



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 93 October November 2025

www.bridgemag.com.au

Right Spot Photography



Some famous painting by some master painter? Surely it is!
But no – it is a beautiful photograph of our beautiful environment,
taken by our own José Zandveld, whose ad for his business,
Right Spot Photography, you can find on page 73.

Made possible by the customers of
Balnarring & District

 **Bendigo Bank**



– BALNARRING –
DentalCentre

Ph 5983 5348
www.balnarringdentist.com.au

THE BRIDGE – Changes afoot!

As we move into our 14th year, our goal remains the same - to connect our community through clear communication, creativity, and shared values. With thanks to our volunteers, contributors and readers, The Bridge continues to grow as a valuable resource for Balnarring, Bittern, Crib Point, Flinders, Merricks, Red Hill, Shoreham, Somers, Tuerong and surrounding areas.

New Website

We're thrilled to announce our new website is up and running at www.bridgemag.com.au

A big thank you to Mark from Somers Design for your help and generosity. Mark's work can be seen here www.somersdesign.com.au

Sponsorships

A huge thank you to our Hero Sponsors, **Community Bank Balnarring and District** ('Bendigo Bank') and **Balnarring Dental Centre** whose offers to support us as our Hero Sponsors enable The Bridge to continue, and keep it free for community groups, community events and micro-businesses!

If you would like to help support us, please email us at info@bridgemag.com.au or write to us at PO Box 248 Balnarring 3926.

THE BRIDGE – Changes afoot!

New Advertising Fees

For profit-making businesses (as opposed to community groups and micro-businesses), we ask for the following contributions to help cover our rising costs. There are 6 editions of The Bridge per year.

- Full page ad: \$100 per edition (\$600 per year: billed \$300 twice yearly)
- Half page ad: \$50 per edition yearly) (\$300 per year: billed \$150 twice yearly)
- Quarter page ad: \$25 per edition (\$150 per year: billed \$75 twice yearly)

Please contact us with any queries at info@bridgemag.com.au

New Submission Deadlines

From the Dec–Jan 2025 Bridge onwards, new earlier deadlines apply:

- **November 5th** for the December/January edition
- **January 5th** for the February/March edition
- **March 5th** for the April/May edition
- **May 5th** for the June/July edition
- **July 5th** for the August/September edition
- **September 5th** for the October/November edition

Please submit contributions (**up to two pages only, ideally!**) in **Word or PDF** format with a **font size of 14 point** and **heading in 16 point** to info@bridgemag.com.au

Our page limit is 84. First in, first served 😊

Hello Everyone!

Change is an interesting thing – a little can be a delight, bringing newness to enjoy, while a lot can overload the mind and lead to stress and anxiety. Of course, some people don't enjoy any, while for others, any amount of newness is a breath of fresh air 😊 Of course, we're all different, responding in our own way to what life brings us. Our triggers are unique!

What a time it's been lately for us at the Bridge! Changes snuck up on us completely unexpectedly! It just goes to show we need to be so adaptable in this life and never assume that things will stay just as they are!! It may be that we don't actively assume it, but we need to be open to things inevitably changing...

The Bridge has certainly seen some shifts recently. Our long-time friends Anita and David at retired Galaxy Printing. We want to thank them wholeheartedly for their many years of generosity and support to the Bridge and our wider community. They truly made a difference. We're thrilled to continue working with Simon at Just Press Print.

In addition to the printer changes, The Bridge needed a new website. Mark from Somers Design stepped up to help us out and has been wonderful.

At the same time, we've been blessed with wonderful news. **Balnarring Dental Centre has come on board as our new Hero Sponsor!** Their generous support is helping save the Bridge and secure its future. Alongside the Bank, this partnership ensures we can continue to bring you a magazine that inspires, informs, and celebrates our community. We are so very grateful to both Balnarring Dental Centre and Balnarring & District Community Bank!

The Bridge's 'new normal' is now taking shape. It's a lovely feeling to be focused once more on producing the Bridge for you to enjoy, learn from and be inspired by 😊

Do read Pat the Mac's fascinating article on p81 about planets and galaxies.

Cath, original creator of Tulum Café, has now opened a shop in the main street of Sorrento – her wonderful Hawaiian shirts are flying out the door!! See her advert on pages 78-79.

Enjoy everything – even change!! And have a wonderful October and November.

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
www.bridgemag.com.au
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Address: PO Box 248 Balnarring VIC 3926

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Deepak and Indi at Bal PO
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Content:
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Happy Birthday!

October

1st Tim Stout
5th Meagan Lambon
7th Tess Weller
Max MacGowan
9th Ghyll Marie
Janet Watt
10th Megan Trevaskis
Jacob Loft
11th Belinda Eden
16th Karsten (Harry) Poll
17th Shelley Iles
24th Grace Roberts
25th Sean Thomas
31st Gus Angwin



November

1st Laila Nelson-Williams
5th Melissa Banks
10th Maree Parker
11th Paul Ryan
12th Harper Roach-Heffernan
16th Susie Lawrence
17th Rebecca Edwards
21st Keryn Morehu
23rd Mark Smith
Noel Loft
30th Vicki Grant

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

October November 2025

Inspirational Angel Cards for the Community:

Humility Practical

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, Balnarring 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.

Balnarring Dental Centre

Less Stress, More Comfort: Dentistry in the Digital Age

Historically, dentistry has been considered a highly panic-provoking and uncomfortable experience. You probably still have memories of childhood dental traumas. Thankfully, advancements in dental technology are transforming how care is delivered, enhancing accuracy, comfort, and convenience.

Gone are the days of lengthy, uncomfortable procedures as modern tools and techniques are revolutionizing the patient experience. The good news for you is that Dr Tiv, at Balnarring Dental Centre, has invested in these technologies so you don't have to travel far to experience them.

Remember when taking a family photo meant everyone had to sit still while the camera clicked just one shot? If someone blinked, that was it. These days, cameras capture everything in sharp detail from every angle and dentistry has had its own upgrade too.

Cone Beam CT (CBCT) is like the modern photo album for your smile. Instead of a flat X-ray, it gives a clear 3D view of your teeth, jaw, and everything around them. For treatments like implants, root canals, or straightening teeth, this means dentists can work with pinpoint accuracy, making the whole process safer and more comfortable.

You may recall the old dental moulds that felt like a mouthful of plaster and often made you gag? Thankfully, those days are behind us too. With today's intra-oral scanners, we can capture a complete 3D picture of your teeth and gums in just a few minutes with no mess and no fuss. It's a bit like swapping a typewriter for a computer: faster, cleaner, and far more accurate. These digital models help us design crowns, bridges, and clear aligners with precision, while you enjoy a much more comfortable experience in the chair.

Getting a crown used to feel a bit like ordering a custom suit from overseas when measurements were taken, you wore a temporary stand-in, and weeks later you finally got the real thing. Now, thanks to CAD/CAM technology, it's more like having a skilled tailor right in the clinic. We scan your tooth, design the crown on screen, and then our in-office milling machine carves it out with the precision of a jeweller shaping a gem.

Within hours, your crown is ready and fitted with no waiting and no temporary fixes. Many of our patients at Balnarring Dental love that they can settle back, pop on a movie, and leave the same day with a crown that feels like it's always been part of their smile.

Another exciting new machine is called Air Polishing that has revolutionised traditional 'Scale and Cleans'. No more screechy metal vibrating on teeth that often made you feel sensitive! The water is first warmed to a nice forty degrees and then the bacteria and stains are removed with a gentle flow of air/water/antibacterial powder. It not only removes plaque and calculus more effectively, it is also very therapeutic for your teeth. If you haven't tried it yet, you are welcome to try it for yourself and see how it changes your dental experience. What's even better, for the moment it doesn't cost any more than the traditional methods.

These technological advancements aren't just about efficiency, they improve patient comfort and reduce dental anxiety. We have implemented them because we take pride in practice. We are passionate about what we do and are masters in our field. As such, we love working with the best equipment so we can deliver outstanding treatment to our community. You support us so we want to support you.

We will never lose sight of the human experience being the most important aspect of any medical journey and we use technology to enhance that journey for us all.

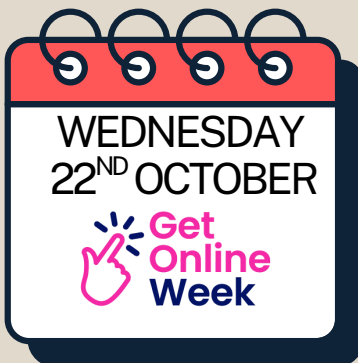
By Dr Mish, Darina and Dr Tiv at the Balnarring Dental Centre
Ph: 5983 5348

COMMUNITY CAFE



2025
REMAINING
SESSIONS:

CORNER



10AM-
12PM

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

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Community Bank
Balnarring & District

B Bendigo Bank

Congratulations from The Bridge Community!!



Photo by Jen (The Bridge) when walking to the village for groceries!



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

- I have followed up complaints about intimidatory and threatening behaviour and vandalism at the **Balnarring Skateboard Park**.
It is appalling that families cannot feel safe allowing their children to use this much-loved facility.
Police and council staff have been alerted and have stated that they are taking appropriate action. CCTV observation is under consideration.
Hopefully by the time that you are reading this those authorities have resolved these criminal activities, and it is safe for our children to continue enjoying our skateboard park.
- Everyone will have now received their **rates notices**. You may have questions for me on some aspects including...
 - the State Government's **Fire services levy**
 - **differential rating** which means some land use classifications pay more or less than the valuation outcome of property assessment to encourage or discourage best land use for community outcomes
 - your rates may vary considerably from last year according to your valuation, however the total income to Council from rates collection can only go up by the 3% rate cap set by the State Government
 - the State Government took over rate valuation several years ago. There is no cap on the State Fire Services levy or state land tax, both State Government charges.
 - Your rate valuation is basically a desktop exercise to do with local sales and information about improvements in comparison to other properties throughout the Shire. You can appeal your evaluation based on further evidence.

The vast majority of Council Services and facilities are paid for by rates.

- **Speed reduction** down from 100kph to 80kph has been welcomed by communities living in the vicinity of **Frankston-Flinders Road** who have long advocated for improved safety measures.

The diminishing government funding for road renewal over decades is another serious safety issue. Road foundations need cyclical renewal to prevent surface deterioration. Filling potholes is only a temporary fix and they keep coming back because of water in the sub-structure coming up and causing repeated damage.

- **Local Waste and recycling initiatives:**

After local advocacy council is installing two **Container Deposit Scheme exchange 'baskets'** at the Somers Store and others are likely in Balnarring, Flinders and Hastings for the first time in the Western Port area.

Somers groups and the Somers Community association are among leaders to tackle climate change issues.

This includes the Somers 'Terracycle' recycling depot for hard to recycle items like pharmaceutical blister packs, soft plastics. Pens and speciality packaging plus disposal of disposable face masks in recycling boxes.

Thank you to these groups and the Bendigo Bank for their financial assistance.

How does it work?

Anyone can deposit an eligible container into a basket and any community member is welcome to claim it.

The container can then be taken to a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) return point, such as in Hastings, where it can be exchanged for a 10c refund.



- I keep advocating about your **Green Wedge concerns** but proposed new limits on Councillor input coming up for Council decision may limit elected representatives from bringing planning issues to Council public meetings in the future.
- The world's highest court (International Court of Justice) has declared states have a legal obligation to tackle **climate change** and failing to do so is a "wrongful act".
 - Unfortunately for many people living along Australis's coastline, finding insurance is becoming increasingly difficult.
 - Council's have an obligation under State Government legislation to act on climate change.

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

Regards,

David.

david.gill@mornpen.vic.gov.au



Briana Ní Loingsigh ✓

@foghlaimeoir

In the Irish language, **we are not our emotions.**

We are not sad or anxious.

We have sadness or anxiety *on us*.

To say I am sad, we say **tá brón orm** - there is sadness on me.

I am anxious, **tá imní orm** - there is anxiety on me.

The language recognizes these as passing states, not permanent fixtures of who we are.

Planning Scheme Amendments update 1 September 2025

Amendment	Description	Status	Notes
C219morn	Implements Council's adopted Housing & Settlement Strategy and Neighbourhood Character Study by making significant changes to zones, overlays and policies to meet existing and future housing needs while protecting the special character of the Peninsula.	Waiting for Ministerial approval and gazettal.	Adopted by Council on 6 August 2024 and submitted to the Minister for approval on 19 September 2024.
C243morn	Privately led amendment by Proctor Investments to rezone surplus Port-related land to create a new Technology, Industry and Business Park at 79 and 83 Bungower Road in Somerville.	To be presented to Council for adoption at the 23 September 2025 Council Meeting (briefing on 9 September).	Planning Panel hearing held in May 2025. Panel Report received in June 2025.
C246morn	Joint amendment with councils forming part of the Municipal Association of Victoria's 'Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment' (CASBE) proposing environmentally sustainable development (ESD) which achieves 'net zero' carbon emissions. (Otherwise known as 'CASBE Elevating ESD Targets' amendment).	Waiting for Ministerial authorisation.	Submitted to the Minister for authorisation on 21 July 2022.
C247morn and Planning Permits P23/2400 & P23/2402	Privately led amendment and permits by Tango to rezone and subdivide land in Woodbyne Crescent and Albany Way, Mornington north for a new residential estate with about 196 dwellings. Includes the proposed rezoning and sale of a Council-owned drainage reserve, to be replaced with a new parkland to be vested in Council.	Planning Panel Hearing to be held on 8-10 October 2025.	Council resolved to proceed to a Planning Panel in July 2025.
C249morn and Planning Permit P20/2355	A privately led amendment by LaManna Property Group to rezone and subdivide land at 170 Boundary and 62 Collins Road, Dromana for a new 250-lot residential estate with conservation area for the Swamp Skink.	Waiting for Ministerial authorisation.	Submitted to the Minister for authorisation on 15 September 2021.
C290morn & CP22/001	A privately led amendment by Taranto to rezone and subdivide land at 57 The Crescent Tyabb for a new residential estate with about 150 lots.	Proponent has re-submitted their amendment request following additional referral advice from Melbourne Water. Amendment request is currently being assessed by officers.	Request first lodged with the Shire for assessment in January 2022.

Planning Scheme Amendments update 1 September 2025
continued

C286morn	Replaces interim planning controls with permanent, mandatory built form controls (building heights and setbacks) for development along Ocean Beach Road in Sorrento to protect and enhance the valued character, heritage and amenity of the area. Based on Council's adopted Ocean Beach Road Sorrento Built Form Review .	To be presented to Council for adoption at the 23 September 2025 Council Meeting (briefing on 9 September).	Planning Panel hearing completed in May 2025. Panel report received in June 2025.
C295morn	Introduces a revised Development Contributions Plan to fund delivery of road and drainage infrastructure for residential properties in Creswell, Cooma and Glossop Streets, Crib Point.	Planning Panel Hearing completed on 11 August 2025. Planning Panel report received on 27 August 2025. Officers are currently reviewing the Panel Report and will brief Council in November.	Council resolved to proceed to a Planning Panel in May 2025.
C301morn	Applies <u>interim</u> Heritage Overlays to places of heritage significance in Council's adopted Heritage Review – Area 4 (Western Port and Hinterland Region) and other places on the Shire's heritage watchlist until Amendment C302morn is finalised.	Waiting for Ministerial approval and gazettal.	Submitted to the Minister for approval on 16 August 2024.
C302morn	Applies <u>permanent</u> Heritage Overlays to places of heritage significance in Council's adopted Heritage Review – Area 4 (Western Port and Hinterland Region) and other places on the Shire's heritage watchlist.	Waiting for Ministerial authorisation.	Submitted to the Minister for approval on 16 August 2024.
C294morn	Privately led amendment by landowners to rezone surplus Port-related land to create a new industrial precinct on land north of Graydens Road and east of Frankston-Flinders Road in Hastings.	Waiting for proponent submission to Council.	Officers have been liaising with landowners, Department of Transport & Planning and Invest Victoria since mid2022 as the landowners prepare the amendment request.

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WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB 1 FORESHORE ROAD BALNARRING BEACH

Step Inside the World of Local Artists:

Peninsula Studio Trail – Open Studios 2025

This November, the Mornington Peninsula once again opens its creative doors as members of the Peninsula Studio Trail invite you into their working studios. Over two inspiring weekends, you'll have the rare opportunity to meet local artists, see where the work is created, and discover the stories, techniques and processes behind their art.

From painting, printmaking and drawing to sculpture, ceramics and photography, the Open Studios showcase a diverse range of contemporary art forms. Visitors can watch demonstrations, explore works in progress, and enjoy genuine conversations with artists about their practice.

For art collectors, it's an unparalleled chance to purchase original works directly from the maker, knowing the story of the piece and the hand that created it. For visitors and day-trippers, the Trail offers the perfect way to experience the Peninsula differently – winding through coastal and hinterland towns, meeting the artists who are part of the region's cultural heartbeat.

Bring a friend or gather your art-loving group for a relaxed day of discovery, inspiration and connection. Whether you're a seasoned collector or simply curious about creativity, the Peninsula Studio Trail promises an engaging, memorable and personal encounter with art.

Peninsula Studio Trail – Artist Open Studios 2025

Weekends: 15–16 November & 22–23 November, 10am–4pm

Studios across the Mornington Peninsula

Free entry – maps and details at: www.peninsulastudiotrailinc.org



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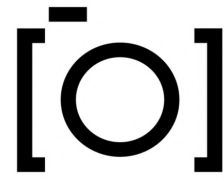
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25/26 BALNARRING PICNIC RACES

CHAMPION STAKES DAY RACING
SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS PICNICS AT BALNARRING
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

BALNARRING CUP DAY
MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026

LONG WEEKEND RACING
SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026

EASTER PLATE DAY
SATURDAY 04 APRIL 2026

FASHIONS DAY
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026



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Friends of Woolleys Beach

We are a community friends group meeting once a month to maintain and improve Woolleys Beach Foreshore Reserve (Crib Point) along this unique coastline of Western Port.

We have been busy removing bluebell creeper and sallow wattle from the foreshore reserve. It has been great to see the areas cleared of the invasive weed bluebell creeper over the past 12 months and observe the improvements and regrowth of other flora and plants in the reserve.

While working, we have sighted the floral emblem of Victoria Pink Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*) along with various fungi and a few orchids within the coastal woodlands.

Our ranger Glenn has been working with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to build an impressive shell reef off Woolleys Beach and recently celebrated Science Week with local 3/4 students and scientists from Melbourne University.

We have recently received donations of seedlings and will be planting various species around the foreshore reserve at Woolleys Beach over the coming months.

If you are interested to learn more, please check our Facebook page for updates and join our group. Please bring gardening gloves, hat, sturdy shoes, long pants and a water bottle. No experience required – tools supplied and refreshments/snacks provided thanks to Annelie.

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'](#)

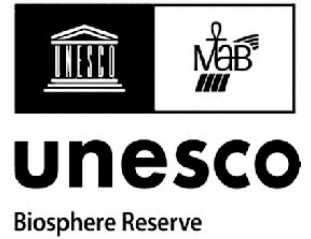
Contact: ranger@cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au

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





Western Port Biosphere



We are concerned about bird flu arriving in Australia this spring

If you see dead birds in Australia:

- (1) Do not touch dead birds
- (2) Report all instances of dead birds via the Emergency animal disease watch hotline **1800 675 888**
- (3) Follow guidelines provided by state and national response teams
- (4) If feasible, collect information pertaining to the number of dead wild birds, species compositions, location, date and time. Do this from a distance using binoculars and/or cameras.



Western Port is a haven for migratory shorebirds, seabirds, and resident waterbirds — many of which travel extraordinary distances along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway to rest and feed in our internationally recognised wetlands. But right now, these birds face an imminent and growing threat: *highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)*.

HPAI, or avian flu, has been spreading across the globe at an unprecedented rate. Unlike earlier, low-pathogenic strains, this new variant is far more lethal, with devastating consequences for both wild and domestic bird populations. But the risks don't stop with birds — outbreaks overseas have also affected mammals such as seals and sea lions, raising concerns about potential impacts on Western Port's marine wildlife. The interconnectedness of ecosystems means that the loss of large numbers of birds, along with risks to other species, would affect not only biodiversity, but also the resilience of wetlands, fisheries, and the wider web of life that depends on this delicate environment.



Western Port Biosphere



What should you do if you find a dead bird?

If you come across sick or deceased birds, it's important *not* to touch them. An infographic accompanying this article provides clear steps on what to do — helping protect yourself, your pets, and the broader environment.

Staying informed and connected

The Western Port Biosphere Foundation is committed to keeping our community informed and prepared. In October, we'll be hosting a community forum on avian flu and its implications for Western Port's wildlife. This will be an opportunity to hear directly from experts, ask questions, and learn how you can be part of safeguarding our ecosystems and ourselves.

We encourage everyone to subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on social media to stay up to date on this issue and future events. You can subscribe through our website:
www.biosphere.org.au

Hope on the horizon

Amid these challenges, there is positive news. Thanks to a \$900,000 grant from *The Ian Potter Foundation*, alongside support from RMIT University's Centre for Nature Positive Solutions and other partners, the Biosphere Foundation is leading a new three-year project to restore and protect Western Port's coastal wetlands. These blue carbon ecosystems — mangroves, saltmarsh, and seagrass — not only store carbon and protect against coastal erosion, they also provide critical feeding and roosting grounds for the very birds now under threat from avian flu.

By combining urgent vigilance against disease with long-term investment in habitat restoration, we can give Western Port's wildlife the best possible chance to thrive.

**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



Brushstrokes of Being

Cultivating Self-Care Through Creative Expression

Come as you are. Leave with color in your heart.

This 8-week program invites you into a nurturing space where creativity meets calm. Through guided art-making, poetic reflection, and gentle mindfulness, we explore ways to soothe, express, and reconnect with ourselves.

What is Art Therapy?

Art therapy is a form of emotional support that uses creative expression as a pathway to healing and self-discovery.

It's not about artistic skill – it's about allowing color, texture, and imagery to speak where words may fall short.

- A mirror for your inner world
- A tool for emotional regulation and self-care
- A safe way to explore feelings, memories and hopes
- A safe way to explore feelings, memories and hopes
- A bridge to connection – with yourself and others

“Each brushstroke is a breath.

Each color, a whisper of who you are becoming.”

Starts: Monday 13 October 2025

Time: Mondays at 1:00 PM (1 hour)

Location: Crib Point Community House

Cost: \$35.00 per session

Facilitator:

Michelle–Registered

Art Therapist, Creative Guide

Bookings. 5983.8888

Michelle Hawksworth

Therapeutic Arts Counsellor

P: 0479 128176

E: therapeuticartscounsellor@gmail.com

W: <https://www.michellehawksworth.com.au>

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

Please check the website for regular updates
<https://flindersbalnarringanglican.org>

SERVICES

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 Prayers:

St. Mark's: Tuesdays 9.00am
St. John's: Wednesdays 9.00am

Sundays@9.30am children's service

First Sunday of the month
St. Mark's

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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, St. Mark's

Café Corner

Second & Fourth Wednesday, 10am
St. Mark's hall

Men's Group

Last Saturday of month, 8am
alternating b/n St. Mark's & St. John's

Doing Justice Group

Third Sunday of month, 5pm
St. Mark's hall

Craft Group

Every Friday, 1pm
St. John's hall



Western Port Uniting Church Parish

(consisting of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings congregations)

Service Locations and Times for October – November 2025

Balnarring -10 Balnarring Beach Road, Balnarring	10.45 am
Crib Point - 382 Stony Point Road, Crib Point	9.00 am
Hastings - Cnr Marine Parade and Hodgins Road, Hastings	10.45 am

On the 5th October a Parish Communion Service will be held at the Balnarring Church.

There will be no other service conducted in the Parish on this Sunday.

On the 2nd of November, Communion Services will be conducted at all three churches.

On the 30th November a Parish Service will be conducted at Crib Point UC. This will be the only service conducted in the Parish on this day.

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

Op Shop - trading times: -

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

Volunteering opportunities exist for those wishing to contribute to a community group.

Please call in to obtain an Application Form.

Clean, presentable, and saleable donations are accepted during these hours

- Thanks.

On behalf of the Parish, a Community Encouragement Message

Psalm 34:4–5, 8

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

HASTINGS U3A OPEN DAY

Friday 17th October 2025

at

BITTERN MEMORIAL CENTRE

105 Hendersons Road, Bittern

10.00 - 12noon

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or

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During October/November

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can be found on our website:

u3ahastings.org.au

Office Hours 10.00 - 12.00 Monday & Friday

(Listen to our podcasts on Radio Western Port)



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

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Term 4 - 2025

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FRIENDS OF FERGUSON RESERVE AND THE MELBOURNE WATER LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES LIVEABLE WATERWAYS GRANT

Friends of Ferguson Reserve is a group of volunteers who look after the bushland section of Ferguson Reserve in Balnarring Beach under the guidance of the Mornington Peninsula Shire bushland management team. Ferguson Reserve is a small reserve which used to be a sewage pumping station many years ago and is located between Ferguson Drive, Sidney St and Campbell Court in Balnarring Beach.

“Friends Groups” are run by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and involve members of the community volunteering to look after a bushland reserve under the guidance of the Shire. We have had working bees and have got rid of a lot of weeds on the upper bank of the storm water creek.

The Friends group volunteers were unable to weed the weeds in the creek itself which was frustrating because although the upper bank was starting to look beautiful with our weeding and planting efforts the actual stormwater creek was a mess of weeds. The Friends group decided to apply for a Melbourne Water Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways grant with the council’s approval, so we could get the weeds removed that were in the small stormwater creek that flows through Ferguson Reserve. This small creek is important as it is the last storm water creek that flows into Merricks Creek. As many know Merricks Creek is an estuary and has sea water flowing up it as well as storm water flowing down from further up. Merricks Creek often has issues with not enough storm water in it resulting in seaweed rotting and causing a sulphur smell as well as black water events which kill the fish. Although we cannot do much about the lack of rain at certain times of the year, we knew if the storm water creek was freed of its weeds it would flow better to help fresh storm water enter Merricks Creek unimpeded. Ferguson Reserve is part of the Balnarring to Bay biolink and swamp wallabies, koalas and echidnas live and move around the stormwater creek. As we knew swamp wallabies hopped up the local roads instead of using the creek area, and koalas navigated the local roads to get to trees in backyards and therefore it would be safer for wildlife to use the creek area instead of the roads. As the storm water creek was choked with blackberries and other weeds it was impassable to wildlife in some sections which was why wildlife was seen on the local roads. The situation would possibly get worse with future development and non-wildlife friendly fencing being built. To give the wildlife a safe passage along the creek system was a big priority for the Melbourne Water grant application.

We were pleasantly surprised when Melbourne Water granted the Friends of Ferguson Reserve a \$11,453.90 Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways grant in September 2024.

Friends of Ferguson Reserve was able to contract Nature Links to do the weed control work under the grant and so masses of blackberries have been cut and painted with weed killer (cannot spray them as they are near a waterway), as have many tree tobacco. Sweet pittosporum has been cut down. Bridal creeper, panic veldt-grass, lots of arum lilies, large agapanthus plants, a huge amount of rambling dock, shade crassula, Yorkshire fog, echium, nasturtium, and of course the kikuyu grass were all hand weeded out of the creek area by the Nature Link contractors under the grant. 100 indigenous plants – sedges, grasses and bushes (that tolerate being covered in water from time to time) were recently planted in the weeded areas of the creek by the Nature Links contractor.

The Friends of Ferguson Reserve group volunteers have continued their monthly working bees at the upper part of the creek bank. They have weeded a lot of kikuyu grass and onion weed. They have dug out rambling dock. They cut and painted blackberries and tree tobacco with weed killer. They mulched then planted 166 indigenous plants on the upper part of the creek bank.

If you are interested in joining the volunteers which work in Ferguson Reserve, then we have monthly working bees on the second Sunday of the month at 10am to 12 noon meeting at the Campbell Court end of the reserve.

If you have a creek area that needs weeding and revegetating, then consider applying for a Melbourne Water Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways grant to get funds to get the work done. The funds from the grant were invaluable in getting the weeds under control in the Ferguson Reserve stormwater creek and it could not have been done without this grant. Thank you, Melbourne Water, for this grant.

By Belinda Everett – Co-ordinator of the Friends of Ferguson Reserve group



Section of the upper bank of the stormwater creek in Ferguson Reserve revegetated by the Friends of Ferguson Reserve group. The manna gums were specially donated by Lisa Ferguson from Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation. They were grown from seed from a discarded branch of the manna gum that was cut

down by the council in Balnarring Beach Rd under great controversy. Manny lives on.



A weeded section in the stormwater creek area by Nature Links Contractors under the Melbourne Water grant. This section was previously unseen from above as it was covered in weeds. This section has recently been planted out with indigenous grasses.

TUTOR

Jane Reiseger
0438 237 467



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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

Journey to Tranquility



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Balnarring CFA News



SMOKE ALARMS

It's that time of year: Daylight Savings Time is the time to check your Smoke Alarms. **Remember – *only working Smoke Alarms save lives.***

Property Preparation

With the B.O.M.'s current long-term forecast again being for a drier than average season, so **now** is the time to start preparing your home, farm or business for the upcoming Summer.

Here are some handy tips on carrying out a planned burn:

Notifying [Triple Zero Victoria](#) about planned burns prevents unnecessary fire brigade response. Callers reporting an actual fire can then verify that the fire is a planned burn. If this can't be verified a fire brigade will be asked to respond.

Before you notify us and carry out your planned burn, ensure:

- Follow the regulations and bylaws (internet search: 'Can I, Can't I').
- Notify your neighbours.
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the activity and a few days afterwards.
- Establish a gap in vegetation of no less than 3 metres of all flammable material.
- There are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn effectively.

Check CFA's [Burning Off](#) page for more information.

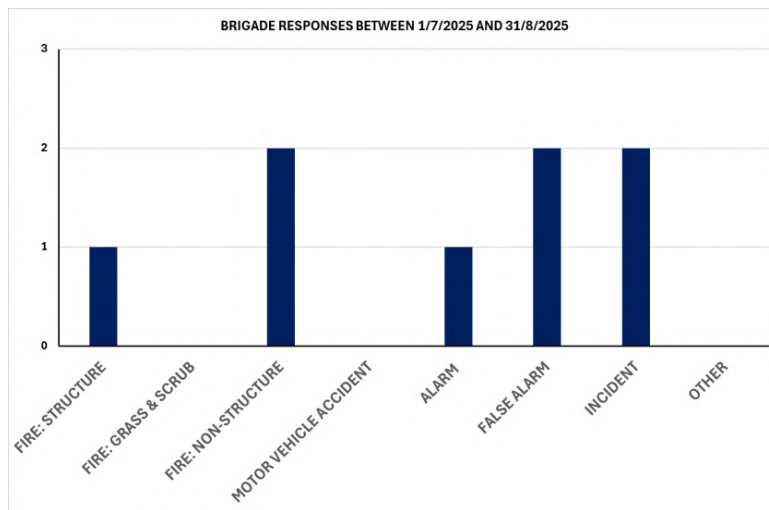
How to notify?

Online: on the [Fire Permits Victoria](#) website;

Email: complete the [Burn off Notification Form \(PDF 638KB\)](#) and email the form to burnoffs@triplezero.vic.gov.au;

Phone: register your burn-off by calling 1800 668 511, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week *National Relay Service Users can ring [1300 555 727](#) and ask for information to be relayed to Triple Zero Victoria via [1800 668 511](#).*

Turn-Outs



Gardening Tips to Reduce Your Bushfire Risk *by firefighter Adele.*

With the weather warming up again, a little food for thought as to what you can do in your garden to help reduce your risk in the event of a bushfire.

We live in a unique and beautiful area of the Mornington Peninsula. From homes and gardens in our beautiful townships, to both small and large rural properties and our unique and varied businesses, we all need to consider how to reduce the bushfire risk.

The most effective way to reduce the risk is in the garden. **All plants burn**, be native or introduced species. You can minimise the risk of losing your home or having the people and animals occupying it be at risk in the event of a bushfire.

CONSIDER:

- garden design;
- plant type;
- location of vegetation;
- and a big one... MAINTENANCE of all your plants and trees.

ASSESS:

- is there a fuel path of vegetation leading to your house?
- where are your sheds, out buildings and machinery positioned?
- even think about the type of materials your water tanks are made from.

CHECK:

- leaf litter, tree limbs overhanging structures, creeping plants on fences, verandas or pergolas, wooden decks joining the house that may catch embers.
- always keep vegetation clear of access points to and from your property (4m x 4m).

THINK:

- types of plants and their moisture content, oil or resin content.

- then there are the needles, leaves and various barks that shed and drop building up fuels on the ground. Fire will start from embers blown into your property in loose materials that have gathered in corners.

We love talking to our locals. So, please do not hesitate to contact us at Balnarring CFA to chat about your garden and find out more information in relation to minimising bushfire risk at your place (brochure available at the station).

Enjoy the Spring Sunshine and HAPPY GARDENING from the Balnarring CFA.

Member News

Congratulations to Nigel competing in the recent World Police and Fire Games held in Alabama, USA. He won Silver in Rowing and Bronze in Weightlifting.

Also, congratulations to Aaron who competed in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb. He completed the gruelling 28 flight course wearing full PPC with BA in just over 8 minutes.

Volunteers Wanted

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and we are encouraged that we have had a few younger residents recently join the brigade. But we'd still love to see a few more, particularly females as they are under-represented. There are plenty of roles to fill within our brigade both Operational (firefighter) and Non-Operational (community engagement, equipment maintenance, training, OH&S, even gardening).

So come on ladies, there are lots of opportunities and events specifically tailored for you. So, come down and check the place out and see if your skills and enthusiasm can enhance our brigade.

Training continues Monday evenings from 7:30pm and Sunday mornings from 10am. If you'd like to make a difference to your community, please give us a call or pop in.

Open Day: 23rd November, 2025 – put it in your diary.

Byron SEDGWICK

M: 0419 313 413

E: byron@ianreid.com.au

Lieutenant – Balnarring CFA

Community Engagement Officer

Station Ph No: 5983 5379



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Balnarring Preschool Report

What a busy hive of activity the Balnarring Preschool has been in Term Three. The children have continued exploring their nature spaces and making new connections with classmates. The three-year-old groups have loved exploring the creek since it broke its banks and observing the changes in environment. The four-year-old groups have been loving the water play at the beach making islands, observing the waves rush in over the sand or crash into the posts.



Some parents in the four-year-old groups joined in the classes showcasing some of the things they do for work and sharing with the children. From Navy band performance, architecture session and exploring the big truck. Thank you to the parents who have joined in and shared, and we welcome other parents to share if they would like.

The children have also had many amazing learning experiences this term with some incursions by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sustainability Team about mini beasts, worms and worm farms, water bugs and the impact of litter on waterways. They have also had Hudson (Torres Strait Island man) representing Living Culture teaching the children traditional fire making, knowledge about plants for eating and medicine and spear throwing.

Staff from Pelican Park Recreation Centre have visited the children talking about water safety with their Story Time program in the lead up to the warmer months and the importance to be vigilant at all times. Some things to keep in mind is children's confidence around water and bright bathers that stand out if children need help around water in a pool or the beach.

A thank you to Kadi who has come in to teach the children some Auskick skills during sports day sessions. The children loved learning and practising these new skills. Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles and special people in the children's lives have been celebrated with special homemade cards and sessions where they could spend time with the children in the kinder environment.

The children and parents of the Preschool have had some invaluable sessions on Body Safety run by Body Safety Australia teaching how to support children in enjoying healthy, respectful relationships now and in the future. Children's sessions are taught through activities, games, stories and group discussions and will be continued learning into the term.

The parents of the Preschool community have had some valuable information sent to them throughout the term from "The Food and Bodies Project" from the Health Promotion Team at Peninsula Health. With the focus that foods are explored without judgement and all bodies are welcome.

Also, from the "Ready Steady School Program" with resources sent out for 8 weeks developed for families as their children move onto school.

If you as a Balnarring Preschool Parent haven't had time to look at it, I would highly recommend you do, and feedback to the teaching team is welcome.

We have had our Preschool Social Night 'Back to the 80's Prom Edition' which was a wonderful evening and a great success. We'd like to thank the Balnarring Bowls Club for the amazing service at the venue which was transformed by Ash and her fundraising team. The children even made many beautiful stars that filled the ceiling on the night and will be gifted back to the families later this year. Well done everyone and thank you for your support. The funds raised will be going towards the Balnarring Preschool 'Little Long Walk' day next term, making this event available at no cost to all families.

A huge thank you and appreciation goes out to the following business who kindly donated to the evening's live auction, silent auction and spinning wheel, making it possible to have such a successful night:

Stoniers, Montalto, Quealy, Pier 10, Paringa, Paradigm Hill, Red Hill Estate, Wise & Co Dispensary, Blueys World Brisbane, Mornington Peninsula Chocolates, Balnarring Fish Shop, Pelican Park, Balnarring Gym, Alba Thermal Springs, Zambrero, Enchanted Adventure, Arthur's Seat Eagle, Village Cinemas, Green Olive, Somers General Store, Merricks General Store, Red Gum BBQ, Cerberus Golf Club, Moonlit Sanctuary, Trigger Bros, Mornington Race Club, RACV Club Cape Schank, Pt Leo Estate, Art with Cath, Commune, Squad, Wandilla Gippsland Butcher, Balnarring Lets Play Tennis, Herbaceous, Little Nook Boutique, B.Box, Balnarring Football Club, Merry People, Le Bouchon, Rocky Creek Strawberry Farm, Coast Real Estate, Homes and Acreage, Brondie, Balnarring Picnic Races, Tuerong Farm, Torello, CrossFit Hastings, Searoad Ferries, Crochet made by Denise, Lise handmade quilt, Emily Improv class, Balnarring Post Office, Mamas Bohemian Bazaar.

Lastly, we would like to let the wider community know we are holding the **Balnarring Preschool AGM on Tuesday 25th November at 7pm and all are welcome**, and we would especially love to see all the families, returning and new, who will be a part of our beautiful kinder community in 2026.

Until next time...

Jaclyn Noakes Historian Balnarring Preschool Committee

From our BPS correspondent – Viv

Year 6 City Camp

In late August, the BPS Year 6s journeyed to Melbourne for a 3-day camp. We stayed at the Miami Hotel and adventured throughout the city. Here's your correspondent's recount on a moment from the last day of urban camp 2025, along with photographer Jarvis and Year 6 students, Grace and Harvey.



ACMI by Viv

For a moment, everything stops, classmates' voices echo and turn corners just to find me. All the videos and awesome illusions continue, but I don't. I stay dead still, pondering. Everyone rushes to play video games, yet I'm here, in peace.

As I start moving again, I spot all my friends in the corner of my eye, they almost look... brainwashed, just getting sucked into the screen. After waiting forever to get a turn, I let out a large sigh of relief. Despite the fact that I have just started to play, about 10 kids flood over to the games, nagging everyone who was playing.

Eventually, I become sick of playing games and I try to have a moment to reflect on camp, once again (almost) everything stops. I attempt to reflect but I'm finding it hard to focus. I can't take my mind off my family. I miss them dearly, but I have to stay positive.

"Whoosh!" The train and the thought of mum and dad races past us as we slowly move down the cramped escalator. At this point, my legs feel like they could give up on me at any moment. Just envisioning my sister giving me a hug, or the cozy smell of home makes me tear up. While the train zooms past the track, I can't help but notice that all the buildings and skyscrapers make the city feel alive. As soon as our train stops, we board. Birds soar across the gloomy city skies while I feel like I'm being watched by the tall buildings as we head towards home.

Echoes of the City Nights by Jarvis

Echoes of the city nights

Commotion, noise it covers me. Inside its bright and loud, hundreds of people.

Suffocation, that's what I feel, I feel tiny in this building, my hands tremble, they feel numb. I look down to block out the noise and see an unnatural bright yellow liquid spilling out of a clear cup, my Mountain Dew. I don't bother pick it up; I just stumble through the light to the door. There's still noise but I feel like its directed at me, but I know it's not.

I stumble through the door, towards the silent night. I'm lying on the grass, Yarra River metres to my left, I roll over and feel the grass scratching me through my jumper. Of course, its fake grass, the only real grass around here is the MCG and it's probably 99%

modified. I don't really care though, I just want to complain about the city, I'm determined to hate it. In some bits I do with the constant complaining, loud music. But right here, right now I don't mind it, peaceful almost. *Gggrrrrrrrrrr*, that noise puts an end to my rest, but I don't bother move not yet. Anyway, it's probably a boat that decided to have a trip around the Yarra. Then I hear a sudden rush of sound that reminds me of waves crashing on the shore. I stand ready to run but then I see an explosion of fire, I gaze at it as the heat radiates into my eyes. Then in my mind I admit it, "the city's pretty cool".

I sort of like the city when its night; mood crushing, traffic jamming jazz fest by day but glowing, silent yet loud neon jungle by night. It's as if the city puts a bright glow on everything even trees, pink, purple, blue, yellow any colour. Melbourne even puts a glow on the Yarra which is normally brown and slimy filled with bikes. I look up to the buildings, like Crown lit up like a flashlight but it's a subtle and calming white glow, the restaurants next to the river are filled with people and an orange and welcoming glow different to the city. I stare up to the subtle city then back down to the welcoming restaurants until I head into the train station a dark cigarette ash hall that leads to the train platform.

I hop onto the train sit down and wait until everyone's seated then I stand and walk to the doors to look out them. I just like watching everything flash past. Graffiti, all I can see is graffiti good, bad all of them, Pam the bird. I get off the train start walking back to my hotel. Inside I spy something out the corner of my eye, I walk over it's a wallet, the wallet.



The City by Harvey

The screech of the tram stopping at the North Melbourne train platform is refreshing and an instant reminder of where I am. As I step on, I can feel the hustle in the carriage. So many lives. So many different jobs. Some with no jobs at all.

The tram ride nearly over, nearly at Richmond Station. With crisp frost in the tree leaves, footpaths bustling with life, buses and taxis flying past only to be stopped by traffic lights. Small little coffee shops, the baristas working hard, ghostly fingers of smoke rising from the bitter brew, and only to be enjoyed you. The noise of the street engulfed by an excited dog on his morning stroll, before burying his bone in a deep hole.

Finally, we arrive at Richmond Station, now on the walk to the world-famous MCG. On the tour I discover all the history written and whispered onto screens. It's overwhelming to take all the information in. Our tour guide throwing a few jokes at us while we stare in awe of the 'G'.

Curious me adventuring down Graffiti Alley, looking at murals and messages covering walls of buildings, creating a canvas for Graffiti artists. Some pieces being big and bulky, some small, some just tiny little scribbles and tags and some beautiful murals. The remnants of paint staining the air, creating an aroma and vibe down the many allies covered in paint. Walking into the 'Old Melbourne Gaol' - not a place I would want to live. But certainly, the history whispered by the walls of the Gaol and that's a story in itself. One of the cells even

haunted with a ghost [I'm not kidding I felt pressure on the side of my head]. The creaky old doors freaky and their cells filled with suffering and hardship. Melbourne, an amazing place the tastes, the sights, what you feel. That is Melbourne.

The City by Grace

From hotel to train, through the hustle and bustle of students.

Pushing through to get to their close friends. The trains are heard from miles away, as the rush of people getting on and off, with the closing doors. As we hurry into the trains as head turn and eyes look. I guess you don't see 60 kids getting on a train in the city every day, but people stare and take pictures, whisper and point. The uncomfortable feeling claws at us, pulling down our heads. But some gaze out the window as the city buildings rush by and cars hurry honking and tooting on their way to work and school.

The train halts to its stop, we move off and the seats and standing space is taken up by everyday passengers. Gliding above the clouds it towers down on us. Where the greatest played and won, where many memories have been made and will be made. We climb the steps (there enough to get to the top of a mountain) but it's worth it. The green lush grass is getting prepared for a lifetime experience that only it can have. Getting pampered and pronged, watered and clipped, it prepares for the big day.

The tram pulls and heaves us to the bustling market as weekly shoppers shop and buyers buy. My ears ring with the sound of try this, by that and very good price! It's really hard to take it all in. But I'm calmed by warm dumplings and iced boba – re-energising me for the opportunity. We wander up and down the rows. As people fold over sonny angels! The trading will soon begin. This for that and that for this.

Colours soon pop! From buildings walls! Rainbows of expressions burst as artists show off what they can do. Expressing their feelings and showing pride. But it's interrupted by the hard edgy music rattling the walls of shoes and hats. Cloths and expensive jewellery, and baggy jeans. Its loud and overwhelming but interesting to see the unique cultches of the city, outside people in need of help wrapped in blankets, huddled together. Our need to help is almost painful, but we can't - it's just all or none. A wall of memories gloomily looms overuse like a ghost. We walk past respectfully remembering sadly, who rest in peace.

Our feet stepping Infront of the other hundreds of times. The gaol is not to far away. Its black and grey history send goose bumps up our arms and backs. Its cold history sucks all the heat and life from the walls. The rope still stained with blood. The walls still scarred with help and save use. But no one ever did. The cells ring with past screams, trouging head aches and dozy feeling at use as we walk the haunted halls. Its loud and bright outside full of live, with living trees and singing birds. Year 6 city camp was a wonderful experience.



Coolart Homestead to reopen to the public



Welcome back to Coolart Homestead

After years of being closed, the magnificent Coolart Homestead is opening its doors once again. The grand ground floor rooms have been beautifully restyled to reflect different eras of residency, offering visitors the chance to step back in time and imagine life in such an elegant home.

Thanks to a new community license agreement between Friends of Coolart and Parks Victoria, we're delighted to share parts of the homestead with the public once more.

The potential for Coolart to inspire, inform, and celebrate the history of this special place is enormous—and it can grow even further with your involvement.

By volunteering with Friends of Coolart, you'll be part of something meaningful, joyful, and unique. With more helping hands, we can welcome visitors more often, host more events, and ensure the homestead continues to thrive. Every new volunteer helps us create more opportunities for the community to enjoy Coolart. There are so many ways to get involved—whatever your time or talents, there's a role for you:

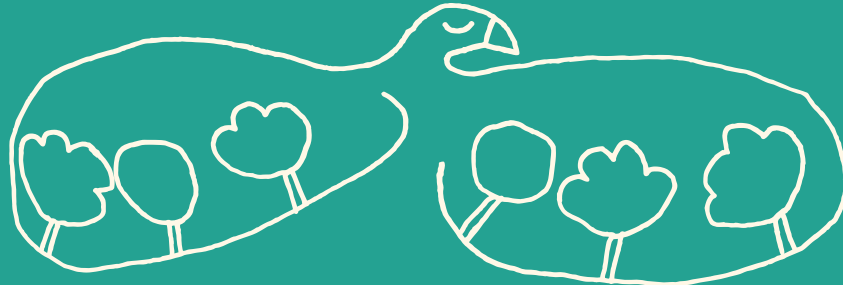
- Be a welcoming host or guide in the homestead
- Share your creativity with flower arrangements for the house
- Support our shop (a vital fundraiser for FoC)
- Care for the gardens with planting and maintenance
- Join in with the Community Vegetable Garden
- Lend a hand at special events
- Take on a role with the Friends of Coolart Committee
- Help with marketing, fundraising, or volunteer support

Whether you can join us monthly, weekly, or more often, your contribution will make a real difference. Together, we can keep Coolart alive, vibrant, and open for all to enjoy.

Contact Friends of Coolart at volunteer@coolart.org.au

Balnarring
Preschool
presents

Womin Djeka.



Balnarring Ngargee

Community Festival
Family Friendly

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SATURDAY

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26**

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Womin Djeka Balnarring

PILATES WITH NEIL

Pilates with Neil is your destination for holistic well-being through mindful movement. Experience the transformative power of Pilates in a supportive and nurturing environment, suitable for all levels.

Neil offers small group Pilates Matwork classes to improve core strength, coordination, flexibility, breathing techniques and concentration. The small classes enable Neil to accommodate the needs of the individual.

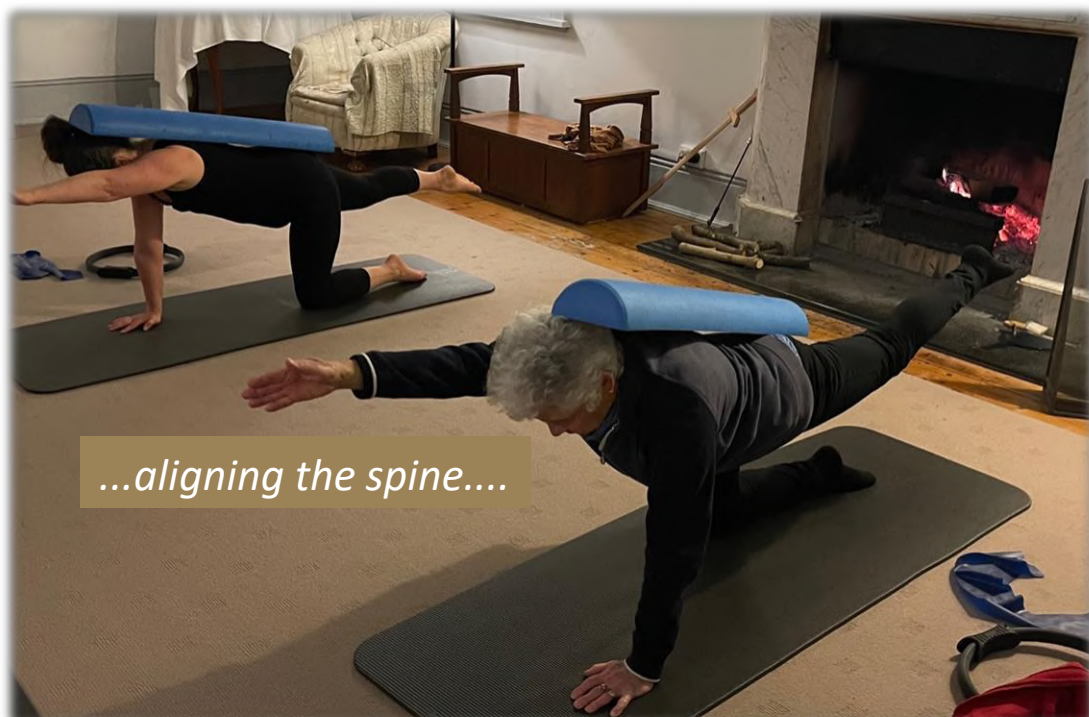
One-to One Postural Pilates sessions address an individual's specific needs, by appointment. A 45-minute gentle Stretch Class limbers the entire body, (time TBC).

Neil is also a Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage therapist; by appointment.

Neil has over 30 years' experience working in human movement. His work is based on the desire to help clients achieve their individual potential: to strengthen, lengthen, repair, rejuvenate, and release.

For more info call Neil on **0418638589**,
or visit his website: **www.pilateswithneil.com.au**

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& Crib Point Community House



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- Small Pilates Matwork classes,
- One-to-One Postural Pilates,
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- Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage.

Contact: 0418638589 / neiladams0@gmail.com



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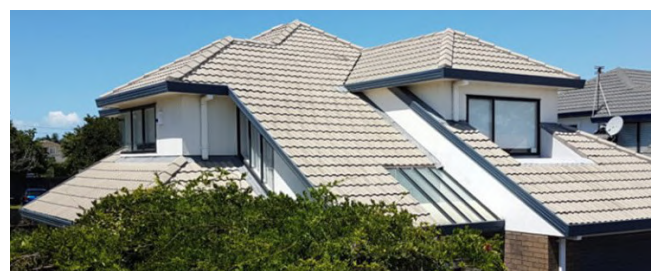
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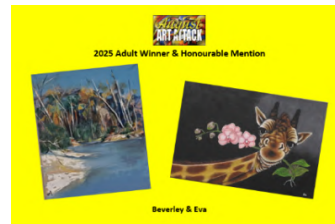
***Enquiries
Call Jeff
0411 314 104***

NEWSLETTER – October 2025



I really can't believe that it's the last term already, where has the year gone?

We had another very successful **August Art Attack Art Show** with record entries. It was a fantastic turnout with plenty of great art on show from adult artists to Secondary and Primary School entries. There were also Honourable Mentions and Special Mentions and you can view them on our website, www.augustartattack.com



The **October Market** will be a very special one for the kids. As well as the Cribby Koala Treasure Hunt, there will be **FREE activities** including games, colouring in, bubbles, and meet Cribby Koala. There will also be the usual stalls inside and outside, Sausage Sizzle, Coffee van and more. To celebrate Senior's Month, Devonshire Tea will be half price for Seniors.

Our **term 4 program** has all the usual classes and groups with some exciting new workshops with Line dancing, Experimental Art, Digital Essentials and Wednesday wonders will include Scams and Cyber safety, Senior citizens Police register and Budget to survive and thrive. Check out our Website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Don't forget, you need to book for all classes as numbers are sometimes limited. Bookings open on Monday Oct 6th at 9am. Call us on 59839888 or call in Monday to Thursday 9am to 3pm, Friday 9am to 12noon.

We are partnering with the Crib Point Cricket Club again this year for the **Toy Drive** to go to Mum's Supporting Families in Need. You can drop your donations of NEW TOYS at the Community House during office hours or at our Markets on Oct 11th, Nov 8th or Dec 13th or at the Crib Point Cricket Club when open.

Growing old is inevitable,



but growing up is optional.



CRIB POINT COMMUNITY HOUSE



QUILT & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday 21st March 2026

10am to 4pm - Entry \$5. per person

Quilts & Crafts by our Students and Local Quilters

Calling for entries for

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Entries will be judged by the public

Call 59839888 or Email: info@cpch.org.au

Entries close on Friday 6th March

Crib Point Community House

7 Park Rd, Crib Point

Web: www.cpch.org.au

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and
Crib Point Community House

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

For
Mums Supporting Families in Need



NEW TOYS ONLY PLEASE

Drop-off location:

Crib Point Community House
Mon to Thurs 9am to 3pm
Friday 9am to 12

Crib Point Cricket Club
Colin Pde, Crib Point



CRIB POINT COMMUNITY MARKET

The Friendly Market



Oct 11 * Nov 8 * Dec 13

9am to 1pm



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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**





1st Balnarring

Scout Group

#OutsideIn25 is the theme for Scouts this year and nature is our main setting for learning. Being winter, this term featured lots of snow and campfires!

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.

Mount Baw Baw Camp

The term 2 school holidays started with a bang at our much anticipated 5-night Mount Baw Baw camp. 16 youth members, including a mix of Cubs, Scouts & Venturers, accompanied by 6 Leaders and parent helpers had a wonderful time in excellent snow conditions. They learnt to ski and snowboard, tobogganed, hiked to the summit on snowshoes, built snowmen then relaxed, cooked and played games back at the lodge. It even snowed while they were there!

World Scout Day

August 1st was World Scout Day, celebrating 118th birthday of Scouting. You may have seen some of our members at work or school, proudly wearing their 1st Balnarring scarves.

Annual Report & Awards Night

Our whole group came together in early August for a night of celebration, presented by our youth members. Our VIP guests included MPs Zoe McKenzie and Chris Crewther who were amazed at the wide variety of fun and adventurous activities each of our sections had been up to over the past year.

Joey Scouts

This term our Joeys joined 20+ others from around our district for a 'Shakedown Camp' at Camp Niall in Tuerong. Although it was a wet weekend, they showed incredible resilience dealing with the cold, muddy conditions. Our Joeys had a great time getting to know those who will be part of their unit at 'Kangaree' – the upcoming statewide Joey mega-camp, at which 1200+ Joeys will congregate for 3 days and 2 nights of adventures at Bay Park, Mount Martha.

The Joeys have also been busy holding a 'Lego Masters' night, shopping for groceries to donate to Western Port Community Support, toasting marshmallows over the campfire and building cars from cardboard boxes.



Left: Scout Arthur snowshoe hiking at the Mount Baw Baw camp
Credit: Amelia Bicknell



Above: Joeys toasting marshmallows over the campfire at Camp Niall
Credit: Daniel Lane



Left: Joeys building cars from cardboard boxes
Credit: Daniel Lane



1st Balnarring

Scout Group

Cub Scouts

We have a very creative bunch of Cubs! They spent several weeks designing, building, testing and refining their own games, which were then shared with some very enthusiastic Joeys. The Cubs were great leaders, explaining the games clearly and supervising the Joeys. They also made good use of the glue guns when things didn't go quite as planned.

Our Cubs also learnt about morse code, cooked damper on the campfire, built outdoor shelters and enjoyed a night of art appreciation and graffiti making.

Scouts

The Scouts have been busy this term, making pizzas in cardboard ovens, geocaching, planting trees for koala habitat and performing in Camberwell Showtime. They learnt about hike packing and preparation, from Venturer Rylee, who recently returned from 14 days of hiking in Tasmania. Rylee's tips on layering clothing were put to good use on their own 28km *overnight* hike of the Two Bays trail. Although some brave Scouts chose to hike in just their shorts!

To Join

If these adventures sound like fun to you, why not give us a try?

1st Balnarring Scout Group, meeting at St Marks Anglican Church, welcomes new members at any time. You can come and try for three meetings before joining up.

We offer four sections of Scouting

- Joey Scouts, aged 5 – 8, on Tuesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm
- Cub Scouts, aged 8 – 11, 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>

To register for a trial or to join up go to <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/location/1ST-BALNARRING/>

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



Above: Joeys with their donation of groceries for Western Port Community Support.
Credit: Gabby Ackland

Right: MPs Zoe McKenzie & Chris Crewther visit 1st Balnarring for the Annual Report and Awards Night. Credit: Joanne Vaughan



Below: Cubs Scouts cooking damper over an open fire.
Credit: Di Hook



The Long Journey Partnership news

Hi All

Well, the dust has settled from the referendum and new governments elected. So where to from here?

We intend to stay the course with our relationship with the Numbulwar Community and the needs of the young and old in this community which remain the same.

There are still issues on maintaining food security which of course leads to health issues.

Education is still at the forefront of our programs and encouraging young parents and their children to attend school on a regular basis is our priority.

We are still in the very early stages of developing a plan partnership with Mornington Shire Council and Roper Gulf Regional Council.

New elections have just happened with both of the councils so we will need to set some agendas and start a process of understanding issues at hand.





The general consensus is that both communities understand that conversations need to be had, not just top down but from bottom up.

Effective change only happens with a conversation that encompasses compassion and understanding the cultural differences as connecting communities.

We want to publicly thank the staff at Ego Pharmaceuticals (some who live on the Mornington Peninsula) for the NAIDOC week fundraising program. As a result of their efforts we are able to send many school essential items for literacy to their normal school. Secondly, we want to thank RICHMOND CASTORS, and in particular Glenn, for their support in transporting goods up to the community. These are the sort of things that are game changes when it comes to supporting people in remote community.

*Regards
Murray and Carol*

The Long Journey Partnership
Connecting communities through Health and Education

lindsellhoists@icloud.com

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Willum Warrain is a 100% Aboriginal community-owned bush nursery specialising in local indigenous plants from the Mornington Peninsula. Many of the plants we sell have cultural uses and meanings for Aboriginal peoples in South East Australia.

We are the only Aboriginal-run nursery retail and wholesale nursery south of Melbourne open to the public. We are very keen to take on larger orders (with warning) from businesses and agencies seeking to achieve Reconciliation Action Plan goals and meet procurement targets.

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



\$4

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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 95. **We will celebrate our 40th birthday with a lunch at Toscanos in Hastings on Thursday, 25th September.**

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.

Ted Gale, our WW2 veteran and oldest member passed away in July after a long illness. The United Church in Crib Point, where Ted had been a prominent member for 30 years was packed with family, friends and many of our members.

For several years Ted laid a wreath at the Balnarring Anzac Day Service on behalf of our members.



Our speaker for August was John Gardner, a nightsoil carrier, known also as the "Dunny Man", who worked for the Knox Council for several years. John spoke about the skills involved and thoroughly entertained the members with his stories of this lost profession.

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.

Our Music group, pictured below, is one of our longest lasting groups. It meets monthly at the home of a member to enjoy morning tea before listening to a selection of (mostly) classical music, chosen by one member.



Our **September** speaker, Debbie Muir, is the Relations Manager for Home Assistance provider Prestige INHOME CARE. She discussed the changes that are happening with Home Care Packages and the importance of registering for My Aged Care. The changes are planned to be introduced in November this year.

Our **October** Speaker will see the return of **Anthea McCall** who spoke last time on Agatha Christie. Her topic this time will be: **Shakespeare - Fabulous or Fake?**

Over 39 years our club has provided entertainment, support and assistance to members. 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.

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and contact me on 0411 685 476.

Friends of Daangean Report to September 2025

The August weeding day at Botaurus Wetland that was postponed from July saw a team of four hard at it. Lots of boneseed along the top of the dam bank that Roger & Lisa tackled while Annabel & I dealt with it on flat ground after scrambling through the downed pines that were the result of a chainsaw training session. Some of the boneseed had reached chainsaw dimensions, as had some the sallow wattle trees, some practice on those would've been handy. A fungus was spotted in the undergrowth & there was a hunt for my phone amid the entanglement, until it was located in the car. Hannah from PV who arrived in time for morning tea had to head off on her rounds as she was the only ranger on duty. We made mention of



Fungus in the undergrowth - MF

the proliferation of blackberry everywhere.

Woodland Break the previous FOD work site is becoming over run by pittosporum again. Soon it will return to its previous state & no one will know that we had spent around 12 years bashing our way through the scrub to deal with them. The nodding greenhoods were flowering & small fungi were growing along the fire track.

The proposed boneseed Community Weeding Day on Devilbend's

Daangean Point on August 30th was postponed to September 6th

due to the heavy winds & the danger of falling limbs. However, the date change meant five volunteers were unable to attend the bee. Sallow wattle & boneseed was in full flower & easy to spot, & like the other worksite some of the woody weeds need a chainsaw due to their size. It was interesting that not a bird was seen or heard in the scrub, where usually there's concerned twittering & flitting due to human invasion. The "community" was a working team of five but with several passersby ready for a chat

The July waterwatch sessions took place on the 9th & 31st with much lower water levels at all sites. Grebes, coots, swans visible on the Devilbend water at the WW Site 1 near the fishing platform, & calling frogs at Site 2. Pink & white epacris flowering along the catch drain. On July 31st the water temperature at DB was 10.3° at 9.30am & at Bittern the temperature was 14.7° at 11am, a trifle cool for swimming if it was allowed.



Graham at Site 2 & current water level - MF

August 26th was cold and windy for WW, however there were four of us out there braving it. Water levels were down considerably & at Site 1 the ammonium reading was 0.04 where it is usually 0.00, so maybe it was due to the lower water

level, but not significant enough to cause concern. Ammonium levels can vary with oxygen availability and Ph changes. Turbidity was <9 at all sites, which means clear. Coots & swans on both water bodies & at Bittern several purple swamp-hens fossicked, with flicking tails, along the catch drain embankment.

Marnie Fitzsimons

FOD coordinator, devilbendfoundation@gmail.com

Where there Once was a Cave

Between Merricks Beach and Balnarring Beach there was once a popular feature known as “Pirates’ Cave”, or “Smugglers’ Cave”. The opening was located about half way up the west face of the headland referred to simply as The Point. Above it the cliff face rose vertically, dotted with small shrubs that clung to the rock face. Below was a steep, slippery, exposed slope dropping down to the beach. The shallow cave, barely high enough for an adult to stand upright, was most easily reached by a track along a very narrow shelf of rock. Clumps of grass offered a hand-hold for the adventurers who wanted to reach the cave’s mouth. The descent was often by sliding directly down to the beach.

Although there were several tales as to how the cave was formed – an Aboriginal shelter, a lookout during World War 2 – it was actually the result of mining undertaken in the early years of the 20th Century. In 1911 Joseph Davis took out a licence to remove cobblestones from the rock shelf at the base of The Point and to extract pigments from the limestone for use in paints. There was also a second, smaller cave excavated on the other side of the headland, facing south and closer to the base of the cliff.

Davis worked the area intermittently over a fifteen-year period, often employing several men to assist. During the mid-1920s this venture drew opposition from a number of people who had bought land along the clifftop in the new subdivision of Manly/Merricks Beach. Alarmed by increased erosion, they protested to the Department of Land and Survey and a study was undertaken. It concluded that erosion to the area was the result of ‘natural causes’ and not related to the mining. However, Davis did not renew his licence when it expired in early 1927.

The Cave remained a landmark and an adventure point for many years. Accelerated erosion in the early 2000s saw the erection of warning signs which did little to deter climbers. In 2004 the Merricks Beach Foreshore Committee, concerned by the danger that climbers faced from rockfalls while scrambling on the cliff, had the opening filled in.

Vegetation was planted so that, over time, it would once again merge into its natural surroundings.



Photo of The Cave taken in 2001.

WILDLIFE RESCUE Contacts

Koala rescue
Jenny Bryant 0417 395 883

WHOMP
(Wildlife Help On Mornington Peninsula)
0417 380 687

Klarissa Gaunaut
0488 494 667



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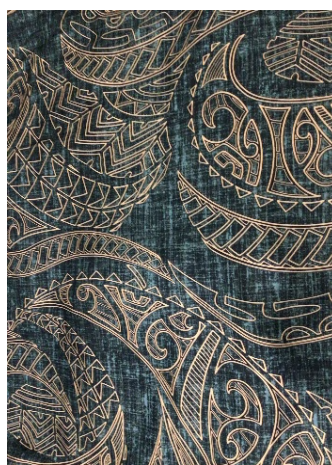
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Aloha, Catherine



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1.00pm

Pat The Mac: How many planets in our universe?

Prior to 1922, we believed that the Milky way was the complete universe... Then Edwin Hubble identified a second galaxy, Andromeda, as a neighbour to our Milky Way. Now, thanks to the extended reach of the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope, astronomers estimate that the universe includes two TRILLION galaxies, each with 100-200 billion stars.

The picture on the right shows our entire Milky way. On the darkest night, no moon, no light pollution, on the highest mountain, with no air pollution, in both hemispheres, we can see 9110 stars, and those stars all fit inside this yellow circle.

So how large is the Milky way? Its full width is 100,000 ly(light-years), its thickness is about 1000 ly. A huge cosmic pancake.

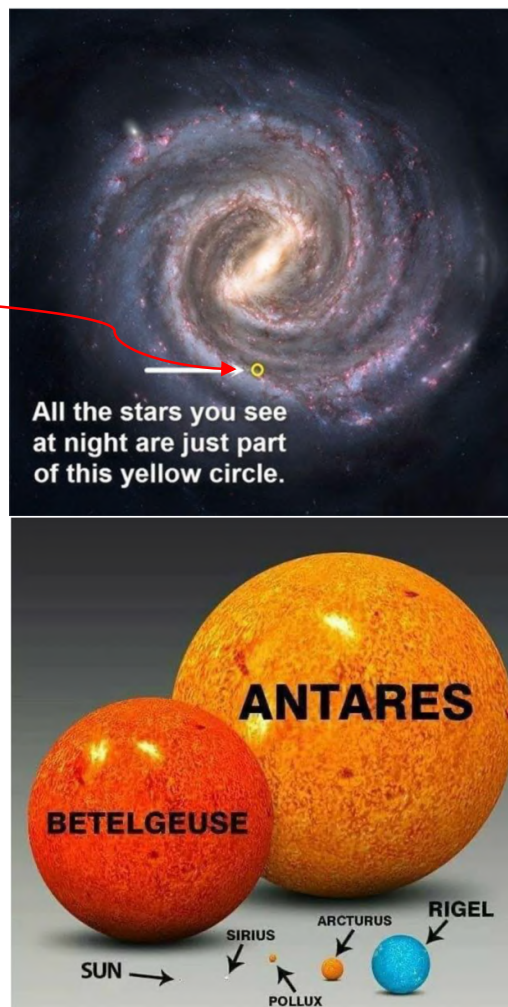
The picture on the right shows several stars in our galaxy comparing them to the size of our sun (1 hard-to-see pixel!). There may well be larger stars in other galaxies far away that we are not aware of.

In only a few decades, we have discovered that many stars in our galaxy are orbited by planets. How many planets per star is not known, but since our solar system houses eight, it is likely that there will be more than one or two per star.

As I indicated, the universe includes two trillion galaxies, each with 100-200 billion stars, so there is a fair chance that there are many more planets than we can even imagine. Which opens the question: is there life in our universe outside than on planet Earth?

If you feel like discussing this article further, contact me at:

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





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SCAN ME 

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 October 26th and Sunday November 30th 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.

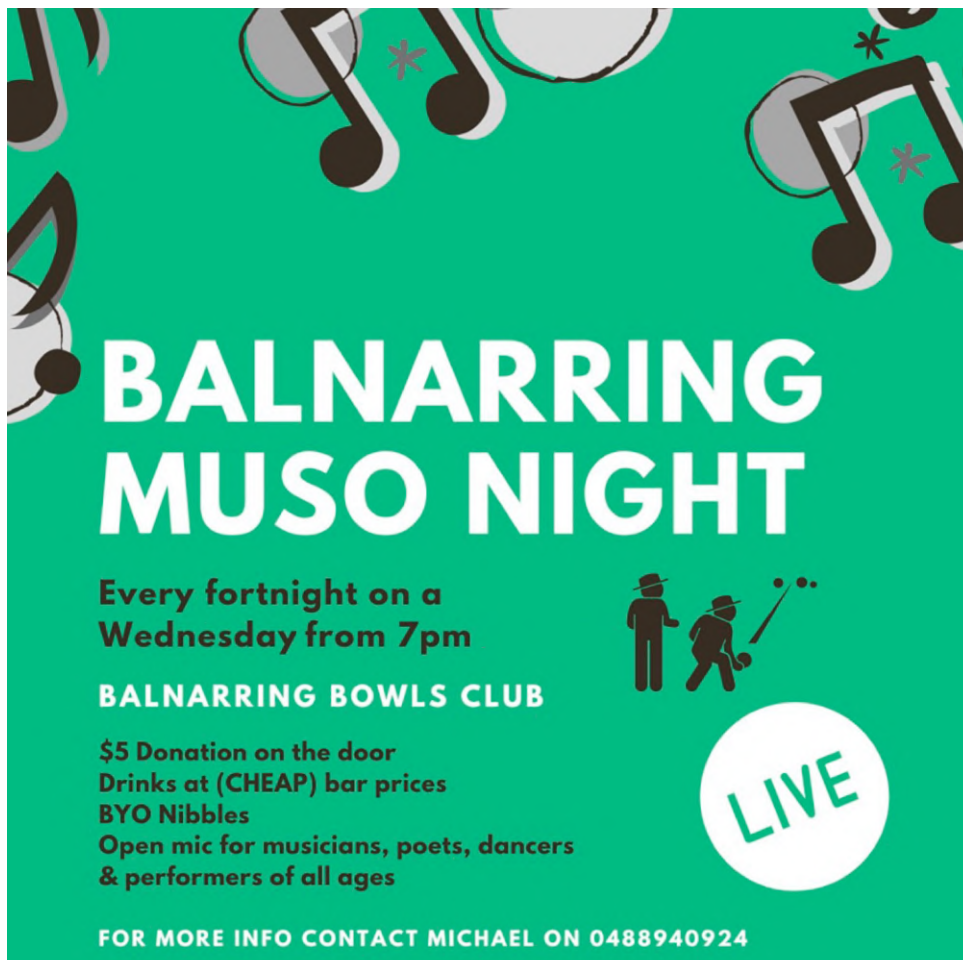
Paul, our Ranger always has some important work for us to do, be that weeding or planting freshly cleared terrain with new plants. Some of these plants are propagated and raised over many months in our nursery.

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.

A green poster for 'BALNARRING MUSO NIGHT'. The top features musical notes and a drum. The title 'BALNARRING MUSO NIGHT' is in large white letters. Below it, text says 'Every fortnight on a Wednesday from 7pm' and 'BALNARRING BOWLS CLUB'. A small illustration shows two people bowling. A white circle with 'LIVE' in green is at the bottom right. The bottom text lists '\$5 Donation on the door', 'Drinks at (CHEAP) bar prices', 'BYO Nibbles', 'Open mic for musicians, poets, dancers & performers of all ages', and 'FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MICHAEL ON 0488940924'.

BALNARRING MUSO NIGHT

Every fortnight on a Wednesday from 7pm

BALNARRING BOWLS CLUB

\$5 Donation on the door
Drinks at (CHEAP) bar prices
BYO Nibbles
Open mic for musicians, poets, dancers & performers of all ages

LIVE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MICHAEL ON 0488940924

For Muso Night dates over Oct and Nov, please check out: *Balnarring Muso Night* on Facebook.

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 16pt.

Send as a **Word or PDF** 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 5th (February/March issue)

March 5^h (April/May issue)

May 5th (June/July issue)

July 5th (August/September issue)

September 5th (October/November issue)

November 5th (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.

Website: www.bridgemag.com.au

Email: info@bridgemag.com.au