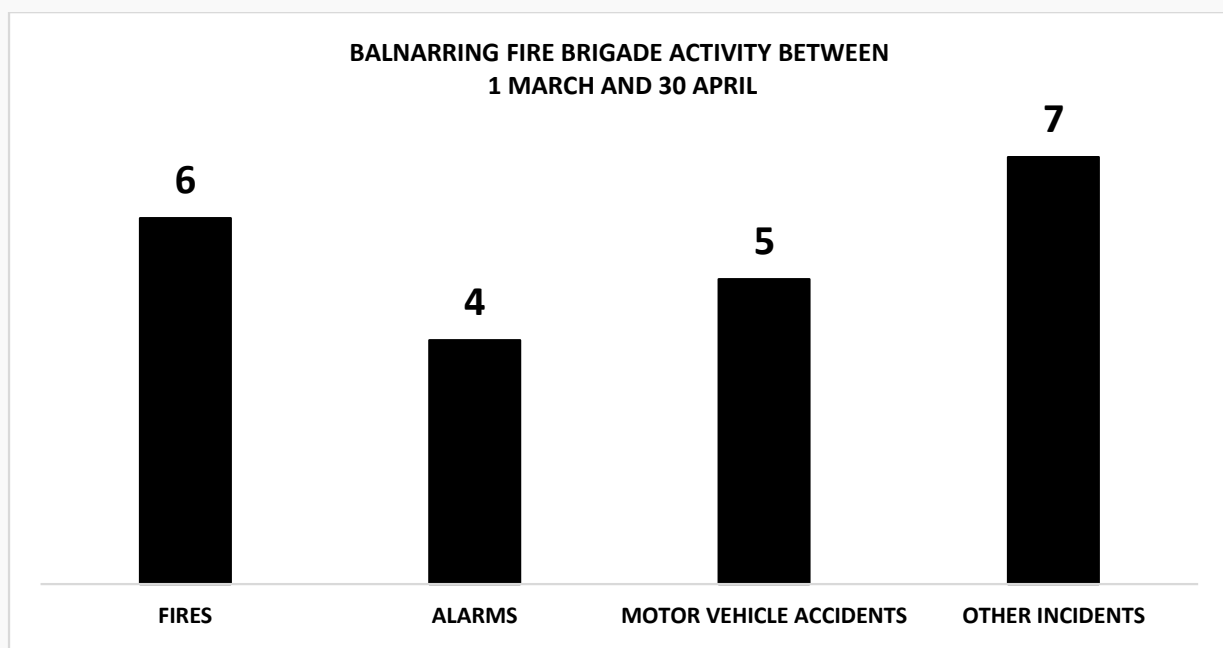
If you are conducting a burn-off please ensure that you:

1. Register it with the Triple Zero Victoria Burn Off Notification Line

1800 668 511

2. Comply with the requirements outlined on your Local Government fact sheet.

Our March – April Brigade Activity



One of the Brigade's increasing type of response has been to motor vehicle accidents, some of which have required Ambulance Victoria to airlift critically injured patients to major city trauma hospitals. We therefore ask you, our fellow community members, to be especially careful on the road.

The intersection between Stanleys and Warrawee Roads has had a number of recent accidents, so please be especially careful at this intersection.

Now that we are heading into the colder months, it is useful to check over some aspects of our Home Fire Safety plans.

Some possible things you may consider are:

- When did you last review your home fire safety plan with those that live with you?
 - How regularly are the clothes dryer lint filters cleaned?
- Are electric blankets properly fitted and how long are they left on for?
- Is there a safe distance, at least one metre, between the fire or heater and clothes that are drying in front of it?
- If you have an open fire or wood stove, when was the chimney or flue last cleaned?
- Are lit candles a safe distance from things that could catch fire and burn? Remember to think about curtains that may be blown towards the candle.
 - When were the smoke detectors last cleaned and tested?
- When charging your lithium batteries, are they on a non-flammable surface and away from any flammable items?

For a quick online checklist, visit the CFA website.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/home-fire-safety-checklist

More Volunteers Needed (Operational & Non-Operational)

If you're interested in helping the community, please feel free to give us a call or pop into the station at our regular training times to see what we do.

Training: 2nd & 4th Monday 7:30pm-9:30pm & Sunday 10am - 12pm.

Byron SEDGWICK

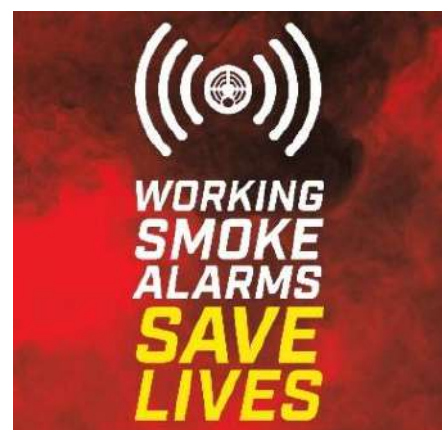
M: 0419 313 413

E: byron@ianreid.com.au

Lieutenant – Balnarring CFA

Community Engagement Officer

Station Ph No: 5983 5379



WE'RE HELPING PEOPLE TO GET DEAD SET with their final arrangements



JOIN OUR EVENT:

What are you dying to know?

An informal discussion to open up the topic of end of life care and end of life planning.

LOCATION: Bentons Square Community Centre
145 Bentons Road, Mornington

DATE: Friday 8th August 2025

TIME: 10.30-11.30am

COST: \$5.00

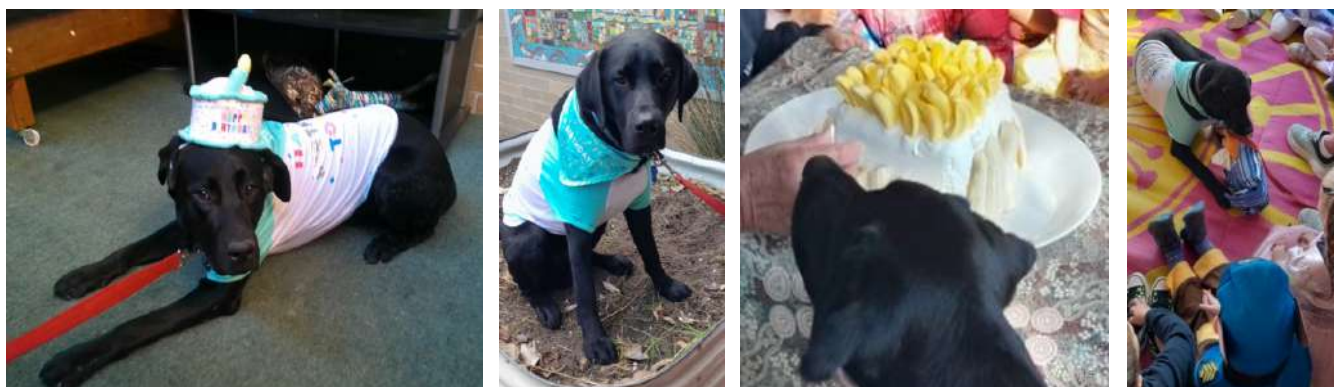
ENQUIRIES: Bookings Essential. Please call Nicole
on 0421 711 032

**Dying
to Know
Day** 8 August

Balnarring Preschool Report

Term two has started after a beautiful break and some much-needed rest after a big term one. The educational staff and students have jumped straight into this term with refreshed energy and lots on the go.

The start of this term has seen a very special 1st Birthday for Quiggles, the Seeing Eye dog in training under the expert care of Karen. The children in Djeembana have had the pleasure of seeing first-hand the commitment to training these important dogs and had the pleasure to help celebrate with cuddles, gifts and a banana and ice cream cake.



All the children have been preparing for and celebrated their individual class celebrations for the MANGOs in their lives - Mothers, Aunties, Nanas, Grandmas and Others. It is important to reflect on how important these people are in our lives, whether near or far, seen daily or less often and what we can do to show appreciation and gratitude. The students in Djeembana planned a restaurant for their guests to come to with menu, decorations and table service included. These were all very special and treasured celebrations, creating memories with our children.

The students in 4-year-old groups have been connecting with the land, in nature and with the stories shared with us through the Story Telling Tree. They have learned that the trees speak to us if we listen carefully. This was demonstrated by the teachers listening close to the Story Telling Tree and sharing what they heard with the children.

A little recap of last edition: We held the 1st fundraising event at the Balnarring Bowls Club and it was a huge success. We had blue skies, lots of laughter and a



warm feeling of community. Thank you to the Balnarring Bowls Club for providing the space to hold an amazing event.

The new veggie garden beds have been built over the break and look amazing. We can't wait to see how much the children are going to love learning, planting and caring for the veggies. I can't wait to see the garden flourishing and just what they decide to plant and then create with the abundance of fresh produce. The funds raised by the fundraising team have allowed for these impressive upgrades and we would like to thank Andrew from Woodlands Landscaping & Construction for coming in to complete the



work over the break – an outstanding job.

Thank you to the team at Talking Hens for supporting Balnarring Preschool in helping us to care for our feathered friends. Having chickens in the grounds for the students to observe, interact and care for is such an added experience.

If you are enrolling your child into a kinder program next year, the 2026 registration has opened at the Mornington Peninsula Shire and I personally couldn't more highly recommend Balnarring Preschool. The centre hours may not match those of other centres, but I believe the preschool puts the children's learning needs, wellbeing, support and connection to family and place first, creating a close sense of community where everyone feels welcome.

The registration is open until July 2. Balnarring Preschool currently offers 2 programs for both the 3- and 4-year-old groups. The 4-year-old program hours will slightly increase in 2026.

Looking forward to sharing more of the children's learning in the next edition of the Bridge.

Jaclyn Noakes, Historian Balnarring Preschool Committee

From our BPS correspondent – Viv

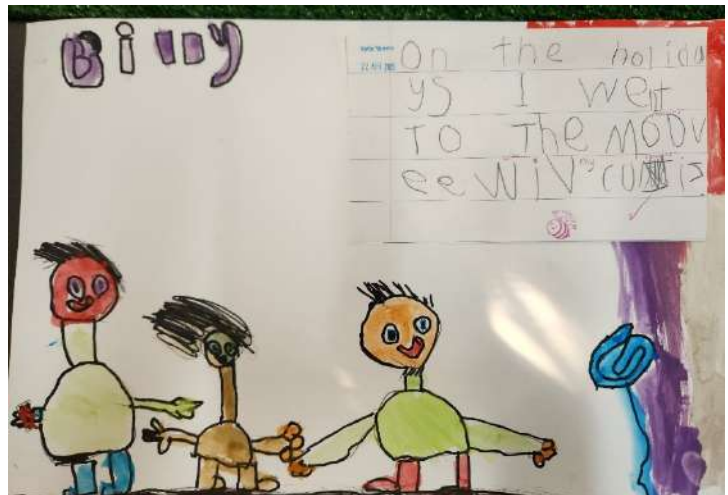
Junior Writing at BPS

To begin Term 2, we checked out some stunning pieces of writing from the junior school. The Foundation students were focusing on recounts. Our year ones were learning how to structure stories with the beginning, middle and end. Meanwhile, the year twos were using sequential connectives to order the reasons in their persuasive writing.

Foundation

Billy A Foundation

On the holidays, I went to the movies with my cousins.



Year One

Millie C Year 1

Summer the pig lived in a very hot place where she didn't have food to eat and no one to play with. But then she felt lonely because she did not know that there was someone to play with.

"Hang on," said Summer. "Is that a possum? I could live with you! It is!" said Summer with a surprised look on her face.

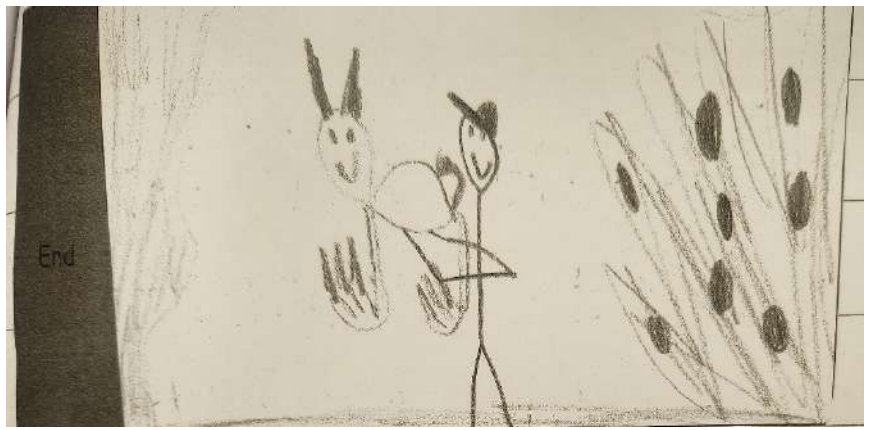
Then she lived happily ever after.

The end.



Will T Year 1

Once Fred the fox was at the beach. He found a bush but inside there was prickles. He went in the bush but he couldn't get out of the bush, he was crying. He had nothing to eat, there was berries but there was big spiky thorns. Will found him and then got him out of the blackberry bush and into the beach. He was happy.



Year Two

Dusty W Year 2

My Mum is a Super Hero

I strongly believe that my mum is a super hero because of all the wonderful things she does for me and my family.

Firstly, she has the power of gorgeous because she looks beautiful 24/7, every single day.

Secondly, she is confident because she stands up for me but not only me, my whole family.

Finally, my mum has the power of being strong. She goes to Pilates and sometimes it can be a hard class but she gets through it that's what makes her strong.

My mum has multiple different qualities but the best one of all is being a super hero! No one can argue with that!



Lucy D Year 2

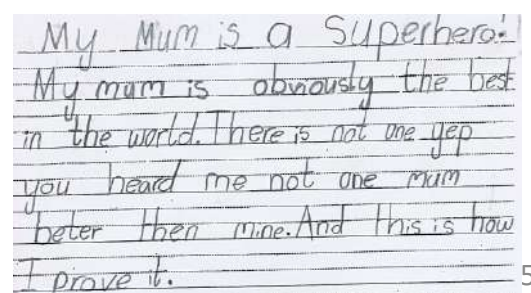
My mum is obviously the best in the world. There is not one – yep, you heard me – not one mum better than mine. And this is how I prove it.

Firstly, my mum is the selfless mum that I have met. She always goes and gives up her Wednesdays and Saturdays to work at Bonza for money to pay rent and pay for food.

Secondly, who drives us to every one of our foot and cricket games to watch? Oh, I remember. Mum does!

Finally, Mum does all of the washing, makes six bowls of dinner every night and when it's time to go to sleep, she tucks us into bed and hugs us goodnight.

And right there is all three reasons why I love mum. You must agree!





Australian Garden Project

Creating tranquil native gardens around Saltbush Houses, providing guests with a place of sanctuary and connection to the natural world.

Become a Volunteer

There are jobs for the novice, the experienced gardener and everyone in between. From weeding to planting, mulching and propagating, all that's needed is plenty of enthusiasm and good will.

You are most welcome to join our regular volunteer sessions or for part of the session, or if that is too big a commitment, chat to us about how you can become involved in a less formal way on specific projects.

Regular volunteer sessions – Tuesday and Fridays 10am – 1pm

Additionally, there will be some ad hoc sessions and 3 working bees for larger projects throughout 2025.

For more information call 5983 1819 or email info@saltbushbb.org.au

Saltbush Balnarring Beach is a registered charity, operating for 35 years, providing respite breaks for individuals and families experiencing hardship. To learn more about its community impact, please visit our website <https://saltbushbalnarringbeach.org.au>

THE COAST

REAL ESTATE

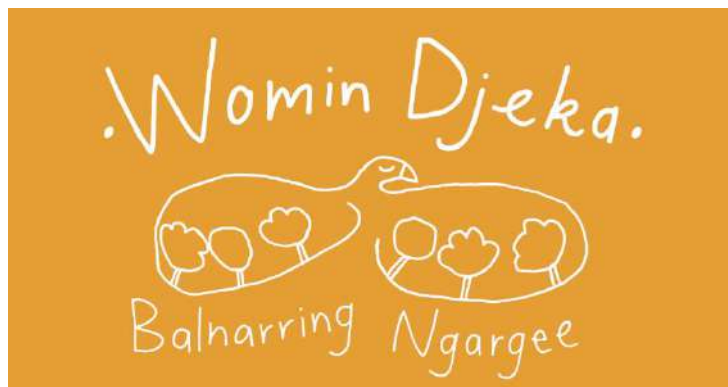


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A vibrant Aboriginal dot painting featuring a central black circle containing a white silhouette of a bird. This central motif is surrounded by intricate patterns of blue, green, and red dots, with a large, stylized white bird or figure extending from the right side.



Thank you Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee!

Well, another Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee has finished, and your festival committee has been enjoying the afterglow and taking a break from organising. That being said, we are planning already to make the next Ngargee EVEN BETTER! That's right, let's do it again in 2026!

We would love to have some new committee members on board this year. Each and every person on our committee brings their own perspectives, skills and energy. We are better each year with the combination of all our talents as we pull together this inspiring community event. If you are excited by the commitment to

reconciliation that this festival demonstrates and want to contribute to its creation, the committee would be thrilled to welcome you. Email us at womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com.

I thought I would tell you my story about becoming involved with the festival. My name is Kate Rennie. I am a Balnarring community member; I moved here with my husband in 2012 and we have raised two children in this incredible community. I have lived on Boon Wurrung Country for most of my life. I am born to Australian parents and can trace my family back through several generations to those who came from England, Ireland and Scotland in the 1800s as merchants and convicts. My husband was the first person in his family to live in Australia.





We were fortunate that our children attended Balnarring Preschool and I became aware of their program incorporating First Nations



perspectives into their learning programs. Having been educated in Australia in the 80s and 90s, this unfortunately wasn't a part of my education and I loved learning about Boon Wurrung language and Culture along with my children. I went to the first Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee and thought it was the most incredible thing that my daughter's *kindergarten* had organised this *festival* to celebrate First Peoples cultures. What an incredible event. What a *community*! I knew I lived in a very special place, but this event just took that feeling to a whole another level. I understood on a deeper level that I live, love, learn, grow and work on Boon Wurrung Country and that there is so much more to learn and *unlearn*. I quickly offered to volunteer for future Ngargees.

When my younger daughter finished preschool, I knew that I wanted to be part of what makes the Ngargee so special. I have been a committee member ever since! I contemplated making the 2025 festival my last, but my youngest daughter has





begged me to stay! So many wonderful things have come from my involvement with this committee. I have learned so much about First Peoples Cultures, about connecting to community and about caring for Country. I have surprised myself by learning about marketing and writing press releases and how design

works. I am better at my job as a result of my work in the festival. I have started a new hobby, and potentially a small business. I have made some wonderful friends too. I think most profoundly I have learned to acknowledge my privilege as a descendant of settlers and a beneficiary of colonisation; I have made connections with First Peoples and begun a process to unlearn my privilege and give more weight to First Peoples perspectives. Working to present the Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee certainly requires time and effort, however there are so many benefits that we absolutely want to keep going. If you are inspired by my story, please join us. We are a welcoming bunch and would love to have you on board. Email us at womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com.

Photo credits: Lisa Hunter & Michaela George 2025 Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee





Hill & Ridge
**Community
Market**
Red Hill Recreation
Reserve

**Locally grown produce, delicious
foods, vintage, artisan products
and captivating music and art**

First Saturday of the month (Sep-May)

8am – 1pm | 184 Arthurs Seat Road, Red Hill

www.hillandridgemarket.com.au

Koala Conservation

Preserve What We Have: Why Retaining Native Vegetation Matters

As residents of Balnarring and the greater Mornington Peninsula, we are fortunate to live among some of the most beautiful and ecologically rich landscape in Victoria. Our region is home to precious remnants of coastal woodlands and native bushland that have evolved over thousands of years to support a diverse range of wildlife, including our beloved but struggling koala population.

Yet, all too often, we are witnessing a heartbreaking trend: blocks of land being cleared entirely, reduced to what is grimly referred to as moonscaping. When this happens, everything that once lived there, every bird, insect, tree, and marsupial is lost, often permanently.

Replanting Is Not the Same as Preservation

While revegetation efforts are important, they are not a substitute for what has been lost. Mature native trees and old-growth habitat provide complex ecological functions that young plantings can take decades to replicate. Tree hollows used by owls and possums, or established corridors used by koalas and echidnas, cannot simply be “replaced.” Once they are gone, they are gone.

A Local Tragedy: The Cost of Clearance

In recent weeks, our community lost two female koalas, a devastating blow to a population already under immense pressure. One of these deaths was particularly tragic. Her home range was severely impacted by vegetation removal. With many of her established trees gone, she was forced to cross busy roads more frequently in search of food and shelter, increasing her risk of injury or death. Displaced, she was then chased and bailed up by an off-leash dog and despite best efforts when taken into care, she died.

This is not an isolated incident; it is a symptom of what happens when development proceeds without consideration for the wildlife that depends on these spaces. We have a choice - to protect what remains, or to watch it vanish before our eyes.

Just Because You Can, Doesn't Mean You Should

We understand that under current planning laws, including the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), vegetation removal is often permitted without the requirement for a permit. While safety must always be a priority, the default approach should not be total clearance. The BMO is designed to reduce risk, but it does not mandate removing every tree or stripping every block bare.

With thoughtful planning, it's possible to balance fire safety with habitat preservation. We urge landowners and developers to consider not only what is legally allowed, but what is environmentally responsible and community minded.

Because just because you can clear everything, doesn't mean you should.

What You Can Do

If you are developing or renovating, please consider:

- Retaining existing native vegetation, especially mature trees and understory plants.
- Working around trees rather than removing them as their ecological value is immense.
- Creating habitat-sensitive designs that incorporate nature, rather than replace it.
- Choosing wildlife-friendly fencing, such as those that include wooden round posts for climbing, flat top rails and gaps of at least 30cm along the base or that allow safe passage for echidnas and koalas.
- Keeping dogs on-leash, particularly in or near bushland where koalas and other native species live.

Protecting Our Shared Future

Preserving the native vegetation and natural character of the Mornington Peninsula isn't just about wildlife, it's also about retaining the amenity, beauty, and liveability of our region. These trees cool our streets, improve our air, and provide the natural charm that draws so many to live here.

Our choices today will shape what remains for future generations, human and wildlife. Please, when considering changes to your property, ask not just what you can build, but what you can protect.

Consider our wildlife. They don't have a voice — but we do.

Belinda Eden

Balnarring resident & Vice President, Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation

If you would like some free koala habitat trees, please email Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation: mpkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com



1st Balnarring

Scout Group

#OutsideIn25 is the theme for Scouts this year and our 1st Balnarring Scouts have embraced this challenge!

In Scouts, nature is our main setting for learning. Participating in activities outdoors encourages young people's natural sense of curiosity, builds positive physical and mental health, and creates a stronger connection with the environment.

So, what have we been up to?

Jamboree 2025

In January, 17 of our Scouts & Venturers attended the biggest Scout event in Australia – Jamboree. Held in Maryborough Queensland, our Scouts faced tropical heat and torrential rains but had the time of their lives! They were kept busy over the 10-day camp with abseiling, wood turning, robotics, ziplining, archery, tackling the mud run, stand-up paddle boarding in Harvey Bay, visiting Australia Zoo and the ever-popular badge swapping. And the fun didn't stop at night – with entertainment provided by many well-known artists including Dave Hudes and Amy Shark.

Joey Scouts

Our Joeys Scouts are moving from strength to strength. Having only formed in Term 4 last year, they are welcoming new members every week! So far this year, they have learnt about compass points, drawn a map and navigated around their neighbourhood, visited the birds at Balbieroo wetlands, performed a puppet & talent show, been on a sleepover at Rosebud Scout Hall and tried sea kayaking with 2nd Mornington Scouts. They finished off the term with the hatchet throwing! Plastic hatchets of course.

Cub Scouts

Our Cub Scouts started the year exploring rockpools at Point Leo. They have been sailing with Sorrento Sea Scouts, practicing their riding skills at the local skate park and bike tracks, as well as cycling at Devilbend reservoir. They made Easter baskets to put their handmade chocolates in. Recently over 3 weeks they planned, built and hid camouflaged containers for geocaching, which is like a huge online treasure hunt.

Scouts

Since returning from Jamboree, the adventures haven't stopped for our Scouts. They have ridden almost 100kms from Leongatha to Yarram, via Welshpool on a 2-day bike hike. They entered two patrols (teams) in the Stradbroke Cup, earning a gold & a silver award. The Stradbroke Cup is an annual 3-day camping competition for Scouts across Victoria, where they are judged on their preparation, camp set up, cooking and cleanliness.

Joeys learning (plastic!) hatchet throwing.
Credit: Gabby Ackland



Above: At the beach in Maryborough, Queensland for Jamboree. Credit: Scouts Victoria



Maddy and Archer laying a wreath at the Balnarring ANZAC day service.
Credit: Gabby Ackland



Below: Joey Scouts learning compass points and making maps. Credit: Gabby Ackland



Above: Mountain biking at Stradbroke Cup. Credit: Andrew Taylor



Left: Assembling a car engine at Top Gear Scout. Credit: Andrew Taylor



Above: Scouts learning mountain biking with the Scout Cycling Team. Credit: Di Hook

Paddle boarding on the dam at Stradbroke Cup. Credit: Andrew Taylor



There were also great activities such as axe throwing, bouldering, stand up paddle boards, laser tag, a Saturday night disco, and a Sunday night carnival with heaps of rides. Our Scouts camped well and ate well – including pizzas cooked in cardboard box ovens. Their next big adventure was to Top Gear Scout, a camp for all things motorsports, including learning to drive, motorised esky racing and car maintenance. They finished off the term with a leisurely night hike of the Red Hill rail trail.

Venturers

Our Venturers kicked off the year at Anything Goes, a weekend camp with activities such as the op shop rave, abseiling, archery, SES demo, animal farm and roller skating. Later in the term, they helped clean up and replanted some trees at our district campsite, Camp Niall. They joined other Venturers from around the district for a cooking challenge and came in 3rd place with Maddy's now famous chilli pancakes! The Venturers also entered Hoadley Hide, a camping and hiking competition, enjoyed an evening out at Sk8house and challenged each other at a night of debating.

As well as all these exciting activities, members of our group have been out and about in the community at events such as Wominjeka, HMAS Cerberus Open Day and the Balnarring ANZAC Day service.

What's coming up next?

The Scouts are away for 5 nights at Mount Baw Baw, for lots of snow activities, in the July school holidays. The Joeys are headed to a 3-day camp, with hundreds of other Joeys from around Victoria, at Kangaree 2025. The Venturers are looking forward to MudBash, a motorsports camp and planning to tackle the Overland Track in Tasmania. Finally, Scouts & Venturers are saving their pennies to head to Poland in 2027 for the next World Scout Jamboree.

To Join

1st Balnarring Scout Group, meeting at St Marks Anglican Church, welcomes new members at any time. You can try us out at a few meetings before signing up. We are sure you'll be hooked!

We offer four sections of Scouting

- Joey Scouts, aged 5 – 7, on Tuesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm
- Cub Scouts, aged 8 – 10, on Wednesdays 6.30pm-8pm
- Scouts, aged 11 – 14, on Tuesdays 7 – 9pm
- Venturer Scouts, aged 15 – 18 on Tuesdays 7 – 9 pm

Learn more about our adventures on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574679543547>

All inquiries to gl.1stbalnarring@scoutsvictoria.com.au



2 & 3 AUGUST 2025
MORNINGTON PENINSULA

fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au
epacrids2025@gmail.com



REGISTER HERE



**Australian Plants Society
Mornington Peninsula invites you to
register for the 2025 biennial seminar**

SATURDAY

2ND AUGUST

Speakers

Book / Plant sales

Fabric, Photographic and
Botanical art displays

Dinner in Mornington

SUNDAY

3RD AUGUST

Bus Excursions

Langwarrin Reserve

George Pentland Gardens

Bunarong Park

Devilbend Natural Features Reserve



The Long Journey Partnership news

Hi Everyone!

Again, we travelled up to Numbulwar School last September to work with students. This trip we were able to take our staff from Lindsell Hoists who were gracious enough to take some of their own to enable us to teach some young students how to weld (see photo below).

They also repaired some of the gates and cages but more importantly travelled with the students into country.

We now hope to establish some stronger ties with Mornington Shire Council and Roper regional Council in developing a partnership in education programs but also health and well-being. The ultimate is to ensure that both groups are able to discuss issues that are of concern to them and hopefully work out solutions together.

We really appreciate the help from Ego pharmaceuticals, RICHMOND CASTORS and also Complete Welding supplies in Moorabbin.

We were able to distribute rice cookers, slow cookers and toasters to the children who attended school on a regular basis. These items are extremely expensive in remote communities and proved an awesome incentive.

Of late we have been able to send around 15 used, but in really good condition, baby capsules to many remote communities.

This is what really needs to happen to ensure that we can close the gap.

Keep an eye out for anything about our program and hopefully we'll have some more good news very soon.

Thanks

The Long Journey Partnership
Carol and Murray



The Long Journey Partnership photos



Collection of photos of happy cooking students; Carol in the kitchen, teaching cooking; new equipment stacked, ready for distribution; and members of the Community.

Want to learn Brazilian Jiu Jitsu?



Contact Pete on 0418319064

BALNARRING BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU



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MORNINGTON PENINSULA
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**2 & 3 AUGUST 2025
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What is Energy Healing? & How Can It Help?



Energy healing has been used by ancient cultures to promote and restore health for centuries. Western cultures are finally catching up, especially now that the scientific study of quantum physics backs it up. Energy healing modalities are based on a health model that incorporates the whole person. This includes the physical body, mental body, emotional body, energy body and spiritual body. These different elements are all connected and influence each other; therefore, it makes sense to address health at each level.

Another foundational concept is the understanding that everything in the universe is energy. This includes all the different “bodys” mentioned above which comprise a human being. In terms of quantum physics, everything is made up of tiny particles that vibrate at a different rate. All physical matter (including the physical body) is visible to the human eye because the particles are vibrating at a relatively slow rate. Our thoughts, emotions and energy body are made up of particles that vibrate at a much faster rate so that it is not visible to the human eye for most people.

Energy is changeable; therefore, we can change our physical body and health by changing our energy at each of these “unseen” levels. Our body is able to heal itself when our energy systems are balanced and in a state of flow. We just need to give our body the right conditions on a physical, mental emotional, spiritual and energetic level. If we do this the results can be astounding.

When we are in optimal health our energy body is clear, balanced and flowing. If there are energy blockages in our system, the energy flow is distorted. This “vibrational information” feeds into the energy centers within the physical body and this in turn effects the health of our cells, organs, glands, and systems such as the immune, digestive, respiratory or cardiac system. Over time, if the root cause of these energy blocks is not cleared, it will manifest as physical symptoms including pain or dis-ease in our body. Common causes of energy blocks include: Unprocessed emotions such as fear, anger, grief, unprocessed trauma, mental energy blocks such as holding limiting beliefs and negative thought patterns about ourselves and the world, unresolved relationship issues and conflict. At a spiritual level feeling disconnected from ourselves, our purpose and from a higher power creates blocked energy.

In an Energy Healing session, the practitioner helps to clear energy blocks by channeling high frequency energy to the client's energy system. This assists in restoring energy flow which then allows the body to start healing itself. It helps to clear the mental, emotional or spiritual root cause of the issue rather than just dealing with the symptoms on a physical level. We are also working with the subconscious mind to bring some of the causes of the energy blocks to conscious awareness. This allows us to be more empowered and proactive with our health by choosing to make changes going forward in order to prevent the same issue from reoccurring. Depending on the issue, this might mean we choose to regularly make time to process our emotions, resolve conflicts in more effective ways, change subconscious limiting beliefs, catch any habitual negative thinking like self-criticism and then talk to ourselves in a more compassionate way. On a spiritual level, we might choose to live life in more alignment with our core values and our true self and take steps to express our gifts and true purpose. It goes without saying that we need to adopt healthy lifestyle habits such as nutritious food or supplements, exercise and movement and avoiding environmental toxins in order to maintain physical health.

As well as physical health issues, Energy Healing can be used to help with mental and emotional issues such as anxiety, depression, grief, trauma relationship difficulties and physical symptoms. It can be used to heal unresolved issues and experiences that go as far back as childhood, during birth, while we were in the womb and even prior to that. This is where we develop beliefs about ourselves and the world where some of the energy blocks originate. Most of us if not all have unprocessed emotional energy blocks from earlier in life. Dilemmas and struggles regarding our spiritual life such as living as our true self and purpose can also be worked with.

To give a specific example, we may find the root cause of chronic fatigue is unresolved trauma from a childhood experience. The trauma energy stuck in the cells, the unprocessed emotional energy and fear-based beliefs (which are very normal), created energy blocks in our system. The high frequency energy that is introduced into the system will assist to clear the energy blocks associated with the trauma. The energy flow and therefore mental emotional & physical health will improve. Most people require more than one session to heal a particular issue, it's very individual. This health model puts the power in the hands of the individual to prevent health issues, heal existing health concerns and create optimal health. **Kerryn Reichelt: Holistic Counselling and Energy Healing**

MOB: 0438 002 724

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SUPPORTS WOUND
HEALING



FASTER RECOVERY
FROM EXERCISE



ENERGY &
VITALITY



IMPROVED SKIN
APPEARANCE

Also improved sleep & improved mood

For more information:

<https://startx39.com>

<https://lifewave.com/kerrynholistichealing>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9ZDydn44IM>

<https://thisisitinfo.com/testimonies>

For Enquiries call Kerry (Lifewave Independent Brand Partner)

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We really appreciate the support of friends, allies and corporate clients who have been so keen to support our local Aboriginal mob developing this important social enterprise, creating employment opportunities for our Aboriginal community.

You can drop in weekdays throughout the school term and purchase plants. – we are currently growing over 100 species. Please see our exciting range of top 5 Deadly Plants (murnong, lomandra, chocolate lily, appleberry, karkalla) and our top 5 wetland and top 5 bush flower selections.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to heal country. For more information, please visit -

www.willumwarrain.org.au/willum-warrain-aboriginal-bush-nursery



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BALNARRING MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Our Club was founded in 1985 to provide opportunities for retired and semi-retired local men to engage in a variety of activities in a congenial environment which encourages fellowship and fun. We currently have 50 members with ages ranging from 67 to 97.

We meet at the **Balnarring Bowls & Social Club** on the last Friday of each month, except December, commencing at 10:00 am. Our regular features include photographic exhibitions, morning tea and guest speakers who are invariably a source of information and entertainment. Meetings will usually be followed by a light lunch at the club.

The Club also hosts a variety of activities including a book group, bridge, wine appreciation, photography, gardening, cycling, outings and dine-outs.

Many members attended the Anzac Day Service at Balnarring where our President Dennis Paskins, placed a wreath on behalf of the club.



Our annual long trip this year was to the RACV Resort in Cobram. The five day trip in April, using private cars, was centred around discovering the local painted silos, wineries and the Murray River.

A recent outing was to the Jayco factory in Dandenong where we learnt how caravans are made from raw materials to the finished product.

Our speaker for April was Graeme Wilson who gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the 1988 Bicentennial horse ride from Healesville to Canberra.

New members are always welcomed. For further information please contact our President **Dennis Paskins** on 0409 480 306 or check out our website by typing "Balnarring Men's Probus" into your web browser.

Somers Ladies Probus Club

Probus is about Friendship, Fellowship and Fun - with the emphasis on FUN! Our Club provides opportunities to engage in a variety of activities in a friendly environment including Mah Jong, Canasta, Music, Knit and Natter, Fireside Films, a regular Happy Hour, a Lunch Group and a range of outings. Over 39 years our club has provided entertainment, support and assistance to members.



Our May speaker was Barry Price, a Type 1 Diabetic of 50 years. His assistance dog Monty gave us a wonderful exhibition of canine dedication to humans. Monty is a Labradoodle and came into Barry's life at aged 8 weeks, 7½ years ago. While Monty had his jacket on, he was working and concentrating on Barry and was not distracted at all. As soon as Barry took Monty's jacket off, he became a very friendly playful dog delighting us all with his antics.

Barry, Monty and Maree, our Speaker Seeker.

To celebrate our 38th Birthday of our club the ladies enjoyed lunch at the Heritage in Balnarring after our May meeting.

Somers Ladies Probus Club usually meets on the first Friday of each month at 10 am at the Stone Pavilion, Camphill Rd. Somers.

New members are always welcome and we invite ladies to contact June (5983 5321) or Lis (0407 713 211) for more information.

Friends of Daangean Report May 2025

The beginning of the FOD season was due to begin at Botaurus Wetland on Feb 22nd but due to a forecast of 36 degrees and a total fire ban discretion saw a day of resting on laurels in a cool place rather than dying of heat exhaustion under a boneseed bush. As the Womin Djeka affair was held at Emu Plains on March 1st that day didn't eventuate as a maintenance day either to make up for missing the usual last Saturday of the month. However, socialising around the various stalls,

were several FOD members tidily dressed, instead of looking as though they'd been dragged through the bushes.

On Saturday March 29th FOD had a team of six, with two being visitors from Queensland. Although they enjoyed the morning of work, camaraderie and morning tea, they considered monthly sessions a tad far to travel. We were thankful for their efforts, and not to forget two young blokes who also lent a hand, one being an environmental student using the experience as a class exercise. Wilding pines met their doom on the dam bank, some



Annabel on her knees amid the boneseed - MF

which were too thick in the trunk for us had been poisoned by the Crew at Daangean and we await their demise. On the track in a mob of roos that stood and watched our approach before bounding away gave the Queensland visitors an unexpected surprise.

Saturday April 26th team FOD had three stalwarts who put in a good effort in the pine and boneseed department. Blackberries were problematic in places as was the steepness of the bank for the likes of moi. The poisoned pines stood tall and brown and while not looking attractive it was good to see that they were no longer an environmental threat. The pine forest nearby is an ongoing source of wildlings. The water level had dropped significantly since the previous visit and on the far side of the dam a lone duck wafted and a purple swamphen fossicked among the juncus, while distant bell miners tinkled among the swamp gums.

Waterwatch for February took place on Thursday 20th. Water levels were down considerably at all sites. At site 2 where gummies were required a few months ago now ingress was solid and dry underfoot. The shoreline prickly tea-



Coots in the mist - MF

tree that had been inundated for several

months was now dead, and there was a bit of an aroma from decaying vegetation. This didn't affect the water quality or turbidity. Melbourne Water was doing pipeline maintenance works and hidden is a huge main under the catch drain embankment. At Bittern a big truck and a digger with their operators sitting about waited for equipment delivery. No cormorants on the water tower although there was a musk duck and a scattering of swans and coots on the water body.

Next waterwatch day was Tuesday March 18th. Numerous cans floated in the water by the quarry fishing platform and water level still falling, but the water quality remains good. Two vehicles, which disappeared out of site along the maintenance track, passed us at site 2. The surrounding roads to our test sites are in a diabolical state with corrugations nearly rattling our teeth from our heads. On Derril Rd a kangaroo not being able to find his track through the fence kept bounding along ahead of us even though we crawled along. I think he was too rattled to note where he was, but eventually leaped the fence.

Tuesday April 22nd Waterwatch saw even lower water levels. So far the water quality remains good although conductivity at Bittern, site 3, had risen somewhat. Bittern conductivity is always higher than that at Devilbend, possibly due to it being a shallower water body. Swans and coots on both dams and still no



Gorse spider mite - MF

cormorants on the Bittern tower but swallows were flying about it as it is one of their nesting sites. Site 4 wasn't tested due to the water level in the catch drain being too low with the possibility of slipping down the steep bank while trying to collect a sample. The turbidity here is always poor due the clay bottom and sides of the

drain, and Devilbend Creek is dry. On the return to the DB car park gossamer type adornment was noted on the rampant gorse bushes behind the fence on Derril Rd. Look at those thorns!

Marnie Fitzsimons Friends of Daangean co-ordinator

devilbendfoundation@gmail.com



To remain sustainable and ongoing, The Bridge is seeking new sponsors and a volunteer book keeper for our community magazine. If you can help, please contact us at info@bridgemag.com.au

WHO? WHEN? WHERE?



After a hailstorm had whitened the ground outside his parents' home and store, a playful Vern Stone scooped up a handful of hail and compacted it to form a sizeable 'snowball'.

Vern was the youngest son of Ern and Annie Stone, the only one of their nine children to be born in Balnarring after the family had moved here from Brighton.

Their general store, at the corner of the Hastings-Flinders Road (Frankston- Flinders Road) and the Mornington-Balnarring Road (Balnarring Road) was then called the Junction Store. The family home was the weatherboard house to the left of and adjoining the store. As a young man, Vern helped his parents with the running of the store and also the store that his mother had opened at Tulum Beach (Balnarring Beach) for its summer trade.

Across the road and behind Vern is St Mark's Anglican Church with its white-painted walls and a low white fence either side of the gateway. There appear to be shrubs growing behind the fence. Vern is on the corner outside what is now the Red Hill Bakery.

The photo was taken probably in the early 1930s. Vern enlisted in the army during the Second World War. He was killed in New Guinea in 1943.

Whether his snowball hit its target is unknown. Whoever took the photo seems to be well out of range.

Photograph and information from the archives of the Balnarring & District Historical Society.

Ilma Hackett

BALNARRING AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BECOME A MEMBER

Our society is currently seeking new members and Committee members.

I trust that Bridge readers enjoy reading the regular articles published about diverse local history issues researched and prepared by our Information and Research Officer, Ilma Hackett.

Our current Treasurer Ian Wisken can be credited with the founding of the Society. Whilst researching the history of the original Balnarring State School for the new primary school, which was under construction in 1989, Ian saw the possibilities for a group of people interested in local history to form a society. So, shortly after the official opening of the Balnarring Primary School in May 1990, Ian called a public meeting, resulting in the formation of the Society. Later redevelopment of the Balnarring Hall provided the Society with a permanent home for its collection and meetings.

Our Annual General Meeting and Committee Meetings are held at the hall with the latter currently held at 1.30 p.m. bi-monthly from February with the December meeting traditionally being a Xmas lunch and meeting. The Committee has recently discussed meeting times and would consider change if this encouraged increased Committee membership.

Membership is currently \$20 per annum. Members receive regular copies of “Snippets”, an interesting assortment of history stories provided by past and present residents of the area.

Our History Room at the Balnarring Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Mondays (except Public Holidays) so drop in and have a look at our extensive collection of documents and photos. A number of local history publications, most prepared by our members, are available for sale.

So please, if you have an interest in the important tasks of collecting, preserving and communicating local history, especially to younger generations, please join us.

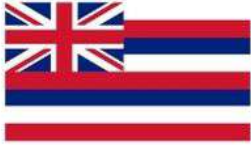
If you require further information please contact our Secretary, Rick Daly by phone, 0419591161 or email balhist4@gmail.com

WILDLIFE RESCUE Contacts

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(Wildlife Help On Mornington Peninsula)
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I was hoping to be able to share news of opening a shop in Rye as advertised in the Feb/March Bridge Mag, however unfortunately negotiations fell through.

I will keep looking for a potential store but for now the online store at www.thatsmybusiness.com.au

is always open with an easy online shopping page.

For updates and news, you can follow Aloha Australia on Instagram



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Mahalo

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MONDAY, TUESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNINGS?

Our group of men and women enjoy playing doubles together every Monday and Thursday between 8.45am and approximately 11.30am. Players are of different levels but all sets are great fun and good exercise in a very friendly atmosphere.

Tuesday mornings ladies play from 9am to 11am and enjoy a coffee/tea together afterwards in the clubhouse.

Members pay \$2 each time you play to cover cost of balls and coffee/tea. Let your friends, family, neighbours know that if they are not members they can play social tennis at a casual cost of \$7 each time.

To parents of all junior club members we would love you to join the social tennis at the casual rate whenever you play.

You are most welcome to visit our social tennis to see how flexible and fun it is. Racquets are available to borrow if needed.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON

WE PLAY ALL YEAR ROUND



Contributor is Margaret Rees

0408 271 059



Hi there!

My name is José Zandveld.

I'm a local photographer sharing images of the area I grew up in, the beautiful Mornington Peninsula.

I am passionate about our amazing surroundings and enjoy capturing inspiring moments they produce.

I offer prints for sale as well as doing family and pet portraiture, small intimate weddings, sporting events and business photos for websites.

You can follow my pages on: Facebook or Instagram under Right Spot Photography

and contact me on 0411 685 476.

OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS AND ART CLASSES IN SOMERS

Monique Morey is a local Somers artist and is excited to welcome you to her
OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS IN 2025. (MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER).

Pop in and meet Monique for inspiration, to chat about her art classes, or to see her latest paintings of local landscapes and seascapes that will be available to purchase.

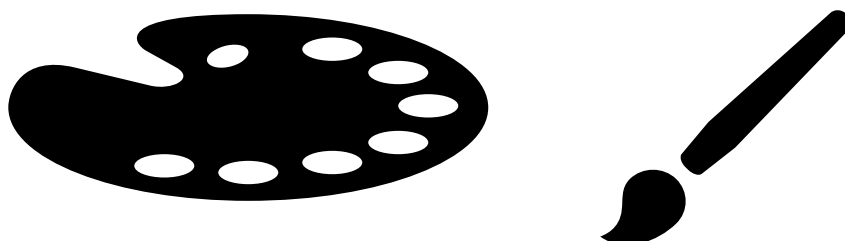
Monique has many years of experience teaching, and will also be running some fabulous and fun

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For more information contact Monique at:

Email: moniquemorey7@gmail.com

@moniquemoreyart



The Embroiderers Guild of Victoria Flinders Branch

The EGV Flinders Branch is a friendly, enthusiastic group of embroiderers & textile artists with all levels of skill. We welcome all stitchers of any level & those on holiday in the area to join us.

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We meet from 10am until 4pm for a full day of stitching.

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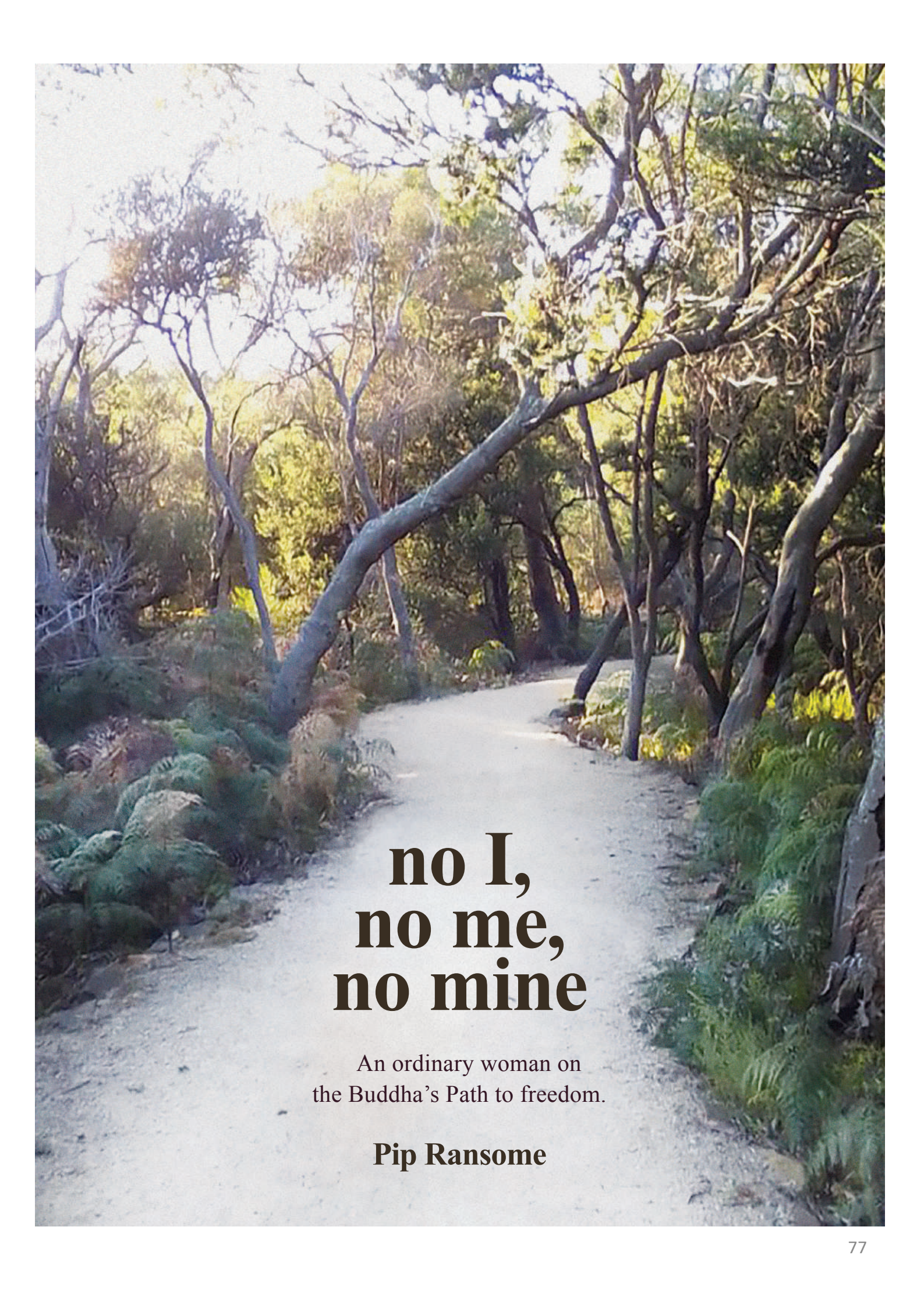
Contact: 0418638589 / neiladams0@gmail.com



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A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is light-colored and leads into the distance. On either side of the path are lush green ferns and trees with dense foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a sunny day with some shade.

no I, no me, no mine

An ordinary woman on
the Buddha's Path to freedom.

Pip Ransome



buddhataalk

“no I, no me, no mine” by Pip Ransome

This book is the story of an ordinary modern-day woman’s journey from a typical Western way of living based on ‘I, me and mine’ to a gentler, more aware, integrated and peaceful way of living as ‘no I, no me and no mine’: a way of living in harmony with our environment. The Buddha calls a complete understood experience of living in this way ‘enlightenment’, and describes it as ‘true and lasting happiness’ and ‘the end of suffering’.

Written by local resident Pip Ransome, the book tells of her own experience: early life, marriage and travels, work-life, meeting her teacher, Buddhist nun the late Venerable Ayya Khema, and how following the Buddha’s step-by-step instructions gradually eased the hurts, disappointments, losses – the suffering – inherent in our daily lives, replacing it with a growing freedom and joy. She relates the ups and downs of each stage, including a fascinating account of her years living and working with the Indigenous Yorta-Yorta people of northern Victoria.

Meeting Ayya Khema is a highlight of the story. Pip’s account of practising the Buddha’s path under Ayya Khema’s direction, given verbatim from meditation notes written directly after daily meditations, is a precious example of how to reach stream-entry, the safety and security of the first of the Buddha’s 4 stages of enlightenment, which like Pip, you can experience, here and now.

*‘It’s hard to put this treasure down. It promises to inspire,
inform and encourage our practice’ Oliver C.*

To purchase the book, email buddhataalk9@gmail.com The cost is \$20 plus postage.

In 1993 Pip Ransome was authorised to teach meditation and the Buddha-Dhamma by highly-esteemed Buddhist nun Venerable Ayya Khema. While maintaining her own practice, she has taught, quietly and with diligence, for 30 years. She now enjoys a secluded life in a seaside village on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.



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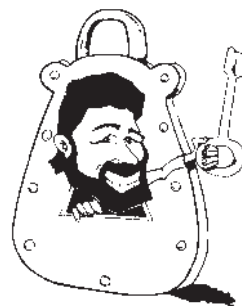
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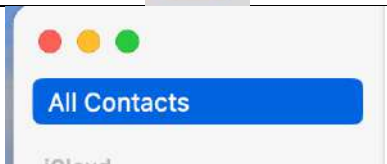
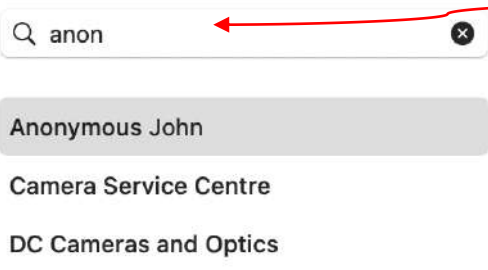
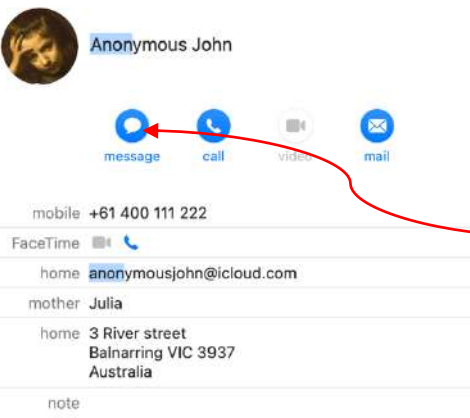
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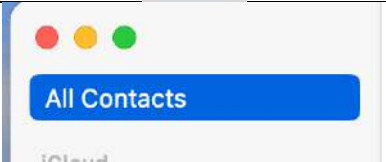
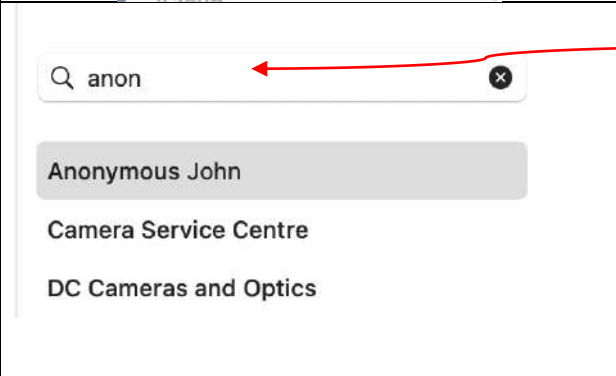
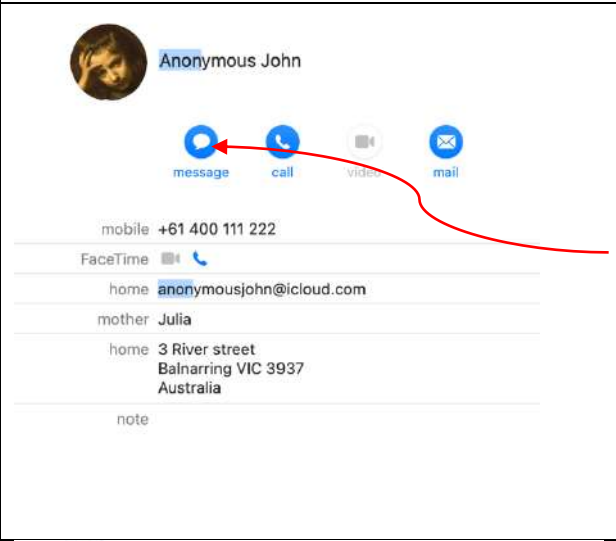
Pat The Mac: Use your Contacts app.

In this edition of the Bridge, I'll explain how to use the **Contacts** app to simplify your communications. The iPhone has so many ways to interact with your friends and family that we sometimes get lost on which/what to choose to do so. This is where **Contacts** comes to the rescue.

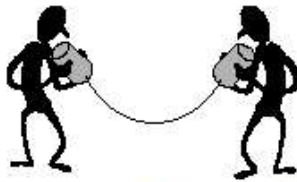
	1) Open the Contacts app
	2) On the left column, select All Contacts
	3) If you want to find a contact quickly, type his/her name in the search bar. While you type, any contact that contains the typed characters will appear in the list. Use the arrows to select the appropriate contact.
	4) The contact appears in the right pane and the searched characters are highlighted in blue. (this is important, but I'll develop this point later)
	5) You'll notice that, below the contact's name, there are four icons labelled message , call , video and mail . By clicking on any of those blue icons, communication can be made using anyone of these methods.
	6) For example, by clicking on " message ", you can then to send a message to the mobile or email address of the chosen contact.
	Continues next page...

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Pat The Mac on 0419 330 497 or by email via pat@patthemacs.com



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LIVE

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please check out:

Balnarring Muso Night

on Facebook.

Working Bee at Balnarring Beach: All Welcome!

A dedicated group of Balnarring Beach ratepayers and members of the Foreshore Committee are inviting anyone with a heart for the environment to take part in our monthly working bee.

Our hard-working group meets at 10 am on the last Sunday of the month (excepting December and January) at the rotunda next to the beach store at Balnarring Beach.

Our next 2 working bees are on:

Sunday June 29th and Sunday July 27th at 10am at the rotunda.

We usually work till 12 noon and enjoy a free cup of coffee or a drink afterwards at the Balnarring Beach shop, 'Tulum Store'.

It is always a great opportunity to have a chat.

Paul, our Ranger always has some important work for us to do, be that weeding or planting freshly cleared terrain with new plants. Some of these plants are propagated and raised over many months in our nursery.

If you can make it, please bring **gloves** and wear **sturdy footwear**.

We hope to see many of you there.

Cheerio and many thanks to all who attend.

Rupert Steiner, for the Balnarring Beach Foreshore Committee working bee.

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THE BRIDGE

CONTRIBUTING TO THE BRIDGE

The Bridge is a bi-monthly independent community magazine for Balnarring and surrounding areas. The views expressed within are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor, Community or any organisation. Financial contributions are welcomed.

GUIDELINES FOR THE BRIDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributor's name must appear with the article and contact information is recommended. If emailing, please use A4 page format with 1.5cm margins, 14 point font size and single spacing. Headings with a font of 18. Send as a Word or Pages format file to info@bridgemag.com.au or PO Box 248 Balnarring VIC 3926. Ideally, file sizes no bigger than 1.5MB please.

Deadlines for submissions are as follows:

January 10th (February/March issue)

March 10th (April/May issue)

May 10th (June/July issue)

July 10th (August/September issue)

September 10th (October/November issue)

November 10th (December/January issue)

Our number of pages is limited so "first come, first served". Submissions for multiple issues must be made each issue unless otherwise agreed. Acronyms to be written in full at first mention followed by the acronym in brackets, e.g. "Community Centre (C.C.)".

The primary focus of The Bridge is to promote free community events. Volunteer organisations are encouraged to submit up to one page per issue and will not be charged.

All entries that create income, including employment and housing, count as adverts.

Personal words from individuals are also free to enter. Businesses holding events, workshops, etc. in the coming months are encouraged to contribute.

Content that speaks negatively of any individual or group will not be published. Groups should comment on their own activities only, unless in appreciation. The editorial review team reserve the right to edit and/or refuse contributions where necessary. Copyright on images used remains the responsibility of the contributor, and photographers must be credited.

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